



THE TORCH

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November 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,

October has been celebrated for several years as Pastor Appreciation Month. For the past month, I've taken some note of some of the wonderful ways that I have felt appreciated this month (and in fact, this whole year). This is a practice that my wife and I also take part in every night as we go to bed – a sort of prayer of thanksgiving, if you will. Every evening, we tell each other a few things that we appreciate about each other, and these things can range from little to big things.

Around Trinity Lutheran Church this month, I have seen people giving thanks for all sorts of family and fellowship, whether on our fall display in the fellowship hall or in conversation with folks. I give thanks for wonderful ways that this congregation has appreciated and supported my family as we grow and love our new baby Leslie. Perhaps this has been easier to notice as this year has passed, since every day we get to see the joy that Leslie brings us and share that with others. I certainly felt it at the Hot Dog Roast, gathered together sharing in fellowship around our lovely firepit and weather that evening.

At the beginning of October, I felt the appreciation from many who attended our joint worship service as part of World Communion Sunday, sharing in worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at First Presbyterian Church in Le Claire. People were thrilled to hear singing from the combined choir, share in a different style of worship, and come together at the table for Eucharist, united in "the same mind... that was in Christ Jesus" (as our reading from Philippians' second chapter reminded us that day).

I have appreciated a growing trend in the budget-writing process this year. For those who have not taken part in some of our committee meetings this past month or so, the committees were able to assist our Council and Stewardship Committees by imagining their own budget for the facet of ministry that they touch in this congregation. This made the entire process much smoother at our October Stewardship Committee meeting, and it helped to share in the responsibilities of ministry that our entire congregation helps to steward. I know the Stewardship Committee members were appreciative too!

What more can we say about appreciation? Sharing a note of thanksgiving or appreciation with someone here at Trinity – whether that's the pastor, our other staff here at Trinity, someone teaching Sunday School, or even someone helping as a volunteer in worship – can spread a positive feeling that helps to reinforce that the things we do around this community of faith are worth our time and effort. It might not seem like a lot, but those small acts of kindness mean so much in a weary world.

I'll close with someone for whom I'm always thankful: God. Psalm 95 is one of my favorite psalms (because it has a great sung version in the ELW's Daily Prayer liturgy on page 300 in the front of the hymnal). In it, the psalmist proclaims "*Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods*" (v. 1-3). When we give thanks to the Lord who supplies us with all the talents and gifts we are given, we are reminded of all that we can show appreciation, turning from that appreciation of God's greatness to the appreciation of our neighbors, we are reflecting God's love in our community and around the world.

Appreciating each one of 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 PRESIDENT

Our October meeting gave us a chance to highlight the amazing benefits that come from having an Endowment and the impact the gifts can make not only here at Trinity, but also in the community. Endowment distributions for 2023 totaled \$14,000. Some of those funds stay “in-house” for Trinity programs (Social Ministry Fund and Food Baskets). The rest benefit ELCA-affiliated programs and community service programs here in the Quad Cities, but also stretch to Mexico and beyond. I counted distributions to 26 different organizations, and noted Endowment received 12 requests from Trinity members to support causes that are important to them. The congregational input into where the endowment funds should go was really outstanding in 2023 and it’s something I hope to see continue to grow in 2024 and beyond.

A portion of our meeting was spent discussing a new sign. There’s no question that a new sign comes at a significant price tag, however the benefits of being able to easily advertise upcoming activities 24-7 is a very attractive benefit. Add to that the fresh look that a new sign provides. There is definitely council interest in pursuing this into 2024. Council is curious of your thoughts on this. If you have opinions on a new sign, please let me, Pastor Stephen, or any council member know. Deb has done the majority of the research on a new sign and has been asked to continue the process of gathering information and costs.

In October we also began the beginning discussions of putting together the budget for 2024. The increased church contributions is encouraging and allows for the discussion of increasing line items such as the one for a choir director. That has been a top goal, and hopefully incentivizing the position with an appropriate salary will increase the pool of interested applicants.

This is also the time of the year where discussion begins for replacement of outgoing council members and delegates for attendance at various meetings. We will have one vacant council position so if you are interested in serving on council or have questions about it please let me, Pastor Stephen, or any council member know! Synod Assembly is also another opportunity to attend on behalf of Trinity. Please see Pastor Stephen for further details regarding Synod Assembly.

Finally, our HOT Team has put together quite a slate of social activities and fellowship events for this fall and into the winter. The Fall Pork Roast is Friday, November 3 at 5 pm. Pie Sunday is November 12. Fellowship Sunday is December 10. A potluck and games Saturday is scheduled for January 13 at 5 pm. Hopefully you can make an activity or two that HOT team has put together!

