THE TORCH

October 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 Christ!

When I returned from my parental leave earlier this year, there was a sense that lots of things were the same. I loved returning to the same welcoming embrace that Trinity has always provided to me since the first days I was interviewing here, but some of that moment when I returned felt like things were stagnant or lacking a movement. Not wanting to confuse any motion for a movement (more on that later), I began to wonder about God's mission, God's work that we do here with our hands at Trinity, and what more I could do as a leader.

God's mission in the world is one that always involves movement: Christ coming to us and moving among the people in the Holy Land, the early church being scattered to make small gatherings happen, reformers working to move the church beyond adiaphora toward our central foundation in Christ, and the regular gathering and sending of people in worship every week around the world – including here at Trinity. We are moved by a God who continues to act in the world, bringing creation into being and moving us through the Holy Spirit in ways we sometimes can't even imagine.

Fast forward to the end of August, and I was boarding a flight to Tacoma, Washington, for the annual national training of the Organizing for Mission Network – a group of leaders who use the principles of community organizing to work toward organizing the church (broadly and locally) into a more mission-focused body. The organization is centered around a few core values: equity is our north star (all God's beloved children deserve an equitable stake in the work of God), building grassroots power through place-based strategies (as opposed to issue-based advocating and organizing, they try to group people by similar settings like rural, suburban, and urban), and organizing is a spiritual practice (God calls us to reflect, imagine, plan, implement, and enact our vision of joining God's mission). These core values are lived out in numerous ways across the church, and I was happy to join with some of you to imagine how they might be lived out here locally at Trinity and around the Quad Cities.

At the conference, someone struck me with a question that I continue to ponder: what is your stake in the things you care most about? Put another way, what compels you? Or yet another way, what issues and problems speak to you and what changes for you personally if nothing changes? I talked with this colleague about some of the things we care about deeply here at Trinity: feeding people, sharing God's love, and so on. After that sharing, he followed up again, but why do you think those people care? Ultimately, this more experienced colleague was challenging me to articulate what the *why* is for all of us. Sure, we have people that help serve meals with Share-a-Meal, or provide food to neighbors through the food pantry or gardening, but what compels those people to do those things? The question can be extended to everything that we do here at Trinity, and I hope that we gather together for the same reason: to proclaim Christ and the hope and new life that we find through His life, death, and resurrection.

Do we live this out perfectly? No, and I hope we never think we have to. Do we continue to practice resurrection (as Wendell Berry once poetically called it)? Yes, and I hope that we will continue to do so.

I'll close this month with a pondering about the baptismal promises that are made on our behalf, or made by us if we are old enough, or affirmed through confirmation (written out as if we were affirming this for multiple people): Do you promise to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

May we continue to live out these promises faithfully, and strive to work for God's movement in the world.

Yours in Christ,
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
Sharon Marquard — Social Ministry Committee
Al McIlrath — Endowment Committee
Sally Morrow — Worship & Music Committee

With the changing of the seasons, it is a great opportunity to also think about the changing seasons in our Congregation. With the hiring of our new Director of Engagement it is important that we prepare our hearts for change as we enter a season of seeking growth in new ways while also strengthening our current congregational relationships. This is an exciting time for Trinity, and one that will be filled with trial and error, and hopefully, successes.

Council is beginning the yearly budget review for the upcoming year. So please meet and discuss with the committees you serve on, what your 2027 budget is looking like. We have also begun looking at potentially changing some committees to better meet our current and future vision. Some of these changes may involve delving into our church constitution. Personnel has been busy between the hiring of a new staff person and getting reviews caught up for current staff.

Lastly, the Council is looking at planning our next sets of priority projects and goals, so they will be shovel ready when resources are available. This is a part of short and long term planning. If you have ideas to be considered, please tell a council member.

Happy Fall Blessings,

Dane Crist
Trinity Church Council President

Meet Our New Director of Engagement Mimi Roque

Hello, my name is Noemi Roque, but everybody knows me as Mimi. I am a proud mother of three children, ages 24, 18, and 12. Being a mother has been one of the most important parts of my life and has strengthened my compassion, perseverance, leadership, and commitment to helping others.

