



THE TORCH

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May 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)

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

The Easter season always brings such joy in the midst of a world that shows us so much grief. The disciples go to the tomb expecting to grieve, and are met with the empty tomb and run to share the good news of the resurrection of their teacher and Lord, Jesus Christ. We continue to daily die and rise again, through our baptismal identity in Christ, reminded of the forgiveness and reconciliation we receive through Christ's resurrection.

These theological claims are massive in a world that shows us brokenness. I would love to talk more with you about the ways that God has continued to show up in your life through the communities around you gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, through the grandeur of the creation in which we live, and through the ways you remember your baptism. The testimonies you provide during good times and bad are meaningful for myself and the life of the church.

One recent Wednesday afternoon after a Bible Study, I discussed with a few people something that I had never written about here in my pastor's newsletter article: conferences and continuing education. Just as your testimonies help lift the Body of Christ when you let me know the ways you are living out your faith and vocations, I hope that it is helpful to know that I continue to learn more and dwell in the continuing moving of the Spirit in a number of different contexts. In the past few years, I have attended several conferences ranging from self care for pastors to proclamation in the midst of divisive politics and white Christian nationalism. The conferences I have attended are usually somewhere around the Midwest, but in April I also attended a nationwide hybrid conference called the Faith and Climate Forum about ways our faith communities are helping care for God's creation in the Quad Cities. Participants were welcome to join either via Zoom or in-person at St. Paul Lutheran in Davenport which served as one of over 100 sites around the country for the conference, allowing for some in-person discussion of the topics at hand in "breakout sessions."

Just after Easter, I returned with Leah (and Leslie) to our beloved seminary alma mater, Wartburg, in Dubuque, Iowa, for the Reformation & Reunion Conference that serves as a cross between a class reunion and a continuing education opportunity. Wartburg has a few prominent professors who are retiring at the end of the year, so our Tuesday began with worship and a celebration of Dr. Winston Persaud (who teaches systematic theology), Dr. May Burt Persaud (who teaches Biblical Languages), and Dr. Nate Frambach (who teaches pastoral care). It was a joy to hear colleagues and friends share their memories of these three professors who I also consider friends.

Wednesday moved along with three presentations from faculty on recent initiatives or research. Dr. Winston Persaud presented on Defining and Confessing the Gospel of Jesus Christ today, which was a refreshing look at how the Nicene Creed is still alive and moving from the smallest of grammatical details to the biggest ways faith meets our world. The second presentation was from our liturgics professor, Dr. Jan Rippentrop-Schnell, who led us through a bit of the curriculum she has been developing with fellow recent graduates called Queer Confirmation; this curriculum also included some rituals that could be used to develop faith in young people, primarily through the lens of inclusion and welcome. Wednesday's presentations concluded with our rural ministry professor Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen updating us on the work of the Castle Project – a Lily grant-funded initiative to develop more ministers for Country and Small Towns through Lived Ecclesiology (in short, how do we meet the needs of small churches who are still "being church" in a world that needs them). Wednesday evening, the class of 2022 went out for dinner together at a favorite local restaurant and caught up with each other on how first call ministry is going. *(Continued)*

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

Pastor's Article Continued

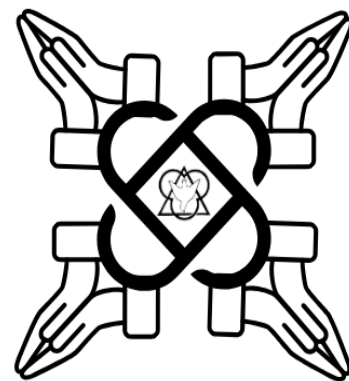
Thursday morning, we were treated to a delightful presentation from Dr. May Persaud on Eating with our Eyes Wide Shut, using movies as a lens for linguistics and how that impacts the way we read scripture. May always brings a vibrant energy to Greek and Hebrew, and this was no different. On Thursday around lunch time, the third year alumni (including Leah and me) met with the Academic Dean Cheryl Peterson to discuss how first call ministry is going, what we wish the curriculum here at Wartburg had better-prepared us for in ministry, and anything we appreciated more. In hearing stories from my colleagues, I am again reminded how glad I am to have been called to serve alongside a group of people like Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley. Each congregation is unique and brings a wealth of learning and growing for all of us new pastors, but I give thanks to God that I get to do that here with all of you. In the middle of both Wednesday and Thursday, we worshiped together, and these were wonderful opportunities to return to the chapel that helped to shape the preacher and presider I am today. These worship services are central to life together at Wartburg, and it was great to lift our voices in song and hear faithful proclamation at Loehe Chapel again.

This is a bit longer than the usual monthly newsletter article, but I felt it was important to both give you those Easter greetings and invite your prayerful sharing of your faith as well as share a bit more about the conferences I have recently attended. If you have any questions about any of the portions of these, as always, don't hesitate to ask in-person or via phone call, text message, or email.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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.



