

# Muslims celebrate end of Ramadan

**T**here are only two Muslim holidays in the calendar year. Both signify completion of a very important event.

The Eid ul-Fitr celebration follows the completion of one month of fasting. During Ramadan, Muslims are required to fast from dawn to sunset. Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, bad habits and husband and wife relationships for the sake of God. They learn to control their hunger, thirst, anger and ego while trying to show humility, politeness and generosity. This also helps them experience the condition of the less fortunate ones from other parts of the world.

Ramadan is obviously the most blessed time of the year, full of fasting, supplemental prayer, inviting people to break fast (Iftaar) and listening to the Holy Quran. The Muslims devote extra time to reading and understanding the Holy Qur'an, as well as supplication. Reward of fasting is forgiveness of our sins and promise of paradise.

This is the most joyous time of the year. There is also a night in the last 10 days of Ramadan, called the "Night of Power," which could equal to a whole life time of worship if successfully sought out and utilized. Due to more congregational activities, whole communities become very lively during this month. These activities make people more generous, charitable and bring them closer to God.



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More than 1,000 Muslims will kick off the three days of Eid celebration with congregational prayer, where all area Muslims must come together in the early morning hour on Thursday. Beside the Quad-Cities, people will travel all the way from Aledo to Clinton. Prayer is followed by a sermon where people are reminded to continue practicing what they have learned. After the sermon people greet each other with "Eid Mubarak" or "Happy Eid."

This year Eid prayer will be held at the Muslim Community of the Quad Cities at 2115 Kimberly Road, in Bettendorf, on Thursday, Aug. 8, at 8:30 a.m.

We wish everyone a happy Eid. May God accept all the good deeds done in the month of Ramadan and grant peace and harmony throughout the world as well as in our personal lives.

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