

# The Trinity Trumpet

## July 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



### THE WAY LIFE OUGHT TO BE!

During this Coronavirus we want life to return “the way it ought to be!”

We all love happy endings. We like to see life work out. There is a story about a Hollywood producer Sam Goldwin. He once listened to director Billy Wilder describe in detail the true story of a famous artist. Wilder thought it would make a great movie.

“Does it end happy?” Goldwin wanted to know. “Well,” said Wilder, “it winds up with the guy in an insane asylum thinking he’s a horse.” Goldwin threw Wilder out the door. But Wilder wasn’t discouraged. He poked his head back in and said, “Okay, how about if at the end the guy who thinks he’s a horse goes on to win the Kentucky Derby.”

We like happy endings. We like to imagine a world of love and peace and harmony and compassion for one another. The way life ought to be. Unfortunately, reality isn’t quite like that. We share with St. Paul that idyllic hope of a world patterned after the life of Jesus himself. Listen to St. Paul’s words:

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:1-5.

Notice, first of all, that St. Paul begins with Christ. So in other words he is telling us that if we have ever found Christ’s support in an hour of need, if He has ever refreshed your spirit and given you the ability to hold on, then complete Christ’s joy by being of the same mind. The words Paul uses in the original text picture Christ coming and standing by our side to comfort, console, to encourage as only Christ can.

St. Paul is not counseling the church at Philippi simply to be nice to one another. He longed for them to be transformed to a new creation, to have the mind of Christ as their mind. Wow! Wouldn’t it be great if all churches could be like that? If Christ has brought you any encouragement, St. Paul is saying, any love, affection, sympathy – then pass that encouragement on to those around you. Let us be committed to a Christ like ministry of encouragement!

This is especially important during this time of social distancing, wearing masks, and washing our hands. We are being physically transformed during this pandemic, let us be spiritually transformed as well!

Socially distancing, Together in Christ!

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



Pictured:  
Worship  
service on  
June 7th,  
2020



**Please note there will be  
no worship service on  
Saturday, July 4th.**

### ***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!

.....continued on next page.



***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:

- The volunteer schedule is out for July with only readers assisting. If you are down to read and do not feel comfortable-please do not hesitate to let Sue know.
- There will continue to 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).

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## **July Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>Saturday July 4 , 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday July 5, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scripture Readings	No Service	Janiece Schroder
Prayers	No Service	Janiece Schroder
		<b>Sunday July 11, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scripture Readings		Greg Petersen
Prayers		Greg Petersen
	<b>Saturday July 18, 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday July 19, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scripture Readings	Kathy Soetmelk	Gayle Stuart
Prayers	Kathy Soetmelk	Gayle Stuart
		<b>Sunday July 25, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scripture Readings		Peggy Osbahr
Prayers		Peggy Osbahr
	<b>Saturday August 1, 9:30</b>	<b>Sunday August 2, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scripture Readings	Kathy Soetmelk	Joyce Mez
Prayers	Kathy Soetmelk	Joyce Mez

Please note again: If you are down to read and do not wish to do so at this time-please do not hesitate to let Sue know. 402-639-6054

### 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

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
06/07/2020	50	6003.43
06/14/2020	36	3662.00
06/21/2020	40	3808.00



**Charles Allen**-Mary Hildebrand, LeAnn Travis,  
**Donald Lundergard**- Luanne Harder, Leo Bargaquast, Normalee Krohn, Janiece Schroder



### Up Coming Class Completion Dates



**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 confirmands will be held on October 25th, during the 10:15 Worship Service.



Pictured: Pastor Eric Meissner, Madison Thornton, Baylee Meyers, and Emma Maassen, July 28th, 2020

Our TLC 2020 Graduating Seniors were honored during our July 28th worship service. Baylee Meyers received the Teresa Kardell Memorial and Endowment Committee Scholarship and Madison Thornton was awarded the Vernan Dinges Scholarship. The Memorial and Endowment Committee's work together to provide scholarships for our seniors. Erin Carroll, Ethan Hoepner, Adriawna Luth, Emma Maassen, and Jackson Woltmann were also awarded scholarships. Each scholarship recipient was awarded \$1000.00. The scholarship monies are given after January 3rd, provided each recipient plans to continue in their pursuits the following semester. Congratulations Seniors!

