

# The Trinity Trumpet

## October 2022

[www.tlcvoca.com](http://www.tlcvoca.com)

**Pastor:**  
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**Director of Ministry in Daily Life:**  
**Sue Paulsen**  
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*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1: 8-9*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

*“Just as I am, without one plea, but that Your blood was shed for me, and that **You bid’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!** Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind; yes, **all I need, in You to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**” Just as I am verses 1 & 4*

### ***A Pulled Tooth***

For some time, I have had a molar that was cracked, infected, creating bone loss, and most likely has been the cause of a four-month sinus infection that has been uncurable. Today, I finally had it extracted (good word) and now am beginning the healing process. “You know it don’t come easy,” Ringo Starr sang, and often I agree. Here is the life of faith.

I struggle for the Church today that many things have crept in, again, as always, that seem to be good and yet are a dangerous infection that, left untreated, could cause great harm. Though people will say, “I know I am a sinner,” the lived-out experience of that (because of our condition) seems to somehow not to mesh with the statement. If I understand scripture as well as Martin Luther’s work clearly, I am left with only one central point from which to begin, (**Eph 2:12, 2:3, Jam 4:4. Jn 8:44, Augsburg Confession article 2, Rm 3:23, Isa 53:6.....**) and yet people in our time more than perhaps a long time, are living, acting, and worshiping as if we are some how standing on a level place with Jesus, and therefore God. Baptism is taken as an insurance policy and faith life is in honestly held as a given rather than an active participation, which, if I read the bible, it clearly states otherwise. In short, I am NEVER not in need of a Savior, even though I am baptized and have a life of faith... Just as the father cried out to Jesus, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief” here is where it begins.

My tooth, like me, was just fine as I moved along. I ate, I drank, I laughed, I lived. It was all good. It took a visit to the dentist with an x-ray, examination, and a sharp implement to reveal to me that my tooth had a crack in it that had apparently allowed an infection to grow for some time. A root canal was of no value as the infection was in my blood and I was losing bone in my jaw. (*Ewe, I know*) The tooth would need to be extracted, medication administered, and healing and learning to live without that tooth (grieving) would need to happen so that I can be well. But it took going to the dentist and for him to diagnose and announce to me my condition and the means of healing, otherwise I would have just kept on going and....

So here is why our gracious, loving God calls us to worship, to study, to live lives of worship and sacrifice that all point us to Him. I need to come into God’s presence. And He is a God who is more willing to be merciful and gracious than exact “punishment,” but He is also a God who is JUST and declares to me the truth so that I might be made – whole. Just like the dentist, God’s word must come to us from the outside to break in and open us to see what we would otherwise deny, “I am the chief sinner.” God lovingly calls us to come, sit, and hear His life-giving Word for our life as we are fed with heavenly food in word and sacrament. Just as you to talk to your children about things that are to benefit them for a moment, a lifetime, and for eternity, God wants to talk with you about things He knows you might not acknowledge. Just as you teach and raise children, God speaks with two words – Law and Gospel, which together are grace. For example, like my dentist said – you have a cracked, infected tooth that must come out because it is making you sick (law) BUT – I have all the tools to heal and clear that from you to live better though different than before. (gospel)

So why then are the parts of faith that are most needed to begin the healing process, worship, study, service, so often pushed out of our lives and prioritized lower for “more important things?” Because I stand, by nature, opposite of God and really want nothing from Him other than what can help me with in this moment. There never is a time when I can stop coming back to this realization of my desperate need, and therefore God’s more that abundant and bountiful response to me despite my condition. “*So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*” **Romans 10:17**

The world is, with our participation and denial, pushing what is most important for eternity to the side and background, using the same deceit as in the Garden so long ago. “*Did God really say? You will not die...*” God’s word must be heard to open me, piece by piece, to move ever closer to Him and to live more in what He has already given to me in my inheritance. I need to see the great healer and physician and though I might not like it, I must hear so that He can move me from sickness to health. Because we are all covered up with it, yep, every one of us. And, yes, it can be painful. Yes, it can be hard. What ....

**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

...makes it different for me as a disciple – I have the anesthesia of the cross and empty tomb that reminds me, sin, death, the world will do not win, so I can trust my doctor – Jesus to announce to me my condition and to work healing and transformation in my life.

