

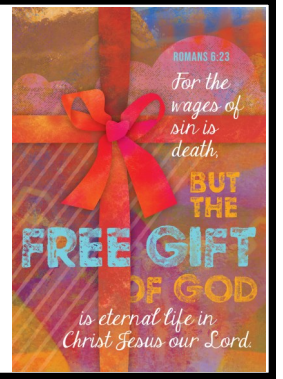
# The Trinity Trumpet

## June 2020

[www.tlcavoca.com](http://www.tlcavoca.com)

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

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



### I Keep Working My Way Back to You, Babe!

You might remember the song lyrics "I keep working my way back to you, babe" from the 1965 smash hit by The Four Seasons.

It has been eleven weeks since we have worshiped together in God's House as the people of God gathered. So the words of the song sung by Frankie Valli keep playing in my mind as we work toward working our way back to worshipping together. There will be changes to keep everybody safe with social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, and individually sealed bread and wine containers you will open yourselves.

If you feel comfortable coming back together please join us this coming Saturday night at 5:00p.m. or Sunday morning at 9:30a.m. If you do not feel comfortable coming back to worship in the Church at this time please stay home until you do. Fortunately, we have the technology to continue the worship service to your home via Walnut Communications, Facebook and our website on the internet.

Coming together will be a process, a "working" our way back to be together as the people of God! We have a patient God. We too also need to be patient in this process. Scripture tells us that we will not only be together in his house here on earth but in eternity to gaze upon his beauty forever!

*"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4*

You might recall that the second line of the song goes, "with a burnin' love inside." That is the kind of love our Lord has for us! *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that who ever believes in him shall not perish but have ever lasting life."* John 3:16

Yes, nothing, absolutely nothing can separate God's love for us! Yes, the terror of this corona virus will pass, whether it be a vaccine or some other way, God will see us through!

In the mean time we will just "keep working our way back" to each as the people of God, safely!

Socially distancing, Together in Christ!

Pr. Eric



**worship  
WITH US**

**In person, worship at church, will resume here at TLC the first weekend in June (6/6 & 6/7).** Please note that we are in our summer worship schedule. 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! If you are not ready to join us in person, please continue to join us remotely thru services posted on Facebook, our website and/or WalnutTV. Whether gathered here together or at home, we continue to be the church!

### ***Doing Our Best to Help Ensure a Safe Worship Experience!***

As with most gatherings, worship here at TLC will look differently than it has in the past. Please do your part to respect the guidelines and to be respectful of our neighbors and the diversity of opinions on the guidelines while in church.

- Please enter for worship thru the West doors. Please note that those doors will open only 10 minutes prior to service. You are encouraged to find your seat promptly upon entering.
- Also upon entering the sanctuary, you will see hand sanitizer and masks for your use. The council voted that it is highly recommended that attendee's wear masks while in attendance.
- Pews have been marked every other pew for use. Families are asked to sit together.
- After service concludes, please be patient upon exiting to give others space to exit and exit thru the North door. Please maintain 6 feet of distancing as each situation allows.

If you are sick or experiencing any symptoms of COVID- Please STAY HOME!

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***Many thanks to all the ladies who sewed face masks  
for our church!***

## **WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGES**

Here are a few of the changes that will be implemented during worship:

- There will be no volunteer schedule for the month of June. Kathy, Deb, and Sue will continue to help with the service.
- Therefore, there will be no greeters, acolytes, ushers, communion assistants, support, or Altar Guild.
- Choir will not gather, but rather, will have one to two worship leaders during services.
- There will be no sharing of the peace.
- Communion will be given in individual communion packets and taken in unison in our pews, when supplies are made available.
- There will be no passing of the plate, but offerings may be left in the plates in the back of the sanctuary upon entering or leaving. Text to give is still also a great option.
- There will be no coffee cart.
- There will be no bulletins for services.

As we move forward, we can expect that more changes might occur. As those occur, we will do our best to keep you updated via facebook, text, and/or our website at [www.tlcavoca.com](http://www.tlcavoca.com).



June 01	Adam	Krohn	June 16	Nikki	Jorgensen
June 01	Christian	Pieken	June 16	Nathan	Smith
June 02	Rodney	Hargens	June 17	Elizabeth	Nielsen
June 02	Robert	Jensen	June 17	Marlene	Nelsen
June 04	Lillian	Scott	June 19	Linda	Andersen
June 05	Dennis	Langer	June 19	Benjamin	Ehlers
June 06	La Verne	Kock	June 20	Katlyn	Kay
June 06	Peyton	VanCleave	June 20	Brandy	Luth
June 07	LaVonne	Sidebottom	June 22	Richard	Holtz
June 08	Bentley	Madden	June 22	Eric	Meissner
June 08	Philip	Rodriguez	June 22	Dora	Rock
June 09	Dustin	DeJong	June 23	Eric	Allen
June 09	Susan	Paulsen	June 23	Blair	Krohn
June 10	Travis	Hensley	June 23	Judith	Ring
June 10	Daniel	Rold	June 24	Steven	Denton
June 11	Ken	Collins	June 24	Abigail	Plymale
June 12	Novalee	Hutter	June 26	Mark	Bruns
June 12	Wayne	Jacobsen	June 26	Hayli	Paulsen
June 13	Penelope	Rold	June 27	Dennis	Hoffmann
June 14	Reese	Parker	June 27	Alan	Maassen
June 15	Shane	Brockhoff	June 29	Rosalie	Krohn
June 15	Graycen	Partlow	June 30	Tonya	Olesen
June 16	Joseph	Blotzer	June 30	Richard	Schenck
June 16	Madison	Holst			



