



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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September 2023

NEW ADULT FORUM SERIES KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 10TH.



We will begin a new program year on Rally Day with a fresh new Adult forum series on “Civic Life

and Faith.” Starting at 10:15 a.m. each week in Room 4, we hope that you’ll make a point of sharing this helpful and grounded 6-week, ELCA-produced discussion around what our faith implies for our participation in the decisions and institutions of our community, state, and nation. Facilitated by Else Schardt and Lisa Smith, short video introductions will feature topics such as “How is God’s Invitation to Discipleship Lived out in a Democracy?” and “How Do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?” We would love to include you!

LAUGH OUT LOUD (LOL)

Here is what participants have said about LOL:

- “It is a highlight of my week!”
- “Thanks for being so welcoming”
- “I try hard not to miss LOL!”
- “I love getting to know people at my church”

So what is it that makes LOL so special??? Participants (anywhere from 4-8 women) gather to, play, laugh, and share the many blessings and positives that are in their lives. Getting to know each other and connecting on a positive level allows for relationships to develop and from there a support network is created.

Can LOL support new participants??? Yes!! A new program year will officially kickoff on Wednesday, October 4th at 9 a.m. at Holy Trinity. The session will be devoted to sharing life stories that one cannot help but laugh at. Bring your coffee and join in or just sit back and enjoy. No pressure. No expectations.



LOL has "wicket" fun!

Did you know that research has shown that laughter is good for your immune system and may lower your blood pressure??? Why wait???

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 10TH



Our children's ministry on Sundays resumes this month, with a rousing kickoff event at 10:15 Sunday, Sept. 10th. We are blessed with a talented and committed crew of teachers and assistants, all eager to help our young people grow in their understanding, discipleship, and experience of Christian community. Please register

your child in advance, if possible, by visiting <https://www.holytrinitynl.org/children>.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH NIGHT (WYN) SLATED TO LAUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 6:30 PM.



WEDNESDAY YOUTH NIGHT

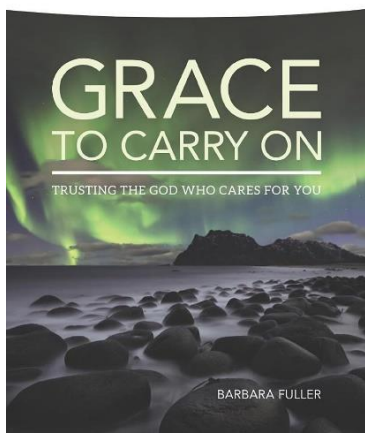
GET READY! With just a little more luck, we're soon set to launch our "WYN" ministries for 2023-24! Each Wednesday, dozens of youth and adults will gather for "Club 56"

(grades 5-6), Confirmation (gr. 7-8), and High School Gathering! This year, confirmation youth will be centering around interpreting the contents of the Bible, while HS youth and Club 56 will have their own distinct focus.

Each Wednesday is a rich night of contemplative worship, large group teaching, small group conversations, servant projects, fellowship, and snacks, with many of our young people leading the efforts! Preparations are already well underway; so if you haven't yet let us know about YOUR child's plans to participate, please let us know TODAY (tim@holytrinityNL.org).

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rsvp INLIGHT BIBLE STUDIES



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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will begin an 8-week study on September 14th. The study is by Barbara Fuller, the same author as the last two studies undertaken by the group. "Grace To Carry On: Trusting the God Who Cares for You" is based on the first letter of St. Peter. The study book cost is \$15.00, which is higher than usual as the books come directly from the author and includes shipping. Be sure to join the Women's Bible Study on September 14th at 9:30 a.m.

"NEXT STEPS" SERIES FOR NEW MEMBERS STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

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 fall'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 three consecutive Tuesday evenings – September 19th, 26th, and Oct. 2nd. We'll plan to gather together in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for all who are interested and able. At the series conclusion, those who choose to do so will be formally received into membership at a Sunday service this fall when all can be present. If you'd like to be a part, please contact Pastor Tim at tim@jholytrinityNL.org, and we'll look forward to sharing the experience with you! All are certainly welcome and invited!

JOHNSON COUNTY INTERFAITH “FAITH IN ACTION” FUNDRAISER is coming our way on Sept. 7th!

This annual interfaith event to inspire new efforts in empowerment and advocacy will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7th, at the Unitarian Universalist campus in Coralville. Registration was technically due on Aug. 29th, but if you’d still like to participate, please contact Pastor Tim. \$50 registration supports memorable catering from Tabooleh and from RoyceAnn Porter. Hope you can come!



FOOD PACKING EVENT



Our high school youth are working with “Meals from the Heartland” and envisioning a potential public food-packing event at Holy Trinity on Saturday, Nov. 4th.

They require adult mentors who are willing to help with communication, guidance, and preparation. Pam Manary and Suz Schloss have stepped into the primary mentor roles. But it will take many more of us to walk beside them in this process through the fall. MFTH requires a multi-month planning process; so now’s the time to organize! How else will you help our youth succeed? Contact Pastor Tim (tim@holyltrinitynl.org)

NURSERY IS AGAIN A HOPE AND A POSSIBILITY!

We are grateful to have several youth currently interested in assisting with Sunday nursery care, yet still seeking a consistent adult presence for about an hour and a half each Sunday starting this fall. Compensation provided, so if you know of anyone you might recommend, please share their contact info ASAP with Pastor Tim at tim@holytrinityNL.org.

