



THE TORCH

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February 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 Siblings in Christ,

I've been doing a lot of thinking about planning lately.

With our first child on the way, due in late April, it's easy to see why my wife and I have been doing some planning there. Everything including (but not limited to) talking about a budget, readying the nursery, figuring out childcare, our leave and how this affects our work, and the whole rest of the list you can think of are being considered. Even though we make plans, however, unexpected events and changes are bound to arise in the life of our child.

The life we share together in community here at Trinity is similar. At the annual meeting, we read and hear about the things we've done in the past year, the financial outlook of the congregation, and elect council members along with Luther Properties annual meeting delegates, representatives to our synod assembly, and endowment committee members. In the tables all around the fellowship, I could see fruitful conversations about where we've been and where we are going.

At that annual meeting, I raised a question concerning some of the funds that are not currently designated for anything in particular and invited you all to share in the discernment process for the mission of this congregation. While we understand that each of us brings unique gifts (as we hear throughout Paul's letters in the New Testament), it is essential to remember that our unity in Christ sends us forth for the mission of God in the world.

One hymn that continues to rattle around in my head as I pray and consider what God might be calling us to do as a congregation is "We All Are One in Mission" (ELW 576). In the first verse, we sing:

*"We all are on in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love."*

This hymn, with lyrics written by Rusty Edwards in 1985, reminds us that we are to go forth and share Christ's love with the neighbor, just as the Great Commission from Jesus did for the first disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Will the living out of this mission be perfect? No, probably not. It wasn't perfect for the first disciples either, but they persevered, united in Christ's love, with Jesus' final words from the Gospel of Matthew guiding "And remember, I am with you to the end of the age." Our Redeemer's promise to be with us to the end of the age surely includes now, in a place like this, with a people such as this, and we can go forth proclaiming that good news in our thought, word, and deed.

I invite you again: share with me, share with a member of council, share with someone sitting in the pew next to you: what is it that you have found God calling for a committed congregation to go out and do. Imagine thinking beyond all the budget constraints and the other restrictions you might usually place. What would it be like if we could unite around God's mission? How would that be lived out? Get curious! Ask questions! Pray and discern with me for the life of this congregation! The Holy Spirit is alive here, and we can share that with the world in so many ways.

In the Unity of the Spirit,

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

By the time you read this, we will have completed another successful annual congregational meeting. It is always a pleasure to be able to report on the good news and blessings that occurred at Trinity during 2022. But despite the successes, there are still improvements and issues that can be addressed.

Hopefully by now you've heard about the Usher Workshop on February 5th after service. This is just a time for ushers or those interested in being an usher to review the guidelines and processes for the position. Often people are willing to help, but they are hesitant as they don't really know what the job entails. This workshop will help put everyone on the same page. There is discussion about doing the same thing for other volunteer opportunities such as Altar Guild and Communion Assistant.

Another topic of discussion at the January council meeting was that of taking out a 1 year Certificate of Deposit (CD) to take advantage of rising interest rates with funds that we do not anticipate needing over the next year. There were some complications of having a savings and checking account at Black Hawk State Bank. It was suggested that everything be moved into the checking account. . . and then it was suggested that a portion of the funds we don't anticipate using should be put in a CD. The additional funds the CD generates will dump directly back into the general fund.

If you have time, please thank our newest council members, Diane Cook and Dane Crist, for joining the church council. They will both provide valuable insight and suggestions for Trinity, and I'm thrilled that they were willing to join council. If you hadn't heard, Claudia did not continue on council as she was willing to provide her experience and expertise on the Audit Committee. We appreciate Claudia being willing to help out wherever she is needed most!

I'm very excited about the upcoming Lenten Service schedule. It will be a chance to gather for a meal, take part in a book study, and attend a Lenten service. We always seem to be looking for opportunities that get us the "biggest bang for the buck." Here is an opportunity to take part in 3 worthwhile and fulfilling activities on 1 Wednesday night! I hope you will be able to fit this into your schedule.

Justin



MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February	6	Education	6:30 PM
February	7	Worship	4:30 PM
February	13	Council	6:30 PM
February	20	Stewardship	6:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JANUARY

January	1	46
January	8	53
January	15	
January	22	44
January	29	

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Don Hogenson
- 4 Ellen Opperman
- 13 Karen Romans
- 16 Ridge Raddatz
- 19 Lolita Baker
- 26 Carol Kaufmann



February



ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Joel & Judy Rutledge



PRAYER SHAWLS

The supply of prayer shawls is getting low. A baby prayer shawl is needed as well as regular sizes. There is plenty of yarn available in the Narthex. It would be so appreciated if any of you talented crocheters would help fill the prayer shawl bins.



