



THE TORCH

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October 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)

Hello Fellow Hoppers,

In these last few months, I've gotten to see more ultrasound pictures of our second baby than my parents ever saw of me or my brother. For many, these pictures are incredible signs of what we hope for: new life. Leslie's eyes lit up at the first appointment with an ultrasound that we brought her along, knowing that she was seeing her younger sibling, even if that youngster is "inside Mommy's belly." There is so much that ultrasound technicians and doctors can tell you about a baby from these pictures. We know our baby will have hair (much like Leslie did... and Leah and me, too); we know our baby has the appropriate number of fingers and toes; we know our baby is breathing and the heart is beating.



Pregnancy, like a lot of transitional times in life, is a time of great hope and curiosity, and it often brings to mind one of my favorite sections of Paul's letter to the church in Rome:

"For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
– Romans 8:24-25, NRSVUE

We hope for a lot of things with this second child: health, safety, and doing all the usual things babies do (eating, sleeping, and so forth) are the first things that come to mind. We also hope for a lot of things that are very much unseen at this point in our lives. There are things we will

continue to hope for throughout the lives of both Leslie and this second child that we may not even be able to explain until much later in their lives. We are hoping for a lot of things in the new life ahead for this child.

Paul is writing here about a hope in the resurrection through Christ – a new life that we cannot see at the time he was writing, nor can any of us say what it will all be like.

As I look around at the future of this congregation here at Trinity Lutheran Church, there is much that we can see already, and a whole slew of things that we cannot yet see that we will hope for anyway. While the direction of that hope sometimes takes some vision, prayer, and guidance of the Holy Spirit beyond our control, we are continually hoping for those things we cannot see. In hoping for those things that help our church to grow in faith, experience God through Word and Sacraments, deepen relationships with each other and the community around us, we hope for some of the same things that churches throughout the past 2,000 years have hoped.

I hope that you will join me in continuing to hope for this congregation, the community around us that continues to rapidly change, the world around us that is always in need of Christ's love, and the future for all of these things that we cannot see.

Blessings,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

*With all humility and gentleness, with
patience, bearing with one another in
love ~ [Ephesians 4:2](#)*

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

From the Trinity Council President...

Hello Trinity!! I am sure most of you by now have already heard about the change in church presidency with Justin Paul stepping down due to taking a job up in Minnesota. He has left behind big shoes to fill, and I have been chosen to take his place as President. We also have had a few other changes on Council, namely Kathy Naslund has taken on being Council Secretary, Don Kathan has been appointed to fill Ron Morrow's open seat on Council and is the new Property Liaison. John Ahlers, our Treasurer, has been appointed to Council as well. There is a little more shuffling of Council Liaisons going on as we adjust to the new changes on Council and people and skills get matched up with committees.

Hopefully you had a chance to attend both God's Work, Our Hands Sunday and the H.O.T. Team Social Mixer at Valley Country Cafe recently. There was a large number in attendance and participation at both, and it seemed like everyone was having a great time in service and fellowship with one another.

Council has been busy working on Longterm Planning this year and beginning discussions throughout the congregation about what kinds of projects need to be on our radar for the future and how those projects match up with programming, stewardship, and usage of our resources and facilities. Prayerfully consider your own input into this worthy discussion, as we walk this journey together and as a good part of any communication, it is as important to listen and give feedback as it is to share our opinion in the first place.

Education committee has been busy planning out the youth program for Sunday School/Confirmation/Youth Group. We will be collaborating with 1 or 2 other churches in the area on some of these endeavors.

Lastly, speaking of preparations, we are preparing for the coming of Nilsen Baby #2 very soon. Pastor has been working diligently in sharing his plans for time off and Pastoral coverage and we keep the Nilsens in our prayers for their coming, new addition. Please be patient with our Worship Team and Office Staff as there will be some different faces leading worship throughout that coverage time and a little less coverage in the office temporarily.

Get out there and enjoy some wonderful Fall Weather.

