



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!"*

July, 2026

THIS is LOVE



"I have never felt this before in a church. I can't even explain it. I have never felt like I truly belonged until now." This is very close to the kinds of comments about Holy Trinity that I've heard from so many people lately. In fact, this month's Sail has a guest article from one of the people who now attends our church regularly and who has even joined the church choir, Pam Lehan. Holy Trinity United Methodist Church now has an amazing reputation in the Prior Lake and surrounding community. We are friendly, we are welcoming, we care for our neighbors, people can depend on us, and we are truly loved and respected by a wide swath of our community. We are becoming what a church should truly be. I think back to March of 2023 when we took our official vote to become a reconciling congregation. As we were finishing the nearly year-long study and discernment process about becoming reconciling, one question kept coming up. "We are already a welcoming and friendly church, why would we need to become a reconciling congregation?" It is a good question. In fact, it is a question that we asked the representatives from Eden Prairie UMC and Minnehaha UMC, both reconciling congregations, when they came to our church to give their reasons as to why they loved being a reconciling congregation. They told us that it felt "different," that they felt a pride in their church that they hadn't felt before. They also said that it was hard to explain, but that they all had a change in attitude about their church and its purpose after becoming reconciling.

I now completely understand what they were saying. I look at the changes that we've made and the ministries that we currently have, and I know that our philosophy of radical hospitality, of being open to all, of keeping love at the forefront of everything we do has redefined who we are as a church community. We are doing simple things, like having greeters at both doors every single Sunday to make sure that

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Inclusion Starts with I continued...

people feel welcome the minute that they come into the building. We are doing hard things, like running the Hope Café and Pantry every single Monday and Tuesday. We make sure that we have enough food to give out to our neighbors who need nourishment, and we offer love and conversation with the many new friends we've made through this ministry. People from this congregation have been so generous with their food donations, their monetary donations, their time, and their prayers to keep this amazing ministry alive. During the Metro Surge, we ramped up our efforts and our contacts with other organizations in the community to make sure that families who were afraid to leave their homes would not run out of food and supplies. We sent out up to 30 boxes of food to the families of the Prior Lake-Savage school district every single week from February until the end of April.

We have invited speakers and held conversations after church on everything from the LGBTQIA+ community to the families and people with memory loss to people telling their own stories of their neurodiversity journey. We hosted our first Pride Bingo a year ago, at what I later found out was the only Pride event in Scott County in 2025. This year we partnered with the newly formed Scott County Pride organization. Pride Bingo was the first Scott County Pride micro event and brought in over 100 people for an evening of laughter, love, safety, acceptance, and even Bingo. It is so beautiful to see people living their authentic lives without judgment from others.

We've partnered with SCA on many events, including their coat drive, Santa Claus at Christmas time, and Night to Unite in August. That partnership is what led us to opening the Hope Café and then later adding the Hope Pantry to our ministries. The Don Hartley Garden has been planted, and the crops are growing. Although we will continue to bring food to the CAP agency, we are also hoping to provide food both to SCA and to the Hope Café and Pantry as the produce is ready to be picked. We plan to invite people in the community to come and pick their own vegetables when the time comes. The energy in the church community is contagious. New members

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and families are joining us, and the spirit of the children during kids' time is contagious. I truly understand what the members of Eden Prairie UMC and Minnehaha UMC told us back in 2023.

I've been a member of Holy Trinity UMC for nearly forty years, and I agree that we have always been a friendly and welcoming church; however, I also believe that, before becoming a reconciling congregation, we were more "insular" in our friendliness. We were welcoming to people who came through our doors, but we didn't necessarily open up our doors to others around us. We waited for them to find us. By partnering with SCA, operating the Hope Café and Pantry, being an integral part of the launch of Scott County Pride, and actively seeking speakers and programs on topics that affect all of us, we are living into what Christ has always called us to do – love, love, love.

Finally, as we move into July, we will begin our third quarter of our I Team Emphases. This quarter is entitled *Let's Think Differently*, which focuses on the differently-abled, memory loss, mental health, and neurodiversity. Our mission emphases are *NAMI Minnesota*, which is dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families in Minnesota. We will also be supporting *See Me Neurodiverse*, a group working in Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville, and surrounding area. Their mission is dedicated to providing support and resources for neurodiverse (Autism, ADHD) families, as well as working on creating a more inclusive environment. Our third area of emphasis is *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, an organization whose motto is "No kids sleep on the floor." We share funds equally between the charities and hope to get a group to help build beds in September. Please get involved when you can, keep love in your heart, and remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**

love like
JESUS

Guest Column by Pamela Lehan...

