



THE TORCH

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October 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 Fellow Disciples,

Like many of you, the last few months before an election can be exhausting for me. Like many of you, the onslaught of ads (on television, online, or around our community) can be exhausting for me. Like many of you, the heightened rhetoric of our current political climate can be exhausting for me.

Why, then, would we ever want to talk about the election or things that are political?

"Lutherans care about government because it is a gift from God intended for the safety and flourishing of human life." That statement begins the ELCA's social message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States (subtitled "Discipleship in a Democracy"). You can learn more about this in Adult Education on Sundays in October. This sense of good government being a gift dates back to (at least) the Augsburg Confession, and it has been a long time since those times when Luther and friends were writing and speaking out against the tyranny of the overlap between governments of that time and the Pope, but, as the saying goes, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

In this current environment, we are ruled by far fewer kings and queens; democracy has been selected by this nation and many others because it allows for people to have their voices heard much more than monarchy and many of the other systems that people tried before. We care about the government and about the good order of that government of, by, and for the people because these people are our neighbors and in our baptism we join Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves. While we may disagree on the exact policies that will make this happen, we strive for peace and seeing our neighbors as fellow beloved of God - even while living in a pluralistic society where not all are required to follow the same God we know and love. God loves *all* of creation, and all means all.



Recently, I was driving through Solon, Iowa, on my way back home from Iowa City. Solon always represents a sort of dividing place where the "bubble" of a university town like Iowa City snaps back to "reality" a bit and you see many more signs for a broad array of political candidates. One sign that caught my eye in this drive through was in a yard with no other individual candidates or issues: it simply read, "VOTE YOUR HOPES, NOT YOUR FEARS. Register to Vote." When I got home and looked for this sign online for the picture you see at the left, I noticed that dove that is inside the O in VOTE - a classic sign of the peace that we find throughout Scripture from the end of the flood with Noah through the Spirit's descent toward Jesus after he is baptized in the Jordan River. I may not know much about the people in the home where this sign was posted, but I feel a bond in that commitment to voting according to hopes rather than fears.

As a pastor, I will never tell you who to vote for in an election. I'll be hoping and voting for an end to the divisions that make neighbors distrust neighbors. I'll be passing the peace during worship throughout the month of October with people I know will probably vote for opposing candidates, and we will continue to both smile when we share the joy of children in worship. We may want to say there is a separation of church and state, and there are certainly some that even argue that faith is separate from the work of the government, but I urge you to continue to see how your faith is lived out in the world around you: caring for neighbors, speaking truth in a world that tells us the lie that divisions cannot be overcome, and bringing hope in a time where so much fear separates us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Stephen Nilsen

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of my favorite council meetings of the year is the one where we approve the Endowment Committee's recommendations for fund distributions to a number of charitable organizations that do amazing work. . . not only in our area but around the world. What a beautiful thing the Endowment is and I'm always thankful to those that generously gave to get it started. In 2024, \$16,000 (5% of the fund) was distributed to assist programs here at Trinity, ELCA-affiliated programs, and community service programs. Many of these programs were recommended by members right here at Trinity, and it is always neat to see some of the programs doing great work that I wasn't even aware of! Did you know that the Grace Vah Foundation provides swimming lessons for children who cannot afford them? This foundation was named after 6 year old Grace Vah who drowned at a water park on a school field trip when she went into water too deep and didn't know how to swim. The Trinity Endowment donated to this worthy cause along with many others. What a great ministry Trinity the Endowment Fund is!

October 15th is World Hunger Day. In honor of World Hunger Day, the council has approved a \$500.00 donation from the council discretionary fund. As we get closer to October 15th, keep an eye out for more information about World Hunger Day. Also, any guesses on what helps seed the council discretionary fund? If you guessed the Endowment Fund you would be correct! 20% of the annual Endowment distribution goes to the council discretionary fund.

However, the Endowment does not operate on its own without effort. There is a committee that keeps things running smoothly. Endowment needs one committee member beginning in 2025, and will two members and a new treasurer for 2026. If Endowment resonates with you, please express your interest to myself, Pastor Stephen, or any member of council. Endowment Committee would love to have help with this wonderful ministry!

We are also coming to that time of the year when we start to consider replacements for the Trinity church council. Carol Kaufmann will be ending her second council term after six years of diligent and faithful service. Thank you, Carol! Cathy Newman filled in for a year and is ending her term. Thank you, Cathy! If others would like to consider helping guide the future of Trinity, but have questions about what the council does or the commitment involved, please reach out to me, Pastor Stephen, or any member of the council. We would be happy to help provide you with information to decide if this is a position that would work for you.

Congregational giving and spending are in a good place right now. Total Trinity income is right on target to hit the 2024 budget mark of \$193,200. Through August giving was at \$131,418.72. That is a remarkable accomplishment to be right on track. Even better is that through careful adherence to the budget, expenses through August are \$119,337.03. That puts our expenses \$12,081.69 below income. That's quite an extraordinary feat!

