



THE TORCH

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April 2024
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church • 18137 Criswell Street • Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 • 563-332-5188
Pastor Stephen Nilsen 563-332-6432 (office) 319-540-1172 (cell) snilsen@trinitylcpv.com (email)

Greetings Good Folks of Trinity,

Even in the busy rush toward Holy Week and Easter, I have been looking forward to some of the readings on the horizon in the Easter season. You can find these readings in the later pages of this newsletter, but one in particular feels fitting. It is a story we'll hear on Sunday, April 7, with the early followers of Christ having been stirred by the Holy Spirit and learning to live together as fellow disciples:

"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."
– Acts 4:32-35, NRSV

The early Christian community was one of extreme mutuality, holding "everything in common." The resurrection of Christ allowed them to boldly share! That might seem like a very foreign concept to us now, when we have ingrained individualistic attitudes and ideals in almost every aspect of life. It feels counter-cultural to share so much, but how does God call us to hold things in common these days? In living the resurrection life, how might we let go of our need for control over time, money, prestige and power, and share it as a community of faith in new ways?

We start by asking questions like these. For every open-ended question that sparks imagination for another way we might share some of what we hold in common and help our neighbor, there will be some that can creatively engage with that question, listen for the Holy Spirit, and lead this congregation (or any group, for that matter) into some new ministry in our community. Others will follow in behind, and a few may even question "why would we do that?!"

We do that (whatever that is that fills in the blank) so we can live out Christ's mandate we celebrate on Maundy Thursday: *"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, NRSV

Those ways that we love one another just as Christ has loved us may make us feel uncomfortable. Remember, Jesus washed the feet and fed Judas and Peter, knowing that they would betray and deny him. These can be little things: working to collect food or resettlement supplies, serving in worship where we are gathered in the Holy Spirit to praise God and be sent forth to share Christ's love, helping with Sunday School or our upcoming Day Camp, cleaning up around the building and property on Spring Clean-Up Day so we have a clean, safe space to use for all these aspects of ministry, and so much more.

I was reminded recently that many people (myself included) often need that first ask to know that they are needed for something. In that vein, we will be distributing Time and Talents surveys soon so that we can learn what skills and what ways we might share and hold all these things in common. If you've never participated in this before, I welcome you to ask questions if you have any. If you've done this numerous times, I invite you to try this like it is your first time, perhaps asking yourself: What might God be calling me to do here in this place at this time? These actions do not have to be the most daunting, overwhelming things, but they just might help to change the world through this sharing.

Blessed to share in our shared future,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are lots of neat projects going on at Trinity! At our March meeting, Pastor Stephen's devotion encouraged us to think about our physical church building and how we use it. It was interesting that later on in the meeting we discussed the possibility of running a food pantry out of our basement space in partnership with other area churches. This is an exciting opportunity to further God's mission in our world to provide food to the hungry. As always, each opportunity comes with a whole host of questions. These questions will be answered over time as we explore this exciting opportunity.

As the season begins to change, there has been lots of excitement surrounding Season 2 of the garden. Along with the excitement is some nervousness about whether or not there will be enough volunteers to make this a labor of love that is spread amongst many and doesn't fall on just a few. If you could lend a small amount of time to the garden project, please let Dane or Michelle Crist know. They would appreciate any offers of assistance in keeping this important ministry going. There will be more information coming in the future to communicate exactly what assistance is needed.

There was discussion about completing a directory update so we have accurate member information. Keep an eye out for Dane who may be going around collecting photos and contact information. I promise that when Dane comes around to collect your information it will be a quick and painless task to complete!

Time and Talents was another discussion that we had. These have been done in the past, but it is time for an update to the volunteer lists. For those of you not familiar with the Time and Talent form, it is simply a way to gather information in what tasks you would be willing to Serve. That list can then be used to fill open slots. Another discussion was whether tasks like usher and communion assistant should be on a monthly basis. In that scenario you would perform that task for an entire month, but then likely wouldn't need to do it again for a year. Council is curious about your thoughts on this. If you have an opinion, please let a council member know!

By the time you read this, our new sign should be installed. What a beautiful sight! Landscaping discussions are continuing. No final decisions have been made, but keep an eye out for an "Interest and Ideas" meeting in the near future.

Before we know it Vacation Bible School week will be here (June 10-13). A reminder that this year's set-up is a day camp that runs from 9 AM to 4 PM and is led by camp counselors from EWALU. Registration is limited and we think it will reach capacity quickly. Also, there will be some volunteer opportunities and food donations needed to maximize the success of this program. Please keep an eye out and volunteer or donate as you are able!

Justin

CRISWELL STREET REHABILITATION

The City of Bettendorf has selected Criswell Street from Valley Drive to Forest Grove Road for rehabilitation as part of the City's Community Improvement Program. Contact information along with a construction schedule will be sent as soon as a contractor has been selected. Work on this project is expected to commence on or after April 22, 2024 and be completed by September 1.

There will be no changes to solid waste collection, school bus routes, mail delivery or emergency services.

If you would like to discuss how this project will affect your property, or access to your property, please don't hesitate to contact the city Assistant City Engineer, Patrick Lynch, PE.
563 344-4062 plynch@bettendorf.org. For more information: <https://bit.ly/BettCriswellStRehab>

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



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Cathy & Byron Kime
- 4 Alice & Don Cordts
- 10 Andi & Christian Naab
- 17 Anna & Dave Heidenreich



	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes	Connie Short	Linda Busch	Diane Holst	Diane Kaufmann
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow	Diana Mayes	Jo Ann Hogenson	Diane Holst	Michelle Crist
Lector	Dawn Brick	Ellen Opperman	Sally Morrow	Justin Paul	Justin Paul
Usher Greeter	Diane Cook Lois Schurr	Chris Kaul Don Cordts	Ron Morrow Al McIlrath	Carol & Ed Kaufmann	Travis Brunsvold
Fellowship	Diane Kaufmann	Volunteer Needed	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.

AMITIE

Amitie will meet April 8 at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your sack lunch and drink. Dessert will be provided. We will be tying another baby quilt for the Edgerton Clinic, which serves mothers and young children in need. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship and worship.



Rudella Eberlein, Convenor



Choir Rehearsals Coming Up!

Every other Wednesdays and Sundays

Any who are interested in singing in our renewed choir music ministry are invited to join in on Sunday at 8:00 AM for our next rehearsal with our new director, Chelsea.

The upcoming rehearsals will be:

Wednesday at 6:30 AM April 10 & 24.

Sunday at 8 AM April 14 & 28.

Altar Flowers



Do you have a birthday or anniversary you'd like to commemorate? Starting in January, we will have Altar Flowers that you can sign-up to sponsor for any of the worship services throughout the year. The bulletin board will be by the door between the narthex and hallway.

Questions?
Call or Email Paula at
563-332-5188 or
office@trinitylcpv.com

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR MARCH

March	3	60
March	10	56
March	17	55
March	24	78

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

04/07 Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31

04/14 Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

04/21 Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

04/28 Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Share-A-Meal with Churches United



Trinity Lutheran Church
 a member of Churches United
 1216 W 8th St, Davenport, IA


Thursday, April 18, 5 PM
 Zion Lutheran Church
 1216 W 8th St, Davenport, IA

Cookies Needed by Thursday at Noon

Contact Deb Anderson 289-4969 if you can help with cooking or serving the meal for our next time helping with the Share-A-Meal through Churches United. Trinity will be serving on Thursday, April 18 at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Seeking Help with Livestreaming Worship

Our worship services are available to view on both our Facebook page (facebook.com/TrinityLCPV) and our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@TrinityLCPV). As we continue to provide this ministry for those who are unable to join us in worship in-person, please consider helping with the livestreams. After much work from dedicated volunteers, our live-stream set-up is very easy to operate. Please contact Pastor Stephen or Randy Goslin (rgoslin@mchsi.com) if you would like to help.



