

# The Trinity Trumpet

## March 2023

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

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*“Then the Lord said to him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ ‘A staff,’ he replied. The Lord said, ‘Throw it on the ground.’ Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.’ So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ‘This,’ said the Lord, ‘is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.’” **Exodus 4: 2 - 5***

### ***It Ain't Nothin' but a Thang!***

If you're a fan, and old enough, you would recall the Rocky and Bullwinkle show where Mr. Peabody would tell his boy Sherman to set the “WayBack” machine for a certain date and they would travel to a specific date to learn and perhaps help give history a boost. Today Mr. Peabody asks us to turn the WayBack machine to the time of Exodus 4 where Moses is in the process of being called to serve by a Burning Bush.

Now the interesting thing about this process, in fact the entire scripture, is that God always does something with nothing and makes creation and redemption happen. In faith we speak of God creating *ex nihilo* – “out of nothing” as in the beginning God spoke and creation began to be formed. God doesn't take what is there and create and this is why CS Lewis in *Mere Christianity* points out that, “this is what makes Him God. He's not using stuff that is already created but creates from nothing.” Hence, He is the Creator and everything else, including you and I, are creatures or created things and therefore subservient to the Creator.

So back to the bush. God calls a worn out, sheep farming, former important ruler of Egypt, who happens to be a murder and escaped convict, and is preparing to send him back to Egypt to be the one to lead God's people into freedom from slavery. Oh, by the way Moses is the master of the “but God” as he keeps coming up with excuse after excuse as to why he can't do what God is calling him to do. And here is problem 1. It's not about Moses, it's not about you or me. If you got the idea that God can't use you, or that you are some super-special person making it happen, both answers are dangerously and unfaithfully wrong! It is, has been and always will be about Jesus – ALONE. *Sola Cristo*.

But to make the point here that Mr. Peabody has brought us to see, I wanna talk about the stick. There's Moses, just starting his excuse line-up, and God looks at him and says, “What's that in your hand?” Now looking at all this from our perspective you can see how hilarious this conversation is between God and Moses. Here is the God of all creation looking at looser Moses and he says what? “What's that in your hand?” Moses – “Ahh, a stick?!” (*Code for nothing, just like me*) God, looking at the reader and breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> wall [*implied*] “Duh, I'm God and know what it is, I made it.” So He gives Moses a simple word, a command, God's will as God says, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses complies and lo and behold God's word, command has created something from nothing as it is now a snake. WHAT?!?

What does Moses do in response to God's word and power, he runs the other direction. So, God, speaks again, “Reach your hand out and pick it up by the tail.” Another command, God's word, and again Moses wisely listens and picks it up, the stick that is, because God's word has made it to do what He intends it to do. And here is the point, God directly tells Moses why He has done this – so that “they,” the people Moses doesn't think will believe him, who certainly should not believe in Moses but the God of all creation who sent Him and so they can see that God is even using Moses to work His will in creation.

That is the best part. It's not about you, me, or Moses. It's about God, and God revealed in Jesus. The beauty of what God does it that He takes simple elements of this world, that have no power or value, and He joins them to His word, command, will and they become something more. That simple stick is used by God, through Moses' listening to His word throughout the entire journey to the promised land. God uses that stick, joined to His word, later to turn all the water in Egypt to blood, to part the Red Sea so His people could cross to safety through His mercy, and He uses it to bring water from a rock in the wilderness so the people can drink.

God likes to work, over and over through scripture and still today, joining His powerful word to simple elements

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**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  
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of creation to do miraculous things. God takes wood, water, the sacrifice of animals, bread and wine all joined to the strong word of God, to work miraculous things for His people. Even as March begins, God leads us into this month using ashes attached to His word to do the same. Simple elements with that strong word of God that works repentance and new life in God's people who listen to Him.

It never is about us only God, yet we get easily lost along the way, taking credit for doing well, being faithful, and so many other ways we, by our very nature, turn things around so that we have a hand in this salvation gig. And yet even ashes are used by God to help us to recall, "We are dust, and to dust we will return." But at the right time, God uses another stick, the wood of the cross in an even more brilliant way, as His own Son is nailed to simple wood, to die in our stead, to receive the full burden of punishment that we deserve, and to die the death we are meant to die – forever separated from God. And from His obedience and doing what we sinners can't, God uses another simple earthly element the grave attached to His strong word, to call what is dead and sacrificed from that tomb. To call what has paid the price and redeemed all of creation back to God, His beloved Son, as His strong word declares, "It is finished, COME OUT!" And so He will do for the faithful whose trust lies not in themselves, but in Him and His word, they will come out too.

