



# Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

## The Sail

**Our Vision:** *“To love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and everywhere we go!”*

### May, 2026



### **Yes and No**

Each time we say “Yes” to something, we say “No” to something else. Conversely, when we say “No” to something, we leave room to say “Yes” to something else. This is true for us as a church community, and true for each of us as individuals.

Annette Gordon-Reed, the Harvard professor and historian, has written a new book about Thomas Jefferson. In an interview, she pointed out that Jefferson’s writings and professed beliefs did not always line up with his actions. She acknowledged that this is true for all of us, and said that learning about Jefferson offers us an opportunity to consider the degree to which our own actions and values are in alignment.

What choices do we make in our lives? I recently wrote these words in my journal: “Act Your Priorities.” Sometimes our priorities are unconscious to us, born out of our habits and our overwhelming schedules. What we think we stand for and what we actually do can be very different things. I had a professor who once said to our class, “Show me your checkbook and I’ll tell you what you believe.” I think we could just as easily say “show me your calendar and I’ll tell you what you believe.”

Catch up with work or watch a television movie? Exercise or coffee and a book? Salad or cheeseburger with fries? Prayer time or nap time? Worship or pancakes and CBS Sunday morning? Another cashmere sweater or a gift to the homeless shelter?

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In our culture we want immediate results, but discipline, effort and tough decisions are required to live a whole and holy life. We must avoid those things that separate us from God and from living well, and follow through on spiritual

*Continued on next page...*

## ***Pastor Leigh continued...***

practices such as prayer, conscientiousness and strong relationships with other people of faith. Saying “Yes” and saying “No” mean accepting consequences and taking on responsibilities for ourselves, our families and friends, and our community. We have so many choices today. Yet, paradoxically, it’s often the exercise of discipline that brings the most freedom to our lives.

Some of us find it easy to say “Yes” and difficult to say “No”. We are overwhelmed by the number of things we take on. We acquire more possessions than we need, and then have to make certain choices just to maintain those possessions. We overindulge and then face the consequences later. We overcommit ourselves, and then become exhausted and resentful.

Others of us find it easy to say “No” and difficult to say “Yes”. We miss opportunities for service and for building relationships. We hoard our resources instead of setting them free to do God’s work in the world. We become rigid and pessimistic in our thinking. Eventually, we can become indifferent and disconnected.

To what do we say “No”? To what do we say “Yes”? Saying “Yes” to life in Christ means saying “No” to that which harms. We live by the grace of God, but to live fully we must live as morally as we can, aligning our will to God’s will for us. Our spirituality is integral to the way in which we live our lives. It is about the reality of who we are, whose we are, and the possibility of who we will become. And, who we will not become.

Easter is about new beginnings – in the early church the 40 days of Lent were a time for those new to the faith to prepare for their baptism. As we look toward our own resurrection, now is a good time for self-discernment – as individuals and as a church community. Saying “Yes” and saying “No” is about choice, not deprivation. It is the awareness that allows us to struggle, to grow, and to transform. It is to be awake (which is not a bad thing, whether one says awake, aware, or woke); to be conscious of our world views, and to be conscious of both our well-being and our impact on others. *(Continued above...)*

This summer I will have more time for reflection than usual, because I said “Yes” to our Conference Superintendent when he suggested I take a renewal leave. Clergy are supposed to take renewal leave every four years. My last leave was in 2011. It’s hard for me to let go for six weeks, but it’s time. And I could not be blessed with a more supportive – and competent – congregation. The church will be fine while I am away, and the exercise of saying “No” and letting go of control will be a good one for me. I have already caught myself saying that I will come in during renewal leave for this meeting or that meeting – but I have caught myself and walked it back!

