



THE TORCH

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November 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)

Beloved Saints,

The fall air has turned to some crisp breezes, and with it, the leaves change and sometimes we have even gotten a little rain to bless our area here in the Quad Cities. With these changing seasons come reminders of life moving on: leaves fall at this time, and for all the new life that flourishes in the spring, those falling leaves remind us that death is a part of life.

In just such a way, All Saints Day (and All Saints Sunday, when we commemorate All Saints Day in our Sunday worship) celebrates those aspects of life as well. Every year, when we name aloud those who we have lost in the past year, and people come forward to light a candle in memory of any of the saints that they have cherished in years gone by, I think about the beginning of the 12th chapter of Hebrews:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSVUE)

"Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses!" I count each and every one of you as part of that cloud of witnesses already: in your baptisms, you have joined all the saints who have come before us, bearing witness to the faith in Jesus Christ as your Redeemer. If we think hard about the saints that are the "heroes" or "rock stars" of our faith, then it can seem unattainable – not that there aren't indeed some who have done great things throughout their lives of faith.

On this year's All Saints Sunday, we will hear the story of Christ's seventh sign in the Gospel according to John: the raising of Lazarus (John 11:32-44). In the story, Mary and Martha are weeping, the crowd of others gathered with them in grief is weeping, and the body of Lazarus has even begun to give off a stench. All of these serve as reminders of the seriousness of death, but Jesus joins them in their weeping as well, and for many All Saints Day (especially the first one after the loss of a loved one) will be a time when we cry due to the grief that we feel.

On that first Sunday in November, we will hear about a God who wipes away all tears (both in Isaiah and Revelation). It's been said that we will continue to rejoice and be thankful for all God has done in our lives, knowing that every tear has been removed from their eyes, and we weep in joy that soon the tears will also be removed from our own eyes. That removing of the tears is not a denial that tears will fall but rather a confirmation that God will surround us with this great cloud of witnesses to help make all things new afterwards. The God who loves all of creation – including you, me, and all the saints who we celebrate on All Saints Day – brings us a love that we share with all those around us.

As the poet Jamie Anderson says, "Grief is just love with no place to go."

Cry your tears, feel your feelings, love the way that God first loved you. After all of that, we will still celebrate the new life in Christ that we all share.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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



ELCA Conference of Bishops Emphasizes the Need to Speak the Truth

In a perfect garden, created by God for the sake of humanity, evil entered in the form of deception and lies. Christians refer to this story, found in the biblical book of Genesis, as the *fall of humanity*. This foray into human sin began when Adam and Eve, the first humans created in the image of God, were deceived.

Humans have contended with the powers of deception ever since.

Yet we are a people who know and proclaim the power of God at work in the world. We proclaim the power of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, the one who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit.

We, the members of the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.

We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit.

We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the one who is truth. We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- Commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God's command to "test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Reject the use of humor that normalizes falsehood, remembering that our speech should "always be gracious" (Colossians 4:6).
- Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ's love for the least among us.
- Courageously interrupt hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God's image.
- Lean in with curiosity, engage with those who think differently and "put the best construction on our neighbor's action" (Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment).
- Amplify voices of truth.

Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, may we resist deception and lift up the truth that all members of humanity are created in the image of God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we respond to the Spirit's invitation into this intentional commitment against deception and for truth.

In Christ,

The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Trinity Lutheran Church Serving as a Polling Place in Upcoming Election

Once again, Trinity Lutheran Church will serve as a polling place for this fall's election November 5. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and we always feel grateful that our facilities here at Trinity can be used for the greater good of the community. For more information about the upcoming elections, visit ScottCountyIowa.gov/Auditor/Elections.

