



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

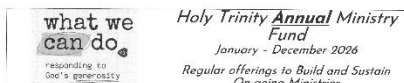
Vol. 17, No. 11

November 2025

COMMITMENT SUNDAY SET FOR NOVEMBER 16TH

Our Stewardship Team remind you that we'll be looking ahead to 2026 in just a few weeks – by collectively offering up our prayerful pledges of support to enable our mission and ministry!

“Faith Promise” forms are available for distribution; so pick yours up by Nov. 2nd or we will mail out the remainder in the



I/we commit to increase our support of Christ's ministry in and through Holy Trinity this year.
☐ Yes ☐ No:

I/we intend to make give this offering on this schedule:

\$ ----- Annually (Please indicate anticipated date of gift if known -----)

\$ ----- Monthly for 12 months beginning Jan. 2026 (----- x 12 = -----)

\$ ----- Weekly for 52 weeks beginning Jan. 2026 (----- x 52 = -----)

Name(s) ----- (Day Phone) -----

E-mail(s) -----

☐ Check here if you want additional information about an electronic giving option.

☐ Check here if you want additional information about using a brokerage account.

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. - Luke 16:10

It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. - 1 Corinthians 4:9

You may file your faith promise securely on the church website holymt.org/makefaithpromise (or click on More, then Give, then Make a Faith Promise).

hopes that many of us will be able to respond by 11/16. This will be a huge help to our Visioning Council as they seek to discern the shape and scope of our ministry in the coming year.

It's going to be a challenging year for many! Let's all do our part and put our “best feet forward” so that God can work through us to the best of our ability to share as much COMPASSION with our neighbors as we can!

WE AT HOLY TRINITY CELEBRATE THE MESSAGE THAT “ALL ARE WELCOME – NO EXCEPTIONS”



This is great right? Why would we need to say anything more? Here is the problem: Every church who says “All are welcome” has conditions to that welcome – whether it be intentional or not. Some churches even have Unspoken boundaries. Many of you might have even attended such a church in the past.

Imagine... the church said, “All are welcome.”

Imagine... Sheila asked her pastor if it was ok if she attended worship, because she knew that some churches did not welcome people like her, who identifies as Lesbian. The pastor said, “Of course, you can attend!” Sheila attended and felt welcome and enjoyed worship. Right up until the Sunday when her wife attended with her and they held hands. The pastor said she was welcome, BUT her marriage was sinful and she could not publicly show affection to her wife. They left and did not feel welcome.

“All are Welcome” is a great theory. But in practice, it has often covered up ways that churches have made people feel UNwelcomed and UNloved.

We at Holy Trinity are in the process of exploring how to create an environment where everyone feels they belong, regardless of their background or identity, treating them with full equity. Can you hear Jesus calling us to actively affirm the worth and dignity of all individuals, especially those from historically marginalized groups?

Stay Tuned! Our Reconciling in Christ Core Team will be providing more opportunities to learn about how to affirm and accept visitors. If you have questions, please contact an RIC team member. (Jon Brandt, Kris Frisbie, Kristen Stoll, Cheryl Mohr, Fred Carbaugh, Lyn Petersen).

GRATITUDE

I am deeply grateful to God for these first few weeks at Holy Trinity. While my position is part-time, I am so grateful that part of my position is working with senior high youth. They are hilarious, brilliant, thoughtful, silly, profound and ridiculous all at the same time. They are pure gift; they bring me joy. During my drive home, I always give God thanks for them. Gratitude.



I am grateful to Pastor Tim for sharing the pulpit with me. I truly love preaching and appreciate his willingness to share this aspect of congregational ministry. I am grateful to be part of a team. Gratitude.