YEAR TO DATE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2024

Collections to date	\$42,457.83
Expenses to date	\$27,895.42
Net to date	\$14,562.41

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

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



Food Assistance Gift Cards (Formerly Food Baskets)

For the Easter holiday, we handed out five \$100 Fareway gift cards to families that need a helping hand, for a total of \$500. The families were very appreciative of the generous gift provided by members of Trinity. Kathy Naslund and Pastor Stephen learned a lot about how this program works and were very grateful for the transition that Lolita and Lanette helped facilitate. If you have additional questions before next fall when we will collect and distribute more assistance for Thanksgiving and Christmas, please contact Pastor Stephen or Kathy Naslund.



NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

By popular demand, our council is undertaking a new photo directory, and we need your help! Stop by after worship in the office, to get a photo taken, or submit one of you and your family by email to office@trinitylcpv.com. New photos will be compiled and a new directory will be going out by the summer.



CARD CRAFTING MINISTRY MEETING MONTHLY

Wednesday, April 10 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Card Crafting Ministry group has gathered a couple times each month for the past few months so they could get the crafting supplies organized while also putting together some wonderful, handmade cards for those in nearby nursing homes and others from our community who are in need of a pick-me-up. There are also several of these cards available to purchase in the craft group's area in the Fellowship Hall if you know someone you would like to send one of the cards.

In April, the group will switch to meeting once per month - meeting on Wednesday, April 10 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just want to try this for the first time, all are welcome to join in.



Luther Properties' mission is to provide housing assistance to low-income elderly or disabled persons in Scott County, Iowa.



TRINITY REPRESENTED BY FOUR AT LUTHER PROPERTIES ANNUAL MEETING

After the congregation elected three members - John Newman, Sharon Marquard, and Connie Short - at the congregation's annual meeting in January, Pastor Stephen joined those three and members from each of the ELCA congregations from Scott County at the Luther Properties Annual Meeting, held Monday, March 18 at Luther Manor on Devils Glen Road. The meeting was informative and shared lots about the shared ministry accomplished by providing housing assistance through five different apartments around Davenport and Bettendorf. The management team of the properties reported on what their year has been like, the board of Luther Properties shared updates about the social engagements and more. There is a printed copy of the Luther Properties Annual Report available at the table by the main office. For more information on Luther Properties, visit LutherProperties.org

After many years serving as Trinity's representative on the board for Luther Properties, John Newman will be stepping down in 2025. If you are interested in serving on the board (which only meets six times per year), please contact John Newman or Pastor Stephen.

CHURCHES UNITED

As a member congregation of Churches United of the Quad Cities Area, our congregation is invited to have up to 5 representatives at the Annual Meeting of Churches United to discuss the ministry happening around the Quad Cities. Please see Pastor Stephen or Justin Paul if you would like to register for the Annual meeting by April 9. The meeting is Thursday, April 18 at 6:30.

Churches United Annual Meeting



CHURCHES
UNITED
of the Quad City Area

Register by April 9th

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM
Second Baptist Church
919 6th Ave, Rock Island, IL

Spring Clean-Up Day



Saturday, April 20 - 8:30 AM - 12 PM
Raindate: Saturday, April 27

Spring Clean-Up Day is Coming Up!

Spring Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, April 20 at 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. A rain date will be Saturday, April 27 at the same times.

There will be a list of tasks to complete (both outside in 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.

TRINITY'S PRODUCE GARDEN RETURNS TO HELP NEIGHBORS!

After a great year last year producing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for our neighbors in need, the Trinity Lutheran Garden Feeding Ministry is back for 2024. There will be lots of tasks that need help in our growing effort. This year, we may also till some more land to plant potatoes. If you have interest in helping with planting, watering, weeding, or even a curiosity about cleaning the produce once it is picked, please contact Dane Crist (563 340-6343) or Tom Shelton (5630468-9039). Many hands make light work!



