



THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com
office@trinitylcpv.com

September 2022
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church • 18137 Criswell Street • P.O. Box 23 • Pleasant Valley, Iowa 52767 • 563-332-5188
Pastor Stephen Nilsen 563-332-6432 (office) 319-540-1172 (cell) snilsen@trinitylcpv.com (email)

Dear Siblings in Christ,

September is here, school is back, and with it comes the autumn colors and other great things like football, apple picking, and pumpkins. Of course, this August has felt fairly mild too, so the changing of the seasons almost feels like it's already been here for some time.

One of my favorite parts of fall when I was growing up was going back to school and seeing friends that I hadn't seen in a while. Sure, the usual gripes about less of the fun stuff and rest that summer brings from a school-aged child were there, but I've always been an extroverted person, and getting together for recess, lunch, and fun times in classes were always motivation to overcome the back-to-school blues.

Scripture has lots to say about learning, education, and the reasons why it is important for us to continue to grow as followers of Christ. Perhaps none more familiar than Proverbs 22:6:

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." (CEB)

Martin Luther writes in his introduction to the Large Catechism: "For if we wish to have excellent and apt persons both for civil and ecclesiastical government, we must spare no diligence, time, or cost in teaching and educating our children, that they may serve God and the world."

When we think about the life of the congregation here at Trinity, we all have a part in that training of the children, and we are never separated from being the children of God. We can learn lots from our children and certainly they learn a lot from us as well: our modeled behaviors, what we say and do during worship, how we show up in the world as Christians, to name just a few. What ways do we excitedly bring God's Word to children? How do we see children as a blessing to our congregation?

This isn't a push for everyone to rush to sign up and help with Sunday School – though any help is appreciated! Indeed, from Romans and Corinthians that each of us has our gifts according to the Spirit – some teachers, some healers, some gifted in exhortation, and so on. What if we thought of our connection to the congregation and the world around us a little bigger though? What if we were all connected in some way to education through either Bible studies or theological discussion or other opportunities that we haven't even thought of yet? Faith would come alive from our youngest children to our oldest, gray-haired saint!

Our faith formation cannot and should not be a one-way street. I look forward to learning from each of you: learning your stories, learning things that you have come to know about Scripture and faith, and learning about how your vocation has been lived out in your daily lives. These can be formal opportunities for learning or informal over fellowship and shared conversation. For far too long, our world has put Christian education into a box. We can always stretch these gifts for simply being together in Christ's presence to learning from one another in the presence of Christ.

When all is said and done, we're all children of God, so we can continue to learn and be trained in the way from which we should never depart – Jesus' way.

Learning alongside you,
Pastor Stephen

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

Pastor Stephen's Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs +10AM - 2PM

COUNCIL NEWS IN A NUTSHELL-AUGUST 2022

Pastor Nilsen reported:

- Office Hours: M-Th, 9 AM-2PM, or available by appointment. Pastor's Sabbath is Friday.
- Pastor reported to council on phone and in person visits and other activities he has been involved in.
- An education Survey was distributed with the weekly email and in the Sunday bulletin.

Coming Events discussed.

- Small group meetings with members of the congregation will be set up in the near future to give members an opportunity to continue to get to know Pastors Stephen and Leah.
- August 21 there will be a special Jazz Worship and a Blessing of the Backpacks.
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday is Sunday, September 11. The H.O.T. team is doing Fellowship.
- Crop Walk is Sunday, October 2. The route this year will go across the new I-74 bridge.
- Installation of Pastor Nilsen will be Sunday, October 16. Erika Uthe, Assistant to the Bishop will preach and preside and join fellowship/education.

Property:

- Here are some of the things property committee has been doing: removed posts, replaced a backflow valve, painted the shed and yellow lines on the steps; discarded old paint and put a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JULY 2022

Collections to date	\$111,413.13
Expenses to date:	\$97,315.42
Net to date:	\$14,097.71

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

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

September	8	Property	11:00AM
September	12	Amitie	12:00 PM
September	12	Church Council	6:30 PM

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR AUGUST

July	31	43
August	7	48
August	14	57
August	21	64

September

BIRTHDAYS

2 Linda Busch
4 Vicki Jebson
5 Darrell Paul
7 Alice Cordts
9 Ruth Ann Coon
10 Stephanie Engler
10 Barb Norris
11 Randy Goslin
18 Travis Brunsvold
20 Don Cordts
27 Reid Claussen
30 Bill Romans



ANNIVERSARY

3 Bob & Suzy White
4 Joshua & Beth Paul
7 Tim & Julie Trelstad
20 John & Cathy Newman



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.

