



# HOLY TRINITY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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### **HOLY TRINITY WELCOMES UMOJA NI NGUVU (SWAHILI FOR UNITY IS STRENGTH) COMMUNITY CHURCH**



Beginning April 16th, Holy Trinity began hosting a second worshipping community in our midst! At 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, Umoja Ni Nguvu Community Church, a Swahili-speaking Congolese congregation, launched their initial service in our sanctuary. The congregation is led by Pastor Elisha Banderu of North Liberty, who has joined us often for worship recently, and evangelist Amani Byamungu of Cedar Rapids. The newly forming congregation includes worshipers from Iowa City, North Liberty, and Cedar Rapids. Let's continue to pray for them as they begin this new chapter in their life together.

## REGISTER FOR BIBLE CAMP – THE WEEK OF JUNE 18TH



The early registration discounts have closed, but EWALU is still taking registrations for summer

camp. Holy Trinity's week of Confirmation camp at EWALU in Strawberry Point for all youth currently in grades 6-8 will be June 18-23. There are other programs and weeks available for youth from entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through senior high. We hope that all of our youth will be able to participate! Registration brochures are on-site or on-line at [www.ewalu.org](http://www.ewalu.org). The Visioning Council has agreed to offer a \$150 subsidy to all youth attending a full week of camp and \$100 to those attending MiniCamp.

It's a great investment in the faith formation of our young people!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) AND DAY CAMP

Registration is now open through the [church website](#) (children ministry page). Youth pre-school through entering fourth grade are eligible to register as learners. Youth entering fifth grade and older can register as morning helpers and afternoon for leadership enrichment. Adults can register as leaders and helpers at no cost. Learner costs are \$25 for only VBS and \$85 for VBS and Day Camp (open to entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades). The week is going to be



**OUTDOOR CLEANUP DAY** was announced just prior to press time for Saturday, May 13 at 9 a.m.

## EXCITING NEWS ABOUT AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Starting this month, Holy Trinity hopes to begin work on creating a natural prairie space on the northernmost acre of our property. What has simply been a lawn to mow and maintain since adding to our parking lot in 2013, we hope will one day be a habitat for pollinators that will maintain a bloom of one wildflower variety or another from spring through fall.

The project, being coordinated by Eagle Scout candidate Tate Schloss, will result in less mowing and burning of fossil fuels, while eventually adding to the beauty of our land and serving as a welcoming presence as southbound traffic arrives in North Liberty. We plan to fund the effort mostly through Thrivent grants.

Please pray for Tate and the success of this endeavor! Tate is working through the scouting procedures to get the project approved.

### **MANY, MANY THANKS!**

... to all who have donated flowers and food for our Easter Breakfast!

... to all who have supported the recent Bake Sales by our Mission Trip crew!

... to **Stu Berns** for mowing and his conscientious cleanout of our storage shed!

... to **Glenda Sivers** for organizing our new Adult Forum series

... to **Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz** for her gracious presence and offering a Jewish perspective on prayer.

... to all who walked in support of those living with mental illness at our recent NAMIWalk and Talk.

## PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Ukraine** and for a swift and just conclusion to the conflict there.
- Pray for the thousands of **refugees who recently arrived in Chad** after fleeing the violence in nearby Sudan.
- Pray for the newly-established Swahili congregation of **Umoja Ni Nguvu** (“Unity is Strength”) who recently began Sunday afternoon worship in our sanctuary.
- Pray for **Bishop Amy Current** and voting members of the **Southeastern Iowa Synod** as they gather in Assembly this month.
- Pray for **John Riehl**, who recently returned to work after multiple organ transplants.
- Pray for **Dale Burginger**, brother of Lois Ludvigson, now moved to a hospice care facility.
- Pray for **Judy Taylor**, grieving the recent loss of her aunt, **Betsy Freitag**.
- Pray for **Gary Wermuth**, Pastor Tim’s uncle and godparent, in hospice care at home following a stroke, and for Gary’s wife, **Cheryl Wermuth**, recovering from recent back surgery.
- Pray for **Sue Zubrod**, mother of Lisa Stille, who is recovering from recent neurosurgery.
- Pray for **Mike Norris**, friend of Steve and Cindy Roland, being treated for pancreatic cancer, and pray for **Nate Gage**, their friend who recently started chemotherapy.
- Pray for **Emy Charlebois**, sister of Clay Peterson, who recently had a recurrence of metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for **Dorothy Weedman**, now at Windmill Manor in Coralville.
- Pray for **Harold Meyer** (husband of Twilla Meyer), recovering from COVID at Crestview in West Branch.
- Pray for the friends and family of Liberty HS student **Trevor Burrows**, who died in an auto accident last month.
- Pray for support and care for **transgender people**, amidst ongoing legislative action.

- Pray for **librarians and teachers** as they seek to challenge recent overreach by state legislatures.
- Pray for **Ryan and Alicia Brown, Tyler and Kristin Probasco** and all who are expecting or longing to be parents.
- Pray for safe travel home for **Paul Casiano**, as he visits family in the Philippines later this month

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT....**

... the Congo is the source of 84% of the world's dry-land deposits of cobalt, an essential mineral that powers all of cell phone, Ipad, and EV batteries?

...A new report found that 60 percent of Americans between age 16 to 40 pay for or donate to news, though they get more of their news from independent creators of email newsletters, video, and audio than from traditional outlets. Millennial and Gen Z news consumers reported using, on average, at least two social media sources every day to get news (*Poynter, March 7*)

...A trove of emails revealed that South Dakota state representative Fred Deutsch, a Republican and the author of the state's Vulnerable Child Protection Act, was working with a network of anti-trans activists who are influencing the recent surge of anti-LGBTQ lawmaking across the country. The leaked emails reveal how proponents of a national movement to restrict gender-affirming care established the playbook now in common use. Deutsch's legislation failed in South Dakota, but its influence continues: "This is just the beginning," wrote Margaret Clarke, general counsel for the Alabama branch of the Phyllis Schlafly-founded Eagle Forum, in one email. This legislative session, at least 18 states have considered bills containing language closely resembling the text of the VCPA. "This isn't coming from an in-state grassroots support system," says Erin Reed, who tracks anti-trans legislation (*Mother Jones, March 8*)

... The Center for Disease Control's newly released Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that teen girls and teens who identify as LGBTQ+ reported experiencing extremely high levels of mental distress, violence, and substance use. The survey, the largest public health surveillance system in the US, has monitored multiple health-related behaviors among high school students since 1991. Data collected at the end of last year showed substantial increases in experiences of feelings of hopelessness among teen girls, in particular. More than one in four girls reported seriously considering suicide in 2021 (*CDC.gov, March 9*).