



THE TORCH

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August 2024
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 Gathered Growers,

Even with some preparation for this road construction project coming to Criswell Street a few months ago, it seems like every week (or sometimes even every other day), there is a surprise about where the detour may be taking us or that we need to find new ways to get to the church building here in our part of Pleasant Valley. Road construction, especially in a rapidly-growing community like this end of Bettendorf, is a fact of life, but we still look forward to a day when it will all be done with so we can proceed down the street unencumbered by the heavy equipment, gravel, detours, and more.

I find some hope for the church in the road construction near us at this time, remembering Jesus' words to Nicodemus in the third chapter of John: *"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* (John 3:8, NRSV)

That word "wind" could also be translated as "breath" or "spirit", because the Greek that underlies it is the word *pneuma*. We get many English words with that root (think pneumonia or other breathing-related disorders). The breath of God is always blowing where it may (or the wind), and we sometimes hear it but do not know where it comes from or where it goes. By comparison, the construction project on Criswell Street seems much more predictable!

I often wonder whether our congregation takes time to stop and listen for the Spirit blowing around us. What might we hear about where it is coming from or going to? This time of year always brings a season of excitement for parents as school-aged children gear up to go back to school (and possibly some grief from children of a summer gone by so quickly). I look at the education happening around Trinity Lutheran Church and wonder sometimes where that breath/wind might be blowing us.

We had quite a successful Day Camp this summer with around two dozen youngsters from around the neighborhood, in our own congregation, and family members of our congregation's members joining the staff from Camp Ewalu and other volunteers. Other congregations have begun reaching out to discuss furthering that camp connection here and partnering for more education opportunities next summer. We will soon begin offering a confirmation class and youth group for the junior high and high school age children from both Trinity and First Presbyterian Church in Le Claire. Each Wednesday morning our Bible Study is filled with conversation and fun as a dozen or more adults join in to see where God's word is meeting our world each week. There's a whole slew of ideas I have planned for adult education after worship on Sundays including an upcoming estate planning presentation (September 29) from our partners in ministry at Thrivent Financial (where our Endowment Fund is held).

Still, looking at all of these exciting pieces and wondering about what might be the best course forward for faith formation and education in some of our youngest members - and even some of those in the "young adult" age ranges - causes me to scratch my head and pray. I hope for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we continue to discern what education around Trinity will look like: perhaps a "children's church" option during worship? Or maybe more event-driven learning opportunities less frequently than our weekly after-worship time slot? What is it that God might be calling us - calling *you* - to take part in here at Trinity? Will we know it when we hear it or question it like the direction of our construction and others who we don't quite understand? I pray for you to join in our efforts to grow and be a place where faith grows in our youngsters - just as this community continues to grow around us.

Growing together with 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

For our July council meeting, Pastor Stephen read an excerpt from the book Bread for the Journey by Henri Nouwen. The excerpt dated July 8th was entitled "Wounded Healer". The excerpt was a reminder that we all have wounds (most of which are not visible). However, those wounds are healed by Jesus. It was a perfect reading to reflect on before the meeting.

By the time you receive this article it will only be a few days from another Jazz Worship Sunday (August 4th). I would like to thank those that helped put this together. The last Jazz Worship Sunday was a huge success and I anticipate the August 4th service will be the same. Hopefully you can make this service!

Overall giving for the year is down a bit. . . which is common for the summer months. If you find yourself behind on your pledge, please prayerfully consider catching up if you are able to do so.

There still has been some discussion about the basement being a location for a Food Pantry. Dane Crist will be spearheading discussions to see if there are individuals interested in assisting with this. If you are interested, please let Dane know!

Justin

SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN JULY

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Council met at the Synod Center for Ministry on Saturday, July 13 to continue the work of the 'synod-think' something like our congregation's Council, but at the synod level. Our own Justin Paul has been serving on the council for the past two years, and would be happy to share more information on about their work if you are curious.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JUNE 2024

Collections to date	\$84,633.38
Expenses to date	\$92,144.52
Net to date	(\$7,511.14)
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JULY

July	7	62
July	14	56
July	21	59
July	28	48

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 Michelle Crist
 2 Carol Diers
 4 Ron Leiby
 7 Maclynne Naslund
 9 Sheila Vining
 13 Justin Paul
 14 Alan Diers
 16 Leah Holloway Nilsen
 22 John Newman
 22 Tim Trelstad
 23 Julie Trelstad
 26 Ann Criswell
 30 Mari Naslund



