



THE TORCH

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February 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 beloved congregation,

Have you ever seen something so amazing that it puts you at a loss for words? Sometimes, it could be a breath-taking sunset or something else in God's creation. Perhaps it could be the first time seeing a child do something new (like I get every so often with the little wonderful moments with Leslie). I think we've all had a time or two when we are found speechless.

Just before we head into the season of Lent, we are smacked with one of these moments in the Sunday of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. This year, that happens to fall on February 11 – which is also Super Bowl Sunday. In the lives of many of those football players and coaches, that night will be unlike anything they've ever seen before. In the Transfiguration that we commemorate, Jesus takes three of his disciples with him up a mountain where they see and hear something so amazing that they are left speechless... sort of.



"Transfiguration" by Paulo Medina

"Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified."

– Mark 9:2-6, NRSV.

I've always found this amazing scene to be kind of like many of our amazing scenes in our lives of being left speechless. Even though Peter says to Jesus that he would like the disciples to make three dwellings – one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah – we are told by the narrator of Mark's gospel that "he did not know what to say, for they were terrified." Peter, like many of us struck by God's magnificence, stumbles to try to find the words and suggests something that we all look at now and think "well, that's not quite hitting the mark."

In Lent, we march towards an amazing sight: the death and resurrection of Christ at the culmination. As we turn ourselves to repent and focus on Christ in that forty-day-long journey, we can be assured that Christ is with us, giving us the words to eventually spread the good news, as we find out at the end of the reading from Transfiguration Sunday: *"As they were coming down from the mountain, [Jesus] ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead."* It may seem like a strange secret, but it is important that the news of this Transfiguration **did** spread: generations of disciples shared the Good News with others in their life, all the way down to you and me. We are part of that tradition.

No matter how speechless you would find yourself, if you saw the dazzling white clothes on Jesus, or the empty tomb, we would try to eventually say something. Even if those words aren't perfect, we live in the reality that the Word of God endures throughout all time, meeting all people right where they are. God provides us with the words so that we can indeed tell the world about this amazing story.

Right there with you, speechless about the miracles around us,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

COUNCIL NOTES IN A NUTSHELL



- Reviewed Pastor Stephen's written report.
- Discussion on council's 12 month CD and to do with the interest. Judy will be advised.
- Discussion on front signage proposals and funding sources.
- Policy for new Credit Card was finalized and approved. Pastor will have the card in his office with a sign out sheet for person's using the card.
- Discussion on new choir director candidate.
- Discussion on back-up for Endowment Treasurer Mitch Sussex. Marcia Brunsvold will contact a possibility.
- Cathy Newman will serve remainder of the term on council in Debi Goslin's place through 2025.
- A submission to consider TV screens in sanctuary was received in the suggestion box and forwarded to Worship and Music Committee.

MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February	1	Property	11:00	AM
February	1	Endowment	4:30	PM
February	5	Education	4:30	PM
February	6	Worship & Music	4:30	PM
February	7, 21	Craft Ministry	1:00	PM
February	12	Council	6:30	PM
February	15	Stewardship	6:00	PM

FYI

I will be out of the office January 30, 31 and February 1. Time for some fun in the sun and get some rest from our Iowa weather.

Paula



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH DECEMBER 2023

Collections to date	\$181,908.91
Expenses to date	\$155,411.11
Net to date	\$26,497.80

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JANUARY

January	7	55
January	14 snow	0
January	21	51
January	28	

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

3 Don Hogenson
 4 Ellen Opperman
 13 Karen Romans
 16 Ridge Raddatz
 19 Lolita Baker
 26 Carol Kaufmann



HELLO February



ANNIVERSARY

4 Joel & Judy Rutledge

*HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY*

	February 4	February 11	February 14 Ash Wednesday	February 18	February 25
Altar Guild	Connie Short	Diana Mayes	Linda Busch	Diane Holst	Diane Kaufmann
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow	Marcia Brunsvold	Michelle Crist	Diana Mayes	Justin Paul
Lector	John Newman	Henry Marquard	Dawn Brick	Claudia Neumann	Diane Noll
Usher Greeter	Carol Kaufmann Al McIlrath	Chris Kaul Don Cordts	Diane Cook Ed Kaufmann	Travis Brunsvold Al McIlrath	Judy Rutledge Jo Ann Hogenson
Fellowship	Diane Kaufmann Connie Short	Sally Morrow	No Fellowship on Ash Wed.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer 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.

