



# THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com  
office@trinitylcpv.com

July 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,

Just a few weeks ago (June 4 on Holy Trinity Sunday, to be exact), we heard a first reading in our worship service that included the entire first chapter of Genesis, and a few verses into the second chapter. This beautifully poetic prose tells the story of God's creating the universe, from the stars in the sky down to the smallest creeping thing. Throughout these six time periods (we call them "days" in English, because it's the closest approximation of the Hebrew word "yō·wm" we have), God creates order out of chaos, separating things like the sky from the water, and calling all of what is created "good." We have been through an impressively full first six months here at Trinity in 2023.

We have grown in faith through worship, Bible study, a book study in Lent, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, two baptisms, a number of new members welcomed, a few growing gardens raising flowers and produce, sharing meals with those in need, partnering with other congregations in the PPALs ministry partnership, fellowship opportunities that continue to connect people to one another, and more. Looking back at even the past month, it seems like a whirlwind of activity.

*"And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation." (Genesis 2:2-3, NRSV)*

Just like that, after creating so much, working so hard, entrusting that creation to continue to take part in the creative action that takes part to this day, God pauses. Not only that, but God blesses the pause. On that blessed pause, God takes time to rest. We try to find time to rest in our own lives: it's the reason we try to uphold a weekend break from school and work; it's found later in Leviticus 25 when the Israelites celebrate a year of jubilee – a sabbatical from their cycle of debts; it's found throughout much of God's creation in nature when we see creatures great and small who have patterns for rest and relaxation.

This month ahead, in July, I will go back on a parental leave that may be far from restful in the purest sense of the word. Baby Leslie will cry, have diapers to change, eat, learn, play, and grow throughout my month with her. Throughout the first ten weeks of her life, I have seen and been a part of this bond developing between her and my wife Leah. We are forever grateful as a family that this church family has agreed to the plan of splitting the six weeks of parental leave into two chunks of two and four weeks. Rest from the work of pastoral ministry in the form of working on a daddy-daughter bond will be invaluable for years to come.

I invite you to join me in rest. Indeed, God invites all of us to join in the rest of the Sabbath. We keep it holy and sacred as commanded in the Ten Commandments. We value it in ways that we find most restful – whether that is something like taking a nap (as many-a-pastor does on Sundays after worship) or taking a light stroll or bike ride or socializing with friends. Rest is a sacred gift that we are to cherish.

As a congregation, this could look interesting, but I invite you to pause and take stock on what it is that we have been doing here at Trinity. Share with each other in the joys and sorrows. Be present with one another in worship and fellowship, as that is a great way for all to celebrate the weekly Sabbath, but find rest where you can. The summer is often a time in the life of the congregation where we can recharge and ready ourselves for the beginning of a new school year; the months will fly by before Advent and Christmas are here, but we can still pause to pray and discern for what is ahead.

Sharing in God's creation and hoping you join in God's blessed rest,

*Pastor Stephen Nilsen*

## LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Our June meeting started off with a question from Pastor Stephen. . . “What about Trinity Lutheran Church makes God Smile?” This question elicited great responses like, “Sharing of the Peace,” “12 New Members,” “Weekly Bible Study,” “Children’s Sermon,” and “Giving Attitude of Trinity towards our community”. I hope you will consider this question personally and use your response as motivation to continue serving Trinity Lutheran Church.

Our June meeting was full of lots of exciting topics! Here are some of the highlights:

Our July 2<sup>nd</sup> church service looks to be an exciting one. . . outdoors with music provided by Jean Mattson. Ice cream and games after service. Hopefully you can attend service and stay for activities afterwards!

We have been looking for a fill-in financial secretary to help give Don Cordts a break. Randy Goslin has graciously agreed to take on this role. We are in the process of making this update with our bank. Thank you Randy! And thank you Don! Don has quietly handled the financial secretary role for years and done an amazing job.

A major Council goal this year has been putting in the infrastructure to be able to Livestream our services. We are at the end stages of making this happen. Council approved an expenditure of up to \$3200.00 to purchase the equipment needed to Livestream church services. This was a council priority at the beginning of the year and it’s nice to see it coming to fruition. Many thanks to the Trinity Tech Task Force for moving this goal forward.

If you enjoy baseball, keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet for Trinity Night at the Ballpark on Friday on July 14th. Dane suggested this idea and is putting efforts towards lining up a night for our congregation to gather together at the River Bandits game. Dane always has great suggestions on ideas to engage everyone here at Trinity. If you are interested, please sign up on board in the narthex.

Council is gathering information and will be performing a Review Process for Pastor Stephen. This process will be done in conjunction with the Southeastern Iowa Synod. As we move forward in this process, council members may be soliciting feedback from you. I am a firm believer that reviews should not be the first time that concerns are brought up. If you ever have any concerns, please communicate them directly to any member of the council so they can be discussed and addressed. Council will keep you informed throughout this process.