I am a bilingual Spanish-English Human Services professional, case manager, community advocate, and interpreter with more than 10 years of experience supporting individuals and families from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. My passion is helping people overcome barriers, access essential services, navigate complex systems, and move toward greater stability, independence, and self-sufficiency.

Community service has always been an important part of who I am. My volunteer experience includes serving as a Program Coordinator and Youth Ministry volunteer with Church Manantial de Vida, a Domestic Violence Victims Advocate with Waypoint Services, and a Community Navigator with QCAIR, AKWAABA and SAL Welcome Center. These experiences have strengthened my belief in the importance of meeting people where they are, listening to their needs, and connecting them with opportunities that can positively impact their lives.

I hold an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration: Management from Kirkwood Community College, along with certificates in Project Management, Global Perspectives in Business, and Human Resources. I am also continuing my education toward a Bachelor's degree in Human Services at Upper Iowa University.

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!

BIRTHDAYS

1	John Vining
5	Fletcher Wright
8	Ray Norris
11	Jean Mattson
12	Cathy Kime
13	Sally Morrow
19	Al McIlrath
21	Jo Ann Hogenson
21	Stephan Engler
22	Jerry Short
22	Kohler Wright
28	Oden Wright
27	Debi Goslin

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Ron & Sally Morrow
11	Neil & Cassie Vining
29	Kris & Jeff Rupp

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25	November 1
Altar Guild	Linda Busch	Linda Busch	Diana Mayes	Mary Shelton	Sally Morrow
Communion Assistant	Michelle Crist	Diane Holst	Diana Mayes	Michelle Crist	Sally Morrow
Lector	Ellen Opperman	Dawn Brick	Barb Paul	Claudia Neumann	Henry Marquard
Usher Greeter	Paul Opperman Lois Schurr	Wayne Holst Chris Kaul	Diane Cook Deb Anderson	Dane Crist Don Cordts	Ron Morrow Jo Ann Hogenson
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Darrell Paul	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	**Volunteer Needed**	Kris Rupp Rudie Eberlein	HOT Team	Lois Schurr	Barb & Darrell Paul

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.

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL INFO THROUGH AUGUST 2026

Collections to date	$113,628.39
Expenses to date	$122,359.00
Net to date	($8,731.04)

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

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

September 6	52
September 13	45
September 20	52
September 27	49

FALL WIENER ROAST

Saturday, October 10 at 5:30 PM.
Mark your calendars, we have some wood to burn, and we can kick-off our fall with an old fashioned wiener roast.
Cost is $5 per person OR donation of 3 food items for the Trinity Food Pantry.
A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex; please indicate if you are bringing dessert or a side.

FALL PORK ROAST

October 18, 5 PM will be our Fall Pork 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.

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday October 31, 8:30 AM-12 PM
Rain date: November 14, 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!

Special bonus if you wear a costume!

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 these tasks. You can sign up online now or on the calendar in the Narthex. Please consider filling those positions, or let me know to place your name on the list.

Thanks to all of you that serve on Sundays.

Theology on Tap

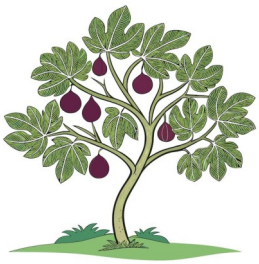
Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 PM
Five Cities Brewing
2255 Falcon Ave. Bettendorf.

We've had some great Spirit-filled conversation at our monthly gatherings of Theology on Tap. 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. We hope you can join us as you grab a drink, grab a seat, and join in conversation together.

Flutter Patch Butterfly Garden

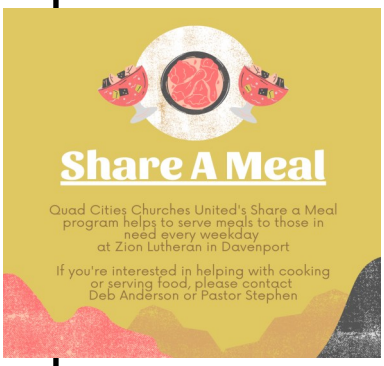
Contact John Newman if you would like to help with the new resurrection life taking place in the Flutter Patch.

Habakkuk 3:17-18: *"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."*



Trinity
Blood Pressure Ministry
After worship on October 4

Trinity will be offering this ministry the first Sunday of each month by our qualified congregational nurses. There are several stories of health monitoring, helping the lives of those who have stopped to use this ministry.



Share-A-Meal Serving Our Neighbors

Thursday, October 15 - Meal site: Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport at 5:30 PM

Back on July 23, we served 63 people a great summer meal. 144 hot dogs, beans, fruit, chips, water, and as always appreciated, cookies from the generous women at Trinity.

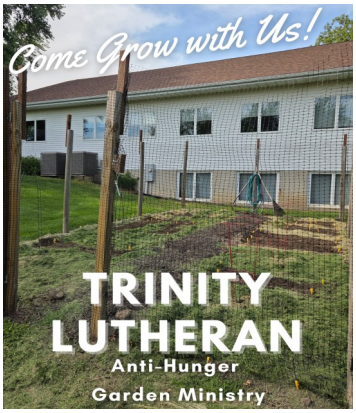
A big thank-you to Judy Ahlers for helping me prepare the meal with a broken wrist! Thanks also to our servers: Brandi Ahlers, my son Matt, his girlfriend Tara, and a volunteer, Tim from 180.

We will be serving again this month on Thursday, October 15, and your help would be appreciated with cookies, or help with shopping, preparing, or serving the meal.

For more info, please contact Deb Anderson (563-726-1278)

Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry Continues Harvest Season

The Trinity Anti-Hunger 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 onions 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) or sign-up in the Narthex.



You are Invited to "A Toast to Home"
Presented by Humility Homes and Services
Sunday October 4 | 10:00 AM - 12 noon.
Doors open at 9:30 AM

Bally's Quad Cities Event Center
777 Bally Blvd.
Rock Island, IL 6201

Join us for a morning of community, generosity, and hope in support of housing services across the Quad Cities. Enjoy a delicious breakfast brunch, hear inspiring testimonials, bid on silent auction items, and participate in Fund a Cause to help individuals and families working toward a place to call home.

To Purchase brunch tickets, visit **Register for A Toast to Home**
or contact **Jen Davis, Chief Development Officer, at 309-337-9326**

October 11th is World Homelessness Sunday – A National Day of Witness

One day after World Homeless Day (October 10th) - faith communities across the country will pause together to acknowledge the reality of homelessness in their communities, learn what actually works, and make a collective effort to engage. This is not a one-time event. It is a beginning.

Homelessness is rising in nearly every major city and small town in America. It is one of the defining moral questions of our generation – and the Church cannot sit on the sidelines. Homelessness Sunday is the moment we say together: we see this. We will not look away.

Homelessness is not just a statistic; it affects real individuals with sacred dignity, unique stories, and God-given worth. Observing this day challenges you to look beyond societal stigmas and see the face of Christ in those who are struggling.

Humility Homes and Services, Inc. (HHSI) serves as the region's leading "housing-first" organization. For more than three decades, they have operated under the belief that housing is a basic human right.

HHSI meets people exactly where they are. They run the Quad Cities' only year-round, low-barrier emergency shelter at 1016 W. 5th Street, manage 152 affordable rental units across the community, and operate programs explicitly designed to assist vulnerable populations, including specialized services for veterans & youth. Their approach is simple and deeply human: welcome people as they are, stabilize them with immediate housing, and walk alongside them as they rebuild their lives.

Ending homelessness requires both immediate care and systemic support. You are invited to support HHSI's mission through these direct steps:

- **Pray intentionally:** Pray for the safety, health, and dignity of your unhoused neighbors. Lift up the staff, case managers, and outreach teams at HHSI who provide critical 24/7 care.
- **Support the Fresh Start Thrift Store and Corner Closet Donation Center:** You can donate clean clothing or household essentials to HHSI's Corner Closet 522 Fillmore Street Monday thru Thursday from 11AM – 4PM. Your items will help individuals with essential clothing and help turn an empty apartment into a true home. You can shop at our Fresh Start Thrift Store Tuesday through Friday 9AM-4PM.
- **Volunteer:** You can share in the mission by helping sort, hang, display, distribute and retail at our Corner Closet and Fresh Start Thrift Store. Sign-up online at www.humilityhomes.org or by calling Travis Fisher-King 563.447.9977
- **Contribute to long-term solutions:** You can financially invest in HHSI's growth, the new 11-unit Sheridan Point Place family housing development and the ongoing mission of keeping individuals housed. Your financial gifts fund the vital mission of Humility Homes Services Inc.
- **Connect those in need:** If you or someone you encounter in your daily life is experiencing a housing crisis, you can share HHSI's immediate assistance line at **(563) 326-1330**.

ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE

As part of our worship service on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 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.

Trinity Food Pantry Continues Feeding Our Neighbors

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

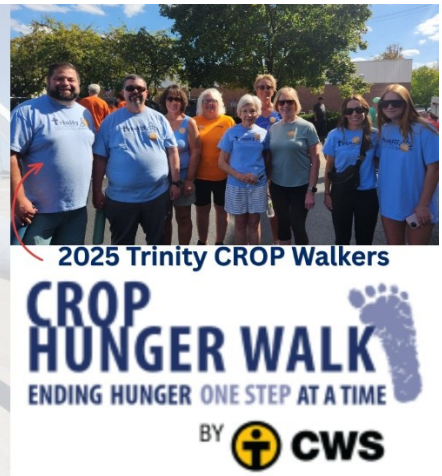
In a recent story of our food pantry's success beyond the walls of our church, there was a recent story shared by Henry Marquard after one of the times he and Sharon delivered some food to our partners at on of the Luther Properties sites:

"We delivered the cupcakes, cakes, and other goodies to Luthera Manor. The joy and reception were overwhelming. A spontaneous party broke out. Thank you, Tom and Mary for packing the goodies. Best comment: 'I like this better than when you bring healthy food!'"

Thanks so much for the support!
Trinity Food Pantry Team pantry@trinitylcpv.com

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Pantry items in need: currently we are having the PB&J drive with CROP Walk which will split with local pantries. We could use cereals, canned meats, vegetable oil, canned hash, condiments like ketchup, mustard, and BBQ sauce. Thank you for your continued support.
The donations to the Food Pantry are very much appreciated.



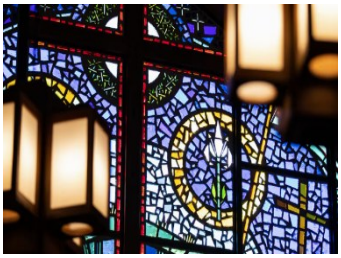
CROP Walk is Back for 2026

Sunday, October 4 at 1:30 PM - Starting at Bethany for Children and Families in Moline

As a congregation committed to fighting hunger, we join in the efforts for the Quad Cities Crop Walk against Hunger every fall. Through fundraising and a collection of peanut butter and jelly that benefits food pantries like ours around the Quad Cities, we build awareness of the issue of hunger by walking across the I-74 Bridge from the Moline side to the Bettendorf side and back.

Sign-up online through the new Trinity website or in the Narthex. Don't forget to bring some peanut butter and jelly to share with the community in our annual PB&J Drive.

If you would like to meet at the "starting line," you can join us at Caxton Building/Bethany for Children & Families at 1701 River Drive, Moline.



Adult Ed: Reconsidering the ELCA's Social Message on Homelessness
Sunday, October 18 after Worship
As part of the ELCA's ongoing teaching and witness in the world, there is a new draft of the Social Message on Homelessness. Originally published in 1990, the Social Message addresses causes of homelessness and the church's response. Copies of the original and revisions are available to pick-up before we will discuss it on Sunday, October 18 after worship.

Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Trinity Spreading Joy
Thursday, October 8 1:00 – 3:00 PM

After a brief summer hiatus, Card Crafting Ministry is back!

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 November 13 from 1:00-3:00 PM. All are welcome to join us- no experience necessary!

Each month we make and deliver cards to the residents of Aspire of Pleasant Valley Nursing and Rehab (Formerly River Manor). We also make and mail greetings to members and friends of Trinity. In addition, the committee has been working to replenish the supply of greeting cards for sale in the Fellowship Hall. All cards are $2.00.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kaul, Claudia Neumann, or Marcia Brunsvold.

Trinity Card Crafting
CRAFTED WITH LOVE

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.

WEEKLY READINGS

10/04 Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

10/11 Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

10/18 Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9
Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

10/25 Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

Memorial Service for Gene Jebsen
Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 AM
Luncheon to Follow

Our brother in Christ, Gene Jebsen died May 31, 2026, and the family would like to invite the congregation to a memorial service and luncheon on the first Saturday in November. Please let someone from the HOT Team know if you can bring a side dish or dessert, and we hope to see you there lifting your voice in song as Gene did so many times in his life.

