



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!"*

October, 2026



What is Truth?

There was a time when we discovered truth rather than created it. Truth was something that existed outside of us. Often it was seen as objective or fixed, an ideal to live up to.

But truth was never simple, and in recent decades we have become increasingly aware that each person sees the world through a particular lens. In other words, context matters. Culture, history, family, privilege, suffering, and experience all shape our understanding of truth. Knowing this has taught us humility and helped us listen to voices that are ignored or marginalized. It has reminded us that no one person can see the whole picture.

But something has shifted. When taken to an extreme, the understanding that our individual perspectives are limited can lead to a belief that truth is entirely individual. Then, instead of saying, "I see part of the truth," we are tempted to say, "My truth is the truth."

This may seem compassionate and liberating, but in fact it is the opposite. Relativism requires scrutiny. If we acknowledge no truth beyond individual perspective, then we lose all common ground. We can no longer ask whether something is true, only whether it is useful, persuasive, or popular.

When truth loses any shared foundation, it does not become more democratic – it becomes more vulnerable to power. The strongest voice, the loudest platform, the largest audience, or the greatest force begins to define reality. Truth is no longer shaped by discernment and understanding, but instead by influence and coercion.

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Pastor Leigh Continued & Finance Update...

Social media contributes to this trend by giving power to algorithms, influencers, and online communities that shape what we see and believe. What captures our attention is often not what is most true but what is most provocative. Truth becomes a contest of visibility and influence.

The biblical prophets, who we are studying this fall, also lived in societies where powerful interests and popular opinion obscured reality. Their calling was to see clearly and speak honestly, even when the crowd, the king, or the culture preferred a more popular, comfortable, or convenient story. Again and again the prophets challenged those who used power to create convenient versions of reality. They insisted that truth could not be determined by authority alone. The question was never, "Who has the most power?" The question was, "What is actually happening, and what does God say about it?"

When Amos denounced injustice, when Isaiah confronted corruption, when Jeremiah warned against false assurances of peace, they were calling people back to reality. They saw truth not as a weapon to dominate others, but as a path toward community, justice, and healing.

If community, justice, and healing are our goals as well, then we are called to neither naive certainty nor radical individualism – we are called to a shared search for truth. A shared search requires enough humility to admit that we don't see everything, enough courage to challenge falsehoods, and enough care to listen to one another.

And for people of faith it requires prayer. Christians believe that truth is not just a concept – it is ultimately grounded in God. We don't possess truth as owners; we seek it as followers of Christ. We bring our experiences, questions, and perspectives into conversation with scripture, tradition, reason, and one another. Truth is not whatever we want it to be as individuals. It is not whatever the powerful declare it to be. Truth is the reality toward which God calls us.

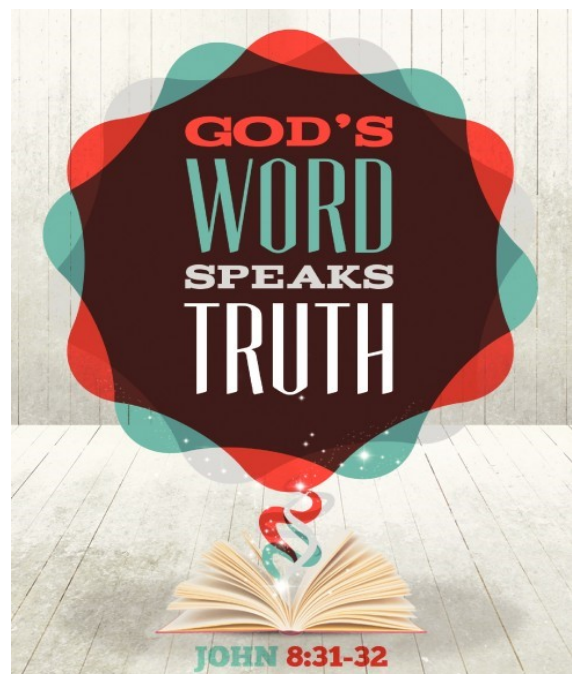
God, help us to see clearly, to speak honestly, and to walk together in the truth.

Monthly Financial Report

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
August	\$14,873	\$21,045	-\$6,172
Total	\$181,969	\$184,693	-\$2,724

Pledge Update: We have received \$140,625 of the pledged amount of \$203,948 which is 69%.

Thank you to those who completed our land sale survey. The question asked was "Would you be in favor of exploring the option of a land sale which would NOT include the church building, parsonage, playground or garden?" We received 46 responses in total, with 37 answering "yes" and 9 answering "no", therefore the core team will start exploring this option. It is important that we create a sound financial position to support our Church for years to come.