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2024

Collections to date	\$139,990.72
Expenses to date	\$133,056.68
Net to date	\$6,934.04
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR OCTOBER

October	6	65
October	13	67
October	20	54

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cindy Hall
- 2 Gavin Heidenreich
- 2 Andrea Naab
- 4 Neil Vining
- 7 Babe Reber
- 8 Tiffany Engler
- 10 Chris Kaul
- 11 Hagen Vining
- 13 Jenny Prather
- 15 Hudson Vining
- 16 Paul Opperman
- 16 Nathan Vining
- 23 Heidi McBride
- 23 Kaa Junge



ANNIVERSARY

- 16 Connie & Jerry Short
- 19 Beau & Katie Dexter
- 24 Barb & Ray Norris
- 27 Barb & Darrell Paul
- 30 Jo Ann & Don Hogenson

*happy
Anniversary*

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24	December 1
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Barb McIlrath	Sally Morrow	Linda Busch	Diane Kaufmann	Diana Mayes
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Sharon Marquard	Marcia Brunsvold	Diane Holst	Jo Ann Hogenson	
<i>Lector</i>	Henry Marquard	Dawn Brick	Justin Paul		
<i>Usher Greeter</i>	Al McIlrath Barb Paul	Travis Brunsvold Ron Morrow	Lois Schurr	Ed Kaufmann Arnie Kaufmann	Connie Short Diane Cook
<i>Worship Video Livestream Producer</i>	Kathy Naslund	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	
<i>Fellowship</i>	Peg Claussen Diane Holst	Darrell & Barb Paul	HOT TEAM Pie Sunday	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.

If you are unable to fulfill your duties, please find a replacement and call or email the church office (332-5188 or office@trinitylcpv.com) with your replacement. Thank you.

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.



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

Choir Rehearsal Dates for November

The Trinity Lutheran Choir will have practice on Wednesday November 6 and 22, at 6:30 PM. Sunday dates are November 10 and 24 at 8:00 AM. Practices to follow every other Wednesday with a practice and performance every other Sunday.

New singers are always welcome! Make a joyful noise to the Lord!



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

11/03 Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24,
Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

11/10 1Kings 17:8-16, 10-15 Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

11/17 Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16,
Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-8

11/24 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37



FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday November 2, with a rain date of November 9, 8:30 AM—12:00 PM. With the beauty of fall and the falling leaves comes time for fall clean up. There are many tasks both inside and out to do around TLC. We hope you can join in for a fun and rewarding day. Treats will be provided!

Fall Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops

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. TLC will have snacks and drinks available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



Tuesdays 4:40-5:10 PM, November 19, and December 10.

For more info, visit: Scottcountyia.gov/library/bookmobile

Shared Youth Group Diving in to Faith and Fun with Food

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM

November meetings at First Pres. Church in LeClaire



TLC youth from 6th through 9th grades will be joining together with First Presbyterian Church's youth (and any friends that the youth would like to bring along) for a fun, faith-filled new youth group meeting each Sunday through the school year. Each meeting will include a simple dinner, games, and discussion of the developing faith of the youth.

If anyone would like to donate money or buy food, snacks, and drinks, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex and you will be contacted as to what is needed. Further questions or looking for other ways to help? Contact Pastor Stephen or Deb Goslin.

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!



Food Assistance Gift Cards (Formerly Food Baskets)

Families in need are most appreciative by the generosity of TLC with our food assistance program. Please be sure to note on your check that it is for food assistance. Any contribution is greatly appreciated as we help our neighbors in the holiday seasons ahead.

With questions, please contact Kathy Naslund by phone (725-270-1805) or email (kathynaslund@gmail.com).

SHARE- A -MEAL

We had a large turn-out, serving around 60 at Zion Lutheran Church. We served a meal of sloppy joes. Thanks to Tom and Mary Shelton for a donation of ground beef. Thanks to Linda Busch, Rudie Eberlein, and Pastor Stephen for a donation of cookies. Connie Short, Bonnie Murphy and myself prepared the meal. Judy Ahlers, and John and Brandi Ahlers helped serve.

Serving through Christ,
Debra Anderson



CARD CRAFTING MINISTRY MEETING MONTHLY

Trinity's card ministry now meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm in the lower level of the church. The next meeting will be *November 7 at 1:30-3:30 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.



Angel Tree Gifting Opportunities

Your Angel Tree gifts need to be under the tree by Sunday December 10. Please bring all gifts wrapped with the Angel tag attached.



