



## 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!"*

**September, 2026**



### ***Renewal Leave Thank You***

Dear Church Family,

As I settle in after my six-week renewal leave, my heart is full of gratitude for the gift you gave me – the time to rest, learn, and be restored. I spent part of my leave in Berlin, where I immersed myself in history, much of which had an impact on my own family, and experienced art that told stories of beauty, suffering, courage, and hope. I also had space to breathe and reflect in ways that are hard to do in the rhythm of daily ministry.

And, in true “renewal leave” fashion, I finally tackled several home projects that had been waiting patiently for far too long – a result of too many moves! The combination of travel, rest, reflection, and accomplishment was exactly what my body, mind, and spirit needed.

Thank you for supporting me in this time away with your generosity, your encouragement, and your active involvement in the church. You made it possible for me to step back fully, and your faithfulness and competence in ministry while I was gone reinforced for me – once again – what a strong and loving congregation this is.

I am renewed, and excited for the season ahead! It is an honor and a blessing to serve as your pastor, and I am thankful for each of you.

With love and appreciation,

Pastor Leigh

#### **In this Issue**

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| Month        | Income           | Expense          | Net           |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| January      | \$40,810         | \$17,716         | \$23,094      |
| February     | \$24,623         | \$20,999         | \$3,624       |
| March        | \$20,232         | \$26,461         | -\$6,229      |
| April        | \$22,047         | \$22,623         | -\$576        |
| May          | \$23,191         | \$21,795         | \$1396        |
| June         | \$12,881         | \$27,459         | -\$14,578     |
| July         | \$23,583         | \$26,864         | -\$3,281      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$167,369</b> | <b>\$163,921</b> | <b>\$3448</b> |

**Pledge Update:** We have received \$130,685 of the pledged amount of \$203,948 which is 64%.

For the first time in several years, we have passed the half year point and are in the black for our financials. This is great news! However, our reserves continue to be critically low and we must stay diligent with our prayers and giving to continue on this path. We will be meeting with SCA and Toy Corner in September to discuss renewing their lease and continuing the successful partnership we have created. This lease renewal is critical to our financial well-being.

Additionally, we are now asking for everyone to start thinking about the idea of selling a portion of the church property in the future in order to create a sound financial position to support our Church for years to come. The current proposal would be to find a buyer willing to purchase the open grass area along Cty Rd 21/ Eagle Creek Ave, leaving in place the parsonage and room for the garden. We will be creating a survey asking a simple yes/no question about the congregation's willingness to consider this. Survey sheets will be available to complete on Rally Sunday, September 13th.

Thank you all for the contributions being made to bring us to this moment.



### Mr. Rogers: Look for the Helpers

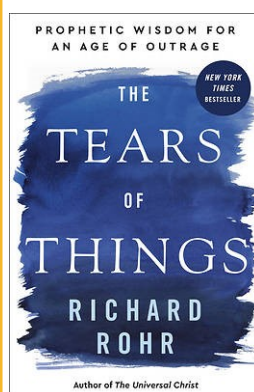
by Lori Boynton

Fred McFeely Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister, but is still best known as Mr. Rogers, the host and gentle neighbor of the long-running children's TV show *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. Everyday, five days a week for over 24 years, Mr. Rogers would invite children to be kind, creative, inquisitive, and, most importantly, a neighbor. He often advised his little neighbors that when he was a little boy and would see scary things in the news, his mother would say to him, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

Shortly before he passed away, Fred Rogers wrote the following: *"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my part of the world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."*

We live in scary and uncertain times. Fred Rogers would counsel us to be both helpers and neighbors, and to be heroes. Holy Trinity saw the need and The Hope Food Pantry was born last fall. We didn't have to look for helpers because this congregation is full of them: We are the neighbors. We are the helpers. You are all my heroes.

### Fall Book Study



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 mid-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.

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.

## Church Announcements...

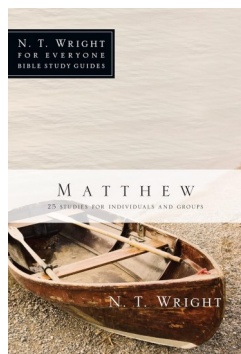


The Holy Trinity Chancel Choir, directed by the talented Randi Erlandson, will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00pm**. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm and then the choir sings during worship on the first and third Sundays of the month (plus special holidays.) However,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

### Lakefront Bible Study

September 1 & 15  
from 1:00-2:30pm

Lakefront Plaza Commons Room



Our Lakefront Bible Study is resuming its study of 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.

This is a non-denominational group.

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



United  
Women  
in Faith

### United Women in Faith September Gathering

We will **NOT** meet in **SEPTEMBER** due to Labor Day being so close to our regular meeting date.

