

# The Trinity Trumpet

## August 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



Let not  
your hearts  
be troubled.  
Believe in God;  
*believe also  
in me.*  
John 14:1

### The Leveling Factor

There is a family that had two sons. The younger of the two brothers was a little wild. As he grew up he spent his money loosely and caroused with women. As life became more confusing for him he began to drink a lot. By the time he was 35 he had blown all his money. Early on he turned his back on his family, and handed them one burning insult after another. It wasn't surprising at a young age he ran away from home taking with him all that he had, and all that he had coming to him. From there he sank to the lowest levels of society.

Fortunately the family had another son, an older son. He was just the opposite. He did all the right things. He stayed at home and worked hard at caring for his parents. He was always at his fathers side to help. They went to church as a family every week. He was the kind of son who did what you expected him to do. He always followed through on what he was expected to do.

After several years spent in the gutters of the city the younger son began to see the mistakes he had made. He felt like a fool for the way his life had turned out. So he decided to turn around and go back home. It took a lot of courage to face those people that he had insulted and defied. But he decided to go home and try to make things right. He knew he deserved nothing – and as he returned he asked for nothing.

When he got home he was shocked to find his father received him warmly. His older brother did not. The older brother was so angry when he came home, that he wouldn't even talk to him. The older brother was resentful.

The younger brother had made the older brother look very good all these years. The older brother had become proud of his goodness.

Besides, the older brother was planning to take over the father's business all by himself. He was glad to see his younger brother mess up, and have his life fall apart, because in the end it would mean that he got the fathers business all to himself. As events unfolded the self-righteousness, the arrogance, the greediness of that, apparently pure and good, older brother was seen for what it was.

The difference became more and more apparent between appearing to be good and actually being moral.

This is, of course, an adaptation of the story of the parodical son. It points to the fact that those who appear to be good, moral and righteous sometimes hide bad motivations. Sometimes those that appear to be evil are not as bad as they seem. Appearances can be deceiving.

How do we decide about morality? How do we set our moral standards so appearances don't make a difference? How do we live as the Lord wants us to live? Keep our eyes on Christ Jesus Always!

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



Trinity will again be giving away free school supplies to family's in need this year! Of course, in following with the "rules" of 2020, we'll be doing this a little differently than in the past. This years event will be held in drive thru form in our parking lot on August 12th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.. If you would like to register, the link to the google form can be found on our Facebook page.

Needed supplies will also look a little different this year as well. New to the list are individual tissue packs, individual sized hand sanitizers and reusable water bottles. Backpacks are NOT needed for this event this year, as registered participants will not be choosing their supplies. However, below is a list of much needed supplies for your consideration!

Volunteers are also needed from 4 p.m.-7p.m.. We will meet at 4 p.m. to sort and pack the donated school supplies and set up outside for the event. Please contact Sue at 402-639-6054 if you are willing to help or have any questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration in helping with this important community ministry!



Plans for Sunday School to start are underway! Classes will begin on September 13th, so please mark your calendar! We will be following the social distancing recommendations and be outside and/or in the Fellowship hall to avoid the classrooms. Masks will be highly encouraged, as we will follow with the school's guidance. We are looking forward to getting Sunday School going and helping your child grow in their faith with the Lord.

Kristen Krohn & Stephanie Harder  
Sunday School Superintendents

### Return to Learn: Drive Thru Event

#### Donation Suggestions/Needs

- Headphones
- Earbuds
- Deodorant
- Packages of Dry Erase Markers
- 2 Pocket vinyl folders
- Reusable water bottles
- Wide Ruled Notebooks
- Large glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Pens & #2 Pencils
- Packages of Sticky Notes
- 24 ct of colored pencils
- 24 ct box of crayons
- 1 inch Binders
- Note cards
- 12 ct Markers
- Individual Tissue Packs & Hand Sanitizers

#### Monetary Donations

Please have donations in by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Gender Neutral Colored Supplies Work Best!

To text to give to this event: text "backtoschool" and your donation amount to 712-248-4488.

## ***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!**

**Here are a few of the changes that have been implemented during worship:**

- 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 at 712-248-4488 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).