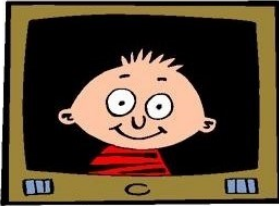


**How can we pray for you today?** There are several ways to connect with each other and ask for prayer. One example is to visit our prayer wall at <https://www.tlcavoca.com/prayer-wall/> to post your prayer request. Please also be encouraged to visit this site to pray for those who have submitted requests.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



## BACK TO SCHOOL MINISTRY

As this school year approaches, there are still many unknowns as to how that will look for families and children this year. In past years, Trinity has really stepped up to help our community in sending children back to school by helping to assist with backpacks, notebooks and the many items needed to help be successful in school. Our back to school night will look entirely different this year, if at all. However, we would still like to help assist families and students, especially this year. Once the return to learn guidance has been announced by our district, we will be in contact with them to see how we can best help support families/students this year. It may look more like masks, hand sanitizers or headphones than notebooks and pens. However we can help though, we'd like to. Please keep this ministry and our school administrators in your prayers as new decisions are made. . Once new details emerge, we will let you know. If you would like to financially support this ministry, you can text to give by texting the amount + backtoschool to 712-748-4488 or mail in a donation to the church noting its use for the Back to School program. Thank You!

## TLC Food and Clothing Pantry



The food pantry has continued to operate using a drive up system at the Walnut Community Center. The next scheduled dates are July 9th and 23rd. Also, "weather permitting" the clothing pantry will be open outside by the south entrance. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Joy Krohn at 712-307-0496 if you are able to help!



July 01	Margery	Petersen
July 02	Kya	Hargens
July 02	Frances	Howard
July 02	Kristi	Nielsen
July 02	Daniel	Pattee
July 04	Ryker	DeJong
July 05	Faith	Guyer
July 05	Nolan	Guyer
July 05	Stella	Rold
July 05	Amber	Scott
July 05	Jordan	Young
July 06	Lilah	Partlow
July 07	Kyle	Jorgensen
July 08	Jerod	Johnson
July 08	Maryellen	Luth
July 10	Kavin	Rold
July 11	Brenda	Kay
July 11	Luke	Sternberg
July 13	Eleanore A.	Willett
July 14	Kade	DeJong
July 16	Cash	Freeman
July 17	Burke	Pattee
July 18	Janice	Niemann
July 18	Johnni	Pattee
July 19	Reese	Knop

July 19	Timothy	Kramer
July 19	Betty	Oehlertz
July 19	Etta	Partlow
July 20	Brynnleigh	Lane
July 20	Shirley	Thies
July 21	Cassidy	Espeseth
July 21	Hervetta	Ronnfeldt
July 22	John	Luth
July 22	Kathy	Soetmelk
July 23	Dean	Krohn
July 23	Terry	McCarthy
July 23	Ethan	Nielsen
July 23	Gerald	Rold
July 25	Randy	Lamp
July 27	Elayna	Hansen
July 27	Shane	Nielsen
July 28	Ellanor	Johnson
July 28	Bonnie	Kardell
July 28	Tatum	Knop
July 28	Peggy	Osbahr
July 29	Jill	Clayton
July 29	Niles	Schroder
July 29	Bobbi	Sieh
July 30	Parker	Krohn
July 31	Jill	Feigenbutz

## Ideas for donations that the pantry is in need of:

Shampoo, dish soap, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, cereal, soup, mustard, ketchup, Barbeque sauce, mayo, salad dressing, syrup, jelly, saltines, taco shells, taco sauce, brown sugar, sugar, margarine or butter, canned fruit, and jello.

## 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

Glory to God for all that He has created in all of its beauty and splendor. Thank you Lord for giving us the opportunity be witness and enjoy all of your creation. May the love, joy, and peace of Jesus be with you, and keep you safe and healthy through these challenging times. Amen.



