



THE TORCH

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May 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)

Greetings Groovy Growers of Trinity,

As we've gone through the season of Easter, there's been several readings from the First Epistle of the Apostle John (more commonly written out as 1 John). These are beautiful writings to John's own community from around the year 100 CE. Some of the beauty comes from realizing that John wrote this to a community coming through conflict, and gave such basic advice about how we ought to love one another, such as:

"We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." – 1 John 3:16-18, NRSV

God continues to love us, and we respond by loving our neighbors. Each and every one of those neighbors who we love bears the face of God, as we read in Paul's letter to the Galatians: *"I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is **Christ who lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me."* – Galatians 2:20

Recently, I have heard a lot of discussions about what the face of our church will look like: what colors should be presented? How will those colors match with our new front sign? What does the church say about our congregation that meets here? A little while ago, I received a copy of old architectural drawings of the plans for this building from before it was built in the early 1960s. In those drawings, we see a congregation filled with fresh ideas, using the space for education, fellowship, community outreach, and of course, worship. The front face of the building depicted in the drawings was different from what we see now, but there is some commonality.

How do we, gathered today in 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church continue to love those inside this building and those outside the building?

The church may have changed from the plans of the late 1950s (both design and ministries that occur here on Criswell Street), but the Word of God, who we proclaim in all we do is eternal. The very same Jesus who lived in the Apostle Paul lives in you, me, and all who with whom we come in contact. That Spirit that filled a generation of eager Lutherans gathering in a Pleasant Valley that was very different from the PV and Bettendorf area we meet today is still stirring – whether it be for discussions of the ministry that we accomplish in Christ's name or for discussions of what the building itself looks like.

I implore you to continue to love one another as God first loves us. Sharing that love with our community (and I mean that in any way you can think of it) is foundational to who we are as Christians, as Lutherans, and as members of this congregation here at Trinity. When we ask ourselves about what things might look like in the future, let us not be encumbered by the past, but rather learn from it so that we may go forth sharing God's love with all in the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, the one who we meet in every face we see!

Sharing in your imagination,
Pastor Stephen Nilsen



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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to start this letter off by making sure the discussion of opening up a food pantry in the basement has been well communicated to everyone. First Baptist church on Middle Road had a food pantry that they closed. They have a strong group of volunteers led by Larry Kelly that would like to see a food pantry continue in our area. Larry has had conversations with Pastor Stephen and attended the April council meeting to discuss the logistics of how their food pantry ran. There is definitely a need in our area, but I want to assure everyone that this venture is a Crawl, Walk, Run approach that would pull volunteers and expertise from neighboring congregations and volunteers. First Baptist did open their food pantry once per week for a two hour period. As it grew, they provided food for around 45-50 families during that two hour period. It was done in a very efficient and organized manner. There is no reason that this same process could be followed in our basement. Initially, I see our role as providing the physical location, and purchasing some movable shelving/storage racks to store the food. I encourage everyone to communicate their excitement and fears to Pastor Stephen, myself, or any council members. If there is a specific question that we can't answer, Larry has offered to help answer or explain further. Larry has an estimated twenty volunteers that are ready to get started with this venture if we can work through the logistics and any concerns. Together this is an exciting prospect for Trinity!

I also want thank the Property Committee for their diligence in putting together worthwhile projects that enhance the beauty of Trinity's property and do it in an organized manner that is cost effective and efficient. As our physical building continues to age, we know that the upkeep is a significant financial investment. The Property Committee is making sure this task is accomplished with the care and foresight that is required. If you have suggestions or would like to lend some assistance, please let Dane know or provide your input to anyone on the Property Committee.

By the time you read this hopefully you have already seen and filled out the colorful Time & Talents sheets. As I review the sheets myself, I am amazed at all of the tasks that are needed to be completed, so that Trinity can continue to be a vibrant community of worshipers. I encourage you to prayerfully consider your own personal gifts and how they align with what needs to be accomplished here at Trinity. Please fill out the sheets and lend a hand to tasks that you are drawn to.

The City of Bettendorf and Scott County have partnered to significantly upgrade Criswell Street. As the construction moves forward, we will be sure to communicate any potential road closings or detours that may occur. We have been assured that there will always be a way to get into the parking lot, but that might mean a slight detour. We have also been assured that the current placement of our new sign will not be affected by the construction.

