



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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February 2021

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR “VIRTUAL” ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY AT 10 A.M. ON ZOOM

2021 is ripe with promise and yet filled with challenges. All of that means that we as a congregation need to lean into it together in order to be faithful as we can!

We invite you and urge you to be part of our “virtual” annual congregational meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 31st to review the year behind us, vote on new Council nominees and other leaders, adopt a proposed program budget, and hear from one another regarding our hopes and dreams for the new year! All confirmed members are urged to take part! Watch for the Zoom link to the meeting in future e-mail correspondence.

Annual report booklets are available both in hard copy and electronically. Please contact the church office for the access code to the electronic version on our website. Let the office know if you would like a physical copy of the booklet mailed to you. Copies are available in the front foyer.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ANNOUNCED

The Nominating Committee has worked prayerfully and tirelessly to seek individuals gifted and qualified for our Visioning Council and other key posts. They have together lifted up the names of Ben Meyer for Visioning Council President and Marcy Duncan for the council's At-Large open position. In addition, Gretchen Warkentin has been nominated to second term as Vice President, Steve Roe has been named as a nominee for re-election to a second at-large position, and Jack Fratzke for re-election as congregational treasurer. Kathy Stapleton's name has been submitted as Holy Trinity's representative on the board of Johnson County Interfaith Coalition, joining Pastor Tim as part of our Core Group for that relationship. We hope that you will give thanks for their willingness to serve and join us at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday to affirm their candidacy!

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 2021

The Visioning Council has announced their proposed operating budget for the 2021 calendar year \$358,908 to support our ministries of worship, service, outreach, welcoming, growing, and facility support. The proposal includes a continuation of our commitment to help support the work and broader ministries of the synod and the ELCA. The budget proposal was drafted after reviewing anticipated stewardship resources from the fall campaign, stated needs from ministry teams, mission goals, and staff performance. Join us via Zoom this Sunday to discuss and vote on the specifics, enabling our staff and ministry teams to do their important work on behalf of Christ and his Mission!

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 A.M. FOR LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP!

Be part of the interacting worshipping community each week, sharing your greetings and comments with the rest of us. "See you" online next Sunday!

ASH WEDNESDAY LAUNCHES THE LENTEN SEASON ON FEB. 17TH

We enter the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th, by gathering virtually for worship on Facebook at 7:00 p.m. Help us kick off the season with “Holden Evening Prayer” and the Imposition of Ashes (“Ashes to Go” will soon be available in the lobby for those who would like to pick them up from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.). We’ll explore some of the less obvious themes of the Ten Commandments as it pertains to relating to both God and our neighbor. While we won’t be able to share our traditional Lenten suppers this year, we pray that you will join us for worship weekly as you are able. The recorded service will be posted on our website weekly

“US & THEM” LENTEN SERMON SERIES

“This isn’t who we are” was a familiar refrain voiced after the recent attack on the U.S. Capitol. Yet world history would indicate that humans have a history and tendency of predictable patterns to react to or against others who may be different from us. We’ll examine Biblical stories and contrast those with “The Seventh Story,” a recent book by well-known author Brian McLaren and writer Gareth Higgins, a native of Ireland who reflects on the violence that long plagued his country. Copies of the adult version of this book will be available at church or from their website. An illustrated children’s book will also be utilized in our worship as well. Together, we’ll ponder how Christ’s story provides a most valuable alternative to:

- **Domination: Us over Them**
- **Revolution: Us Overthrowing Them**
- **Isolation: Us Staying Apart from Them**
- **Accumulation: Us Having Things They Don’t**
- **Victimization: Us Being More Important than Them because of our Suffering**
- **Purification: Us Cleansing Ourselves from Them.**

Join us in worship on Sundays this Lent for this intriguing study!

PASTOR'S PAGE

As we conclude the first month of our calendar year, I'm thankful to be able to join with the congregation virtually this Sunday after worship for our Annual Meeting. It's been quite a year and God has been good throughout, as has the diligence of those who lead us and those who support our mission in ways that are as safe as possible.

I am grateful for the capable and non-anxious leadership that Kim Behr has provided to our Visioning Council. Kim has provided us with detailed daily updates about the status of the CoronaVirus in the corridor, providing perspective pertinent to our specific communities. I have been humbled by the persistent efforts of all who have served on a regular basis to support our worship efforts – whether outdoors, virtual, or otherwise. I am blessed to work with a most talented and creative partner in Pastor Katie, supported by an equally committed support staff. Together, their research, patience, consistent learning, and eagerness to enrich our mission in any way possible during this COVID era has been nothing less than essential gifts. Certainly, the flexibility and understanding of the congregation as a whole, given all of the many changes we have had to negotiate and share, has been a real asset for us all, enabling us to keep our focus on things that matter.

I hope that you'll join us on Sunday both to recognize and celebrate all that has been and to look forward together to where the Spirit may lead in coming weeks and months. See you for worship at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting at 10:00 a.m.!

DON'T FORGET YOUR “COMMUNITY CONNECTION!”



We are grateful for those serving as facilitators of our “Community Connection” ministry as they have been diligent in encouraging us outside of gathering physically! We are still seeking enough facilitators to involve every family. Write Pastor Tim at tim@holytrinityNL.org to learn more about the role and opportunity!

