



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

Vol. 18, No. 2

February 2026

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET FOR FEB. 1ST



Mark your calendar and make plans to come participate in sharing, conversations, voting, and elections at this year's Annual Congregational Meeting! It takes place after worship on Sunday Feb. 1st and will include a number of key issues, especially approving the proposed ministry budget for 2026,

election of officers, and information about establishing a call committee. Children are welcome; there will be a youth film about the "Prince of Egypt" (complete with popcorn) shown in one of the Sunday School rooms. Make a point to be present!

Nominees for leadership positions appointed by Council this year include Emily Lenhart is nominated for re-election as Visioning Council president, Lea Peters as Council secretary, Ken Morse as representative at large, and a yet-to-be named youth as Youth At-Large Representative to Council. Lori Donahoe and Cindy Vander Linden are nominated for the Audit Committee, Steve Roe and Gary Baumbach for the Endowment Committee, and Lori Jantzen and Ann Roller, each nominated for election as the Nominating Committee. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary!

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2026 IS FINALIZED

Our Visioning Council met last month to consider ministry team needs, staffing updates, leadership longevity, ELCA mission support, and debt service. Recognizing a potential projected income of \$341,000, they were able to create a similar proposal, while addressing a number of new and existing priorities due to the generosity of those who have pledged to date. Included within those are:

- Continued paydown of our remaining \$75,000 debt on our building purchase.
- Continued support of existing pastoral and support staff at current levels through August including modest coat of living raise for each.
- Building adequate maintenance funding to plan for major capital expenses if needed.
- Projected costs for a call committee and moving expenses for any potential new pastor.

LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND TO ADDRESS LEGISLATORS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26



Lutheran Services in Iowa invites you and hundreds of others to an awesome day of active learning advocacy from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., both at Capital Hill Lutheran Church and the Iowa Capital itself. Together, we'll hear several speakers during the morning and then seek to meet with our elected leaders to advocate for issues that are reflected in our faith and values.

Register in advance at <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/> If you'd like to carpool over together, e-mail Pastor Tim by Feb. 24th at tim@holytrinityNLorg.

“UNBOUND” IS OUR LENTEN THEME FOR 2026



Our worship series this Lenten season is designed to be a companion through this season as you pause, reflect, and find the courage to consider how Jesus'

ministry was about “unbinding” all that would seek to oppress any of God’s children.

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Holden Evening Prayer Around the Cross, and on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th** to kick it all off!

ASH WEDNESDAY KICKS OFF THE LENTEN SEASON ON FEB. 18TH

Join us for worship kicking off our “Unbound” series on Ash Wednesday with worship at 6:30 p.m. In lieu of our usual WYN schedule, we will, instead, have a more complete worship liturgy, including hymns, Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. Join us at 6:30 p.m.! Worship assistants are needed, so if you are willing, please contact the office through e-mail, phone, or use the Sign-up Genius.



IMPOSITION OF ASHES OFFERED THROUGHOUT ASH WEDNESDAY

The launch of the Lenten season will feature the distribution of ashes during worship at 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday; ashes will be available by drive-up at other points during the day. If you cannot join us for worship, please pull up in one of the handicap parking spots near the office during office hours; we'll come to your vehicle. Give us a quick shout at the office prior to driving over!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS RETURNS THIS LENT



Following Ash Wednesday, our Wednesday services during the Lenten season will feature the familiar refrains of Holden Evening Prayer, small group conversation, and opportunity to prayerfully light a candle as we gather around the cross. Join us at 6:30 p.m. weekly starting February 18th!

