

The Trinity Trumpet

December 2019

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



Being Christian Without Being Religious

Do you think of yourself as a religious person? If you are like most Americans, you would answer yes. A recent Gallup poll indicates that ninety-eight percent of Americans believe in God, seventy-three percent believe in life after death, and sixty-five percent believe in hell. If Paul came to America as he did in Athens, recorded in James 1:26-27, he would say the same about us. As he walked in Athens, he saw a monument to every God. In fear of missing one, they ever erected a monument to the unknown God. He commented, "I perceive that you are very religious." If he came to our land, he would see churches, clergy, and church members galore. He would notice that we have a God for every interest in life: a god of money, a god of self, a god of sex. You name it and we have a god for it. Indeed, we are a religious people.

We may be religious, but are we Christian? It is as easy to be religious as it is hard to be Christian. It is quite possible to be religious without being Christian, and it is also possible to be Christian without being religious.

A Christian is one who is not only a hearer but a doer of the word. Prayer must end in performance. Worship transforms into work. Confession of the faith must lead to expression of the faith. You must not misunderstand what you are saying here. We are not saying that to be Christian we cut ourselves off from all religious devotions. By all means, we need prayer, worship, Bible reading, and churches. Without these we would amount to nothing but do-gooders. The church would turn into an ethical society. What we mean to say is that to be a Christian we must go beyond all of our religiosity to a practical expression of faith in the lives of people in terms of service. Accordingly, our religion is a means to an end, and not an end in itself.

How then can a person be a Christian in a non-Christian world? We cannot avoid getting stained by sin, but we Christians have a way of getting clean. It calls for a daily washing of the soul. Here is where we become truly Christian, because we turn to Christ to make us clean from sin. Once Jesus said, "You are clean by the word I have spoken to you." The New Testament assures us that the blood of Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness. The Bible assures us that the Holy Spirit can flush out all the ugliness and dirt in our souls. There is the washing of regeneration by the Spirit that comes in and through the Word of God. For this reason, a Christian is ever confessing their sins, repenting daily, and coming to Christ to be washed that they might be clean and refreshed.

God has more than enough religion; he wants true faith which is expressed in deeds of love. Does it make you wonder: am I a religious or a Christian Person?

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



Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

There will be two candlelight worship services. They will be held at 4p.m. and 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve—

Tuesday, December 24th.

Christmas Cantata 

The Neola Community Choir will be performing at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Calendar Sale



Youth Group is once again selling calendars for the upcoming year. Please let Sue know if you'd like to purchase one. They are \$10.00 and make great Christmas gifts!



Sunday School Christmas Program

The program practice is well underway! Wednesday, December 4th, there will be an additional practice for kids in 2nd-8th grades from 6—7:30 p.m. **The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 8th, during the 10:15 a.m. service.** Program and practice is for all children 3 years old thru 8th grade. Please note-confirmation kids will need to be here 30 mins earlier than normal on December 4th for practice. Also, there will be no Sunday school following the program until January 5th. Hope to see everyone

Church Council

President: Dean Krohn

(712) 249-0760

Property Management: Larry Chapman

(712) 307-2832

Secretary: LeAnne McCarthy

(712) 307-0117

Christian Education: Cristin Rold

(712) 741-3734

Worship: Kathy Soetmelk

(712) 249-9027

Finance: Mike Jorgensen

(712) 250-0774

Outreach: Josh Guyer

(402) 682-1254

Stewardship: Katie Collins

(402) 250-9313

Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen

(402) 490-2423



CHURCH
BUSINESS

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
11/3/2019	168	6754.00
11/10/2019	227	2560.00
11/17/2019	113	3332.00
11/24/2019	244	6936.80



In
Memory of

Duane Carroll-Judy Leed, Normalee Krohn, Janiece Schroder, Bill & Reva Bylund, Hervetta Ronnfeldt

Willis & Betty Maassen-Don & Dorothy Nelsen, Betty Oehlertz

Aebleskiver & Sausage Dinner

THANK YOU!