## **August Volunteer Schedule**

Please note: 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

	<b>Saturday August 1,5 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday August 2, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Ronda Holst	Joyce Mez
		<b>Sunday August 9, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Neil Paulsen
	<b>Saturday August 15, 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday August 16, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Dick Holtz	Alice Botcher
		<b>Sunday August 23 , 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Deb Meissner
		<b>Sunday August 30, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Janiece Schroder
	<b>Saturday Sept 5, 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Sept 6, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Kathy Soetmelk	Greg Petersen

**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
06/28/2020	30	4757.00
07/05/2020	31	2164.40
07/12/2020	30	3397.00
07/19/2020	50	4720.24



**Charles Allen**– Lynn Gronborg

**Clarence Harder**– Bonnie Kardell, Janiece Schroder, Normalee Krohn, Hervetta Ronnfedt, Robert & Linda Andersen, Lynn Gronborg, Virginia Nelsen, Norma Pattee, Judy Leed, Don & Dorothy Nelsen, Judy Ring

**Donald Lundergard**– Timothy Bernek, Norma Pattee

**Jodi Jacobsen**– Norma Pattee

**Carrie Rees**– Leanne Travis

**Hazel Miller**– Donna & Gerald Rold, Judy Ring

**AUGUST Birthdays**

August 02	Delaney	Carroll
August 02	Michelle	Freeman
August 02	Sheryl	Harder
August 02	Peggy	Jacobsen
August 03	Courtney	Hensley
August 03	Jennifer	Partlow
August 05	Jayna	Engle
August 05	Kieghan	Johnson
August 06	Marie	Madden
August 06	Kaitlyn	Tooley
August 06	Becky	Woltmann
August 08	Breanna	Pauley
August 10	Ava	Paulsen
August 10	Makenna	Paulsen
August 10	Samantha	Scheffler
August 10	Seth	Schmidt
August 10	Bryson	Setran
August 11	Cara Beth	Buboltz
August 11	Gary	Collins
August 11	Janae	Sternberg
August 12	Andrea	Emmanuel
August 12	Larry	Lippold
August 14	Jackson	Hensley
August 15	Karen	Hansen
August 15	Michael	Scheffler

August 17	Alice	Botcher
August 17	Julaine	Carley
August 17	Courtney	Harder
August 17	Gary	Soetmelk
August 17	Matthew	Sternberg
August 18	Alisha	Allen
August 18	Alexander	Hansen
August 18	Ethan	Hoepner
August 18	Brittany	Kelly
August 19	Eli	Collins
August 19	Dennis	Jarrett
August 19	Wilma	Klindt
August 21	Kristen	Krohn
August 21	Preston	Krohn
August 23	Jordan	Blotzer
August 23	Roger	Nelson
August 24	Joan	Johnson
August 24	Betty	Kubik
August 25	Connie	VonEschen
August 26	Sienna	Christian
August 26	Courtney	Freeman
August 27	Jim	Hansen
August 28	Robin	Andersen
August 30	Jerry	Mez
August 31	Jason	Holst

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**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.





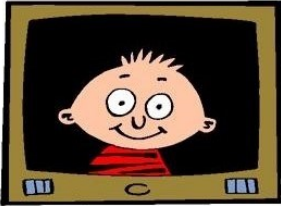


**How can we pray for you today?** There are several ways to connect with each other and ask for prayer. One example is to visit our prayer wall at <https://www.tlcavoca.com/prayer-wall/> to post your prayer request. Please also be encouraged to visit this site to pray for those who have submitted requests.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

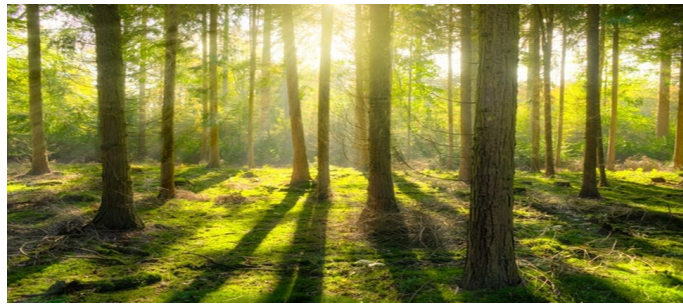
## TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



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

...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.



