



THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com

July 2022
9:00 AM
Sunday Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church • 18137 Criswell Street • P.O. Box 23 • Pleasant Valley, Iowa 52767 • 563-332-5188

I was 8 years old when the movie Mary Poppins came to the theater. I remember it well. Disney threw a lot of hype into the advertising. I especially remember that if you could say "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" you could get in free. (Or did you have to say it backwards?) It was a great movie for this 8 year old. It was full of song and action and animation (one of the first to mix live and animation together).

You may remember the story. The Banks children are in need of a nanny. Mary Poppins comes riding in on the wind and says she will stay until the wind changes. Said differently, until her task is done. Mary works her magic (literally) bringing the household together and preparing them for whatever may come next. And then she rides the wind away again.

I'm no Mary Poppins. And I certainly cannot work magic. Yet interim work feels a bit like Mary Poppins, where you are only there for a season and you hope things are better when you are gone.

The energy in the room when you voted for Pastor Stephen was electric, exciting, magical. (If it had been a movie some of you certainly would have broken out into song and dance.) You are a different fellowship than you were two years ago when I joined you. I thank you for all the openness with which you welcomed me and for the hard work you put into moving to a better place. Thank you to all who stepped up in leadership and in following.

Being the body of Christ in a specific location is not easy work. We human beings so often get in our own way. It is no accident that much of the New Testament is filled with letters of chastisement and encouragement to those first congregations of Christians. Nor is it an accident that those same letters apply so directly to us today. I encourage you to continue to listen with ears and heart to those letters and the whole of the scriptures. I encourage you to continue to seek to be faithful and open, caring and forgiving.

It is time for me to pick up my talking umbrella and ride the wind into retirement. Thank you for helping to make my last go at it so meaningful. It has been a privilege and a joy to accompany you in this short leg of your journey. You are a blessed people. Don't forget this.

I pray that this next leg of your journey with Pastor Stephen will be filled with challenges of the right sort and therefore also filled with meaning and hope and love. God bless you.

Pastor John



Trinity Office Hours + Tues, Wed, Thurs + 9AM-1PM

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

We continue to have discussions at the council level regarding Outdoor Services. . . continue, alter, stop? This month there were a couple unsigned comments left in the box that were against outdoor services. I encourage you to leave your name so we can follow up with you directly regarding your concerns and the follow-up discussion at the council level that occurs. We are the representatives of Trinity. . . so please let us know if you prefer indoors or like staying outdoors. We will never be able to make everyone completely 100% happy, but the feedback we receive helps drive the choices that we make. Council will discuss the status of outdoor services in the July meeting, so if you have feelings one way or the other please let us know. For now the outdoor services will remain, weather dependent. At the July council meeting we will again discuss and make a decision moving forward.

Building on our goal of creating family-friendly options for our youth, there will be a number of clipboards available for youth that are a little bit older. This gives that age group an option of activities to keep themselves busy, while still being able to sit in church with their family. Deb Goslin has done a really nice job of coming up with these ideas and seeing them through to fruition.

Did you notice how much brighter the fellowship hall is? Property committee spearheaded an effort to change out the bulbs to a more energy efficient and brighter option. Bob Voss brought his scaffolding in and once he saw Jerry up there working, Bob took over and spent 10 hours changing them all out. I asked Jerry if he acted like he was going to fall off the scaffolding to get Bob to do the work. I never got an answer. . . just that mischievous grin that you'll see Jerry give every now and then!

A large part of the meeting was spent going over Pastor Stephen's financial package. While it's easy to look at the financial package relative to what we have/had in our own profession, it is important to remember that there is a certain market rate for pastors just as there is in every profession. It is important that we provide a compensation package that is market rate in order to attract and retain a pastor that we feel strongly about. Council unanimously voted on a financial package that follows Synod guidelines and is commensurate with the current market. By the time you read this the vote will have been passed and we will be moving to a very important stage in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church. I'm very excited to be a part of this important process and hope you are as excited about the future as I am!