I read the book *Proof of Heaven* by Dr. Eben Alexander (a renowned Neurosurgeon). In the book, he tells of his near-death experience, after having been a skeptic himself. In his telling, he describes being in heaven as “indescribable, pure love” that permeates your heart and soul, from everyone. I feel that love within this church community! Everyone has been so genuinely giving of themselves in friendship, love and offering of whatever they can do for one another, and the humanity that surrounds us. I feel it, physically, within my heart. It wells me up.

I love that everyone is accepting of everyone, no matter who they are, who they love, what religion they come from, or the color of their skin. I love the reality of all that happens here. The easiness and warmth emanating from the pulpit, and comfortable interaction between church members with Pastor and one another. The warmth of the service being about us as humans. We laugh, chide, hug, and eat together. We accept that we all have our faults and are there to help catch you if you fall.

I love that we recognize that we are all human beings from birth to death, and are there for one another. I observe a younger man picking up an older gentleman, to get him out of the house. He does that with respect and dignity. I see a man and a woman, not from the same household, spending hours working the earth to provide fresh food for those in need. I see numerous men and women working to make goodies, and working to help people feed those in need. I have seen a couple open their home to those in need. I have seen a woman who has physical maladies of her own, and a sick child of her own, lend herself to caring for a baby, so that a mother and father may work.

This is the definition of love, church and heaven. To love one another, as you love yourself. God is within each of us, and I feel that love within this church, and embraced by each of you. It brings joyful tears to my eyes. Thank you for my heart’s joy!

Note: Pam Lehan started as a volunteer at the Hope Pantry and Café and has now becoming a regular participant in worship and in the choir.

Our second annual **Pride Bingo** event was a huge success! We had over 100 people attend. Thank you to all who helped plan and host this event!



July-September 2026 Mission Focus

The missions we are focusing on for the third quarter coordinate with the I-Team focus *"Let's Think Differently"* which includes differently-abled, memory loss, neurodiversity and mental health. All donations collected throughout the months of **July-September** will be divided equally among the following three missions.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. All across the US, too many kids go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) comes in. They're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. At SHP, they fully believe that a bed is a basic need for a child's proper physical, emotional, and mental development.

Child bedlessness is a national problem, and as a national nonprofit with chapters spread across the country, SHP has provided the solution. The Twin Cities South chapter is funded locally, the work is done by local volunteers, and the beds are delivered to local kids. All with absolutely no cost to the family.

Here are ways **YOU** can help...

- Drop off new twin-sized comforters, sheet sets, pillows, and bed-in-a-bag sets in the narthex
- Provide financial support to purchase lumber, tools, hardware, and mattresses

- Attend the bed building event at SHP

Saturday, September 12 from 8:30am-10:45am.

We will cut, sand, assemble and finish bed components. No experience is necessary and there are jobs for anyone from middle school aged to retirees. All tools and protective gear is supplied. These beds make a huge difference in the lives of the children who receive them, creating an opportunity for a much brighter future! Sign up NOW!



See Me: Unlocking Resources for the Neurodiverse is a non-profit organization developed to support the neurodiverse and their families by increasing connections and offering support through: community events, support meetings, providing resources and offering assistance for families in crisis.

They are passionate about decreasing the stigmas that can come with having a mental health diagnosis. They strive to educate and bring awareness about neurodiversity to our communities and beyond, working towards making our world a more inclusive and welcoming space.

Serving Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville, and surrounding areas in Minnesota.

(seemeneurodiverse.org)



NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. For over 40 years, NAMI Minnesota has worked to promote the development of community mental health programs and services, change public attitudes about mental illnesses, improve access to services and increase opportunities for recovery.

Through education, support, and advocacy, NAMI Minnesota champions justice, dignity, and respect for all individuals and families affected by mental illnesses.

To serve that mission, NAMI Minnesota works with individuals with mental illness, their families, professionals and the community at large by providing education, support and advocacy. (namimn.org)

Minnesota Annual Conference 2026



Created to Serve Joyfully (Phillippians 4)
Carol Ottoson

Pastor Leigh and Carol Ottoson traveled to the 172nd session of the Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud, which ran from June 16-18. As usual, it was a busy few days of amazing worship experiences, tending to the work of the church, and celebrating. The theme of this year's Annual Conference was *Created to Serve Joyfully*, and the scripture lessons were from Phillippians 4, specifically verses 4-7: *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* We were joined by Bishop Cedric D Bridgeforth, of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church. He led us in both worship and in training.

