



# THE TORCH

July 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 Risen Christ,

Undoubtedly, you have seen lots of build-up for the Independence Day holiday this year, with 2026 marking the Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of our nation's Declaration of Independence. Having just traveled to Philadelphia in June, my family and I were struck by the relatively ordinary appearance of the buildings where these foundational documents of our country were. Rather than an incredibly ornate building, Independence Hall and the first Congressional Hall are simple, brick buildings. One of the locals told us (somewhat jokingly) "they're not ornate, because they just needed a space big enough for 50 people to go sign a piece of paper."

When I consider this impactful anniversary, and the days leading up to it and the days that will follow, I often think of one of my favorite national hymns, "This Is My Song," which includes this second verse:

*"My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine."*  
- "This Is My Song" (ELW 887), Words by Lloyd Stone

Throughout my life, throughout your lives, and throughout the life of this country, we continue to fall into patterns of sin and violence in our world. While we hope and pray for a world united in Christ's love, near and far we witness the brokenness of the world, even as we give thanks to God for the creation all around us. I hope that as we pray for our nation, we do not lose sight of the interconnectedness of all the nations around us. Our nation can uphold these beautiful ideals, but we are also capable of falling short – simultaneously saint and sinner, as Luther would say.

*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* – Matthew 3:2, NRSVUE

In the Gospel according to Matthew, we see John the Baptist proclaiming this Good News about the coming of Jesus Christ. This message commanding repentance while quickly providing the hope in this kingdom of heaven come near is short, but it keeps those that yield it remembering that we must always return to the repentance and transformation in Christ.

Join me in praying that our nation can continue to live out this calling in similar ways as you, me, and many other individual Christians around us. On Sunday, July 5, we will commemorate the anniversary of the nation with an Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life, along with many others around the country. This affirmation is meant to serve as a reminder of our identity as baptized children of God and share in the common good of our civic society. It begins:

"People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved.

You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

Working together in God's kingdom,

*Pastor Stephen Nilsen*



**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  
 Diane Holst — Vice President — HOT Team  
 John Ahlers — Treasurer — Stewardship Committee  
 Dawn Brick — Memorial Committee  
 Diane Cook — Personnel Committee  
 Don Kathan — Property Committee  
 Al McIlrath — Endowment Committee  
 Sally Morrow — Worship & Music Committee

### From the President's Desk...

Wow, it's summer already, and things have been very busy at Trinity. We had the beginning of Theology on Tap for becoming more visible in our community as we gather for discussion and fellowship. We also had the week of Vacation Bible School, which had the biggest turnout yet. The pantry had a chance to pick hundreds of pounds of potatoes from a semi-truck brought in by Churches United. Also, there was a small wedding vow renewal. Council approved ordering new chairs for the Fellowship Hall which members can donate to the cause at \$35 per chair. The chairs are quite comfortable and are a great upgrade. Stay tuned and stay cool as we have plenty more things coming in the next few months.

Blessings,

Dane Crist  
 Trinity Council President

### 2026 LUTHERAN SUMMER DAY CAMP A GREAT SUCCESS

In the week of June 15-29, around 70 children from across the Quad Cities (and beyond!) gathered here at Trinity Lutheran Church for a Lutheran Summer Day Camp led by counselors from Camp Ewalu. It was so wonderful to feel the church buzz with the energy of these bright, young Children of God! We also shared in a fun evening of food and a program at the Wiener Roast and Campfire Thursday night.

If you'd like to help with next year's, contact Pastor Stephen or a member of the Education Committee.



### WANT TO CONNECT 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 MAY 2026

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Collections to date     | \$63,691.32        |
| <u>Expenses to date</u> | <u>\$72,528.63</u> |
| Net to date             | (\$ 8,567.31)      |

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

### ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR JUNE 2026

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| June 7  | 50 |
| June 14 | 51 |
| June 21 | 41 |
| June 28 | 49 |

### BIRTHDAYS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 3 Steve Aguilar    | 15 Cassie Vining |
| 3 Peggy Claussen   | 18 Lois Schurr   |
| 5 Sarah Paul       | 20 Kris Rupp     |
| 8 Bonnie Murphy    | 22 Barb Paul     |
| 8 Morgan Ven Horst | 29 Miles Paul    |
| 8 Diane Holst      | 30 Dane Crist    |
| 9 Abby Mattson     | 30 Maeva Denain  |
| 9 Judy Reber       |                  |

