

The Trinity Trumpet

February 2021

www.tlcavoca.com

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

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



One Thing!

If you could accomplish but one significant deed in your life, what would you want it to be? If you wanted to be remembered for one act of your life more than all others, what would that act be? We all want to be remembered. No one wants to be forgotten. Even our Lord Jesus wanted to be remembered. Surely that was one of the reasons he shared bread and wine with his closest friends on the night of his betrayal, saying, "Do this in remembrance of me." That certainly was a beautiful and memorable action. But who is there among us that would say that is all they remembered about Jesus Christ?

At the conclusion of the last sermon he ever preached, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, Martin Luther King said, "I want you to be able to say that day (the day of his funeral) that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that I did try in my life to clothe the naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try to visit those in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity."

"But one thing I do..." Even Paul, writing to his favorite congregation at Philippi, wanted to be remembered for at least one significant deed. Knowing that church as he did, knowing the people, knowing their problems. Knowing their potential, Paul was led to write. "Not that I have already obtained this, (that is, spiritual perfection) or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own, but this one thing I do..." Philippians 3:12-13.

Notice Paul did not say, "one thing I should have done..." Paul did not grieve about things he might have done or could have done. The mistakes and sins of the past just may be the greatest burden with which the Church of Jesus Christ has to contend.

Surely there are those among us who wish we could take back harsh words of criticism and judgment that drove other Christians from the fellowship never to return. But the past is the past and unloving deeds cannot be undone. One of the great confessional prayers of the church reminds us that wholeness and healing is in God's hands and a repentant heart: "We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone...Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your ways and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name." Amen.

As we strive to keep our thoughts, words, and deeds in Christ Jesus, let the "One Thing" be the "Main Thing" for Christ Jesus our Lord!

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



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st, 2021 at 11:15 a.m. Please meet in the sanctuary immediately after the 10:15 a.m. worship service. Discussion on a new furnace for the Narthex will take place during new business on the agenda.



Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Worship service will be held at 6 p.m. including Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Please join us in preparing our hearts for the season of Lent.



First Communion classes will begin on February 21st and be held for five Sundays. This is open for all fourth graders and above wishing to participate. The students and parents will meet for class after the 10:15 service at approximately 11:15 a.m. The First Communion ceremony will be held on Palm Sunday, March 28th, 2021, during the 10:15 a.m. service. Please contact Pastor Eric at (402) 660-1121 or at tlcpastorenic@gmail.com if your child would like to participate.



Community Lenten Services will be held the following Wednesdays at area community churches during Lent. There will be **no** soup suppers following services this year. The schedule is as follows:

- February 24th—at Peace Church of Walnut with United Church presenting the drama.
- March 3rd— at United Church in Avoca with TLC presenting the drama.
- March 10th— at First Presbyterian Church of Walnut with St. Mary's Church presenting the drama.
- March 17th— at TLC with Peace Church of Walnut presenting the drama.
- March 24th—at St. Mary's Church of Avoca with First Presbyterian Church of Walnut presenting.



The dates for VBS have been scheduled! VBS will be held the last week in JUNE. This is a month earlier than in previous years, so please mark your calendars! Also, if you are interested in helping with planning—please contact Sue. All help is encouraged and greatly appreciated!

June 28th—July 1st

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
01/03	49	1353.00
01/10	93	10,274.00
01/17	101	2588.00
01/24	86	2101.01

***The fellowship hall is once again open to groups for use.**

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.

February/March Volunteer Schedule

	Saturday, Feb. 6, 5:00p.m.	Sunday, Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 7, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer	Ronda Holst	Janae Sternberg	Deb Meissner
Acolytes	N/A	Luke Sternberg	Tucker Osbahr
		Sunday, Feb. 14, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 14, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer		Nancy Kelly	Cristin Rold
Acolytes		Tyson Osbahr	Makenna Paulsen
	Saturday, Feb. 20,	Sunday, Feb. 21, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 21, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer	Dorothy Nelsen	Peggy Osbahr	Travis Lane
Acolytes	N/A	Kaden Jorgensen	Charlie Lane
		Sunday, Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 28, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer		Donna Rold	Robb Jacobsen
Acolytes		Chase Wheatley	Zach Nielsen
	Saturday, March 6, 5:00	Sunday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sunday, March 7, 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures & Prayer	Roger Nelson	Jerry Conroy	Danny Pattee
Acolytes	N/A	Terra Buboltz	Cash Freeman

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.

