



THE TORCH

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June 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)

Hola to all you Open Hearts!

This year's Synod Assembly, held at Grandview University in Des Moines on Saturday, May 17, had a very inviting theme of "Spirit, Open Our Hearts." There was the usual business of the synod (approving the budget, working through some proposed constitutional amendments and by-law changes), and other gathering with colleagues in ministry, but there was also opportunities for worship together and hearing the ways the Holy Spirit continues to move among people around our synod.

Several of these stories were about how the Spirit changes our Old Stories into New Stories. How do we go from telling ourselves the version of things that feels like the church is shrinking, not-what-it-used-to-be, or out-of-touch into hearing where the Spirit is alive and making ministry happen that is vibrant, vital, and showing signs of God's presence in our world today? This question rang out from a few of our synod's Assistants to the Bishop as they shared personal testimonies of challenges around health: Rev. Dan Kuckuck has recently been diagnosed with glaucoma and will likely at some point never see again; Rev. Le Ann Stubbs was in a life-altering car crash last year that she is still recovering from and learning to walk again. Together, they shared how the "old stories" of what has been taken away from them have given way to "new stories" of the new ways God continues to work in their lives.

In our worship together, we sang a relatively new hymn from the All Creation Sings hymnal supplement, "Spirit, Open My Heart." This song's chorus has been stuck in my head ever since. It goes like this:

*"Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart."
(ACS 1043: Spirit, Open My Heart)*

As we continue forward into the summer months, we have a somewhat later-than-usual Pentecost this year when we commemorate the Holy Spirit stirring among the church gathered in Acts, chapter 2. Suddenly, everyone gathered from all different areas around the known world can hear each different language and understand one another. The Spirit gives them the ability to listen, discern, and grow together, and then alive with this new understanding, they are sent forth for the world.

How might we at Trinity Lutheran Church be living that out in this season? What ways do we see the old stories around us that show us grief around things that are no longer and change them into the new stories of the way God is active with us here and now? I think often of our church's mission statement when I consider things like this, so I'll leave that here as a closing thought:

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.

May the Spirit continue to open your hearts!
Pastor Stephen Nilsen



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

Assembly Offering

SUPPORTING
IGLESIA CAMINO
DE EMAÚS



2025 Synod Assembly Offering with Council Match: Iglesia Camino de Emaús

You might remember that in the past few years, this congregation's council has put out a matching gift offer to contribute to the annual Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly's offering that goes to support ministries here around Southeastern Iowa as well as more broadly. One year, there was a group that raised money for ELCA World Hunger grants that supported many local hunger ministries, last year there was a drive for scholarship funds to support upcoming seminary students so that we can raise up new leaders for the church. This year's Assembly Offering is being collected for a Quad Cities local ministry shared between SE IA Synod and Northern Illinois Synod: Iglesia Camino de Emaús (Church of the Road to Emaus). For each dollar given to this between now and June 22, the Council Discretionary Fund will match those gifts. To give to this special offering, simply mark your offering with "Synod Offering."

You might be asking, "What is Iglesia Camino de Emaus?"

Two years ago, Pr. Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera, the former bishop of Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILUGUA) arrived in the Quad Cities and began gathering people into the Iglesia Camino de Emaús (Road to Emaus Church). As Jesus walked with disciples on the road to Emaus in Luke 24, bringing them hope, this Worshipping Community walks with the Latine community in Davenport around Word, Sacrament, relationships, and community. The Southeastern Iowa Synod has partnered with the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA to bring this ministry to fruition. Now, we invite individuals and congregations from across the synod to join in this exciting venture. The synod's goal is to raise \$45,000 through the Synod Assembly Offering and continued fundraising efforts through June. By raising \$35,000 we can provide critical support for Pastor Pilar to build a vibrant new congregation, laying a strong foundation for worship, outreach, and community engagement. Reaching \$45,000 will empower the congregation to invest in impactful community events and programming to foster connections, extend Christ's love, and expand their ministry in life-changing ways.