I encourage you to get on the computer and go to **1517.org** and look up several articles, because they write much better than I. 1) What's Waiting for Us in the Church? by *Donavon Riley* 2) Law and Gospel Done by *Wade Johnston* 3) Once Saved, Always Saved: True or Not? by *Chad Bird*. After some reading, I invite you to talk with God honestly about where you may have been (or are) and let Him remind you that He has sent His Son to die for sinners – just like you and me. And after that, well let's see if new life and wholeness can't grow amazing grace and faith, even beyond our understanding today, to see all that God can do with powerful works beyond our imagination. That He can do through – You, Me, Us, our congregation, and The Church. Remember who you are and whose you are Pastor Matt

Many many thanks to everyone who helped with the rummage sale. We received so many nice things from the whole community for this huge sale. We could not do this without the many loyal volunteers who help the whole week-from setting up on Sunday to cleaning up on Saturday after the sale. Atlantic thrift picked up the unsold items. We thank those who bought items and those who came to buy. Much appreciated.



—Trinity Choirs



We are looking for adults/older teens who would be interested in helping with our puppet Sunday School ministry. One performance date has been set for this year on November 6th. Volunteers would have about 3 practices leading up to this performance. Amber Johnson will be leading and teaching this group of individuals so will be in contact with volunteers to set up time for practices. Please contact Angela Sieh or Amber Johnson if interested in participating in this important ministry!



Students that have completed their 2 years of confirmation classes and requirements will be celebrating their Rite of Affirmation of Baptism during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 30th.



First communion for those students recently completing their classes with Pastor Matt, will be celebrated on October 23rd, during our worship service.

It's never to early to start collecting items to fill your shoeboxes! Youth Group will again be participating and packing shoeboxes as well. We are looking forward to another great year with this ministry.



### **Church Council**

**President:** Kathy Soetmelk

(712) 249-9027

**Property Management:** Dale Krohn

(402) 880-5072

**Secretary:** Amber Johnson

(402) 681-6847

**Christian Education:** Beth Buboltz

(402) 419-3076

**Worship:** Ron Winter

(531) 205-5378

**Finance:** Mike Jorgensen

(712) 250-0774

**Outreach:** Alan Blakestad

(712) 343-2566

**Stewardship:** Nicole Krohn

(712) 309-2318

**Treasurer:** Shela Jacobsen

(402) 490-2423



**CHURCH  
BUSINESS**

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
08/28	113	4882.78
09/04	70	4678.82
09/11	165	2481.97
09/18	170	2383.00



*In  
Memory of*

**Donald Nelsen**— Betty Oehlertz, Reva & William Bylund, Bonnie Kardell, Nancy & Ken Collins

**Michael Jacobsen**— Nancy & Ken Collins



As you know, my granddaughter, Harper, affectionally calls you the 'bat' church. As one visitor said to me one day, bat is the acronym for Blessings and Thanksgiving. What perfect description of our time with you. We were truly blessed and thankful for our journey together. May your new journey with Pastor rMatt and Becky be a fruitful one for many years to come. In Christ, Pastor Steve & Mary Lund

### *Baptisms* IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



Zoey Elizabeth Maassen pictured with her sponsors.



Samuel Eugene Kramer pictured with his sponsors, parents and siblings.



Dawsyn June Brockhoff pictured with her parents and siblings.

On September 11th, we welcomed Zoey Maassen into the family of Christ thru baptism. Zoey's parents are Cory and Ashleigh Maassen. Her sponsors are Jayna Robinson & Trey Starr.

On September 18th, Samuel Kramer was welcomed thru baptism into the family of Christ. Samuel's parents are Timothy & Lexie Kramer. His sponsors are Hailey Kramer and Quincey Schneckloth.

On September 25th, we welcomed Dawsyn Brockhoff into the family of Christ thru baptism. Dawsyn's parents are Shane & Lacey Brockhoff. Her sponsors are Holly & Logan Hoepner.

# Oct./Nov. Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Oct. 2nd, 9:30 a.m.	
Scriptures & Prayer	Roger Nelson
Communion Helper	Jerry Conroy
Acolytes	Terra Buboltz
Support	Larry Chapman
Sunday, Oct. 9th, 9:30 a.m.	
Scriptures & Prayer	Gayle Stuart
Communion Helper	Greg Petersen
Acolytes	Emery Brockhoff
Support	Gary Soetmelk

Sunday, Oct. 16th, 9:30 a.m.	
Scriptures & Prayer	Travis Lane
Communion Helper	Nancy Collins
Acolytes	Kaeden Lane
Support	Jim Hansen
Sunday, Oct. 23rd, 9:30 a.m.	
Scriptures & Prayer	Greg Petersen
Communion Helper	Jerry Conroy
Acolytes	Kendra Hansen
Support	Shela Jacobsen
Sunday, Oct. 30th, 9:30 a.m.	
Scriptures & Prayer	Amber Johnson
Communion Helper	Dora Rock
Acolytes	Katie Johnson
Support	Sue Paulsen



October 02	Ellia	Krummel
October 02	Frank	Nelsen
October 02	Louie	Swisher
October 03	Margaret	Schenck
October 05	Max	Scheffler
October 05	Anthony	Wade
October 06	Justin	Woltmann
October 07	Nicholas	Buboltz
October 07	Justin	Kelly
October 07	Courtney	Robinson
October 08	Beth	Jarrett
October 08	Travis	Lane
October 08	Charles	Pattee
October 09	Ashtyn	McCarthy
October 09	Macy	Thornton
October 10	Marlin	Andersen
October 10	Amy	Jacobsen
October 10	Jaelyn	Johnson
October 10	Dale	Kardell
October 10	Dennis	Taylor
October 11	Rilon	Hilgenberg
October 11	Lucas	Plumb
October 12	James	Schueman
October 13	Jerry	Espeseth Jr
October 13	Ty	Jarrett
October 13	Gemma	Rold
October 13	Arlene	Roush
October 14	Amy	Buboltz
October 14	Nancy	Collins
October 14	Kevin	Jorgensen
October 14	Duane	Nielsen

October 15	Kitty	Barlow
October 15	Kimberly	Gress
October 15	Kathy	Nelson
October 15	Jeffrey	Schmidt
October 15	Valdine	Schueman
October 16	Chelsie	Madden
October 16	Nash	Schroder
October 17	Kendal	Best
October 17	Kasen	Krummel
October 17	Jaden	Luth
October 19	Lexi	Kramer
October 19	Jason	Krummel
October 19	Janet	Pattee
October 19	Jacob	Roush
October 19	John	Scott
October 19	Lori	Winter
October 21	Gayle	Carroll
October 21	Norma	Pattee
October 22	Kasey	Coolidge
October 23	Kevin R.	Jacobsen
October 23	Emily	Roush
October 24	Olivia	McCarthy
October 25	Reece	Schueman
October 26	Jo Ann	Schuemann
October 27	Adryan	Bruce
October 27	Collin	Harder
October 28	Lisa	Johnson
October 29	Suzette	Blakestad
October 29	Donna	Rold
October 30	Don	Buboltz
October 31	Mark	Bornholdt

## Youth Group is underway!

We met on the 11th and started our year with yard games, lunch and Matthew 5:14!



## Coming up soon.....

**Sunday, October 16th**– Brunch/  
Worship in Omaha 9 a.m.

**Friday, October 28th**–Shoebox Pack-  
ing/Lunch. 11 a.m. TLC Fellowship  
Hall.

## 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

...Because it is very surprising that God would choose us. We should be amazed that the love of God for us goes back into eternity. That before he created the world he set his love upon us.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 4)**

That despite our complexities and our flaws and our failings, God still loves us, and he drew us to himself. We don’t deserve that. It’s by faith, which is a gift from God. Paul was unceasingly thankful for all that God had done, and he purposefully remembered this in his prayers. And we must be thankful too, for ourselves and for those we know who have faith, for it says God has blessed his people “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”. The unfortunate problem is that quite often we don’t see it, or get that. And so in Ephesians 1:16-18, Paul prays for what these early Christians have, and that they might see it. “I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.” And just like these early Christians, we too don’t always see this, and so Paul is praying that the eyes of our hearts will be opened. Paul’s not praying for “new sight”, but for a focused sight. He’s praying not for his readers to become Christians, but to enjoy all that is theirs as Christians. He knows about their faith in the Lord Jesus and their love toward all the saints. He’s giving thanks that God has opened their eyes to see who Jesus is, but Paul’s not settling for just that. He wants more for them. Faith in Christ is first of all a decisive act, and then it is a sustained attitude. It is to have your heart-eyes opened to who Jesus is and what he has done; and then it is to have your heart-eyes more and more focused on the glory of Jesus, so you live more and more in light of that. Paul wants us to understand and enter into the benefits that we have already received. Too often as Christians, we live like someone who has been given a full-board ticket on a cruise ship, and who sits on their deckchair eating crackers and drinking water because they haven’t realized that all the food is free with their ticket. They never go to the restaurant because they haven’t understood just what it is that their ticket includes. They’re on the boat – but they’re not enjoying being on the boat. Paul is essentially saying, you need to know, you need to see, that you’ve been given “every spiritual blessing”. Not one. Not some. Every one. That’s what transforms you, both inside and outside.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes- September 14, 2022