Sailing Sunshine Sandy beaches
Cruising Nightlife Fun

FYI: I will be out of the office on Feb. 7, 8, and 9. I will be sailing to faraway places for a week of sun and fun. Paula



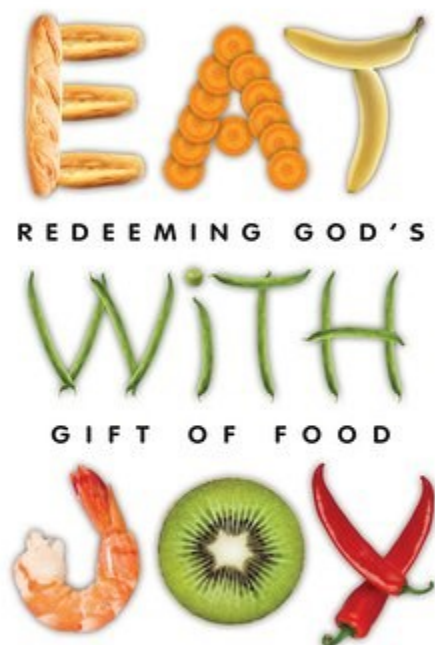
YEAR TO DATE THROUGH DECEMBER 2022

Collections to date	\$174,113.94
Expenses to date	\$166,154.46
Net to date	\$7,959.48

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!



Lenten Book Study:
Eat With Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food
by Rachel Marie Stone
Wednesdays at 6PM - March 1-29

As part of our Lenten Midweek Suppers and Worship Services, Pastor Stephen invites you to take part in a book study on the insightful book *Eat With Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food* by Rachel Marie Stone. As we consider throughout Lent what our faith means to us, we are reminded that God intended for us to delight in food, and Stone calls us to rediscover joyful eating by receiving food as God's gift of provision and care for us. We'll split the study over the course of the five Wednesdays in Lent before Holy Week, and if you'd like to buy the book, you may either talk to Pastor Stephen or purchase one online at the following: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Eat-With-Joy-Redeeming-Gods-Gift/dp/1555550000) | [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/eat-with-joy-rachel-marie-stone/1130811000) | [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org/books/eat-with-joy-redeeming-gods-gift-of-food/9781555550000)

The readings for the weeks will be:

March 1	Introduction & Chapter 1	p. 11-42
March 8	Chapters 2 & 3	p. 43-87
March 15	Chapters 4 & 5	p. 88-131
March 22	Chapter 6	p. 132-156
March 29	Chapter 7	p. 157-176

If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Stephen.

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Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers Returning!

With Lent is just around the corner (Ash Wednesday is February 22), we'll have Lenten midweek worship services with soup suppers each Wednesday in March. A few people can host each meal – whether that's soup or some other shareable meal. You can sign up to host a meal on the sheet in the narthex or at this link: <https://bit.ly/TLCLentenSupperSignUp>

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Worship Volunteer Workshop

Sunday, February 5 after Worship

For those who are new ushers, would like to be a lector, or just want a refresher on Communion server duties, there will a be brief workshop following worship on February 5. We'd love to answer any questions you might have or help share in your wise answers!

Lenten Midweek Worship Volunteers Sign-Up

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Lector					
Usher/ Greeter					
Midweek Meal	Arnie & Diane Kaufmann Connie & Jerry Short	Ed & Carol Kaufmann Al & Barb McIlrath	Pam Schroder Linda Busch		



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

2/05 Isaiah 58:1-9, Psalm 112:1-9,
1 Corinthians 2:1-12,
Matthew 5:21-37

2/12 Deuteronomy 30:15-20,
Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,
Matthew 3:13-20

02/19 Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2,
2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

02/22 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17,
Psalm 51: 1-17,
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6-10 ,
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

02/26 Exodus 9: 24:12-18, Psalm 32,
2 Peter 1: 16-21, Matthew 4:1-11

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.

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 22 Ash Wednesday	February 26
Altar Guild	Randy Goslin	Barb McIlrath	Connie Short	Linda Busch	Diane Holst
Communion Assistant	Carolyn Kaufmann	Diana Mayes	Jim Sbertoli	Michelle Wetterow	Claudia Neumann
Lector	Glenna Sbertoli	Justin Paul	Henry Marquard	Claudia Neumann	John Newman
Usher/Greeter	Diane Cook Judy Rutledge	Barb & Al McIlrath	Sharon Marquard Jo Ann Hogenson	John Newman Connie Short	Travis Brunsvold Chris Kaul
Fellowship	Tom & Mary Shelton	HOT TEAM	Peg Claussen Diane Holst		Diana Mayes Sharon Marquard

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Altar Guild	Diane Kaufmann		Carol Kaufmann	
Communion Assistant		Claudia Neumann		
Lector		Ellen Opperman		
Ushers/ Greeters (2)	Al & Barb McIlrath	Paul Opperman Diane Cook	Ed & Arnie Kaufmann	
Fellowship		HOT TEAM		