HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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WAITING FOR ADVENT (NOVEMBER 29TH)



Advent is perhaps my favorite liturgical season of the year. As one who is easily distracted by the secular side of Christmas (mostly baking), I simply adore the intentionality of pausing to contemplate the miracle of God-made-flesh… the incarnation of Jesus Christ… the indescribable love that God has for humans, so much that God becomes human, to cry human tears, sweat human sweat and bleed human blood.

This year at Holy Trinity, we will be offering Holden Evening Prayer on the Wednesday evenings during Advent (12/2, 12/9 and 12/16) beginning at 6:30. We will move through the service in its entirety as it is written; that is to say, there will be no interruption or break, nor will there be communion. The service will include an Advent Scripture reading. The service is brief, perhaps 25 minutes.

EVERYONE is welcome to attend. After the conclusion of Holden, parishioners will be dismissed and Wednesday evening WYN activities will resume. WYN will conclude at 8:00.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

NOTES ABOUT NOVEMBER WORSHIP

November 1 is a festival day in the church calendar in which we remember those who have died and have preceded us into the Church Triumphant. This year, we will be remembering friends and relatives whose lives touched ours. Pray that their families may know the love God has for them.

Jack Gitch	Hadwen Kleiss	Bill Debner
Mary Jane Bowman	Sue Dunshee	Marilyn Hartig
Bill Davis	Roger Pagel	Patricia Grant
Lynn E. Petersen	Janet Gitch	Austin Speidel

And congregational members

Laurel Hibbard	Bill Nehring	Bill Keating

We celebrate the new lives begun in Christ through Baptism:

Emersyn Ingles	Benjamin Stammeyer
Sophia Thompson	Callahan Pelzer
Noah Herschberger	

Pray for these young people that they may grow in God's love and grace each day of their lives.

November 22 is Christ the King Sunday. It is the last Sunday of the Church Year. Established as a Feast Day in the early 20th Century, Christ the King Sunday is a reminder that God rules over all the earth. There may be wars and rumors of wars, governments that benefit their people and tyrannies, sickness and health, etc.; God is still in charge

November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent and the start of the Church Calendar Year. We will hear the story of Jesus' life told from the perspectives of Mark and John. While Mark tends to be pithy in relating the story, John will wax philosophical. In other words, something for everyone!

Wednesday Youth Night Service Project



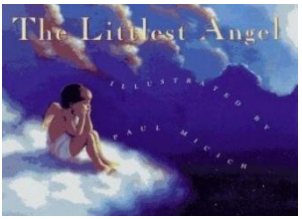
WYN Youth are hosting a Diaper Drive from November 18 to December 9. We're collecting all sizes, but the need is greatest for sizes 4 - 6. We'll be donating them to the North Liberty Community Pantry.

We're only asking for diapers. The WYN kids will be bundling the donated diapers into packages of 12 to help out the pantry workers. Bring your diaper donations to the "Diaper Area" next to the Welcome Center. (You can't miss it.)

This Advent we're asking, "What Would Baby Jesus Need?" Swaddling cloths were designed to keep a baby snug and warm. In our time, SNAP benefits and WIC can't be used to purchase diapers so the need is great.

Questions? Contact Ann Roller by calling the office for her email.

Christmas Program Planned



Heather Mainprize is looking for actors and actresses of all ages to participate in the story, "The Littlest Angel." No experience is necessary. Handbell and vocals are an option. We will practice during Sunday School hour leading up to our performance on December 13th.

Office Closure

The office will be closed on Election Day, November 3. Holy Trinity will serve as the polling place for North Liberty Precinct 1. Richard in the office will be working a precinct as an election official in Iowa City. Please check the Auditor's Office website if you are not sure where to go to vote.

NEW BEGINNINGS: TIMELESS MISSION



We are half-way through our Stewardship emphasis for this season. We have heard from three members in temple talks: Eric Weiler, Roger Sivers, and Mark Engel. Our next three speakers are Kevin Henning, Lyn Petersen, and Ken Morse.

As we think about our stewardship of talents, time, and abilities, we do so as individuals, families, and as a congregation. Each is dependent upon the other. What is decided one place can affect us in another place. God understands that probably better than we do.

We learned from Martin Luther that we have a chance to start a NEW BEGINNING each day. It is the concept of daily baptism in which we live in God's love, care, and forgiveness each day. In each day, we rise to a new opportunity to serve and to be served in return. While Christ died for us once to reconcile us to God, God raises us to new life each and every day in fulfillment of that promise to be "with us, even to the close of the age."

We join then in the TIMELESS MISSION to "make disciples of all nations" and to teach each other to "love as God first loved us." By grace, God empowers us to do his will. By sin, we sometimes subvert God's will. By grace, we are forgiven to begin again. And again. And again, well, you get the picture.

What tools will we use to fulfill this TIMELESS MISSION? Private inventory and family inventory are important. The members of the Visioning Council will help us focus on our corporate tools. Your faith promises are the basis upon which they try to help us form a common mission. Faith Promises will soon be in the mail. You will be able to file them online or on paper. Collection date is November 15th. From those promises, the Council will try to forge a ministry blueprint for 2027.

Grateful Hearts

It is with grateful hearts that we thank all those who have stepped into new leadership roles as we continue to move forward as a congregation. Sometimes the period of time between lead pastors can be a bit of a downer. But not here. New ministries grow and continue to grow because of the commitment we all have to Love Christ, Live Christ, and Share Christ.

Lest we miss someone, please know that your efforts are seen and appreciated. For that, we give glory to God!

Prayer Page

- Pray for the people around the world living in areas of conflict.
- Pray for recovery and healing after natural disasters.
- 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, **Dave Frisbie**, and **Harold Meyer,** husband of Twilla Meyer, at Crestview in West Branch.
- 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 continue seeking out those whom God is calling to positions of leadership in the congregation.

Contemplative Christmas Planned

Now that the spooky season is over, Thanksgiving and Christmas are on the horizon. We invite you to take a break from the busy-ness of the "holiday" season on Saturday, December 5 at 4 p.m. to attend the Contemplative Christmas service. This meditative service acknowledges that we can look forward to the birth of Christ even if we're not feeling festive about everything in life.

Christmas Giving Opportunity

Laugh out Loud (LOL) will be collecting donations and shopping from catalogs from Lutheran World Relief (Gifts of Love) and ELCA (Good Gifts). Give your donation to Laughers Gail Johnson, Nancy Hurd, or Else Schardt. You may give donations in the church office as well. Donations will be accepted until November 29 and then, let the shopping begin! The shopping carts may have goats, chickens, school supplies, and more in them. The items won't be shipped here but to all parts of the world.

There are local needs too! 50% of your donation will be given to the local food pantry and used where they see the greatest need. Thank you so much!!

Congratulation, Ron and Else Schardt!



Ron and Else Schardt were recently honored for their service to Houses into Home. They are pictured with their guests, Lois and Clayton Ludvigson. Lois is a driving force behind the quilts Holy Trinity donates each year to Houses into Homes.

Back Door The back door code is scheduled to change on Monday, November 16 after Premise Keepers. If you need the code, please email the office. Your name must be recorded for insurance purposes.