Justin

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MARCH 2024

Collections to date	\$48,304.83
Expenses to date	\$46,890.18
Net to date	\$1,414.65
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR APRIL

April	7	55
April	14	63
April	21	57
April	28	58

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

7 Barb McIlrath
 7 Logan Paul
 8 Maggie Wright
 9 Jeff McIlrath
 9 Beau Dexter
 12 Tom Shelton
 14 Jan Graaf
 15 Cathy Newman
 17 Elyce Billany
 19 Gannen Hank
 27 Scottie Jae Dexter
 31 Julia Denain



MAY

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

19 Vicki & Stephen Engler
 29 Karen & Bill Romans
 30 Leah & Stephen Nilsen

HAPPY
Anniversary!

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	June 2
Altar Guild	Diane Kaufmann	Lois Schurr	Connie Short	Linda Busch	Linda Busch
Communion Assistant	Michelle Crist	Marcia Brunsvold	Diana Mayes	John Newman	Carol Kaufmann
Lector	Justin Paul	Henry Marquard	Claudia Neumann	John Newman	Sally Morrow
Usher Greeter	Travis Brunsvold Al McIlrath	Deb Anderson Diane Cook	Judy Rutledge Jo Ann Hogenson	Don Cordts Ron Morrow	Chris Kaul Barb Paul
Worship Video Livestream Producer					
Fellowship		Diane Kaufmann	Barb & Darrell Paul		Peg Claussen Diane Holst

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 May 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, which serves mothers and young children in need. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and worship.

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor



Choir Rehearsals Coming Up!

Every other Wednesdays and Sundays

Any who are interested in singing in our renewed choir music ministry are invited to join in on Sunday at 8:00 AM for our next rehearsal with our new director, Chelsea.

The upcoming rehearsals will be:

Wednesdays 6:30 PM May 1 & 22.

Sundays 8 AM May 12 & 26.

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

Mothers
hold their
children's hands for a
moment and their
hearts for a
Lifetime

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

05/05 Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

05/12 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 3:6-19 John 17:6-19

05/19 Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

05/26 Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

TLC'S 2024 GRADUATES



Congratulations to Maeva Denain as she graduates from Pleasant Valley High School. Maeva plans on attending Scott Community College, then finish her studies at Augustana College. Maeva plans on doing internships with labs and working on the medical side of working at a museum as a paleontologist. Her goal is to earn a PhD in Paleontology. Maeva is currently a part of Women in STEM and wants to continue as a researcher to make a difference in our community.



Congratulations to Sarah Paul as she graduates from Pleasant Valley High School. Sarah plans on attending Iowa State University to Major in Elementary Education and Minor in French. Sarah will also get certified in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language.) Sarah's goal after certification is to go to Africa and teach for a few months each year, as well as volunteer in communities in Africa to see how she can help with any of their needs. Later on in life Sarah would like to go to other countries and teach.

Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops by in May!

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.

4:15-4:45PM on May 7 and May 28

We'd love to see you there!





NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

By popular demand, our council is undertaking a new photo directory, and we need your help! Stop by after worship in the office, to get a photo taken, or submit one of you and your family by email to office@trinitylcpv.com. New photos will be compiled and a new directory will be going out by the summer.

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 basement of the church. **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.



CRISWELL STREET REHABILITATION

The City of Bettendorf has selected Criswell Street from Valley Drive to Forest Grove Road for rehabilitation as part of the City's Community Improvement Program. Contact information along with a construction schedule will be sent as soon as a contractor has been selected. Work on this project is expected to commence on or after April 22, 2024 and be completed by September 1.

There will be no changes to solid waste collection, school bus routes, mail delivery or emergency services.

If you would like to discuss how this project will affect your property, or access to your property, please don't hesitate to contact the city Assistant City Engineer, Patrick Lynch, PE. 563 344-4062 plynch@bettendorf.org. For more information: <https://bit.ly/BettCriswellStRehab>

MAY'S FUN BIBLE FACT

The time period of the book of Genesis spans more time than all of the rest of the Bible combined.



