



THE TORCH

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October 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)

Greetings fellow travelers,

Growing up, one of my favorite movies was the 1980 classic *Blues Brothers*. Maybe it's a biproduct of having the parents I did who watched early Saturday Night Live each week, relishing the comedy of Belushi and Aykroyd, but I will always remember my favorite line: "We're on a mission from God," as they explain each time they need to clarify why they're in such a hurry (to save an orphanage where they grew up). I don't think this iconic line is quite why I ended up as a pastor, but it was often quoted in seminary, too!

Trinity Lutheran Church, like any congregation, is also on a mission from God. We may not talk about it as often as we should, but hopefully everything we do in, with, and through our congregation is a reflection of that mission that God has entrusted us to fulfill. Where might we find a summary of that mission? Well, it's in the annual report every year as well as shared in our congregation's constitution and by-laws. Our mission statement reads:

"We are bound in Christian love to strengthen and nurture all through the word and sacraments as we work, reach out, and serve in this community."

While this statement may not be as memorized as the Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed by folks in our congregation, it was at one point devised by the council, adopted, and implemented across all that we do. Taking a look at each point of the statement, we learn about the key points:

- "We are bound in Christian love" - This is at the root of all of a congregation. No matter what separates us by age, race, gender, and so on, we are connected by the love of Christ and share that love with each other and our neighbors. That togetherness is seen in things ranging from fellowship to worship.
- "... to strengthen and nurture all through the word and sacraments..." - The word of God is something we often wrap into just meaning the Bible, but the beginning of the Gospel of John explains "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). That means that the Word we are talking about strengthening and nurturing through *is* Jesus Christ, the "Word made Flesh!" The sacraments help to connect us through our shared baptismal identity and renewal in the communion we share each week, freeing us from sin through God's redemptive act of death on the cross.
- "... as we work, reach out, and serve in this community." - One of my favorite passages in Scripture speaks to this part of our mission statement, when Jesus explains to the disciples in Matthew 25 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." As we share in our community gathered together at a beautiful location along Criswell Street, we can remember that our work extends to our neighbors, not only in the Quad Cities, but all around the world. We continue to work to feed, clothe, house, and support all kinds of people around us through lots of work, outreach and service.

I thank God each and every day for the work that we have done and will continue to do in Christ's name here at Trinity. I invite your reflections on this statement and our congregation's mission at any time!

Peace, *Pastor Stephen Nilsen*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Check out page 4 for information on our upcoming congregational meeting!

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

LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Pastor Stephen started out our September meeting with a theme for us to ponder. . . Trust. That we Trust in God and that God Trusts in Us. God trusts that we will do the right thing, and make sure we take care of ourselves, each other, and the physical world we live in. It was a great theme that was very fitting for the meeting.

I wanted to just take a moment to thank everyone at Trinity for their generous financial contributions and offerings. It is truly amazing the financial turnaround over the past few years. As a congregation, we have gone from large financial deficits to being ahead of our budgeted church collections for the year. I want you to rest assured that your Trinity church council is very diligent in pondering expenses and taking serious consideration into the financial decisions that are made. We increased the church collections budget from 2022 to 2023 and (if giving holds) will still be above that budgeted number. It is especially exciting because with continued financial growth allows opportunities to grow the programs here in our congregation, make sure that we are keeping our building and grounds in excellent shape, and providing fair and equitable wages for those that work at Trinity. All of that takes financial resources, but thanks to the generous financial contributions we have exciting opportunities to explore. To use the Trust theme I mentioned earlier, you can Trust the Trinity council to be responsible stewards of your financial contributions.

The heaviest lift for Trinity's council has been putting together a policy manual. We took a large step forward with the drafting of a Child Protection Policy. That policy will be reviewed by council members and voted on at the October meeting. There were also personnel topics that were reviewed and will be voted on at the October meeting. Those topics included: Harassment, Harassing Conduct, Sexual Harassment, Inappropriate Behavior, Reporting, Investigation & Response, Retaliation, Drugs & Alcohol, and Injury on the Job. Getting all of these into a manual is a great step forward in one of the biggest goals that the Trinity council had for 2023.