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25	October 2
Altar Guild	Connie Short	Carol Kaufmann	Linda Busch	JoAnn Hogenson	Lois Schurr
Communion Assistant	Diana Mayes	Alice Cordts	Melissa Aguilar	Barb Paul	Marcia Brunsvold
Lector	Ellen Opperman	Susan Varilek	Steve Aguilar	Justin Paul	Bryan West
Usher/Greeter	John Newman Don Cordts	Ed Kaufmann Arnie Kaufmann	Travis Brunsvold Darrell Paul	John Newman Don Cordts	Judy Rutledge Connie Short
Fellowship	Judy Rutledge	H.O.T. Team	Melissa & Steve Aguilar	Barb & Darrell Paul	Marcia & Travis Brunsvold

CLUSTER 6 FALL WORK DAY

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Cluster 6 meeting will take place Saturday, October 8, 2022 at St. James Lutheran Church in Bettendorf. starting at 9AM with a light breakfast and ending at 11:30AM. We are planning to provide crocheted or knitted prayer squares for our five delegates from the SEIA women's synod that are planning to attend the Triennial next fall in Phoenix, AZ. Ideally we need 250 total. We will also be collecting quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and tying quilts at the workshop, and also rolling bandages for Global Health. Many hands make light work! Hope you can join us.

Attendees should contact Linda Kortemeyer at Korte4m3@gmail.com or 563 271-3309. Please let her know if interested in crocheting or knitting, as we will provide hooks and needles if needed, preferably size F hook for crocheting. We will also provide yarn. Doris Mack will help teach the pattern for these crochet squares, and we plan to have someone for the knitting as well. Hopefully once you have the instructions, more squares can be completed after the work day to be collected at our spring meeting.



We will plan to collect hygiene items for St. James Food Pantry and cash donations are also appreciated for supporting our cluster and synod and the food pantry.
Cindee Schnekloth

Condolences to the
Opperman family
on the passing
of Paul's mother
Jeanne Opperman.



AMITIE

Amitie will meet on Monday September 12 at 12:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sack lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided. The group will tie another fleece blanket for the Edgerton Clinic. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and mission outreach.

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor.



FISH FRY

The H.O.T will be sponsoring a Fish Fry on October 7 starting at 5:00PM in Fellowship Hall. Diane and Don Cook are providing the fish and frying the fish. H.O.T. Team will provide the drinks and table service. We are asking participants to bring either a side dish or a dessert. There will be a sign up sheet on the board in Fellowship Hall so we may have an idea of how many will attend. It's very important for Diane and Don Cook to know how many so they can plan accordingly.



SHARE A MEAL

Trinity served 85 people at Zion Lutheran Church site for Churches United. We ran out of food unfortunately so will have to prepare for more next time. The need is there! Thanks to Chris and Ken Kaul, Bonnie Murphy, and Pastor Stephen for helping serve. Also, a thank you to those donating cookies-Peg Claussen, Diane Holst, Alice Cordts, Linda Busch and Lois Schurr. It was a very rewarding experience for all of us. The next one will be October 21st. We will be serving roaster meals again. I hope we can have young people join us for the next one.
Thank you Trinity for your support all these years.

Lois Schurr

share  a meal



FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

Trinity is looking for someone willing to act as backup financial secretary and be prepared to handle routine duties in case of absence of the financial secretary. Routine duties consist of taking the weekly contributions report from the tellers who count the money and transfer the information to the ICON church management computer program. Then summarize the results to an excel spreadsheet and email to the treasurer. The amount of time required generally amounts to less than an hour per week.

Requirements for this job include computer access, comfort with computer programs such as Excel and willingness to learn the needed ICON skills. Of course, the contributions information is extremely confidential and must be handled very discreetly and accurately.

If you are interested, please see Don Cordts, the financial secretary with any questions. Don will provide the necessary training.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is coming up September 11! To participate in the ELCA's Day of Service, we will be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief's School Kit project and assembling the kits on Sunday, September 11. For a list of items needed, see the table in the entryway or visit: LWR.org/kits/school-kits/instructions. Call Debi Goslin with questions (563 320-2879.)





**Rally Sunday is coming up
Sunday, September 11!**

Bring your kids for a fun-filled Sunday with a scavenger hunt, prizes, and treats as we get ready to kick off the Sunday School year ahead. Children ages PreK through 6th Grade are invited to participate in our Sunday School year ahead. If you have other questions, reach out to Debi Goslin (debigoslin@gmail.com) or Pastor Stephen (snilsen@trinitylcpv.com)

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!

WEEKLY READINGS

9/4 Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Gospel: Luke 14:25-33
9/11 Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Gospel: Luke 15:1-10
9/18 Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Gospel: Luke 16:1-13
9/25 Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Gospel: Luke 16:19-31
10/2 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