Justin



COUNCIL NEWS IN A NUTSHELL JUNE 2022

- No changes will be made to Covid 19 policy at this time.
- Membership update is continuing and should be finished soon.
- The Church was used as a polling place June 7th and President Paul mentioned that polling officials were complementary of the church facilities.
- 2022 Pastoral Compensation Package was discussed and approved.
- Laura Crumbleholme has agreed to play for worship services for most of the summer.
- Suggestion box notes about outdoor services preferences were considered and after discussion, it was decided President Paul will encourage the congregation to give their opinion. Please write a note in the suggestion box or express your concerns and preferences to a council member on outdoor worship services. Council members are: Justin Paul, Jerry Short, Alice Cordts, Deb Goslin, Al McIlrath, Pastor John Grebner, Carol Kaufmann, Ron Leiby, Paul Opperman and Marcia Brunsvold.
- Youth in church discussion concluded with making sure there are places for both older and younger children to sit in area outside of worship area. Clipboards with materials for children to take into church will be provided with other materials. A bulletin board in the hall way for children to display their work will be available. Ushers or someone will let parents know where materials for children are located. Suggestions from congregation encouraged.
- Council Minutes in a Nutshell will be displayed on a hallway bulletin board.
- President Paul reported on Zoom Call with Bishop Amy. He said they talked about where we have been, where we are going, and the support we have had from Pastor John Grebner. Prayers for the church as we transition to a new pastor.
- Treasurer Judy Rutledge reported that compared to last year, this month's financial report was very positive.
- The **H.O.T. Team** provided fellowship for Meet and Greet June 12.
- As always, the Property Committee has worked on and will be working on many things. The committee will continue to work on: painting benches out front; getting outside lights to work; painting the shed; getting light fixture outside of kitchen working; removing brush on outside of church; relocating fellowship hall fan control.
- The Endowment committee report was discussed and noted that because of the current market, the \$30,000 designated by the congregation in Jan. of 2021 will go to a ministry determined by the Council. The fund is now down to \$28, 606. It was decided to keep the funds in the account for now.

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MAY 2022

Collections to date	\$83,993.16
Expenses to date:	\$66,803.34
Net to date:	\$17,203.17

No funds have been transferred from the Stewardship Reserves year to date.

BIRTHDAYS

3 Steve Aguilar	18 Lois Schurr
3 Peggy Claussen	20 Kris Rupp
5 Sarah Paul	22 Barb Paul
8 Bonnie Murphy	26 Travis Prather
8 Morgan Ven Horst	28 Pr. John Grebner
9 London Bicknell	29 Miles Paul
9 Abby Mattson	30 Dane Crist
9 Judy Reber	30 Maeva Denain
12 Connie Short	
15 Cassie Vining	



ANNIVERSARIES

9 Jenny + Chris Prather
20 Randy + Debi Goslin



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.

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Altar Guild	Diane Kaufmann	Linda Busch	Connie Short	Jo Ann Hogenson	Alice Cordts
Communion Assistant	Jo Ann Hogenson	Lois Schurr	Claudia Neumann	Michelle Wetterow	Carol Kaufmann
Lector	Darrell Paul	Bryan West	Jean Mattson	Ellen Opperman	John Newman
Usher/Greeter	Diane Kaufmann Connie Short	Ed Kaufmann Arnie Kaufmann	John Newman Don Cordts	Dane Crist Darrell Paul	Connie Short Judy Rutledge
Fellowship	Tom + Mary Shelton	July birthday group	John + Cathy Newman	Jean Mattson Diana Mayes	Rudie Eberlein Kris Rupp

SHARE-A-MEAL

Trinity Lutheran Church again participated in mission work in the community by cooking and serving at the Churches United meal site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. Thanks to all who made this possible.

Those cooking and preparing the meal were Bonnie Murphy, Deb Anderson, Connie Short and Lois Schurr. Those that donated cookies were Chris Kaul, Connie Short, Rudie Eberlein, Bonnie Murphy, Peg Claussen, Diane Holst, Mary Shelton and Lois Schurr. Justin Paul and family (all 6 of them) transported and served the food. The Paul's were able to serve some of the food outside and could interact with those present. We always enjoy having the youth help in our community projects. It gives them an incentive to continue helping others.