Gene's obituary can be viewed on the McGinnis-Chambers Funeral Home website.

COLLABORATIVE CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 AM at Zion Lutheran
Wednesday, October 21 at 4:30 PM at St. James

Students in grades 6-9 are encouraged to join in as we go on a baptismal journey through learning about faith, sharing lunch, and more. Classes will be on the first Sundays of the month at 11:30 AM and third Wednesdays of the month at 4:30 PM.

We'll cover reasons to affirm our baptism, learn about the Bible, worship, and more throughout the year.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Stephen.

Fall Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop at by Trinity parking lot through the fall on Tuesday every 3 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!

Tuesday October 13 and November 3. 4:40-5:10 PM

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

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

Relentlessly Dedicated To Serving Iowa Families

AT LSI, WE ARE FUELED BY THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT AND DRIVING TO CREATE STRONGER IOWA COMMUNITIES

Our work isn't done until every Iowa child has a safe, loving home; until every individual struggling with mental illness has access to quality therapy; until every former refugee feels welcome in their new home; until every Iowan with a disability has the independence they need to thrive.

As one of Iowa's most trusted human services agencies, LSI has a legacy of serving children and families for more than 50 years, With more than 1,000 team members in 30 offices statewide, Team LSI stands united, ready to tackle the difficult issues facing our most vulnerable neighbors.

Customized Care For Iowa Children, Adults, and Families

Behavioral Health Intervention Services to support children with behavioral disorders through regular in-home visits and provide their families with practical skills like anger management and healthy communication.

Family Safety and Crisis Services to provide intensive interventions designed to strengthen families and prevent child removal due to abuse or neglect.

Refugee And Immigrant Services to empower refugees and immigrants with English classes, economic development programs, and family support.

Residential Treatment Services to provide Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens with 24 hour trauma-centered mental health care.

Early Childhood Services for parents of young children. Our programs support Iowa families with home visiting, classes, and parenting education.

Mental Health Services for children, adults, and families in a compassionate, non-judgmental therapeutic environment.

Foster Care an Adoption to recruit, license, and support foster and adoptive families.

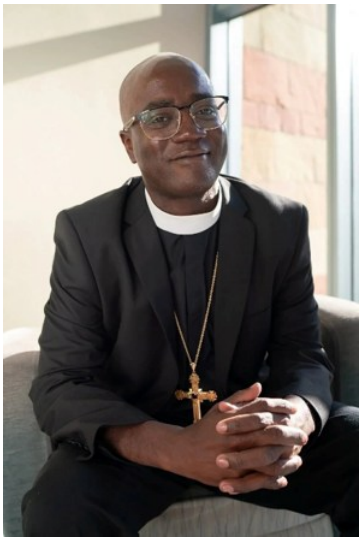
Services For People With Disabilities include 24 hourly care and Host Homes independent living respite care for Iowa children an adults with high intellectual or developmental disabilities.

LSI LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

LSI is affiliated with Lutheran Services in America and the three Iowa Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, nationalities origins , ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. LSI is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

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.

All Together in One Place: Celebrating Our Diversity



Dear beloved children of God,

As a church, we collectively continue to celebrate the diversity with which God has created the world. Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). In the book of Acts, many were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Each was given the power to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the human body serves as a metaphor, demonstrating that a healthy Christian community relies on the many distinct gifts and qualities of each unique member — emphasizing unity through continuing to be a connected church.

I am thankful to serve this church in the office of presiding bishop. I am also grateful for my experience as an activist and leader in communities and congregations that are at the margins. Whatever our role and wherever our place in the church, God calls us to develop trusting relationships with our neighbors. In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, the presiding minister asks, "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ... to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236). Striving for justice involves learning about underlying causes of division and inequity. It is a commitment our church makes because of baptism.

Celebrating diversity and striving for equity, inclusion and accessibility for all reflect this baptismal call. The words "diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility" and the initialism "DEIA" mean different things to different people. For the ELCA, as church together, these terms reflect our "delight in the fact that the people called, gathered, and enlightened" by God represent such a wide array of identities, backgrounds and life stories (ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993, p. 3). The terms remind us of the gospel vision of community, in which all are truly welcome. They are terms this church has chosen to include in its teachings and constitutions as reflections of our faith in God, who creates, redeems and sustains all people.

