



THE TORCH

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September 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,

It's the beginning of the school year, and if you're not going back to classes or taking a young one to school again, a transition in our seasons is on the horizon as we move from summer to fall (even if the weather doesn't quite seem like it). I'm writing this on the same day as Leslie's first day at day care at the Calamus Elementary School, and if that hasn't been a teary-eyed transition, then I don't know what has. Life is full of these movements from one season to the next.

On top of this switch in our season, from the (hopefully) restful summer break to the busier season of the fall (open this newsletter up to find that our church has lots going on too), we recently marked the time that I have been serving here at Trinity with a one-year review, facilitated by Pastor Dan Kuckuck from the Southeastern Iowa Synod office. I was so grateful to hear the feedback and commitments for the future spelled out by the congregation's council. Even though I knew the previous year had been fruitful and full of great things to praise, I was still a little anxious – and those feelings can ring true for any of us going through a transition in life. Paul wrote about these feelings in a letter to Philippi:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7, NRSV)

Changing from a parent who is on parental leave to a parent taking a first-born child to daycare is a time where it is easy to be anxious. Changing from preschool to kindergarten is a time where it is easy to be anxious. Changing from one job to another, or retiring, or moving our homes, or setting new goals for a year ahead: all of it can feel anxious.

Yet here we have this encouragement from the apostle Paul. As we continue into whatever it is we are transitioning through, we can pray, given thanks for what God has already done and continues to do in our lives, and if we listen carefully enough, the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." That peace may be difficult to realize where it is guiding us, but in the times of anxiety, we can also have excitement for the future with God alongside us.

As a congregation, we have looked back at the past year and seen successes and other attempts from which we have learned a lot. We can look forward with goals toward more involvement for children, youth, and families, planning for long-term goals and mission discernment, and looking toward establishing more clarity in our written policies. Each of these is a small piece of the greater picture that we are all learning to move towards in faith. Our faith is what can guide us in prayer, thanksgiving, and all that we do going forth from worship, learning, and service. Even if this time is full of anxiety-causing transitions, I am thrilled to be along with you, here at Trinity and around the Quad Cities, sharing in the next steps forward as we move forward.

Growing together in faith,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING IN A NUTSHELL

- Council welcomed and thanked Kathy Naslund for agreeing to be on the Council. Please thank and welcome Kathy!
- A few large print bulletins will be printed each week. Ask the ushers. More can be printed if there is a need. There are children's pre-reader and reader bulletins in the Narthex on the Kid's Zone Table.
- TLC will participate in the PPALS World Communion Sunday Service at First Presbyterian Le Claire on Oct. 1 at 10 AM with Pastor Stephen preaching. There will be no Sunday morning Service at TLC. Save the date. More details to come.
- Trinity Lutheran Church T-Shirts. Thank you to Diane Cook for getting quotes and information on the t-shirts. We will soon be taking preorders. Watch for information.
- Rally Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is Sept. 10. There will be a Scavenger Hunt to kick off the beginning of Sunday School with treats and prizes. After the hunt, the children will return to Fellowship Hall to tie small blankets to send to an organization that helps babies in need.
- Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger – 50th Annual RAGBRAI – Hunger Ministry Fundraiser. Our church sent a check for \$5,416 members donations with TLC matching funds to support this fundraiser. We are a giving church!
- We are very close to having our services live streamed as a congregation.

Deb Goslin, Council Secretary.



MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

September 5	Worship & Music	4:30 PM
September 7	Property	11:00 AM
September 7	Education	6:30 PM
September 11	Amitie	12:00 PM
September 11	Council	6:30 PM
September 18	Stewardship	6:00 PM
September 20	Endowment	4:30 PM

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JULY 2023

Collections to date	\$120,458.28
Expenses to date	\$91,481.09
Net to date	\$28,977.19
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR AUGUST

August 6	60
August 13	70
August 20	77
August 27	73

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

2 Linda Busch
 4 Vicki Jebson
 5 Darrell Paul
 7 Alice Cordts
 9 Ruth Ann Coon
 10 Stephanie Engler
 10 Barb Norris
 11 Randy Goslin
 17 Connor West
 18 Travis Brunsvold
 20 Don Cordts
 22 Caiden Raddatz
 27 Reid Claussen
 30 Bill Romans



ANNIVERSARY

3 Bob & Suzy White
 4 Joshua & Beth Paul
 7 Tim & Julie Trelstad
 20 John & Cathy Newman



	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24	October 1
Altar Guild	X	Linda Busch	Diane Holst	Randy Goslin	X
Communion Assistant	X	Sally Morrow	Barb Paul	Claudia Neumann	X
Lector	Dawn Brick	Susan Varilek	Jean Mattson	Claudia Neumann	X
Usher/ Greeter	Don Cordts John Newman	Barb Paul Al McIlrath	Debra Anderson Diane Cook	Arnie Kaufmann Judy Rutledge	X
Fellowship	Sharon Marquard Judy Rutledge	Jo Ann Hogenson Sally Morrow Carol Cavett			At First Presbyterian in Le Claire

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.

