



THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com
office@trinitylcpv.com

April 2023
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 Gathered Growers in Christ,

Spring is always such a great time to marvel at all the things that are growing all around us! I can look out my office window here at the church and see lots of birds chirping, squirrels finding the nuts they had left behind last fall, and a few signs of the plant life returning to its spring green. Around your homes I bet you can see the various flowers popping up out of the soil, and it has been truly wonderful to see the ways the congregation continues to grow in faith here at Trinity too!

Throughout the season of Lent, we've grown together, sharing in meals each Wednesday evening, learning together in our book study on *Eat with Joy*, Bible study, and Sunday School; and we continued to worship together, sharing in the Spirit-led singing and praise for the God who created us and continues to dwell among us.

In each of my interactions this past month or so, I have continued to think of the hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil":

"Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. Where my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way."— ELW Hymn 512 — "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

When we grow alongside one another and see where the Spirit is calling our congregation in this community and around the world, it will continue to be like the song says: hardened hearts will soften, cold hearts will warm, and lost hearts will be led in God's right pathway. No matter how your life is going, we can continue to dwell in this promise.

So, what else is growing here at Trinity? Well, I'm glad you asked, friendly reader!

In the past month the P.P.A.Ls ministry group has gotten together to explore what partnerships might be possible again around Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Argo, and LeClaire. One of those possibilities is a shared Vacation Bible School possibility with the congregation at First Presbyterian Church in LeClaire. The excitement and growth around our young families is always something that I get excited about – like a new spring blossom. A technology task force continues to explore the possibility of live streaming our worship services, which will provide easier access for those who cannot attend worship in person.

In an even more literal sense, right here on our property, we might soon start to see gardening happening in a variety of ways. The butterfly garden and various decorative flowers that beautify our space could soon be joined by a vegetable garden that would be used to supply produce to nearby food pantries and other feeding ministries. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, a little elbow grease, and some amazing work from volunteers like you, the good soil here along Criswell Street will be brimming with exciting new developments.

Waiting with eager anticipation,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

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

MARCH COUNCIL IN A NUTSHELL

The supplemental hymn book, All Creation Sings, has arrived.

- After a Garden for Hunger proposal by a congregation member was presented to Council, a vegetable garden task force will be started at TLC for the purpose of helping to provide food for those in need. This committee will explore the possibility of this garden to provide food for the needy being implemented here.
- The Trinity Tech Task Force committee members Randy Goslin, Jim Sbertoli, and Travis Brunsvold continue to make progress on making Live stream available at TLC.
- March was busy with Lenten Services, soup suppers, and a book study. April brings Palm Sunday/ Easter Egg Hunt/Easter Sunday/ Book Study/Share-a-Meal. Maundy Thursday service will also recognize those young people who took First Communion class.
- Council committees continue to work on policies and policy updates for their committees. Council had a successful retreat in February and continue to discuss ideas for current times as well as the future. Remember you can suggest your ideas to a Council member or put a suggestion in the Suggestion Box.
- Although we may not see Pastor Stephen for a Sunday or a few in April/May this will be because of a joyous event! All share in the excitement that he and Pastor Leah will be welcoming a baby soon!

Deb Goslin, Council Secretary



ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR MARCH

March	5	60
March	12	49
March	19	77
March	26	68

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

March	1	30
March	8	22
March	15	30
March	22	32

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 3	Education	
April 4	Worship	4:30 PM
April 6	Property	11 :00 AM
April 10	Amitie	12 :00 PM
April 10	Council	6:30 PM
April 17	Stewardship	6:00 PM
April 20	Endowment	6:00 PM

BIRTHDAYS

1 David Heidenreich
4 Anna Heidenreich
8 Jeff Paul
15 Joel Rutledge
16 Sandra Foster -Miller
16 Cindi Ven Horst
18 Georgia Wright
20 Mitch Sussex
22 Chance Smiley
27 Jim Sbertoli



ANNIVERSARIES

4 Don & Alice Cordts
10 Andi & Christian Naab

AMITIE

Amitie will meet on April 10 at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sack lunch, drink and dessert will be provided. We will be tying another baby quilt for the Edgerton Clinic. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and worship.

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor



SPRING CLEANUP MAY 2023

Spring Clean Up will be Saturday May 6 at 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Rain date will be May 13 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. There will be a list of tasks to complete and refreshments will be served. Hope you can join us for this time of fellowship and fun.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2023

Collections to date	\$25,732.45
Expenses to date	\$27,277.12
Net to date	(\$1,544.67)

No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves to date.

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!

CCC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Each week after our gifted food items are picked up by volunteers for the CCC Food Pantry, Trinity received an email of Thanksgiving! Each week on Wednesday + Friday volunteers help distribute the food items at the pantry. Volunteers have been serving around 75 homeless persons each day they are open.