Blessings,
Dane Crist Council President

Annual Report 2025

As we move into fall, life gets busier as does church life. Kids are back in school, Sunday School begins as well as Confirmation classes, church committees and other activities.

To add to that busyness is the preparation of the church budget and the Annual Report. The deadline for your committee/group report is December 31, but if you can possibly get your report to Paula sooner, it would be appreciated. It takes time to organize the information for the full report. Please send your report to the church office at office@trinitylcpv.com.



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 SEPTEMBER 2025

Collections to date	\$116,794.41
Expenses to date	\$115,642.44
Net to date	\$1,151.97
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

September 7	70
September 14	55
September 21	53
September 28	##

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

Happy Anniversary

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26 Reformation	November 2 All Saints Sunday
Altar Guild	Mary Shelton	Linda Busch	Diane Kaufmann	Diana Mayes	Diane Holst
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow	Marcia Brunsvold	Diane Holst	Michelle Crist	Sally Morrow
Lector	John Newman	Sally Morrow	Susan Varilek	Claudia Neumann	Darrell Paul
Usher Greeter	Sharon Marquard Ron Morrow	Diane Cook Ron Morrow	Chris Kaul Travis Brunsvold	Al McIlrath Dane Crist	Jo Ann Hogenson Ron Morrow
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Randy Goslin	Kathy Naslund	Justin Paul	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed	Lois Schurr	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.

Join Trinity Prayer Chain to Connect with Community



Prayer Chain
CONNECTING COMMUNITY
HELPING EACH OTHER

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. 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.

LOGAN & MARION ARE EXPECTING!

Great news for the Paul family! There will be a Baby Shower on October 19 to celebrate Logan & Marion's new addition to the family on October 19 at 1PM. It will be held in the Great Room at the Suites of Bettendorf, 2592 Middle Rd. (right behind Time Bank). All are invited to a couple's shower.



Pastors Stephen and Leah Are Expecting a Baby

By now, you're probably aware that this month Pastor Stephen and his wife Pastor Leah are expecting their second child. When this happens, Pastor Stephen will take two weeks of parental leave (followed by more at the beginning of 2026) so that the child can have as much time with young parents as possible.



If you have pastoral care needs during this time, please contact the office, and Paula will be able to get you in touch with one of the pastors that have agreed to cover for Pastor Stephen during these weeks. A huge thanks from Stephen and Leah for all of your prayerful support throughout pregnancy and for welcoming us as part of your church family.



FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday November 1, 8:30 AM-12 PM

Rain date: November 8, 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 morning. Treats will be provided!



FALL ROAST

October 12 at 5 PM will be our Fall Roast hosted by the HOT Team. Meat, beverages, and table service will be provided. Cost is \$5 per person. Please bring a side dish to share, salad or dessert. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please indicate if you are bringing dessert or other. This is always a good time of fun and fellowship.



**Trinity
Blood Pressure Ministry**
After worship on October 5

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.



*October glows on every cheek,
October shines in every eye,
While up the hill and down the dale
Her crimson banners fly.*

–

Elaine



SHARE-A-MEAL OCTOBER 16

Trinity will be serving on Thursday, October 16 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. Contact Lois Schurr or the church office if you can help in anyway. Debra Anderson is recovering from back surgery, so looking for someone to shop, cook and serve.



Share A Meal

Butterfly Garden

There are changes being made to the Butterfly Garden weekly. The work being done by John Newman is much appreciated. Volunteers to aid in watering weekly is needed. John has come up with a plan that is easier to water. If you are interested in lending a hand contact John Newman.



Growing in the Garden: Feeding Our Community

The Trinity Lutheran Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry is winding down. It has been an amazing fall harvest. 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).



*"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*

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. 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 Items needed for Trinity Food Pantry.

- Protein - canned meats, tuna
- Hearty soups or one-pot meals
- Hygiene items like toothpaste, shampoo, and soap

Thanks so much for your support!