August

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Mike & Cindi Ven Horst
 13 Steve & Melissa Aguilar
 21 Alan & Carol Diers
 21 Neal & Pam Schroder
 28 Mike & Kathy Naslund



Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25	September 1
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes	Cathy Newman	Diane Kaufmann	Diane Holst	Randy Goslin
Communion Assistant	Diana Mayes	Claudia Neumann	Diana Mayes	Diane Holst	Jo Ann Hogenson
Lector	Dawn Brick	Claudia Neumann	Barb Paul	Sally Morrow	Claudia Neumann
Usher Greeter	Deb Anderson Diane Cook	Judy Rutledge Chris Kaul	Ed Kaufmann Arnie Kaufmann	Ron Morrow Don Cordts	Lois Schurr Al McIlrath
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Justin Paul	Justin Paul	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Barb & Darrell Paul	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed

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.

AMITIE

Amitie will meet August 12 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, which serves mothers and young children in need. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and worship.



Rudella Eberlein, Convenor



Choir Rehearsal Break During August

The Trinity Lutheran Choir will be taking a summer break during August, but they'll return to the rehearsals and performances in September. If you have more questions, see Pastor Stephen or contact a member of the choir.

Altar Flowers



Do you have a birthday or anniversary you'd like to commemorate? Starting in January, we will have Altar Flowers that you can sign-up to sponsor for any of the worship services throughout the year. The bulletin board will be by the door between the narthex and hallway.

Questions?
Call or Email Paula at
563-332-5188 or
office@trinitylcpv.com

Welcoming August one day at a time



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

WEEKLY READINGS

08/04 Exodus 16:2-4,9-15, Psalm 78:23-29,
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

08/11 1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25—5:2, John 6:35,41-51

08/18 Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14,
Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

08/25 Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18, Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

CRISWELL STREET REHABILITATION

The City of Bettendorf has continued the Criswell Street rehabilitation project this summer, and they are moving on to the paving process in August! Work on this project is expected to be completed by September 1. Check the TLC's Facebook page for sharing the traffic patterns if those change, but you can also check in on the city of Bettendorf's Facebook page for more info as well.

For more information, visit
Bettendorf.org/Criswell



Seeking Help with Livestreaming Worship

Our worship services are available to view on both our Facebook page (facebook.com/TrinityLCPV) and our YouTube channel ([@TrinityLCPV](https://youtube.com/@TrinityLCPV)). As we continue to provide this ministry for those who are unable to join us in worship in-person, please consider helping with the livestreams. After much work from dedicated volunteers, our live-stream set-up is very easy to operate. Please contact Pastor Stephen or Randy Goslin (rgoslin@mchsi.com) if you would like to help.



CARD CRAFTING MINISTRY MEETING MONTHLY

Trinity's card ministry reconvened a few months ago. We meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the lower level of the church. The next meeting will be August 14- 1:00-3:00 PM. **All are welcome to join us- no experience necessary!**

Each month we make and deliver cards to the residents of Aspire of Pleasant Valley Nursing and Rehab (Formerly River Manor). We also make and mail greetings to members and friends of Trinity. In addition, the committee has been working to replenish the supply of greeting cards for sale in the Fellowship Hall. All cards are \$2.00.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kaul, Linda Busch, Claudia Neumann, Cathy Newman, Marcia Brunsvold or Pastor Stephen.





School Supply Drive for Local Students

Now through August 11

Help make the school year a bit nicer for students in need from the PV and Bettendorf School Districts by bringing some of the following school supplies to the table in the narthex in the upcoming weeks:

- Crayons – 24 count, Crayola
- Dry Erase Markers (black or blue)
- Folders (two pocket, no prong)
 - Glue Sticks
 - Highlighters – yellow
- Loose Leaf Paper – Wide Ruled
- Notebooks – Wide Ruled
 - #2 Pencils
 - Pink Erasers
 - Pens (black or blue)

Thanks in advance from the Social Ministry Committee!



Jazz Worship SERVICE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 9 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALL ARE WELCOME!

18137 CRISWELL ST. PLEASANT VALLEY, IA 52767

QUESTIONS? CALL 563-332-5188
OR EMAIL SNILSEN@TRINITYLCPV.COM
OR [FACEBOOK.COM/TRINITYLCPV](https://www.facebook.com/TRINITYLCPV)



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 18 at 9 AM Worship

Children of all ages, from preschool to college are welcomed to bring their backpacks to worship on that Sunday, for a special blessing of the backpacks for the upcoming school year.