I will be gone from June 21 until August 2 (one month of renewal leave plus two weeks of vacation). While I’m gone, Rev. Dr. Melanie Homan (who filled in for Chad a few years ago) will preach one Sunday, and our lay leader Carol Ottoson will preach one Sunday. Then, in July, Rev. Jen Hill Anderson, an ordained United Methodist elder and Navy chaplain who attends Glendale UMC, will plan our worship and preach. Some of you may have met Jen if you volunteered for Vacation Bible School last year. She is wonderful! You will love her. Jen will also take care of pastoral emergencies in July, and non-emergent care needs will be provided by our wonderful Care Team – Lois Burkhart, Sandy Hjemvick, Sandy Feldhake (together, are they the Sandii?), Don Oram, and Harold Jensen. The hub for all church information will – as always! – be Tina.

It was not easy for me to say “Yes” to this leave, but I am truly looking forward to it. We all need time for reflection and renewal. I pray this summer you are also able to say “Yes” to spiritual wellness.

Pastor Leigh



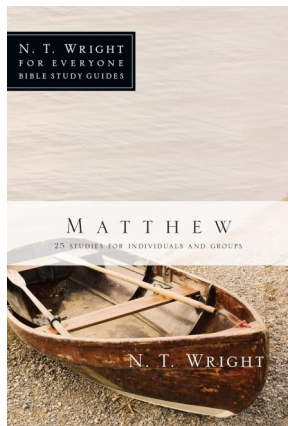
## Church Announcements...

### Lakefront Bible Study

May 5 & 19

from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room



Our Lakefront Bible Study is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew, using N.T. Wright's Matthew study guide. We step into Matthew's gospel and experience the life and message of Jesus together in a new and personal way, uncovering timeless truths, practical wisdom, and hope that transforms.

This study is for everyone - beginners and those who have studied for years. Come and join our meaningful and encouraging Lakefront Bible study.

We've saved you a seat at the table!

This is a non-denominational group.

Call Barb Bollinger with questions at 612-670-1847.



United Women in Faith

### United Women in Faith May Activity

Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00pm

## LUNCH

We will gather for lunch & fellowship only at Chula's Mexican-Latin Food & Spirits, 4636 Colorado St SE in Prior Lake.

**Contact Sandy Feldhake by May 5 to get on the list as reservations are needed.**

952-484-7868 / sfeldha1@msn.com

All women are welcome & invited.

Lunch will be at your own expense.

### VBS 2026

Dates: 08/09/26 - 08/12/26

Location: Glendale UMC

Time: 5:30 - 7:30PM

Ages: pre-k through 5th grade + teen helpers

Rotation: music, story, crafts, science, recreation.

Please contact Heather Zehnder to register your child(ren) or to volunteer. [hczehnder@yahoo.com](mailto:hczehnder@yahoo.com)



### Last Day of Kids' Church & Brick Oven Pizza Party



Sunday, May 17

Our last day of Kids' Church will be Sunday, May 17th, and worship that day will be followed by a brick oven pizza party to celebrate a great year with great kids and great leaders! Please mark your calendar and plan to help us finish off our year with lots of smiles. The following Sunday (May 24) we will be shifting to our **summer nursery for infants through kids entering 3rd grade**, where we will be playing and doing simple art activities in the nursery.

### Trinity Readers

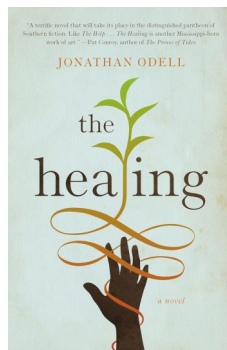
Tuesday, May 26

2:00pm Church Library



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for May: *The Healing* by Jonathan Odell**



Filled with strong, vivid female characters and inspired by true-life events, Odell brilliantly brings the pre-Civil War South to life in this masterfully written novel, centered on a mysterious and charismatic healer readers won't soon forget.

Contact Sandy Feldhake if you have any questions (sfeldha1@msn.com).