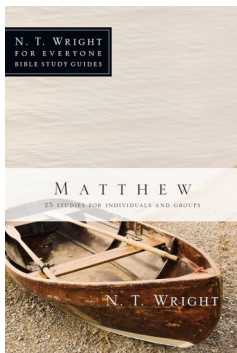


Church Announcements...

Lakefront Bible Study

October 6 & 20
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 October 6 Gathering

Our group will attend the *Referendum Roadshow* at Club Prior on **Tuesday, October 6 @ 1:30-2:30pm**. Club Prior is part of the Prior Lake Library building at 16210 Eagle Creek Ave SE.

UWFaith will meet afterwards from 2:30-3:30pm in a library meeting room.

Note this is one week prior to our usual meeting date.

Come to Club Prior to learn & ask questions about the Prior Lake Savage school district #719 school referendum on the ballot at the upcoming November 3rd mid-term election. Our United Women in Faith's mission is to support issues and programs that improve the lives of women, children and youth.

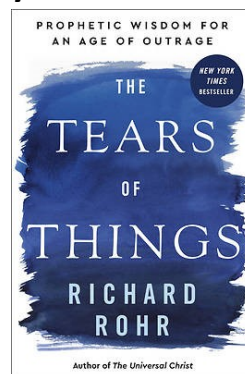
For questions or to request a ride prior to Oct 6, please contact

Sharon Dougherty at 612-280-2103 or
Sandy Feldhake at 952-484-7868.



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. 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.



We are using this book as a guide for our current Sunday worship series "Everything Belongs." Pastor Leigh is also leading a study on this book on **Wednesday nights in October from 5:30-6:45pm**.



Burger Bash & Silent Auction

Prior Lake VFW

Saturday, October 17 @ 4-7PM

Good Food! Good Company! Good Cause!
Support Hope Pantry and join us for an evening of fun!

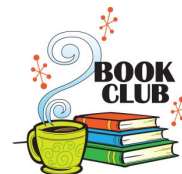
Tickets are on sale **NOW** through Sunday, October 4.
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Meal only (Burger & Fries) for \$15

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

Trinity Readers

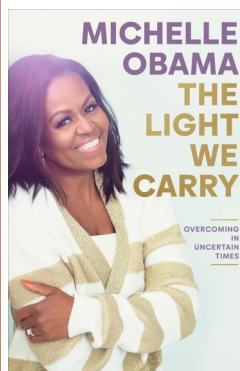
**Tuesday, October 27
2:00pm Church Library**



If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us!

The book for October:

***The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama**



A rewarding blend of powerful stories and profound advice that will ignite conversation, "The Light We Carry" inspires readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.

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

Church Announcements...



CANDY CRAWL

Candy Crawl

Friday, October 30

10:00AM-1:00PM

Candy Crawl is a daytime trick-or-treat event for Prior Lake's youngest residents. Start your Candy Crawl at Prior Lake City Hall and make sure to stop by Holy Trinity for a photo booth and lots of candy! Volunteers are needed for this event. Please let us know if you can help.



Holy Trinity will be celebrating "All Saints Sunday" on **November 1** during worship. We will be honoring all loved ones who passed away in the last year. If you have someone you would like to include, please send an email to the church office by **Sunday, October 25** and include the person's name, date of death, relationship to you as well as their picture. In addition, you are welcome to bring a memento (picture, item, candle) to place on the altar on November 1 to honor any other loved ones who passed away more than a year ago.

Baked Goods Needed



Holy Trinity is in need of ongoing contributions of baked goods (either store bought or homemade) for our weekly Hope Cafe. We put them in the freezer and then pull them out as needed. If you can help, please drop off baked goods to the church kitchen and clearly label them for Hope Cafe.



On Saturday, September 12, 7 members from Holy Trinity helped build beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace! Great work team!



Pictured above: Maia Noer, Vic Noer, Roger Wahl, Nancy Iverson, Harold Jensen, Rob Hubbard and Jaden Chant.



Inclusion Starts with I...

The year is quickly flying by. October begins our final quarter of the year. During these three months we celebrate *A Place at the Table*, which includes immigrants/refugees and our annual One Table Event. Two years ago members of the I Team researched and presented information that we learned about immigration, including asylum seekers/refugees, undocumented immigrants, and the various visas that allow workers from other countries to reside in the United States. The research was good, and we all learned from our research, and hopefully members of the congregation did too.

Since then, however, we have experienced immigration up close and personal, so to speak. We have all learned so much, especially about those who are seeking asylum. It seems to be an almost impossible system to navigate, especially without a supporting network of people. Even then, uncertainty for all immigrants reigns, especially now with deportations at an all time high, even for people who are legally here.

