



THE TORCH

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March 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 Friends in Christ,

Writing this article each month always flows a little differently, depending on the time of the year, the changing seasons of the church calendar, and how busy or not that it feels like I am, when I sit down to try to write the article. With Lent, around the corner, and the upcoming midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and worship services on the horizon, this month feels like that last gasp of air before the rush of all that happens in Lent and leading into Holy Week and Easter. Add a baby on the way due in late April and this is one of those times of the year that can feel downright overwhelming.

Maybe you've had those seasons in your lives, too. Whether individually or as a family, life can speed up or slow down; but God is with us through it all. Lent offers a particular time when we can pause to consider the blessings God has given us and turn our hearts toward God as our church year turns toward the cross we see at the end of our Lenten journey.

The Psalm we read each year on Ash Wednesday is a reminder of that returning to God as well:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit." – Psalm 51:10-12

Some of you probably recognize this from a familiar song that was sung in the liturgy in the Lutheran Book of Worship (the old green LBW hymnal), and we still have several tunes set to these familiar words in the ELW hymnal we use today (check hymn numbers 185-188). It calls to mind that God is who provides us with forgiveness and restoration. We often ask for God's mercy and to not be forgotten (or "cast away") when we feel ashamed or broken. God renews our spirit for life in the world to come.

All these reminders are great, but how do we truly live this out?

When we pray, do we remember to act according to our words, so that we not only have thoughts and prayers dedicated to those who are in need. Do we actively help to live out God's work in the world, helping the hungry, the sick, the homeless, and so on? When we organize our congregation into special food drives or collect special offerings, do we let our abundance be felt by those in need or hide it under a bushel basket (to quote another of my favorite hymns... "This Little Light of Mine")?

Like I mentioned on Ash Wednesday in my sermon and in discussions with folks who came to the Wednesday morning Bible Study: God isn't simply giving us a checklist of things to do. God calls us into relationship with our neighbor because God wants relationship with us, too. When we are restored and renewed by the Spirit, in our forgiveness proclaimed and felt through the sacrament of eucharist, it allows us to go forth to serve in a loving kindness for all our neighbors and all God's creation.

Serving alongside you,

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 VICE PRESIDENT

The February council meeting covered many subjects, so I will highlight a few things that were discussed. January offerings were better than last years, so we are off to a good start.

A new property insurance bid was presented by Neal Schroder with more coverage, but less cost for the premium. The new company is Church Mutual. The savings per year is over \$2,000. A big thank you goes out to Neal for all his hard work in putting all these numbers together and attending the council meeting to give us the presentation and answer questions. This is a great example of members being involved and helping our congregation prosper.

A reminder members are always welcome at our council meetings, which are the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. You can also speak to any council members or use the suggestion box to mention any concerns or ideas. Good communication always helps our church run smoothly and serve others.

We covered Lenten Services and all committee reports were presented. A Council Retreat was scheduled for February 26, following church service. This retreat is to discuss long range projects for the church.

Al McIlrath, Council Vice President

SHARE-A-MEAL

After many years of serving the homeless, Lois Schurr has retired. Many thanks to Lois.

Last week Pastor and I met with our committee: Bonnie Murphy, Connie Short, and Deb Goslin. Everyone and their spouses served 35 to 40 people at the meal site, Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. We received many thanks and smiles. The committee is looking for volunteers on a permanent basis.

If you are interested, contact me or Pastor Stephen.

Thank You,
Debra Anderson



MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

March	2	Property	11:00 AM
March	7	Worship	4:30 PM
March	13	Amitie	12:00 PM
March	13	Council	6:30 PM
March	20	Stewardship	6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR FEBRUARY

February 5	50	
February 12	53	
February 19	54	
February 22	32	Ash Wed.
February 26	54	

BIRTHDAYS

1	Arnold Kaufmann
1	Neal Schroder
1	Owen Paul
1	Kaylee Walter
5	Marcia Brunsvold
6	Dawn Brick
7	Diana Mayes
8	Collin West
11	Joshua Paul
13	Keri Walter
14	Diane Cook
14	Chase Smiley
14	Charli Dexter
17	Chris Stubbe
18	Tim Wright
20	Conor Smith
21	Erma Rodruck
21	Pam Glynn



ANNIVERSARIES

8	Mitch & Janis Sussex
10	Andi & Christian Naab
27	Ed & Carol Kaufmann

AMITIE

Amitie will meet on March 13 at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sack lunch, drink and desert 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



