



# HOLY TRINITY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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### WORSHIP ON JANUARY 1 HIGHLIGHTS THE EPIPHANY STORY



With a shorter-than-usual Christmas season, we're electing to use New Year's Day to focus on the visit of the Magi in Matthew's second chapter this year

### DE-DECORATING HELP SOUGHT

We've had the opportunity to enjoy the sanctuary Christmas trees, take our "photo booth" moments, and savor the season! Now it's time to work together to pack it away for another year. Currently, the plan is to do so on Monday, Jan.2 at 6:30 p.m. If you're able to join us, we can use helpers age 5 and above. R.S.V.P. to Pastor Tim at [tim@holytrinityNL.org](mailto:tim@holytrinityNL.org)! Thanks in advance; let's put our hands and feet together!



**IN THE SPIRIT OF SHARING**, we will be sharing this year's Christmas Eve offering of \$2423.50 with the North Liberty Community Pantry. Rising food prices and widespread vulnerability to hunger have resulted in more people utilizing the pantry than ever. Our Sunday School students recently blessed a shopping cart of over 90 pounds of food and a couple bags of clothes for the pantry. **THANK YOU** for helping us extend the "Christmas Spirit" even further!

### **OUR 4<sup>TH</sup> WATER WELL SITE HAS BEEN DETERMINED**

Even as we were hosting their treasurer as our worship guest on 11/13, Water to Thrive President Dick Moeller wrote to alert us that the site for our 4<sup>th</sup> fully-funded water well will be in **Kabalisigala, Uganda!** This village is the Kakumiro district, near the southwest corner of the country and just a few hours north of Lake Victoria. While the Tigray region of Ethiopia, where our prior wells were constructed, was re-established following the recent fighting there, W2T has elected to focus on projects in Tanzania and Uganda. Both countries are struggling with food supplies, in part due to the war in Ukraine; these new wells to be completed in 2023 will be a source of much-needed hope and health! Way to go, Holy Trinity! Our mission has now been extended to a third country in this developing region!

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOOKLETS** will soon be available for pick-up. With so many families now giving regularly through electronic means, we've elected to cut down on paper waste and cost by simplifying our order this year. If you'd like a booklet, let us know! [office@holytrinitynl.org](mailto:office@holytrinitynl.org)

**REMEMBER THAT I.R.S. REGULATIONS** stipulate that gifts claimed on tax returns must be given in the calendar year in which they are claimed. In 2022, that means we needed to have them arrive in the church office by noon on December 30th in order to be deposited within the calendar year. Thank you for your continued support of Christ's ministry through Holy Trinity!

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM CELEBRATES THE “R.E.A.L. POSSIBILITIES” MADE POSSIBLE BY “RADICAL HOPE!”

We offer a humble note of thanks to all who helped to make our recent Fall Stewardship Emphasis and Capital Campaign a poignant opportunity to shape the future of our ministry in Christ’s name!

Since Commitment Sunday on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, we’ve been incredibly blessed by 89 families who have collectively responded to date with their Faith Promises for 2023, yielding an encouraging **\$268,000** for the Ministry Fund! Another **\$144,000** has also been committed to debt reduction/outside ministry partners. Ten new families were among those pledging for the first time!

Half of those who have pledged in the past were able to increase their Faith Promise this year, while another 22 families were able to maintain their past commitment. Way to go!

We are still just a bit shy of both of our initial goals; yet we will work within the parameters of what such figures, as well as future pledges, will allow.

Those mentioned above are not able to be the church alone! If you’ve not yet found time to pray over your Faith Promise and return it to the office as an expression of your own commitment, we urge you to do so today! Our mission and our final budget proposal still depend on it!



Radical Hope →  
R.E.A.L. Possibilities pens are available on the Welcome Station. If you did not get one, help yourself to a pen or two. Great for crosswords, that

secret pen in the car, or just one you can add to your stash! These were a gift to be shared.

## **LWR QUILTING**

We have the event dates for the Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ministry. Many of us have been sewing kits, cutting battings, and backings so that we can start assembling of the quilt tops. If you would like to sew a kit, they are available and located in the quilt closet or contact us to get one to you.

Our first tying event will be **January 14, 2023**, (weather permitting). Come join us for a productive day to work towards our goal to provide others with comfort from these quilts. Lunch will be provided along with a devotional message. Please free to bring snacks or drinks to contribute to the luncheon event. If you will be attending, contact Sandy Cronbaugh (319-533-3564) to help with lunch count.

## **TIPS FOR MAKING ELECTRONIC GIVING TO THE CHURCH**

- If you have made a faith promise that requires you to increase or decrease your weekly or monthly giving, you are in charge of making those changes with your online banker.
- For those using the Vanco system, Holy Trinity can go in and set up the lines to which one may give, but we cannot access your individual account to make the changes for you. YOU are in complete control of your funds.
  1. Enter Vanco with your password and you can change your faith promise.
  2. Be sure that you select the fund “General Fund 2023” or “Radical Hope 2023” to keep your giving records straight.