I am grateful for the many ministries Holy Trinity is involved in; these are things Jesus calls us to do. I wish to lift up the North Liberty Food Pantry. I am deeply grateful for the work they do in this community for the food insecure. Last year, the NLFP distributed 610,537 meals and 51,851 clothing items to 1082 families in this community. Holy Trinity had a hand in that. This is holy work. Gratitude

I also wish to push us. So far this year, Holy Trinity has donated 630 pounds of food to the NLFP. The goal is 1000 pounds by the end of the year—we can do this! That's only 370 remaining pounds (and the limit for my basic math skills). We all have so much, so much abundance. Let's embrace this challenge to meet our goal and maybe even surpass it. The shopping cart is located in the south entrance of Holy Trinity. Whenever you come to church, grab a can of soup or a box of macaroni and cheese and toss it into the cart. Jesus was all about feeding the hungry. We are thankful for the work that the NLFP does. Their work saves lives. Gratitude.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I think of you. I think of the greater Iowa City community and the amazing work it does regarding outreach and social justice. I think of the Church, I think of God, and my heart overflows with gratitude. It's sometimes hard to see the good in the world; but it is there, and it is abundant, if we only open our eyes to see it.

Thankfulness. Giving. Gratitude.

TWELVE YOUTH AFFIRM THEIR BAPTISMS ON CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

At a special confirmation service on Oct. 26th, twelve of our young people recently affirmed their baptisms. Those confirmed this year were:

Kennedy Adams

Hannly Hauan

Micah Becker

Hans Hildebrand

Isabel Blackwell

Addison Mangan

Briggs Canton

Ryan Mattson

Carter DuBois

Jacob Olthoff

Ashlyn Hamarstrom

Miles Seberger

Let's welcome all of them into new roles in our ministry as they continue their faith journeys in our next chapter of WYN ministry!

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY FALL UPDATE



On behalf of U of Iowa Lutheran Campus Ministries, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Holy Trinity for the ongoing financial

support. LCM has seen an uptick in attendance and involvement, ranging from freshmen to grad students. The students are finding ways to support each other via study groups, Bible study, time for fun and servant projects. If you are interested in finding a way to support LCM, there are open slots to provide a meal for Thursday night fellowship and worship. The following dates are available for the 2025-26 school year: January 29, February 26, March 26, April 23, and April 30. You can find more details on the LCM website: www.lcmatui.org. Click on "Get Involved as a Supporter". If you have questions, please contact me at: gwarkentin64@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Gretchen Warkentin
LCM Board President

“BRANCH”-ING

Join us for time on Christmas into place the day minds to



OUT IN SERVICE

worship and stay for some service November 30th as we put the trees together. We will put them for the decorators to come later in to begin turning our hearts and Bethlehem.

HOUSES

During October, the Men's Bible Study and the Crazy for Quilts groups delivered goods to Houses into Homes. The Men's Bible Study did a morning of servant ministry as well as delivering cleaning supplies. The Quilters delivered the many beautiful quilts that adorned the sanctuary in October. Many thanks to the servant hearts making God's work our hands.

INTO HOMES



Ken, Roger, Bill, Ron, Fred, and Waylon in front



Cindy, Sandy, and Else



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF AND RUNNING

Children's ministry on Sundays is back! We are blessed with a talented and committed crew of leaders, who invite parents to share in a fresh model of faith formation with an inter-generational focus – more consistent with how we know that faith development really works with young people -- and with all of us, for that matter! **During November, they are collecting used Bibles** and faith formation materials to send to Lovepackages.org, an organization doing international ministry in getting Bibles where people need them.

MISSION TRIP, MEAL-PACKING, AND CHRISTMAS LIGHT LEADERSHIP SOUGHT

Now that we're past the launch of the new school year and have WYN off the ground, it's important to look ahead! After surveying all of our WYN parents, we still have concrete need of leadership for three areas:

- 1) If we are to renew our annual practice of an inter-generational mission trip, November is the month we need to make a commitment. Thus, we're seeking adults who can either help plan such a venture or to help drive and facilitate our youth. If you are interested, please e-mail Pastor Tim by Nov. 5th.
- 2) The successful renewal of our meal-packing venture last spring was encouraging, and pending conversations this month, our youth may desire to do so again. We have three WYN parents interested, yet we'd love to have one experienced individual to lead the team, named by this month. If you're interested, please e-mail Pastor Tim – again, by Nov. 5th.
- 3) Lastly, our High School and Confirmation youth will be putting up our Exterior Christmas lights on Wednesday, Nov.12th and will need additional help from adults in order to prep lights, extension cords, etc. If you'd be willing to assist, please let us know, again by Nov. 5th.