SHEETS DRIVE

Now through February 14!

Supporting



Stir The Fire
StirTheFire.org



**Donate flat sheets
(of any size) so that
missionaries may
bring them to those
in need in Zambia**

Altar Flowers

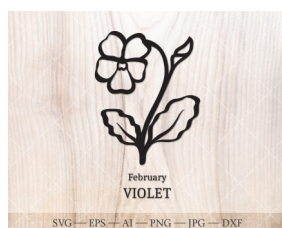


Do you have a birthday or anniversary you'd like to commemorate? Starting in January, we will have Altar Flowers that you can sign-up to sponsor for any of the worship services throughout the year. The bulletin board will be by the door between the narthex and hallway.

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

Social Ministry Collections Notice

After hearing the great presentation from Diane Noll about the organization Stir the Fire Ministries and the various ministry opportunities we join in to support their work in Zambia, we're kicking off the new year with a collection of bed sheets. These sheets will be used as bedding for children in need as well as sewn together in some cases to use as mosquito protection. All sizes are appreciated, and we'll collect the sheets in the narthex now through Ash Wednesday (February 14).



AMITIE

Amitie will meet December 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



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

02/04 Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11
1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

02/11 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50 1-6,
2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

02/14 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 58:1-17
1 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Mathew 6:1-6, 16-21

02/18 2 Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

02/25 Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31,
Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

DINNER CHURCH

LENTEN MIDWEEK



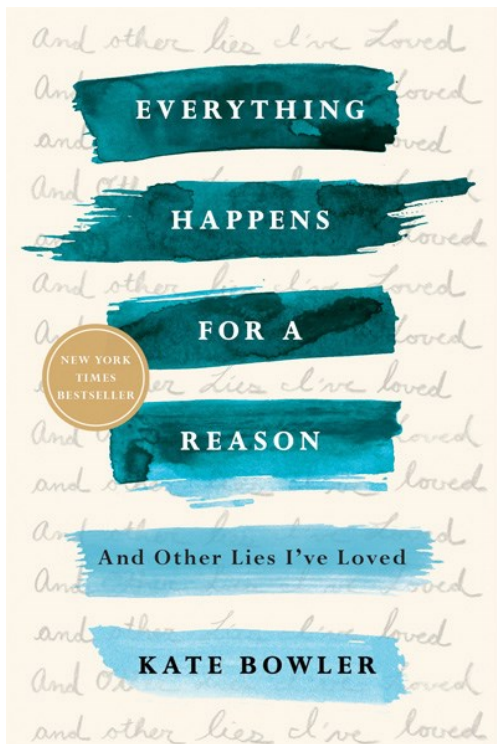
Simple Gathering
Simple Word
Simple Meal

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT:
FEB 21 / FEB 28 / MAR 6 / MAR 13 / MAR 20
5 PM MEAL AND WORSHIP
BOOK STUDY TO FOLLOW

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - PV
FELLOWSHIP HALL



This year's Lenten Midweek Services will be held in a Dinner Church format. What does that mean? The meal is part of the service. We'll hear a short reading, break bread and share in worship together gathered around simple soups. If you're interested in cooking one of the meals, see Pastor Stephen.