God's Work, Our Hands at Trinity

If you or someone you know has a project in mind for a great way to connect our congregation's hands to God's work in our community, please let Pastor Stephen or someone from the Social Ministry Committee know.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For more info on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, visit ELCA.org/DayOfService

Scott County Library's Bookmobile Returns!

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. We'll have snacks and drinks available in Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see you there!
Tuesday, August 6 at 4:40—5:10 PM.

Scottcountyia.gov/library/bookmobile



Garden Update for Social Ministry

We are now in our seventh week of providing produce from four gardens to the Central Community Center foodbank (CCC) in Davenport. Planting this year was delayed due to weather issues and therefore, vegetable harvesting is a bit behind this time last year. So far, onions, radishes, squash, peppers, spinach and lettuce have made the journey from our gardens to the foodbank. Cucumbers, zucchini squash and green beans should start to be ready in the next two weeks. Tomatoes have been a bit cranky, but they have now been treated to prevent rot and wilting. Once mature, we will have lots of tomatoes to share. The basement kitchen and refrigerator are being used to clean, process and pack our produce. Vegetables picked up at church are taken by truck weekly to CCC in Davenport. Volunteers continue to help with watering during dry periods, keeping plants healthy.

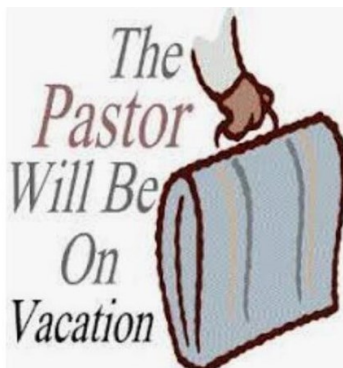


Once the onions, lettuce and radishes were harvested, replanting began with more beans in June. About 1 September, as night temps begin to cool, we will plant lettuce, radishes and onions again as the final step of our cropping strategy.

One of the recent storms blew a sizable tree limb into the deer fence on the west side of the church garden. The limb has been removed and fence repair is underway.

New Photo Directory Here!

Thank-you for your help in sending in updated photos and contact information. You may now pick up the new Church Photo Directory in the Narthex or the Church Office. Alternatively, you may call or email the office if you would like someone to send or drop off a copy of the directory. Thanks for sharing in our church family!



Pastor Stephen on Vacation

After Sunday Worship, August 11 Through Friday, August 16 Pastor Stephen will be heading on a family vacation with Leah, Leslie and more family to the north woods of Wisconsin. In case of pastoral emergencies, you may contact Pastor Joel Nau at 515-468-5074.





August 2024 – Navigating Transitions: From Summer to Fall, from Struggle to Strength

Though the longer days of summer, BBQs, and running through sprinklers are coming to an end, cool evenings at the football stadium, beautiful color-changing leaves, and spending the school day with friends are upon us. As Iowans prepare for the multicolored season of autumn, LSI is here to help you navigate the changing of the seasons.

Transitions can be a difficult time for anyone, and LSI provides services to ease the process of change.

Our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services help new arrivals to the U.S. resettle and start a life in Iowa. Our Host Homes program helps adults living with disabilities transition to greater independence through a mentor-mentee relationship. Our Early Childhood Services prepare parents expecting a child for a healthy birth and provide support as children transition from milestone to milestone. Our foster parents provide safe, loving homes for children moving through the foster system as they await adoption.

Whether we're helping someone through a difficult life transition in therapy or teaching former refugees English and cultural competency skills, at LSI we're there every step of the way. If you need support during a transition in your life, visit LSIowa.org to learn more about our services. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.



Autumn Odyssey 55+ Retreat

Dates: Monday, Oct. 14 – Wednesday, Oct. 16

Description: A brand-new fall retreat for those ages 55+ at Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center just north of Strawberry Point! Join us for a featured speaker, carriage or wagon rides through the fall colors in the area, time for reflection and renewal, optional hiking, and simple relaxation. Meals (5) and lodging (2 nights) included.

Cost: Double occupancy: \$175; Single occupancy: \$225

Arrival time: Monday at 4:00 p.m. (supper at 5:30 p.m.)

Departure: Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Capacity: Once Stone Center rooms are full

Sign-up at EWALU.org/autumn-odyssey

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30 Endowment 6:00 Personnel	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Property	5 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	6 3:30 Social Min 4:30 Worship & Music 6:30 Education	7 10 Bible Study	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10
11 9:00 Worship	12 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	13	14 10 Bible Study 1:00 Card Ministry	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17
	Pastor's vacation					
18 9:00 Worship	19 6:00 Stewardship	20	21 10 Bible Study	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 9:00 Worship	26	27	28 10 Bible Study	29	30	31