



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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October 2023

NINE YOUTH TO AFFIRM THEIR BAPTISMS ON REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCT. 29TH

We look forward to a special 11:00 a.m. worship service on October 29, as nine young people celebrate the completion of their confirmation education and look forward to affirming their baptisms. Scheduled to celebrate this year are Elise Berry, Zoe Neff, Sawyer Rummel, Sam Jungen, Lila Bowman, Hailey Robertson, James O'Connor, Reece Peters, and Lars Hildebrand. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for this special event in their faith journey!

LAUGH OUT LOUD TAILGATER!

All are invited to a tailgate party in the Holy Trinity parking lot on Thursday, October 26th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. to say goodbye to Daylight Savings Time! Set up your tailgate/trunk with a snack and a dish to share. Games, fellowship, and fun just happen with this group!

See you there!!!!!!



ADULT FORUM SERIES FOCUSES ON “CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH”

Are you convinced that “Church” and “Politics” don’t mix? It’s a common refrain; yet one that likely confuses the distinctions between “faith and



church,” and “politics and partisanship.” In other words, while it’s better for both the nation and the church to remain *distinguished* from one another, to suggest that they remain *separate* is not honoring either!

Starting at 10:15 a.m. each week in Room 4, we hope that you’ll make a point of sharing this helpful and grounded 6-week ELCA-produced discussion around what our faith implies for our work at becoming a community of moral deliberation and how that calls us to participate in the decisions and institutions of our community, state, and nation. Facilitated by Else Schardt and Lisa Smith, short video introductions by ELCA leaders and teachers feature topics such as “How is God’s Invitation to Discipleship Lived out in a Democracy?” and “How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?” We would love to include you! See you next week in Room 4!

MEMBERS TO BE WELCOMED OCTOBER 8TH

Several new faces and families are currently participating in our September “Next Steps” series, Join us in worship that day, and then make plans to stick around to introduce yourself to these fresh disciples in our midst, helping them feel both welcome and integrated into the community as a whole!

OCTOBER IS “STEWARDSHIP SEASON”!

Our Stewardship Team won't finalize plans until after the newsletter deadline is past, but look forward to details coming soon regarding our annual fall campaign designed to help all of us together be able to put our “best foot forward!” One way or another, we hope to wrap up this fall's effort by mid-November, as a means of helping us work toward creating a fresh program budget for 2024 that honors both our capacity and our resolve. It's a discernment process that has major impacts on the shape of our ministry. Plan to help us by playing your part. Stay tuned!

STATEMENTS SOON TO BE E-MAILED — WATCH FOR YOURS!

The Council has asked that we keep the congregation informed about our financial sustainability. If you submitted a Faith Promise for the 2022 year, watch for a statement arriving soon that will share the details of your giving year-to-date and help you to gauge if you are keeping on track with your original plan. Questions? You are always welcome to call the office, where Richard can direct you to the best resource for your inquiry.

NATURAL PRAIRIE PROJECT IS LIKELY UNDERWAY THIS MONTH

We are excited and encouraged to begin plans for the only “natural prairie” project in North Liberty, with about an acre of our land being designated for the establishment of a lush resource for pollinators that extends a colorful welcome to the community!

Seed is in hand, and Eagle Scout candidate Tate Schloss is coordinating the effort. We still have need of a tractor capable of turning topsoil. If you think you have the means and would be willing to help make this vision a reality, contact Tate at tatejschloss@gmail.com. Or – if you have a Thrivent Action grant to spare, we may have to go the rental route.

It will be a labor of love, and require at least two growing seasons to come to fruition, but we are excited about it being a key component to our environment stewardship!

STAFFED NURSERY RETURNS OCTOBER 8TH



Over the past couple of weeks, nine youth have stepped forward to volunteer their help in making nursery care a reality for Sunday worship. And as of this week, we are delighted to welcome Avery Woodward to our staff as our primary nursery caregiver/coordinator! Avery is a junior at Mount Mercy University, majoring in elementary education. Originally from Amana, she loves kids, has

extensive child care experience, and now lives in North Liberty. Let's look forward to extending her on a hearty welcome on October 8th! And if you've been seeking child care yourself so that you can worship, we hope that you'll join us soon!