Justin

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2023

Collections to date	\$151,834.28
Expenses to date	\$115,130.17
Net to date	\$ 36,704.11
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR OCTOBER

October 1	60
October 8	50
October 15	66
October 22	63
October 29	60

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	Cindy Hall
2	Gavin Heidenreich
2	Andrea Naab
4	Neil Vining
7	Babe Reber
8	Tiffany Engler
10	Chris Kaul
11	Hagen Vining
13	Jenny Prather
15	Hudson Vining
16	Paul Opperman
16	Nathan Vining
23	Heidi McBride
23	Kaa Junge

*Happy
Birthday!*



ANNIVERSARY

16	Connie & Jerry Short
19	Beau & Katie Dexter
24	Barb & Ray Norris
27	Barb & Darrell Paul
30	Jo Ann & Don Hogenson

*happy
Anniversary*

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26	December 3
Altar Guild	Connie Short	Diana Mayes	Linda Busch	Carol Kaufmann	Randy Goslin
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow	Marcia Brunsvold	Jim Sbertoli	Claudia Neumann	Lois Schurr
Lector	Henry Marquard	Sally Morrow	Jo Ann Hogenson	Claudia Neumann	Diane Noll
Usher Greeter	Sharon Marquard Barb Paul	Diane & Arnie Kaufmann	Chris Kaul Al McIlrath	Judy Rutledge Connie Short	Travis Brunsvold Don Cordts
Fellowship	Diane & Arnie Kaufmann	HOT Team Pie Sunday			Cathy & John Newman

If you would like to help us in our Sunday Gathering by doing any of the above tasks, please contact the church office to be added to the list of volunteers.

Fall Pork Roast Coming Up!

Friday, November 3 at 5 PM

Back by popular demand, the Trinity Lutheran Church HOT Team will be sponsoring a Fall Pork Roast, and the cost is only \$5 (free for children under 12). Grab a side dish or dessert, and join in for some great fellowship in the fall with this shared ministry. Please sign up and indicate whether bringing a side or salad or on the sign up sheet in the narthex:

FALL PORK ROAST



TRINITY CARD MINISTRY

Trinity Card Ministry has been revived since being put on hold during Covid 19. We will be making greeting cards for our college students, our home bound, and to sell to church members in fellowship hall. If you are interested in joining our group, we have decided to meet twice a month on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 PM in the downstairs craft room. Our next meeting will be on November 8. We will decided at that time when our second meeting will be in November due to Thanksgiving. Contact any of us if you are interested: Chris Kaul, Marcia Brunsvold, or Claudia Neumann

Fall Clean-Up Day



Saturday, November 4 - 8:30AM-12PM
Raindate: November 11 - 8:30AM-12PM

Fall Clean-Up Day

Saturday, November 4, 8:30AM - 12PM

Whether you have a knack (and back) for raking leaves or cleaning up on the outside of our building, or you can help with cleaning windows, floors, or other clutter inside the building, this fall's clean-up day has something for you to do. Treats will be provided, and many hands will make light work!

AMITIE

Amitie will meet November 13 at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sack lunch and drink. 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



NOVEMBER'S FUN BIBLE FACT

Elephants are never mentioned in the Bible. However, ivory which comes from elephants' tusks, is mentioned 13 times



Trinity Feeding Ministry Garden

The TLC Garden is winding down for the year, but we have given so much produce to our friends at [Central Community Circle Food Pantry](#), and they appreciate it so much. If you would like to help with covering the garden for the winter, contact Tom Shelton

The last of the garden has been harvested and here is a list of the last picking.

- 91 peppers
- 31 onions
- 96 tomatoes
- butter lettuce and French mixed greens
- green beans

Peppers and tomatoes will ripen on the counter in a couple of days.

The garden has been retired for 2023. If you have interest in participating in this vital ministry or in helping to plan for the year ahead, please contact [Tom Shelton](#), [Dane Crist](#) or [Pastor Stephen](#)

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 2	Property	11:30	AM
November 6	Education	6:30	PM
November 7	Worship & Music	4:30	PM
November 7	Social Ministry	6:30	PM
November 8	Trinity Card Ministry	2:00	PM
November 13	Amitie	12:00	PM
November 13	Council	6:30	PM
November 20	Stewardship	6:00	PM

WEEKLY READINGS

11/5 Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43,
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

11/12 Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70,
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

11/19 Zephania 1:7,12-18, Psalm 90:8-12,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

11/26 Ezekial 34:11-16, Psalm 95:1-7a,
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

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



Trinity Lutheran Church Serving as a Polling Place in Upcoming Election

Once again, Trinity Lutheran Church will serve as a polling place for this fall's election. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and we always feel grateful that our facilities here at Trinity can be used for the greater good of the community. For more information about the upcoming elections, visit ScottCountyIowa.gov/Auditor/Elections.

FALL & WINTER COAT & BOOT DRIVE

Help our community in need by bringing any new or lightly used coats, jackets, boots, or shoes for people who are served by either Central Community Circle Food Pantry or Humility of Mary's Outlet Center. There's a shopping cart in the narthex to drop off donations for those in need. Hats are also appreciated!