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



February 01	Loleta	Hansen
February 01	Jeremy	Holst
February 01	Kaleigh	Lane
February 01	Dorothy	Nelsen
February 01	Carol	Sampson
February 01	Julianne	Thompson
February 04	Gailen	Sidebottom
February 04	Diane	Stamp
February 04	Jerry	Stamp
February 05	Gavin	Winter
February 06	Roy	Guyer
February 06	Lauren	Yates
February 07	Barbara	Piittmann
February 08	Albert	Hoepner
February 08	Henry	Paulsen
February 10	Darlene	Eggerss
February 11	Evelyn	Scott
February 12	Lorie	Espeseth
February 12	Lynn	Gronborg
February 13	Samantha	Andersen
February 15	Denise	Hargens
February 17	James	Berry
February 17	Guy	Scheffler
February 17	Jerrald	Setran
February 18	LaDonna	Conroy
February 19	Evelyn	Clayton
February 19	Lance	Scott
February 20	Ashley	Nielsen
February 21	Ann	Carroll
February 21	Gregery	Fritz
February 22	Paul	Harder
February 22	Mary	Lechtenberger
February 23	Gary	Krummel
February 24	Larry	Feekes
February 24	Jo Ann	Krummel
February 25	Joel	Andersen
February 25	Dale	Krohn
February 26	Amber	Johnson
February 26	Patricia	Jorgensen
February 27	Jessica	Rold
February 28	Hope	Constable



The youth worked together to pack 136 food bags for our school outreach backpack program. This ministry sends 32 children from our school district home with food EACH weekend to help meet food insecurity needs.



Upcoming Dates

Saturday, February 6th– Meet at the Phoenix Movie Theatre. 2 p.m. Private Movie Showing. 35 people allowed, so please RSVP.

Sunday, February 14th-Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

***Friday, March 5th**– Possible Mt. Crescent Mid Night Madness Skiing. Meet at Mt. Crescent 7 p.m. We will determine that week if this event will be possible.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Congregational Council Meeting - January 13, 2021

In attendance Pastor Eric, Kathy Soetmelk, Mike Jorgensen, Shela Jacobsen, Ron Winters, Sue Paulsen, Alan Blakestad, and LeAnne McCarthy. Absent: Larry Chapman & Josh Guyer.

A call to order was made by Kathy. She opened the meeting with a prayer & silent centering. No guests were present at the meeting. The council prepared thank you notes to Aaron & Jackie Soetmlk for their donation of facemasks and hand sanitizer and for Mary Rock and Zach and Amy Meissner for their substantial non-member donations.

Pastor read from the book Prayers of a God Chaser. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Ron, seconded by Mike, motion carried. A motion was made by Mike to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Alan, motion carried. Sheila provided the treasurer's report and highlighted certain sections. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Alan, seconded by Mike, motion carried.

There were no current bills submitted. Kathy provided the president's report. Pastor Eric's provided his report to the council. The annual meeting will be January 31st after the 10:15 am service. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Pastor talked about the Lent services that area churches have done in the past and it was discussed that the services will still take place, but no meals will be provided after the services. Pastor will talk to the other churches in regards to this subject.

Sue provided a written Director of Daily life report to the council. The youth group will meet January 17th at 11:15 am to eat lunch, learn a verse mapping activity and pack 136 food bags for the school outreach program. Vacation Bible School dates have been set for the last week of June 2021 (June 28 - July 1) this year. It was discussed and decided the fellowship hall will again be available for use after many months of not being available due to the virus. Guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing after use will be provided to all groups who use the facilities.

Council Reports

Education - no report given

Outreach - Alan provided a verbal report of ideas for 2021 outreach, more details to follow

Finance - Mike stated that giving statements will be provided to members soon

Property Management - no report given

Stewardship - no report given

Worship - Christmas decor will be taken down soon, the cross will be put up after Ash Wednesday

A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Ron to approve the above reports. Motion carried.