TLCW's annual Aebleskiver and Sausage Supper on November 21 was once again a huge success, thanks to our Trinity family. A big Thank You to our families, Dora Rock and LuAnn Jensen for helping us set up on Sunday before. They cut and taped and laid down cardboard throughout, hung plastic to protect walls, moved furniture, set up tables, etc. Whether you were one of the 80-plus volunteers who worked, came and ate, ordered takeout, or maybe did all three, we sincerely thank you. We had 160 takeout orders this year that kept us busy until 4:00 when people come to church to eat. We sold 360 tickets, not counting some workers. We have 13 pans frying from 1:00 until 9:00 or so. Volunteers fried an estimated 6,000 aebleskivers. Our sausage came in 10-lb. boxes, approximately 100 patties per box, 22 boxes, which comes to 2200 sausages. All 220 lbs of sausages gone before all of our last workers could get some. 60 pounds of sugar is used to make syrup. A couple of other examples: 140 lbs. of flour, 20 lbs. of sugar, 36 gallons of whole milk, 45 dozen eggs, 22 lbs. of lard, 27 lbs. of Crisco, 23 quarts of whipping cream. Thank you, Sue, for office work. Thank you to our young Lutherans for serving with a smile, and to our late shift volunteers who stayed to help clean up. We can't mention everyone, but know that you are greatly appreciated. Also, we 3 chairmen are stepping down, so please search your hearts and pray and seriously consider taking our places. We'll even help you get started. Again, thank you so much for everything. It's been quite a ride!

Donna, Joy, and Nancy





On November 3rd, we traveled to Christ Community Church in Omaha to worship together! Our group really enjoyed the worship band!



118 Shoeboxes were packed on November 17th !! Thank you to our generous donors who make this possible for our youth group to participate with this ministry!



On December 1st, we met and tied 4 fleece blankets that will be donated to the family of Ayzlee McCarthy, who then gives the blankets to children in hospitals in memory of Ayzlee. Christmas cards were also written!



Thank You to everyone who participated in any way to make our Operation Christmas Child efforts a success! From assembling boxes to filling boxes and all the steps in between!! A special thanks to Gary Soetmelk for his leadership and love poured into this ministry!

848 Shoeboxes

Were donated to help spread the Love and Gospel of Jesus Christ!



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. May God continue to open our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts to all of the work He does in and around our lives. We praise you for your never-ending love, Amen.

Neil

....But before I got a couple of steps away from the truck, I could see what appeared to be two more large trash bags sitting on the back side of the collection box in addition to the stash that was inside the box. I quickly felt like this was going to be another thirty minute stop.



Answered Prayers (Part 5)

I first went to the large trash bags that were set behind the collection box, looked them over, and seeing that there were no holes or tears in them, I picked them up by the knots at the top of the bags, and hoisted them into the back of the truck. Looking at what I had already picked up, it was obvious that I wasn’t going to be able to get the complete contents of this box in the truck. I opened the lid of the box the rest of the way to reveal what awaited me there. On the top, was another large trash bag, matching the two that were on the ground behind the box. Seeing that the top bag would fill the last space in the back of my truck, I pulled it out, and having to compress it in place, I was confident that none of the cargo would be blown out of the truck as I made my way to the can shed. I told myself not to look to close as to what was left in the box, as I didn’t want to have a disappointing feeling until it was necessary. I got back into the truck, and made the first delivery to the can shed, unloaded, and headed back to the collection box I had just left. Upon my return, everything looked like I had left it 15 minutes earlier, which was a good feeling. I have had to make multiple trips to empty a box before, and when returning, finding that someone had made another large deposit before I made it back. I opened the box for the second time, and to my pleasant surprise, there were no loose cans or bottles. Only a medium sized trash bag and three smaller sized trash bags. I grabbed the partially started bag from the back seat of the truck, and the rest of the bags filled that bag, and it was quickly placed into the back of the truck. Having a sense of satisfaction, I headed up the street to the next can box. As I was about two blocks away, I could see from the street lights that the lid to this box was also propped up from an over-abundance of redeemable cans and bottles. As I pulled alongside the box, all that I could see from the driver’s window of the truck, were two large yard waste trash bags standing straight up. I smiled seeing that there was hardly any room left in the box for any other bags. I quickly removed the bags, and my hunch was confirmed. No other bags! No loose cans or bottles! I tossed the bags in the back of the truck and climbed back in behind the wheel. The time span of that stop was less than two minutes, and as easy as if there were no cans at that stop! Feeling pretty good about the day’s activities so far, I made my way to the next stop, and that one was almost always full if not overflowing.