IT'S TIME! REGISTER FOR THIS SUMMER'S CONFIRMATION CAMP THE WEEK OF JULY 5TH

It's not at all too early to start thinking about summer. In fact, the first camp registration discounts ends on 2/28! Holy Trinity's week of Confirmation camp at EWALU in Strawberry Point for all youth currently in grades 6-8 is scheduled for the week of July 5-10. We truly hope that many of our youth will be able to participate! Registration brochures are on-site or on-line at www.ewalu.org. The Visioning Council has budgeted to offer a \$100 subsidy for at least the first FIVE youth attending a full week of camp and \$50 to those attending MiniCamp, so don't delay!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MEAL PACKING



Empowering people to save starving children

With adult leadership secured, our 2026 Meal-Packing Event has been set for April 11th! Start getting your teams together early and watch for

a Sign-up Genius opportunity soon to choose your timeslot! If each participant provides \$30 (per shift worked), we'll be able to purchase the food with pack with no issues! Our goal this year? 40,000 meals!

PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of metro **Minneapolis** as they find courage to speak out about abuses of authority by ICE officials in their state.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the refugees in Bangladesh** as they struggle to live amid ongoing conflicts.
- Pray for a timely end to tensions between the **U.S. and Venezuela**, that international law would be honored.
- Pray for **Joyce Gruhn** (sister of Larry Kudej), facing a host of health challenges at present.
- Pray for **Stu Berns**, recovering from surgery after breaking his foot.
- Pray for **Kent Madison**, living with current health challenges.
- Pray for **Rodney Patterson** (husband of Carol Severino) who is facing health challenges after a recent hospitalization.
- Pray for **Greg Carolan**, recovering from recent cancer surgery.
- Pray for **Evelyn Bollinger**, currently confined to home.
- Pray for **Pr. Mike Herschberger** (father of Chris Herschberger), recovering from a recent heart attack.
- Pray for **Matt Baumann** (son of Sue Baumann), recovering from recent chemotherapy.
- Pray for **Elym Choun**, being treated for aplastic anemia.
- Pray for **Susan Palmer** (friend of Nancy Grove), being treated for cancer.
- Pray for **Emy Charlebois** (sister of Clay Peterson), living with metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for **Don Hellem** (father of Dan Hellem), homebound at present.
- Pray for **Kent Ambler**, undergoing testing after recent symptoms
- Pray for **Philip Montover** and the family of his friend and teammate, Austin Speidel, who died by suicide last weekend.

MANY, MANY THANKS

- ... To **ALL** who helped serve at the recent funeral for Laurel Hibbard. It was a joy to remember and celebrate the gift of her life!
- ... to **ALL** who helped with the process of de-decorating for the Christmas season.
- ... to **ALL** who participated in the recent Adult Forum and midweek series offered by “Reconciling in Christ!”

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

... While 13.5% of the US population lives with food insecurity, nearly a third of the US food supply is wasted each year. That food surplus has a significant environmental impact: in 2023, it used 16.2 trillion gallons of water and released 230 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. But gleaning, a solution to food waste mandated in Leviticus, is making a comeback. Gleaners in US cities are gathering surpluses from wholesale warehouses, grocery outlets, farms, farmers' markets, and backyards and distributing them at free food markets and food banks. A map of nationwide gleaning and food recovery projects is available at www.nationalgleaningproject.org (Civil Eats, November 18).

... The 2025 National Study of Catholic Priests, conducted by the Catholic University of America, found that older priests are far more liberal, in both politics and theology, than younger priests. Among those ordained before 1975, 61% identified as “very” or “somewhat” liberal and less than 15% as conservative; among those ordained since 2010, more than a third (37 %) described themselves as politically moderate, while nearly half (51%) identified as “very” or “somewhat” conservative, and only about one in ten as liberal. Priests’ theological views followed a similar pattern, though with an even sharper decline in progressivism. Among priests ordained before 1975, more than 70% described themselves as theologically progressive, while in the 2010 or later cohort, only 8% did so. (*The Catholic Project at the Catholic University of America*, October).

... Dakota people are traumatized that their people are now being detained by ICE at Fort Snelling, which was formally a concentration camp for 1700 Dakota ancestors, where women were often used for target practice. (ictcnews.org)