By now hopefully you have seen the two versions of children's Bibles that have been floating around. They are very colorful looking and certainly make you want to open the cover and take a look inside. I would like to thank the Education Committee for their diligence in completing this task. It can be tough to come to a consensus on what the most appropriate Bibles would be, but you did a fabulous job in making a decision and moving forward with it. What a great way to provide our youth here with an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith.

As we wrap up a busy summer and move into a busy fall, I look forward to my own continued growth in the Holy Spirit and hope the same for you.

Justin

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2023

Collections to date	\$144,568.28
Expenses to date	\$104,368.52
Net to date	\$ 40,199.76

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER

September	3	53
September	10	66
September	17	55
September	24	54

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 John Vining
 5 Fletcher Wright
 8 Ray Norris
 11 Jean Mattson
 11 Rhianna Smith
 12 Catherine Kime
 19 Al McIlrath
 21 Jo Ann Hogenson
 21 Stephen Engler
 22 Jerry Short
 22 Kohler Wright
 27 Oden Wright

Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER



ANNIVERSARY

9 Neil & Lolita Baker
 11 Neil & Cassie Vining
 29 Kristine & Jeff Rupp

happy Anniversary

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Altar Guild	X	Jo Ann Hogenson	Diane Holst	Linda Busch	Diane Kaufmann
Communion Assistant	X	Lois Schurr	Diana Mayes	Claudia Neumann	John Newman
Lector	X	Barb Paul	Justin Paul	Claudia Neumann	Ellen Opperman
Usher/ Greeter	X	Debra Anderson Travis Brunsvold	Al McIlrath Don Cordts	Diane Cook Chris Kaul	Judy Rutledge Paul Opperman
Fellowship	X				

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.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AFTER WORSHIP

After some hail storms this spring, several roofing contractors approached the TLC Property Committee to consider repairing or replacing the roof of either the church building or parsonage. After evaluations by the property insurance company and taking a few different bids into consideration, the Property Committee recommended Foley Contracting to replace the roof of the parsonage at a cost of \$9,500. Council approved this decision at the meeting September 11.

Per the congregation's constitution, C12.05.c reads "The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$5,000 for items not included in the budget," and C12.05.d reads "The Council... may incur obligations of more than five percent in excess of the approved budget only after approval by a Congregation Meeting." Because of this obligation exceeding 5% of our approved 2023 budget and being over \$5,000, a special, single-issue congregational meeting will be called for Sunday, October 15 following worship to vote to approve the expenditure. Portions of the roof were in great need of repair, so you may notice some work has already begun on the parsonage roof. Please plan to attend so we may have a quick meeting that meets the requirements for a quorum.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LE CLAIRE OCTOBER 1 AT 10 AM

Join our brothers and sisters in Christ around the PPALs ministry group (Princeton, PV, Argo, Le Claire) as we celebrate our unity in Christ with a worship service together at First Presbyterian in Le Claire on World Communion Sunday. We will not have worship at Trinity that Sunday, so we hope you will join worship at a special time and place. A special offering will be collected supporting Quad Cities Churches United, but if you would still like to give to the TLC general offering, you may mail or drop off your offering to our church.

A special joint choir will sing at our shared worship service. If you're interested in joining the choir, a rehearsal will be held Thursday, September 28 at 2 PM and another rehearsal at 9 AM before worship on October 1 – both at First Presbyterian Church in Le Claire.

TLC will help with fellowship that morning by having a cookie and bar pot luck! Bring your favorite cookies or bars to the kitchen before Friday, September 29 so we can assemble them onto trays for the fellowship after worship on October 1. Drinks and place settings will be provided.

PPALs Meeting: Thursday, October 29 at 4:30 PM Help Plan Our Next Shared Worship for Thanksgiving

If you'd like to help plan our next shared worship service with our friends from Princeton, Argo, and Le Claire, you're invited to join our meeting of the PPALs Ministry Partners on Thursday, October 29 at 4:30 PM at First Presbyterian in Le Claire. We'll recap the Joint Worship Service for World Communion Sunday from October and look ahead to ways we can support our community and partner in worship in November.