Trinity Food Pantry Team

pantry@trinitylcpv.com. 563 332-6432



Join the PPALs Bible Study

*Saturdays 8 AM
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](#).



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAY

Saturday, November 1 ||| 8AM-12PM & 12PM-3PM

Join our friends at Grace Lutheran Church in Davenport in building alongside families who dream of owning a home, and do the necessary work to make that dream a reality. Come help with framing, drywall, siding, and much more. No prior building experience is needed. You can find out more by emailing Pastor Kirsten Lee at Grace Lutheran at pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org or sign-up at the link below:

<https://gracedavenport.breezechms.com/form/a99be3>

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

10/05 Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9,
2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

10/12 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Psalm 111,
2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

10/19 Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121,
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5, Luke 18:1-8

10/26 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46,
Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

Crossroads Youth Group

Sundays, 5-7 PM, October at First Presbyterian in Le Claire

Young folks from 6th Grade through 9th Grade are invited to join in our shared youth group and confirmation class with our partners in ministry at First Presbyterian Church in LeClaire. Sunday evenings 5-7 PM, alternating locations by month.

Like last year, if you are interested in sharing your culinary talents, simple meals will be provided for kids.

See Pastor Stephen for more information about Crossroads.

Crossroads Youth FAITH AT A CROSSROADS

Sundays

5-7 PM



Fall 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 Tuesday, October 21.

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



Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Meeting Thursday, October 9 1-3 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 October 9 from 1:00-3:00 PM. All are welcome to join us with 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.



LOCAL CRAFTS AVAILABLE AT FREIGHT HOUSE FARMER'S MARKET FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 1 10AM-4PM
Sunday, November 2 10AM-3PM

Local crafters from the ELCA churches across the Quad Cities are exploring the possibility of having a booth at the upcoming Freight House Farmer's Market Fall Harvest Festival. Quilts, crafts, and more will be sold to benefit the food pantries and other feeding ministries of our congregations. If you have any crafty things you'd like to sell, contact Pastor Stephen for more information. If the booth does not end up happening on one of the days, you are still encouraged to stop by the market for food, fun, music, and more!

Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center Autumn Odyssey

55+ year-old Retreat | October 13-15

Mon., Oct. 13 at 4PM - Wed., Oct. 15 at 11AM

Cost: Double occupancy: \$175 | Single: \$225

Enjoy Ewalu's fall retreat just for seniors at the comfortable Stone Center north of Strawberry Point!

Join us for featured speakers, time for reflection and renewal, optional hiking and chair yoga, and simple relaxation. Plus, we'll see the beautiful fall colors in NE Iowa! *Meals and lodging included.*

Featured Speakers: Rev. Joan Fumetti from Des Moines and Rev. Larry Trachte from Waverly

Register online at Ewalu.org/Autumn-Odyssey



**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.



Worship Volunteers

Thanks to those of you that have signed your name on the Worship Volunteer Calendar. I need to work ahead to create the calendar for Thursday emails and filling and the Torch. TLC is extremely short on person's to serve on Altar Guild. Please consider filling those, positions let me know to place your name on the list. Thanks to all of you that serve on Sundays.

Paula



Bishop Amy Current's Sabbatical Ends

Bishop Amy Current will return from sabbatical Monday, September 29 for the Fall Gathering. While she is eager to reconnect with all of you, please be patient as she catches up with all the wonderful work of the synod. If you follow Bishop Amy on Facebook, you'll see some highlights from this meaningful time—including travel, lots of reading, and precious time with family.

In the meantime, Pastor Dan Kuckuck continues to serve as Acting Bishop.



CROP Walk Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive
Ends October 5, 2025

CROP Hunger Walk: Sunday, October 5
Registration at 1 PM - Walk Starts at 2 PM

Drop off any sizes or types of Peanut Butter or Jelly jars for the annual CROP Walk Collection to be distributed around the Quad Cities.