### Can't See The Forest For The Trees

Like so many things in our lives, they can take on different meanings or views depending on the perspective that we look at it. And so it is with the subject of this edition of the Five and Dime. The general meaning of this phrase, “can’t see the forest for the trees” leans towards the explanation of being so involved in a situation and the details that we miss out on certain results or solutions to problems that arise along the way. But I will give another view of this phrase, which could also be connected to an epiphany moment or ah-ha moment. I find this view especially true with reading God’s word. The first time I read through the Bible, it resembled the task of reading a number one best seller. Reading page after page, retaining the key parts, but really meditating on the words on the pages. Quantity vs quality. It was more like a checkmark that I could put on my spiritual checklist. But I think that the Holy Spirit speaks to us at certain times that causes us to slow down in our face paced world, and find out what God is trying to say to us. Here is an image that I keep in my head to best explain how I now read the Bible. Picture a large group of people on a walking tour of beautiful rain forest with large roaring waterfalls that create crystal clear, cool pools of water. The tour guide points out that the walking trail is clearly marked, and that there is plenty of time for the tourists to take as much time as they want to enjoy the sights. Now the group is moving through the forest, and the sound of a waterfall begins to fill the air, and starts to heighten everyone’s anticipation. As they continue along the trail, the sound continues to get louder and louder. The tourists emerge from the trees to discover a large and majestic waterfall over one hundred feet tall, feeling the mist as the thunderous cascade of water crashes at the bottom, creating a large beautiful lagoon.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2020

In Attendance: Pastor Eric, Kathy Soetmelk, Dale Krohn, Ron Winter, Alan Blakestad, Josh Guyer, Mike Jorgensen, and Shela Jacobsen.

A call to order was made by Kathy. She opened the meeting with a prayer and silent centering

No guests were present at the meeting.

Thank You cards were written to show our appreciation for good deeds from March thru May. They were for: Darren Krohn for his work on the church's website, Rob Sampson for getting our Sunday service on TV, Deb Meissner for her help each Sunday with service during pandemic, Stephanie Harder for keeping our youth getting Sunday School through social media, Ashley DeJong for her years spend as Co-Superintendent of Sunday School, Dale & Kim Krohn for taking on the Church's yardwork, Larry Chapman for the new door lock pad on the South door, Neil Paulsen for staying in touch with the confirmands, and Dean & Joy Krohn for their hard work and dedication having drive-thru food pantries.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dale Krohn and seconded by Mike Jorgensen. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Mike Jorgensen and seconded by Alan Blakestad. Motion carried.

Shela gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the report by Josh Guyer and seconded by Dale Krohn. Motion carried.

Pastor gave his monthly report. He asked if we were aware of anyone sick or in the hospital. Upcoming events include honoring our Seniors on Sunday June 28 by reading their names during worship. He also showed the Council the new communion cup and wafer that are prepackaged.

Sue provide the group with the Director of Ministry in Daily Life report. She didn't have much to report due to the Pandemic. She said the LYO is now off for the summer and they are following the lead of the school to see how they will gather in the fall.

Church Council Reports:

FINANCE: Mike Jorgensen stated he and Wendy have been doing all the money counting during the closed time but they will now be starting back up weekly team counting.

PROPERTY MGMT: Dale Krohn mentioned the tree at the Parsonage is dying and it was decided he will cut it down.

Old Business discussed: None

New Business discussed: None

Membership changes: None.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Josh Guyer and seconded by Mike Jorgensen. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Shela Jacobsen – Treasurer  
(for LeAnne McCarthy – Secretary)  
Next Meeting will July 14, 2020



# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 No Worship Service Happy 4th of July!
5 9:30 a.m. Worship	6	7	8	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9:30 a.m. Worship	13	14 8 p.m. Council Meeting	15	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 5 p.m. – Worship
19 9:30 a.m. Worship	20	21	22	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9:30 a.m. Worship	27	28	29	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	

**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.**  
**No Sunday School classes during summer.**