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 9-26, 10-17, 11-7, & 12-5.

We would love to see you there!



RALLY SUNDAY & GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY

Sunday, September 10

Join us for a games, a scavenger hunt, service opportunities, snacks, and more fun as we head into the Sunday School year ahead. This year also marks the Tenth Anniversary of the ELCA's commitment to God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, a day of service where we remember that it is in God's name that we do this work with our hands for the world in need.



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

09/13 Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:9-21, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

09/10 1 Ezekial 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

09/17 Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-18, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

09/24 Jonah 10:10--4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Hunger Garden Update

Our plants are surviving a couple of hot weeks but continue to produce beyond our expectations. Several members have asked how the produce gets from the garden to the CCC food pantry. Multiple times a week we harvest the mature vegetables. They are then taken off-site for sorting, cleaning, and packing into bags and containers. Twice weekly, (sometimes more often depending on volume) a volunteer from another church carefully loads and then delivers the vegetables and other donated food to the Central Community Circle food pantry in Davenport.



Members have also asked if they could donate excess produce from their home gardens. The answer is yes! Your extra produce can be placed on the kitchen counter at church. Text Tom or Mary Shelton (563-468-9039 or 563-343-8698) to let them know of your drop off. It would be very helpful if the items were cleaned and dried before we include them for packaging.

Having what we hope are the two hottest weeks of the summer behind us, garden volunteers are welcome to again sign up in the Narthex to help water and harvest our crop.



Iowa ELCA Bishop's RAGBRAI Ride Raises over \$70,000! Trinity contributes over \$5,400!!

When the three ELCA Bishops of Iowa (SE Iowa, NE Iowa, and Western Iowa) issued a challenge to the state that they would be riding RAGBRAI (with several other pastors and Lutherans from around the state), they set a goal of \$50,000. They far exceeded that goal and each of the three bishops made it across the state on the RAGBRAI ride, promoting hunger ministries like the Trinity garden along the way.

Here at Trinity, the council invited members to give and committed to matching whatever contributions were made. The council is proud to announce Trinity gave \$5,416 towards the fight against hunger! Thanks be to God for the good work that will be done.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Quad Cities CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 01, 2023

MOLINE, ILLINOIS

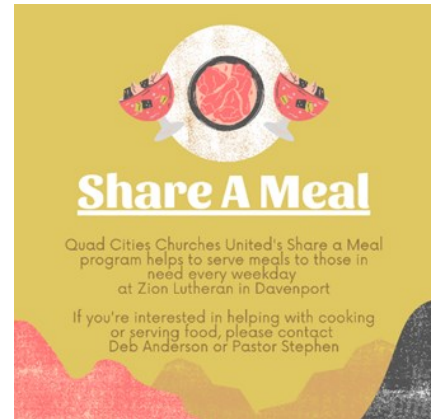
CROP Hunger Walk Coming Up October 1!

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 on the Moline side.

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 that are raised towards ending hunger. See Dane Crist for more information.

SHARE-A-MEAL SERVING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Trinity is serving a meal to those in need at the Quad Cities Churches United Share-A-Meal program at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport. If you and a few friends are able to serve dinner that night, meeting at the church around 4:30 PM, it would be so appreciated. We also need cookies to serve at the meals, so if you could drop any cookies off before 4 PM on the 5th, that will help us too! Everyone appreciates a sweet treat with their meal!



★
EVERY
ACCOMPLISHMENT
STARTS WITH
THE DECISION
TO TRY.
★

AMITIE

Amitie will meet September 11 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



Diaper Drive for Hiney Heroes *Now through September 24*

September 18-24 is National Diaper Need Awareness Week. TLC will be collecting diapers for [Hiney Heroes](#), our local diaper bank, now until September 24. Diapers collected will be distributed directly to families in our community. Nearly half of U.S. families struggle to afford diapers in 2023: let's help them out! All sizes are appreciated, open packages are okay too!



SEPTEMBER'S FUN BIBLE FACT

The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is **the cat**.



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. More details will come throughout September about opportunities to serve in this special service. More opportunities will come soon for shared worship with our partners in ministry!

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. 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! Pictures of the logo not available at this time. More information will be available soon. See Diane Cook for more information.

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

New Apple Trees planted by Wright Family in Honor of Oden Wright's Baptism



Much like the planting of new life in the butterfly garden after Fletcher's baptism, the Wright family helped our produce garden by planting two new apple trees in honor of the baptism of Oden Wright.

Oden was baptized on Sunday, June 18. His sponsors were Angie Schnobel & Amy Spirrison.

There is a honey crisp apple on the north side and a gala apple on the south. The kids really enjoyed the worms.



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





September 2023, LSI Newsletter Article

Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of Iowans for years to come.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/ or contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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.