

The Trinity Trumpet

January 2021

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:
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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:
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*Like the cold of snow
in the time of harvest
is a faithful messenger
to those who send him.*

PROVERBS 25:13

DO PEOPLE EVER RUB YOU THE WRONG WAY?

The story is told about the old lady who sat in the country congregation in the mountains of Kentucky. She was thoroughly enjoying the sermon. She said, "Amen," when the parson talked about long hair and lipstick. She said, "Amen," when the parson talked about "drinkin', dancin', and runnin' around." But, when the parson mentioned corn cob pipes, it was more than she could take. She rose to her feet and told him so. "He had quit preaching," she said. "He had gone to meddling."

Think about those people who rub you the wrong way. Those people that don't tell you what you want to hear. What do we do with those individuals who get "under our skin"? What do we do with those persons who always produce strong, uncomfortable feelings within us?

Maybe it is the person at work who stood in the way of your promotion or raise. It could be a person who has said untrue or hurtful things to you. It could be someone with whom you've had a quarrel or misunderstanding.

So the question arises that cannot be avoided. *What relationship are we to have as Christians to those who rub us the wrong way?*

What are we as Christians to do with such passages that tell us to "Love our enemies," or "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you?" Is that the way to live?

In I *Corinthians*, Paul is writing to a divided and fussy group of immature Christians. He urges them to resolve their differences, to seek some basic unity, and to love one another. In fact, he calls this love the highest gift that a Christian can possess in relating to his or her enemy. In the strong and solid *Letter to the Romans*, The Apostle continues his theme: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink... Do not overcome evil with evil... overcome evil with good..."

In I *Thessalonians 5* the same problem is dealt with: "See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all." It must have been a strange command to those who first heard Jesus' words: "Love your enemies..." Was He really serious?

Think, if you will, about someone whom you really do not like. Christ has commanded you to love. Now, what does that mean for you and your enemy? Christ cannot command you to *feel* warm and wonderful, particularly if this person has hurt you deeply. You cannot command feelings. But Christ can command *actions*. He is asking you to act in love toward this person, whether you feel like it or not. You act like you should whether you feel like it or not. When we begin to do this, quite often a strange thing begins to happen. Our feelings begin to change. It is also remarkable how enemies often respond when we act as we should, regardless of our feelings toward them.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

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



Pastor Eric and Deb would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards and well wishes this Christmas season.

Sending sincerest thanks and a Happy New Year to all!



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st, 2021 at 11:15 a.m. Please meet immediately after the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

All Council members and Committee chairpersons: Please submit your reports to Sue by Monday, January 11th, preferably by e-mail at tlcspaulsen@gmail.com. Thank You!



The 2021 Giving Envelopes are in the Narthex ready for pick up. If you no longer use envelopes to give, as you may give now via Breeze or text to give, please let the office know. This will help for future planning. Thank You!

Church directories are also in the Narthex ready for pick up.

Any poinsettias left in the sanctuary after Monday January, 4th will be discarded. Thank you to all who purchased a poinsettia thru the youth group. Monies raised this year helped the group donate towards gifts for children on the Angel tree.

We didn't meet in December for youth group, but much was done! Our group decided we would do something for others and something fun for ourselves this month. First, we "adopted" 5 children off of the Angel Tree. Each youth member was given an item to shop for and a budget for that item. They then texted the picture in and everything was ordered in from Amazon. This worked quite well given we couldn't group up and shop at the store. Next, kids used Instagram to vote on their something fun. Secret Santa was chosen, names were drawn and a group text was started. Lots of fun pictures kept the group engaged over the weeks of playing. Gifts showed up on doorsteps, lockers, and in back packs! We're looking forward to meeting in January! The dates have not been set yet, but will be communicated via email to parents and text to members soon. We'd love to have all the youth, 7th- 12th grade, of Trinity and friends join us in 2021!



Sunday school will resume on January 10th!

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. Wearing a mask is now required per the Governor of Iowa.

-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.

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.

If you are sick or experiencing any symptoms of COIVD– Please STAY HOME!

January/February 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.

