



THE TORCH

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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)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

“Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done. Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia!” – ELW 207 – “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

One of my favorite pieces of service music has always been this short and sweet song, often sung following Holy Eucharist. In worship, it comes at a time when we can always be thankful for all that God has done, in the time when we are probably thinking the most of Christ’s death and what it means for us: around the Holy Supper.

November in the United States is also a time when it’s hard not to think of things for which we are thankful. We end the month with Thanksgiving, a time to gather with our families and friends and thank God for the blessings around us. This year, we have lots of things to thank God for around us. I, for one, am thankful for all of you. I thank God for the work that has been done among all of you through the Holy Spirit to be gathered and sent in the name of Christ Jesus. It may seem like a small thing, but as some of you know, if you were here for worship on October 9, there are indeed lots of small miracles we can be thankful for in our everyday lives – and part of my everyday life is found in the gathering of the people here as part of Trinity Lutheran Church.

I also give thanks for things that some of our young people brought up in the children’s sermon that Sunday: for food and health, for a roof over my head and family, for our pets and the abundant life that we can share with them. Children, on their own, are also a great thing we can thank God for, blessing us with in this church, in our community, and in all the ways they touch our lives.

So what do we do with this thankfulness? Well, if we go back to the beginning of this article, we can learn from the words of that lovely song that with our voices raised we are to “tell everyone what God has done.” All of these blessings, that we spend time thinking of as we approach Thanksgiving, are something we can tell others about the ways God has blessed our lives. There is a tendency that we might quietly keep to ourselves without really telling people of these blessings – there’s a joke in here about Lutheran evangelism somewhere – but I’m here to tell you that it’s easier than ever today to spread the good word of Jesus Christ with your friends and neighbors.

We live in a time that is more connected than ever. With the press of a button on my phone, I can get food delivered to me, transportation provided for me, almost any piece of information I could ever want – including up-to-the-minute news, and connection with a long-lost friend through technology that we may have never dreamed of before 15 years ago. Those same things that we can give thanks for also allow us to connect with each other and tell them about the God that has blessed us. I invite you to try it sometime – with a friend on a phone call or text, with a stranger at the grocery store, or with someone you see at worship on Sunday – tell everyone what God has done! Give thanks with your thankful hearts and voices raised!

With Shouts of Thanksgiving,
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

First and foremost, Pastor Stephen shared with us the exciting news that he and Pastor Leah are expecting a baby! What a joyous occasion! We are very excited for Pastor Stephen and Pastor Leah and the many joys that a child will bring into their lives. Please join the council in celebrating this special occasion with Pastor Stephen.

Our October meeting was the first meeting with Claudia Neumann. Claudia was appointed to fill Ron Leiby's vacancy. Thanks Claudia for your willingness to join the council! I have always been impressed with how Claudia takes tough assignments and handles them with such diligence. She makes challenging tasks look easy and we are fortunate to have her on council!

Church clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 from 8:30AM to 12. Many hands make light work! If you can make it, there are a variety of tasks to be accomplished. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend as I must support the local Crime Stoppers 5K that is scheduled that same morning. Thanks to all who are able to help!!

Council spent a large amount of time wrestling with the idea of audits and the audit committee. Audits are an important system to keep track of expenses and reimbursements. The challenge is finding a larger committee to complete a thorough audit each and every month. If you would be interested in knowing more about the audit process here at Trinity, please see Claudia and she can help better explain what the audit committee needs to continue with a thorough auditing process.

Another large topic that the council has begun to discuss is that of creating a policy book. This book would be in an easily located place and could provide guidance on topics such as expense reimbursements and facility usage. Those two questions came up during council and are examples of some of the questions that need to be answered. It will be a heavy lift, but I'm hoping that this is a topic that interests and inspires others to help out. If this happens to be an interest of yours, please let me know.

Justin



MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November	1	Worship	4:30PM
November	7	Memorial	10:00AM
November	10	Property	11:30AM
November	14	Amitie	12:00PM
November	14	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

October	2	48
October	9	56
October	16	70
October	23	51

COUNCIL NEWS IN A NUTSHELL OCTOBER 2022

- Worship and music is developing options to streamline communion.
- Sunday School is going well. There is a sign up sheet in the hall way for teachers and helpers.
- Social Ministry will be collecting money for food baskets and plans to organize an Angel Tree in November.
- Council approved the installation of a new garage door for the shed that houses the lawn mowing equipment.
- The Stewardship Committee is working on Time and Talent searches and the proposed budget for 2023.
- The Endowment Committee noted that the distribution for 2023 will be \$14,000 noting a decrease due to fluctuation of the stock market over the last year.
- Claudia Neumann has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Council.
- There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who could help with the cleaning of the church over the next 4-6 weeks.