COUNCIL SEEKS PARTICIPANTS IN GUIDING "RECONCILING IN CHRIST" PROCESS

We have been grateful to be able to post our "All Are Welcome/No Exceptions" sign in our windows for the past several years. It reflects our hope that all would feel safe, valued, and welcome among us. It has become apparent to staff and Council that a more explicit message and process are likely necessary additions if we are to truly embrace a comprehensive vision of inclusivity. One great means of doing so is engaging with "Reconciling in Christ," a multi-month ministry and process rooted in Lutheran tradition which works intentionally to extend our reach, understanding, and investment. Council sees a need to begin this process this fall and would invite both youth and adults to consider being a part! Interested? We have some in our midst who are, so contact Pastor Tim at tim@holytrinityNL.org to express your willingness as we work to get the ball rolling! Let's together have our welcome and recognition reflect that of what we've received in Christ.

MANY, MANY THANKS

... to **the women of “Laugh Out Loud”** for largely covering Sunday fellowship hour last month and to **Annika Hauan** for coordinating our Wednesday night WYN refreshments.

PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Ukraine**, and for a swift and just conclusion to the conflict there.
- Pray for all who are seeking refuge from extreme heat; and for those confronting the loss and grief created by wildfires in **Greece, Spain, Canada, Hawaii, Louisiana, Washington state**, and elsewhere.
- Pray for **Evelyn Bollinger**, recovering from a recently broken wrist.
- Pray for **Andrew Olthoff**, who underwent a second hip surgery on August 30th.
- Pray for **Nate Gage**, friend of Steve and Cindy Roland, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Pray for **Emy Charlebois**, sister of Clay Peterson, living with metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for **Dorothy Weedman**, at Windmill Manor in Coralville.
- Pray for **Harold Meyer** (husband of Twilla Meyer), at Crestview in West Branch.
- Pray for **Traci and Zoe Neff**, grieving the recent loss of Zoe's father, Brock Neff.
- Pray for **Blake and Rebecca Smith** and all who are expecting or longing to be parents.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Holy Trinity community has a recent new arrival in **Brooke Marie Probasco**, newborn daughter of Tyler and Kristen. Mom and baby are both home and well; we look forward to meeting her soon!

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

... Suicide rates have increased by more than 30% since 2000. (CDC)

... in 2000, two-thirds of American households gave to a charity; in 2018, fewer than half did. (*David Brooks in the Atlantic, September*)

... In an effort to provide insight into the motivations of climate change skeptics, Pew Research Center conducted in-depth interviews with 32 Americans who do not think climate change is an urgent priority and do not believe humans play a role in global warming. Most of those interviewed perceive claims of a climate crisis as exaggerated. They see climate change as part of the earth's natural cycles and extreme weather as a normal part of life. The majority of those interviewed said they are open to hearing from scientists, though they believe scientists are motivated by a political or financial agenda. Nor do they trust the news media to convey accurate information regarding climate science. Few see the need for direct personal intervention in climate change, but they do think people should behave responsibly within their own spheres. Many point to recycling and reducing waste as a way to take personal responsibility, but they do not think the government should force drastic changes (*Pew Research Center, August 9*).

... A new study from the National Institutes of Health found that adults are binge drinking and using cannabis at record levels. Nearly 30 percent of people age 35–50 reported binge drinking in 2022, compared to 23 percent in 2012. Cannabis use is also on the rise in this age group with 28 percent reporting using the substance, up from 13 percent in 2012. In 2022, 4 percent of adults in this group reported using a hallucinogen, twice the rate in 2021. Another study found that alcohol-related deaths continued to increase among people 65 and older, with deaths among women in this age group rising at a faster rate (*New York Times, August 17*).