HAPPY  
Birthday



### ANNIVERSARIES

20 Randy & Debi Goslin  
31 Dane & Michelle Crist



## Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

|                                   | July 5                       | July 12                   | July 19                 | July 26                      | August 2                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Altar Guild                       | Mary Shelton                 | Diana Mayes               | Diane Kaufmann          | Linda Busch                  | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>      |
| Communion Assistant               | Sally Morrow                 | Lois Schurr               | Michelle Crist          | Jo Ann Hogenson              | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>      |
| Lector                            | Sally Morrow                 | Barb Paul                 | Dane Crist              | Claudia Neumann              | John Newman                  |
| Usher Greeter                     | Diane Cook<br>Arnie Kaufmann | Wayne Holst<br>Ron Morrow | Arnie Kaufmann          | Chris Kaul<br>Don Cordts     | Diane Cook<br>Debra Anderson |
| Worship Video Livestream Producer | Randy Goslin                 | Randy Goslin              | Randy Goslin            | Randy Goslin                 | Randy Goslin                 |
| Fellowship                        | Diane Kaufmann               | Barb & Darrell Paul       | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> | HOT Team<br>Ice Cream Social | <b>Volunteer Needed</b>      |

If you would like to help us in our Sunday Gathering by doing any of the above tasks, please contact the church office to be added to the list of volunteers.

If you are unable to fulfill your duties, please find a replacement and call or email the church office (332-5188 or office@trinitylcpv.com) with your replacement. Thank you.





**Summer Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops**  
The Scott County Library Bookmobile's summer stops at Trinity. 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. Fall stops will be announced later.

We hope to see you there!

Tuesday July 21 August 11. 4:40-5:10 PM

For more info, visit: [Scottcountyiowa.gov/library/bookmobile](https://scottcountyiowa.gov/library/bookmobile)

### **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.



### **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](#).



### **Flutter Patch Back Again**

Formerly known as the Butterfly Garden, the Trinity Flutter Patch has had lots of new changes happening throughout this summer season - new plantings, added walkways, and so much more!

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](mailto:johnnewmanatty@yahoo.com).



## **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**

- 07/05** Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 07/12** Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:1-13  
Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- 07/19** Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- 07/26** 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



**Trinity  
Blood Pressure Ministry**  
*After worship on  
July 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.



**Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Is Taking a  
Summer Break**

Trinity's card crafting ministry will pause for a Summer Break for the next few months and return recharged in the fall. There are still plenty of cards you can buy for \$2 each in the back of the Fellowship Hall. We give thanks for the gifts of these crafting skills that we can share with the homebound and those in the nearby nursing homes. A simple little card can mean so much to a neighbor when it comes.

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH'S 2026 GRADUATES!**



Payton Paul graduated from Bettendorf High School in May 2026. Payton will attend Scott Community College to begin her plans to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. She will then continue at a 4 year college to finish her degree. Congratulations to Payton and best wishes for a bright future ahead.



Ben Kathan graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in May 2026. Ben will attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and Environmental Science to work as a DNR Officer after graduation. Congratulations to Ben and best wishes for a bright future ahead.



### 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](mailto: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.



### Over \$19,200 Raised to Support the Tanzania Companion Synod Program

The generosity of the Southeastern Iowa Synod continues to make a meaningful impact around the globe. We are delighted to share that the 2026 Synod Assembly Offering has now surpassed \$19,200 in support of our Tanzania Companion Synod Program.

These gifts will be shared equally between our companion synods, the Pare and Mwanga Dioceses in Tanzania, strengthening our longstanding relationship of faith, mutual encouragement, and shared ministry. Through this partnership, we continue to walk together in Christ, supporting one another's mission and ministry across continents.

We give thanks to every congregation and individual who contributed to this special offering. Your generosity is a powerful witness to God's abundant grace. Together, we are making a difference and living out our calling to

### 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.



### Help with Fellowship Hall Refresh

Thanks to the wonderful work of the HOT Team and Church Council, we will be getting updated chairs (and possibly tables) in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity to freshen up the look and provide easier-to-clean chairs. Your generosity and support would be greatly appreciated to offset the costs of these chairs. **Each chair is \$35**, and you can earmark your offering for this great cause by marking your offering envelope with "Fellowship Hall" or "Chairs."

## Trinity Food Pantry Continues Feeding Our Neighbors

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

*One of the greatest blessings of our food pantry ministry is seeing God's love come full circle. For some time, one of our guests has faithfully visited the pantry to help provide food for her family. Recently, she began bringing in fresh eggs from her own chickens to share with others in need. Her generosity is a beautiful reminder that everyone has something to give, no matter what their circumstances. The food pantry isn't just about providing food— it's about building a caring community where kindness is received, multiplied, and shared. Thank you to everyone whose support makes stories like this possible.*

Thanks so much for the support!  
Trinity Food Pantry Team

[pantry@trinitylcpv.com](mailto:pantry@trinitylcpv.com)



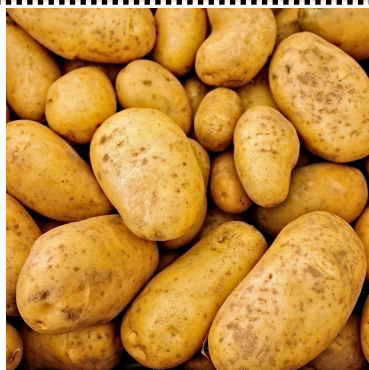
## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Most needed items for the Food Pantry:

Cereal, canned meats (chicken, tuna, spam), shampoo and conditioner.

