

Return Service Requested

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County
601 Second Avenue SE, Suite 5
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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www.irclc.org

**FALL 2013/
WINTER 2014**

NOV. 2013	1	All Saints Day - Christian
	3	Diwali - Deepavali ** - Hindu
	4	Hijra - New Year * ** - Islam
	12	Birth of Baha'u'llah * - Bahai
	13	Ashura * ** - Islam
	14	Winter Lent begins to 12/25 - Orthodox Christian
	26	Day of the Covenant * - Bahai'
	28	Ascension of Abdul-Baha * - Bahai'
		Thanksgiving - USA - Interfaith
	28-Dec 5	Hanukkah * - Judaism
DEC 2013	1 - 24	Advent (first Sunday) - Christian
	8	Rohatsu - Bodhi Day ** - Buddhist
	12	Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Catholic Christian
	16-25	Posadas Navidenas - Christian
	25	Christmas * - Christian
	31	End of Year Observance - Buddhist
JAN 2014	1	New Year Observance - Buddhist
	6	Epiphany - Christian
	7	Nativity of Christ ** - Orthodox Christian
	13	Mawlid an Nabi * ** - Islam
	16	Tu B'Shvat * - Jewish
	18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Christian
	19	World Religion Day - Bahai'
	31	Chinese New Year - Buddhist
FEB 2014	15	Nirvana Day ** - Buddhist
	26-Mar 1	Intercalary Days * - Bahai'
	28	Maha Shivaratri ** - Hindu
MAR 2014	2 - 20	Nineteen Day Fast * - Bahai'
	5	Ash Wednesday - Lent begins - Christian
		Magha Puja Day ** - Buddhist
		Purim ** starts on eve of March 15 - Jewish
		Holi ** - Hindu
	21	New Ruz (News Year)* - Bahai'
		Ohigan - Buddhist (Japan)
	31	Hindu New Year ** - Hindu

*usually begin at sundown day before ** date may vary

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

at Temple Judah, 3221 Lindsay Lane SE, Cedar Rapids

Come and join other people of faith in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. The evening includes readings, prayers, and music from the various faith traditions in Linn County.

This service will also include recognition of the twenty years that the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County has served the community.

Donations of cash and non-perishable food will be collected at the service and will be given to the Linn Community Food Bank.



TWENTY YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY
THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County (IRCLC) is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. The original IRCLC members unanimously approved this proposed purpose: "To provide a means for all people of faith to promote understanding and work together for the spiritual, moral, social and civic welfare of the community."

At the organizational meeting on August 27, 1992, in the Beems Auditorium of the Cedar Rapids Library, the following officers were elected: The Rev. Cedric Lofdahl (then Pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church) as the first president; Rabbi Ed Chesman (Temple Judah) as vice-president; Bridget Janus (a Roman Catholic) as secretary; and Bev Wilson (from the United Methodist tradition) as treasurer. Imam Taha Tawil (of the Mother Mosque) became the secretary a few months later. The board included representatives from Baha'i, Christianity (Protestant and Roman Catholic), Islam, Judaism, Sanathan Dharma, and Unitarian/Universalism. The original IRCLC membership consisted of twenty-one faith groups, thirty-one individuals, and four other organizations. On January 30, 1993, the closing of the charter membership list was celebrated and The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County was officially chartered.

In the two decades since its founding, the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County has steadfastly and proudly maintained diversity as it continues its mission. Current board members include representatives from eight faith traditions -- Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Unitarian/Universalism, and Unity.

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County has provided a variety of programming over the years to carry out its purpose. Foremost is the weekly television program, "Ethical Perspectives on the News," which has aired more than 730 episodes since 1999. It serves as a public forum to address ethical considerations of current news topics. In the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, prayers and readings from various traditions are shared in gratitude for blessings all have received. IRCLC's educational programs include the "Children of Abraham" dialogues, "Know Your Neighbor's Faith" lunch presentations, and the "University of Religion" courses. Special services have been held in response to national events such as a memorial service on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 in 2011 and a "We Say No to Violence!" service in 2012 after several incidents of mass violence in the United States.

The members of the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County strive to understand both the differences and the common bonds among faiths, and ask how faith traditions can promote reconciliation and peace in our community and our world. They continue to affirm that God's love, grace and forgiveness are bestowed on persons of all faiths.

IRCLC Membership. Your membership - as a faith community or as an individual - is important to help carry out the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County mission of promoting understanding and respect among persons of different faiths. Thank you for your support.

ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEWS

Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on KCRG-TV, Channel 9, Cedar Rapids

Sponsored by The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County. Features a panel of local experts who explore ethical considerations on a current issue in the news. Topics known to date:

- November 3 Medical marijuana
- November 10 The ethics of hospital competition
- November 17 Terminal decisions
- November 24 Leadership PACs
- December 1 Civil rights in the Corridor
- December 8 Tax Increment Financing



THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

The Children of Abraham dialogue group is offering another "Between the Traditions" program. Brian Daugherty, Past President of the Inter-Religious Council, will speak on "The Crucifixion on Jesus? The Messiah? Who Died on the Cross and Why?" He will address the positions taken by the Abrahamic traditions, the lessons gleaned from history, and the scriptural basis.

This program, in honor of Dr. Charles Vernoff, will be offered three times:

- Friday, November 1, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at People's Church
- Sunday, November 10, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at Coe College, Hickok Hall
- Friday, November 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at Mount Mercy University, Basile Hall



The Children of Abraham mission is to engage in conversation in order to learn about our respective faiths, leading to actions that promote community well-being, and tear down walls of misunderstanding and prejudice.

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013, at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting which will include the election of officers and new board members. All are welcome to attend. Cost of dinner is \$10, payable at the door. All are welcome to attend. Contact Helen Elsbernd to make your reservation, by e-mail to helsbernd@prairiewoods.org or by calling Prairiewoods at 319-395-6700.



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Intersections. The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa sponsors this program to promote civil conversations on issues at the intersection of religion and politics. It meets the first Friday of each month, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids. On Friday, November 1, the speaker will be State Senator Rob Hogg who will speak on climate change. All interested persons are welcome to attend on any first Friday of the month. Lunch is \$10, payable at the door. Reservations are required; please call 319-364-6148 or e-mail CRintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org.

Women in Interfaith Dialogue. All women are welcome. These meetings are usually at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center. A fee of \$15 includes lunch. For information on upcoming programs, call Barbara Schlachter at 319-351-4380.