Lenten Book Study: *Everything Happens for a Reason* *(And Other Lies I've Loved)* by Kate Bowler

Wednesdays at 6PM – February 21-March 20

As part of our Lenten Midweek Dinner Church & Study Series, Pastor Stephen invites you to take part in a book study on the honest and emotional book *Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)* by Kate Bowler. Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity school, specializing in prosperity gospel, and her Stage IV colon cancer diagnosis plunges her into reckoning with her own mortality and the various sayings we tell each other to get through life. This book is known to bring forth great conversation about what it means to live in our world today. We'll split the study over the course of the five Wednesdays in Lent before Holy Week, and if you'd like to buy the book, you may either talk to Pastor Stephen or purchase one online at the following: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Everything-Happens-Reason-Kate-Bowler/dp/1547531110) | [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/everything-happens-for-a-reason-kate-bowler/1130864411) | [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org/books/everything-happens-for-a-reason-and-other-lies-i-ve-loved/9781547531110)

The readings for the weeks will be:

February 21	Preface & Chapters 1& 2	p. xi - 28
February 28	Chapters 3 & 4	p. 29-52
March 6	Chapters 5 & 6	p. 53-105
March 13	Chapters 7 & 8	p. 106-140
March 20	Chapter 9	p. 140-168

If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Stephen.

Ash Wednesday 2024

Ash Wednesday and Lent will be here before we know it, and we want to let you know what the plans are for TLC this Ash Wednesday. There will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at 6 PM with the usual imposition of ashes. This year we will also have brief blessings and ashes available throughout the day from 11 AM onward, so if you have plans for something else happening February 14, you are welcome to stop by the church parking lot throughout the day for the imposition of ashes and a blessing.

If you would like to assist in burning last year's palms from Palm Sunday to make the ashes for this year, please contact Pastor Stephen.



February 14

Worship Service at 6 PM

Disbursing Blessings & "Ashes to Go"
Anytime after 11 AM

Seeking Help with Livestreaming Worship

Our worship services are available to view on both our Facebook page (facebook.com/TrinityLCPV) and our YouTube channel (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.



Scott County Library's Bookmobile Returns to Trinity in 2024

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the church parking lot through the winter and into the early spring 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 the fellowship hall.

4:15-4:45 PM on February 6, February 27, March 26, and April 16.



We'd love to see you there!

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*

LENTEN GIFTS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Back again for Lent, we will be collecting specific food items each week for the Central Community Circle Food Pantry on W 6th Street in Davenport. All work accomplished at this food pantry is 100% volunteer-driven, and they are in need of several specific items that they cannot get from the River Bend Food Pantry distribution. Please drop off these gifts of food at the display in the narthex Sundays and Wednesdays during worship times or whenever you visit Trinity during Lent.

SCHEDULE FOR FOOD COLLECTION

Week 1: 2/14-20 - "Give me this water" - John 4:11-15
Hot Chocolate Packets

Week 2: 2/21-27 - "Grains of Wheat" - John 12:22-28
Raisin Bran cereal

Week 3: 2/28-3/5 - "Do not work for food that spoils" - John 6:27
Hamburger Helper (or similar meal in a box)

Week 4: 3/6-12 - "Anointing with oil, my cup overflows" - Psalm 23:5
Vegetable Oil

Week 5: 3/13-19 - "Fruits of the Spirit" - Galatians 5:22-23
Apple Juice

Week 6: 3/20-3/27 - "All the grains and fruit" - Genesis 1:29
Ramen Noodles

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



TRINITY CARD MINISTRY

Trinity card ministry will be making various types of on February 7 and February 24 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come and be crafty.



FEBRUARY'S FUN BIBLE FACT

The longest word in the Bible is
"Mahershalhashbaz"
(Isaiah 8:3).



February 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.



Last year, Pastor Stephen and his wife Leah attended the Lutheran Day on the Hill, and he would love to join in with you in advocating for adoption, resettlement services, mental health access, and more at this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill. If you have other questions about the event, please ask Pastor Stephen.