Property committee has been working hard on obtaining proposals and estimates for a facelift to the front of the Fellowship Hall. This will be a significant expense, but is a big step in making sure we maintain the physical building of Trinity Lutheran Church. Keep an eye out for more discussion on this topic as it will eventually become a congregation-wide vote for approval.

Please put Saturday November 2nd on your calendar if you are able to help with Trinity church clean-up day. This is a day where the grounds get cleaned up and prepared for the winter months. Many hands make light(er) work! If the weather doesn't cooperate, the date will move one week to Saturday November 9.

Justin

YEAR TO DATE THROUGH AUGUST 2024

Collections to date	\$131,418.72
Expenses to date	\$119,337.03
Net to date	\$12,081.69

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER

September	1	50
September	8	67
September	15	58
September	22	63

Choir Rehearsal Dates for October

The Trinity Lutheran Choir will have practice on Wednesdays October 2, and 16 at 6:30 PM. Sunday dates are 8:00 AM October 6 and 20. Practices to follow every other Wednesday with a practice and performance every other Sunday.



Trinity Lutheran Feeding Ministry Garden

Volunteers Needed

We are now well into providing produce from four gardens to the Central Community Center foodbank (CCC) in Davenport. We give thanks to God and all the many hands that have helped to harvest so many good things from our garden to help feed our neighbors through Central Community Circle Food Pantry: many pounds of carrots, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, radishes, apples, and onions.

Please see Tom Shelton or Dane Crist for more info on this great ministry.



Shared Youth Group Diving in to Faith and Fun with Food

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM

October meetings here at Trinity Lutheran Church

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. In September, we will finish the month by having a game night at the LeClaire Rec. Center, and in October, we'll have a wiener roast to enjoy fall weather.

The Sunday night youth program will be at Trinity for the months of October and December, February, and April. TLC will be providing simple meals. 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!

BIRTHDAYS

1 John Vining
5 Fletcher Wright
8 Ray Norris
11 Jean Mattson
12 Cathy Kime
19 Al McIlrath
21 Jo Ann Hogenson
21 Stephan Engler
22 Jerry Short
22 Kohler Wright
27 Oden Wright
27 Debi Goslin



ANNIVERSARIES

9 Neil & Lolita Baker
11 Neil & Cassie Vining
29 Kris & Jeff Rupp



Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	November 3
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Linda Busch	Diane Kaufmann	Cathy Newman	Randy Goslin	Barb McIlrath
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Sally Morrow	Diane Holst	Claudia Neumann	Sally Morrow	Sharon Marquard
<i>Lector</i>	Henry Marquard	Darrell Paul	John Newman	Jo Ann Hogenson	Henry Marquard
<i>Usher Greeter</i>	Ron Morrow Debra Anderson	Arnie Kaufmann Ed Kaufmann	Chris Kaul Diane Cook	Judy Rutledge Ron Morrow	Al McIlrath Barb Paul
<i>Worship Video Livestream Producer</i>	Kathy Naslund	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<i>Fellowship</i>	Volunteer Needed	Sharon & Henry Marquard Diana Mayes	Peg Claussen Diane Holst	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.

NEWBORN KITS

A huge 'WOW' for gathering items for the Global Health Ministries challenge of 10,000 kits in 2024. Vacation Bible School and Trinity Lutheran Church members with help from Ladies of Grace Evangelical Free Church in Davenport was able to compile 122 Newborn Kits this summer.

Thank you to Amanda (Neal & Pam Schroder's daughter) who took 8 boxes of kits up to Minneapolis last Sunday and will deliver to GHM soon! (More boxes will go north in October and November.)



Social Ministry Committee

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 October 10 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.



AMITIE

Amitie will meet October 14 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



Sunday Morning Adult Education – Listen! God is Calling

Wrapping up Sunday, October 6 after Worship
Based on the hymn with the same name (ELW 513), congregations across the Southeastern Iowa Synod are invited to carry on from the Synod Assembly theme to dive into exploring a resource that might provoke thoughtful and meaningful discussions, facilitated here at Trinity by Pastor Stephen, as we ground ourselves in the promise that God is always with us, even when we are called to let go of things that no longer serve the mission, and embrace the new ways God is calling us to be the church today.

To review the Bible Study, visit <https://bit.ly/TLC-Listen>

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!



SHARE-A-MEAL OCTOBER 17

Contact Deb Anderson (563-289-4969) if you can help with cooking or serving the meal for our next time helping with the Share-A-Meal through Churches United. Trinity will be serving on Thursday, October 17 at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Servers and cookie bakers are always needed. This a great way to involve the entire family and serve the need of others.



SHARE-A-MEAL RECAP

Sack lunches were prepared on July 25th for an outdoor meal as requested for the summer schedule. The meals were prepared by Connie Short, Bonnie Murphy and myself. We served 43 hotdogs, buns, and chips left over from VBS. We supplemented the meal with fruit cups, cookies and water. Thanks to all that donated cookies. Judy and Brandi Ahlers helped serve this meal.

Serving through Christ,
Debra Anderson

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

10/06 Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8,
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

10/13 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

10/20 Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16,
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

10/27 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46
Romans 3:1-28, John 8:31-36

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.