In April two of the regular volunteers must leave their volunteer positions because their families are being transferred out of our community. Karen Shapley, who manages the pantry, invites anyone from Trinity Lutheran Church to visit the pantry Wednesday or Friday (9-12 noon) to see how things operate. Please give Karen Shapley a call (563-320-3590) if you would like to visit the pantry during operational hours to see if you would like to volunteer for this much needed project in our community.

Social Ministry Committee

SPRING CLUSTER 6 MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

WHERE: THE VAULT Coffee & Café
220 W. Davenport St.
Eldridge, IA

TIME: Program begins at 10:00 AM. Dutch treat lunch to follow if desired.

PROGRAM: We are featuring **HUMBLE DWELLING**. They provide furnishings and needed items For immigrants coordinating with our friends at **TAPESTRY FARMS**.

Donations will be collected for the following: Humble Dwelling, our Women's Synod and Cluster 6. (please bring separate monies for each, thank you.)

Please RSVP to Barb Spies by April 15th. @ bispies68@gmail.com or call/text to 563-676-1238



BIBLE Study

WEDNESDAYS AT 10 AM

Join us for a **weekly** Bible study centered around the texts for the upcoming week's worship service as we find what God is up to in the text and our lives this week

ALL ARE
WELCOME

HOLY
BIBLE

WEEKLY READINGS

04/2 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

04/9 Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28: 1-10

04/16 Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

04/23 Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16: 1-4, 12-19, Luke 24:13-35

04/30 Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1Peter 2:19-25, John 10: 1-10

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.

	April 2 Palm Sunday	April 9 Easter	April 16	April 23	April 30
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes	Carol Kaufmann	Diane Holst	Connie Short	Linda Busch
Communion Assistant	Diana Mayes	Jo Ann Hogenson	Claudian Neumann	Steve Aguilar	Michelle Wetterow
Lector	Diane Noll	Jean Mattson	Dawn Brick	John Newman	Henry Marquard
Usher/Greeter	Chris Kaul Connie Short	Arnie Kaufmann Ed Kaufmann	Don Cordts Deb Anderson	Barb Paul Darrell Paul	Barb McIlrath Al McIlrath
Fellowship	Easter Egg Hunt	Arnie Kaufmann Diane Kaufmann			

The Scott County Library's Bookmobile is coming to Trinity

Bring your library card, and stop by the church parking lot on the following Tuesdays to check out books to read:

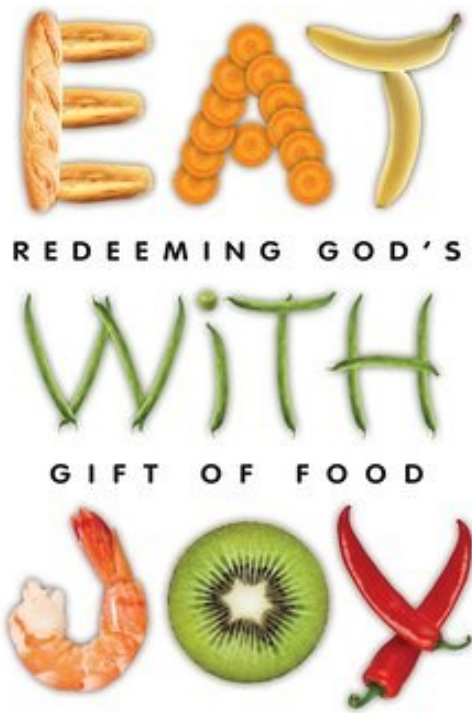
April 11

May 2

May 23

4:15-4:45 PM





Rachel Marie Stone

Foreword by Norman Wirzba

Lenten Book Study:
Eat With Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food
by Rachel Marie Stone

Our Lenten Book Study was very successful in opening up a lot of dialogue around food, sustainability, eating in community, and a whole slew of other topics in Rachel Marie Stone's book *Eat with Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food*.

If you missed the discussions or would like to learn more, there will be a copy in our church's library in the narthex, and Pastor Stephen and the others who read the book over the course of this Lent would love to discuss more of it with you.

If you have any other recommendations for future book studies or even a movie to watch together, please let Pastor Stephen know!



Lenten Soup Suppers Have Helped Fight Hunger!

This Lent, we have been collecting free will donations for ELCA World Hunger's efforts against hunger. There is so much we can do to fight against hunger, but our financial support that goes towards this vital ministry of the ELCA is a great place to start!