PPALs
MINISTRY
PARTNERS
PRINCETON
PLEASANT VALLEY
ARGO
LE CLAIRE

SHARE A MEAL

Thanks to all the volunteers that contribute to Share A Meal. From the shoppers, cooks, cookie bakers and the servers it takes many hands to make it work. TLC served around 42 people on September 5 at the Churches United meal site at Zion Lutheran in Davenport.



CROP Hunger Walk Coming Up October 1!

Trinity Lutheran Church has a proud tradition of fighting hunger through our participation in the Quad Cities CROP Hunger Walk. This year, that will take place on Sunday, October 1 – crossing the I-74 bridge starting at Bethany Family Services on the Moline side. Join our team of walkers heading over to raise funds and awareness after the joint worship service that Sunday.

You can donate peanut butter and jelly jars that are gathered at CROP Walk and distributed to the food pantries in the community. You can also donate funds in-person or online that are raised towards ending hunger. See Dane or Michelle Crist for more information.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Quad Cities
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 01, 2023

MOLINE, ILLINOIS

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

October	2	Education	11:00 AM
October	3	Worship & Music	4:30 PM
October	3	Social Ministry	6:30 PM
October	5	Property	11:00 AM
October	9	Amitie	12:00 PM
October	9	Council	6:30 PM
October	16	Stewardship	6:00 PM
October	19	PPALs @ First Presbyterian	4:30 PM



TLC HOLDS SUCCESSFUL DIAPER DRIVE FOR HINEY HEROES

Throughout September, the table in the narthex was filled with diapers that the generous people here at Trinity helped to gather for parents who are in need. On Sunday, September 24, we had a blessing in worship for the 1,890 diapers we had collected as part of National Diaper Need Awareness Week. The diapers were taken to Hiney Heroes, an organization dedicated to distributing diapers where there is need.

For more information on Hiney Heroes, visit HineyHeroes.com



BIBLES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN

The Education Committee has worked diligently to provide Bibles that will be available in the narthex for children to take home and keep. This is part of an effort to help spread the word of God in our community, so this is not limited to members of TLC. Feel free to pick one up by the usher's station. There are two different Bibles for different reading levels.



Fall Clean-Up Day



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

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY COMING UP!

Saturday, November 4, 8:30 AM—12 PM

There's always so much to do around the TLC property (both inside the building and out), so we hope you can join in to help out with Fall Clean-Up Day at the beginning of November. Treats will be provided!

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



WEEKLY READINGS

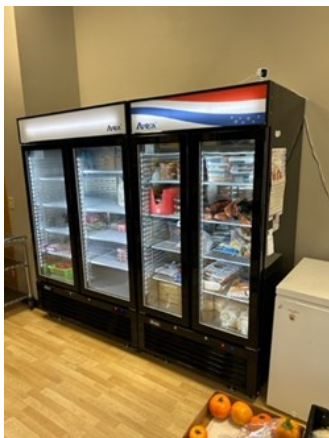
10/01 Ezekial 18:1-4, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

10/08 Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians, 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

10/15 Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

10/22 Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:34-46

10/29 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36



GARDEN UPDATE 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Finally, temperatures are starting to cool, and rain is refreshing the garden. Green beans are drying up but the tomatoes and peppers are growing like crazy. The earliest bean plants have been removed and onions are planted in that vacated space. Onions should do well with our cool nights. Thanks to all who helped water during our dry heat wave. We continue to deliver produce regularly to CCC Food Pantry where it is stored in their new cooling units.

THE LORD PLANTED A GARDEN

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
You are nearer God's heart,
In a garden,
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive trees
Where the Angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease.



OCTOBER SPECIAL COLLECTION: COATS AND JACKETS

As the weather continues to cool, our friends at the CCC Food Pantry (where our garden produce is distributed) have noticed few that are in need of food have adequately warm jackets or coats for the fall and winter ahead. If you bring any new or lightly used coats or jackets to the TLC narthex, we will get them distributed to those in need through the food pantry.

In recent months, the rain ponchos distributed there this summer were of great help!