December Volunteer Schedule

If you are unable to serve during worship at the time you've been scheduled, *please find your own replacement* and let the church office know of the change so the information in the bulletin can be changed. **A great place to begin looking for a replacement is the schedule itself—Look for someone who is scheduled for the same duty during the same worship time. Don't forget to check Breeze** for phone numbers and email information, when trying to contact others. If you are not able to find a replacement or have questions, please contact:

Kathy Soetmelk: 5 p.m. service Cell 712-249-9027
 Peggy Osbahr: 9:00 a.m. service Cell 402-680-8256
 Sue Paulsen: 10:15 a.m. service Cell 402-639-6054

	Saturday December 7, 5:00	Sunday December 8, 9:00	Sunday December 8, 10:15 a.m.
Scripture Readings	Dick Holtz	Alice Botcher	J Olesen
Prayers	Jan Holtz	LaDonna Conroy	Karen Rodriguez
Support	Carolyn Oldenburg	Dora Rock	J Olesen
Communion Asst.	Dick Holtz	Peggy Osbahr	Sue Paulsen, Jerry & Joyce Mez
Acolytes	n/a	Nathan Jorgensen	Macy Thornton
Camera	n/a	n/a	Justin Freeman
Greeters	Darlene Eggerss	JoAnn Krummel	Tyler & Brooke Hilgenberg Family
Ushers	n/a	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	Robb Jacobsen & Amy Geotzinger
Altar Guild	Carolyn Oldenburg	Nancy & Ken Collins	Jane & Dale Tech
	Saturday December 14 ,	Sunday December 15 , 9:00	Sunday December 15 , 10:15 a.m.
Scripture Readings	Ronda Holst	Carolyn Spencer	Deb Meissner
Prayers	Dick Brown	Peggy Osbahr	Amanda Holst
Support	Dick Brown	Sheila Jacobsen	Ron Winter
Communion Asst.	Ronda Holst	Marge Petersen	Lori & Ron Winter, Deb Meissner
Acolytes	n/a	Saydi Paulsen	Eli Collins
Camera	n/a	n/a	Isabelle Wheatley
Greeters	Karen Pope	Sue Paulsen family	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family
Ushers	n/a	Devin and Teegan Schroeder	Kevin & Charity Wheatley
Altar Guild	Reva Bylund	Donna & Mick Schuler	Jane & Dale Tech
	Saturday December 21,	Sunday December 22 , 9:00	Sunday December 22 , 10:15 a.m.
Scripture Readings	Judy Williams	Greg Peteresen	Janae Sternberg
Prayers	Jan Holtz	Dora Rock	Gayle Stuart
Support	Don Nelsen	Larry Chapman	Mike Krummel
Communion Asst.	Judy Williams	Nancy Collins	Mike & Les Krummel, Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	n/a	Charlie Lane	Luke Sternberg
Camera	n/a	n/a	Jessica Jacobsen
Greeters	Rose Krohn	Travis and Kaleigh Lane	Brad & Mandeey Meyers Family
Ushers	n/a	Dale and Arlene Rousch	Wayne & Becky Jacobsen
Altar Guild	Reva Bylund	Nancy & Ken Collins	Jane & Dale Tech

		Tuesday December 24 , 4:00 p.m.	Tuesday December 24 , 6:00 p.m.
Scripture Read-		Nancy Collins	Gayle Stuart
Prayers		Peggy Osbahr	
Support		Don Nelsen	Jim Hansen
Communion Asst.		Dean & Joy Krohn, Mick & Donna Schuler, Robb Jacobsen & Amy Goetzinger	Karen & Jim Hansen, Jane Tech
Acolytes		Macy Thornton	
Camera		n/a	n/a
Greeters		Dean and Joy Krohn	Kyle & Stacy Rock Family
Ushers		Robb Jacobsen & Amy Goetzinger	Ashleigh & Cory Maassen
Altar Guild		Mick & Donna Schuler	Jane & Dale Tech
	Saturday December 28 , 5:00	Sunday December 29 , 9:00 a.m.	Sunday December 29 , 10:15 a.m.
Scripture Read-	Roger Nelson	Alice Botcher	Danny Pattee
Prayers	Roger Nelson	Nancy Kelly	Betty Kubik
Support	Reva Bylund	Dora Rock	Gary Soetmelk
Communion Asst.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Acolytes	n/a	Zach Nielsen	Ayden McCarthy
Camera	n/a	n/a	Graycen Partlow
Greeters	Kathy Nelson	Peggy Osbahr and Victorine Jensen	Brian & Beth Buboltz Family
Ushers	n/a	Frank and Marlene Nelson	Brock & Jenny Partlow
Altar Guild	n/a	n/a	n/a

