



# HOLY TRINITY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

650 240th St. North Liberty, IA 52317

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Vol. 17, No. 5

May 2025

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### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

We've had a healthy turnout for High School ministry as part of our Wednesday night "WYN" gathering. It's time to recognize and bless those who are now graduating to their next stage of life. Let's send them off with a rousing thanksgiving! Join us for WYN on May 14<sup>th</sup>!

Austin Anderson — Aerospace engineering at Purdue University

Marissa Becker — Physical therapy track in exercise science at The University of Iowa

Cale Berry — Business/Data Analysis at the University of Northern Iowa

Ethan Barber — Business at The University of Iowa

Blake DuBois — Upper Iowa University

Melia Drugg —

Jakob Good —

Asta Hildeband —

Tayah Manary — Undecided

Ada Mae O'Connor — Nursing at Kirkwood Community College

Andrew Olthoff — Upper Iowa University (will play baseball)

Avery Riehl — Political theory and Constitutional democracy at Michigan State University

Tate Schloss — Business analysis at The University of Iowa

Chase Schroeder — Apprenticeship to be an electrician

Tatum Stille — Architecture at Iowa State University

## **ADULT FORUM CONTINUES THROUGH MAY 11**

Join us on Sundays at 10:15am in Room 5! We'll conclude the program year with members sharing their faith stories, a session on meditation, and other topics as we look forward to fall and a new season of growing together! Grab a coffee and come be a part!

## **MOWING VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT!**

It's already May! With warming temperatures, the grass will soon be growing! In fact, it's been cut twice already! The Facilities Team is seeking volunteers to mow the rear parking lot island and a few hard-to-access areas for our zero-turn. If you'd like to be part of our rotating cast of hand-mowers, please contact the office until a new Facilities chair is named.

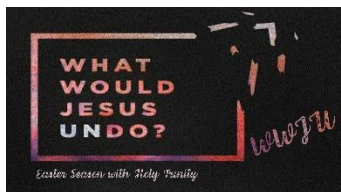
## **ANNIVERSARY POSTPONEMENT**

The proposed celebration of 15 years ministry for the congregation has been postponed to give organizers more time to prepare. If you have historical moments, please share with Evelyn Bollinger as she prepares a short history of the congregation.

## **“RECONCILING IN CHRIST” CORE TEAM CONTINUES TO WORK**

In the wake of our annual congregational meeting, a core group of interested members has begun the months-long work of study, listening, and discernment known as “Reconciling in Christ. To date, the team consists of **Emma Stammeyer, Kris Frisbie, Cheryl Mohr, Fred Carbaugh, Kristen Stoll, Amy Jones, Lyn Peterson, Jon Brandt, and Fred Carbaugh**, each of whom recently had opportunity to meet and share more about their own respective experiences and interest. There is still room for you! If you'd still like to help guide this vital work on behalf of becoming a fully inclusive community, contact Emma Stammeyer! Questions? Feel free to do the same! The team meets next on May 5<sup>th</sup>..

## **“WWJ(U)D” – WHAT WOULD JESUS UNDO? IS OUR EASTER THEME FOR 2025**



In an Easter season twist on reprise of a common refrain the late 90's - (has it already been that long?), we will use the coming weeks to explore “What Would Jesus Undo?”

In addition to “undoing” the power of death itself through his resurrection, we believe that there are likely more contemporary assumptions, habits, and values that may be well-subscribed in our day and age, yet may have little to do with the Jesus of the Scriptures. In other words, not only might Jesus encourage us to refrain from such practices, but his example might suggest that we actively push back against them as we follow him into this season of hope and possibilities.

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.!

### **CONGRATULATION!**

...to each our **High School and college grads** this year!

...to **Gail Johnson** for graduating from her Lay School of Theology Training through her prior synod in Wisconsin!



### **NORTH LIBERTY COMMUNITY PANTRY**

During April, members of Holy Trinity donated 60.4 pounds of food and 31.6 pounds of toilet paper and paper products to the Community Pantry. The shopping cart continues to reside in the foyer of the church in hopes that our gifts of food items and paper products may help our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat ... (Matthew 25:35).

## **“NEXT STEPS” SERIES FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS OFFERED MID-WEEK IN MAY**



If you are seeking a place to call your spiritual home, to build healthy relationships with others seeking to grow in their faith, to risk asking hard questions, or to 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 topics mostly of your choosing on three nights – covering two Tuesdays and a Thursday. We’ll plan to gather in Room 5 on person on May 6 and 20, with a Thursday session in between on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We’d love to have you be a part; children are welcome to attend as well.

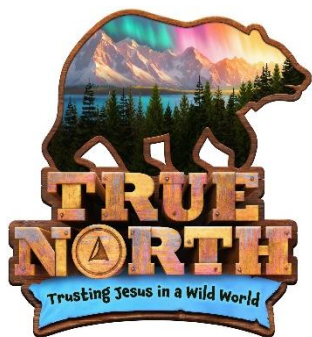
Our hope will be to cover all kinds of your existing questions and curiosities, get to know one another better, and learn more about Holy Trinity’s vision for living out the gospel together.

At the conclusion of the series, those interested in officially joining the community will be officially received during a special worship opportunity in the weeks that follow. If you’d like to be a part in these conversations, please email Pastor Tim at [tim@holyltrinityNL.org](mailto:tim@holyltrinityNL.org) before the series begins.

