



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!"*

August, 2026



God Meets Us in the Dark

Mental health is part of being human – our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health are deeply intertwined. Still, when it comes to mental health, many of us carry our struggles quietly. Our faith does not require pretending. Our worship series for August 2 through Rally Day is called *God in the Dark*, and it invites us to explore how faith speaks into anxiety, depression, burnout, trauma, and the longing for peace. Each week we'll look at the story of Joseph (he of the spectacular coat) in scripture, and consider where God meets him – and us – in fear, exhaustion, grief, and uncertainty. God meets us in the dark not with shame, but with presence, compassion, and hope.

Grief can come for many reasons. Loss happens in many ways. Whether it is loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a way of life, loss of physicality, loss of – well, you fill in the blank – our mental state of being fluctuates as a part of life. No one escapes this reality. We are all in this together.

The truth is that our physical, emotional, and spiritual life are not separate – just as our Trinitarian God is one being, we who are made in God's image are one being. God cares for our minds as deeply as God cares for our souls. Through prayer, music, testimony, and preaching, we'll create space for honesty, healing, and connection. We will learn practices that help us support one another, reduce stigma, and recognize the Holy Spirit's work in the midst of our real, complicated, and uncertain lives.

In this Issue

Pastor Leigh	1-2	This series is for everyone who wants to be part of a church where people don't have to pretend to be okay. It is for all of us who long to be loved just as we are. Christ meets us in our vulnerability, and in that meeting, we discover we are not alone.
Mission Corner	3	
Church Announcements	4-5	
Inclusion Starts with I	6	
August 2026 Calendar	7	

Continued on next page...

Pastor Leigh continued...

What's coming in the fall?

One of my favorite authors and theologians is Fr. Richard Rohr, a globally recognized Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher. He is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico – a non-profit organization with a mission to introduce seekers to the contemplative Christian path of transformation.

Fr. Richard Rohr's latest book is called *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*. It is a road map to hope. In September we will begin a worship series and group conversations based on this book. Not everyone finds Richard Rohr's books to be easy reading, but we are not shallow Christians, and there is much to be gained from his wisdom. I look forward to studying with you in the fall!



"In his most personal book yet, *The Tears of Things* paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a compassionate way of living in a hurting world."

If you would like to purchase this book from the church, please email Tina in the office (office@htumc.org) or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex at the Welcome Center **by September 1**. Cost is \$13.50. Otherwise, books can be purchased on your own from Amazon or other local sellers.

Summer Book Study 2026: "Building Beloved Community"

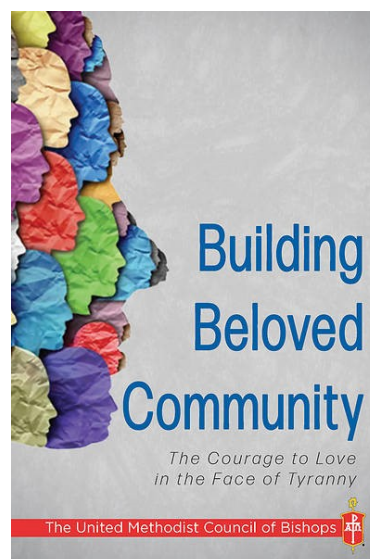


June 27, July 25,
Aug. 22, and Sept. 26,
9-10:30 a.m., online.



You're invited to participate in a 2026 Summer Book Study led by Bishop Lanette. In this area-wide study, United Methodists across the Dakotas and Minnesota are invited to read *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny* by The United Methodist Council of Bishops. This book offers a prophetic roadmap for these turbulent times where we see polarization dividing communities and people of faith confronted with an urgent question: "What does faithful discipleship look like when beloved community is under attack?" Through biblical reflection, global perspectives, and practical strategies, participants will discern faithful responses to local challenges while connecting to the worldwide struggle for justice and peace. All are welcome! Mark your calendar and encourage others to join you.

You must register in order to receive the Zoom link to each gathering. The Zoom link will be provided to those who have registered.
<https://dkmnumc-reg.brtapp.com/SummerBookStudy2026>



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)

Church Announcements...



Come celebrate Night to Unite at Holy Trinity on **Tuesday, August 4th from 6-8PM**. Join neighbors and friends for food, fun, and fellowship! Dinner, dessert (Culver's custard!) and beverages will be served (FREE!) There will be an inflatable for the kids, and games for people of all ages. Visits from the Prior Lake Police, Fire, and Public Works are planned.



VBS 2026

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

Location: Glendale UMC

Time: 5:00 - 7:30PM

Vacation Bible School will be held for kids pre-k through 5th grade (+ teen helpers) August 9-12 from 5:00-7:30pm at Glendale United Methodist Church in Savage. Dinner will be served nightly followed by a rotation of music, story, crafts, science, and recreation.

Register TODAY: <https://www.htumc.org/events/vacation-bible-school/>

Trinity Readers

Tuesday, August 25

2:00pm Church Library



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for August: TBD

Contact Sandy Feldhake at sfeldha1@msn.com
or Sara Modders at sbmplmn.younts@gmail.com
if you have any questions.