In new business, the annual meeting will take place on January 31st after the 10:15 am church service. All church members are strongly encouraged to attend as a quorum is needed to proceed with the meeting. There will be a congregational vote for a new furnace system for the Narthex area. Salem Lutheran Homes annual meeting will be held at Harlan Immanuel Lutheran church this year and we need to send delegates. The nominating committee will suggest members to fill the openings and these will be voted on at the meeting. The audit committee will review Shelia's annual reporting prior to the meeting and this will be provided to members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron, seconded by Mike. Carried.

The annual meeting will be held on January 31, 2021 at 11:15 am. Next regular council meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 at 8 pm. The meeting was dismissed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by LeAnne McCarthy

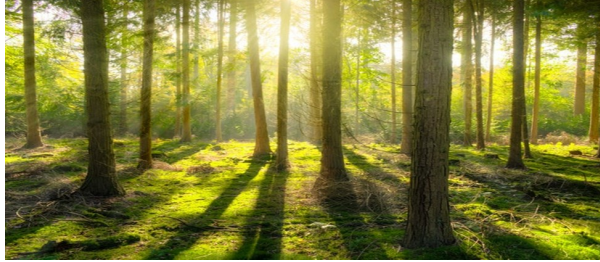
TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



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

...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.



Can't See The Forest For The Trees (Part 8)

I'll share a couple more things that I've read on my journey and then conclude. Psalm 63:3 reads, "Your un-failing love is better than life itself; how I praise you." A Puritan said of this verse, "If a man has knowledge of holy things, but does not prize them above earthly things, does not rejoice in them as his best portion, does not embrace them, there is no true faith at all. God has made the soul for these heavenly things. When the soul and these close together, there is a sweet embracing. The soul is raised above itself. It is quieted, stilled and satisfied. Our souls are made for them, our desires to embrace them, our love to delight in them, and our wills to cleave to them above all things."

Erasmus who was a contemporary of Martin Luther said, "There is little good received by Scripture, if a man hears it carelessly. But if a man hears it out of conscience, and as in the presence of God, he shall find an efficacy in it, as is not to be found in any other book."

From Psalm 119:33 "Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end." After we hear or read the word, we need to be very watchful, for many birds are waiting to eat the seed after the farmer has sown it. A farmer traveling home after the sale of his cattle is in danger of being robbed. So when a Christian has had a good meal, the devil tries all his wiles and tricks so he will lose it. After hearing and reading the word, we need to pray for the influence of heaven for the seed's harvest. Go to God, and say, 'Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and give me understanding, and I shall keep your law with my whole heart.' Then, with thanksgiving, consider what a distinguishing mercy and treasure the word of God is. Without it, you would have been unholy and unhappy, but now you may eternally be both gracious and glorious. Bless the giver for the gift! What honor God deserves for this favor! We have both the Old and New Testaments in our mother tongue that is suitable medicine for every malady, seasonable comfort in all our miseries, and the costliest cordials and choicest comforts without price. Surely all this deserves thanks and praise. Do you realize the misery of those who lack the word? How many starve for lack of the bread of life? We sit at a full table, but millions famish for lack of spiritual food. How can they walk without the word to direct them? O reader, what infinite cause you have to bless the Lord that you are not in their condition! What shall we render to the Lord for benefit? We sit by the fire of his word while many poor souls are freezing. We sit in the light of his word while many sit in darkness. Our table is spread with all sorts of food, both for necessity and delight, while millions starve and famish. Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness!

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m.– Peace Haven Worship	Pastor's Day Off	2 p.m. Youth Group at the Phoenix in Neola 5 p.m. Worship
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School			6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 8 p.m. Council Meeting	4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastor's Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Youth Group			6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastor's Day Off	5 p.m.– Worship
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:15 a.m. First Communion Class			6:00 p.m.– Lenten Service at Peace Church in Walnut 6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	4 p.m.–6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastor's Day Off	
28						
8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:15 a.m. First Communion Class						

**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.