



THE TORCH

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July 2025
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 in the name of the God who transcends all time,

"For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night." – Psalm 90:4, ELW Translation

The saying "Time flies when you're having fun!" has been on my mind quite a bit lately. In July, I will have been serving as the pastor here at Trinity for three years (and also celebrate my third ordination anniversary), and so much growth and change has happened in those three years. Maybe you see it around you as well, or maybe it feels like these three years has all been a blur and it was just yesterday that you first met me and my wife or read my first newsletter article that talked about my role as pastor like a sheepdog. Whatever the case, this seems like a good point to look back and look ahead.

Relationships have been deepened in the past three years. From time to time, I look back at the paperwork that the call committee put together when searching for a pastor here at Trinity, and I am glad that we have continued to see one another as beloved children of God and gather for fellowship in myriad ways around tables big and small, gathered by the Holy Spirit. The author and leadership theorist Stephen Covey once wrote, "Change happens at the speed of relationships, which happen at the speed of trust," and I believe that to be a key building block into the future here as well.

People have been fed in the past three years. We can see these things happening around us through lots of actions: the gardens that raise produce for food pantries, the starting of our own food pantry with support from around this community, taking part in the shared meal site, and of course, being fed and forgiven at the Lord's supper each week at worship. In addition to those, I have enjoyed seeing the way that disciples have been formed through not only our children's education but the weekly Bible study sessions, other adult education opportunities on Sunday, and book studies during Lent. People continue to be fed by the word of God coming near them.

We celebrate and remember things well here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Whether it is a beloved brother or sister in Christ who has recently passed away where the fellowship hall fills with the noise of stories shared, or remembering other key milestones when we gather round for a cookout or roast, this congregation is committed to cherishing what has gone well and hoping for the future.

Speaking of that future, what would we like it to look like? Where do we find ourselves heading? What kinds of recent successes would we like to build upon as we move forward, and what are the things that we may let go of, grieve, and move along without committing energy? As I look around at the evolving nature of this congregation, I am eager to find out! I see a vision for a future where God continues to work and the people of God gathered right here in Pleasant Valley continue to be sent forth to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in and around the Quad Cities and beyond. Whether it is the excitement felt of a recent week of Summer Day Camp or the anticipation for what could be in various uses of the building and property, this congregation has much to look forward to, and only time will tell.

Looking back and looking ahead,
Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

President's Message

By the time you read this, another successful VBS Summer Day Camp will have occurred at Trinity. Thank you to all that volunteered to create such a spiritually-meaningful week for the children! It is very much appreciated. It was really neat seeing the cooperation of Trinity, St. James, and Grace Lutheran come together for such a worthy cause. Thank you again to everyone involved!

If you see Ron Morrow around, please thank him for his service to the council. Ron elected to resign and felt his talents are better served elsewhere at Trinity. I'm sure everyone is aware that Ron is VERY involved in a variety of volunteer activities at Trinity, so when you see him, please tell him thank you. Thanks, Ron, for your service! If you would be interested in the open council seat, please let myself, Pastor Stephen, or anyone else on the council know.

A fair amount of time during the meeting was spent discussing the history of the monthly Torch newsletter along with the Thursday e-mail. The discussion was whether or not the Torch in its current form should continue, discontinue, or be modified. We would like the congregation's input. Please let us know what you think. Lots of time and effort is spent putting together the Torch, and the thought was that much of it is in the weekly e-mail. Also, in the information age where everyone wants their information yesterday, is a monthly newsletter still providing timely information about Trinity and upcoming events/activities? Please give us your feedback and thoughts on this.

Justin



New Mission Discernment Survey Coming Soon!

The Holy Spirit continues to move actively around this congregation, and there's lots of change going on all the time. Maybe you see it in the new way the front end of the building looks. Maybe you've seen changes in the backyard worship area or heard about all the good work of our feeding ministries. Coming up this month, the Council will continue to solicit your input into this ongoing process by distributing a survey to help guide our congregation into what ways we might be growing.

Check your mail and the Narthex for more info!



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 Paula (office@trinitylcpv.com) in the office to sign up!



YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL INFO THROUGH MAY 2025

Collections to date	\$88,819.77
Expenses to date	\$74,622.80
Net to date	\$14,196.97
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

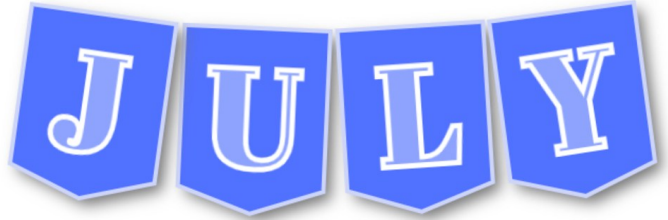
ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JUNE 2025

June	1	58
June	8	52
June	15	57
June	22	52
June	29	52

BIRTHDAYS

3 Steve Aguilar	15 Cassie Vining
3 Peggy Claussen	18 Lois Schurr
5 Sarah Paul	20 Kris Rupp
8 Bonnie Murphy	22 Barb Paul
8 Morgan Ven Horst	29 Miles Paul
8 Diane Holst	30 Dane Crist
9 Abby Mattson	30 Maeva Denain
9 Judy Reber	

HAPPY
Birthday



ANNIVERSARIES

20 Randy & Debi Goslin
31 Dane & Michelle Crist

Happy Anniversary

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	August 3
Altar Guild	Sally Morrow	Linda Busch	Diane Holst	Mary Shelton	Sally Morrow
Communion Assistant	Marcia Brunsvold	John Newman	Diane Holst	Michelle Crist	Claudia Neumann
Lector	Darrell Paul	Susan Varilek	Ellen Opperman	Jo Ann Hogenson	Justin Paul
Usher Greeter	Ron Morrow Travis Brunsvold	Lois Schurr Jo Ann Hogenson	Paul Opperman Al McIlrath	Don Cordts Dane Crist	Sharon Marquard Ron Morrow
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	HOT Team	Barb & Darrell Paul	Ed & Carol Kaufmann	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.

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.



Summer Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the church parking lot 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 will have snacks and drinks available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming stops: 4:40-5:10 PM on Tuesdays, July 8, July 29, August 19

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

Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Meeting

Thursday, July 10- 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Trinity's card ministry meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM in the lower level of the church. The next meeting will be July 10 from 1:00-3:00 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.



Trinity Card
Crafting
CRAFTED WITH LOVE

Join the PPALs Bible Study

*Saturdays at 8 AM at
Trinity Lutheran Church*

Join together in a new Bible Study with Christians from around the PV, Princeton, Argo, and Le Claire area that make up PPALs. We encourage you to grab a coffee or beverage and join in for readings and discussion of the Bible. For more information, see [Randy Goslin](#).



WEEKLY READINGS

07/06 Isaiah 66:10-24, Psalm 66:1-9, Galatians, 6:1-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

07/13 Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

07/20 Genesis 18:1-10a, 22-31 Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

07/27 Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13



Vacation Bible School this week at Trinity as well as cooperation with St. James and Grace Lutheran church is in full swing as we get ready to print the Torch. There are 61 children in attendance as well as the EWALU camp counselors and many volunteers from all three churches. From the sounds of singing, laughter and running down the long hall way it seems that VBS is a hit with all involved. It takes many hands for this to be a success, thanks to all that have given their time and talents.





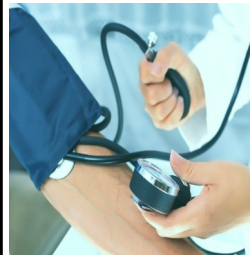
Thank You!

Thank you to our faithful knitters and crocheters who are making the prayer shawls for Trinity. Many people have been blessed as recipients, but I venture to say that the makers of these gifts are equally blessed! The added blessing is the satisfaction of doing Our Lord's work in love for that special person who needs a special touch from God during a difficult circumstance, or in celebrating the joy of an exciting life event.

Lois



Trinity Blood Pressure Ministry After worship on June 1



Trinity will be offering this ministry the first Sunday of each month by our qualified congregational members. There are several stories of health monitoring helping the lives of those who have joined in this ministry.

What's Baking? Communion Bread Sign-Up in the Narthex

Each week's Communion Bread is baked by volunteers from around our congregation, bringing forth the bread of life from the shared community we have here at Trinity. If you'd like to sign-up to bake the bread, there is a sheet in the narthex, and a recipe available



Join Trinity Prayer Chain to Connect with Community

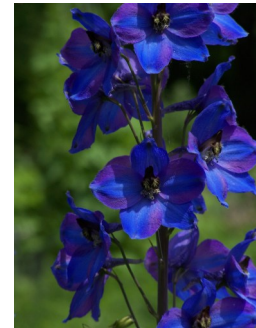
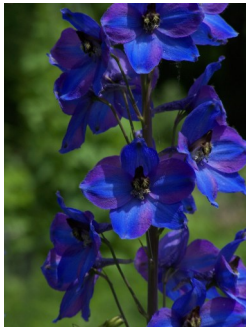
A community that prays for one another is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been praying for and with each other for a long time here at Trinity Lutheran Church, but often we don't know exactly what we are praying for in those instances when we pray. If you would like to share in brief emails when there are prayer requests sent in to the office or to Pastor Stephen (at the times when permission is given), please email [Pastor](#) or the [office](#) to be added to the Trinity Prayer Chain. These will likely be brief emails to provide a notice when an emergency has happened or when someone is requesting prayers for a family member. Prayer requests will be asked whether they would like any details shared with the prayer chain when they make those requests.