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 APRIL 2025

Collections to date	\$55,313.35
Expenses to date	\$59,299.81
Net to date	(\$3,986.46)
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR MAY 2025

May 4	55
May 11	58
May 18	52
May 25	56

BIRTHDAYS

1 Stephen Nilsen
 1 Payton Paul
 2 Cody Dexter
 3 Randy Neumann
 3 Diane Kaufmann
 4 Gene Jebson
 11 Byron Kime
 17 Jan Sussex
 23 Nick Aguilar
 24 Lanette Lane
 24 Ron Claussen
 25 Lexi Aguilar
 26 Claudia Neumann

HAPPY
Birthday



ANNIVERSARIES

4 Al & Barb McIlrath
 7 Gene & Vicki Jebson
 9 Don & Diane Cook
 12 Tom & Mary Shelton
 14 Arnie & Diane Kaufmann
 16 Janine & Brad Hank
 21 Paul & Ellen Opperman
 21 John & Sheila Vining
 25 Tim & Maggie Wright

Happy Anniversary

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Diana Mayes	Linda Busch	Randy Goslin	Diane Kaufmann	Lois Schurr
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Sally Morrow	Diane Holst	Jo Ann Hogenson	Claudia Neumann	Dane Crist
<i>Lector</i>	Justin Paul	Sally Morrow	Barb Paul	Henry Marquard	John Ahlers
<i>Usher Greeter</i>	Ron Morrow Lois Schurr	Dane & Michelle Crist	Travis Brunsvold Ron Morrow	Barb Paul Arnie Kaufmann	Diane Cook Debra Anderson
<i>Worship Video Livestream Producer</i>	Debi Goslin	Debi Goslin	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<i>Fellowship</i>	Diane Kaufmann	Barb & Darell Paul	Volunteer Needed	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'll have snacks and drinks available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming stops: 4:40-5:10 PM on Tuesdays, June 17, July 8, July 29, August 19

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

Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Meeting

Thursday, June 12 - 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 June 12 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

06/01 Acts 16:1-20, Psalm 97,
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

06/08 Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34,
Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17

06/15 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8,
Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

06/22 Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:19-28,
Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

06/29 1 Kings 19:15-16, Psalm 16,
Galatians 5:1.13-25, Luke 9:51-62





Save the Date!

VBS June 23-27

Trinity Lutheran is partnering with Grace Lutheran Church & St. James Lutheran Church to host a weeklong Day Camp

Open To

Children ages 4
through Grade 6

Join Us!

- Dates June 23-27
- Times 9am-4pm
- Where
Trinity Lutheran Church
18137 Criswell St.
Bettendorf 52722
- Snacks and meals will
be provided
- Family night campfire
on Thursday evening



Day Camp is Coming this Month! Still time to Sign-Up to Volunteer

Sign-up for our Summer Day Camp in partnership with counselors from Camp Ewalu and St. James Lutheran Church in Bettendorf and Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport has been great. We will have around 60 kids here for the week of the Day Camp and volunteers will be welcomed from all three of the congregations.

There's a sign-up sheet for volunteers and for snacks in the Narthex. All help is greatly appreciated.

If you can help volunteer any of the days of our week of Day Camp, please let Pastor Stephen, Cathy Newman, or Dane Crist know!

We will also need help with serving snacks and lunches to the kids.

Wiener Roast with Camp Songs and Skits

Thursday, June 26 at 5:30 PM

There will be a camp wiener roast as well as a program presented by our campers and counselors.
All are welcome!

Members are encouraged to bring a side dish and folding chairs.

Thanks to all that who have a hand in making the Quad Cities Summer Day Camp a success!



Campfire & Wiener Roast

Thursday, June 26 at 5:30 PM

Program and Songs to Follow
Bring a side and a chair

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 there as well as online.



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.



TRINITY'S PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Many people have been blessed as recipients of the TLC prayer shawls, 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. Love for a special person that needs a loving touch from God during a difficult circumstance or in the joy of an exciting life event.

Why?

Sometimes, in tough times, a concrete reminder is needed that God loves us and there are caring people praying for us.

How does it work?

A shawl is prayerfully created. Pastor Stephen or Lois Schurr presents the shawl where it is needed.

What can I do?

1. Knit or crochet a shawl
2. Tie some tassels
3. Purchase yarn for a knitter or crocheter
4. Pray for the ministry, needleworker and the recipients.

