



THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com
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November 2022
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church • 18137 Criswell Street • Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 • 563-332-5188
Pastor Stephen Nilsen 563-332-6432 (office) 319-540-1172 (cell) snilsen@trinitylcpv.com (email)

Happy New Year, Trinity Lutheran Church Family!

I know you might be saying to yourself, “Pastor Stephen, this is early December; it’s still a month before we should be wishing each other Happy New Year!” But what I’m wishing you a happy new year for is the changing of the church year.

Every year, our church calendar runs from the expectant season of Advent, a time where we can plan and prepare for the year ahead. This isn’t quite the planning of a person on January 1 making a resolution to lose weight or read more books in the year ahead, but rather a planning for something that already is here and is still expected to come: Christ in our midst!

The Prophet Isaiah is used as the First Reading in each of our weeks in Advent this year, and that’s very fitting since much of what Isaiah prophesied is God’s new way – in many cases different from our worldly ways and human understanding. In the 43rd chapter, Isaiah describes the Lord’s voice saying, “*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*” (Isaiah 43:18-19, NRSV)

In the year that has been, there has been a great deal of transition, and there will be many more “new things” to perceive in the year ahead. Sometimes I marvel at thinking about what will change for me in the year ahead – whether it be changes in my family with a newborn on the way in April, continued relationship building and development of my pastoral identity here among the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, or any number of other things. I invite you to stop and ponder for a second: what new things do you perceive in your year ahead? How are you preparing for them?

Isaiah’s proclamation that God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert is assurance for our times of transition. Throughout Scripture, we can see various examples of the wilderness as a symbol or metaphor of a time of transition. We have certainly had plenty of our in-between wilderness time in the past few years as a nation, a church, and within many of our family and friend groups. Through it all, God makes a way – even if it is as unexpected as a river in the desert.

This new year, I invite you all to count the blessings you have, including Jesus having come in human form to dwell among us. But remember, God will continue to do these new things, bringing new joys, sorrows, wonderment, and all sorts of other newness throughout the seasons of the year ahead. In doing so, we can live in the liminal, in-between space of the wilderness, finding the new way God has made for us and will continue to make.

Looking ahead to the year to come,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

Trinity Office Hours Tues, Wed, Thurs + 9AM-1PM
Pastor Stephen’s Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs +10AM - 2PM

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On the surface it didn't appear that there was a lot of business to discuss in November. But in reality there were lots of topics to discuss...and one of the largest was preparing the 2023 church budget. More on that later.

Last month Worship and Music discussed what time the Christmas Eve service should be held. If you recall from last year, the decision was whether to go earlier to make it convenient for families with young children or go a later time. Last year we did a later service. The year the service time is being rolled back a bit to 7:00 PM. The hope is that families with young children will still have time to have dinner together and then get to Christmas Eve service. I am pleased to announce that this service will also have music performed by Laura.

There were a number of discussions revolving around our Sunday School time. Some parents have communicated that they would like Sunday School to be held during service, which would allow the parents to be able to focus on the church service. Based on feedback, it looks like there will be a trial attempt in January where the children will go downstairs for a lesson. They will leave service after the Children's Sermon and have a customized lesson during the remaining church service. We will see how this plays out, but I would encourage you to keep an open mind and report back your opinions as we try this.

November is also a time where the congregation looks to communicate positions that will be vacated and need filled for 2023. If you are interested in service on Council, Synod Assembly, or as a Luther Properties delegate, PLEASE let Pastor Stephen, me, or any council member know. Even if you're curious about the responsibilities, let us know so we can better educate you on the obligations of the position. We certainly don't want to miss out on any volunteers for these positions!

The status of the Audit Committee was another topic this month. The committee fills a vital role, but is very small. Please let me, Pastor Stephen, or any member of the council know if this is a task you would be willing to help with!

As this year draws to a close, I hope you can look back and be proud of how 2022 has gone for Trinity Lutheran Church...both financially and with the transition of a new pastor. I am always amazed that even given the unsteady and volatile economy that we are living in, everyone has been very generous with their church offerings. It appears that this generosity will allow us to exceed the offering estimate that we made last year when putting the budget together. Thank you all for your part in getting Trinity back to where it needs to be!