### **Congratulations To Our 2020 High School Seniors!**

- Erin Carroll
- Ethan Hoepner
- Adriawna Luth
- Emma Maassen
- Baylee Meyers
- Madison Thornton
- Jackson Woltmann

We will be recognizing our graduates during worship service in the coming months. More information to come.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Congregational Council Meeting - May 12, 2020

The council meeting was held via conference call. A call to order was made by Kathy. In attendance were Pastor Eric, Kathy Soetmelk, Shela Jacobsen, Mike Jorgensen, Alan Blakestead, Dale Krohn, Larry Chapman, and LeAnne McCarthy. Guest present: Sue Paulsen

Kathy provided a devotion to the group about taking God with us everywhere we go. Kathy led the group in a silent centering and prayer. There were no guests present. Thank yous were expressed for Dale Krohn for yard work, Larry Chapman for installing a coded door lock, and Dean & Joy Krohn for their continued work for the food pantry.

Pastor read from the book Prayers of a God Chaser. A motion was made by Dale, seconded by Larry to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Kathy made a minor change to last month's minutes in adding the word "not". LeAnne will make the correction. A motion was made by Dale, seconded by Mike to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

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

Kathy provided a verbal president's report.

Pastor Eric's provided his report to the council. He began with prayers for Liv McCarthy in her battle with leukemia.

Looking ahead, the remaining two first communion classes will be held on September 13th and 20th, with the group taking their first communion during the September 27th service. The confirmation class missed five sessions and needed at least two classes in order to finish the material. These make-up classes will be held on September 9th and 16th, with confirmation being held on October 25th. The new confirmation class for second year and new confirmands will begin September 30th. Pastor said there are three pending baptisms to be scheduled for a later date and an upcoming wedding to be held on July 10th.

Sue provided her report to the council. She stated VBS is cancelled for this year. The directory is pending hearing back from the company. A discussion regarding the senior recognition and scholarships ensued. Council opted to announce in the newsletter and not to have the traditional spaghetti dinner.

For the education committee, Steph Harder & Ashley DeJong have delivered awards to the Sunday school kids with good attendance and gifts for all of the volunteers. Ashley will be stepping down as co-leader, however a replacement has already stepped up. No report was given for outreach. Mike provided a report for finance. We continue to have a steady stream of offerings and food pantry donations are also coming in consistently. Dale provided a report for the property management committee. He said Larry installed the door lock and it is working well. No report was given for stewardship. No report was given for worship.

A motion to approve the various reports was made by Mike, seconded by Alan, motion carried.

New business was discussed. The following changes and modifications will be made upon services resuming:

- Normal business hours will resume
- Masks will be available for all of those who want/need
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Offering will be collected at entry
- Looking into individual communion options or alternate ways to distribute
- Potential changes to entering and exiting
- No shaking hands at beginning or end of service
- There will be no sharing of the peace
- No church choirs will perform, there will be 1-2 song leaders each week
- No greeters or ushers and no assistance for communion
- Readers will say both prayers and scriptures
- No coffee or cookies will be provided
- Continue to use Facebook and church website to provide service video

Discussion ensued for opening the church back up effective June 1st. Dale asked if we would still be having three services, it was indicated we would go to summer schedule, having only one service on Sunday at 9:30 am and every other Saturday. Alan expressed concern and reservation to re-open 6/1. He said there were four new cases of COVID-19 in Pottawattamie county today and he doesn't think we should re-open so soon. Larry expressed his opinion that everyone can make their own decision to attend or not to attend services.

Larry made a motion to resume church services after June 1st and listen to feedback. Mike seconded, Alan cast a nay vote for this motion. Motion approved for opening the church up June 1st.

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The council had a discussion about making masks mandatory or at their own discretion. LeAnne suggested we encourage masks and state the church highly recommend wearing them. A motion was made by LeAnne, seconded by Dale to recommend attendees wear masks. Motion carried.

Sue asked the church council to be on the lookout for hand sanitizer and wipes for the church and purchase if available. The following changed to church records were provided the church council:

Betty Jean Holtz DOB 03/14/1932 DOD 03/23/2020  
 Carol Pattee DOB 04/15/1939 DOD 04/19/2020 Funeral 04/23/2020  
 Charles LeRoy Allen DOB 07/16/1934 DOD 04/20/2020 Funeral 04/23/2020

A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Larry to approve the changes, motion carried.

The next church council meeting will be held on June 9, 2020 @ 8 pm at the church fellowship hall instead of library. A motion to adjourn was made by Dale, seconded by Mike, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Kathy ended with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned 8:12 PM.