I could make a shawl but:

1. I never finish a project:
Several people could pass a shawl around until finished.
2. I don't have time for meetings:
No meetings to attend, grab a packet and get started.
3. I have questions:
Ask Lois Schurr.



Trinity Blood Pressure Ministry After worship on June 1



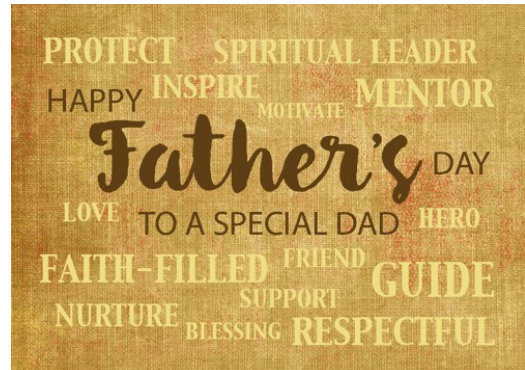
Trinity will be offering this ministry the first Sunday of each month by our qualified congregation members. There are several stories of health monitoring helping the lives of those who have joined in this ministry.

News from the HOT Team

The Trinity HOT team is planning a kitchen clean up/clean out on June 9. Any items removed will be placed on a table in Fellowship Hall. If there are items that you donated and would like back please take them. All remaining items will be donated.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Growing in the Garden: Feeding Our Community



*"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*

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 in the community that you know could use the help.

Thanks so much for your support!





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF Baby & Personal Care Kits

Now through June 22 in the Narthex



**Collecting Items for Summer Day Camp Kids
to Assemble and Help Neighbors in Need**

Collections of Baby & Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief
Now through June 22

Trinity will be collecting items for the Summer Day Camp Kids to assemble into kits to help our neighbors in need with Lutheran World Relief Baby & Personal Care Kits. Signs in the Narthex will explain what items are needed, or you can learn more at LWR.org/Kits.

Baby Care Kit Items Needed:

- * Lightweight cotton T-Shirts
- * Long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers
- * Receiving blankets
- * Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood or baby cap
- * Cloth diapers
- * Pairs of socks
- * Bath-size bars of gentle soap
- * Diaper pins or large safety pins
- * Hand towels, dark color recommended

Personal Care Kit Items Needed:

- * Lightweight bath-size towel
- * Bath-size bars of soap
- * Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- * Sturdy comb
- * Metal nail clippers



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 June 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.



A Father's Day Reflection: Amanda's Journey of Hope and Stability

This Father's Day, we're honored to share the powerful story of Amanda, a young woman whose life has been transformed over the past 13 years through the unwavering dedication of LSI's Host Home program and the compassionate care of Megan D.

Amanda came to LSI with many challenges. With a limited IQ and emotional struggles rooted in past trauma, she had difficulty connecting with others and managing daily life. Before LSI, she lived in institutional settings, heavily medicated, and unable to thrive. Her life was a series of difficult chapters, until she found her match in LSI and Megan.

Megan has been a steady and committed presence in Amanda's life. With unmatched patience, professionalism, and deep care, Megan helped guide Amanda from a place of instability to one of emotional balance. What was once a life of uncertainty is now one of structure, safety, and growth thanks to the loving environment of a Host Home.

Today, Amanda lives with "Momma Mavis," her dedicated Host Home provider, who gives her 24/7 care and inclusion in family life, appointments, and even special needs art classes. The flare-ups that once led to hospital visits are now a thing of the past. Amanda is thriving, living proof that compassion and commitment can change a life.

As Bruce C., Amanda's adoptive father, says: *"LSI and Megan never wavered. I call this stabilization in Amanda's life. The individual care from a non-family member is needed beyond words. Thanks to Mavis and Megan, Amanda's quality of life would not be possible without the LSI Host Home program."*

Amanda, the 25th foster child welcomed by the C. family and their third adoption, is still on her journey and we're honored to walk alongside her.

This Father's Day, we celebrate all the fathers, families, caregivers, and advocates who believe in second chances, and who help make stories like Amanda's possible.

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.

JUNE 2025

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