



THE TORCH

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September 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 Cherished Community,

Every so often, a podcast, book, or even an article comes across my phone or desk that stops me right where I am and makes me take notice. Recently, an article from Clint Schneklath, an author and fellow Lutheran pastor serving in Fayetteville, Arkansas, did just that. The [article](#) is titled "Opening Your Church As a Shelter in Three Easy Steps," and it serves as a great guide to thinking about the steps that their congregation took in opening portions of the building to sheltering refugees and other at-risk individuals experiencing homelessness.

While the congregation here at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley isn't considering doing any sheltering (although there is a history of doing that in the aftermath of the Vietnam War with refugees from that area), the main principles of Pastor Schneklath's article apply to so much of the ministry we do here at Trinity and in our daily lives. Three basic steps were expounded on in the article:

1. Make It Your Intention. When a church focuses on the broader mission that is understood by the collected congregation, it allows for people to see an activity as connected to the bigger goal – whether it's creating a shelter, serving a meal, growing produce to give to the community, starting a youth group, or whatever ministry action. At Trinity, our mission statement reflects a broad set of activities in our ministry: *"We are bound in Christian love to strengthen and nurture all through the word and sacraments as we work, reach out, and serve in this community."* Everything we do here should connect back to that mission statement.

2. Rely on Referrals and Friendships. In Pastor Schneklath's context this helped deeply by their first resident of their shelter. In short, this is all about connection: with the community, with each other, and with others who can help. Furthering the connections we have with those who we serve and who we serve with will only help to make the work we do more easily-shared. As Paul writes, "Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

3. Move at the Speed of Need. Again, the article provides an important insight into thinking about how a sustainable ministry activity might address needs as they arrive and work out the details of interactions as they happen. Of course, a church will try to plan for the outcomes that we can, but there is inevitably some improvisation involved in relationships. When I plan to cook a meal for my family, some meals might have a bunch of different pots and pans going at the same time with a high level of intensity, while others are slower, easier-going affairs. In ministry too, it's important that we remember the needs that we are meeting and work to meet them in the timeliest way possible.

All of this is to say that we have to take things in a systematic way: identifying what our intentions (mission) is and how we live it out, connecting with each other and our community in meaningful ways, and prioritizing the needs of what must be accomplished to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. It may sound simple when written out in these terms, but there are always hiccups along the way. I am grateful each and every day for the community gathered here at Trinity Lutheran Church that shares in the mutual ministry of this congregation. May we continue to see these helpful guides as examples that might help us to strengthen our own ministry possibilities in the future.

Sharing in Christ's Love,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

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, green peppers, and tomatoes.

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



Choir Rehearsal Dates for September

The Trinity Lutheran Choir will resume on September 4 with their first practice as we move into the fall season. Choir will sing on September 8. The next dates will be Wednesday September 18 and Sunday September 22. To follow with practices every other Wednesday with a practice and performance every other Sunday.



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.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JULY 2024

Collections to date	\$112,739.69
Expenses to date	\$104,335.83
Net to date	\$8,403.86

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR AUGUST

August 4	68
August 11	61
August 18	48
August 25	55

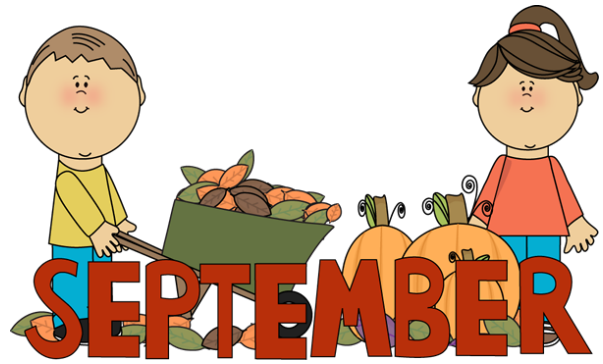
WANT TO CONNECT THE WITH WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY?

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

2 Linda Busch
 4 Vicki Jebson
 5 Darrell Paul
 7 Alice Cordts
 10 Stephanie Engler
 10 Barb Norris
 11 Randy Goslin
 17 Connor West
 18 Travis Brunsvold
 20 Don Cordts
 22 Caiden Raddatz
 30 Bill Romans

Happy Birthday!



ANNIVERSARIES

3 Bob & Suzy White
 4 Joshua & Beth Paul
 7 Tim & Julie Trelstad
 20 John & Cathy Newman

Happy Anniversary

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Altar Guild	Randy Goslin	Sally Morrow	Linda Busch	Lois Schurr	Diana Mayes
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow	Marcia Brunsvold	Jim Sbertoli	Michelle Crist	Jo Ann Hogenson
Lector	Claudia Neumann	Justin Paul	Glenna Sbertoli	Dane Crist	Ellen Opperman
Usher Greeter	Lois Schurr Al McIlrath	Chris Kaul Travis Brunsvold	Ron Morrow Judy Rutledge	Diane Cook Connie Short	Paul Opperman Don Cordts
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Randy Goslin	Justin Paul	Justin Paul	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Diane Kaufmann	Barb & Darrell Paul	John & Cathy Newman John & Brandi Ahlers	Peg Claussen Diane Holst	Thrivent Financial

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.