For more info about ELCA World Hunger, visit [ELCA.org/Hunger](https://www.elca.org/Hunger)



Pastors Stephen and Leah Are Expecting a Baby

By now, you're probably aware that this month Pastor Stephen and his wife Pastor Leah are expecting their first child to be born this month. When this happens, Pastor Stephen will take two weeks of parental leave (followed by four more weeks this summer) so that the child can have as much time with young parents as possible.

If you have pastoral care needs during this time, please contact the office, and Paula will be able to get you in touch with one of the pastors that have agreed to cover for Pastor Stephen during these weeks. A huge thanks is due in advance to Jim Sbertoli, a retired pastor and member of our congregation, for agreeing to preach and preside these first few weeks. Another thanks goes from Stephen and Leah for all of your prayerful support throughout pregnancy and for welcoming us as part of your church family.



Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly and Synod Revival is Coming!

What is Synod Revival?

A one-day event presented by the Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA designed to nourish and connect people to each other and to reimagine our relationships in and with the church.

This event is free of charge and intended to be a joyful fun gathering

for all ages full of inspiration, worship, and prayer. Bring your friends, neighbors, family, or anyone and watch what God does!

Saturday, May 20th
Grand View University
Des Moines
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn more at synodrevival.org



Did you know you can always find out more about what's happening around Southeastern Iowa by signing up for the weekly eNews that they put out? Visit seiasynod.org/enews-sign-up/ to sign up!

The Shoe Man Poem

My alarm went off, it was Sunday again. I was sleepy and tired, my one day to sleep in. But the guilt I would feel the rest of the day, would have been too much so I'd go and I'd pray. I showered and shaved and adjusted my tie. I got there and sat in a pew just in time. Bowing my head in prayer as I closed my eyes, I saw the shoe of the man next to me touching my own, I sighed. With plenty of room on either side, I thought, "Why must our soles touch?" It bothered me, his shoe touching mine but it didn't bother him much. A prayer began: "Our Father"...I thought, "This man with the shoes has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched, even worse, there are holes on the side!" "Thank you for the blessings," the prayer went on.

The shoe man said a quiet "Amen." I tried to focus on the prayer, but my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren't we supposed to look our best when walking through that door? "Well this certainly isn't it," I thought glancing toward the floor. Then the prayers was ended and the songs of praise began. The shoe man was certainly loud sounding proud as he sang. His voice lifted the rafters, his hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear the shoe man's voice from the sky. It was time for the offering and what I threw in was steep. I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep. I saw what was pulled out, what the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft "clink" as when silver hits tin. The sermon really bored me to tears, and that's no lie. It was the same for the shoe man for tears fell from his eyes. At the end of the service, as is the custom here, we must greet new visitors and show them all good cheer. But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the shoe man. So after the closing prayer, I reached over and shook his hand. He was old and his skin was dark and his hair was truly a mess.

I thanked him for coming and being our guest, he said, "My names' Charlie, I'm glad to meet you, my friend." "There were tears in his eyes but he had a large, wide grin. "Let me explain," he said wiping tears from his eyes. I've been coming here for months and you're the first to say "Hi." "I know my appearance is not like all the rest, but I really do try to always look my best. Always clean and polish my shoes before my very long walk. But by the time I get here, they're dirty and dusty, like chalk." My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to hide my tears as he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near. He said, "When I get here I know I must look a sight. But I thought if I could touch you then maybe our souls might unite." I was silent for a moment knowing whatever was said would pale in comparison, I spoke from heart, not my head. "Oh, you've touched me," I said, "And taught me, in part; that the best of any man is what is found in his heart." The rest, I thought, this shoe man will neve know. Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

Leanne Freiberg





April 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, in-home visits and parenting classes to families across Iowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide Iowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across Iowa...

...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,

...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,

...a former refugee found a new home in Iowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like **you**! LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across Iowa.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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 July 30 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, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining, or Marcia Brunsvold. Completed forms can be turned into the office or emailed to brunsvoldmarcia@gmail.com.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Trinity's Endowment Committee is gearing up for another year of giving. Each year, 5% of the fund is distributed according to the Mission Endowment Agreement. In 2023m the distribution will be \$14,000, The breakdown as follows:

20% Council Discretionary Fund	\$2800
20% ELCA Affiliated Programs	\$2800
20% Community Service Programs	\$2800
40% Miscellaneous	\$5600



In the next couple of months, the Endowment Committee will be working to make its recommendations for the use of these funds. Congregational input is important to the committee. Members of the congregation are invited to suggest possible uses. Written suggestions are encourage and will be seriously considered.

Please consider your recommendations and submit your requests to the committee soon. Request forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex or by contacting the office, or a committee member. We are asking that your suggestions be submitted by July 30.

Committee members: Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining, Mitch Sussex, Treasurer and Marcia Brunsvold, Council Representative.