The people and things of the Bible are not Extraordinary – by no means. They are all creatures and creation of a fallen creation that cannot redeem themselves. But like Moses, Abraham, Rahab, Esther, Peter, James and John and Paul, and you and me; like wood and water, bread and wine he takes what is nothin' but a thang, He takes what is ORDINARY and He alone makes it EXTRAORDINAY. Because of a simple stick joined to His strong word.

Pastor Matt



Please join us every Wednesday during Lent for  
 our Lenten Service Series-  
*"Promised Treasure"*

- March 1 - Salt that Sweetens and Preserves
- March 8 - Water that Gives Me Life
- March 15 - Light Shining in the Darkness
- March 22 - Bread of Life
- March 29 - Palms and Victory



If you would be willing to help provide soup

and/or desserts for the Wednesday Lenten services, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Matt. All help is greatly appreciated!

**Light Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m., Worship at 6:30 p.m., and Desserts & Fellowship following the service.**



First Communion Classes will be held on March 19th, 26th, and April 2nd following worship services on those Sundays. The First Communion service will be held during the Maundy Thursday service on April 6th. First Communion classes are for 4th graders and older, and their parents. Please contact Pastor Matt if your child will be attending or with any questions you may have.

### 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:** Eric Sieh  
(402) 650-3065

**Finance:** Ryan Winter  
(712) 307-0553

**Outreach:** Arla Pickham  
(712) 343-6764

**Stewardship:** Nicole Krohn  
(712) 309-2318

**Treasurer:** Shela Jacobsen  
(402) 490-2423



CHURCHES  
BUSINESS

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
1/29/2023	110	1498.00
2/5//2023	201	6376.30
2/12/2023	143	3693.00
2/19/2023	142	1795.00



Kathy Jacobsen— Jerry & Donna Rold

### PROMISED TREASURES LENTEN SERIES- MATTHEW 13:52

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God's amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul in Romans 10: 17 clearly says that "faith comes from hearing," but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical elements and senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. In Matthew 13:52 Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well. So, each Service in Lent, we will take a journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten theme - Promised Treasures will help us do that, just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven; but until we do enter our eternal promised home, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world.

We will begin with ashes, then salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms, water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind us of God's eternal love in Christ, fill us with renewed hope, and increase our joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

#### ***ASH WEDNESDAY—SITTING IN DUST AND ASHES***

Lent begins with ashes. After Job endured ashes and crosses of suffering, God graciously delivered him out of his sadness and despair; just as Jesus Christ washes and raises us out of every suffering, trial, and sin with renewed purpose, hope, and joy. All of these struggles and challenges were nailed to the cross with our Lord Jesus.

#### ***MIDWEEK OF LENT 1—SALT: THE GIFT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES***

We are God's own dear children: baptized, washed, and salted in Christ. This week our Lenten walk reminds us that Jesus died on Calvary's cross to vaccinate us completely from sin's power and eternal death. God is not distant from us but very nearby; and He comes to deliver us and preserve us amidst all our troubles. He is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

#### ***MIDWEEK OF LENT 2—WATER GIVES YOU LIFE***

Water flows and circulates throughout Scripture to wash, cleanse, flood, and reshape. Like a potter, our heavenly Father is remolding us every day, conforming us more closely to the image of His Son, Jesus. As a baptized children of God, we grow to appreciate through the example of daily washings how rich an inheritance is given to us by the water and the Word in Holy Baptism.

#### ***MIDWEEK OF LENT 3—LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS***

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, who enlightens all who believe in Him. His light dispels sin and darkness and fills us with so much light and joy that we truly begin to reflect His light to the world. Although God's Word exposes all our sin, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. As His baptized children, we now walk as a children of the light, reflecting His light to others.

#### ***MIDWEEK OF LENT 4—BREAD OF LIFE***

Jesus is the true bread of life given by the Father to us. In Him, and only in Him, is life forgiven, meaningful, renewed, and satisfied. We grow in faith to crave and desire more and more of the bread of life, Jesus Christ, who the Father has sent to feed the world. In Jesus Christ, we have all that we need every day and for eternal life.