Hopefully you have heard about RAGBRAI, but if not it’s basically a massive bike ride across the State of Iowa that occurs throughout a seven day period. This year the bike ride starts on July 23 in Sioux City and ends in Davenport on July 29. RAGBRAI is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! The three Iowa Bishops have created a campaign entitled, “Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger.” They will be trying to raise \$50,000 to fight hunger and highlighting 50 anti-hunger ministries along their week-long journey. As a council we decided to support this event by matching congregational donations. The matching funds will be taken out of the Council Discretionary fund. If you are so inclined to make a donation to “Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger,” please make some sort of notation on your donation so it is properly documented.

Like I said in the beginning of my message. . . lots of exciting things going on at Trinity this summer! I hope you’re able to take some time to participate in some of them!

Justin

### YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MAY 2023

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Collections to date | \$78,899.81 |
| Expenses to date    | \$66,445.54 |
| Net to date         | \$12,454.27 |

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

**Trinity Office Hours Tues, Wed, Thurs - 9AM-1PM**  
**Pastor Stephen’s Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs -10AM - 2PM**

## 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

*Happy Anniversary*



## 2023 GRADUATES!



Summer Hogenson graduated from Bettendorf high school with high honors and is going to continue her education at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.



Brock Benson graduated from Pleasant Valley High School. Brock is currently employed with the city of Eldridge and will be attending Lineman School soon.



Aaron Trelstad graduated from Pleasant Valley High School this year and will be attending Iowa State with Honors this fall. Aaron is majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics.



Tiffany Engler graduated from Scott Community College with an Associate Degree in Early Childhood. Tiffany is currently working at Hand in Hand in Bettendorf, IA



### 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 2                          | July 9                        | July 16                      | July 23                          | July 30                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Altar Guild         | Jo Ann Hogenson                 | Carol Kaufmann                | Linda Busch                  | Diana Mayes                      | Randy Goslin                    |
| Communion Assistant | John Newman                     | Jo Ann Hogenson               | Claudia Neumann              | Henry Marquard                   | Melissa Aguilar                 |
| Lector              | Bryan West                      | Barb Paul                     | Claudia Neumann              | Ellen Opperman                   | Steve Aguilar                   |
| Usher/Greeter       | Arnie & Diane Kaufmann          | Connie Short<br>Barb McIlrath | Don Cordts<br>Debra Anderson | Paul Opperman<br>Sharon Marquard | Al McIlrath<br>Travis Brunsvold |
| Fellowship          | HOT TEAM<br>Ice Cream<br>Sunday | Alan & Carol<br>Diers         | Barb & Darrell<br>Paul       |                                  |                                 |

#### AMITIE

Amitie will meet on July 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



#### MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

|               |                      |           |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>July 4</b> | <b>Office Closed</b> |           |
| July 6        | Property             | 11:00 AM  |
| July 10       | Amitie               | 12 :00 PM |
| July 10       | Council              | 6:30 PM   |
| July 17       | Stewardship          | 6:00 PM   |

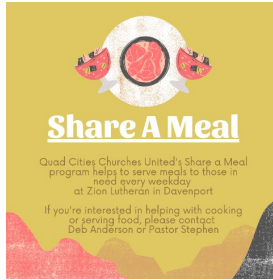
#### ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JUNE

|      |    |    |
|------|----|----|
| June | 4  | 72 |
| June | 11 | 61 |
| June | 18 | 85 |
| June | 25 | 89 |

## SHARE-A-MEAL

On June 18 the Share-A-Meal team came together to serve. Connie Short, Bonnie Murphy, and myself prepared the meal. We had plenty of cookies. A big thank you to those who baked. Justin Paul and his family helped serve a small group of about 25. If anyone would like to serve, volunteers are always welcome. Our next date to serve is September 15. I thank God that we are able to continue to serve Him by helping those in need.

Debra Anderson



## REMINDER

Pastor Stephen will be on parental leave from July 1 to July 31. If there are concerns call the office or one of the Pastor's listed next to Pastor's Stephen's office on the bulletin board. The pastoral list will also be on the weekly email.



## SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY'S BOOKMOBILE COMES TO TRINITY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the church parking lot through the summer on Tuesday afternoons every three weeks. Anyone with a library card from a library in Scott County can check out books and other media

*4:15-4:45PM on July 11, August 1 & 22*

We'd love to see you there!



## WEEKLY READINGS

**07/02** Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

**07/09** Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14,  
Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**07/16** Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65: 1-13,  
Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

**07/23** 1 Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86: 11-17,  
Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**07/30** 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136,  
Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



### Feeding Our Community with Central Community Circle Food Pantry

The Central Community Circle Food Pantry truly appreciates your generosity, and you can continue to bring non-perishable food items or bottled water whenever. Volunteers at the food pantry also love to have **rain ponchos and travel sized personal hygiene items** to distribute.