Any suggestions or comments, please see a Council Member or put in the suggestion box. Council members are: Justin Paul, Jerry Short, Alice Cordts, Deb Goslin, Al McIlrath, Carol Kaufmann, Paul Opperman, Marcia Brunsvold, Claudia Neumann, Pastor Stephen Nilsen



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022

Collections to date	\$143,695.12
Expensed to date	\$131,672.00
Net to date	\$12,023.12

No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves to date.

FALL CLEAN-UP

Get out your rakes and brooms and join us for Trinity Fall Clean-Up Day! Saturday November 5 with a rain date November 12. Start time is 8:30AM. Many hands make light work. Hope you can join in this time of work and fellowship.



REMINDER

Change of 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.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cindy Hall
- 2 Gavin Heidenreich
- 2 Andrea Naab
- 3 Shirley Brockhouse
- 4 Neil Vining
- 7 Babe Reber
- 8 Tiffany Engler
- 10 Chris Kaul
- 11 Hagen Vining
- 13 Jenny Prather
- 15 Hudson Vining
- 16 Paul Opperman
- 16 Nathan Vining
- 23 Heidi McBride
- 23 Kaa Junge



ANNIVERSARY

- 16 Jerry & Connie Short
- 19 Beau & Katie Dexter
- 24 Ray & Barb Norris
- 27 Darrell & Barb Paul
- 30 Don & JoAnn Hogenson



ALL SAINTS DAY

November 6 is All Saints Day.
In commemoration of all the Saints
who have passed before us, we
will light a candle in remembrance.



WEEKLY READINGS

11/6– Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38
 11/13 - Malachi 4: 1-2a, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21: 5-19
 11/20 Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, 2 Colossians 1:11-20 , Luke: 23:33-43
 11/27 Isaiah 2: 1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13: 11-14, Matthew 24: 36-44

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED THE WEEKLY HAPPENINGS HERE 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.

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27	December 4
Altar Guild	Carol Kaufmann	Randy Goslin	Linda Busch	Diane Holst	
Communion Assistant	Marcia Brunsvold	John Newman	Melissa Aguilar	Diana Mayes	
Lector	Glenna Sbertoli	Jean Mattson	Steve Aguilar	Ellen Opperman	
Usher/Greeter	Michelle Wetterow Dane Crist	Barb & Darrell Paul	Travis Brunsvold Judy Rutledge	Paul Opperman Arnie Kaufmann	
Fellowship	HOT Team Pie Sunday	Marcia Brunsvold Claudia Neumann	Alice & Don Cordts	Carol & Alan Diers	

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
Altar Guild	Connie Short	Jo Ann Hogenson			
Communion Assistant	Judy Rutledge		Claudia Neumann		
Lector	Bryan West	John Newman	Claudia Neumann		
Usher/Greeter	Ed & Carol Kaufmann	Deb Anderson Lois Schurr	Arnie & Diane Kaufmann		
Fellowship	David & Anna Heidenreich				

AMITIE

Amitie will meet on Monday November 14 at 12:00PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided. The group will tie 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.



H.O.T. TEAM

Hot Team is hosting Fellowship on November 6 with Pie Sunday. Please come and enjoy worship at 9:00AM and then enjoy as much pie as you can eat. Bring a favorite pie recipe and share stories of pie baking you have enjoyed with loved ones that have passed. You will be amazed at the assortment of delicious pies.

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 Endowment Committee has given us \$500. 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



SHARE A MEAL

Share A Meal at Zion Lutheran Church was a success! We served 120 people in a matter of 40 minutes.

I asked for donation of cookies and TRINITY responded! I don't know all of your names—a big thank you to all for helping.

We had a turkey donated so we changed the menu to a turkey casserole with noodles, celery, green beans, corn and other extras. The 2 roasters were completely empty when we left.

Those that helped cook were Connie Short, Bonnie Murphy, Deb Anderson and Lois Schurr.

Helping serve were Bryan and Cassie West and all 4 of their boys. Also serving were Lois Schurr and Deb Anderson.

Again thank you all for your support and thank God for making this meal a success and gratifying to all those involved.

Lois Schurr



Ah, November, Lord...
help me pray this month
for those I love
who have died.

LEARNING ABOUT MISSIONARY WORK

Dr. Reyna will be in the Quad Cities November 3-7. Dr. Reyna is a Pastor of 5 churches in Mexico and does missionary work. There will be a get-together on Sunday November 6 at Trinity from 1-5. This gathering will include all of the participants during the 9 mission trips in which Dr. Reyna was involved. Children and spouses are welcome. Anyone who is interested in knowing Dr. Reyna is invited as well. A great time to come and reminisce. Desserts and appetizers would be appreciated. Drinks will be provided.



Here are some fun facts about Thanksgiving...

- Turkey was not on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were served along with pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- There are four towns in the United States named "Turkey." They can be found in Arizona, Texas, North Carolina and Louisiana.