**Adult Education in the Easter Season:
Hunger in Our Community, Hunger in Our World**
Sundays after Worship - May 5 & May 12

Join Pastor Stephen in the Education hour after worship to learn more about the realities of hunger in our community and hunger around our world. We will be discussing ministry opportunities that have arisen in some communities, learning more about gardens and other feeding ministries, and sharing in some further education around food distribution. For more information, contact Pastor Stephen.

**TRINITY'S PRODUCE GARDEN RETURNS TO HELP
NEIGHBORS!**

After a great year last year producing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for our neighbors in need, the Trinity Lutheran Garden Feeding Ministry is back for 2024. There will be lots of tasks that need help in our growing effort. This year, we may also till some more land to plant potatoes. If you have interest in helping with planting, watering, weeding, or even a curiosity about cleaning the produce once it is picked, please contact Dane Crist (563 340-6343) or Tom Shelton (563-468-9039). Many hands make light work!



*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35*

**TIME &
TALENTS**

Survey



Check your weekly email update and the Narthex for surveys to collect your input into the life of our congregation. Everything from Worship volunteers to help around the property to hospitality will be surveyed, and we'd love to find out what gifts our congregation can share. Surveys are available at trinitylcpv.com/timetalents and in the narthex. Even if you are not checking boxes from an area, it helps to get as many surveys back as possible.

*Happy
Mother's
Day*

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.





**Resettlement
Donation Needs**

Now through May 12 in the Narthex

☒ Mop and bucket	☒ Dish Soap
☒ Broom and dustpan	☒ Laundry Detergent
☒ Pack of sponges	☒ Dryer Sheets
☒ Bottle of all-purpose cleaning spray	☒ Light Bulbs
☒ Dish/Cleaning Cloths	☒ Tissues
☒ Toilet Brush	☒ Disinfectant Wipes
	☒ Paper Towels

COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT NEEDS THROUGH EASTERTIDE

After meeting with Deb Whitford from the LSI last fall, our Social Ministry team invites you to help our newest neighbors - refugees around Iowa - by donating various cleaning supplies that we will contribute to their welcome packs. Bring any of the items listed on the left to the church between Easter and May 12 (the end of Sunday School year) on the table in the Narthex for a generous gift to people making a new life for themselves in America.

Thanks in advance!

Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits

Global Health Ministries last year sent 7,200 Newborn Kits to hospital clinics on three continents, attempting to connect with mothers and their newborns for perinatal care to help teach important health care. This year GHM has set a goal of 10,000 Newborn Kits! Last year TLC delivered 55 Newborn Kits to the warehouse in Minneapolis, MN and our Endowment Fund sent money to ship the kits to the clinics where they were needed.

TLC Social Ministry Committee has decided to be a part of this goal in 2024! The dates that we will be collecting items for the Newborn Kits are May 19 through July 7. Please place all items on or under the table in the Narthex. Also, please reach out to your neighbors, family, and friends to be a part of this caring project.



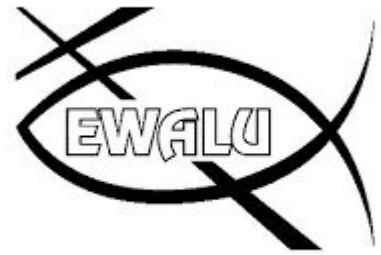
NEWBORN KIT ITEMS (new or gently used items)

- ~1 bath towel (around 52" long)
- ~1 washcloth (not microfiber)
- ~1 bath size white Ivory soap bar
- ~1 newborn/'onesie' cotton t-shirt size 0-3 month
- ~1 newborn stocking hat (very small)
- ~1 baby cotton or light flannel receiving blanket (around 30"x30")
- ~2 cloth diapers (may be found at Target)
- ~2 diaper pins



TRINITY DAY CAMP WITH CAMP EWALU

MONDAY, JUNE 10 -
THURSDAY, JUNE 13
9 AM - 4 PM EACH DAY



This year, Trinity Lutheran Church will be partnering with Camp Ewalu Bible Camp counselors to provide a Day Camp. We are excited to say that registration is still open, and can be accessed at TrinityLCPV.com/vbsregistration or in the paper copies in the Narthex. This year's camp comes with the theme Created to Be - kids can find out lots about how they are Created by God to Be one of God's Beloved. The registration fee for the week of camp is a suggested donation of \$65.

