



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

Vol. 18, No. 10

October 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning October 4, Sunday School for ages 3-year-old to fourth grade will be off and running. The staff envisions a parent cooperative where parents take a week and teach a story about Jesus from the Gospel appointed for the day. Lesson plans are being drawn up to help you. Come and join in the fun!

Some exceptions:

- October 11 will be an Intergenerational Sunday School with the Adult Forum as we learn about Philipians 4 (Rejoice in the Lord always!).
- November 29 – No Sunday School or Adult Forum
- December 6 – St. Nicholas Day
- December 13 – St. Lucia Celebration

UPDATE ON THE CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has been busy this month reviewing resumé's and references of pastoral candidates as the Committee seeks to find the pastor who will best fit with our mission and goals for the future. Although the process may seem slow, it is working as it is meant to do. The Committee asks for your continued prayers that God will lead us to find the right fit as we move forward through the process.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Day. It is a day in which we remember those who have gained their entry into the Church Triumphant. When you have asked us to pray at the death of a friend or family member, we have entered them into a running list for the current year. If you have someone to add, please let the office know by October 25th as we pull this year's presentation together. The list this year (so far) includes:

Jack Gitch, Bill Davis, Laurel Hibbard, Austin Speidel, Hadwen Kleiss, Sue Ann Dunshee, Roger Pagel, Janet Gitch, Bill Nehring, Bill Debner, Marilyn Hartig, Patricia Grant, Lynn E. Petersen, and Bill Keating.

GREEN BANDANA PROJECT TRAINING

The Green Bandana Project works to spread awareness of resources for those with symptoms of depression and/or suicidal thoughts. After the training, participants carry a few resource cards with them and tie a green bandana on their backpack/purse/etc. to indicate they are safe individuals to approach with mental health-related needs and know where to find help. We will discuss how to recognize signs and symptoms, how to respond effectively, and how to connect individuals with supports and resources. The program promotes a stigma-free and supportive environment.



- Details: Training on October 18 and 25th during Adult Forum from 10:15-11:00 a.m.
- All are welcome! This will be a safe place to learn and grow in community about how we can best support one another and respond to specific mental health-related needs. Junior high through adults are welcome!

A PASTORAL LETTER

It's cliché to say that change is difficult; however, change doesn't have to be terrible... and this is coming from a Type A, fairly anxious, borderline OCD person. Sometimes it's ok to hold things lightly.

This is not to say we don't care about things; rather, it means sometimes it's ok to exist in that liminal space between what

has been and what will be, kinda like when you're in mid-move from one space to another. Yes, it's terrible, because you don't know where things are, but it's also somewhat fun to have an excuse to order takeout and watch TV on lawn chairs in your living room. Not that you want to do that all the time, but for a while, it's ok, until things get settled. But we mustn't overlook the value of that liminal space, because, in that space, we can learn so much about ourselves, the church, and God.



Holy Trinity is in a liminal space. Pastor Tim has retired; our Call Committee is hard at work with interviews and such for future pastoral candidates. There is a system and a process and it's in play. In the meantime, here we are. The congregation is figuring out tech things, property things, financial things, educational things, worship things, pastoral things, and so on. While intentions are good, balls will be dropped. Grace must prevail always, but especially in liminal times.

Profusely thank your volunteer leaders who are working so hard right now: members of the Visioning Council Team, the Call Committee, the Worship Committee, people who take care of our facilities, people who lead us in music, people who run the sound booth, etc. These people have heavy plates right now. Also thank our paid staff—Sir Richard, Megan Miller, Dr. Kim, Lily Schloss, Lila Bowman and myself. Our plates are also heavy. You can find leadership under the Leadership tab on our website. We are all working hard right now to provide as seamless a transition as possible. But seams aren't bad. They stitch pieces

together. They give a garment its shape. Holy Trinity is taking on a new shape.

It's ok to be frustrated and impatient. But it's also ok to laugh and say, "I don't know." Now is the time for gratitude for what has been and what will be. Now is the time for curiosity, for exploration, for possibility. Perspective is important. We're not electing a pope. We are calling a pastor and our Call Committee is doing diligent and faithful work. The resolution to our current pastoral search will happen in God's time, on God's terms, and all will be well. In the meantime, be filled with gratitude and joy. We are all at work—and this includes you—but most importantly, God is at work.

Blessings, friends,

Pastor Sarah Goettsch

2026 STEWARDSHIP THEME



The people of ancient Israel were a motley crew. Some continually lived in the covenant God had made with them through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Others had

forgotten the promise and lived to themselves. God blessed them and made of them a mighty nation. So mighty, in fact, that they were enslaved to keep them under control. But God heard their cries and their supplications. He remembered the promise and he decided to deliver them from their bondage.

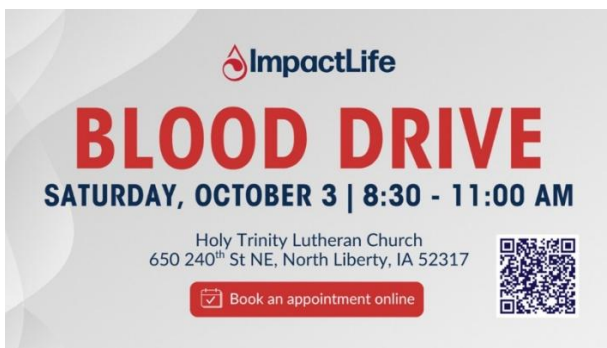
Sound familiar? One of the prayers of confession used in the church is that 'we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.' When we repent, we have a New Beginning in the Timeless Mission God sets before us. Join us in October and November as we explore with the people of Israel about our New Beginnings and the Timeless Mission we share.

