



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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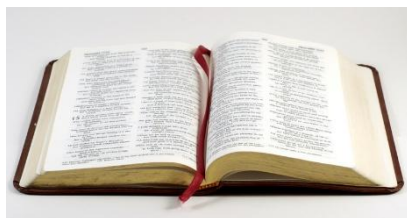
SIX YOUTH TO AFFIRM THEIR BAPTISMS ON AUGUST 23



Holy Trinity will mark Confirmation Sunday for six of our recent grads of our confirmation ministry. Being confirmed this year are Simon Bowman, Marina Drugg, Olivia Holst, Harper Lenhart, Nora Meseck, and Ayla Trolliet. Let's surround their families with love! Congratulate them at the reception following worship!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC PLANNING TEAM BEGINS WORK

Many thanks to all those who have offered to serve as our newly-established Planning Team for worship and music. The team currently consist of Carol Severino, Kent Ambler, Lily Schloss, Gary Baumbach, Ron Schardt, Gail Johnson, Matt Hibbard, and Wonkyung Kim will hold their first planning session for fall on Monday, Aug. 3rd. Thank them for their efforts!



SPECIAL EXTENDED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BEGINS AUGUST 2 AND CONCLUDES AUGUST 9TH

All active confirmed members (including confirmed youth) of Holy Trinity are encouraged to attend at least half of a 2-part special meeting early this month over consecutive Sundays after worship, for the express purpose of discussing and voting on becoming a congregation officially part of the Reconciling in Christ network. After 18 months of seventy one-on-one interviews, forums, studies, films, presentations, dialogs, and surveys, the Visioning Council has called the meeting upon recommendation of the Reconciled in Christ Core Team to make the following commitments to being a Reconciling in Christ congregation:

- Welcome Statement-must extend welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” and state Holy Trinity’s commitment to “racial equity” (or “anti-racism”).
- Be open to calling a pastor who is a member of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Be open to calling a pastor who is a person of color.
- Allow our sanctuary to be used for LGBTQ+ weddings.
- Make an annual monetary contribution, as determined by the Visioning Council in consideration of the church’s financial position, to support the national Reconciling in Christ program.

OUR CALL COMMITTEE is continuing to meet and work faithfully on the elements of the preparation process for pursuing our next lead pastor. They thank the congregation for your input and feedback to date, have completed our “Ministry Site Profile,” and have submitted to the bishop, who has approved it and posted it on the ELCA portal. Stay tuned!

COFFEE WITH LISA ON AUGUST 16TH AFTER CHURCH

Have you been in a small group or class with Lisa Smith? Come celebrate her work and ministry among us.

PASTOR TIM TO RETIRE AUGUST 30TH

After 37+ years of ordained ministry, half of which has been at Holy Trinity, Pastor Tim will officially retire from full-time congregational ministry at month's end. After being shaped by work in campus ministry and outdoor ministry during his early years at Michigan State, Tim attended Trinity Lutheran



Seminary in Columbus, interned at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Detroit, and was called to serve Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Warren, MI in 1988. In 1990, he accepted a call to First Lutheran Church of the Reformation in New Britain, CT, serving three years there prior to moving to Cedar Rapids, where he was Lead Pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for 15 years. Throughout those years, Tim has served on synodical Youth Ministry and Social Ministry leadership teams, on several community boards as well as chairing EWALU's board of directors, was instrumental in the formation of an Area Mission Strategy for Linn County, and the creation of Johnson County Interfaith Coalition. He has served as supervisor for two pastoral interns and aided in the creation of Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church in Lisbon. Tim accepted the call to serve as Mission Developer of Holy Trinity in the summer of 2008, and will have served here for over 18 years upon his retirement. He and Lisa will continue to make their home in North Liberty, while Lisa continues to teach in the Education Department at St. Ambrose University/Mt. Mercy campus.

Please join Pastor Tim and Lisa for a special program and reception at Holy Trinity following worship on Sunday, August 30th. RSVP to office@holytrinityNL by August 1 to accommodate all who wish to attend!

THE WIND-DOWN BEGINS...

I realize that it's still July, but I honestly can't quite put it off any longer. The wind-down of my ministry here at Holy Trinity is now well underway; the melancholy of looking ahead to retirement is bittersweet, indeed. In lieu of attempting to capture all of the emotions and mechanics of farewell in a single newsletter article, I will plan to share more throughout our upcoming e-blasts in August. Meanwhile, simply know it has been a true joy to have the privilege of serving as your pastor and witnessing the Spirit's work through this remarkable community of faith. I will truly be praying for you, for Pastor Sarah, for our Visioning Council, and for the work of the Call Committee to come to timely fruition.

Your Brother in Christ, Pastor Tim

ESCUCHA MI VOZ INVITES IMMIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT AUGUST 4TH AND 5TH



The next opportunity to accompany immigrants at their appointments at the ICE office in Cedar Rapids is 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4th, and again on Wednesday, August 5th. Join in the singing, encouraging, and prayers at 3351 Square D Dr. SW in Cedar Rapids.

