

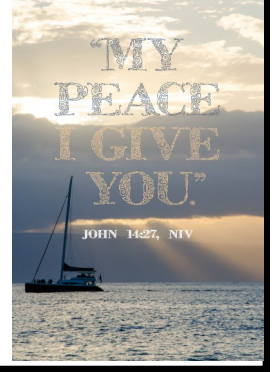
The Trinity Trumpet

May 2020

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:
Eric Meissner
(402) 660-1121
tlcpastoreric@gmail.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:
Sue Paulsen
(402) 639-6054
tlcspaulsen@gmail.com



Our Eyes are on You Lord!

In the 20th chapter of 2 Chronicles King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by his enemies, the Moabites and the Ammonites. He declared a fast among the people and said, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”

Jehoshaphat's prayer was short and very powerful. He committed the situation to God. He sought God's favor. He acknowledged God's sovereignty over the situation. He praised God's glory and took comfort in His promises. He also professed complete dependence on God.

During this very unusual time of the Coronavirus the world does not know what to do. Country after country have tried different measures to slow down the virus and it's devastating effects. The greatest minds on the planet are working on a vaccine. While others are desperately trying to find medicines for those who have succumbed to the virus in the worst way. All the while officials are trying to find out how to open countries. Here in America we are no different.

As Christians we need to pray the humble prayer of Jehoshaphat, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you” Lord. He went on to say “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.”

The enemy we face, the army we face is invisible and it seeks to kill. As the enemy's of Judah assembled, King Jehoshaphat then went on to say, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.”

We must face the coronavirus tomorrow with all the tools we have. But we do not have to be afraid; For the Lord our God is with us!

As the army of king Jehoshaphat went out, he instructed the men to sing praises to God, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.” As they began to sing and praise God, the Lord set ambushes against the Moabites and the Amorites who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

In the midst of this pandemic we must, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his Love endures forever.” Yes, people have died and will continue to die. The race to a vaccine will continue, and the war against this invisible enemy rages on throughout the world. Even in the midst of all this we must not lose our focus on the Lord. We must stay focused to the cross, for like King Jehoshaphat, our eyes are on you Lord, for you love endures forever!

Together in Christ Jesus,
Pr. Eric

An Invitation to Serious Faith

I will strive to...

PRAY daily
WORSHIP weekly
READ the Bible
SERVE at and beyond Trinity
 Be in **RELATIONSHIP** to encourage spiritual growth in others
GIVE of my time, talents & resources

Trinity Lutheran Church



Focusing on the **CROSS**.
 Following Christ's **LOVE**.

301 N. Chestnut St. AVOCA, IA
 712-343-2518



The food pantry continues to operate using a drive up system at the Walnut Community Center. The pantry has been restricted to use for only AHSTW residents at this time and has been serving anywhere between 30 to 50 families. The next pantry drive up is scheduled for April 30th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Donations will be accepted that day at the west door of the building from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Donations and volunteers are welcomed and greatly appreciated! Future dates when the pantry will be open will be posted via our facebook page, also accessible through our website.



How have you been? I miss seeing you. I am thankful that in such a time as this we are blessed with technology that allows us to worship together as a church and to continue to do the work of the church in new and different ways. I hope you are able to worship by watching on local TV or on Facebook or on the Trinity website. If you don't have access to these venues, you might consider calling up a friend and worshipping together on the phone. Or consider worshipping God independently in your own home.

I wanted to let you know that there is still a lot that Trinity is doing even though the doors are closed. The council held their monthly meeting by way of a conference call. Our confirmation kids and our Sunday School kids are still being reached out to through texting and the Trinity website. The Food Pantry is still serving the communities of our school district. You are caring for each other in many various ways. I am sure there is a lot being done that I am not even aware of. Thank you for being the church. Jesus is the light of the world. Following his example, let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 121: 1-2 "I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
 Kathy Soetmelk, Council President

**worship
 WITH US**

Update: In person, worship at church, will resume here at TLC the first weekend in June (6/6 & 6/7).

Please note that we will be in our summer worship schedule at that time. Saturday service will be at 5 p.m on the first and third Saturday of the month and Sunday services will be a combined service at 9:30 a.m, as we have done in the past. We are looking forward to worshipping together again! In the meantime, please continue to join us remotely thru services posted on Facebook, our website and/or WalnutTV.