Growing in the Garden: Feeding Our Community



Whether you've been growing vegetables or fruits on your own for years or you've never tried but wanted to see what gardening is like while making a difference in our community, there's a place for you to help with our Trinity Lutheran Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry! In late May, we harvested some of the first onions from our garden, and new vegetables will be planted and harvested throughout the summer. The fruits of this labor go to serve our neighbors in need through both the Trinity Food Pantry and the Central Community Circle (CCC) Food Pantry in Davenport – providing nourishing, fresh produce to neighbors in need who often are only provided with packaged, processed goods. With additional questions, please contact Dane Crist (563-340-6343, gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com) or sign-up in the Narthex.



Trinity Food Pantry Continues Feeding Our Neighbors

Pantry Hours: Mondays, 9-11 AM and Thursdays, 4-6 PM

From John 21:17, "Jesus asked him... 'do you love me?... 'feed my sheep.'"

Our community food pantry continues to serve our neighbors, and we are blessed with many volunteers, but more are always welcome. We welcome volunteers for other aspects of the food pantry beyond the times when we are open, such as organizing the food in the pantry and sorting new donations, so if you would like to help out, please reach out to Dane Crist or Pastor Stephen or email pantry@trinitylcpv.com.

You can also pick up one of the Food Pantry flyers or Food Pantry business cards to spread the word for those in the community that you know could use the help.

Thanks so much for your support!



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS DISBURSEMENT RECIPIENTS FOR 2025

"...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 2025, the distribution will be \$19,000. The breakdown is as follows:

20% Council Discretionary Fund	\$3,800
20% ELCA Affiliated Programs	\$3,800
20% Community Service Programs	\$3,800
40% Miscellaneous	\$7,600

This fall, the Endowment committee will select the recipients for the 2025 distribution and submit them to the Council for approval. Congregational input is important to the committee. Written suggestions are encouraged and all suggestions will be seriously considered.

Request forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex or by contacting the office. We ask 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, Bill Romans, 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, Bill Romans, 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



2025 July Church Update

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

From Orphanage to Expansive Outreach The Journey of Lutheran Services in Iowa

As we celebrate 160 years of ministry through Lutheran Services in Iowa, we are filled with gratitude, for the lives changed, the communities strengthened, and the faithful support that has sustained this work for generations.

What began as a small orphanage has grown into a statewide mission of compassion and care. The story of **Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)** is one of transformation, deeply rooted in the Lutheran commitment to serve our neighbors in need.

1864: A Humble Beginning

LSI's story starts with the opening of the Lutheran Children's Home in 1864. In 1900, the home relocated to Waverly and was renamed the Bremwood Children's Home, becoming a place of refuge for countless children over the years.

1939–1945: Expanding the Mission

The mission widened in 1939 with the founding of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa. By 1945, this ministry reached across the state, with offices in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City—bringing help and hope to more Iowans.

1963: A New Name, Broader Services

In 1963, the organization became Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Its ministries grew to include child welfare, foster care, and chaplaincy services—touching more lives and deepening its commitment to families.

2003: Uniting in Purpose

A major milestone came in 2003, when LSS merged with the Bremwood Children's Home, creating the organization we know today: Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). While Bremwood ceased functioning as a children's home, it became a residential treatment facility for youth serving faithfully until 2024.

2024: A Shift in Focus

Due to rising operational costs, LSI discontinued residential services in Waverly in 2024. However, the spirit of care lives on, LSI continues to provide a variety of services in the Waverly area and throughout Iowa.

A Mission That Grows with Grace

"We have evolved significantly from an orphanage that believed in being there for children who were in need to, now, a multi service Lutheran mission organization," says our President & CEO Renee Hardman.

Today, LSI serves Iowans through Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, Mental Health, Services for People with Disabilities, Immigrant & Refugee Services. *Cont.*

The Journey Continues: Our Mission Today

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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.

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	1 1:00 Worship & Music 2:00 Education	2 10:00 Bible Study 3:30 Social Ministry	3 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
6 9:00 Worship 10:00 Property	7 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 6:00 Council	8 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile	9 10:00 Bible Study	10 1:00 Card Ministry 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
13 9:00 Worship	14 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	15	16 10:00 Bible Study	17 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
20 9:00 Worship	21 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 6:00 Stewardship	22	23 10:00 Bible Study	24 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
27 9:00 Worship	28 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	29	30 10:00 Bible Study	3 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry		