



THE TORCH

April 2026
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

TrinityLCPV.com
Facebook.com/Trinity LCPV

Email: office@trinitylcpv.com
Youtube.com/@TrinityLCPV

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 Journeying Christ,

Throughout the Lenten journey this year, those who have been able to join us for our Midweek Lenten Worship services have been treated to a time for reflection and prayer, a time for singing and... learning! Throughout the five Wednesdays, we have learned and grown by hearing some of the actual words of saints who have been commemorated throughout Lent.

Some of those saints include: St. Patrick, Gregory of Nyssa, Archbishop Oscar Romero, John Wesley, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, Hans Nielsen Hauge, and John Donne. While these saints have been known by many for years, for some we were learning about them for the first time. No matter what level of notoriety, the saints remind us that God's presence through the years sustains these saints as they go through their journey.

Recently, I have been thinking about the number of vocations that we come across in life together here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Just like the disciples that were equipped and sent by Jesus each had different skills, the saints who are gathered here at Trinity. Whenever a funeral happens, we have people who make salads, desserts, and work to serve all sorts of food; many of the women who do this remind me of the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning.

"So [the women] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him"
– Matthew 28:8-9, NRSVUE

I hope we never forget that the first to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection were the women who went to the tomb to grieve. I hope we also never forget the wonderful work that people do around us here when there is a time of grieving at Trinity.

As I began my time back here at Trinity, I was able to help out a bit with Jerry Short as we worked to fix some of the wiring in the furnace room here at the church. I give thanks for people like Jerry and many of the other handy folks that we have here who can step up when needed to serve God and our community through small, unseen ways. I am not the world's most mechanically-inclined person, so it is always a blessing that I feel God has given us people like Jerry who can serve.

Who are some of the ordinary saints among us that you have noticed? What ways would we like to give thanks for them as we move from the Lenten journey in the joyous season of Easter? Have you thanked one of them recently? What ways might you find out more about their skills or the lives that they have lived?

I love hearing your stories as well. I also love sharing the bigger stories of our congregation. Stop by my office, give me a call, or shoot me a note via text or email any time if you'd like to share a story.

Sharing in the journey,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen



One such saint who is currently away from the office is our office administrator, Paula McIntosh, who had hip replacement surgery on March 11. Paula's surgery went well, but she will be out of the office recovering until around April 14. Please be patient with Pastor Stephen and the other volunteers as they work to cover the essential tasks. You are welcome to send well wishes in cards or texts to Paula. Contact Pastor if you need Paula's information.

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



From the President's Desk

HAVE AN ITEM FOR AN UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING?

Reach out to one of the 2026 Council Members or Pastor Stephen to share your item of concern. You may also leave the note in the suggestion box at the desk by the office.

2026 Council Members

Dane Crist — President — Education Committee
 Al McIlrath — Vice President — Worship Committee
 John Ahlers — Treasurer — Stewardship Committee
 Kathy Naslund — Secretary — Social Ministry Committee
 Dawn Brick — Memorial Committee
 Diane Cook — Personnel Committee
 Diane Holst — HOT Team
 Don Kathan — Property Committee
 Sally Morrow — Worship & Music Committee

Easter is just around the corner. How is your Lenten Reflection going? Isn't it great to have Pastor back from Paternity Leave?!? I have some news from your church council. Property committee, in its committed effort to stay on track with our church maintenance goals, has identified a few potential maintenance items that will cost a decent amount of money. The first one was upgrading the parsonage electric service, however, after being inspected, it was determined that the electric service panel is suitable as is and does not need replacement. Secondly, It has been about 12 years since we purchased our last John Deere lawn tractor. The current runtime hours on it is reaching a level where it is often recommended to trade it off or risk expensive repairs. Travis has done a great job keeping up on the recommended maintenance, and we have been seeking bids for a replacement tractor and what the trade in amount would be for our current one. We also have a couple of potential buyers for the old one. The discussion is ongoing, but it will require a Congregational Meeting to approve the expenditure if we decide to purchase a tractor.

Now that the snow has cleared (for the most part), we have been able to survey the condition of our parking lot. Concerns have been raised about the part going down to the parsonage as well as part of the horseshoe area around the butterfly garden. There is significant "alligator skin" wear developing, as well as some cracking on the parsonage drive area. This too is an ongoing discussion, and we are seeking bids and info from contractors for repair and sealing. This project would also need a Congregational Meeting to approve the expenditure.

I have heard lately that people are concerned about constantly looking at spending so much money. Believe me when I tell you that Council is also concerned and listening. It is important to note though that for close to 15 years (maybe longer) there wasn't a lot of maintenance done at the church in efforts to preserve money during some really tough financial times. Folks, there is only so long that you can kick a can down the road. We made a commitment to try to work on things more expeditiously, and to prevent degradation of the current facilities which could save us money in the future. Mowing weekly would cost us around \$5,000 a year if we hired it out. And, the last time we had our parking lot completely redone it was around \$40,000! I urge you to please participate in these discussions with an open mind and heart and hopefully we can make a decision in unison.

Sunny blessings,

Dane Crist

Trinity Council President

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) to sign up!

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL INFO THROUGH FEBRUARY 2026

Collections to date \$17,616.00
 Expenses to date \$31,409.12
 Net to date **(\$13,793.12)**

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR MARCH 2026

March 1	42
March 4 Lenten Service	8
March 8	42
March 11 Lenten Service	12
March 15	49
March 18 Lenten Service	14
March 22	53
March 25 Lenten Service	15
March 29	??

BIRTHDAYS

1 David Heidenreich
 4 Anna Heidenreich
 8 Jeff Paul
 15 Joel Rutledge
 16 Sandra Foster– Miller
 16 Cindy Ven Horst
 18 Leslie Nilsen
 18 Georgia Wright
 20 Mitch Sussex
 22 Chance Smiley
 27 Jim Sbertoli



April

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Cathy & Byron Kime
 4 Alice & Don Cordts
 17 Anna & Dave Heidenreich



Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	April 2 Maundy Thursday	April 5 Easter Sunday	April 12	April 19	April 26
Altar Guild	Linda Busch	Mary Shelton	Diana Mayes	Linda Busch	Diane Holst
Communion Assistant	Diana Mayes	Sally Morrow	Lois Schurr	Jo Ann Hogenson	Michelle Crist
Lector	Susan Varilek	Ellen Opperman	Claudia Neumann	Dawn Brick	Dane Crist
Usher Greeter	Volunteers Needed	Chris Kaul Lois Schurr	Diane Cook Susan Varilek	Don Cordts Volunteer Needed	Volunteers Needed
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	X	Diane Kaufmann	Lois Schurr	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.

Trinity Lutheran Church

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

9 AM | **MARCH 29**
Palm Sunday Worship
with Processional

7 PM | **APRIL 2**
Maundy Thursday Worship
with foot washing & communion

7 PM | **APRIL 3**
Good Friday Worship

9 AM | **APRIL 5**
Easter Sunday Worship
Easter Egg Hunt to follow

www.trinitylcpv.com



Flutter Patch Back Again

Formerly known as the Butterfly Garden, the Trinity Flutter Patch has plants that have been ordered and new resurrection life will begin showing up soon. If you are interested in helping with the planting or watering for the 2026 season ahead, contact John Newman at 563-949-7375 or johnnewmanatty@yahoo.com.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF Baby & Personal Care Kits

Now through June 14 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 14

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 in the Narthex or at LWR.org/kits

[Baby Care Kits](#) | [Personal Care Kits](#)

You're Invited to a Graduation Party!