About 60 were served and 90 meals had been prepared. Churches United was happy to use the leftovers for Saturday. The menu was chicken salad sandwiches on a bun, potato chips, peaches, carrot and celery sticks, homemade cookies and bottled water. Donated items were 100 buns, boxes of food, toothbrushes, for adults and children and many toiletries.

Our Lord and Savior was there to make this all possible. Thanks be to God! Once again, thank you for your continued support. We will be serving again in September.

Lois Schurr

PRAY FOR PEACE

Almighty and Eternal God...arouse in the hearts of all of us who feel the pain of conflict, a hunger and thirst for justice and peace. Bring love among humankind in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to our souls, peace to our families, peace to our country, and peace among nations. Amen.



Condolences to Cassie Vining and family on the passing of her Father.



AMITIE NEWS

Amitie will meet on July 9 at 1:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. The group will tie fringe on baby quilts. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and mission outreach.

Rudie Eberlein, Convenor

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JUNE

May	29	56
June	5	52
June	12	65
June	26	59

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

July 6	Worship + Music	4:30 PM
July 9	Amitie	1:00 PM
July 9	Church Council	6:30 PM
July 25	Stewardship	6:30 PM

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

By the grace of God and the call of the Church

A large, horizontal, textured red brushstroke that serves as a background for the name.

Stephen Philip Nilsen

**will be ordained to the ministry of
Word and Sacrament.**

Saturday, July 23rd 4PM CST
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

Bishop Amy Current of the
Southeastern Iowa Synod Presiding
The Rev. Dr. Ann L. Fritschel Preaching

The color of the day is red. All ordained
ministers are invited to process.

Stephen has been called to serve
Trinity Lutheran Church Pleasant Valley, IA

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Each year the distribution amount from the Endowment Funds is based on the balance in the fund at the end of the previous September. In 2022 the distribution amount will be \$19,000. Per the Endowment Agreement, the funds will be given to organizations as follows:

20% Trinity Council-Discretionary Fund	\$3800
20% ELCA Affiliated Programs	\$3800
20% Community Service Programs	\$3800
40% Misc. Approved Organizations	\$7600

In April, 2022 \$2,000 was donated to Lutheran Disaster Relief for assistance in the Ukraine area. Over the next couple of months, the Endowment Committee will be working to make its recommendations for the distribution of the remaining \$17,000. Congregational input is important to the committee. Members of the congregation are invited to suggest possible uses. Written suggestions are encouraged and will be seriously considered.

Please consider your recommendations and submit requests to the committee soon. Final decisions will be made in August/September so we would like to have your forms by August 15th. Please see the request form in the Torch. Printed forms are available on the bulletin boards in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. With the printed forms is also a list of agencies who have previously been recipients of funds from the Trinity Endowment Fund over the last five years.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the members of the Committee. Committee members include Diana Mayes, Mitch Sussex, Alan Diers, Susan Varilek, and Council Representative, Marcia Brunsvold.



**Trinity Lutheran Endowment Committee
Congregation Suggestions for Endowment Fund
Distribution**

Congregation members, committees or groups seeking resources to support a program, organization, ministry or mission are invited to submit to the Endowment Committee requests for use of endowment distributions. All requests must be submitted in writing and received by August 15, 2022 for the current year's distributions.

Your Name _____

Your Contact Information Phone _____ **Email** _____

Organization you recommend for Donation _____

Contact Information and/or Address _____

Please provide information about the organization, ministry, and suggested use.

Suggested donation amount _____

(Please note that the committee is not bound by this suggestion but your input is appreciated.)

For questions, please contact Committee members: Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Mitch Sussex, Susan Varilek or Marcia Brusnvold.

Completed forms can be turned into the office or emailed to brunsvoldmarcia@gmail.com.