2019-2020 Sunday School Attendance Awardee's & News

Perfect Attendance: Evan Harder & Hudson Harder

Superior Attendance: Collin Harder, Autumn Boysen, Morgan Sieh, Wyatt Sieh, Ryker DeJong, Maeleigh Rold, Stella Rold, Penelope Rold, Blair Krohn, Parker Krohn, Ava Paulsen, Makenna Paulsen, Adeline Lamp, Bella Lamp, Tanner Lamp, Kiptyn Lamp, Taylen Hansen, Kendra Hansen & Emma Blotzer.

Honorary Attendance Award: Olivia McCarthy

Volunteers:

Leanne McCarthy- treats
Kristen Krohn- treats and youth teacher
Katie Collins- treats and youth helper
Brooke Hilgenberg- treats and youth helper
Beth Buboltz- treats
Tamara Hansen- treats
Jenny Partlow- treats and youth teacher
Ashleigh Maassen- treats and youth teacher
Jessica Rold- treats
Lauren Guyer- treats and youth helper
Kaleah Guyer- youth helper
Sam Scheffler- treats
Angela Sieh- treats and youth teacher
Lacey Brockhoff- treats and youth helper
Holly Hansen- treats and youth helper
Nicole Lamp- treats and mentoring instructor
Gina Winter- treats and youth teacher
Cristin Rold- treats and technology instructor
Nicole Holst- treats and youth helper
Amy Goetzing- treats
Madison Thorton- youth helper
Asthtyn McCarthy- youth helper
Jordan Blotzer- youth helper
Amber Johnson- youth teacher
Sue Paulsen- treats and older youth teacher

Big thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. Thanks for giving your time, talent, and resources to the Sunday school program.

This years' third graders will receive their Bibles in the fall.

A big thank you to Ashley DeJong for her years of service as Co-Superintendent of Sunday School as she stepped down from her position. Her dedication to Sunday school will be missed.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Stephanie Harder, Co-Superintendent of Sunday school





How can we pray for you today? There are several ways to connect with each other and ask for prayer. One example is to visit our prayer wall at <https://www.tlcavoca.com/prayer-wall/> to post your prayer request. Please also be encouraged to visit this site to pray for those who have submitted requests. Another way, is through our TLC prayer chain. Please call Sue at 402-639-6054 if you'd like to add a prayer for the prayer chain. God hears our prayers!



Please **PRAY** for those affected by COVID-19

*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

**3 Ways to
Worship
during this time
of distancing!**



“Like” us on
Facebook at

Trinity Lutheran Church
of Avoca for updates!

See us on Walnutel TV Digital
Channel 14 or Fiber Channel 91

- 1:00 p.m. on Sunday
- 1:00 p.m. on Monday
- 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday



Visit our website at
www.tlcavoca.com



If you feel in your heart to give during this difficult time, we have several ways for you to do so:

1) Click on the link below or visit us **Online** at:
<https://tlcavoca.breezechms.com/give/online>

2) **Text-to-give** by typing any dollar amount in a text message to phone #: (712) 248-4488. This will guide you through your giving.

3) **Mail** your giving envelope to: Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 456, Avoca, IA 51521

Church Council

President: Kathy Soetmelk
(712) 249-9027

Property Management: Dale Krohn
(402) 880-5072

Secretary: LeAnne McCarthy
(712) 307-0117

Christian Education: Josh Guyer
(402) 682-1254

Worship: Ron Winter
(531) 205-5378

Finance: Mike Jorgensen
(712) 250-0774

Outreach: Alan Blakestad
(712) 343-2566

Stewardship: Larry Chapman
(712) 307-2832

Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen
(402) 490-2423



CHURCH BUSINESS

Date	Total Gifts Received
04/04/2020	3020.76
04/12/2020	3310.00
4/26/2020	7252.33



Dorothy Eggerss-Walnut Quilters Guild

MAY

Notes From the Office

May 01	Ayden	McCarthy
May 02	Kaeden	Rold
May 03	Eliza	Luth
May 05	Kendra	Hansen
May 05	Gianna	Rock
May 05	Carolyn	Spencer
May 05	Dale	Tech
May 06	Emery	Brockhoff
May 06	Josey	Jacobsen
May 06	Jacob	Kelly
May 07	Steven	Munyon
May 09	Jagger	Johnson
May 10	Becky	Jacobsen
May 10	Mabel	Jacobsen
May 12	Adalin	Lamp
May 12	Gary	Pattee
May 13	Taryn	Constable
May 13	Linda	Schumacher
May 14	Corey	Madden
May 16	Laura Ann	Allen
May 16	Erin	Carroll
May 16	Claira	Yates
May 17	Kaden	Jorgensen
May 17	Donald	Nelsen
May 19	Kevin	Hansen

Birthdays

May 19	Wayne	Krohn
May 19	Michael	Sampson
May 19	Trey	Starr
May 21	Robert	Brown
May 21	Michael	Hansen
May 21	Taylen	Hansen
May 21	Steven	Jorgensen
May 22	Donald	Lundergard
May 23	Lexy	Knop
May 24	Devin	Hoepner
May 25	Teresa	Hoepner
May 25	Wendy	Jorgensen
May 25	Ron	Winter
May 26	Callie	Gronborg
May 26	Lori	Sampson
May 27	Alan	Blakestad
May 27	Cassidy	Feigenbutz
May 27	Chad	Hansen
May 27	Regina	Hansen
May 28	Ashtyn	Danker
May 28	Jake	Olesen
May 29	Kaleah	Guyer
May 30	Robert	Andersen
May 31	Verdean	Berry

-If you ordered an Easter Lilly through youth group, your checks will be voided. If you paid cash, please contact Sue for a refund.

-If you would like a copy of "The Upper Room" or "Portals of Prayer," please reach out to Sue at 402-639-6054 and copies can be mailed out to you.

-If anyone is in need of help running errands, picking up groceries or prescriptions, connecting for services, etc., please reach out to us! We are here to help connect each other with the many who have volunteered to help!

-Please also take note, VBS for this summer has been cancelled due to the continuing pandemic and distancing guidelines. Ingham Okoboji, whom we host to run our Vacation Bible School program, made their announcement recently.

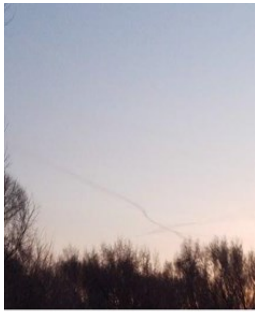
TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



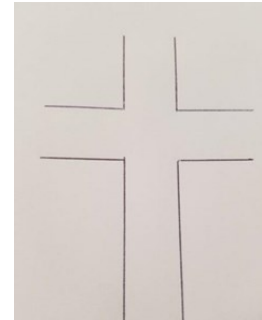
Welcome to "Trinity's Five & Dime". This section is dedicated to stories, experiences, and devotionals where together we can share God's spiritual candy. Glory be to God for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, experiences, and scripture regarding our everyday lives. Praise and glory to God for his never changing word, faithful love, and countless blessings. May his life-giving word nourish us and strengthen us as we strive to fulfill the purposes, He has for us. Amen.

Neil Paulsen

...As the window went up, I started to think to myself, how rare it might be to see two crosses in the sky at the same time. And as soon as I finished that thought, the thought of the three crosses on Calvary where Jesus and the two thieves were crucified quickly popped into my mind.



The Three Crosses (Part 3)



Before the car had even moved an inch, I had quickly put in park, and had exited the car. With no trees anywhere close to where I was at, I had a clear view of the sky. I kept telling myself, "There has to be a third cross. There just has to be!" I walked around the car looking in every direction for the third cross, but it was not there. I got back in the car and once again, headed for work. As I made my way to the office, I kept telling myself, "Be on the lookout, it's got to appear somewhere." And so, I did. The rest of the drive to work was a continuous scanning out the side windows and the windshield, but still no sign of the third cross anywhere. I remember that after I got to work and had gotten the business of the day that was a priority taken care of, I quickly went to my phone to take a look at the pictures that I had taken earlier that morning. They were awesome, and that feeling of wonder and awe came back to me, just as it was when I was sitting in the car seeing it for the first time. I scrolled back and forth through the pictures about a half a dozen times, and figured I needed to get back to work. I had a couple of documents that I needed to print so that I could start working on the next project for the day. I opened the documents, hit the print button, and could hear the printer that my department uses, start to print the pages. Now there are twelve people in the quotations department that I'm in, and we all use the same printer. But anyone in the building can print at that machine. It's not a common occurrence, but it is possible. I went over to the printer to retrieve the pages I just printed, and the very first page, all by itself on that page was the shape of a cross. As soon as I saw it, I froze. I couldn't move. I just stared at it. Once I could finally take my eyes off it, I looked around to see if anyone was standing there or making their way to the printer to indicate that they had printed it. But there was no one.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Congregational Council Meeting - April 14, 2020