	Saturday, Jan. 2, 5:00 p.m.	Sunday, Jan. 3, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 3, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Roger Nelson	Dora Rock	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	N/A	Emma Blotzer	Ella Johnson
		Sunday, Jan. 10, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 10, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Karen Hansen	J Olesen
Acolytes		Evie Scott	Ty Nelson
	Saturday, Jan. 16, 5:00p.m.	Sunday, Jan. 17 , 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 17 , 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Dick Brown	Nancy Collins	Alice Botcher
Acolytes	N/A	Cash Freeman	Kaden Jorgensen
		Sunday, Jan. 24, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 24, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Janiece Schroder	Gayle Stuart
Acolytes		Macy Thornton	Collin Harder
		Sunday, Jan. 31 , 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 31 , 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader		Greg Petersen	Karen Rodriguez
Acolytes		Ty Nelson	Terra Buboltz
	Saturday, Feb. 6, 5:00p.m.	Sunday, Feb. 7 , 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 7 , 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer Reader	Ronda Holst	Janae Sternberg	Deb Meissner
Acolytes	N/A	Luke Sternberg	Tucker Osbahr

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
11/29	88	5945.82
12/6	98	3057.00
12/13	111	5276.64
12/20	66	13067.00
12/24	108	5994.00
12/27	41	2357.25



Hazel Miller– Julie Miller
LaVonne Borgenquast– Leo Borgenquast
Victorine Jensen– Betty Oehlertz

JANUARY



January 01	Barbara	Brown
January 01	Evalyn	Irlbeck
January 01	Lesley	Krummel
January 02	Carmen	Martens
January 02	Eugene	Sornsen
January 06	Conner	Hansen
January 06	David	Niemann
January 07	Kaeden	Lane
January 08	Derek	Kardell
January 08	Vicki	Schuelman
January 10	Jim	Lechtenberger
January 10	Jessi	Wade
January 12	Erik	Jorgensen
January 13	Mary	Hildebrand
January 14	Roger	Kay
January 15	Jeannette	Maassen
January 15	Marvin	Schuler
January 16	Joshua	Guyer
January 16	Julie	Miller
January 17	Wendy	Dierking
January 17	Alan	Sieh
January 18	Gage	Clay
January 18	Mary Ann	Johnson
January 18	David	Kardell
January 18	Ryker	Krummel
January 19	Lauren	Guyer

January 19	Evan	Harder
January 19	Amanda	Holst
January 19	David	Sampson
January 20	Callum	Maassen
January 21	Penny	Langer
January 22	Henry	Nelsen
January 22	Jimmy	Young
January 23	Nicole	Krohn
January 24	Bruce	Krummel
January 25	Darian	Hansen
January 25	Lauren	Knop
January 25	Rita	Kohlscheen
January 25	Mackenzie	Sampson
January 25	Hayden	Woltmann
January 26	Christopher	Jarrett
January 26	Kate	Jarrett
January 28	Autumn	Boysen
January 28	Lou	Funk
January 28	Cole	Harder
January 28	Lori	Snyder
January 29	Jason	Best
January 31	Leo	Borgenquast
January 31	LeRoy	Hansen
January 31	Madison	Long
January 31	Sophia	Luth
January 31	Denise	Young

AGENDA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVOCA, IOWA
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st, 2021

Mission Statement for Trinity Lutheran Church
Focusing on the Cross...Following Christ's Love

CALL TO ORDER – President Kathy Soetmelk

OPENING DEVOTIONS – Pastor Eric Meissner

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

TREASURER'S UPDATE – Shela Jacobsen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Kathy Soetmelk

AUDIT REPORT

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Eric Meissner

ELECTIONS

Church Council -- Nomination & election of two Church Council members. Members whose terms are ending: Dale Krohn and Josh Guyer. Members continuing to serve: Alan Blakestad, 2023; Mike Jorgensen, 2022; Larry Chapman, 2022; Kathy Soetmelk, 2022; LeAnne McCarthy 2022; Ron Winter, 2023

Memorial Committee – Nomination & election of two Memorial Committee members. Members whose terms are ending: Nancy Collins and Peggy Osbahr. Members currently serving: Beth Schueman, 2022; Amanda Holst, 2022; Joy Krohn, 2023; Mick Schuler, 2023

Endowment Committee –Members whose terms are ending: Karen Rodriguez and Mike Scheffler. Members currently serving: Kris McCarthy, 2022; Lori Winter; 2022; Dick Brown, 2022

Audit Committee – Nomination & election of one Audit Committee member. Members whose terms are ending: Danny Pattee. Members continuing to serve: J Olesen, 2022; Chelsie Madden, 2023

Nominating Committee – Nomination & election of one Nominating committee member. Members whose terms are ending: Jeff Harder. Members continuing to serve: Karen Hansen, 2022; Jason Rold, 2023

Nomination & election of three (3) voting members (two adult and one confirmed youth) to the 2021 Iowa Mission District Convocation.