AMITIE

Amitie will meet October 9 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



OCTOBER'S FUN BIBLE FACT

The chicken came before the egg
According to the Bible

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 10-17, 11-7, & 12-5.
We would love to see you there!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Cluster 6 Southeastern Iowa

Women of the
ELCA 

HELP FILL OUR FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION BAGS

When & Where

Saturday, October 7

- 9 AM-11:30AM

St. Paul Lutheran Church on
Brady Street in Davenport, IA

Project

The area cluster will make 10-12 "goodie bags" to be delivered to stations throughout the Quad Cities. Our cluster will collect some snack items such as power bars, nuts, pretzels, candy bars, crackers, and then assemble the goodie bags on Oct. 7. The cluster asks that those who can attend please RSVP since pastries and beverages will be available to those helping.

Purpose

This project is part of our justice and community mission where we will show our appreciation to the firefighters in our area. Our area firefighters risk their lives helping families and individuals in emergencies, and this is a way to say thank-you to the stations

RSVP & QUESTIONS



Contact Linda Kortemeyer



563-271-3309



Email: Korte4m3@gmail.com



"Are you looking ...

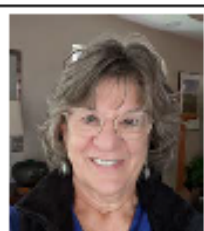
for an opportunity

to enliven your prayer life?"



Join us:

**"Saturday Morning Musings"
Practices for Enhancing Your Spiritual Life
Led by Elaine K Olson, Pastor, LCPC**



*Sep 9: Writing Haiku for Spiritual Joy
Oct 14: Journal Writing for Spiritual Insight
Nov 11: Praying with Color for Intercessory Prayer
Dec 9: Writing a Spiritual Ethical Legacy as a Gift*

Elaine has 30 years of experience, companioning others through issues of life transition and meaning. Spiritual Guidance has been a significant part of her work throughout this time. She is an ordained Lutheran Pastor.

As a gifted workshop leader and speaker, she brings a warm, enthusiastic, and inspired energy to all those she encounters. Elaine is also a certified spiritual director, writer, grandma, wife, and friend.

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**Grace Lutheran Church
1140 E. High St.
Davenport, IA 52803**

Registration: *(please register by the Saturday ahead of each class.)*

Name _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Sep 9:	Writing Haiku	\$25__
Oct 14:	Journal Writing	\$25__
Nov 11:	Praying with Color	\$25__
Dec 9:	Writing a Spiritual Ethical Legacy	\$25__

If attending all 4, the cost is \$90. Members of Grace Lutheran Church can register for \$20 each, \$75 for all.

Sign up online: bit.ly/SatMorn2023

OR: Send Registration/checks to Elaine K Olson, 5296 Red Fox Rd, Bettendorf, IA 52722

Questions: ekobus05@gmail.com Phone #217-766-6937



At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.

Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

"Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job," said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. "I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them."

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, [in particular, has](#) made great strides under her care.

"I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview," said Erica. "I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted."

"She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work," said Erica. "I like to make a difference – even if [it is](#) small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life."

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Host Homes, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior 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.

WIENER ROAST 2023
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 5 PM

It's that time of year again! Trinity members are invited by the HOT Team to gather round the big fire for the annual Wiener Roast! We'll have hot dogs, buns, and plates provided, and we'd love it if you could bring either a side dish or dessert to share. You'll also want to bring a chair or blanket to sit on by the fire.

We'll have games for fun for all ages, and we encourage you to bring friends or invite others from the community! You can stop by the church and pick up a flyer if you'd like to share it with a business you know.

Let's make this the best Wiener Roast ever!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALL WIENER ROAST

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Gather round the fire for great fun and food
Members encouraged to bring sides/desserts
and chairs



QUESTIONS? EMAIL OFFICE@TRINITYLCPV.COM OR CALL 563-332-5188



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
Adult 3XL - \$11 each
Adult 4XL - \$12 each
Adult 5XL - \$13 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

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.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP—NOVEMBER 5

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

As in years past, Trinity will have a special time of remembrance of the saints who have gone before us during our worship service on that Sunday. This year, we will also offer an opportunity to name those saints who have passed in the previous year — whether members of Trinity or friends/family members of ours.

All Saints Day Remembrance

Your Name(s): _____

Dedication in Memory of:

You may send a picture of your loved one to be displayed by either emailing office@trinitylcpv.com or stopping by to have a copy made.