



THE TORCH

www.trinitylcpv.com
office@trinitylcpv.com

June 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)

“We’ve got spirit! Yes we do! We’ve got spirit! How ‘bout you?!”

When I was in high school, this was one of the favorite cheers of our Linn-Mar student section. At our football and basketball games, our rowdy fans would shout this to the other sideline, and the visiting fans from the other school would shout it back to us, followed by each side shouting back and forth:

“We’ve got more!” “WE’VE GOT MORE!!” “**WE’VE GOT MORE!!!**” “**WE’VE GOT MORE!!!!**”

While the rousing spirit of a high school student section is sometimes far from our contemplative experience in worship, we were reminded again through another celebration of the Sunday of Pentecost at the end of May that *we* (indeed, *all of us!*) have been blessed by receiving the Holy Spirit. How can this be? What does it do? What does it mean for us here at Trinity?

In the Gospel of John, after Jesus has been crucified and risen (but before the disciples know of his rising since they are locked in the upper room), Jesus comes and stands among the gathered disciples, and tells them, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21-22, NRSV). Jesus breathes, and just like that, the disciples could join in with the cheer “We’ve got Spirit! Yes we do!”

Still confused by what having this Spirit would mean for them, the disciples continue to pray, meeting with each other, and talking among themselves. As the Holy Spirit guides them, the disciples learn that they are called and sent into the world. On Ascension Sunday, we read from Acts: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit doesn’t stop there, however, as we learn that the Holy Spirit rushes in like a strong wind, stirring up those gathered for the Jewish festival of Pentecost (50 days after Passover, to mark the blessing of the spring wheat harvest). Those gathered suddenly hear and understand languages from all the ends of the earth – a remarkable gift the Spirit continues to give to those who are fluent in multiple languages. Paul writes in numerous letters about the gifts of the Spirit and how each of us is part of the Body of Christ, with gifts that bless our neighbors through all sorts of ministry and our daily vocations.

What is the Holy Spirit up to here at Trinity? There is lots! Our gardens are sprouting new life in vegetables and flowers for pollinators and our own enjoyment. Our youth have the opportunity to take part in VBS in our shared partnership with First Presbyterian in LeClaire. We continue to nourish one another in the gift of fellowship shared after Spirit-led worship. The Spirit continues to guide all we do through all we do.

Trusting in the promise of this Triune God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us – and *everything* around us – is the core of our faith. Trust may be hard in some circumstances: I often find myself thinking *am I really going to do **that** as a Christian today?!* In the midst of those thoughts and prayers, I take refuge in knowing the Spirit will be there, in those times that are easier and harder to understand.

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

Wow, is really all I can say when I look at the beauty of our church grounds. I'm sorry I missed church clean-up day, but the results were very apparent. Words do not do justice to just how great the grounds and property looks at Trinity. Thank you so much to those that were able to help on clean-up day.

A good amount of work on clean-up day was spent working on the Garden Ministry. It will be quite a sight to see what the garden produces. A reminder that if you can lend some assistance in the garden to let Dane Crist or Tom Shelton know. They would appreciate any help that you can provide!

By the time you read this, hopefully you have signed up for and are planning to attend Pastor Stephen and Pastor Leah's Baby Shower for Leslie. We all know how HOT Team can bake, and they are certainly planning quite a breakfast spread for this celebration event on June 4th.

The Council spent a decent amount of time discussing the parsonage rent and whether or not it should be increased. We have good renters, but on the other hand we all know that the cost of nearly everything has increased. Council voted to hold off on any rent increase at this time and will discuss again when putting together the 2024 budget. We all have opinions on this topic so feel free to share your thoughts and input to any council member.

Council has been receiving input from members about looking into a Trinity sign update or replacement. We have just begun this process, but if you have expertise or knowledge regarding signs or contractors we'd love to hear from you! A new sign would be a significant expense, but there are some very nice signs out there that have some very convenient ways of easily changing the display message.