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

- October 4 – Mark Engel will share from his experiences with Lutherans Concerned
- October 11 – Intergenerational Sunday School on Philippians 4:4-8
- October 18 and 25 – Green Bandana Training

THANK YOU

- to Nancy Grove for the lovely sofa table now being used as the usher's table.
- to the crew from Laugh Out Loud who staffed the kitchen for Bill Keating's funeral and to all who greeted, ushered, and showed boundless hospitality that day.
- to all those stepping up to do announcements and lead worship in this time of transition.
- to those discerning how God is calling them to lead our youth ministries.



ImpactLife

BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 | 8:30 - 11:00 AM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
650 240th St NE, North Liberty, IA 52317

 [Book an appointment online](#)



TECH TEAM MEMBERS AND TEAM LEAD

We are in need of volunteers to serve on the tech team. Assistance once or twice a month would be very helpful.

Training is available for livestream and sound booth operations.

Please email the office at office@holytrinitynl.org or contact us on our website to express interest.

SINGING RESISTANCE CEDAR RAPIDS

- Monday, October 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Community Sing! at the CR Downtown Library in Beems Auditorium A
- Tuesday, October 6 at 7:30 a.m. Protective Accompaniment with Escucha Mi Voz at 3351 Square D Drive SW. Park in the Elks Club lot.
- Saturday, October 17, No Kings Rally at 10 a.m. in Green Square Park
- Tuesday, November 3, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election Day

MOSAIC'S ANNUAL FAIR TRADE RUG EVENT, OCTOBER 14-17

Hand-knotted beautiful rugs will be available for purchase in our store in Iowa City. This is a stunning array of heirloom-quality rugs, each hand-knotted by fairly paid artisans in Pakistan. Mark your calendars and set your GPS to 109 S. Dubuque Street. We've got rugs waiting for you in all shapes and sizes!

About Mosaic

We are a local 501(c)3 nonprofit, fair trade gift store located on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City. Formerly known as *Ten Thousand Villages of Iowa City*, Mosaic has been bringing the world to Iowa City since 2016. We exist to provide a marketplace for artisans all over the world. All of our products are vetted to ensure artisans are paid a fair wage and have safe working conditions. At Mosaic Iowa City your purchase helps both people and planet! (www.mosaic-iowacity.com)

What is fair trade?

Fair trade is a collaborative approach to business and development that prioritizes people and planet over profit. Artisans and farmers are paid a fair wage and have safe working conditions. No exploitation, child labor, or sweat shops are involved.

LOVE CHRIST. LIVE CHRIST. SHARE CHRIST

Opportunities to live out these words abound in the community. Here are some things to consider.



HOUSES INTO HOMES HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, October 8 | 5–7 PM • ReUnion Brewery

Get your tickets today for this festive community event celebrating Houses into Homes' accomplishments from 2026, and learn about their vision for the coming year.

\$50 Mix & Mingle Ticket | \$400 Reserved Seating for 4

Event details & tickets: housesintohomes.org/homes2026



BRING IT HOME DONATION DRIVE

Saturday, October 10 | 10 AM–12 PM

Help Houses into Homes provide beds & furniture for more than 300 people before the end of the year!

Bring your gently used furniture & household donations to stock the shelves at the Houses into Homes warehouse in Coralville for fall and winter deliveries.

More details: www.housesintohomes.org



WARM WINTER WEAR DRIVE

October 11-17

New or gently used items sizes infants-adults

River Community Church in Iowa City

Other drop-off locations available

Volunteers needed!



COATS ❄️ SNOW BOOTS ❄️ SNOW PANTS ❄️ HATS ❄️ SOCKS ❄️ VESTS
GLOVES ❄️ MITTENS ❄️ SCARVES ❄️ SWEATERS ❄️ JEANS

North Liberty Community Pantry



PRAYER PAGE

- Pray for the people around the world living in areas of conflict: **Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Iran and its neighbors, Nigeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and our own country.**
- **Pray for recovery and healing after natural disasters,** especially the earthquakes in Colombia, Japan, Chile, Venezuela, and Indonesia, Typhoon Dolphin in China, extreme heat and wildfires around the globe, and severe storms in the Midwest and Northeast...
- Pray for all who are navigating the growing **Ebola outbreak** in Congo.
- Pray for people living with health issues: **Lisa Kleiss**, mother of Emily Lenhart, **Jeff Shirley**, father of Cari Anderson, **Matt Baumann**, son of Sue Baumann, **Elym Choun**, a past participant in our Day Camp, **Susan Palmer**, friend of Nancy Grove, **Emy Charlebois**, sister of Clay Peterson, **Don Hellem**, father of Dan Hellem, **Joyce Gruhn**, sister of Larry Kudej, **Arlo Christianson**, infant grandson of Dave and Karen Christianson, **John Riehl**, father of Avery and Elise Riehl, **Rodney Patterson**, husband of Carol Severino, **Evelyn**

Bollinger, a member currently homebound and limited in mobility, and **Harold Meyer**, husband of Twilla Meyer, at Crestview in West Branch.

- Pray for comfort and healing for the **Borlaug Elementary community** as they mourn the deaths of student Ahmed Osman and teacher Hannah Jorgenson.
- Pray for God's guidance as we complete this year's election cycle.
- Pray for the **Call Committee** as they continue the search for a new lead pastor.
- Pray for the **Nominating Committee** as they begin the process of seeking out those whom God is calling to positions of leadership in the congregation.