United Women in Faith August Gathering



United
Women
in Faith



Please join us for a

Summer Picnic in the Park

All women are invited!



Tuesday, August 11th @ 12:00pm

Location: Picnic Shelter at WILDS PARK
15200 Wilds Parkway, Prior Lake

Sandwiches, chips & water will be provided.

Volunteers needed to bring

2 salads and 2 fruit plates.

RAIN OR SHINE (if rain, we'll dine in Fellowship Hall)

Please RSVP by Aug 4th to Sharon Dougherty
at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103

Who doesn't love a summer picnic?!

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Building Event

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

Join us to build beds for kids in our community who are without a bed. We will cut, sand, assemble and finish bed components. No experience, no worries! These builds are designed with everyone in mind. A few hours of your time will mean the world to a child sleeping in an unfavorable condition.



Sign up at church or email/call the office if you'd like to participate!



Make plans to join us on **Rally Sunday, September 13!**

We will return to our fall programming with Kids' Church and as is tradition, warm, fresh cinnamon rolls will be served after worship!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, Aug. 4	6-8pm	Night to Unite
Sun-Wed, Aug. 9-12	5:00-7:30pm	VBS (Glendale)
Saturday, Sept. 12	8:30-10:45am	Bed Building
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**.

New Choir Members Welcome!

The Holy Trinity Chancel Choir, directed by the talented Randi Erlandson, will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00pm**. They would love some new choir members to join them this year! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm and then the choir sings during worship on the first and third Sundays of the month (plus special holidays.) However, the schedule is flexible! Come when you can! They'd love some new voices!



STORM CAMP 2026 was a huge success! 31 STORM campers completed 19 jobs in 3 days (in less than ideal conditions!) Our own Lynnette Dobberpuhl and Neymar Diaz Lagos were a part of this amazing group!

Look at our garden grow! Our Don Hartley Memorial Peace Garden is in full bloom! Thank you to our gardeners (especially Rene Meyer and Don Oram) for keeping Don's dream alive!



Inclusion Starts with I...

Intentionality – what an interesting word! The dictionary, of course, defines the word as being “intentional.” I always love when the dictionary uses most of the word for its definition, but being intentional is exactly how we should approach our ministry at Holy Trinity UMC. A deeper dive into the meaning of intentional/intentionality is as follows:

- **Synonyms:** Deliberate, purposeful, planned, and willful.
- **The "Intentional Life":** In personal development, being intentional means living according to your core values and making conscious daily choices to steer your life, rather than just reacting to circumstances.
- **Philosophy & Psychology (Intentionality):** In mental philosophy, the term refers to "intentionality"—the idea that our thoughts, consciousness, and beliefs are directed toward, or about, objects and states of the world.

I started thinking about this after I attended a Minnesota Reconciling Leadership meeting with Bishop Lanette’s Assistant of Connectional Ministries, Pastor Carol Zaagsma. As we shared our ideas of how to make Reconciling Ministries an integral part of the Minnesota Annual Conference, the word “intentional” came up. Whatever we plan to do needs to have intention; it needs to be deliberate, purposeful, planned, and willful. As we continued to talk, we realized that our goal in all of this is to make every United Methodist church in the Minnesota Annual Conference a safe space for ALL, whether or not we are reconciling.

For all of us to create a safe space in our church, we need to be intentional in our ministries and intentional in how we let others know that we are a loving and safe space. It doesn’t matter if they are LGBTQ or straight, immigrants or citizens, rich or poor, Christian or not. We need to live out the “core values” of the United Methodist Church and of Christ’s teachings to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Continued next column...

The I Team does work hard to be intentional through our quarterly emphases. This quarter our theme is “Let’s Think Differently.” Under this broad banner we include the neurodiverse, the people who are facing memory loss and their caregivers, people who face mental health challenges, and people who are differently abled. How can we create a safe space for all, and how do we treat people who have challenges that may be beyond our understanding? That is where intentionality comes in. Rather than judge, we need to try to understand; rather than ignore, we need to open our hearts. Certainly, one way that we can do this is to be intentional in all that we do. This includes educating ourselves – to actually learn how to “walk a mile” in someone else’s shoe. Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**

intentional

adjective

done on purpose; deliberate.

Being intentional means you are purposeful in word and action. It means you live a life that is meaningful and fulfilling to you. It means you make thoughtful choices in your life. Being intentional means you actively interact and engage with your life.

Ephesians 5:15-17

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.





August 2026

Holy Trinity UMC
(952) 447-2990
office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream  Pastor Leigh Returns!	3 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	4  NIGHT to UNITE! 6:00pm-8:00pm 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	5	6	7	8
9 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 5:00-7:30pm VBS Glendale	10 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 5:00-7:30pm VBS Glendale 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	11  12:00pm Picnic 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 5:00-7:30pm VBS Glendale 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	12 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's 5:00-7:30pm VBS Glendale	13	14	15
16 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	17 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	18 10am-1pm Quilters 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	19	20	21	22
23 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	24 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon	25  2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	26	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	31 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon	2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's			

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



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