An Irish Blessing

May you always have...
A sunbeam to warm you,
Good luck to charm you,
And a sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you...
Laughter
to cheer you,
Faithful friends
near you,
And whenever
you pray,
Heaven to hear you.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JANUARY 2023

Collections to date	\$15,019.00
Expenses to date	\$16,030.95
Net to date	(1,011.95)

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 Midweek Worship Volunteers Sign-Up

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Lector	Susan Varilek	Dane Crist	Claudia Neumann	Jean Mattson	Barb Paul
Usher/ Greeter					
Midweek Meal	Arnie & Diane Kaufmann Barb Norris Connie Short	Ed & Carol Kaufmann Al & Barb McIlrath	Pam Schroder Linda Busch	Chris Kaul	



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

03/05 Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

03/12 Exodus 17:1-17, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

03/19 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

03/26 Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

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.

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Altar Guild	Diane Kaufmann	Connie Short	Carol Kaufmann	Linda Busch
Communion Assistant	Jim Sbertoli	Claudia Neumann	Judy Rutledge	Marcia Brunsvold
Lector	Glenna Sbertoli	Ellen Opperman	Diane Noll	Claudia Neumann
Ushers/ Greeters (2)	Al & Barb McIlrath	Paul Opperman Diane Cook	Ed & Arnie Kaufmann	Jo Ann Hogenson Travis Brunsvold
Fellowship	Cookies	HOT TEAM		Rudie Eberlein Kris Rupe

	April 2	April 9 Easter	April 16	April 23	April 30
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes	Carol Kaufmann			
Communion Assistant	Diana Mayes	Jo Ann Hogenson			
Lector	Diane Noll	Jean Mattson		John Newman	
Usher/Greeter	Chris Kaul Connie Short	Arnie Kaufmann Ed Kaufmann			
Fellowship					

March 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month! Take time this month to recognize social workers in your life and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we want to give thanks to all our social workers who do such important work every single day. Without you, LSI wouldn't be able to provide the essential services that Iowa families need.

Our social workers provide a variety of services to families in Iowa, such as crisis child care, in-home programs and classes for parents. These services provide families the support and education they need to care for their young children.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.

Social Work is Rewarding Work

A child saying "mom" for the first time at 3 years old, a parent getting a job that brings them joy – these are successes that are important to Mallory Berkenpas, Service Coordinator in LSI's Early Childhood department in Sioux City.

Mallory has been an employee of LSI for more than a decade, and has held many different roles in supporting children and families. "My heart lies in working with children and families and prevention work, because I've seen the value in it. I see how important it is. I wish more people knew and understood and valued the work that is done in the early childhood period because it is so crucial," said Mallory.

She expressed that one of the most rewarding parts of her job is being able to see, experience and walk this journey alongside these families, who along the way, make these small or big strides – whatever that means for them.

"Maybe the child says 'mom' for the first time at 3 years old, which is something that has happened in our program. That's a big win for this child that didn't speak from zero to three years old, and did because of the interventions we helped that family find," said Mallory. "All of those successes are so important to me and also my staff – being able to see them grow, build their skill set and feel good about their work."

"Social work can be so hard... so I think being able to see those small and big wins along the way is important," said Mallory.

LENTEN GIFTS TO OUR COMMUNITY

“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

Please notice the food display on the table in the Narthex. Each of the 6 weeks during Lent, our church will collect a specific food that is desperately needed for the homeless in our community. These food items will be given to the Central Community Circle Food Pantry on W 6th St. in Davenport. All work accomplished at this food pantry is 100% volunteer-driven.

Each week those items will be taken to the distribution center. Please bring your gifts Sundays + Wednesdays during worship times or whenever you visit Trinity during Lent.