With so many great kids learning here, we will need many volunteers to help throughout the week with everything from food to helping "shepherd" children around to the different learning spaces. You can sign up to bring food or help out during the week of our Day Camp VBS on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please have all food brought to church by Sunday, June 9.

Looking for another way to help with the camp but don't have a camper to bring or the ability to bring food or volunteer? You can also help "Sponsor a Camper" by marking any offering for VBS. As mentioned, we are recommending a \$65 donation per camper, so you could sponsor a whole week for a camper for that amount.

If you have any questions, please contact John Newman (PHONE NUMBER) or Pastor Stephen.



Synod Assembly Offering: Special Matching Gift to Help Future Leaders *Now through May 12*

As part of the [Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly](#)'s efforts to raise up new leaders for the church, there will be a collection at the assembly for the Synod Fund for Leaders Scholarship Fund. TLC Council will match any donations given to this special offering before May 12 so we can contribute to these seminary scholarships and help the church form new leaders. Both Pastor Stephen and his wife Pastor Leah were recipients of these scholarships. *Mark Synod Offering on your offering envelope if you'd like to help.*

To find out more about Fund for Leaders, visit ELCA.org/Our-Work/Leadership/ELCA-Fund-for-Leaders.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

“...And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16 NIV

Trinity’s Endowment committee is gearing up for another year of giving. Each year, 5% of the investment fund is distributed according to the Mission Endowment Agreement. In 2024, the distribution will be \$16,000. The breakdown is as follows:

20% Council Discretionary Fund	\$3,200
20% ELCA Affiliated Programs	\$3,200
20% Community Service Programs	\$3,200
40% Miscellaneous	\$6,400

Over the next few months, the Endowment Committee will be working to make its recommendations for the use of these funds. Congregational input is important to the committee. Members of the congregation are invited to suggest possible uses. Written suggestions are encouraged and all suggestions will be seriously considered. Last year funds were given to new organizations that were suggested from our congregation.

Please consider your recommendations and submit your requests to the committee soon. Request forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by contacting the office or committee member. We are asking that your suggestions be submitted by July 31.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the committee members, Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining, Mitch Sussex, Treasurer and Marcia Brunsvold, Council Representative.



Trinity Lutheran Endowment Committee
Congregational suggestions for Endowment Fund Distribution

Congregation members, committee members or groups seeking resources to support a program. Organization, ministry or mission are invited to submit to the endowment Committee request for use of Endowment Distributions. All requests must be submitted in writing and received by July 31 for the current year's distributions.

Your name_____

Your contact information phone _____ **Email** _____

Organization you recommend for Donation_____

Please provide information about the organization, ministry and suggested use.

Suggested donation amount_____

(Please note that the committee is not bound by this suggestion, but your input is appreciated.)

For questions, please contact Committee Members: Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining, Mitch Sussex, Treasurer or Marcia Brunsvold, Council Representative.

Completed forms can be turned into the office or emailed to brunsvoldmarcia@gmail.com



May 2024 – Give a Gift to LSI: Support Mothers across Iowa

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Did you know LSI brings hope and healing to mothers in each of our service lines? Here are just a few examples:

The Child Care Business Development program in our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services prepares women, often mothers, to run an in-home childcare business. This small business opportunity allows them to provide for their family and ensure their children receive culturally appropriate care.

Many mothers benefit from our Foster Care and Adoption services, whether they be mothers who are blessed with a child through adoption or foster mothers who provide love and guidance to children from all paths of life.

Early Childhood Services prepares mothers-to-be for birth and raising a child. Additionally, home visitation programs help ensure a strong support system for young parents across the state.

These are just three examples of how LSI serves mothers in Iowa. This Mother's Day, we encourage you to give a gift in honor of your mother or motherly figure to ensure mothers around the state receive the care and support they deserve.

Donate online at lsiowa.org/donate or send a check to Lutheran Services in Iowa, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677-0848.

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.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Thank you to everyone that helped with spring cleanup on April 27
There were around 17 helping hands inside and out. From
mulching, cleaning windows, and sprucing up inside the church.



May 2024

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