Members Present: Kathy Soetmelk, Nicole Krohn, Alan Blakestad, Dale Krohn, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt, and Amber Johnson.

Call to Order: Kathy called the meeting to order by reading a devotion titled *Experiencing God*.

Recognizing Guests: No guests present

Thank You Cards: Thank you cards were given to Paul and Aloma Riley for donating to the TLC food pantry in Walnut.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Dale, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Dale Krohn, seconded by Alan Blakestad, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Alan Blakestad, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matt shared a few items to the council that might be considered such as better lighting by the church office entrance, putting in a fence around a portion of the parsonage yard, and looking at a new date/time for the monthly council meetings. Pastor Matt shared that the confirmation class had their first session.

President's Report/Comments: Looking at how to shorten council meetings. A thank you note was shared from Steve and Mary Lund.

Sue's Report: Planning dates and events for the first semester for LYO. First LYO session was held on September 11th. Approximately 20 youth in attendance. The group discussed Matthew 5:14, planned for the next gathering, played outside games and ate lunch. The Clubhouse has been rented to host the "Friday Night be the Lights" event again after the home game. Donations will be accepted for the event giveaways, etc.

Council Reports:

Education: Sunday school schedules went out to volunteers.

Outreach: Continued communication with Peace Haven.

Finance: None.

Property Management: Congregation passed the vote for the roof. The women's group would like to purchase a new cooler for the kitchen.

Stewardship: the furniture has been fixed in the nursery.

Worship: No new report.

A motion was made to approve the council reports by Nicole Krohn, seconded by Dale Krohn, motion carried.

Old Business: Clarification for council minutes when corrected.

New Business: The church will support the backpack program for this school year. Dale Krohn made a motion to support this program financially, Alan Blakestad seconded the motion, motion carried. Council made a decision on the color of the tin roofing and color of shingles for parsonage. Look into the lighting out outfront of the church. Dale will go with someone with the ladies group to get a new cooler for the kitchen. A small committee will work on the information for the welcome cards. Progress will be shared at the next month's council meeting.

Membership Changes: No new address changes, name changes, and new members. For deaths and funerals: Donald Nelson, DOB-05/17/1943, DOD-09/04/2022, Funeral-09/13/2022, Officiated by Pastor Matt Bahnfleth. Baptisms: Zoey Elizabeth Maassen, DOB-04/27/2022, Baptism- 09/11/2022, Parents- Ashleigh and Cory Maassen, Officiated by Pastor Matt Bahnfleth. No weddings, removal from rolls, and transfers out. Ashley Krohn made a motion to approve the membership changes, seconded by Alan Blakestad, motion carried.

Adjournment: Dale Krohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried. Next meeting will be held on October 12, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Hansen Baptism/Sunday School	3	4	5 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	6 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	7 Pastors Day Off	8
9 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School Confirmation Practice after worship in the sanc- tuary	10	11 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	12 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 8 p.m. Council Meeting	13 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	14 Pastors Day Off	15
16 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9 a.m. Youth Group Outing 9:30 a.m. Worship/ New Visions Leader/No Com- munion/Sunday School	17	18	19 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	20 1 p.m. Avoca Nurs- ing Home Worship 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	21 Pastors Day Off	22
23 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/First Communion/ Sunday School	24	25 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	26 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	27 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	28 Pastors Day Off 11 a.m. Youth Group Shoebox Packing	29
30 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Confirmation/Sunday School	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 Matt Bahnfleth at (cell) 402-750-8327.

**Worship Services**  
**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Holy Communion: Celebrated during each worship service.**  
**Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.**