COUNCIL SEEKS PARTICIPANTS IN GUIDING “RECONCILING IN CHRIST” PROCESS

We have been grateful to be able to post our “All Are

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Welcome/No Exceptions” sign in our windows for the past several years, as it reflects our hope that all would feel safe, valued, and welcome among us. It has become apparent to staff and the Visioning Council that a more explicit message and process are necessary additions if we are truly to embrace a comprehensive vision of inclusivity. One great means of doing so is engaging with “Reconciling in Christ,” a multi-month ministry and process rooted in Lutheran tradition which works intentionally to extend our reach, understanding, and investment. The Visioning Council sees a need to begin this process this fall and would invite both youth and adults to consider being a part! Interested? Contact Pastor Tim at tim@holytrinityNL.org to express your willingness; we will work to get the ball rolling! Let’s together have our welcome and recognition reflect that of what we’ve received in Christ.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL at the University of Iowa is seeking individuals interested in serving a 3-year term. It’s a fun, rewarding way to serve alongside university students and other local ELCA church members! Please contact Gretchen Warkentin at gwarkentin64@gmail.com or 319-330-4618 for more information/questions.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY MEALS AND WORSHIP



Every Thursday evening during the fall and spring semesters, students gather to share a meal and worship. The 4th Thursday of

the month provides an opportunity for parents or members of other local ELCA churches to feed these young adults. Please consider providing a meal – 40 students, a veggie main dish needs to be included (more details in the Sign-Up). If it sounds over-whelming, maybe team up with 1 or 2 or more individuals to make it a team effort. Still overwhelming? Order carry-out/delivery or provide gift cards or a cash donation.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/30E084FAFAD2EA7F94-lcmthursday>

Mail a check to Lutheran Campus Ministry, 123 E Market St., Iowa City, IA 52245

Donate online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YGTG/home>

MANY, MANY THANKS!

- to all who participated in our last mid-week Campfire gathering on August 9th
- to all who helped celebrate a most memorable joint program year kickoff picnic with “Unity is Strength” congregation on August 20th
- to Suzanne Schloss, Kent Ambler, Lisa Smith, and Angie Weiler pitching together to lead High School ministries this fall; to Deb Abels and Tracy Trettin for guiding Club 56, and to Carryn Anderson, Kathy Stapleton, Marie Empey, and Jenny Bisgard for serving as confirmation Small Group leaders
- to all who attended Parents’ Orientation Night for WYN ministries on August 29th

PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Ukraine** and for a swift and just conclusion to the conflict there.
- Pray for all who are **seeking refuge from extreme heat**; and for those confronting the **loss and grief created by wildfires** in Greece, Spain, Canada, Hawaii, Louisiana, Washington state, and elsewhere.
- Pray for **Evelyn Bollinger**, recovering from a recently broken wrist.
- Pray for **Andrew Olthoff**, undergoing a second hip surgery on August 30th.
- Pray for **Sue Zubrod**, mother of Lisa Stille, who is recovering from neurosurgery.
- Pray for **Mike Norris**, friend of Steve and Cindy Roland, being treated for pancreatic cancer, and for **Nate Gage**, their friend who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Pray for **Emy Charlebois**, sister of Clay Peterson, living with metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for **Dorothy Weedman**, at Windmill Manor in Coralville.
- Pray for **Harold Meyer** (husband of Twilla Meyer), at Crestview in West Branch.
- Pray for **Pastor Tim and Lisa**, grieving the loss of Tim's uncle, Gary Wermuth
- Pray for **Blake and Rebecca Smith, Tyler and Kristin Probasco, Evan and Beth Smith**, and all who are expecting or longing to be parents.
- Pray for those who bravely and privately struggle with diseases of every kind.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

... Grassroots organizing groups in Chicago have teamed up to repair used bikes and convert donated bike parts into free, reliable transportation for migrants living in the city. The organizers hope to provide bikes to some of the nearly 10,000 asylum-seeking migrants who have arrived in Chicago since

August 2022, many of whom lack the money to use the public transit system or the confidence to navigate it with ease. Having a bike is helpful for more than just work, doctor's visits, and errands. Organizer Andrew Mack points out: "Being able to access the lakefront, to get out of your space, and go have some open air someplace—I think that's important for people" (*WBEZ, May 30*).

... The Barbie movie was inspired in part by Greta Gerwig's memories of her Catholic girlhood, but the movie and the doll also have Jewish roots. Her Jewish husband, Noah Baumbach, cowrote the screenplay with her. In an interview, Gerwig recalled attending friends' Shabbat dinners as a child and being moved by the experience of receiving a blessing as a "child of God." In the film, Barbie meets her creator, Mattel founder Ruth Handler, who was Jewish, in a scene which Gerwig describes as a "transaction of grace." She said she wants people who see the movie to feel the same way: "I want them to get blessed" (*Jewish Chronicle, July 12*)

... Repurposing empty and derelict churches as luxury hotels, breweries, gyms, and dance clubs has become increasingly common. In Belgium, where only 10 percent of the population regularly attends church, the problem of what to do with empty churches is especially stark. Flanders, the northern part of Belgium, has on average six churches in each of its 300 towns. In Mechelen, a town north of Brussels, the mayor is struggling to find new uses for many of its two dozen churches—several of which are near St. Rumbold's cathedral, which features a UNESCO World Heritage belfry tower. Catholic bishop Johan Bonny, of the Diocese of Antwerp, says he would rather transfer properties to other Christian communities than to developers. "You cannot believe, suddenly, how pious [real estate agents] can become when a financial opportunity presents itself," he said. "Suddenly they are more devout than a nun" (*Associated Press, June 22*).

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