**Our Tuesday, Sept 8 meeting is CANCELLED.**

We will resume in October.

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

## Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Building Event

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

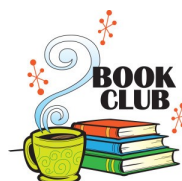
Join us to build beds for kids in our community who are without a bed. We will cut, sand, assemble and finish bed components. No experience, no worries! These builds are designed with everyone in mind. A few hours of your time will mean the world to a child sleeping in an unfavorable condition.



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!



### Trinity Readers

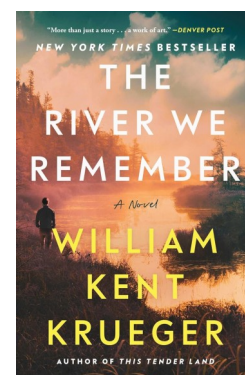
Tuesday, September 29  
2:00pm Church Library

If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

**The book for September:**

***The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger**

*The River We Remember* offers an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home.



Contact Sandy Feldhake at [sfeldha1@msn.com](mailto:sfeldha1@msn.com) or Sara Modders at [sbmplmn.younts@gmail.com](mailto:sbmplmn.younts@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Church Announcements...

### SAVE THESE DATES!

|                    |              |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday, Sept. 12 | 8:30-10:45am | Bed Building                         |
| Sunday, Sept. 13   | 9:30am       | Rally Sunday                         |
| Saturday, Sept. 26 | 9am-4pm      | Feeding Bodies & Minds Food Drive    |
| Saturday, Oct. 17  | 4-7pm        | VFW Burger Bash<br>Pantry Fundraiser |
| Sunday, Nov. 8     | 10:30am      | Chili Cook-Off                       |
| Monday, Nov. 23    | 2-7pm        | Mana Brewing<br>Pantry Fundraiser    |

### "Feeding Bodies & Minds"

**Saturday, September 26 from 9am-4pm**

Hope Pantry will have a table in the entryway of the Prior Lake Library for collecting Hope Pantry donations and a tent and tables at the Pleasant Street Art Walk for collecting donations and for the kids' bookmark coloring activity. Kids can show their bookmark at the library and get a gently used children's book.

Donations of 10 food items or \$20 to Hope Pantry will earn a folder containing discounts to local businesses. The first 50 qualifying donations will get extra treats!

#### We need volunteers for the following shifts...

Prior Lake Public Library: 8:30am-10:30am > 10:30am-1:00pm > 1:00pm-3:30pm (2 spots each)

Pleasant Street Art Walk: 9:30am-11:30am > 11:30am-2:00pm > 2:00pm-4:30pm (2 spot each)

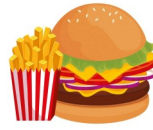
Sign up at church or contact the office if you'd like to volunteer.



### Holy Trinity's Care Team Ministry...the best!

We wanted to take time to recognize and thank you for all you do. You pour extraordinary care, kindness and love into our church family as you meet members in their time of need with open hearts and willing hands. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus, and for your beautiful witness of love in action.

Sharon and Pat Dougherty



### "Burger Bash & Silent Auction" at the Prior Lake VFW Saturday, October 17 from 4-7pm

We will begin selling tickets for this event on **Rally Sunday, September 13!** Must be paid for in advance.

Meal only (Burger & Fries) for \$15

Meal + All You Can Drink Keg Beer (Coors) for \$30

#### We need volunteers for the following shifts...

3:30pm-5:30pm & 5:30pm-7:30pm

We are looking for 10-12 volunteers for this event.

Duties – Helping at the welcome table/checking in guests and issuing meal tickets - Pouring pitchers of beer - Keeping our area clean - Helping with the silent auction. Sign up at church or contact the office if you'd like to volunteer.

#### We are also looking for items for our silent auction!

New items only please, gift certificates, event tickets – Some auction basket ideas are: sports, spa, school supplies, liquor, jewelry, clothing, purses, kitchen, puzzles, toys, crafts, holiday, activities.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church office by **Sept. 27**. If you have a good lead for an item, please let us know and we will follow up.

Contact: LuAnn Messer with questions 952.334.5903

### 2026 School Supply Drive

Our United Women in Faith helped support **CAP Agency's Backpacks for Success** by leading the drive for Holy Trinity this year. Many backpacks and supplies were gathered – thank you **everyone!** UWFaith also made a monetary donation.



Special delivery to CAP Agency by Sandy Feldhake, Nancy Iverson, and Sandy's granddaughter, Saylor.