A SPECIAL EVENING OF MUSIC ON AUGUST 13TH AT 7:30 P.M.

Join doctoral candidate Xiaoyu “Iris” Liu and Dr. Wonkyung Kim for an evening of Bass Trombone and Piano music. Ms. Liu is choir director at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids and pursuing her doctorate in trombone performance at The University of Iowa. Dr. Kim is collaborative accompanist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Liberty. The recital is free and open to the public.



MANY, MANY THANKS!

- to **Deb Abels, Lyn Peterson, Heather Mainprize and all** who helped staff our Lock-in and VBS Events!
- to **Stu Berns**, who has done it again! Stu used his woodworking skills to revise our sanctuary wall cross to conform more closely to its original design and to nicely tie it in better with our other chancel furnishings. Wow!
- to **All** who are helping to water and keep our plants looking fresh this summer!

PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel, Iran and its neighbors**, and within **Nigeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Sudan** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo** as they struggle to live amid ongoing conflicts there.
- Pray for **Chris and Victoria Hershberger** as they anticipate the baptism of their son, Noah, on Aug. 16th
- Pray for **Matt Baumann** (son of Sue Baumann), currently in immunotherapy.
- Pray for **Elym Choun**, a past participant in our Day Camp, being treated for severe 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 with several chronic health issues at present.
- Pray for **Joyce Gruhn**, (sister of Larry Kudej,) facing a host of health challenges at present.
- Pray for **Arlo Christianson**, infant grandson of newcomers Dave and Karen Christianson, living with a serious heart condition.
- Pray for **John Riehl**, recently diagnosed with ALS.
- Pray for **Rodney Patterson**, husband of Carol Severino, facing several health challenges.

- Pray for **Evelyn Bollinger**, currently homebound and limited in mobility.
- Pray for **Harold Meyer** at Crestview in West Branch.
- Pray for all who are navigating the Ebola outbreak in Congo.
- Pray for **Natalie Abudayyeh**, a 21-year-old Lutheran university student who has now been held in Israeli prison for nearly two months without charges.
- Pray for our congregational community as we prepare to discuss becoming a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation
- Pray for those fighting wildfires in Canada, Oregon, Minnesota, and California, and all living with poor air quality
- Pray for all those grieving losses amid the recent Japanese earthquake, especially our ELCA missionaries, the **Bencke family**, who were preparing for their home leave; and the thousands still mourning the lost and missing in Venezuela.

A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Pastor Tim and Members,

I would like to express my thanks to you and the congregation for the love and fellowship, as well as the warmth and acceptance I felt over the past months. It was April 12th when I first attended Holy Trinity. Since then, I have indeed felt like a part of you, and I will be sad to leave you.

Thanks to you and everyone for making this a more memorable period for me. I won't forget the Laugh Out Loud group and all the ladies. And I can never forget the kindness of Else and Ann, for giving me a ride home when I needed it. I particularly want to mention Lyn, who continued to be there for me and to pick me up for church when the rain threatened.

I will see you all next year, God willing. Or as we say in Barbados, if life be spared!

Blessings,
Margaret Branch

DID YOU REALIZE...

... Pastor Tim will celebrate his 38th ordination anniversary this year?

... a new \$25,000 all-electric pickup is due in January? Produced by the Detroit-based Slate Auto company, the “Blank Slate” will be an intentionally stripped-down utilitarian model with crank windows, no radio or info screen, and a range of 200 miles. It’s able to adapt into an SUV upon demand. (*NPR, July 24*)

... Idaho introduced 27 anti-LGBTQ bills in a single year, but an Episcopal church camp on Lake Coeur d’Alene is telling queer Christians they belong. Queer Camp draws LGBTQ people and allies of all ages for canoeing, crafts, prayer, and inter-generational conversations—a young trans camper who met a trans man in his 30s said he “didn’t realize we could live that long.” The Episcopal Church has officially affirmed LGBTQ members since 1976, but many campers had no idea such a church existed. “You walk around all day, carrying this heavy thing,” said the camp director. “It’s nice to have a space where . . . you don’t have to explain who you are and who you love” (*The 19th, June 16*).

... Climate researchers in India have found one of the best ways to protect workers from extreme heat is to ensure that they can keep their homes cool. Simply painting a roof with white reflective paint can reduce indoor temperatures by two degrees—a simple fix that could become a feature of newly constructed climate-adapted homes and workplaces. Others are thinking along similar lines. Mumbai-based Sheela Patel is leading a project called “Roof Over Our Heads,” in which slum dwellers—mainly women—collaborate with architects and engineers to build climate-resilient, affordable homes with recycled plastic and metal. ROOH has built around 250 houses in a dozen countries. Patel’s hope is that other slum dwellers will see these structures and borrow elements or copy them entirely. For her, it’s critical that housing solutions come from the people closest to the problem, so that when the authorities finally decide to act, the methods will be tested and available (*Knowable, June 9*).

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