Nominations for Salem Lutheran Homes delegates (12)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Management – Dale Krohn

Outreach – Alan Blakestad

Finance – Mike Jorgensen

Worship – Ron Winter

Education – Josh Guyer

Stewardship – Larry Chapman

TRINITY COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Memorial Committee – Joy Krohn

Trinity Lutheran Church Women – Laura Ann Allen

Lutheran Youth – LYO – Sue Paulsen

Lutheran Men's Group – Dick Holtz

Endowment Committee – Dick Brown

DISCUSSION & ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

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

...If he came right out and told the paralytic, stand up, pick up your mat, and go home and he didn’t; that would be an issue. Everyone could see if it did or did not happen. But forgiveness, I can’t see it.



Can’t See The Forest For The Trees (Part 7)

But then Jesus opened the door the rest of the way, and he let me see with his eyes. Jesus knew the road that was ahead of him. What was he going to have to do to complete the forgiveness of everyone’s sins? He knew the cross was in front of him. He knew of the agony, the abandonment of his disciples, and the disgrace of death on a cross. He knew of the difficulty of that road and to complete his Father’s will. But yet those who were there back on that day, and even those today who read those words, find themselves saying, “Those are just words. There’s no difficulty in that. Of course it’s easier to say that, than make him walk.” But then, to back up those words and to prove to everyone that he is who he was claiming to be; he did the impossible, and gave the paralyzed man back the use of his legs. It is in that part of the verses that brings the tears to the surface, and I’m not sure if it’s the realization and understanding of Jesus knowing what was awaiting him, or the shame or embarrassment on my part of being like everyone else there and seeing the whole thing play out with my “human eyesight and intellect.” And maybe it’s a combination of both. Like I said earlier, one day Jesus can explain it all to me. At the beginning of these verses, I had mentioned that Jesus’ decision to leave that area when everything was going so well would be tied together at the end. And here that is; what would be the reason to leave when everything seemed to be gaining ground for Jesus and his disciples? True the size of the crowds were growing, and he was performing lots of miracles. But he didn’t want people to be attracted to him for the wrong reasons. Those miracles, and acts of compassion that he was performing were for this temporal world, but the act of love that he performed for us on the cross was for us to be with him in his eternal world. God doesn’t just want us to be “charmed” by his word, He wants us to be “changed” by his word. When I started you out on this story, I gave you the picture of the tourists who set out to see a waterfall. In a way, that is my own personal parable. The three groups of tourists represent different types of Bible studying. The first group would probably be how I was when I first started to read the Bible; something that I wanted to do, felt I needed to do it, and I could put a check mark in that box of my “to do list”. I’d get some benefit from it perhaps, and move on. The second group would represent myself as I increased my curiosity of what God’s word had in store for me. Maybe a sermon here or there hit home with me, or some verses had revealed some heart mending/molding meaning. And the third group of tourists would be just as these verses did for me. They opened the door wide enough for God to let me see him with Christ’s eyes, and understand a bit more of his will for me. He met me on the other side of the waterfall, and revealed something very beautiful to me.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2 5 p.m. Worship
3 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship	4	5	6 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	7 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m.– Peace Haven Worship	8 Pastor’s Day Off	9
10 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School	11	12	13 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 8 p.m. Council Meeting	14 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	15 Pastor’s Day Off	16 5 p.m.– Worship
17 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School	18	19	20 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	21 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	22 Pastor’s Day Off	23
24 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School	25	26	27 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	28 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	29 Pastor’s Day Off	30
31 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting						

**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 at 9:00 a.m & 10:15 a.m.

Holy Communion: Celebrated at each worship service.

Sunday School during the 10:15 a.m. worship service.