## ***Inclusion Starts with I...***

Ah, September, the month I've always thought of as the "Back to" month – Back to school, Back to activities, Back to a more scheduled life for most. It is also the time that we go back to church activities such as choir and bell choir. September also brings a time of renewal, with everything starting up again. Holy Trinity United Methodist Church has become a vibrant and exciting place to be recently, and we are known in the Prior Lake area as a church that extends radical hospitality to all. Our Hope Café and Pantry brings in up to forty families a week; our sanctuary is filling just a little more each week; our kids' time in church is vibrant with beautiful, energetic children. We are truly doing what Jesus asks us to do when we extend Radical Hospitality to all. That leads me to return to a project that the I Team started two years ago in welcoming Pastor Leigh, our "Radical Hospitality" of recruiting people to do "Just One Thing."

We have so many opportunities for volunteering on both a larger scale and a very small scale. Trust me, I understand "busy." When I was in the midst of my teaching career, at one time I was directing two plays a year, coaching speech, serving as the Prior Lake Girl Scout coordinator, and raising two children. I also spent many hours each weekend correcting papers. "Busy" was my middle name. I was certainly not nearly as active in the church then as I am now, but I always found time to do "Just One Thing" (or sometimes even two or three). That's what I'm asking of each and every one of you – find Just One Thing, if that's all you have time for. Find your passion and find your place. Becoming involved in any activity at all will help you feel more connected to the church.

We will be handing out a flyer of all of the volunteer opportunities available on Rally Sunday. More information on each of these opportunities is included in a black three-ringed binder alongside blue boxes with little cubbies in them. One is located upstairs near the Welcome Center, and the other is located downstairs near the Hope Café and Pantry. The three-ring binder has a summary of all of the volunteer opportunities that are available. Each cubby has a handout that gives more information

*Continued next column...*

about each activity that we have available and the approximate time commitment. If you only have Sunday morning available, consider becoming a greeter, an usher, a liturgist, a kids' church volunteer, or a communion server. At most you'd be needed once a month for any of these if we get enough volunteers. If that is too much time, consider donating baked goods to the Hope Café or food to the Hope Pantry. Very few of the opportunities available call for a huge time commitment, and some are just once a year, like Pride Bingo and Vacation Bible School. When Pastor Jen Hill was here in July, her last sermon was entitled "Do Something." I have never regretted any time that I've spent doing something in the service of others. As 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." **Remember, Inclusion starts with I.**



### **A Four-Part Education Series on Dementia**

Do you have a basic understanding of dementia and would like to learn more? This four-part series may be for you. Anyone interested in Dementia can attend for **free**: professionals, faith leaders, community members, friends, families, neighbors.

- Thur., September 17 - Dementia: Your Role as Faith Community Nurse, Community, Family, Friends
- Wed., September 30 - How to work with Dementia Care Challenges
- Thur., October 29 - Dementia Communication Techniques
- Thur., November 12 - Metro Wide Dementia Resources

**Where:** Zoom

**When:** September 17-November 12 from 3-5pm

**Register Here:** <https://fcntc.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F49497>

## **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](http://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](http://namimn.org))



# September 2026

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

| Sun                                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                                                                                                            | Tue                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Wed                                                                    | Thur                       | Fri       | Sat                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1</b><br><br><b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm CoDA                                          | <b>2</b><br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                        | <b>3</b><br>11am Care Team | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30am Worship/<br>Live-Stream                                                                                         | <b>7</b><br><br><b>Church Office Closed</b><br>7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall | <b>8</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm CoDA at the parsonage                                                                                                                                                       | <b>9</b><br>3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal  | <b>10</b>                  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br><br><b>8:30am Bed Building Event</b>                                     |
| <b>13</b><br>9:30am Worship/<br>Live-Stream<br> | <b>14</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall                                                                                        | <b>15</b><br>10am-1pm Quilters<br><br><b>1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm CoDA at the parsoange | <b>16</b><br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                       | <b>17</b>                  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>20</b><br>9:30am Worship/<br>Live-Stream                                                                                        | <b>21</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br><b>6:30pm Core Team Meeting</b><br>7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall                                                     | <b>22</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm CoDA at the parsonage                                                                                                                                                      | <b>23</b><br>3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal | <b>24</b>                  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br><br><b>9am-4pm "Feeding Bodies &amp; Minds" Hope Pantry Food Drive</b> |
| <b>27</b><br>9:30am Worship/<br>Live-Stream                                                                                        | <b>28</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall                                                                                        | <b>29</b><br><br><b>2:00pm Trinity Readers</b><br>2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry<br>7pm CoDA at the parsonage                              | <b>30</b><br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                       |                            |           |                                                                                                                                                                          |

## *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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