WELCOME  
New Members

**Holy Trinity welcomed  
12 active new members  
(and their 11 kids) officially  
into our congregation on  
Easter Sunday!**

Jesse and Paisley Buchholz (Elijah and Cora)

Orlin Canales Diaz and Nancy Lagos Peralta

(Neymar, Tracy and Eithan)

Reid and Cait Hein (Florence and Gus)

Jon and Maggie Snyder (Audrey and Jonah)

Eugenia Snyder

John and Robert Warming

Anesa Zabar (Carter and Mac)



## SAVETHSE DATES!

Support Hope Pantry and  
our local businesses at the same time!



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Savage Tap

12925 Eagle Creek Parkway, Savage, MN 55378 **Saturday, May 2**

**12:00pm–4:00pm**

Enjoy an ice cold draft or choose from a wide selection of wine, cocktails or non-alcoholic options.

**\$1 from every beer goes to Hope Pantry & bring a food donation and get a BOGO drink coupon!**

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#### Mana Brewing

129 Holmes St. S., Shakopee, MN 55379 **Monday, May 18**

**2:00pm–7:00pm**

Enjoy a stone-fire pizza and choose from a wide variety of beer, cocktails, mocktails or non-alcoholic options.

**10% of all sales go to Hope Pantry!**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Edelweiss Bakery

16186 Main Ave. SE, Prior Lake 55372 **Wednesday, May 20**

**7:00am-3:00pm**

**Show the flyer and 20% of your purchase goes to Hope Pantry!**

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#### Mana Brewing (future dates)

**Monday, July 27 \* Monday, September 21 \* Monday, November 23**

**2:00pm–7:00pm**

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**Watch for more event info coming soon!**

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**April-June 2026 Mission Focus**

The missions we are focusing on for the second quarter coordinate with the I-Team focus of *The Golden Rule: Domestic Violence, Bullying, Gender, and Pride*. All donations collected throughout the months of **April-June** will be divided equally among the following three missions.



Southern Valley Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing victims of domestic violence and their families with support, referrals, protection and advocacy.

They are a prevention and solutions-focused organization partnering with law enforcement, county legal systems, social services and healthcare providers to make the communities of Scott and Carver counties a better, safer place to live. They support and empower victims, survivors and their families, and create awareness to **End Domestic Violence**.



RECLAIM's mission is to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.

They serve youth ages 12-25 and their families by providing individual, relationship, and family therapy. They specialize in assisting youth with gender identity and sexual orientation exploration, in addition to treating other mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and pervasive trauma. They are the only non-profit organization in Minnesota that offers financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this population.

Beyond their therapy work, RECLAIM engages in community events and offers training and consultation services to help their partners improve their ability to work with queer and trans folks.



**Minnesota Reconciling Congregations**

**Mission:**

Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

**Vision:**

Reconciling Ministries Network envisions a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the RMN strives to transform the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice and inclusion for all of God's children.

**Our Role:**

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations is RMN's Annual Conference Team for the Minnesota Annual Conference .

We will reach out in mission to members of the LGBTQ community to welcome them to our churches and to affirm them as children of God.



**We always welcome donations for our Hope Café and Pantry. We are currently feeding approximately 60 families/week.**

**Here are some most needed items for Hope Pantry.** Monetary donations are also appreciated!

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Ramen  | Cooking oil        |
| Pasta Sauce                                      | Sugar              |
| Pasta  | Masa Flour         |
| Canned Tuna/Chicken                              | Flour              |
| White rice                                       | Pancake Mix        |
| Peanut butter                                    | Syrup              |
| Jelly/Jam (not grape)                            | Milk               |
| Mac & Cheese                                     | Eggs               |
| Chicken/Beef/Veg Broth                           | Butter             |
| Diced Tomatoes                                   | Fresh Produce/Meat |
| Bread (white sandwich and medium size tortillas) |                    |
| Cereal (Honey Nut Cheerios or the like)          |                    |

## ***Inclusion Starts with I by Carol Ottoson...***

Officially, we are still in the Season of Easter (or Eastertide), which begins on Easter Sunday and continues for 50 days, ending on Pentecost, May 24. Pastor Leigh's sermon series during Lent and Easter followed the movie *The Way*, which was the story of a journey, or more realistically, a pilgrimage, along the *Camino de Santiago* undertaken by a father in search of understanding his estranged son, who had died along the trail. In searching and memorializing his son, he began to find himself. One requirement for all of the pilgrims was to take a stone and a shell on the journey. The purpose was explained as the pilgrimage continued.