BISHOP AMY CURRENT IS OUR GUEST PREACHER FOR FEB. 21ST



We are delighted to announce that newly-elected synodical Bishop Amy Current has agreed to be Holy Trinity's guest preacher for Sunday, Feb. 21. While plans are still to gather virtually on that date, Bishop Current is eager to make herself known to the people of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and looks forward to future opportunities to meet face-to-face!

Please join us via Facebook at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21!

SOFTBALL THIS SUMMER, ANYONE?

Holy Trinity has been to field a softball team this spring/summer as part of Coralville's Recreational Church League. Games are on Friday eves starting in April. We have to let them know of our interest well in advance of that date.

If you are interested, please contact Bryce Henson at vbahenson@yahoo.com. Men and women over the age of 15 are welcome to play.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY! PLAN TO REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION CAMP THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8-13!



Believe it or not, it's not too early to start thinking about summer! Holy Trinity's

week of Confirmation camp at EWALU in Strawberry Point for all youth currently in grades 6-8 will be August 8-13. We hope that all of our youth will be able to participate! Registration brochures are at church. Pending the final results of our 2021 stewardship campaign and Annual Congregational meeting, we hope to be able to offer a partial registration subsidy for all campers again this year!

PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for citizens all those countries who do not yet have access to the CoronaVirus vaccine.
- Pray for an end to violence and fighting in **Tigray province** of Ethiopia, where we have constructed two water wells.
- Pray for **President Biden** and his administration as we experience a transition in national leadership.
- Pray for those **workers deemed essential, health care employees** and all those on whom we are dependent during this crisis of COVID-19 and for those who have been **furloughed, laid off, or terminated** due to it.
- Pray for **Steve Petersen**, former Holy Trinity worshipper, grieving the loss of his mother **Helen**, who also worshipped with us frequently.
- Pray for **Glenda Sivers**, grieving the loss of her cousin earlier this month.
- Pray for **Kami Olthoff**, mourning the death of her mother, Carol Sorensen, late last week.
- Pray for **Else Schardt**, recovering from recent cardiac difficulties
- Pray for **Kate Hellem**, recently diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer; for **Kristen Murray**, Carryn Anderson's sister, being treated for breast cancer and recovering from a recent stroke; **Bill Stickney**, who is recovering from cancer treatment, for **Elizabeth Heinemann**, Marcy Duncan's sister, being treated for cancer, and for **Donita Balek**, recovering from cancer surgery.
- Pray for **Jeanette Pregon**, mother of Jim Pregon, currently in hospice care.
- Pray for **Marilu Kuhl**, currently rehabilitating at home.
- Pray for **Marilyn Hartig**, Lisa Smith's mother, currently rehabilitating from a recent stroke.
- Pray for **Bob Roys**, friend of Tim and Lisa Smith, diagnosed with a serious brain tumor.
- Pray for **John and Lucy Lancaster, Sr.** who are homebound.

DEAR FRIENDS AT HOLY TRINITY,

Thank you for the gift you sent to the North Liberty Community Pantry. Your gift provided 2,600 pounds of food helping 65 families with groceries for a week! The pantry staff and the families we serve appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely, *Judy Bernkessel*, Pantry Board Member

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND DAY CAMP



July 12 to 16 seem like a lifetime away with the snow we've had this week. We still need to call for all the Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, Youth and Junior Assistants to get the station ready for all the passengers from pre-school through fourth grade. Come along for the ride!

LINCOLN, IL YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2021

Did you know that Lincoln, IL, is the only city named for a U.S. President while he was still living? There are still a few spots remaining for the July 25-21 mission trip. \$50 deposits are due now. Contact Pastor Katie (katie@holytrinitynl.org) to make sure your spot is reserved. Don't be the one who delays too long and gets left in North Liberty's metropolitan area! Prayerfully consider being part of the team and that conditions remain safe so that we may go to Lincoln! Let's pray for the people of Lincoln as they prepare to host teams of youth from across the nation.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Mark your calendars for March 5th for a women's night out! Even if it means a Women's Night In, we can reach out to our mothers, daughters, cousins, and friends for an evening of spiritual togetherness as the Holy Spirit moves through our lives to make God's way known among us. Final details should be known soon!

CONGRATULATIONS, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING!

... to charter member **Evelyn Bollinger**, who turned 80 on January 26th.

... to **Kim Behr**, outgoing President of the congregation, and **Bryce Henson**, outgoing council member at large, for their service to the congregation during this incredibly difficult past year.

... to the entire **Visioning Council** for helping us through uncharted waters this past year.

... to **Lyn Petersen** who steadfastly prepares for Children's Sunday School each week with Pastor Katie.

FAMILY RESOURCE KITS ON PRAYER THROUGH LENT

Family Resource Kits on prayer are still available in the front foyer of the church. If you cannot stop by during office hours (8:30 to 12:30 Monday – Friday) or Sunday hours (usually 8 to noon), contact the office to see if someone can make a Pony Express visit.



Then join us for Ash Wednesday family prayer time, February 17. Following Lenten worship or with your supper devotions, join Pastor Katie, Lyn, and their guests as they share the many ways your children, teens, and adults are invited to pray. The

resource will be on the website under Youth Ministry by 1 p.m. each Wednesday.

AGAPE PRAYER GROUP SPECIAL EVENT

Join Agape Prayer Group as they meet with Pastor Dirk Stadlander of the FreeIndeed congregation at Anamosa State Prison on Feb. 16 at 9 a.m. Learn more about prison ministries and how our prayers help. Email Pastor Katie for the Zoom link.