Dayton Paul



BETTENDORF CLASS OF 2026

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GRADUATION PARTY
SUNDAY MAY 24, 2026 2-5 PM
FOREST GROVE PARK
6000 FOREST GROVE DR
BETTENDORF IA



Trinity Blood Pressure Ministry *After worship on April 5*

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

Thanks for your prayers!

Thank you to all of you who called, sent cards and relayed get wells and prayed for me during my sickness and thank you for the thoughtful prayer shawl. These were all very much appreciated and helpful.

Al McIlrath



Sharing in a Community that Prays Together

If you have been prayed for by the congregation and would like to send a thank-you along for an upcoming Torch newsletter, send a note along to Paula in the office at office@trinitylcpv.com or see Pastor Stephen. Sharing in prayer together helps us grow together in faith, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, sent to love God and neighbor.

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. 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 Card Crafting Ministry Spreading Joy

Thursday, April 9 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Trinity's card ministry meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be April 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.



Trinity Card
Crafting
CRAFTED WITH LOVE

Trinity Food Pantry Continues Feeding Our Neighbors

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

Our community food pantry continues to serve our neighbors. 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.

We give thanks for the many gifts shared during this year's Lenten Gifts Collection for the community. The items of most need are always appreciated.

Thanks so much for your support!
Trinity Food Pantry Team

pantry@trinitylcpv.com



Trinity Food Pantry Awarded ELCA World Hunger Grant

The Food Pantry team is happy to announce that Trinity has been awarded a Daily Bread Domestic Hunger Grant meant for ELCA World Hunger to support ministries around the country that work to feed our communities. The \$500 grant will be used to immediately help purchase food to help feed the Quad Cities. Thanks be to God!



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Most needed items needed for the Food Pantry:

Jelly, fruit juice, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper and feminine products.

As the needs change we will add a list of the most needed items each month in the Torch.

The donations to the Food Pantry are very appreciated.

Calling All Green Thumbs: Trinity Anti-Hunger Garden Returning for Fourth 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 Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry! April will mean the early gardening work: getting the soil ready, planting some early crops like lettuce, and other tasks as needed for our 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 fresh produce to neighbors in need.

With additional questions, please contact Dane Crist (563-340-6343, gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com).



Share-A-Meal Serving Our Neighbors Thursday, April 23

We would love to hear from you if you would be able to help serve our neighbors in need at the Churches United Community Meal Site at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport on Thursday, April 23. Deb Anderson helps to coordinate volunteers for this valuable ministry. She will need volunteers to cook our meal that afternoon, and to serve the meal. As always, cookies can be dropped off by noon that Thursday to be served for dessert at the meal. Please contact Deb (563-726-1278) for more information.

Did you know...?

Our food pantry food like fruit cocktails and spaghetti sauce along with some of the hunger ministry garden vegetables are used by the Share-A-Meal volunteers to help feed our neighbors!





Crossroads Youth Ministry

Sundays, 5:00-7:00 PM
April 12 - May 24 here at TLC

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 meeting each Sunday through the school year. Each meeting will include a simple dinner, games, and discussion of the developing faith of the youth. If you're interested in providing the food or cooking the meal for a Sunday, contact Pastor Stephen.



Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will be back again for you to stop by the church parking lot through the spring 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. More stops will be coming in the spring too!

We hope to see you there!

Tuesdays, April 7 & 28, May 19. 4:40-5:10 PM

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

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](#).



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 online.



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

Maundy Thursday

04/02 Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

04/03 Isaiah 52:13--53:12, Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1--19:42

Easter Sunday

04/05 Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

04/12 Acts 2:14a. 22-32, Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

04/19 Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

04/26 Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23,
1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10



Open To

Children ages 4
through Grade 6

Join Us!

- **Dates** June 15-19
- **Times** 9am-4pm
- **Where**
Trinity Lutheran Church
18137 Criswell St.
Bettendorf 52722
- Snacks and meals will be provided
- Family night campfire on Thursday evening

Save the Date!