January Volunteer Schedule

	Saturday January 4 , 5:00 p.m.	Sunday January 5 , 9:00 a.m.	Sunday January 5 , 10:15 a.m.
Scripture Read-	Judy Williams	Neil Paulsen	Travis Lane
Prayers	Donna Rold	LaDonna Conroy	Sue Blakestad
Support	Donna Rold	Jerry Conroy	Dean Krohn
Communion	Judy Williams	Neil Paulsen	Sue Paulsen, Dean & Joy Krohn
Acolytes	n/a	Tyson Osbahr	Kaeden Rold
Camera	n/a	n/a	Saydi Paulsen
Greeters	Norma Krohn	Bonnie Kardell and JoAnn Krummel	Jason & Jessica Rold Family
Ushers	n/a	Mabel Jacobsen and Julie Engel	Travis & Kaliagh Lane
Altar Guild	Roger & Kathy Nelson	Bonnie Kardell & JoAnn Krummel	Janiece Schoder & Maxine Sornsen



We would like to thank Loletta Hansen and Denise Young for their years of service ensuring our church library stays organized and up to date. They will be resigning in the coming year. Anyone who is interested in taking over and taking care of our library ministry please let Loletta, Denise or Sue Paulsen know. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration!

2019 Christmas Poinsettias



- ◆ Bill & Reva Bylund-Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Hervetta Ronnfeldt-Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt
- ◆ Hervetta Ronnfeldt– Given in memory of Dave, Joel, and Ethan Holst
- ◆ Ronda Holst & Family– Given in memory of Dave, Joel, & Ethan Holst
- ◆ Ronda Holst & Family– Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt & Firp & Marge Holst
- ◆ Dale & Arlene Roush– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Chris & Wendy Dierking– Given in memory of Bryce Albright
- ◆ Dick Brown-Given in memory of Sandy Brown and LuAnn (Brown) Mead
- ◆ Don & Dorothy Nelsen– Given in memory of our beloved daughter Teresa
- ◆ Don & Dorothy Nelsen– Given in memory of loved ones– To God Be the Glory
- ◆ Jason, Amanda, Blake & Madison Holst- Given in memory of Ethan Holst
- ◆ Jason, Amanda, Blake & Madison Holst- Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Kevin & Charity Wheatley Family– Given in memory of Kathy Martenson
- ◆ Kevin & Charity Wheatley Family– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Wayne & Becky Jacobsen and Family– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Amy Goetzinger & Robb Jacobsen and Family - Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Josh & Lauren Guyer– Given in loving memory of Collette Guyer
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in honor of those serving in the military
- ◆ Jerry & Joyce Mez– Given in memory of Edward, Alberta, & Robert Schmid
- ◆ Jerry & Joyce Mez– Given in memory of Max, Wilma, & Ronnie Mez
- ◆ Bob & Kris McCarthy– Given in memory of Meighan McCarthy
- ◆ Bob & Kris McCarthy– Given in memory of Ayzlee McCarthy
- ◆ Eric & Angela Sieh– Given in loving memory of Erwin & Martha Sieh
- ◆ Kyle & Jill Clayton– Given in memory of our grandparents
- ◆ Travis & Kaleigh Lane – Given in memory of our loved ones
- ◆ Marlin Andersen, Denise, Amy & Julie– Given in loving memory of Darlene Andersen
- ◆ Jim & Denise Young– Given in loving memory of Bob & Lois Jean Young
- ◆ Brock & Jenny Partlow-Given in memory of our fathers-Bob Williams and Marshall Partlow
- ◆ Normalee Krohn– Given in memory of Ron Krohn and loved ones
- ◆ Dean & Joy Krohn– Given in loving memory of our moms
- ◆ Peggy Osbahr-Given in loving memory of our parents
- ◆ Peggy Osbahr-Given in loving memory of our brother and sister
- ◆ J.O. & Verdean Berry– Given in memory of Chris & Bothilde Elmquist
- ◆ Linda Schumacher-Given in memory of my husband, parents and In-laws
- ◆ Dora Rock– Given in memory of my loved ones
- ◆ Pastor Eric & Deb Meissner– Praising God for Life
- ◆ Jerod & Amber Johnson Family-Given in memory of Jackson William Johnson
- ◆ Jim & Patti Cumper– Given in memory of our loved ones in heaven
- ◆ Mike & Beth Schueman & Family– Given in memory of John McCowen
- ◆ Mike & Beth Schueman & Family– Given in memory of Susie McCowen
- ◆ Mike & Beth Schueman & Family– Given in memory of John Schueman
- ◆ Sue & Alan Blakestad– Given in memory of Ethan Holst
- ◆ The Kramer Family– Given in memory of all our loved ones we wish were here today.
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of Jason Woodward
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of our loved ones
- ◆ The Family of Collette Guyer– Given in memory of Collette
- ◆ Mary Jean Krummel– Given in memory of my husband, Rod Krummel
- ◆ Frank & Marlene Nelsen– Given in memory of Jordan Leigh Nelsen and Teresa Leigh Kardell