Everyone matters in this church. I have celebrated with synods and congregations as they build communities that reflect the people and neighborhoods around them. I have worshiped in places where many languages are spoken and people from different backgrounds feel welcome. Together we have expanded our understanding of what it means to be church through relationships with companion churches around the world and through relationships between congregations in rural, urban and suburban settings here in the United States. We are joined together through holy baptism, through which God calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. "Diversity," "equity," "inclusion" and "accessibility" are reflections of justice when it is fulfilled. Like many saints before us have said, justice is the form love takes in society.

The road is long, but we go forth in faith, trusting in the risen Christ and inspired by one another for the work ahead. Let us continue in the covenant God has made with us, to serve all people in love.

In Christ, Bishop Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Fall Retreat for Ages 55+ at Camp Ewalu
Wednesday, October 14 to Friday, October 16

Camp is NOT just for kids! Join us for Autumn Odyssey, Camp Ewalu's fall retreat for ages 55+. You'll stay at the comfortable Stone Center just north of Strawberry Point in hotel-style rooms, each with its own bathroom. This year's activities and speakers will focus on wellness: physical, spiritual, environmental and mental. Plus, you'll be surrounded by the fall colors in scenic NE Iowa!

COST: $175 double occupancy (2 in a room), $225 single occupancy (1 in a room) 5 meals and 2 nights of lodging included!

Clara Buxton, a licensed marriage and family therapist, will speak on the topic of mental and emotional wellness. Jane and Rick Juchems of Waverly will talk about their recent trip to Ghana with Self Help International.

See the tentative schedule and register now at https://www.Ewalu.org/Autumn-Odyssey

Don't delay! This popular retreat is limited to 28 and often fills up! Treat yourself to a wonderful fall experience during peak leaf season, and bring a friend.

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *4-6 PM* Food Pantry *4:30 PM* Education *5:30 PM* All Committee Meeting Night *6:00 PM* Endowment	**2** Pastor's Sabbath	**3** *8 AM* - PPALS Bible Study
4 *9 AM* Worship *10 AM* Fellowship *10 AM* Property Comm. *10 AM* Blood Pressure Clinic *11:30 AM* Confirmation @ Zion, Davenport *1:30 PM* CROP Walk @ Moline River Landing	**5** *9 - 11 AM* Food Pantry *1 PM* Constitution Revision Task Force	**6** *4 PM* Personnel	**7** *10 AM* Bible Study *11:30 AM* Worship & Music	**8** *10:30 AM* Stewardship *1 PM* Card Ministry *4 - 6 PM* Food Pantry	**9** Pastor's Sabbath	**10** *8 AM* - PPALS Bible Study *5:30 PM* Wiener Roast
11 *9 AM* Worship *10 AM* Fellowship	**12** *9 - 11 AM* Food Pantry *6 PM* Council	**13** *4:40-5:10 PM* Bookmobile	**14** *10 AM* Bible Study *6-8 PM* QC Ignite at Faith Lutheran Eldridge	**15** Share A Meal *4 - 6 PM* Food Pantry	**16** Pastor's Sabbath	**17** *8 AM* - PPALS Bible Study
18 *9 AM* Worship *10 AM* Fellowship *10 AM* Adult Education *5 PM* Fall Pork Roast	**19** *9 - 11 AM* Food Pantry	**20** *6 PM* Theology on Tap @ Five Cities Brewing	**21** *10 AM* Bible Study *4:30 PM* Confirmation @ St. James, Bett.	**22** *4 - 6 PM* Food Pantry	**23** Pastor's Sabbath	**24** *8 AM* - PPALS Bible Study
25 *9 AM* Worship Wear Red for Reformation! *10 AM* Fellowship	**26** *9 - 11 AM* Food Pantry	**27**	**28** *10 AM* Bible Study	**29** *4 - 6 PM* Food Pantry	**30** Pastor's Sabbath	**31** *8 AM* - PPALS Bible Study *8:30 AM - 12 PM* Fall Clean-Up Day *5 - 7 PM* Trunk or Treat @ St. James