VBS June 15-19

Trinity Lutheran is partnering with Zion Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church & St. James Lutheran Church to host a week-long Day Camp with Camp Ewalu counselors

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 19
- \$50 / child: after April 19
- 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

Volunteers needed

We'll need volunteers of all sorts ranging from hosting counselors for the week to serving snacks and lunches, accompanying children to clean-up after each day of camp.

If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact Pastor Stephen, Dane Crist, or Cathy Newman or Sign-up on the Narthex Bulletin Board Sign-Up Sheet →



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion
Lutheran Church



St. James
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH





Greetings,

As we step into spring we're reminded of the hope and renewal that this season brings. Just as spring brings new life, we continue to see God at work through the ministry and mission you help make possible.

Because of your prayers, encouragement, and faithful support, lives are being touched in meaningful ways. Every conversation, every act of service, and every opportunity to share hope is a reminder that this work is not done alone: it is a community effort rooted in faith.

Thank-you for standing with us and for being such an important part of this mission.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Andrea Maschka, LSI's Chief Development Officer at AndreaMaschka@LSIowa.org

We are so grateful for your partnership in sharing our mission.

Church Update: April 2026

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, 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.



Spring is an exciting season at LSI, and this year brings an especially meaningful milestone for our Global Greens program. After many years of renting space, we are grateful to share that LSI has purchased our local greenhouse in Des Moines, IA. This step allows us to expand our work and continue creating opportunities for the refugees and immigrants we serve.

Our Global Greens program brings together individuals and families from many different countries who are building new lives in our communities. In the greenhouse, participants grow flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets while learning valuable job skills, practicing English, and forming friendships. It is a place where people from around the world work side by side, gaining confidence and experience as they move forward in their new home.

The Spring Plant Sale is an important part of making this program possible. The plants sold during the sale are grown and cared for by the refugees and immigrants in our program. Every purchase helps support training, supplies, and the ongoing work of LSI as we walk alongside newcomers adjusting to life in Iowa.

For our participants, the greenhouse represents more than a place to grow plants, it is a place to grow opportunity, community, and hope.

2026 Lutheran Day on the Hill

What a meaningful day we shared at this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill. More than 285 people registered for the event, with over 220 participants gathering at the Capitol to lift their voices in faithful advocacy for a better Iowa. Together we engaged in thoughtful conversations with elected officials and shared the importance of policies that reflect our shared values of care, justice, and compassion.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who took time to participate, as well as to the staff and partners who helped organize and lead such an impactful day. Your presence and commitment make a difference. Thank you for standing with us as we continue this mission-driven work across our state.

Save the Date: We hope you'll join us again next year for Lutheran Day on the Hill on February 2, 2027. We look forward to gathering again to continue this important work together.



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.

2026 is a bishop election year in the Southeastern Iowa Synod. The Bishop serves as the **Pastor** to the synod, as the **Missional Leader** of the ELCA on the territory of the synod, as the **Ambassador** of the synod with ecumenical and global partners, and as the Chief Executive Officer of the synod.



The process for electing a bishop begins with discernment. Pastors discern whether they feel called to this sort of ministry. Voting members to the synod assembly discern how the Spirit calls them to vote. The whole synod may assist by submitting a question that may be asked of bishop candidates at the Assembly.

For more information on the Synod Assembly or to submit a question, visit the synod's website at SEIASynod.org/2026-synod-assembly

Help Surround the Assembly
in Peace & Comfort

DONATE

PRAYER SHAWLS
& LAP QUILTS

Ways to Support the Synod Assembly

Pray for the voting members as they gather to elect a bishop, synod council, and committee members; consider constitutional changes, budgets, and Resolutions; and engage in worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Trinity's voting members are Dane and Michelle Crist.

Create and share prayer shawls and lap quilts "peaced" together by our congregations to surround voting members with care during the Assembly and later to be shared to meet local needs. Bring your prayer shawl or quilt to Trinity by Sunday, May 10.