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019**

In Attendance: Pastor Eric, Dean Krohn, Shela Jacobsen, Mike Jorgensen, Kathy Soetmelk, Josh Guyer, Sue Paulsen, & LeAnne McCarthy. Larry arrived later.

A call to order was made by Dean. He led with a prayer and silent centering to start the meeting. A reading from the book *Prayers of a God Chaser* was given by Pastor Eric. An approval of the agenda motion was made by Mike, seconded by Josh, motion carried. An approval of the minutes from the last meeting a motion was made by Kathy to approve, seconded by Mike, motion carried.

Shela gave the treasurer's report, a motion was made by Kathy to approve, seconded by LeAnne, motion carried. Dean gave the president's report. Pastor gave his monthly report. Aebleskiver & Sausage Supper is scheduled for November 21st & Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on November 27th. Pastor will be off after Christmas through New Years. A motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Josh to give \$500 to LSI after their recent presentation. Motion carried.

Sue provided the group with the Director of Ministry in Daily Life report. On 10/21 13 teens traveled to a Dare to Share event at the Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha for an entire day of gospel training and sharing. They collected food for the Elk Horn food pantry and prayed with people in the community. On 10/20 the youth group went shopping at Walmart in Atlantic for items to fill shoeboxes and Pizza Ranch to eat. On 11/3, 11 teens and 5 adults traveled to the Christ Community Church in Omaha for worship and had lunch afterwards. Look forward, on 11/17 the youth group will be packing approximately The youth group was given a generous donation to fund their outings. 100 shoe boxes. Josh made a motion to approve approximately \$900 for shipping charges for the youth group's shoe boxes, it was seconded by Mike. Motion carried. The last youth group of the year will be held on December 1st. Directory pictures were held November 12-16th. Sue stated that we are in need of volunteers to run the church library.

Church council reports were given. Education - no report. Outreach - no report. Finance stated we may need more counters this winter and we will be asking for volunteers. Larry updated the group on property management and stated several projects that are underway around the church. . Stewardship - no report. Worship report given by Kathy, Christmas decorating will be taking place soon and there will be two services for Christmas Eve again this year at 4 & 6 pm. A motion was made by Mike to approve the reports, seconded by Larry. Motion carried. There was no old business or new business to report.

New Members: Gavin Winter transferred in 10/20/2019

Deaths & Funerals:

Willis Maassen DOB 9/2/1929 - DOD 10/15/2019 - Service 11/2/2019

Betty Maassen DOB 2/2/1932 - DOD 10/25/2019 - Service 11/2/2019

Jack Pickham DOB 11/17/1948 - DOD 10/27/2019 - Service 11/4/2019

Duane Carroll DOB 10/10/1957 - DOD 11/6/2019 - Service 11/9/2019

A motion was made by Kathy to approve membership changes, seconded by Mike. Motion carried. A motion to adjourn was made by Josh, seconded by Larry, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by LeAnne McCarthy - Secretary.



December Birthdays

December 04	Wyatt	Andersen
December 06	Margery	Denton
December 06	Molly	Scott
December 06	Jackson	Zortman
December 08	Oakley	Bodrug
December 08	Betty	Lundergard
December 08	Janee'	Schueman
December 13	Shari	Munyon
December 13	Maxine	Sornsen
December 14	Deanna	Krummel
December 14	Carolyn	Oldenburg
December 14	Eric	Sieh
December 15	Jeffrey	Harder
December 15	Isaac	Krohn
December 16	Maeleigh	Rold
December 17	Brock	Partlow
December 18	Hudson	Harder
December 18	Charles	Lees
December 22	Terra	Buboltz
December 22	William	Christian
December 23	Lori	Maurer
December 25	Christopher	Dierking
December 25	Joshua	Krohn
December 25	Janiece	Schroder
December 25	Steven	Schueman
December 26	Ally	Meyers
December 27	Donald	Nielsen
December 27	Herbert	Rock
December 28	Paxton	Holst
December 29	Todd	Feigenbutz
December 30	Dawn	Harder
December 31	Marcia	Jacobsen
December 31	Michael	Jorgensen
December 31	Katie	Scheffler