Prayer Chain

CONNECTING COMMUNITY
HELPING EACH OTHER



YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL INFO THROUGH MARCH 2025

Collections to date	\$ 40,973.01
Expenses to date	\$ 48,087.04
Net to date	(\$7,114.03)

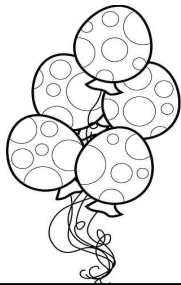
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR APRIL 2025

April 2	Lenten Service	18
April 6		90
April 9	Lenten Service	15
April 13		90
April 17	Maundy Thurs.	22
April 18	Good Friday	28
April 20	Easter	105
April 27		62

BIRTHDAYS

7 Barb McIlrath
7 Logan Paul
8 Maggie Wright
9 Jeff McIlrath
12 Tom Shelton
15 Cathy Newman
19 Gannen Hank
31 Julia Denain



Thanks to all of you that volunteer for the Worship Services. I would like to encourage those that haven't participated in the past to give it a try. It can be a fulfilling way to give the gifts we have. I would like to encourage those that volunteer to please use the sign up sheet in the Narthex. It makes it easier to keep the weekly bulletin and the Thursday email current. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and talents.

Paula



ANNIVERSARIES

19 Vicki & Stephen Engler
29 Karen & Bill Romans
30 Leah & Stephen Nilsen



Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Randy Goslin	Diana Mayes	Linda Busch	Diane Kaufmann	Diana Mayes
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Sally Morrow	Marcia Brunsvold	Lois Schurr	Diane Holst	Sally Morrow
<i>Lector</i>	Susan Varilek	Sally Morrow	Ellen Opperman	Dane Crist	Justin Paul
<i>Usher Greeter</i>	Ron Morrow Arnie Kaufmann	Al McIlrath Travis Brunsvold	Paul Opperman Don Cordts	Chris Kaul Diane Cook	Ron Morrow Lois Schurr
<i>Worship Video Livestream Producer</i>	Kathy Naslund	Volunteer Needed	Kathy Naslund	Volunteer Needed	Debi Goslin
<i>Fellowship</i>	Rudie Eberlein Kris Rupp	Barb & Darrell Paul	Volunteer Needed	Tom & Mary Shelton	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.



Winter 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! Tuesday, May 6 & May 27 4:40– 5:10 PM. For more info, visit: Scottcountyiowa.gov/library/bookmobile

Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Meeting

Thursday, May 8 - 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 May 8 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

New 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

05/04 Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

05/11 Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

05/18 Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

05/25 Acts 19:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5, John 14:23-29



Trinity Lutheran Church
Food Pantry
Hours of Operation:
Monday: 9 AM - 11 AM
Thursday: 4 PM - 6 PM

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 will need volunteers for other aspects of the food pantry beyond the times when we are open, 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!

Share-A-Meal Served our Neighbors Thursday, April 24

Bonnie Murphy and I welcomed Judy Ahlers to our cooking team, feeling Connie's spirit as we served Lois's delicious goulash.

We served 72 people at the Zion Lutheran Meal Site. Servers included Judy and Brandi Ahlers, my son Matthew Anderson and Tara Ramirez, and me. Thank you to all that donated cookies.

Serving through Christ,
Debra Anderson



Share A Meal

Quad Cities Churches United's Share a Meal program helps to serve meals to those in need every weekday at Zion Lutheran in Davenport

If you're interested in helping with cooking or serving food, please contact Deb Anderson or Pastor Stephen



Trinity Blood Pressure Ministry

After worship on May 4



Trinity will be offering this ministry the first Sunday of each month by our qualified congregation members.

Sharing the Stories of Favorite Hymns: Adult Sunday School Opportunity after Worship

*Sundays after Worship,
May 11 through 25*



Join Pastor Stephen after worship for a special Adult Education Forum on our favorite hymns and the stories behind them. All are welcome to learn the story! How can we keep from singing? Email Pastor Stephen at snilsen@trinitylcpv.com if you have a hymn you'd like to learn more about or fill out the form on the weekly email.



Youth Group Year-End Lock-In Wrapping Up First Year of Faith Formation and Fun

Saturday, May 3, 7 PM to Sunday, May 4, 8 AM
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 youth group lock-in to close out the first year of our partnership together to form the faith lives of our middle school and early high school youth. Whether you've come to every Sunday evening session or are curious and wanting to try it out with a fun night of a campfire, food, games, movies, and more fun, all are welcome!

Calling All Green Thumbs: Garden Returning for Third Year!



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! March will mean the early work of gardening, getting the soil ready, planting some early crops like lettuce, and other tasks as needed for our gardening season ahead. 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 Tom Shelton (563-468-9039, tshelton72@gmail.com) or Dane Crist (563-340-6343, gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com) or sign-up in the Narthex.

Trinity Butterfly Garden Needs Your Help!

Did you know that the garden of native grasses, flowers, and other plants that grow down the parking lot divider on the north end of Trinity is a butterfly garden designed and certified by master gardeners who have identified plants that will best help our local pollinators? Did you know that those pollinators also help our flower beds and our anti-hunger garden?

Butterflies are a great sign of our Easter joy! Our Butterfly Garden is in need of some more volunteers. To learn more, contact Marcia Brunsvold or Pastor Stephen. A great first opportunity to help would be the Spring Clean-Up Day.