Imani Moja ONE FAITH

**Bwana Yesu Asifiwe
Praise the Lord**

Imani Moja/One Faith

Journeying with our companions in the Pare Diocese and Mwanga Diocese in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

A reflection from Bishop Amy Current



**Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Amen (Swahili)
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Amen (English)**

In October, I had the privilege to visit our synod's companion dioceses in Tanzania for the first time. It has and will continue to take time to remember and reflect on this amazing experience and how we, Southeastern Iowa Synod, may continue and renew our companion synod relationships with our partners in Tanzania.

The Southeastern Iowa Synod has the gift of global companion synod relationships with the Pare Diocese and the Mwanga Diocese. These Dioceses are located adjacent to one another and in fact until 2016 were one diocese. Congregations in our synod have long standing partnerships with parishes and ministries in these dioceses. If you would like to learn more about ELCA companion synod relationships (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/global-mission/how-we-work/companion-synod-relationships>), I encourage you to explore. Our church values our connection to the global church – not as a helper- but a partner in the Gospel. Together, in one faith, we share the good news of God through Jesus Christ.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to not only hear stories from our congregations and leaders that are passionate about this partnership and now to experience the warmth, the love, the witness, the music, the feasts, the worship, and the hospitality of our partners through my own heart. What a gift!

I traveled to Tanzania with a group from St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Ames (Carol Putz, Deb Schlieman, and Erin Beckham) and with Pastor Kathleen Wohlers (retired and member of Luther Memorial, Des Moines). Carol and Kathleen are members of our Synod's Tanzania Companion Synod Network. This was Carol's 15th visit to the Hedaru Parish and Deb and Erin were visiting for the 2nd time. Pastor Kathleen is experienced in traveling to the African continent from numerous visits to companions when she lived in other ELCA synods. So, these 4 women graciously accompanied me for my first visit to Africa and Tanzania.

We traveled for to celebrate the Pare Diocese Global Jubilee. Pastor Clark Olson Smith, Pastor Sara Olson Smith, their children and a group from Zion, Davenport were visiting their companions in the Kirangare parish at the same time. We all attended the Jubilee in Same.

As we sat in the Des Moines airport waiting to board our first flight of our approximately 24-hour journey, Carol began saying "Bwana Yesu Asifiwe" and encouraging me to join in. She indicated that this would be the most important phrase to know in Swahili. Praise the Lord. Amen. Truth be told, I was a little slow on the pronunciation and couldn't quite picture the letters forming words yet every few hours, even on the plane, she would whisper it so that my ears would begin to hear... and hear they did. Every day at every visit in every worship at every table in every gathering we began, "Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Amen". What a gift to remember to praise Jesus at the beginning and ending of each gathering. What a gift that this phrase was my first phrase in Swahili. And what a gift it is to share in this Imani Moja/One Faith with our siblings in Christ in Mwanga and Pare Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Bwana Yesu Asifiwe. Amen (Swahili)
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Amen (English)**

This year's Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be taking a Synod Offering that benefits our Companion Synod partners in the Pare and Mwanga Dioceses in Tanzania. If you would like to give to this special offering to support this vital ministry, simply mark your offering for "Synod Assembly Offering." between now and May 17.

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship Committee	2 Maundy Thursday 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry 7 PM - Worship	3 Good Friday 7 PM - Worship	4 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
5 Easter Sunday 9 AM Worship 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt No Crossroads	6 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	7 4:40-5:10 PM Bookmobile 3:30 PM Social Ministry	8 10:00 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 Crossroads	13 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Stewardship 6 PM Council	14	15 10:00 AM Bible Study	16 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
19 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads	20 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	21	22 10:00 AM Bible Study	23 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
26 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads	27 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	28 4:40-5:10 PM Bookmobile	29 10:00 AM Bible Study	30		