EVERY YEAR AS I WORK WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES I AM AMAZED AT HOW GENEROUS PEOPLE ARE WITH THIS MINISTRY. THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT WE SAY AT THE END OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH EVERY WEEKEND: WE WILL STRIVE TO PRAY DAILY, WORSHIP WEEKLY, READ THE BIBLE, SERVE AT AND BEYOND TRINITY, BE IN RELATIONSHIP TO ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OTHERS AND GIVE OF OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND RESOURCES. THE LAST TWO REALLY STRIKE HOME. THE CONGREGATIONS AND OTHER PEOPLE THAT DONATE TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD REALLY DO ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHILDREN AND GIVE OF THEIR TIME, TALENTS AND RESOURCES IN FILLING THE BOXES. IT WARMS MY HEART TO SEE ALL THE CHURCHES COMING TOGETHER STRIVING TOWARDS ONE GOAL AND THAT IS CHANGING A CHILD'S LIFE BY GIVING THAT CHILD A CHANCE TO KNOW WHO JESUS IS THROUGH THE GIFT OF A SHOEBOX. THIS YEAR WE HAD SET A GOAL OF 1000 SHOEBOXES BUT I COULD TELL EARLY ON THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO MAKE THAT GOAL. THERE JUST WEREN'T ENOUGH SHOEBOXES GOING OUT TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL. I THEN WAS JUST HOPING THAT WE COULD BEAT THE 2018 SHOEBOX NUMBER OF 822. WELL, THROUGH GOD'S AMAZING GRACE WE MADE IT—848 SHOEBOXES. THAT IS STILL AN AMAZING NUMBER AND IS ONLY ACCOMPLISHED BY GOD WORKING THROUGH PEOPLE. AS THE SHOEBOXES BEGIN THEIR PROGRESS THROUGH THE VARIOUS STATIONS THAT THEY WILL GO THROUGH TO GET TO THEIR DESTINATIONS, I ASK THAT EACH OF YOU CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE BOXES AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE HANDLING THE BOXES TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATIONS. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN WHO WILL BE RECEIVING THE BOXES.

IN CONCLUSION, I CAN'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH TO EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES IN SOME WAY, SHAPE OR FORM. YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH AND EVERY PERSON WHO FILLED A SHOEBOX THIS YEAR OR DONATED MONEY TOWARDS FILLING A SHOEBOX. THANKS, THANKS, AND THANKS AGAIN.

GARY SOETMELK



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Youth Group	2 2 p.m. Prayer Team 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	3 6 p.m. Alive in Christ Choir	4 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Christmas Program Practice	5 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food Pan- try 6:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 5 p.m.— Worship
8 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School Christ- mas Program 11:30 a.m. Bible Study 2 p.m. Neola Commu- nity Choir performs	9 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	10 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. Christian Service 6 p.m. Alive in Christ Choir 7 p.m. Committee Meetings 8 p.m. Council Meeting	11 11:30 a.m. Wrapping Angel Tree Gifts 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.—8 p.m. Confirmation	12 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food Pan- try	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 9-10:30 a.m. Good Guy Boxes & Angel Tree Pickup 5 p.m.— Worship
15 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	16 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	17 6 p.m. Alive in Christ Choir	18 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.—8 p.m. Confirmation	19 9:30 a.m. Faith Bible Study 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food Pan- try	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 5 p.m.— Worship
22 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	23 9:30 a.m. Salem Lu- theran Home Wor- ship 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	24 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Wor- ship Service 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Wor- ship Service	25 Merry Christmas!! Office Closed	26 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food Pan- try Pastor on Vacation	27 Pastor on Vacation	28 5 p.m.— Worship/ No Communion Pastor on Vacation
29 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship/No Communion 10:15 a.m. Worship/ No Communion 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	30 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	31 Pastor on Vacation	1 Happy New Years!! Office Closed			

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2019

Worship Services
Saturdays at 5 p.m.
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
Holy Communion: Celebrated at each worship service
Sunday School during the 10:15 a.m. Worship service

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Avoca, IA 51521
(712) 343-2518