The council meeting was held via conference call. A call to order was made by Kathy. In attendance was Dale Krohn, Alan Blakestead, Sheila Jacobsen, Kathy Soetmilk, Pastor, Josh Guyer, Sue Paulsen, Larry Chapman, Mike Jorgensen, Ron Winters, & LeAnne McCarthy.

Kathy provided a devotion she had written and referenced the song "The Prayer". Kathy led the group in a silent centering.

Thank you's were expressed for Pastor, Sue, & Deb for their work in keeping the services going online. Pastor thanked Sue and the church family for the Easter tribute video. Sue thanked Darren Krohn for assistance with the church website and Rob Sampson for help with the video. Alan expressed thanks to the community for the approximately 150 school lunches provided. A thank you was expressed to Kathy for the music and singing during the Easter service.

Pastor provided a reading from Prayers of a God Chaser and it highlighted that we need to trust the Lord during this pandemic.

A motion was made by Alan, seconded by Larry to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A correction was made to the minutes from last meeting by Kathy. A motion was made to approve by Dale, seconded by Josh, motion carried. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the special meeting by Mike, seconded by Ron, motion carried.

Sheila provided the treasurer's report and highlighted certain sections. A motion to approve was made by Josh, seconded by Ron, motion carried.

Kathy provided a verbal president's report. She is happy we are still having a church service and we continue to reach out to people with our faith. Pastor Eric gave his report and stated a few people with health issues to pray for. He said there have been a few people that have called the church directly for food and the food pantry continues to provide. He asked that we keep praying for the church and keep touching each other with God's love. Sue, the director of daily life, didn't give a report. Josh, for the education committee, said we have two weeks worth of backpacks since school has not been in session and asked for ideas of what we can do with them. Alan, for the outreach committee, said he is happy to see many members of our church have been active through the food pantry and also said the church communication has been really good. He stated he has many ideas for outreach and will talk with Sue before presenting them to the board. Mike, for the finance committee, said we are still receiving money even though we do not have in person services, which is positive. Dale, for the property management committee, said we are looking into options for the south door entry options. He and Mike discussed the replacement of grass where the city had dug the new lines, which should be taken care of soon. Larry, for the stewardship committee, didn't have a report. Ron, for the worship committee, complimented Pastor, Sue & Deb for making our church services happen. Ron made a motion to approve the above reports, a second was made by Larry, motion carried.

In terms of old business, the restrictions in place due to the virus were in place through April 30th. At this point we do not know what is coming after that time. Alan stated that Governor Reynolds said there should be an announcement sometime this week in regards to the schools. It was decided to allow Pastor and Kathy to make the decision for the church after April 30th without another special meeting. A motion was made by Larry, seconded by Ron, motion carried.

New business was discussed. Kathy asked how to be the church outside the building and are there any needs that are being met. The TLC Food Pantry will have a drive-through give-away this coming Thursday, with bags being packed from 3-4 PM and from 4-6 PM the people in need can drive through. They have enough workers already. Dean Krohn has coordinated this and we are thankful to him and his wife for their dedication to this. Last drive-through we had about 60 vehicles. What can we do to continue Sunday School program virtually? There is a special Facebook group for our Sunday school program and maybe we can use that to connect with the kids. We will reach out to Steph Harder to see what she thinks. What can we do to continue to connect with the confirmation kids? How can we promote and utilize the prayer wall on our website?

There are no membership changes.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ron, seconded by Josh, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on May 12 at 7 PM. We ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by LeAnne McCarthy, secretary.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 N. CHESTNUT STREET
P.O. BOX 456
AVOCA, IA 51521-0456**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Lutheran Church

301 N. Chestnut Street
Avoca, IA 51521
(712) 343-2518

For assistance or to leave information,
contact the church office at the number shown above.
In an emergency, contact Pastor Eric Meissner at (402) 660-1121.

Worship Services
Are suspended through May 31st at this time.