Trinity's 2024 CROP Walk Team

2024 CROP Hunger Walk of Quad Cities a Huge Success

The team of 12 walkers from Trinity Lutheran Church could not have had a better day of weather to go walk at the I-74 bridge as part of the 2024 CROP Walk of the Quad Cities. The grand total of fundraising is still being calculated, but it was a great turnout in both the funds raised to fight hunger as well as the peanut butter and jelly collected for our local food pantries. Trinity is blessed to have a generous collection of individuals who support these great causes. Thanks for all your help!



Southeastern Iowa Synod Hosting Evening Meal and Worship Here at Trinity *Sunday, November 17 – 4:30-7:00 PM*

Join Bishop Amy Current, Pastor Stephen and many other leaders from congregations around our area for a wonderful night of gratitude for the many ways God has blessed our ministry in the past year. Soup supper will be provided, and a short worship service will be held to celebrate a season of thankfulness and gratitude for all God has called us into in the past year. If you would like to help in the

kitchen (no food will need to be brought by our congregation), please see Pastor Stephen. The night will consist of:

4:30 pm to 4:45 pm	Gather
4:45 pm to 5:30 pm	Worship
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner, Gratitude Stories, and Fellowship



Southeastern Iowa Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Interested in the Work of the Church More Broadly? Serve as a Voting Member at 2025's Synod Assembly

Each year, our congregation is represented by two voting members at the Southeastern Iowa Synod's Assembly. This upcoming year, the assembly will be held in Des Moines on the campus of Grandview University. The 2025 Assembly will be held Sunday, May 18 from 10 AM to 6 PM. Travel and Hotel Costs would be covered by the congregation, and this is a great opportunity to see what broader ministry our congregation is a part of in our area around Southeastern Iowa. We're seeking interest in this now so that we can try to have these names ready for nomination at January's Annual Congregation Meeting. If you have any questions, you can speak to Pastor Stephen or ask last year's voting members, Dane and Michelle Crist.



FREE Walking Taco Bar Kick-Off Event for New Food Pantry Open to the Public

COST: FREE-WILL DONATION OR
DONATE CANNED FOOD ITEMS

Sunday, November 10, anytime 5-7 PM

In exchange for donations of canned food items or a free-will cash donation, you can join in for a Walking Taco at a great meal to help kick-off the opening of our new food pantry. Invite your friends and neighbors, and bring them for even more fun! All the food and supplies have been provided by a generous Thrivent Action Team donation.



Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities

A dedicated group of volunteers from around TLC and others in our community has continued meeting and working out some early logistics for our new food pantry. The Trinity Food Pantry will open starting the first week in November, serving the community with dry goods and non-perishables.

The pantry will be open Mondays from 9 AM to 11 AM and Thursdays from 4 PM to 6 PM.

If you are interested in helping with this exciting new ministry opportunity, please contact Dane Crist or Pastor Stephen or email pantry@trinitylcpv.com. There's also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, full of opportunities to help sort food, help guests, and track the inventory of our pantry in the basement.

AMITIE

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

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor

The November meeting is the last meeting that Rudie will host. You are invited to come and support Rudie for her hard work and time she has devoted to Amitie.

Women of the ELCA

Calling all women of the church. Would you like to join a monthly Women's group? Rudie will no longer be leading Amitie, but some women have expressed continuing a women's group at TLC but at a different time or day. You could be a part of a new women's group at TLC. Focus (missions, book study, community outreach, etc.) can be determined at our first meeting. It will be a group to support each other.

WELCA is the Women's Group across the ELCA, and each congregation's group has some flexibility to work within the WELCA purpose statement: "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

If you are interested in a monthly women's meeting, please indicate the day of the week and times you may be available by circling them below. Comment if you have a suggestion for the group's purpose. Remember, it is only once a month, but we want to have the meeting on the day/at the time most convenient. There will be a box in the narthex to submit your available times and days and suggestions or email them to the church.

WELCA GROUP DATES AND TIMES

Circle your preferences

DAYS AVAILABLE:	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
TIMES AVAILABLE:						
MORNINGS	8	9	10	11		
AFTERNOONS	12	1	2	3	4	5
EVENINGS	6	7				

Comments:



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE MAKES ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION

The Endowment Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support this year. A Special thank you to those who submitted recommendations for organizations that could use funds from us. We were able to distribute \$16,000 this year. Below is a list of the distributions. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss this with any of the committee members.