LAST “NEXT STEPS” SERIES OF THE YEAR OFFERED ON SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER FOR NEW FACES TO OUR COMMUNITY



If you are seeking a place to call your spiritual home, build healthy relationships with others seeking to grow in their faith, or simply want to know more about Holy Trinity and how best to get connected here, please consider being part of this month’s last “Next Steps” series of the year!

Starting next week, Nov. 2nd, Pastor Tim will be facilitating discussion over the basic values of the congregation, and other topics, including those of your own choosing, on three consecutive Sunday mornings after worship, simultaneously with Sunday School, 10:15-11:30am in Room 5.

At the series conclusion, those who choose to do so will be formally received into membership at a subsequent Sunday service when all can be present. If you’d like to be a part, please contact Pastor Tim at tim@holytrinityNL.org, and we’ll look forward to sharing the experience with you! All are certainly welcome and invited – including children!

MANY, MANY THANKS!

- ... to Angie Weiler and Matt Seberger for stepping up to be our standing Confirmation Small Group guides!
- ... to Pastor Kathryn Franzenburg for serving as our guest preacher in October.
- ... to Pastor Elisha Baderha and Grace Vumilia for leading our Adult Forum on October 12th.
- ... to Mark Stern for donating and installing new robotic cameras for virtual worship.
- ... to Else Schardt for her patience in helping to organize our Adult Forums this fall.
- ... to Larry Kudej and Steve Roland for getting the new refrigerator delivered and into the kitchen.

UPDATED PRAYER PAGES

- Pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle to live amid ongoing conflicts.
- Pray for safe and fair elections on Nov. 4th.
- Pray for the families impacted by the recent Typhoon Halong in Alaska and Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean.
- Pray for Karen Jacobson and Dave Danielson, who were married on Oct. 11th. Karen has moved to Dubuque, where Dave has made his home.
- Pray for Benjamin John Stammeyer, newborn son of Tim and Emma, who arrived on Oct. 10th.
- Pray for all those are currently expecting, including Matt and Kelsi Pelzer.
- Pray for Emersyn Ingles, infant daughter of Tyler and Gabbi, who is to be baptized on November 16th.
- Pray for Doug Goettsch, grieving the death of his mother, Dorothy Goettsch, on Friday, Oct. 25th.
- Pray for Karen Pregon, scheduled for surgery this month after a recent breast cancer diagnosis.
- Pray for Tim Stammeyer, still undergoing further testing after battling chronic fatigue symptoms.
- Pray for Soon-Hee Choi, mother of our pianist Wonkyung Kim, undergoing cancer treatment.
- Pray for Evelyn Bollinger, recovering at home from a recent mini-stroke.
- Pray for Matt Baumann (son of Sue Baumann), recovering from recent chemotherapy.
- Pray for Elym Choun, being treated for severe aplastic anemia.
- Pray for Susan Palmer, friend of Nancy Grove, being treated for cancer.
- Pray for Laurel Hibbard, recovering from recent radiation therapy.

- Pray for Emy Charlebois, sister of Clay Peterson, living with metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for Don Hellem, father of Dan Hellem, homebound at present with several chronic health issues at present.
- Pray for Harold Meyer (husband of Twilla Meyer), in care at Crestview in West Branch.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

... that the EWALU corporation met in a special meeting on Oct. 25th to approve, on a 36 to 1 vote, a resolution which allows the Board of Directors to borrow up to \$1.4 million to complete renovation of Cedar Lodge, a 60-year-old building at the hub of camp life?

... a new survey found that 34% of US college students believe that using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases. That's an increase of ten points from four years ago, according to the nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which surveys undergrads about their perceptions and experiences regarding free speech on their campuses. This year's survey includes 68,510 student responses from 257 colleges and universities, both public and private. (Fire.org, Sept. 9)

... traffic cameras equipped with AI can now track our movement patterns and associations to report to police. The surveillance company Flock built a license plate tracking system that streams our comings and goings into a private database available to law enforcement all over the U.S. Police can now search the movement records of any vehicle – and that's bad enough, says policy analyst Jay Stanley, but Flock is also analyzing our driving patterns to determine if our movement is "suspicious." That means police might target drivers because an algorithm decided their movements patterns suggested criminality. "In a democracy the government shouldn't be watching its citizens all the time just in case we do something wrong," Stanley says. (Free Future, July 23)