#### ***MIDWEEK OF LENT 5—PALMS AND VICTORY***

Christians remain joyful and hope-filled even though life circumstances may change. All of God's people remain victorious even amidst pain, adversity, trials, sin, and death. This is why palms are at the forefront for all the people of God. The Christian remains hopeful even when life, trouble, and circumstances declare something opposite. The ultimate victory in Christ encourages all His people to remain strong even when sin, death, and trial oppose us and seek to lie to us that they have any power. Our Lord, Jesus, holds the field victorious.



# youth group

**SCHEDULE**

## PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES

March 01	Christopher	Best
March 01	Ashley	DeJong
March 01	Neil	Paulsen
March 01	Michael	Schueman
March 02	Dale	Roush
March 02	Laysa	Shreves
March 02	Bodee	Winter
March 03	Jordan	Jacobsen
March 05	Alexis	Crees
March 05	Kelsey	Harder
March 05	Joyce	Kardell
March 06	Ethan	Hansen
March 06	Roxanne	Plymale
March 07	Arla	Pickham
March 07	Donna	Schueman
March 08	Donald	Hansen Jr.
March 08	Robb	Jacobsen
March 08	Brenda	Kelly
March 09	Tanner	Lamp
March 09	Charles	Lane
March 09	Makenzie	Long
March 10	Jade	Brockhoff
March 10	Sarah	Gross
March 12	Calvin	Parker
March 12	Charlotte	Parker
March 13	Laird	Buboltz
March 13	Lois	Partlow
March 13	Saydi	Paulsen
March 13	Morgan	Sieh

March 15	Gerald	Conroy
March 15	Tyson	Osbahr
March 16	Olivia	Sieh
March 17	Brynlee	Holst
March 17	Erin	Ronnfeldt
March 17	Lynn	Roush
March 18	Angela	Fritz
March 18	LeAnne	McCarthy
March 18	Jolene	Schueman
March 19	Wayne	Allen
March 20	Donna	Schuler
March 22	Nicholas	Nelsen
March 22	Shirley	Pattee
March 23	Barbara	Schueman
March 24	Everett	Hansen
March 24	Gary	Nielsen
March 25	Tucker	Osbahr
March 25	Navi	Robinson
March 25	Jackson	Woltmann
March 26	Taylor	McCreedy
March 27	Andrea	Danker
March 27	Abigail	Roush
March 28	Jacob	Collins
March 29	Emma	Jorgensen
March 29	Kiptyn	Lamp
March 29	Hartvig	Nelsen
March 31	Adam	Hansen
March 31	Wyatt	Sieh

**Sunday, March 5th**– 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please wear old clothes to paint in. Lunch.

**Thursday, March 16th**– 5 p.m. “Sidewalk Prophets” Concert in Corn- ing, IA. RSVP’s needed! Limited tick- ets!

**Friday, April 7th**– 11 a.m. Minden Bowling Alley for lunch and bowling.

**Friday, April 14-Sunday, April 16**– Youth Retreat in Story City, IA-Please RSVP.

**Sunday, May 7th**—TBA

Youth group has been working together to help others! One Sunday, they packed over 500 food bags for our week- ly school backpack program! The next, they made a tie blanket and baked goods to donate to a local upcoming benefit auction.





## GIVING AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

**Malachi 3:10** - *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

**Mark 12:42-44** - *And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."*

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (RSV)** - *Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.*

What is worship? Many books have been written about it, so how can we hope to cover it adequately here? A simple definition of worship could be "the act of adoring God." Going beyond a definition, descriptions of worship could go on and on. We can label it liturgical, contemporary, and so on, but form is not the essence of worship. If one form helps you to express your adoration for God better than another, then that style of worship is right for you. There is no right or wrong way to adore God.

Maybe a good question to ask is, "When we leave worship, do we feel uplifted? Do we feel like we've been in the presence of the Lord?" I once had a member named Ed leave church one Sunday with a scowl on his face. He confronted me, saying, "Preacher, I've got a bone to pick with you. You haven't stepped on my toes in six weeks." Ed's idea of worship was to leave the service feeling guilty. Isn't that sad?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if he left worship with a sense of exultation at having been in the presence of our Holy God? Wouldn't it be great for him to feel a sense of forgiveness? Wouldn't it be great for him to leave thinking, "I adore God more than ever and am so grateful for the salvation our Lord has brought to us"?

Have you ever stopped to look at what our Lutheran liturgy does? We often begin our worship with a brief order of confession and forgiveness. Then we may progress to singing a hymn of praise. All this is to draw us closer to our Lord and prepare our hearts for what's next — the opportunity to receive his Word. Indeed, what we may think of as worship preliminaries — these are all about preparing our hearts to receive and take heart in the reading of God's Word. Following the reading may come the preaching of the Word. After being touched by the preaching of God's Word, in whatever form it takes, and in response to all that's gone before, we make confession of our faith in the words of a creed.