Justin



MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December	1	Property	11:00 AM
December	5	Memorial	10:00 AM
December	5	Education	6:30 PM
December	6	Worship	4:30 PM
December	12	Amitie	12:00PM
December	12	Council	6:30PM

If you have a meeting scheduled, please let me know so I can add to this list.
Paula

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR OCTOBER

November 6	60
November 13	70
November 20	64
November 27	68

FOOD ASSISTANCE
(formerly known as Food Baskets for Those Needing a Helping Hand)

We currently have seven families that Trinity has been helping at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Prior to the COVID epidemic we collected food that was donated by the Congregation; and with money that was donated, we purchased extra grocery items and meat. The food baskets were estimated to be worth approximately \$50+ each.

Now, we are asking for monetary donations so that we can purchase Fareway gift cards so that the families can purchase the groceries that they need. The families appreciate the ability to pick the food items they need. And they really appreciate the generosity of your donations.

If you would like to contribute, please mail in your contribution or place it in the weekly Collection Plate. Please be sure to clearly mark on the annotation line of your check that it is for the Food Assistance (or Food Baskets Committee).

We plan on giving each family \$50 for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

The Memoria and the Endowment Committees have each given \$500.00 to this ministry. We are looking to collect an additional \$550. Any contribution that you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions can be directed to the following:

Lolita Baker (563) 570-3936, email Lnbaker7014@gmail.com

Lanette Lane (563) 359-4196, email laal@mchsi.com

REMINDER

We have a new address for Trinity Lutheran Church. The address is now the physical address-18137 Criswell St. Bettendorf, IA 52722. The Post Office box is closed, but mail will be forwarded for one year.



AMITIE

Amitie will meet on Monday December 12 at 12:00PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided. Please bring a Christmas ornament. It can be a new ornament or one from your own collection. The ornaments will be for a grab bag gift exchange. We will also tie a fleece blanket for the Edgerton Clinic. Amitie will not meet in January or February due to weather concerns. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and mission outreach.

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH OCTOBER 2022

Collections to date	\$153,672.35
Expenses to date	\$145,798.41
Net to date	\$7,873.94

No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves to date.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rudie Eberlein
- 3 Debra Anderson
- 5 Henry Marquard
- 6 Annabelle Denain
- 9 Helen Stubbe
- 11 Ed Kaufmann
- 13 Neil Baker
- 16 Paula McIntosh
- 21 Susan Varilek
- 24 Judy Rutledge



ANNIVERSARY

- 2 Randy & Claudia Neumann
- 29 Travis & Marcia Brunsvold



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

Christmas Eve service: join us for celebration of the birth of Jesus with a Candlelight service at 7:00 PM.

Christmas morning: Lessons and Carols at 9:00 AM. No Sunday School or fellowship time.



WEEKLY READINGS

12/4 Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12
12/11 Isaiah 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 5-10, 2 James 5:7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11
12-18 Isaiah 7: 10-16, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1: 1-25
12/24 Isaiah 9: 2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-20
12/25 Isaiah 62: 6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3: 4-7, Luke 2: 1-20

WANT TO CONNECT THE WITH WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY?

Sign up for our weekly email bulletin that will let you know what's happening in the week ahead and have other great upcoming announcements, as well as the weekly bulletin for worship. Call (332 -5188) or email (office@trinitylcpv.com) Paula in the office to sign up!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS and FELLOWSHIP

If you are unable to fulfill your duties, please find a replacement and call the church office (332-5188) with your replacement. Thank you.

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
Altar Guild	Connie Short	Jo Ann Hogenson	Randy Goslin	Diana Mayes	X
Communion Assistant	Jim Sbertoli	Jo Ann Hogenson	Claudia Neumann	Melissa Aguilar	X
Lector	Bryan West	John Newman	Claudia Neumann	Steve Aguilar	
Usher/Greeter	Ed & Carol Kaufmann	Deb Anderson Lois Schurr	Arnie & Diane Kaufmann	Paul Opperman Arnie Kaufmann	
Fellowship	David & Anna Heidenreich			X	X

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Altar Guild		Diane Holst	Linda Busch		
Communion Assistant		Lois Schurr			
Lector		Ellen Opperman	Diane Noll		
Usher/Greeter		Deb Anderson Lois Schurr			
Fellowship	X	Dian Mayes			