If you hadn't heard, we've had a couple of contractors making claims that we have roof damage from the recent hailstorm. We are in the process of getting an opinion from our insurance company to see if they agree or not. We'll keep you posted as this discussion continues.

Justin



Faith does not mean trusting God to stop the storm, but trusting him to strengthen us as we walk through the storm.

Toby Mac # Speaklive



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MARCH 2023

Collections to date	\$66,217.85
Expenses to date	\$56,363.15
Net to date	\$9,854.70

No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year 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!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Stephen Nilsen
- 1 Payton Paul
- 2 Cody Dexter
- 3 Randy Neumann
- 3 Diane Kaufmann
- 4 Gene Jebesen
- 11 Byron Kime
- 17 Jan Sussex
- 23 Nick Aguilar
- 24 Lanette Lane
- 24 Ron Claussen
- 25 Lexi Aguilar
- 26 Claudia Neumann



JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Al & Barb McIra
- 7 Gene & Vicki Jebesen
- 8 Babe & Judy Reber
- 9 Don & Diane Cook
- 12 Tom & Mary Shelton
- 14 Arnie & Diane Kaufmann
- 16 Janine & Brad Hank
- 21 Paul & Ellen Opperman
- 21 John & Sheila Vining
- 25 Tim & Maggie Wright



WHEN WE PUT
OUR PROBLEMS IN
GOD'S HANDS,
HE PUTS HIS
PEACE IN OUR HEARTS.

GENE JEBSEN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY!

Gene is turning 80 on June 4th. Let's show our love from TLC by having a card shower! Most of you know that Gene has had many health struggles, but should be home by the 4th to enjoy all the cards from friends. Gene's address:

526 Mississippi Terrace
Le Claire, IA 52753-9567



BABY SHOWER!

Mark your calendars for June 4th to celebrate Leslie Rae Nilsen and her parents Pastor Stephen and Leah. There will be a shower and brunch on June 4th following worship. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex to RSVP.



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.

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2
Altar Guild	Randy Goslin	Carol Kaufmann	Connie Short	Linda Busch	Jo Ann Hogenson
Communion Assistant	John Newman	Barb Paul	Michelle Wetterow	Claudia Neumann	John Newman
Lector	Glenna Sbertoli	Henry Marquard	Dawn Brick	Ellen Opperman	Bryan West
Usher/Greeter	Ed & Carol Kaufmann	Debra Anderson Darrell Paul	Barb & Al McIlrath	Diane Cook Don Cordts Paul Opperman	Arnie & Diane Kaufmann
Fellowship	HOT TEAM Baby Shower	Diana Mayes Sharon Marquard	Wright Family	Randy & Debi Goslin Ed & Carol Kaufmann	HOT TEAM Ice Cream Sunday

Happy
Father's
Day!

AMITIE

Amitie will meet on June 12 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

June 1	Property	11:00 AM
June 5	Education	6:30 PM
June 6	Worship	4:30 PM
June 12	Amitie	12 :00 PM
June 12	Council	6:30 PM
June 14	Endowment	6:00 PM
June 19	Stewardship	6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR MAY

May	7	50
May	14	56
May	21	73
May	28	51

SHARE-A-MEAL SERVING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16

The next Share-A-Meal will be on Friday, June 16. Volunteers are always welcome to help out in anyway possible. For June, volunteers are needed to serve the meal at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. Contact Deb Anderson to volunteer, at 563 726-1278 or DKANDERSON1975@gmail.com



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 June 20, July 11, August 1 & 22



WEEKLY READINGS

06/04 Genesis 1:1, 2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

06/11 Hosea 5:1-6:6, Psalm 50: 7-15, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

06/18 Exodus 19: 2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5: 1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8

06/25 Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18
Romans 6: 1b-11, Matthew 10: 24-39

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

June 19-22 | 5:30-7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church (FPC), LeClaire
Bring your children ages 3 to 6th grade to our partnered VBS coming up in June. You can sign your kids up at FPCLeClaire.org or on the TLC Thursday email. We will have some volunteer opportunities available contact Debi Goslin for more information.