To this point, the liturgy has been confessing and hearing from God. Following the creed is our first really overt act: the offering. Giving is our act of worship that responds to all that has gone before it. Then come the prayers and, finally, the Holy Sacrament.

Whether your worship follows this more traditional style or is a more contemporary approach, the fluidity of the service is all about preparing our hearts and hearing God's voice. Giving in worship is an act acknowledging all that God is doing in our hearts and lives. Giving is always a love response — not to the sermon, but to the Gospel. We give because we love Jesus. We give generously and sacrificially because we want to show our love (agape) for our Lord.

Dr. Mark Allan Powell, in his 2006 book *Giving to God*, addresses giving as an act of worship in his first chapter. He notes that in the Old Testament, people brought their sacrificial offerings to the altar and laid them there. He writes: "The offering is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something that we value — our money — as a sacrifice to God. In many ways it is the high point of the liturgy. We come to church to worship God and at no other point in the service are we provided with so pure an opportunity for worship as this" (p. 11). He continues: "On a simple, practical level, I find it easier to sing hymns and not really mean them than it is to part with my money and not really mean it" (p. 12).

St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come." In this single verse we can glean that:

- Giving is an act of worship — Sunday worship had already begun.
- Giving is systematic — we give whenever we worship.
- Giving is proportionate to income — we give as we have prospered.
- Giving is planned in advance — so contributions need not be made at the last minute.

God wants all of us — our whole being. God wants our hearts. We give not because our church needs the money but because giving is an intrinsic need. Giving expresses, or demonstrates, our love for God. It acknowledges that we love Jesus: "I need to give." We all need to give. It's part and parcel of Whose we are.

We give generously and sacrificially not because God needs it or even because the church needs it, but because we want to show our love for Him. I once heard about a pastor in Philadelphia that noted the offerings had fallen short of the congregation's needs. On receiving the offering plates from the ushers, he rather audaciously turned, faced the altar and prayed, "Well, God, this is what we think of you." What a wake-up call!

Worship giving, first-fruit giving, is not designated. You don't control it. You don't direct it. You don't tell God what to do with it. You give. The early Hebrews put their sacrificial gifts on the altar, and in some cases, set them on fire. They would never have presumed to tell God what to do with the gifts they gave. Worship giving is both duty (obedience and obligation) and delight (joy). Joyful giving of our time, talents and treasure to God is then an expression of our love for our Lord.

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Christian  
Stewardship

... continued

**Engage**

1. How have you experienced giving as an act of worship? Do you think of your offering as a *“love offering”*?
2. How have you experienced giving as an expression of love in your own life as either the giver or the receiver of gifts?
3. What is the purpose of worship for you? Is the concept of “adoring” God new to you? What other emotions do you feel?
4. Do you feel obligated to give as a duty? To whom do you feel your giving is a duty? To your church? To God?
5. When is it appropriate to designate one’s gift, and when is it inappropriate? Discuss for a few moments.

**Prayer** - *Holy Lord God, help us to grow in both our sense of duty and of delight as we make our offerings. Help us realize that, while there are many motives for giving, our primary motive must be a love response. Even as the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, so now we ask you to teach us to give. Grant us a new lesson on giving every week as we make our offering to you. We ask this, O God, through our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

**March/April Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>Sunday, March 5th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Set Up	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund
Communion	Sue Paulsen, Dean & Joy Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Amanda Holst
Acolytes	Bella Lamp
Support	Sue Paulsen
	<b>Sunday, March 12th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Set Up	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund
Communion	Amy & Robb Jacobsen, Kristen Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Greg Petersen
Acolytes	Parker Krohn
Support	Ron Winter
	<b>Sunday, March 19th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Set Up	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund
Communion	Dorothy Nelsen, Rogen Nelson, Leslie
Scriptures & Prayers	Roger Nelson
Acolytes	Kadence Coolidge
Support	Mike Krummel
	<b>Sunday, March 26th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Set Up	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund
Communion	Dale Krohn, Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Kaleah Guyer
Acolytes	Jordyn Madden
Support	Jim Hansen
	<b>Sunday, April 2nd, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Stephanie Harder
Communion	Sue Paulsen, Greg & Marge Peterson
Scriptures & Prayers	Karen Hansen
Acolytes	Kavin Rold
Support	Gary Soetmelk



AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training was held on February 19th. Jeff Whannel provided the training for nine TLC congregants. Thank you to Peggy Osbahr for coordinating the training!