Alan Diers, Diana Mayes, Susan Varilek, Sheila Vining
Council Representative, Marcia Brunsvold

TRINITY PROGRAMS	\$4,400 = subtotal	
Council Discretionary Funds	\$3,200	
Trinity Social Ministry	\$500	Includes Share A Meal
Trinity Food Assistance	\$500	Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas meal gift cards
Trinity Food Pantry	\$200	Starting Funding for the Food Pantry Effort
ELCA AFFILIATED PROGRAMS	\$6,400 = subtotal	
Luther Properties	\$1,000	Supports 5 HUD apt. complexes in QC
Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$1,000	Provides needs for those in Eastern Iowa
St. James Food Pantry	\$200	Local Food Pantry
All Saints Food Pantry	\$200	Local Food Distribution
Camp Shalom	\$250	Campership for 1 camper
Ewalu Bible Camp	\$250	Campership for 1 camper
Wartburg Seminary	\$1,000	To scholarship fund
Lutheran School of Theology	\$1,000	To scholarship fund
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$500	Help for those in US and world disasters
Lutheran World Relief	\$500	Assistance to save and Improve lives in the poorest parts of the world
Iglesia Camino de Emaus	\$500	ELCA of QC support of new congregation for Hispanic community
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS	\$4,400 = subtotal	
Crop Walk	\$400	Local Anti-Hunger Advocacy Walk
Churches United	\$300	Feed hungry/support temp. housing support
Family Resources	\$500	Supports efforts to reduce human trafficking
One Eighty Program	\$500	Offer hope and housing for those in recovery
Tapestry Farms	\$500	Urban farm systems for refugees
Footbridge	\$200	Postage, etc. to local organization that coordinate supplies for various charities
Central Community Circle Food Pantry and	\$500	Assists families in downtown Davenport with food hygiene supplies
Fostering Crossroads	\$500	Provide support and resources for foster & adoptive parents
Humble Dwellings	\$500	Transform living spaces into homes using donated household goods for displaces families, youth aging out of foster care
Safer QC	\$500	Assistance for youth/adults impacted by criminal legal system
OTHER	\$800 = subtotal	
Stir the Fire	\$300	Feeding/education orphans in Zambia, Africa
Global Health Ministries	\$500	Provides overseas shipping expensed for quilts, school supplies, newborn kits.
TOTAL	\$16,000	



November 2024: National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month! Lutheran Services in Iowa has served adoptive and foster families for decades, helping to ensure every child has a safe and loving home. For over a year, we joined with Four Oaks Foster and Adoption Services to better serve the families of Iowa. As a subcontractor, we continue to train and support foster, adoptive, and kin families in the western side of the state. Our team has served over 700 families through assistance during the licensing process and by providing on-going support and development in the past fiscal year.

To learn more about our Foster Care and Adoption services, please visit www.lsiowa.org/foster-care-adoption.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.

Now through December 31, Double your Donation!

Consider giving a gift to Lutheran Services in Iowa to support Iowans from all walks of life. Until the end of December, all donations will be doubled! A handful of generous donors agreed to match donations up to \$80,000. Increase your impact by donating today at LSIowa.org/donate. You may be able to increase your gift even more! See if your employer has a matching gift program.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1			1 Pastor's Sabbath	2 8:30 - 12 Clean-Up Day
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School, Adult Education, Property 5:00 Youth Group	4 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry	5 4:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Education	6 10:00 Bible Study 3:30 Social Ministry 6:30 Choir	7 1:30 Card Ministry 4 PM - 6 PM Food Pantry	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 8:30 -12 Clean-Up Day Rain Date
10 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 5:00 Food Pantry Kick-Off Walking Taco Bar 5:00 Youth Group	11 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	12	13 10:00 Bible Study	14 4 PM - 6 PM Food Pantry	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 4:30 Evening of Gratitude 5:00 Youth Group	18 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry	19	20 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	21 4 PM - 6 PM Food Pantry	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group	25 9 AM - 11 AM Food Pantry	26 6:00 Stewardship	27 10:00 Bible Study	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 Pastor Sabbath	30