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

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, October 8 and 29, November 19, and December 10.

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



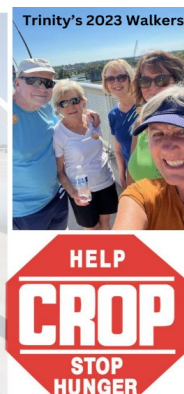


SERVICE OF LAMENT AND REMEMBRANCE - PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Following a resolution passed at the 2024 Synod Assembly the Southeastern Iowa Synod Sumud working group and Pastor Peter Petit have developed a liturgy for congregations to use for a service of lamentation and remembrance to be used on Sunday, October 6, 2024, marking the one-year anniversary of the start of the conflict in Gaza, Israel, and Lebanon. Join us for a special service at Trinity that day as we pray for peace in a region that so desperately needs it.

2024 CROP Hunger Walk of Quad Cities Sunday, October 6 2 PM – Beginning at Caxton Building in Moline walking the I-74 Bridge

Join our team of committed hunger-fighters by **donating peanut butter and jelly** in the cart in the narthex or fundraising with us to help fight hunger in the Quad Cities and around the world. Or sign-up to join our walkers: it's a great way to raise awareness of hunger in our community!



World Food Day: Celebrating 50 years of ELCA World Hunger.

Tuesday, October 15 at 7 PM

Zoom Webinar

Join representatives from ELCA World Hunger for a special webinar hosted by Bishop Amy Current to hear firsthand stories from partners at ELCA World Hunger projects (near and far, including the Quad Cities) having a global impact. Contact Pastor Stephen for the link to register or view the webinar.



Remember,
you may be
the only Bible
that others
read.



BE OUR GUEST

Faith Lutheran Church is inviting the whole community to share in togetherness as we learn about organizations that serve our community.

Join us at Faith Lutheran Church
500 West Le Claire Road, Eldridge
on Thursday, October 10th at 6:30 PM

We will hear from Karen Vandecasteele and Ann McGlynn as they share with us about
Humble Dwellings and Tapestry Farms.

**Questions? Call Faith Lutheran Church at
563 285-4501**



Humble Dwellings is an organization that provides lightly used household items to families leaving abusive households or going through foster care and people with disabilities needing a new home.



TAPESTRY
farms

Tapestry Farms is a nonprofit urban farm system, growing the Quad-Cities welcome of refugees. We nourish people and land, in hopes that all in our community will be abundantly fed.



FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

9 AM - 12 PM - TEACHING/PRAYER WITH PASTOR ELAINE OLSON

12 PM - 1 PM - LUNCH

1 PM - 3 PM - CRAFTING/JOURNALING/CREATIVE TIME

STORE UP TO FILL UP YOUR CUP

1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722
\$25/person, registration to follow,
please bring payment to retreat

Questions? Please reach out:
kimhewlett18@gmail.com



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY TASK FORCE

A dedicated group of volunteers from around TLC and others in our community met twice during September to further the planning efforts toward a Food Pantry opening in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church. In the coming month, we will work toward acquiring necessary supplies, strengthening commitments from partnering congregations, and possibly even have a few dry runs of what a session of opening the food pantry would run like. If you are interested in helping with this exciting new ministry opportunity, please contact Dane Crist (gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com) or Pastor Stephen. Keep an eye out in the weekly emails and bulletins for other upcoming meetings and help needed.



Women of the ELCA

Calling all women of the church. Would you like to join a monthly Women's group? Rudi 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

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:

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY TOWARDS ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Supporting the many fine hunger ministries that the ELCA and Southeastern Iowa Synod accomplish around the world and locally, the Trinity Lutheran Church Council has committed to a \$500 donation in honor of the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. If you would like to join the council in this gift (whether 50 cents, \$50, or more), please mark your offering for ELCA World Hunger by the end of October. Thanks in advance for your support!



ELCA
World Hunger



October 2024: 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.

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.

**DISCIPLESHIP IN A DEMOCRACY: STUDY GROUP ON THE ELCA'S SOCIAL MESSAGE
ON GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES
SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 13 - NOVEMBER 3 AFTER WORSHIP**

The election season is in full swing, and what better time to delve into what we as Lutherans believe about our role in civic society and the government. Pastor Stephen will be hosting a discussion study group during the Adult Education Time on Sunday mornings after worship, beginning on October 13 for four weeks. The Social Message is accessible in its reading level and engaging as a discussion piece to see where we might find God calling us to act out our faith around us. If you have questions or would like a copy of the Social Message or Study Guide, contact Pastor Stephen. For more information or to download the Study Guide or Social Message visit <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:30 Worship & Music 6:30 Education?	2 10 Bible Study 3:30 Social Min	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School, Adult Education, Property 5:00 Youth Group	7	8	9 10 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	10 1:30 Card Ministry	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12
	14 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	15	16 10 Bible Study	17 Share-A-Meal	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Education 5:00 Youth Group	21	22 6:00 Stewardship	23 10 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Thrivent Presentation 5:00 Youth Group	28	29	30 10 Bible Study 4:00 Endowment.	31		