TRINITY LUTHERAN FEEDING MINISTRY GARDEN UPDATE

The Garden is Growing!

Construction of the food ministry garden is completed. Deer and rabbit fence is installed complete with a secure gate at the south end of planting area. Tomatoes, peppers, onions, beans and radishes are emerging and growing rapidly. Cucumbers and squash are being grown remotely due to the space requirement for these items. Grass clippings from the front yard are being used to minimize weed growth and to maximize moisture retention. However, some weeds will sneak through. All should feel free to enter the garden and pull weeds at any time. Please take time to thank to Ken, Travis, Dane, Pastor Stephen, Michelle, and Annabelle who helped to construct and plant the garden during and after the workday this Spring. The harvest has begun and was delivered Wednesday and Friday to CCC!

Also, please take a peek each Sunday from the south sanctuary windows to watch the progress and to admire God's work in action to help feed those who are hungry in our community.





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) if you would like to help.

Trinity Lutheran Church Pleasant Valley

Sundae FUN DAY!

**JULY
2**



**9 AM -
NOON**

Outdoor Worship to Praise God in Creation
Games and Ice Cream Sundaes After Worship

Join our Special Sundae Fun Day with Outdoor Worship, Games, and Ice Cream Sundaes!

We'll have fun for all ages after our special outdoor worship service on Sunday, July 2! Whether you like playing yard games, checking in on what's going on in the garden, or just enjoying a nice ice cream sundae (thanks to the HOT Team), there will be fun for everyone on Sundae Fun Day!

Bring your friends! The more the merrier!





PPALs Meeting on Thursday, June 29

Our ministry partners around Princeton, Argo, and Le Claire are gathering for another meeting in our renewed partnership on *Thursday, June 29 at 4:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church in Le Claire*. Join Pastor Stephen and other leaders as they recap VBS, delve into other ministry partnership possibilities (some of which you can read about in this issue of the Torch), and explore possible times for shared worship services coming up in the late summer or early fall. See Pastor Stephen or Debi Goslin if you have any questions.

MAJESTIC ART CLASS

It's time for another summer art adventure! Saturday, June 24, from 10:00 a.m. until noon you're invited to Majestic Art Class. Anyone kindergarten through adults are encouraged to attend. Those K-9th grade must be accompanied by an adult. A Bible lesson will highlight the painting. At the end of the morning you will be able to take your masterpiece home to impress your family and friends. A snack is provided and there is no cost for the session. Please RSVP by June 22 by email at zionprincetonia@gmail.com or leave a message with the number of people attending, your name and phone number at (563) 289-5566.



Quick recap...

What—Majestic Art Class

Who—Anyone Kindergarten—Adult

When—Saturday June 24

RSVP—by June 22

Where—Zion Lutheran Church, 204 Highway 67 (corner of Hwy 67 and Hubbard, Princeton, IA)

Cost—Free



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



2023 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly - Online



The 36th Assembly of the Iowa Synod was held online on Monday, May 15, and Tuesday, May 16, 2023. 253 Assembly voting members gathered via Zoom; 60% of voting members were lay persons (including Darrell and Barb Paul from Trinity) and 40% were rostered ministers (including Pastor Stephen), and there were at least 45% male and 45% female voting members respectively.

The assembly convened on Monday, May 15th, this session included the adoption of the agenda and standing rules for the meeting. The 2024 Synod Budget and the Compensations Guidelines were also adopted. Several amendments to the Synod Constitution were adopted. A report from the ELCA churchwide organization was delivered by Kristin Opalinski, Manager, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, who highlighted the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the connections with the synod.