All of the worship experiences were both uplifting and emotional. Paul's words "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice!" were repeated throughout the Conference, and "Do not be anxious about anything" underlined everything that we did. Bishop Lanette's opening Episcopal address began with where we left off last year, with the story of the ordination of Reverend Dr. Richard Huskey. He became ordained nearly fifty years after being denied ordination because he was openly gay. Bishop Lanette flew to Pennsylvania to formally ordain him literally on his deathbed. He died the day after his ordination. She talked about the sacred moment and the beauty of finally being able to recognize him as a full clergy member.

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Much was said about the Metro Surge and how that affected the work of the church, as well as how the United Methodist Church and its members responded to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Every single worship service and TED Talk gave us hope and gave us inspiration. We sang a song from the Resistance Singers' songbook, we learned the difference between happiness and the joy of serving the Lord, and we were inspired by our Conference Preacher Genia Garrett to absolutely know that we are loved by God. We celebrated new people coming into the ministry, and we celebrated and mourned those who have passed since our last Annual Conference. Finally, everyone in the room was given a firm lesson on our own well-being and taking care of ourselves, citing Matthew 28-30 for our own words to live by: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The Minnesota Annual Conference is always inspiring, and this year was no different.



Please Note:

The Church Office will be closed June 29—July 4.

Hope Café & Pantry will remain open on June 29 & 30.

United Women in Faith July Gathering



United
Women
in Faith

**Tuesday, July 14 at 2:00pm
Music Room by Church Office**

2026 UWFaith Assembly Report by Sharon, Nancy & Sara and Special Guest Deaconess Connie Scott.

Come to hear how these women spent an amazing time in Indianapolis & enjoy an Ice Cream Sundae Bar!

All women are invited to connect with our circle as we gather for fellowship, study and put love into action to change the world.

First timers and others are always welcome!

Please contact Sharon Dougherty at 612-280-2103 or Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868 for questions.

Church Announcements...



Trinity Readers

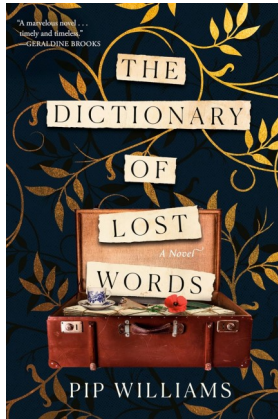
Tuesday, July 28

2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for July:

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams



Set when the women's suffrage movement was at its height and the Great War loomed, The Dictionary of Lost Words reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. It's a delightful, lyrical and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words, and the power of language to shape the world.

Contact Sandy Feldhake or Sara Modders if you have any questions.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, Aug. 4	6-8pm	Night to Unite
Sun-Wed, Aug. 9-12	5:30-7:30pm	VBS (Glendale)
Sunday, Sept. 13	9:30am	Rally Sunday
Saturday, Sept. 26	9am-3pm	Library Book Sale & Food Drive
Saturday, Oct. 17	4-7pm	VFW Burger Bash Pantry Fundraiser
Sunday, Nov. 8	10:30am	Chili Cook-Off
Monday, Nov. 23	2-7pm	Mana Brewing Pantry Fundraiser

***Note: Tickets for the Burger Bash will be sold in September. Also, we will be looking for **NEW** donated items for our silent auction being held during the Burger Bash. Some ideas to consider—restaurant gift certificates, event tickets, and themed basket items such as coffee/tea, wine lovers, Prior Lake Lakers, games, etc. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church office by **Sept. 27**.

Holy Trinity UWFaith
invite you to help with

CAP Agency's Backpacks for Success 2026 School Supply Drive



We are currently collecting the following **NEW** items:

- Backpacks (bright colors or character backpacks)
- Folders (pocket, assorted colors)
- Notebooks and 5-Subject Notebooks
- No. 2 Pencils
- Crayola Crayons (24 pack)
- Crayola Markers (12 pack)
- Rulers (12")
- Bic Medium Ballpoint Pens (Black, Blue and Red)
- EXPO Dry Erase Markers (assorted colors)
- Post-it Notes
- Erasers (pencil)
- Elmer's Glue/Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Boxes of Tissues
- Index/Note Cards
- Sharpies
- Yellow Highlighters
- Binders
- Calculators

Please donate what you can.

**All items are due to church by
Sunday, August 2.**

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Register here: <https://glendale-united-methodist-church.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



July 2026

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's	2	3	4 
		 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 				
5 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	6 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	7 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	8	9	10 	11
12 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	13 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	14  United Women in Faith 2:00pm UW Faith 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	15 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	20 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	21 10am-1pm Quilters 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	27 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	28  Summer Reading 2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	29 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's	30	31	

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

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

Church website: www.htumc.org



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