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Each year, our congregation is represented by two voting members at the Southeastern Iowa Synod's Assembly. This upcoming year, the assembly will be held in Coralville, likely at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center. The 2024 Assembly will be held Friday, May 17 through Saturday, May 18 (likely just the first part of the Saturday). Travel and Hotel Costs would be covered by the congregation, and this is a great opportunity to see what broader ministry our congregation is a part of in our area around Southeastern Iowa. We're seeking interest in this now so that we can try to have these names ready for nomination at January's Annual Congregation Meeting. If you have any questions, you can speak to Pastor Stephen or ask last year's voting members, Barb and Darrell Paul.

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

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the Church parking lot through the fall 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 11-7, & 12-5.
We would love to see you there!



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support this year. A Special thank you to those who submitted recommendations for organizations that could use funds from us. We were able to distribute \$14,000 this year. Below is a list of the distributions. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss this with any of the committee members.

Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining
Council Representative, Marcia Brunsvold

TRINITY PROGRAMS

Council Discretionary Funds	\$2,800	
Trinity Social Ministry	\$500	Includes Share A Meal
Trinity Food Baskets	\$500	Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas

ELCA AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

Luther Properties	\$1,000	Supports 5 HUD apt. complexes in QC
Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$750	Provides needs for those in Eastern Iowa
St. James Food Pantry	\$300	Local Food Pantry
All Saints Food Pantry	\$300	Local Food Distribution
Camp Shalom	\$250	Campership for 1 camper
Ewalu Bible Camp	\$250	Campership for 1 camper
Wartburg Seminary	\$1,000	To scholarship fund
Lutheran School of Theology	\$1,000	To scholarship fund
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$500	Help for those in US and world disasters
Lutheran World Relief	\$500	Assistance to save and Improve lives in the poorest parts of the world

QC Latino Ministry	\$500	ELCA support for a new congregation/Mission to support immigrants/refugees
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COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Crop Walk	\$400	Local hunger walk
Churches United	\$300	Feed hungry/support temp. housing support
Family Resources	\$500	Help for victims of sex and labor trafficking in Eastern Iowa
Tapestry Farms	\$300	Urban farm systems for refugees
Footbridge	\$200	Postage, etc. to local organization that coordinate supplies for various charities
Hope at the Brick House	\$250	Hope through spiritual, educational and community based support
Blue Grass Comm. Charity	\$250	Assist with rent for Community drop off-help veterans, homeless, fire victims
Central Comm. Food Pantry	\$300	Providing families in need in the QC area
Ronald McDonald House IA. City	\$250	Provide home and support to families when children are hospitalized

INTERNATIONAL

Stir the Fire	\$300	Feeding/education orphans in Zambia, Africa
Global Health Ministries	\$500	Provides overseas shipping expensed for quilts, school supplies
Dr. Jose Reyna	\$300	Medical Mission in Mexico

\$14,000



SEEKING HELP WITH LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP

For the past few months, Randy Goslin, Dane Crist, 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.

We now have the equipment in place, and you can see a sample of what the livestream would look like from our recorded service from August 27 and September 10. You can see the service at our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@trinitylcpv.

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.



New Trinity Lutheran T-Shirts Available to Order

Trinity's Council has goals to make our congregation more visible in the years ahead, and one part of that is a new T-shirt promoting our congregation that we can wear to events like the CROP Walk and other outings in the community! Order forms are available in the weekly email, worship bulletin inserts, just below here on this page, in the narthex, or online at <https://bit.ly/TLCPV-tshirts>

The new t-shirts will be powder blue and costs will be as follows:

Youth sizes - \$8 each
Adult S, M, L, XL - \$8 each
Adult 2XL - \$10 each

HEY! I'd Like One (or More) of Those New T-Shirts!

Name(s):

Phone:

T-Shirt Size(s):

Sample T-Shirts are available in the narthex if you would like to see how they fit



NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. This month at LSI, we celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption and raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children needing a safe, healthy home.

Iowa foster families, like the Smiths*, raise the bar by opening their loving households to children and teens in need of a place to call home.

At LSI, we understand the importance of keeping youth in their communities to help maintain connections and stability during times of transition. So, when our staff received a referral for a teenage girl needing foster care placement, they looked inward toward the community.

At the time, homes in the area were either full or not open to accepting teenage placements. Coincidentally, the Smiths were present at a meeting the same night the referral came in. When they heard about Rebecca's* situation, they immediately knew who the child was and wanted to help in any way they could.

The Smiths were already over their licensing capacity, having been granted a variance to accept a sibling group. To be able to bring Rebecca into their home, they would need to be given another variance, which was almost unheard of.

"It was by chance, or the grace of God, that the Smiths were able to accept another child, and give Rebecca a stable placement with a family in her community," said Dawn Luetje, LSI Director of Resource Family Licensing and Support, working in conjunction with Four Oaks Family Connections.

Thanks to the combined support of the Smiths, LSI staff, and the community, Rebecca was placed in the foster home, where she could maintain her daily activities with the teachers, coaches, and friends she was comfortable with. Rebecca continues to thrive in a stable, loving foster home environment and a caring community.

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

****Names have been changed to protect client privacy.***

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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).