The assembly reconvened Tuesday, May 16. A report was delivered by Bishop Amy Current which included updates about the work and witness of the Office of the Bishop and several updates about ministry in the synod's context in southeastern Iowa. Tuesday's sessions also included the celebration of anniversaries of ordination for rostered ministers and several congregational anniversaries. One resolution regarding gun violence was received from the floor and was recommended by the Reference and Counsel Committee to be referred to the Synod Council. The Assembly voted to affirm that recommendation. Further conversation on the resolution and the topic of gun violence will be considered in a future 2023 Synod Council meeting for wider synod conversation. Additionally, a courtesy resolution of thanksgiving for the assembly and ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod was adopted.

Nearly 300 Attend Synod Revival Held at Grandview University



On Saturday, May 20 the Southeastern Iowa Synod hosted a Revival at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. Nearly 300 people gathered from across Southeastern Iowa. Bishop Amy Current, of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, opened the event with a welcome from the Synod, and Dr. Rachelle Keck, President of Grand View University offered a greeting and welcome from the university community.

Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA engaged participants in scripture and reflection on the discouraging ideas that hold us back, and the hopeful images that draw us forward. Rachel Kurtz, an accomplished Lutheran musician, played several original songs and led those gathered in worship through music. Families enjoyed arts and crafts, bounce houses and other family activities.

More than 20 area non-profits, congregations, and ministries set up displays to inform and engage those who attended with their work in anti-hunger, justice, political advocacy, and anti-poverty efforts. 300 "compassion kits" were packed, consisting of items like socks, water and toothbrush, and toothpaste. They will be distributed to those at intersections, who live in temporary shelters or struggle with homelessness. For more information on the various ministries that were shared at the revival, visit: <https://bit.ly/SEIASynodRevivalMinistries>

The event concluded with a worship service of Holy Communion, focusing on the theme of the event, "Imagine" inspired by Ephesians chapter three. Britt Swanson of Lutheran Lakeside Camp and Pastor José Pilar, of Lutheran Latino Ministries in the Quad Cities shared testimonies of faith. Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod preached and presided.



June 2023, Lutheran Services of Iowa Newsletter Article and Story
A Message from K., an LSI Host Homes Mentor

"I was inspired to become a mentor because I wanted to make a change in my life. I have an adult child with disabilities and thought opening my home to someone with disabilities is something I can definitely do. This job also allows me to personally spend more time with my family and bond with my grandkids.

My mentee and I have numerous things in common. We like a lot of the same HGTV and paranormal shows on TV, and we like to go garage sale shopping and thrifting. My favorite part has been the challenge – the challenge of helping my mentee overcome or cope with his challenges has been interesting and keeps both of us on our toes. He often says 'it's a work in progress' and truthfully, we are all a work in progress. In the seven months he has been here, he has made a lot of progress in reaching his goals. He gets excited when he conquers something, and it is fun to watch. He also has a great sense of humor! I wish people would educate themselves about people with disabilities. Get to know them and you find out they are not much different than you. That's when friendships bloom." - K.

Every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Learn more about LSI's Host Homes program at LSIowa.org/HostHomes.

LSI's 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.

Residential Treatment Provides a Holistic Approach

Residential treatment is a blanket term to describe a variety of programs that welcome young adults and children into a safe environment to discern and journey through the trauma that they have experienced in their lives. At LSI, the services offered to clients in residential treatment provide a holistic approach to well-being and wellness.

One component of this care includes biweekly yoga sessions provided through a partner organization in the greater community. Clients can't wait for the instructor to arrive on campus. "Do we have yoga today? I wonder what the activity is?" are frequent questions that LSI's staff field from clients when they know it is yoga day.

As clients' excitement builds, their emotions are released through the yoga poses and meditations that are a part of their lesson. The questions the instructor raises for clients pair with the poses to help examine oneself and then allow the release of emotion as the poses change. Emotions elicited by the questions are paired with inward-focused poses that flow into relaxing postures allowing for the release of thoughts.

After the lesson has come to completion, staff can feel and observe a difference in clients' attitudes and behaviors. Clients also share that they feel "better" and "more at peace" after their yoga practice. Through the yoga lesson, clients are able to center themselves and let go of something that was on their mind, helping to guide their days in holistic ways.

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.