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!

Fellowship Hall Facelift Project Coming Along

The west wall of the fellowship hall got its new insulation and a brand new transom window added this week, and the project continues to move along fairly smoothly to update its look, provide energy efficient insulation, and a more consistent look with the front of the sanctuary. The interior drywall has been completed and is awaiting painting. On the last few days of April, the texturing on the outside of the wall began to be added. If you are stopping by the church, please be safe around the work that is being done. Contact Neal Schroder if you have further questions.



Spring Clean-Up Day is Coming Up! Saturday, May 3 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Spring Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, May 3 at 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. A rain date will be Saturday, May 10 at the same times.

There will be a list of tasks to complete (both outside the yard and some inside around the building) and refreshments will be served. Hope you can join us for this time of fellowship and fun.

Spring Clean-Up Day



Saturday, May 3 - 8:30 AM - 12 PM
Raindate: Saturday, May 10



New Blinds in Lower Level

Notice the new privacy shades in the bridal/mission room on the lower level. Special funds from Amitie, Worship & Music, and Craft Group purchased three large shades with valances and side rollers each mounted to the window frames. A big thank you to Ron Morrow for washing each window before the installation. (The shades were much appreciated for the April 26 wedding.)

Worship & Music Committee



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

Volunteers Needed

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.

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

Learning, Crafts, Games, and More!

Counselors from Ewalu Bible Camp will lead children in our own local camp experience with all the fun of a park-like atmosphere surrounded by nature

Register Online:

@ trinitylcpv.com/day-camp
or scan the QR code →

- \$40 / child: register by April 14
- \$50 / child: after April 14
- Registration ends June 1



Questions?

Trinity Lutheran Church | 563-332-5188
Pastor Stephen | snilsen@trinitylcpv.com

Ewalu Camp | 563-933-4700
camp@ewalu.org | ewalu.org/day-camps



We Love Vacation Bible School!!

Join Us
this Summer



2025 Synod Assembly Coming Up May 17

The 2025 Synod Assembly will take place on Saturday, May 17, at the Henning Student Center at Grand View University. This year's assembly will be centered around the theme Spirit, Open Our Hearts, inviting all participants to deepen their faith and commitment to serving God and one another.

Our voting members from Trinity will be Dane & Michelle Crist, and we look forward to learning more about how the Spirit is moving in our ministry around this synod.

For more information about the synod assembly, visit SEIASynod.org/2025-synod-assembly

Memorial Service Planned for Jan Graaff

We are saddened to pass along the news of the passing of beloved sister in Christ, Jan Graaff, who died Saturday, April 12 at age 88.

Visitation, memorial service, and a luncheon reception will be held *Wednesday, May 28 beginning at 10 AM* at Trinity Lutheran Church, with Pastor Stephen preaching and presiding at the service at 11 AM.

If you can help by bringing a side dish or dessert to the luncheon to follow the service, please let someone from the HOT Team know.

You can view Jan's obituary here: MVCremation.com/Obituaries/Janet-Graaff



Spring Fling A Benefit for Tapestry Farms

Gather in love and hope to usher in the beginning of the growing season with food, drinks, music, a silent auction, and a special guest speaker.

The evening will be a lovely celebration of our Tapestry Farms community and our collective mission of welcome.

When: Friday, May 2, 6-10 PM.

Where: Quad Cities Waterfront Convention
2021 State Street., Bettendorf, Iowa.

Your presence will give us the opportunity to continue providing food, resources, and opportunities for refugee families who now call the Quad Cities home. Whether you are a long time supporter or new to Tapestry Farms this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of community and hope.



May 2025 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.

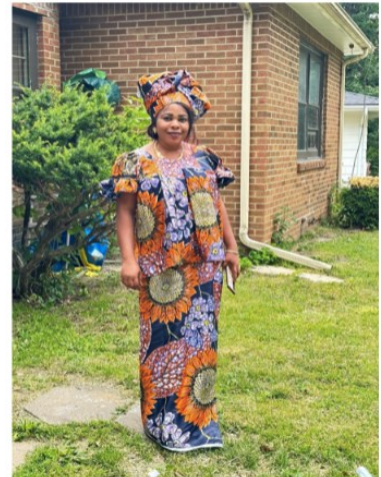
A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children.

In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With their support, she launched her own daycare business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family.

Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and herself, her family and her community.



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.



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



MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study 8:30 AM - Noon Spring Clean-Up 7 PM Youth Group Lock-in
4 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 10:00 Property	5 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	6 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile	7 10 Bible Study 3:30 Social Ministry 4:30 Education	8 1 PM Card Ministry 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 8 AM PPALS Bible Study
11 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	12 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 6:00 Council	13	14 10:00 Bible Study	15 2:00 Endowment 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17 8 AM PPALS Bible Study Synod Assembly At Grand View University
18 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	19 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 6:00 Stewardship	20	21 10:00 Bible Study	22 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24 8 AM PPALS Bible Study
25 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	26 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	27 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile	28 <i>Jan Graaff Memorial/ Service</i> 10 Visitation 11 Worship Luncheon following	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath	31 8 AM PPALS Bible Study