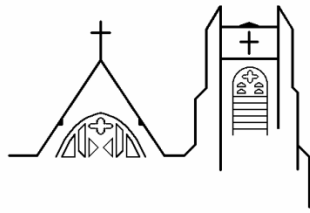


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SPONSORS 3 UKRAINIAN FAMILIES**

Duluth, MN, July 7, 2022 - Duluthians Maureen and Bill Ulvi along with Trinity Lutheran Church in Duluth are excited to announce the sponsorship of three Ukrainian families through the “Uniting for Ukraine” program. Trinity Lutheran Church, located in Duluth’s hillside, has arranged housing, immediate contacts, and support for three selected Ukrainian families.

The most recent sponsorship recipient is Svitlana, a young woman in her late 30s, who has just arrived on July 5<sup>th</sup> from Kharkiv region, village of Liptsy, which is just 6 miles from the Russian border. Svitlana endured the invasion for 94 days. Each day became harder and harder as she was eventually without food, electricity and heat. Without access to the free part of Ukraine, she had to enter a Russian filtration camp and be subjected to identity checks, searches, interrogation, pressure, interrogation again.

Svitlana was lucky; she was released and found Russian volunteers that helped her as she had no money, was hungry and very frightened. They helped her get to Estonia and from there she made it to Finland and eventually Sweden. As a recipient of the Uniting for Ukraine program, and through the sponsorships arranged by Trinity Lutheran Church, Svitlana will be staying with Bill and Maureen at their home in Duluth.

The second sponsorship recipients are Anna and Ed, along with their cat, who arrived the end of May from Kherson, Ukraine. They have recently moved to the Chicago area to be with a large Ukrainian community, but Maureen and Bill will continue to be their sponsors with the financial help of the Trinity Lutheran Church Ukrainian Fund.

The third sponsorship is supporting a young family of 3 from Mariupol, sponsored by Jacob Ulvi and his family. They are still desperately trying to get family members out of Mariupol before they leave for the US in August.

These sponsorships require a 2-year commitment financial support of up to \$700 per month per person. A designated fund has been started at Trinity Lutheran Church for the gifts to support these Ukrainian sponsorships. Trinity is seeking donations to provide ongoing financial support for Svitlana, Anna and Ed, and a third family.

Jesus said “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25

To donate to Trinity’s Uniting for Ukraine program, contact Shivon Miller, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church: [trinity@tlcduluth.org](mailto:trinity@tlcduluth.org), or 218-724-9369.