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

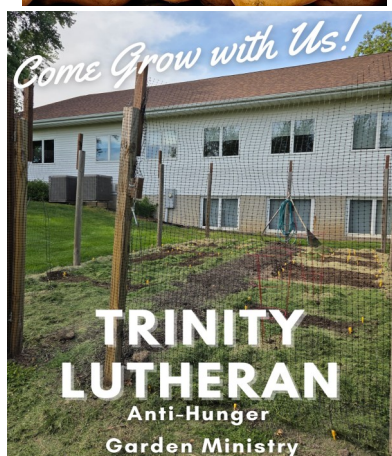
The donations to the Food Pantry are very appreciated.



## DO YOU NEED POTATOES? KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Thanks to a logistics opportunity, our Food Pantry has more than enough potatoes for anyone to take. Stop down to pick some up anytime! These Russett potatoes come fresh from a farm in Idaho.

## Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry Continues Growing



The Garden outside the south end of the sanctuary continues to produce lots of tasty, nutritious fruits and vegetables, including quite a haul of bell peppers and many green beans in the past month. 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](mailto:gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com)) or sign-up in the Narthex.



## Lutheran Summer Day Camp Assembles 100 Kits for Lutheran World Relief Blessed at Worship on June 28

Thank-you to the members of Trinity, St. James, Grace, Zion Lutheran Churches along with Thrivent Action Team funds for the generosity of donating and purchasing the items needed for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. The kits were assembled on Wednesday of Lutheran Summer Day Camp and blessed to the work of LWR on Sunday, June 28



## TRINITY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

Friday, August 14 - 6:30 PM

vs. Fort Wayne TinCaps



### Trinity Night at the Ballpark 2026

Friday, August 14 at 6:30 PM

Modern Woodman Park

Trinity Night at the Ballpark for 2026 will be on Friday, August 14 at 6:30 PM with fireworks following the baseball game! We hope you can join us. Tickets will cost \$10 per person, but we'd like a headcount to know how many will attend in advance. Sign-up in the Narthex or by scanning the QR Code below:



### Theology on Tap

Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 PM

Valley Inn Ale House

24575 Valley Dr, Pleasant Valley

We've had some great Spirit-filled conversation at our first two gatherings of Theology on Tap, where anyone with a bit of curiosity can meet to discuss whatever is on their mind related to faith, theology, church, God, or life, as we share a drink and fellowship together.

In July, we'll meet just down the hill from Trinity at the Valley Inn Ale House. We hope you can join us as you grab a drink, grab a seat, and join in conversation together.

### Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13 at 9 AM

Forest Grove Park in Bettendorf

Fellowship & Games Afterward



### Worship in the Park

Sunday, September 13 at 9 AM

Forest Grove Park in Bettendorf

Mark your calendars now!

Let's get out and share the Good News! We'll have a worship service at the regular time in a different place on Sunday, September 13 just down the road at Forest Grove Park. Bring a friend, share in the joy of good weather and enjoy some fellowship together after worship including some games and snacks.

If you would like to help organize games or provide input on snacks, see a member of HOT Team.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE?  
QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD?  
QUESTIONS ABOUT BOTH?

Join for an evening of discussion

TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 6:30 PM

VALLEY INN ALE HOUSE | 24575 VALLEY DRIVE, PLEASANT VALLEY



Valley Inn Ale House







## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS DISBURSEMENT RECIPIENTS FOR 2026

*In 2025, Trinity Endowment Fund was able to distribute \$19,000 to various agencies within the ELCA and our community. Many of our recipients were recommended by members of the congregation. This year we will be distributing \$20,000 and would like to hear your suggestions for organizations that could benefit. The Endowment Agreement stipulates the following guidelines for distribution:*

|               |                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 20% (\$4000)  | to Trinity's Council Discretionary Fund |
| 20% (\$4000)  | to ELCA Affiliated Programs             |
| 20% (\$4000)  | to Community Service Programs           |
| 40 % (\$8000) | to Miscellaneous Organizations          |

Forms for your recommendations will be available in the Torch, the church office and on the bulletin boards. Completed forms can be returned to the church office. Please contact any of the team members if you have questions.