**The AED machine is located on the wall in the marked box in the narthex.**

**Lenten Services  
Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>Wed., March 1st, 6:30 p.m.</b>
Scriptures & Prayers	Dora Rock
	<b>Wed., March 8th, 6:30</b>
Scriptures & Prayers	Jerry Conroy
	<b>Wed., March 15th, 6:30</b>
Scriptures & Prayers	Sue Blakstad
	<b>Wed., March 22nd, 6:30</b>
Scriptures & Prayers	Janiece Schroder
	<b>Wed., March 29th, 6:30</b>
Scriptures & Prayers	Ronda Holst

## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Date of Meeting: 2/8/2023

Council members present were Kathy Soetmelk, Dale Krohn, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Beth Buboltz, Eric Sieh, Arla Pickham, and Ryan Winter.

The February council meeting was called to order by Kathy Soetmelk who welcomed the new council members. Our devotion as a group was reading two scriptures from the bible. Mark 4:26, 30 and 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. Pastor Matt led the group in discussing the scriptures and how the topic could be related to the council. Each council member was giving a book titled: *Letters To The Church* written by Francis Chan. Each council meeting a chapter from the book will be discussed along with reading scripture from the bible. A thank you card was addressed to Dawn Harder for her role with the cradle roll.

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

A motion was made by Dale Krohn to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Beth Buboltz, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: no bills submitted. No report provided.

Reports: No reports from the Finance, Education, Worship, and Outreach committee members.

President's Report: Assign roles for each council member. Kathy Soetmelk, President; Nicole Krohn, Vice President; Amber Johnson, Secretary; Shela Jacobsen, Treasurer; Nicole Krohn, Stewardship; Dale Krohn, Property Management; Beth Buboltz, Education; Ryan Winter, Finance; Arla Pickham, Outreach; Eric Sieh, Worship.

Property Management: The roof project is finished. Dale Krohn shared two bids 1) Karr Tuckpointing from Vinton, Iowa and 2) Keystone Masonry from Omaha, Nebraska. The repairs will fix the mortar, caulking around windows, replace broken bricks, etc. More discussion about these repairs were shared in the old business section of minutes. The large oak tree in front of church will have branches trimmed soon.

Stewardship: Connection cards with more discussion in the old business section of minutes.

Old Business: Pastor Matt talked about the conferences he attended the last week of January. Nicole Krohn talked about the status for the Connection cards that will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. These Connection cards will be placed in the pews with hymnals and bibles. Dale made a motion to have the Karr Tuckpointing Company to make the repairs to the church, seconded by Amber Johnson, motion carried.

New Business: Council meetings will have a devotion lead by a council member, committee reports will be submitted each month two weeks prior to the meeting, and setting goals or a vision for the church. The intention for this new organization to the meetings is to provide the group opportunity to study, grow, and set goals for the year.

Membership Changes: No address changes, name changes, new members, transfers out, weddings, and removal from rolls. Deaths and funerals: Carolyn Oldenburg, DOB-12/14/1938, DOD- 02/05/2023. Baptisms: Everleigh Teresa Anzalone, Baptism 02/05/2023, DOB-07/08/2022; Parents- Taylor and Wyatt Anzalone; Baptismal Sponsors- Katie Anzalone and Morgan Anzalone.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Arla Pickham, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

Annual Congregational Meeting , Trinity Lutheran Church , Sunday January 22, 2023

-The Annual meeting was called to order by President Kathy Soetmelk, Pastor Matt gave opening devotions.

-A motion was made by Dale Krohn to approve the agenda, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried. A motion was made by Ron Winter to approve the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting, seconded by Gary Soetmelk, motion carried.

-The treasurer's report was given by Shela Jacobsen (see written report), a motion to approve the report was made by Dean Krohn, seconded by Alan Blakestad. Motion carried. Kathy Soetmelk thanked the church for support through the search for a new pastor. Kathy thanked the three council members who completed their term.

-No audit report provided.

-The pastoral report was shared by Pastor Matt who gave an oral report (see written report). -The Director of the Ministry of Daily Life report was given by Sue Paulsen orally (see written report).