"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



Adult Education in the Easter Season: Hunger in Our Community, Hunger in Our World Sundays after Worship - April 7 through May 12

Join Pastor Stephen in the Education hour after worship to learn more about the realities of hunger in our community and hunger around our world. We will be discussing ministry opportunities that have arisen in some communities, learning more about gardens and other feeding ministries, and sharing in some further education around food distribution. For more information, contact Pastor Stephen.



**Resettlement
Donation Needs**

Now through May 12 in the Narthex

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mop and bucket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dish Soap
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broom and dustpan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pack of sponges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dryer Sheets
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bottle of all-purpose cleaning spray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Light Bulbs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dish/Cleaning Cloths	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tissues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toilet Brush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant Wipes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels

**COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT NEEDS
THROUGH EASTERTIDE**

After meeting with Deb Whitford from the LSI last fall, our Social Ministry team invites you to help our newest neighbors - refugees around Iowa - by donating various cleaning supplies that we will contribute to their welcome packs. Bring any of the items listed on the left to the church between Easter and May 12 (the end of Sunday School year) on the table in the Narthex for a generous gift to people making a new life for themselves in America.

Thanks in advance!

**TIME &
TALENTS**
Survey



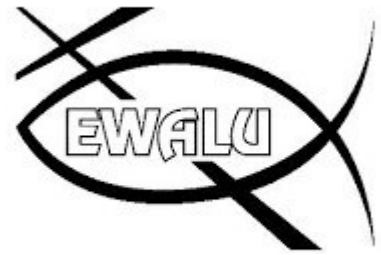
Check your weekly email update and the Narthex for surveys to collect your input into the life of our congregation. Everything from Worship volunteers to help around the property to hospitality will be surveyed, and we'd love to find out what gifts our congregation can share.

APRIL'S FUN BIBLE FACT

The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.



VBS IS COMING SOON!!!



Trinity will be hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) at our church from June 10 through June 13. We are pleased that Counselors from EWALU Bible Camp will, with our assistance, conduct the VBS curriculum. In the Torch, on the Education Bulletin Board in the hallway between the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and on the website, you will be able to find registration forms for the Trinity Day Camp in Partnership with EWALU Bible Camp!

VBS is an important congregational ministry for many reasons. To identify just a few:

1. VBS enhances Christian education of our congregation's children, and also of those adult members who are able to be involved.
2. VBS provides our congregation with the opportunity to share God's good news with families in our community that are not members of our congregation.
3. Through VBS, God blesses us with the opportunity to introduce families in our community to our church's location, and to the many good things we do at Trinity.
4. Through VBS, God introduces families in our community to those members of our congregation who are involved in VBS as representatives of our congregation.

Over the next few months, we will be asking members of our congregation to help with VBS. There will be a number of ways that our members can help.

Please mark June 10 though June 13 on your calendar, and prayerfully consider ways in which you may be able to help!

**God's Blessings to All!
Your VBS Task Force Team**

Scott County Library's Bookmobile Returns to Trinity in 2024

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the church parking lot through the winter and into the early 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'll have snacks and drinks available in the Fellowship Hall. **4:15-4:45 PM on April 16.** We'd love to see you there!





April 2024 – From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. 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.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4:30 Worship & Music 6:30 Education	3 10 Bible Study 3:30 Social Ministry	4 6:00 Personnel	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:00 Property	8 12:00 Amitie 6:30 Council	9	10 10 Bible Study 1:00 Card Ministry 6:30 Choir	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
14 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	15 6:00 Stewardship	16	17 10 Bible Study	18 Share-A-Meal 6:30 Churches United Annual Meeting	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 Spring Clean-Up Day
21 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	22	23	24 10 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	25	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27
28 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	29	30				