*Even more...* you are invited to volunteer at the food pantry with sorting or distributing items, **Wednesday and Friday mornings 9AM-noon**. Contact Pastor Stephen if you have a group of folks who would like to go over to the pantry together.



"Do for others what you want them to do for you; this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teaching of the prophets."  
(The Golden Rule) - Matthew 7:12

### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT IN AUGUST: STIR THE FIRE MINISTRY

Join Diane Noll **after worship Sunday, August 6**, as she shares about the work she and others have done in Zambia helping those in need with the organization Stir the Fire Ministry! Diane and others have gone on trips and supported the work to invest in the future building a school and providing supplies to those in need. The Endowment Committee has also supported the work of this ministry in previous years.

For more info about Stir the Fire, visit [StirTheFireUSA.org](http://StirTheFireUSA.org)



### TRINITY LUTHERAN FEEDING MINISTRY GARDEN UPDATE

Spring onions are completely harvested providing room for two additional plantings of green beans. Despite heat and drought, the beans are looking good due to volunteers watering regularly. Peppers are beginning to appear as well as a few tomatoes. A doe and fawn have helped themselves to tomato plants outside of the fenced garden but all plants within the fenced area are well protected. Cucumbers and squash were planted last month beside lattice structures (donated by the McIlraths) at a remote location due to the space required for those plants. Both varieties are doing well.



### 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](mailto:office@trinitylcpv.com)) Paula in the office to sign up!



## Seeking Help with Livestreaming Worship

For the past few months, Randy Goslin, Travis Brunsvold, Jerry Short, and Pastor Stephen along with the Worship & Music Committee and Property Committee have been working on getting our sanctuary ready to livestream our worship services. This ministry will help to reach out to both our homebound members and others exploring what worship is like at Trinity. In the coming month, we would love to hear from **YOU** if you are interested in serving during worship to record our livestream. Please contact Pastor Stephen or Randy Goslin ([rgoslin@mchsi.com](mailto:rgoslin@mchsi.com)) if you would like to help.

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### TRINITY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

*Friday, July 14 @ 6:30 PM* Take me out to the ball game! Trinity's Council would like to invite you to a Quad Cities River Bandits game. Tickets are \$8 for general admission or \$12 for box tickets. With enough people interested, we can get a block of seats together to have a great night out! Have your reservation in by July 6!



### IOWA BISHOPS RIDE AGAINST HUNGER

The three ELCA bishops in Iowa, have decided to ride RAGBRAI, riding 50 mile + miles together each day, celebrating and highlighting 50+ anti-hunger ministries in our three synods, and raising \$50K for ELCA World Hunger. TLC council will match all donations towards this fund raiser. Indicate "ELCA Hunger" on your offering to contribute.



## SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LE CLAIRE

The Pleasant Valley School District does not qualify for the federal summer lunch program that many schools qualify for. As a result PV students are advised to visit a Bettendorf school that provides lunches. For students and families in Le Claire that can be a significant barrier. Finding a way to bridge this gap and care for the needs of children in our community has been something First Presbyterian Church in Le Claire has been working on and would love our help. The new Free Summer Lunch program we are starting this year will help bridge that gap.

First Presbyterian will *serve meals 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)*. Meals will meet nutritional needs of children and be children sized servings. One meal per person. Meals will be sack lunch style of uncooked items, such as sandwiches, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Meal prep will start at 11 am with distribution between 11:30-12:30. We will need two volunteers a day. Volunteers can sign up at: <https://bit.ly/FPCLeClaireFreeLunchHelpSignUp>

Share this new program with your friends and neighbors with the flyer below:

**Free Summer Lunch Program**

**11:30-12:30**

**Monday- Wednesday-Friday**  
**At First Presbyterian Church**

**No sign up or registration required**  
**For more information visit [fpcleclaire.org](https://bit.ly/fpcleclaire.org)**

Grab -n- Go

June 12 till August 17



**July 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article**

**God's work. Our hands.**

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry. Through your support, a first-time mom is able to receive the education and resources she needs to build futures full of hope, a person with a disability is reaching their goals and becoming more independent each day, and an immigrant is learning English through our Community Based English Language Learning (CBELL) program led by compassionate teachers.

This month, we would like to give a special thank you to those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project. On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your generous support in this important work! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

**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.**

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**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](mailto: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:

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>20% Council Discretionary Fund</b> | <b>\$2800</b> |
| <b>20% ELCA Affiliated Programs</b>   | <b>\$2800</b> |
| <b>20% Community Service Programs</b> | <b>\$2800</b> |
| <b>40% Miscellaneous</b>              | <b>\$5600</b> |



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.