SCHEDULE FOR FOOD COLLECTION

Week 1: 2/22-28 - *“Fruits of the Spirit”* - Galatians 5:22-23
Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Mandarin Oranges

Week 2: 3/1-7 - *“Fisherman Story”* - Matthew 4:18-22
Canned Tuna, Salmon, Sardines

Week 3: 3/8-14 - *“Grains of Wheat”* - John 12:22-28
Instant Oatmeal Packets

Week 4: 3/15-21 - *“Bread of Life”* - John 6:34-35
Sandwich Crackers with cheese or peanut butter

Week 5: 3/22-28 - *“All the grains and fruit”* - Genesis 1:29
Granola Nut/Fruit Bars or Single Wrapped Cup Cakes

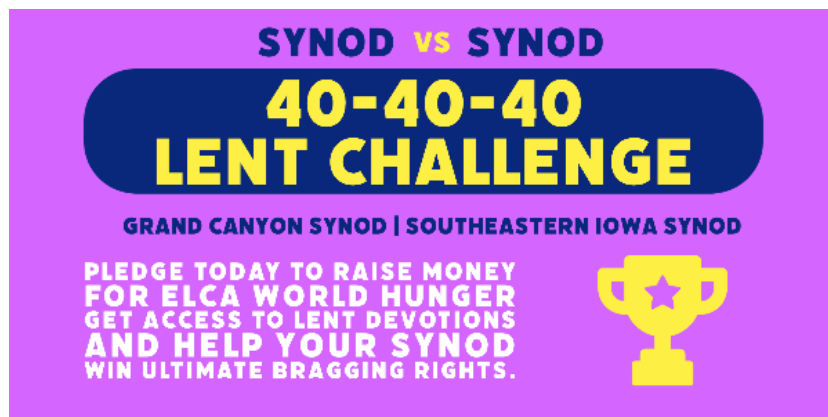
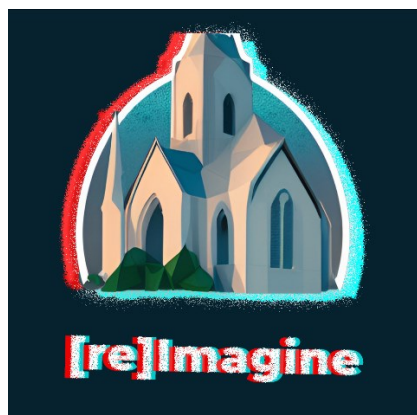
Week 6: 3/29-4/4 - *“Give me this water”* - John 4:11-15
16.9 ounce bottles of water

Always needed: small jars of peanut butter & jelly
tote bags, suitcases, backpacks



“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

Lenten Devotionals Available – and a Challenge with the Grand Canyon Synod!



The Southeastern Iowa Synod is offering daily devotionals throughout Lent sent directly to your email. You can sign up for those emails at seiasynod.org/lent. There's also lots of other resources for the weekly worship Scripture and reflections on the future church.

New this year as well, there is a challenge to raise funds for the ELCA World Hunger during Lent with our partner synod, the Grand Canyon Synod. The challenge is to pledge to participate in some spiritual and physical practices (daily devotionals, decluttering, wellness activities) during Lent and raise funds for ELCA World Hunger. The synod with the most participants wins!

To learn more about the 40-40-40 Lent Challenge, visit bit.ly/404040lent



Lutheran Day on the Hill is back in person! Registration now open!

This March 14th, join Pastor Stephen, his wife Pastor Leah, and Lutheran Services in Iowa at Lutheran Day on the Hill! Lutheran Day on the Hill is LSI's biggest advocacy event of the year. Join us at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines. The morning kicks off with a keynote speaker, a welcome from LSI's CEO -- John Twardos -- and a brief message from one of Iowa's three bishops. Following the welcome, participants will break into groups to learn how different service lines at LSI are supporting the most vulnerable Iowans. After learning how to advocate from LSI's lobbyist, everyone will head to the Iowa State Capitol for lunch and an afternoon of advocacy. Stay up to date with the latest news regarding Lutheran Day on the Hill by following

Lutheran Services in Iowa on Facebook and Instagram and checking our webpage at lsiowa.org/LDH. There are three main focuses for this year's efforts at the State House: Investing in a Strong Human Services Workforce Supporting Iowa's Mental Health System Support for Services that Empower Refugees and Immigrants

Contact Pastor Stephen if you have any questions or need help registering for this engaging event.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS - Earthquake Disaster

FEBRUARY 2023

[ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster)

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes, one a magnitude 7.8 and the second a magnitude 7.5, hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes devastated both countries, killing thousands of people and collapsing thousands of buildings.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to the earthquakes. ACT Alliance

member organizations are providing immediate aid; a comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

Gifts to “Middle East Crisis” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquakes and other disasters in the region. Together we can provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.



Yes, I want to help!

q Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$_____DDG0010

q Lutheran Disaster Response: Middle East Crisis \$_____IDG0038

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write “Where needed most” or “Middle East Crisis”
on your check’s memo line.