For more assistance, contact church staff

## **UPDATING PHOTO DIRECTORY**

We will shortly re-issue the directory and would love to update your picture, especially if that infant in your hands is now driving, taller than you, or gone off to a life of their own. The directory helps us pray for one another and keep in touch.

## “NEXT STEPS” SERIES FOR NEW MEMBERS OFFERED IN JANUARY



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 winter’s “Next Steps” series.

Pastor Tim will be facilitating discussion over the basic values of the congregation and other topics, including those of your own choosing, on one of two proposed schedules – depending on when most are available.

### Option #1:

- Three sessions from 10:15-11:30 on Sundays, Jan 22 and 29 and a session to be scheduled later after worship

### Option #2:

- Three sessions from 7:00-8:15 p.m. on Mondays, Jan 9, 16, and 23 .

At the conclusion of the series, those interested in officially joining the community will be officially received during a future worship service – even in time to be able to vote at our Annual meeting in February If you’d like to be a part in these conversations, we’d love to include you! To be honest, the health of our congregation and our ability to share leadership literally depend on it! Please email Pastor Tim by Jan. 2 at [tim@holyltrinityNL.org](mailto:tim@holyltrinityNL.org) by Dec. 22 and share WHICH option(s) work best for you.

## DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY

We gave 91.8 pounds of food and 2 bags of clothing for the North Liberty Community Pantry. The next blessing of the cart is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Indonesia**, after hundreds were killed by the recent earthquake there.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine** and for a swift and just conclusion to the conflict there.
- Pray for wisdom and courage among **NATO leaders** in addressing the conflict
- Pray for the residents of **Somalia, Pakistan, Kenya, and Tanzania** who are living with famine.
- Pray for the people of **Afghanistan**, grieving the hundreds lost in the recent earthquake.
- Pray for **John Riehl**, frequent worshiper and father of Avery and Elise Riehl, who celebrated an organ transplant.
- Pray for **Dale Burginger**, brother of Lois Ludvigson, now in hospice care.
- Pray for **Ed Nehring**, recently hospitalized after cancer treatment
- Pray for **Sylvia Huffman**, mother of Kim Kudej, recovering from a recent hospitalization
- Pray for **Marilu Kuhl**, currently in hospice care at Bird House in Iowa City.
- Pray for **Dorothy Weedman**, now at Windmill Manor in Coralville.
- Pray for **Harold Meyer** (husband of Twilla Meyer), currently at Lantern Park.
- Pray for **Jeanne Collins**, recovering from a broken arm.
- Pray for the family of **Matt Hibbard**, mourning the recent death of an uncle.

## **WOMEN'S BUNCO**

We are looking for 12 women to be full time Bunco players and a handful of substitutes! Bunco is a "laugh-out-loud" dice game in which you try to roll the number of the round you are playing. If you can count to 21 and enjoy giggling, you will have lots of fun. If math isn't your strong suit, we've got you covered because every round is played with a partner! All ages are welcomed and encouraged to join. We will have an informational kick-off meeting in January. If you are interested in being a regular player or a substitute, contact Marie Empey at 319-775-1650 or [mariekh27@gmail.com](mailto:mariekh27@gmail.com).

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

... There have been at least a dozen mass shootings in the United States since a white supremacist opened fire at a Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York, in May, killing ten, wounding three, and traumatizing the majority Black community. While the rest of the country has moved on, a handful of Black Christian leaders on Buffalo's East Side are helping their neighborhood heal. The day after the attack, Kelly Diane Galloway and others fed 300 people and led a worship service. Galloway has since helped lead a vigil and healing circles, organized a solidarity bike ride and therapy sessions for the community, and helped with plans to distribute food while the community's only grocery store remained closed. She said she hopes for a day when the Black community doesn't have to be this strong, "the reason being that our white brothers and sisters are helping to carry the load" (Christianity Today, October 17).

... At the height of the pandemic, the Navajo Nation experienced the highest death rate per capita in the United States. When the CARES Act left all tribes out of the first round of federal relief funding, Crystal Lee, a Navajo infectious disease specialist and assistant professor at the University of New Mexico, took it upon herself to try to help the community. Lee

drew on her experiences as an academic and a granddaughter of Navajo medicine men—recommending the burning of cedar and sage to curb airborne transmission, passing out masks, and arranging for sick people to quarantine in a hotel. She has continued to fight for health equity and provide care, turning the quarantine hotel into a mental health facility and launching a company to serve those suffering from mental and behavioral trauma (Scientific American, October 10)

... Nearly a third of secular Americans believe that something in us survives death and is capable of communion with the living. In England, belief in ghosts is more common than belief in God. This durability of belief may be a spiritual version of the maxim that the last hired is the first fired, says Brendan Case, associate director for research in the Harvard Divinity School's Human Flourishing Program. Belief in God is a relatively recent human achievement, dating back to around the second half of the first millennium BC, but ghosts seem to have been with us from the beginning. Case traces the continuity of belief in ghosts through isolated groups like Australia's Aborigines, who have lived in relative isolation for nearly 50,000 years. Aboriginal tribes like the Warlpiri believe that the spirits of the dead linger on earth and can communicate with the living through dreams (Church Life Journal, October 28).