We opened the Hope Café in February of 2025 when SCA moved in next door. We opened the Food Pantry exactly one year ago this month, October 27th to be exact. It quickly became successful. At first our church members were the primary suppliers of the food to give away. When we started this ministry, we had no idea what would happen only a few months later, especially when Metro Surge made it terrifying for many people in our community to leave their homes. From mid-February until the end of April, we packaged and delivered food and supplies to approximately thirty families a week. We had many, many partners in our efforts, including members of Indivisible and R.O.C.K. Members of our church stepped up, and we received donations from across the country to make sure that we could provide enough food. We worked closely with people in the Prior Lake Savage school district to make sure that all families were reached. This was truly a coordinated effort from many, many people, and I will forever be proud of all who stepped up.

The Hope Café and Pantry has been extraordinarily successful, not only in providing food for our local

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community, but also in providing a beautiful, multi-cultural community within our church. People stop in to get their groceries and usually stay for the treats and the company offered. In many ways we have become family. Laughter and love prevail. All of us who work in the pantry have made new friends from near and far. The camaraderie and joy are inspiring, but we know that the fear is still there, and people are still being taken off the streets and deported. We provide a safe space, and we will be ready to deliver again if needed. Welcoming the stranger is a constant theme throughout both the Old and New Testament of the Bible. Hebrews 13:2 plays out every single week at Hope Café and Pantry: *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.* We know that God is with us. Holy Trinity truly provides a place at the table for all. Remember, **Inclusion starts with I.**

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped make our "Feeding Bodies and Minds" Fundraiser a great success!



We collected \$1307 and 226 food items for Hope Pantry!



October-December 2026 Mission Focus

The missions we are focusing on for the fourth quarter coordinate with the I-Team focus *"A Place at the Table"* which includes immigrants/refugees and our annual One Table Event. All donations collected throughout the months of **October-December** will be divided equally among the following three missions.



Emma Norton's mission is to provide transformational housing for women and families on their journey of recovery. As a housing first and harm reduction organization, they believe that housing provides the foundation every human being needs in order to make progress on life goals. Using The Sanctuary Model, they take a trauma-informed, whole-culture approach to providing advocacy and supportive services that help hundreds of individuals and families who have experienced homelessness—along with mental, chemical, and/or chronic health issues—reach their goals, restore their dignity and heal from the inside out.

In 2025, they served 355 individuals, with 69 percent identifying as persons of color and all very low income.

Emma Norton Today



Emma Norton has grown from a single dorm for 20 young women in the early 1900s to a multi-location supportive sanctuary.

They support healing and personal growth for individuals and families in recovery from

homelessness, with mental health services and supports integrated throughout all programs and activities.



Supporting families and strengthening communities since 1996

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) is a nonprofit organization that enhances opportunities for low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota and North Dakota through free immigration legal representation and through education and advocacy with diverse communities.

ILCM also works to educate the community about immigration matters and advocates for public policies which respect the universal human rights of immigrants.

In 2025, ILCM provided legal services in 3,533 unique cases impacting over 10,000 individuals who came from 101 different countries. They received a 5 times increase in ICE detention line calls during ICE surges and expanded detention line hours to meet the need.



The Toy Corner envisions a community where every child experiences the joy of play, regardless of their family's financial situation, nurturing creativity and confidence for their future. They strive to be an integral part of the caregivers' village, empowering parents and guardians in their parenting journey and strengthening connections within the community.

Holy Trinity will be partnering with our neighbors at The Toy Corner this holiday season by collecting **NEW** toys for kids ages 0-15 as well as monetary donations. **Our toy drive will start November 1 and run through November 29.** More information will be provided in the November Sail Newsletter.



October 2026

Holy Trinity UMC

(952) 447-2990

office@htumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 11am Care Team	2	3
4 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	5 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	6 1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 1:30pm UW Faith @ Club Prior 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	7 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's  5:30pm Fall Book Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 1:00pm Memorial Service for Gail Landor
11 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am Memory Loss Support Group (church music room)	12 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	13 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsoange	14  5:30pm Fall Book Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17  4pm-7pm Burger Bash & Silent Auction @ PL VFW
18 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream 10:30am I-Team Meeting	19 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	20 10am-1pm Quilters  1-2:30pm Lakefront Bible Study 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	21 3pm Coffee & Ice Cream at Culver's  5:30pm Fall Book Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship/ Live-Stream	26 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 6:30pm Core Team Meeting 7pm Al-Anon in fellowship hall	27  2:00pm Trinity Readers 2-6pm Hope Café & Pantry 7pm CoDA at the parsonage	28  5:30pm Fall Book Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30  10am-1pm Candy Crawl	31  Happy Halloween!

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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