Submitted by LeAnne McCarthy, secretary.

### **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
05/11/2020	6235.00
05/26/2020	8787.30



**Charles Allen**-Janiece Schroder, Lynn Hansen, Norma Krohn, Don & Dorothy Nelsen, Leo and Lavonne Borgenquast,  
**Carol Pattee**-Don and Dorothy Nelsen, Leo and Lavonne Borgenquast, Reva Bylund, Don Pattee, Norma Krohn, Dylies King  
**Donna Hoepner**-Dylies King

### **Finishing Classes**



**First Communion**- The two make up classes will be held on Sept. 13th and 20th after the 10:15 Service. First Communion will take place on Sept. 27th during the 10:15 Worship Service.

**Confirmation Completion**- There will be two more classes. They will be on Wednesdays, Sept. 9th and Sept. 16th. Confirmation for those 2nd year confirmants will be held on October 25th, during the 10:15 Worship Service.



The food pantry has continued to operate using a drive up system at the Walnut Community Center. They were blessed with an abundance of food donations last week. Thank you to the many who donated! Food donations may now also be left at the church or continued to be dropped off in Walnut the day of the food pantry pick up. More information will be posted on Facebook as to which day the Food Pantry will be open next.



Thank you to Stephanie Harder and Kristen Krohn. They have answered the call to help chair the Ableskiver and Sausage Supper! Nancy Collins will also continue on as a chairperson.

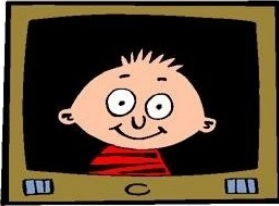


**How can we pray for you today?** There are several ways to connect with each other and ask for prayer. One example is to visit our prayer wall at <https://www.tlcavoca.com/prayer-wall/> to post your prayer request. Please also be encouraged to visit this site to pray for those who have submitted requests. 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

**1.**



See us on Walnut 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

**2.**



Find us on Facebook at Trinity Lutheran Church of Avoca! Sundays service will now post at approximately Noon on Sunday.

### **4 Options for You to Join Us for Worship!**

**3.**



*At*  
Trinity Lutheran  
*Church*

**4.**



Visit our website at [www.tlcavoca.com](http://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

## TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



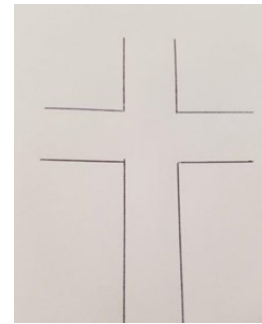
Welcome to "Trinity's Five & Dime". This section is dedicated to stories, experiences, and devotionals where together we can share God's spiritual candy. Glory be to God for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, experiences, and scripture regarding our everyday lives. Praise and glory to God 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

...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.



### The Three Crosses (Part 4)



I looked at it and stared at it again for a few more seconds. I looked through the rest of the pages that had printed, and all my pages were there. This was not a misprint or error from my batch of documents. I took it with me back to my desk, dropped off my pages, and went from desk to desk to my co-workers to see if it was something that they had printed. All of them gave me the same answer, "No." So I took it back to the printer and set it back in the tray for unclaimed documents. I went back to my desk in amazement and disbelief how and where the third cross showed up. I had more pages to print throughout the rest of the day, and I would look and see if it was still there each time I went to the printer. I told myself that if it was still there at the end of the day that I would take it home with me. But within an hour after I had put it back by the printer, it had disappeared. I don't know who claimed it, or where it went to as I did not see anyone go to the printer from my desk. Nor did I see anyone near the printer on my several trips back and forth as I collected my papers. So, its quick departure from my vision was fitting just like the other two crosses that I saw that morning. They too were not created to last forever, but just long enough to be seen. Still to this day, I will take my phone out and scroll back through the pictures of that day and relive the feeling of awe and that reassuring peace that God is with me. And probably the hardest lesson I got from this is that in this crazy, fast paced world, I need slow down, and be on the lookout for God working in my life. Whether it's being one on one with nature, seeing life through the eyes of a child, or an act of compassion, I need to remember to look up. In closing, I will leave you with a couple of songs I like to remind myself of God revealing himself to me.

#1 – Chris Tomlin "Nobody Loves Me Like You" <https://youtu.be/Vd9VpmHjU4k>

#2 – Casting Crowns "East to West" [https://youtu.be/V\\_J34QyY0Pk](https://youtu.be/V_J34QyY0Pk)

#3 – Lauren Daigle "Look Up Child" <https://youtu.be/-4Nx2hEhVRE>

Thanks be to God!

# June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 5 p.m. – Worship
7 9:30 a.m. Worship	8	9 8 p.m. Council Meeting	10	11	12 Pastor's Day Off	13
14 9:30 a.m. Worship	15	16	17	18	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 5 p.m. – Worship
21 9:30 a.m. Worship	22	23	24	25	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 9:30 a.m. Worship	29	30				



**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**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5 p.m.**

**Sundays during Summer at 9:30 a.m.**

**Holy Communion: Celebrated at each worship service.  
Sunday School is scheduled to resume after Labor Day.**