**Deadline for applications: July 31, 2026**

**Committee members:** Sue Davison, Diana Mayes, Bill Romans, Maggie Wright

**Treasurer:** Ridge Raddatz **Council Representative:** Al McIlrath **Coordinator:** Marcia Brunsvold

## Trinity Lutheran Endowment Committee Congregational Suggestions for Endowment Fund Distribution

*Congregation members, committee members or groups seeking resources to support a program. Organization, ministry or mission are invited to submit to the endowment Committee request for use of Endowment Distributions. All requests must be submitted in writing and received by July 31, 2026 for the Current years distributions.*

**Your name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your contact information: Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization you recommend for Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide information about the organization, ministry and suggested use.**

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**Suggested donation amount** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that the committee is not bound by this suggestion, but your input is appreciated.)

For questions, please contact Committee Members:

Sue Davison, Diana Mayes, Bill Romans, Maggie Wright,  
Ridge Raddatz (Treasurer), Al McIlrath (Council Representative)  
or Marcia Brunsvold.

You may complete the form above or online using the QR Code. Completed forms can be turned into the office or emailed to [brunsvoldmarcia@gmail.com](mailto:brunsvoldmarcia@gmail.com)



**All Together in One Place from ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry**  
**America at 250: Holding Gratitude and Humility - June 23, 2026**

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.



Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement [Faith and Civic Life](#), p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” ([Faith and Civic Life](#), p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

*The Rev. Yehiel Curry*

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





As we look ahead to July, we anticipate the warmth and brightness of midsummer—long, sunlit days that offer space for renewal, reflection, and connection. This season reminds us of God's abundant blessings and the beauty of growth, both in the world around us and within our hearts.

Because of your generosity, compassion, and commitment, lives are being strengthened every day. Your prayers, your time, and your support make it possible for LSI to walk alongside individuals and families as they navigate challenges and embrace new opportunities.

We are deeply grateful for the ways our shared faith brings us together in service and purpose. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission and for shining Christ's light in the lives of those who need it most. If you have any questions, please reply to this email or reach out to Andrea Maschka, LSI's chief Development Officer at [Andrea.Maschka@LSIowa.org](mailto:Andrea.Maschka@LSIowa.org).

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for all the ways you help make this work possible.

### Your SUPPORT makes these stories possible.

*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.*

#### **Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today," said Michelle, an LSI client.**

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

"Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn't believe in her, and her daughter was one of them," said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. "We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don't think I've seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are."

**"To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable," said Amy. "She built the ladder, and she climbed out."**

"I was a mess when I first came to LSI," said Michelle. "Now, I'm sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope." *strengths and gifts of every individual.*



# July 2026

|            | Mon                                                                              | Tue                                                                                     | Wed                                                                                                     | Thu                                                                                      | Fri                                                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |                                                                                  |                                                                                         | <b>1</b><br>10 AM Bible Study<br>11:30 AM Worship Committee                                             | <b>2</b><br>3:30 Education Committee<br>4 – 6 PM Food Pantry                             | <b>3</b><br>Pastor's Sabbath                                   |
| nm.<br>ire | <b>6</b><br>9 - 11 AM Food Pantry                                                | <b>7</b><br>3:30 PM Social Ministry Committee                                           | <b>8</b><br>10 AM Bible Study                                                                           | <b>9</b><br>4 – 6 PM Food Pantry                                                         | <b>10</b><br>Pastor's Sabbath                                  |
|            | <b>13</b><br>9 - 11 AM Food Pantry<br>5 PM Stewardship Committee<br>6 PM Council | <b>14</b>                                                                               | <b>15</b><br>10 AM Bible Study                                                                          | <b>16</b><br>4-6 PM Food Pantry                                                          | <b>17</b><br>Pastor's Sabbath                                  |
|            | <b>20</b><br>9 - 11 AM Food Pantry                                               | <b>21</b><br>4:40-5:10 PM Bookmobile<br>6:30 PM Theology on Tap at Valley Inn Ale House | <b>22</b><br>10 AM Bible Study                                                                          | <b>23</b><br>10 AM Constitution Revision Mtg<br>4 - 6 PM Food Pantry<br><br>Share A Meal | <b>24</b><br>Pastor's Sabbath                                  |
|            | <b>27</b><br>9 - 11 AM Food Pantry<br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i>              | <b>28</b><br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i>                                              | <b>29</b><br>No Bible Study<br>6 PM Bonfire Church at Devils Glen Park<br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i> | <b>30</b><br>4 - 6 PM Food Pantry<br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i>                       | <b>31</b><br>Pastor's Sabbath<br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i> |
|            |                                                                                  |                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |                                                                                          |                                                                |