Regretfully I would like to announce that the last Amitie meeting will be November 11, 2024 unless there is another person that would like to lead this TLC ministry.

I have enjoyed my time as the chair of Amitie.

Rudella Eberlein, Convenor

SHARE-A-MEAL

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



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



"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep and Autumn was awaked."

Raquel Franco

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



HOLY BIBLE

WEEKLY READINGS

09/01 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

09/08 Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

09/15 Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

09/22 Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54
James 3:13—4:3 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

09/29 Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3, Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22, Revelation 12:7-12, Luke:17-20

CARD CRAFTING MINISTRY MEETING MONTHLY

Trinity's card ministry reconvened a few months ago. We now meet monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm in the lower level of the church. The next meeting will be September 12- 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.



CRISWELL STREET REHABILITATION

Criswell St. is near completion. It looks like the inconvenience it has caused us all summer has been worth the struggle. If we can figure out how to maneuver all the round-about's we will make it to church with no problems.

For more information, visit Bettendorf.org/Criswell



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

Rally Sunday to Kick-Off the Sunday School Year Ahead

Sunday, September 8 after Worship

Kids of all ages and the young at heart are welcome to join for fun and games after worship to kick off the Sunday School year ahead!

Sunday School will begin the regular schedule with lessons, crafts, and games beginning the following week.

If you're interested in helping with Sunday School or other children's events this year, please contact Pastor Stephen or someone from the Education Committee.



Shared Youth Group Kicking Off in September!

*Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM – beginning September 8
September meetings at First Pres. Church in LeClaire*

October meetings here at Trinity Lutheran Church



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. Fun outings like bowling or movie nights will likely happen later in the year. If you have youth excited to join this exciting opportunity and have questions, contact the church office or Pastor Stephen.

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



Tuesdays 4:40-5:10 PM, August 27, September 17, October 8 and 29, November 19, December 10

For more info, visit: [Scottcountyiowa.gov/library/bookmobile](https://scottcountyiowa.gov/library/bookmobile)

Sunday Morning Adult Education – Listen! God is Calling

Begins Sunday, September 15 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 preview the Bible Study, visit <https://bit.ly/TLC-Listen>



thrivent

Who needs an estate plan? You.



Estate Planning Workshop

Sunday, September 29 at 10 AM

Thrivent Financial Representatives Sharing Estate Planning Workshop

Sunday, September 29 after Worship

No matter your wealth or status, you have an estate. And all estates have something in common – you can't take it with you when you die. Join Thrivent Financial representatives Jonathan Rasler and Joseph Miller for a special workshop on estate planning and how planned giving can benefit Trinity and other causes you care about.

Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Explore assets – whether they be financial or physical Understand beneficiaries – family or organizations you care about Gain tools to help put your plans into action.

Blessing of School Supplies after Collection for Local Students

During worship on Sunday, August 11, kids joined for a brief blessing of the school supplies that were collected for families in need in the Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley School Districts. An overflowing plastic tote plus the items spread across the table in the front were blessed and sent to the schools to be distributed to students about to start their school year. We give thanks for the hands that have gathered these items in and bless the students that will use them this year!





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! See Dane or Michelle Crist or visit <https://bit.ly/QCCropWalk24> for more info.

Diaper Drive for Hiney Heroes

Throughout September, we will be collecting diapers for local families in need to be distributed by Hiney Heroes – a local diaper bank that meets the needs of families.

Why September? Every year, the last week of September marks National Diaper Need Awareness Week, providing communities with an opportunity to engage in real talk and simple action. One in two U.S. families struggles to provide enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy. The need is even higher for sizes 4-6, which are often in short supply because children stay in those sizes for longer after the initial rapid growth through sizes 1-3.

We would love for Trinity Lutheran to bring all kinds of diapers – any size package will do – to help families in need thrive. For more information on Hiney Heroes, visit HineyHeroes.com or visit NaitonalDiaperBankNetwork.org for more information on Diaper Need Awareness Week.



Blood Drive at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport

Thursday, September 19 – 2:30-6:00 PM

Our friends at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport are partnering with the Impact Life Blood Center to host a blood drive on Thursday, September 19 from 2:30-6:00 PM. There is always a need for blood donations, and this is a great opportunity to make a huge difference in someone's life with a small amount of your time. For more information or to sign-up visit <https://bit.ly/GraceDavBloodDrive> If you would like to help contact Impact Life for Trinity to host a blood drive in the future, please see Pastor Stephen or someone from the Social Ministry Committee.



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.



September 2024 – Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song "If I Could Dream" by Elvis Presley. She wondered, "What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?"

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients' dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact philanthropy@LSIowa.org.

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.

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship 10:00 Property	2 Labor Day - Office Closed	3 4:30 Worship & Music	4 10 Bible Study 1:30 Education 3:30 Social Min 4:00 Endowmt. 6:00 Choir	5 6:00 Personnel	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Rally Sunday 5:00 Youth Group	9 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	10	11 10 Bible Study	12 1:30 Card Ministry	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Ed. 5:00 Youth Group	16 6:00 Stewardship	17	18 10 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	19	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Ed. 5:00 Youth Group	23	24	25 10 Bible Study	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Thrivent Pres. 5:00 Youth Group	30					