### **MANY, MANY THANKS ...**

- ... to **Pastor Mike Andrew** for serving as our guest preacher in April.
- ... to **ALL** who continue to offer their help regularly as assistants in both Sunday worship and Wednesday worship. Liturgy is indeed the “work of the people!”
- ... to **ALL** who provided flowers to help us honor the Easter season and to those who helped decorate on Holy Saturday!
- ... to **Every Blooming Thing** for providing our Holy Week Palms

## SAVE THE DATE!!



7-14-25 to 7-18-25!!

[ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, 2025!!](#)

(All youth and adult volunteers register.)

Invite your friends!!

Put Vacation Bible School on your calendar!! We will learn about trusting

Jesus in a wild world using our friends from an Alaskan adventure. We meet from 9-11:30 a.m. each day! Youth 3 years old (and potty-trained) to entering 5th grade will be our VBS campers. (\$25 fee)

Youth entering 6th grade up to 12th grade can volunteer as Crew Leaders to guide the VBS campers. Adults (No Age Limit) can volunteer to help too!! (No fee and free shirt!) Text Lyn Petersen, VBS Director at (319)361-1226 if you are interested and then register online!

You can also choose a full day of Day Camp 7-14 to 7-17 from 11:30 to 4 p.m. Day Camp, led by EWALU staff, is for Youth entering 1st grade to entering 5th grade. (\$85 fee).

Youth entering 6th grade to 12th grade are invited to stay for Day Camp for spiritual fellowship activities and servant ministries as our thank you to you for helping as crew leaders in the morning! Yes! Lots of snacks again this year!! (No fee).

**Firm deadline for Registration is the Fourth of July (7-4-25).**

Please attend VBS Kickoff on Sunday, May 18 from 10:15 to 11 a.m.

All Family VBS Decorating Night is Monday, July 7 at 6 p.m.

Crew Leader and Station leader training/celebration on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.

## PRAYER PAGE UPDATE

- Pray for the people of **Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel**, and the **Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda** as they struggle to live amid ongoing conflicts there.
- Pray for the people of the **Southern states** recently impacted by the deadly recent storms there.
- Pray for **Bri Hammer and Drew McDonough**, new members who anticipate their upcoming wedding on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and a move to the Des Moines area.
- Pray for all those are currently expecting, including **Chris and Victoria Hershberger, Taylor and Gabi Ingles, Danny and Jaclyn Hughes, and Tim and Emma Stammeyer**.
- Pray for **Dave and Cindy Harms**, moving to Portland, OR, this month to be closer to their son.
- Pray for **Pastor Tim**, grieving the loss of his closest childhood friend, Paul Berry, on Good Friday.
- Pray for **Ron Schardt**, awaiting test results from a heart monitor.
- Pray for **Marty Krueger**, recovering from recent surgery.
- Pray for **Matt Baumann** (son of Sue Baumann), currently in hospice care after recent setbacks in his cancer.
- 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 **Melissa DuRoe** (friend of Mike and Sonda Uitermarkt), being treated for glioblastoma.
- Pray for **Laurel Hibbard**, still being treated for metastatic breast 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 **Harold Meyer** (husband of Twilla Meyer), recovering from COVID-19 at Crestview in West Branch.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

... Prior to his recent death, two bottles of Kentucky bourbon signed by Pope Francis have raised tens of thousands of dollars for charity. Kentucky-based priest and papal missionary Jim Sichko asked him to autograph two bottles donated by the Willett Distillery, which sold for about \$30,000 at auction. The funds are going to a legal clinic that assists immigrants in Lexington and a Texas hospice organization. When Sichko presented Pope Francis with the two bottles and a pen, the Holy Father signed and then asked which of the bottles was for him. (AP, February 15)

... 90% are Greenlanders are Inuit? They are also mostly Lutheran. A Danish missionary, Hans Egede, brought the church to the world's largest island more than 300 years ago. Until 1953, no other denominations were allowed to register and work there. Being Lutheran is still an important part of Greenlandic identity, even for many residents who no longer believe in God or attend church regularly. For others, Egede's legacy is divisive, representing the suppression of rich Inuit traditions and culture by Lutheran missionaries and Denmark's rule. The island remains a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, but since Trump has expressed interest in acquiring it, the push for independence has received a boost, and both Lutheran folk customs and Indigenous traditions encourage national pride (RNS, March 7)

... Tech billionaire Bryan Johnson has been in the news frequently for trying not to die. You might recognize him as the guy who siphoned blood plasma from his minor son in order to fight the aging process. (When that didn't work, he removed all the plasma from his body and replaced it with albumin.) In a recent Netflix documentary, Johnson chronicles his daily regimen, which was written by an algorithm and includes taking 50 pills a day and eating nothing after noon. Still a fringe figure, he has become the poster child for the longevity movement — a group of scientists and entrepreneurs who hope the Trump administration will make it easier to develop treatments that prevent aging. Kara Bettis Carvalho points out the irony of this movement coexisting with the "right to die" movement. "One movement encourages life at all costs, another death on demand," she writes, but "both have an underlying logic of control" that's older than Genesis 3 (Christianity Today, January 30)

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