If you're interested in walking, this year's walk will again start from the Moline side by the I-74 bridge around 2 PM on Sunday, October 5 with the registration opening around 1 PM. You can join our team of walkers or sponsor the team financially by either signing up in the Narthex speaking with Dane Crist or checking out Events.CropHungerWalk.org/2025



Trinity's 2024 CROP Walk Team





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 of 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.

Your Support makes this Testimony possible...

Meet Aurora – A Story of Perseverance, Purpose, and new Beginnings

Aurora is a mom to three little ones; ages 1, 4, and 5. For the last three years, she's devoted herself fully to her family as a stay-at-home mom, pouring her energy into caring for her children and keeping her household running, often singlehandedly while her husband worked away from home most of the week.

One day, Aurora felt a stirring in her spirit, a desire to take a bold step toward something new. She began to ask herself a powerful question: "What's next for me?"

With courage and careful planning, Aurora decided to enroll in a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course. It wasn't an easy decision. Balancing young kids, household responsibilities, and a demanding course load would be a challenge for anyone, but Aurora was determined. She mapped out a way to make it possible: she enrolled in a class held in the town where her parents live so they could help with childcare, and committed to a grueling commute 45-minute drive each way, every day with three young kids in tow.

Some days, the kids had to be up before sunrise. Some weeks, Aurora spent the night at her parents' home to make things a little easier for everyone. She studied after bedtime and fit in coursework between diaper changes, mealtimes, and playground runs. And through it all, she kept going with little sleep, deep determination, and a whole lot of love.

Even with her husband gone most weekdays for work, Aurora never gave up. She showed up for her kids and for her future. This summer, she achieved her goal by completing the CNA program!

Now, Aurora is on the job hunt, stepping confidently into a new chapter. She's building a career that will help support her family, give her a renewed sense of purpose, and show her children what it looks like to chase a dream and finish strong.

Aurora's story is one of strength, resilience, and transformation and it's just one of many made possible through the support and services of LSI.



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 Services in Iowa Invites You to Celebrate Their 160th Anniversary

*Friday, October 17 - Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport
5:30 PM Registration - 6:30 PM Dinner and Program*

This event will directly support LSI's essential services, endeavoring to ensure...

- Every child is safe from abuse and neglect
- Every individual has access to mental health resources
- Every person with a disability receives the support they need to thrive
- Every immigrant and refugee finds a welcoming community

LSI has been Unstoppable and Still Standing for 160 years—with your support, we can continue making a difference for generations to come.

Lutherans and other supporters from around Iowa will be joining for this special celebration of the 160th Anniversary to continue to support the work helping those in Iowa receive social services. Perhaps a gathering of Trinity members will be able to carpool to this event?



ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE

As part of our worship service on All Saints Sunday, November 2, we will share in a special remembrance of the saints who have passed in the previous year. If you have lost someone you love in the previous year, please email the office or Pastor Stephen or drop a note off in the office for our list.



A Great Time of Fellowship at the Valley Country Café

Sunday, September 21, we had 38 members join for a great night of food and fellowship at Valley Country Café in Pleasant Valley.



OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 Worship & Music 3:30 PM Social Ministry	2 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry 3:30 PM Education	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
5 9 AM Worship 10 AM Property 10 AM <i>Blood Pressure Clinic</i> 2 PM Crop Walk 5-7 PM Crossroads	6 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry <i>Pastor Stephen Parental Leave</i>	7	8 10 AM Bible Study	9 1-3 PM Card Ministry 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
12 9 AM Worship 5-7 PM Crossroads 5 PM Fall Roast <i>Pastor Stephen Parental Leave</i>	13 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Stewardship 6 PM Council	14	15 10 AM Bible Study	16 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry Share-A-Meal	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
19 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads	20 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	21 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile	22 10 AM Bible Study	23 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
26 Reformation 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads	27 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	28	29 10 AM Bible Study	30 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	31 Pastor's Sabbath	