We did the same. On Ash Wednesday, we each had the opportunity to take a stone and a shell for ourselves. We gave up our stones – our burdens -- in church one Sunday. We then each took another shell on Maundy Thursday. My shell choices are below:



On Ash Wednesday I took the one on the left without realizing that it had a small chunk out of it. I decided to keep it, realizing that the chunk could serve as a symbol for my own life's journey. On Maundy Thursday I chose the shell on the right, which was smaller and smoother – more symbolism, perhaps?

What does all of this have to do with being a Reconciling Congregation? We, too, have been taking a "Reconciling" journey. We have purposely chosen to love others – no exceptions; to reach out to our neighbors in need – no exceptions; to open our doors to anyone who comes through – no exceptions; to follow Jesus' teachings to love our neighbors as ourselves and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us – no exceptions. We have purposely chosen Radical Hospitality, even though it has taken time and money and a whole lot of faith that we are on the right path. We have reached out to communities in need and have been blessed so much in return.

*(continued above...)*

We see those blessings in action every single Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 2-6 pm, when the Hope Café and Pantry are open. Stop in sometime to see the love and the companionship that are shared, especially with our "regular" visitors. Laughter and hugs abound. Young children love the nursery, the treats, and the playground. They have a chance to interact with other children and with all who are present. We share food from the pantry and food from the café, but most of all, we share love of one another. As you all know, the United Methodist Church offers an open communion. As Pastor Leigh says, "This is not a United Methodist table; it is Christ's table." I feel that every Monday and Tuesday during our pantry hours we share "Christ's table" with all who come through our doors. As Matthew 22:37-40 states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**



### **Pride Bingo**

**June 6**

**6:30-8:30pm**




Holy Trinity, along with Scott County Pride, invite you to celebrate Pride Month with our Second Annual Pride Bingo Night. We hope for this to be an intergenerational evening celebrating ALL! There will be prizes, popcorn and fun times. We hope you can make it! Food donations to Hope Cafe & Pantry welcome!





# May 2026

**Holy Trinity UMC**  
 (952) 447-2990  
[office@htumc.org](mailto:office@htumc.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>12-4pm Savage Tap</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>4</b>  2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon	<b>5</b>  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>6</b>  3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>  11am Care Team  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  	<b>11</b>  2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>12</b>  United Women in Faith <b>1:00pm UW Faith Lunch (Chula's)</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	<b>13</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream <b>10:30am Pizza Party</b> <b>11:30pm I-Team</b> 	<b>18</b> <b>2-7pm Mana Brewing</b>  2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry <b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b> 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>19</b> 10am-1pm Quilters  <b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>20</b>  <b>7am-3pm Edelweiss Bakery</b> 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's 4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	<b>25</b>  <b>HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	<b>26</b>  <b>2:00pm Trinity Readers</b> 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	<b>27</b>  4pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>  6pm Veterans AA at the parsonage	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream						

*Holy Trinity United Methodist Church*



16150 Arcadia Avenue SE  
Prior Lake, Minnesota, 55372

**Worship:** 9:30am (in-person & online)

**Pastor:** Rev. Leigh Brown  
[pastor@htumc.org](mailto:pastor@htumc.org)

**Church Admin:** Tina Chant  
(952) 447-2990 [office@htumc.org](mailto:office@htumc.org)

**Church website:** [www.htumc.org](http://www.htumc.org)



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