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

The group stops, and gathers around the guide, as the guide mentions that this waterfall is unique and one of a kind. There are some that come close in various ways, but all of them do not have all the splendor of this one. The guide also encourages the group to explore the entire area around the fall, and to even get into the crystal clear, cool, refreshing lagoon, and to take in as much as you can. There is no need to hurry as the bus will not leave until the last person has had their fill of the wondrous sight. From that point on, everyone seems to go on a discovery of their own. Many of the group confine their curiosity to the perimeter of the lagoon; mainly looking over the beautifully colored flowers and plants near the water's edge. They will walk for a ways, stop and look around, and occasionally will touch the vegetation along their journey. For this group of tourists, their focus on the beautiful display before them, seems to come and go in short bursts, and their attention shifts more towards how long the walk is back to the tour bus. The next group of tourists is smaller in number, and they seem to have a bit more curiosity to all that this one of a kind oasis has to offer. After they have discovered all of its beauty around the lagoon, they slowly make their way into the cool refreshing waters of the lagoon. Shortly after they have submersed themselves in the calmness of the water, they can begin to feel extreme relaxation from the therapeutic properties that are present in the lagoon. The relaxation sensation continues to the point where it feels as if they have reached a state of weightlessness; and when they think that they have reached the utopia of this feeling, they make their way back to the edge of the lagoon, eager to get back to the rest of the group to explain what they had just experienced. After the second group has left the lagoon, the last group is left on their own. This group is very small in comparison to the other two groups; and it could even be down to one or two people left in the water. They also feel that the incredible relaxed sensation has plateaued, but they are content and yet feel as if there is more to be discovered at this oasis. Due to the enormous size of this waterfall, the force of the water as it meets the lagoon, and the loud roar of the water has kept everyone away from that part of the lagoon. But because of that fact, it seems to be the part of this breath taking sight, that nobody has dared approach. Will the sheer force of the waterfall, push them under the water's surface, and make it difficult to come back up for air? What's on the other side of the waterfall?

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Trinity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2020

In Attendance: Pastor Eric, Kathy Soetmelk, Dale Krohn, Ron Winter, Alan Blakestad, Mike Jorgensen, Sue Paulsen 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 to: Mike and Deb Martin, and Mick and Donna Schuler for their generous donations of food to our Food Pantry.

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

Shela gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the report by Ron Winter and seconded by Alan Blakestad. Motion carried.

Pastor gave his monthly report. He asked if we were aware of anyone sick or in the hospital. He mentioned that Saturday night service will continue every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday due to lower counts. He has had 3 funerals and 1 wedding since the start up of these events again: Funerals were for Clarence Harder DOD 6/19/20 funeral 6/23/20, Carrie Rees DOD 6/27/20 funeral 7/7/20 and Hazel Miller DOD 7/8/20 funeral 7/11/20. The wedding was for Katlyn Kay and Ethan Patzner 7/10/20.

Sue provided 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. The Back to School Backpack program will also be affected by what the school decides to do.

#### Church Council Reports:

FINANCE: Mike Jorgensen stated the counting teams are now meeting again. Donations are coming in good.

PROPERTY MGMT: Dale Krohn reported that the dying tree at the Parsonage has now been cut down. He hired someone to cut it down due to its size. We will now see about getting the stump ground out.

A motion was made by Mike Jorgensen to accept the committee reports and seconded by Ron Winters. Motion carried.

Old Business discussed: None

New Business discussed: Kathy reported she has had a few people ask about the Bell Choir and how they can practice. It was unanimously agreed upon to let her decide on this. A few options were for the bells to be taken home with the performers and have a Zoom practice or come to the church and social distance around the sanctuary in the aisles.

Membership changes: None.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ron Winters and seconded by Dale Krohn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Shela Jacobsen – Treasurer  
(for LeAnne McCarthy – Secretary)  
Next Meeting will August 11, 2020



# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5 p.m.– Worship
2 9:30 a.m. Worship	3	4	5	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 9:30 a.m. Worship	10	11 8 p.m. Council Meeting	12 6-7p.m– Return to Learn Drive Thru Event	13	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 5 p.m.– Worship
16 9:30 a.m. Worship	17	18	19	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 9:30 a.m. Worship	24	25	26	27	28 Pastor's Day Off	29
30 9:30 a.m. Worship	31					

**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 classes will resume after Labor Day.**