-Church Elections:

Nominations were read for the council and various committees. Only the Endowment Committee had a nomination from the floor. Don Hanson made a motion to accept the nominees as written with the addition of Joy Krohn for the Endowment Committee. The motion was seconded and carried. Dean Krohn made a motion to do a unanimous ballot, seconded by Kristen Krohn, motion carried.

Church Council -- Three Church Council members elected are Arla Pickham, Eric Sieh, and Ryan Winter. Members whose terms are ending: Mike Jorgensen, Alan Blakestad, Ron Winter. Members continuing to serve: Kathy Soetmelk, 2025; Nicole Krohn, 2025; Amber Johnson, 2025; Beth Buboltz, 2024; Dale Krohn, 2024.

Memorial Committee –Three elected Memorial Committee members are Judy Williams, Nicole Lamp, Lacey Brockhoff. Members whose terms are ending: Joy Krohn and Mick Schuler. Unexpired term: Nancy Collins. Members currently serving: Peggy Osbahr, 2024; Beth Schueman, 2025; Amanda Holst, 2025.

Audit Committee – One Audit Committee member was elected who will be Chelsie Madden. Members whose terms are ending: Chelsie Madden. Members continuing to serve: Diane Stamp, 2024; J Olesen, 2025.

Endowment Committee –Lori Winter's term has ended. Joy Krohn was nominated and elected for a three year term. Currently serving: Mike Scheffler, 2024; Julie Miller, 2024; Cory Maassen, 2025; Kris McCarthy, 2025.

Nominating Committee – New committee member, Danny Pattee, was elected. Members whose terms are ending: Jason Rold. Members continuing to serve: Adam Krohn, 2024; Ronda Holst, 2025.

-Nomination and election of three voting members (two adults and one confirmed youth) to the National Convocation held August 7-11 in Oklahoma City, OK. Voting members will be Gary and Kathy Soetmelk. The Iowa Mission District Convention will be held on September 16th in Monona, IA. People were encouraged to attend. Nominations for Salem Lutheran Home

delegates for their annual meeting to be held on March 19th and elections were Gary and Kathy Soetmelk, Alan and Sue Blakestad, Becky Bahnfleth. A motion was made to approve these delegates by Bonnie Kardell, seconded by Becky Bahnfleth, motion carried.

-Church Council Committee reports were presented in either an oral or written form. Jerod Johnson made a motion to accept the committee reports, seconded by Gary Soetmelk, motion carried.

Property & Management: written report provided by Dale Krohn – Dale asked for church members to form a committee to assist in plans for fixing the foundation. Alan Blakestad and Darren Krohn will be on this committee with Dale.

Outreach: written report provided by Alan Blakestad

Finance: no written report by Mike Jorgensen

Worship: written report provided by Ron Winters

Stewardship: written report by Nicole Krohn

Education: written report provided by Beth Buboltz

-The Trinity Lutheran Church committees and organizations reports:

Memorial Committee: written report provided by Joy Krohn

Trinity Lutheran Church Women: written report submitted by Loleta Hansen, oral report given by Bonnie Kardell.

Lutheran Youth Organization: written report provided by Sue Paulsen

Endowment Committee: written financial report submitted by Cory Maassen

-Discussion & adoption of 2023 budget, a motion to accept 2023 budget was made by Alan Blakestad, seconded by Peggy Osbahr, motion carried.

-New Business: Proposed changes to the constitution were presented to the church members to vote. Listed below are the approved changes to the constitution:

- 1) Changing the bylaws to reflect that the pastor is not a voting member of the council and changing the number of voters from 9 to 8. Don Hansen made a motion to approve this change of voters, seconded by Dean Krohn, motion carried.
- 2) Deletion of the line that reads *"No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the office, with exception of the treasurer."* Dean Krohn made the motion to approve this line deletion, seconded by Dale Krohn, motion carried.
- 3) Dean Krohn made a motion to increase the amount of authorized church council spending to \$25,000 on non-budgeted obligations unless approved at a congregational meeting, seconded by Don Hansen, motion carried.

-Other Business:

Dean Krohn spoke about the success, ongoing needs, and ongoing support for the TLC food pantry.

-Peggy Osbahr and Sue Paulsen talked about the defibrillator training that will be happening in the near future.

-A motion was made by Nicole Krohn to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jerod Johnson, motion carried.

-The meeting ended with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary



# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30p.m.-Lenten Worship	2 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 4 p.m —6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	3 Pastors Day Off	4
5 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship /Sunday School 10:45 a.m.. Youth Group	6 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	7 6p.m. Bible Study	8 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30p.m.-Lenten Worship 8 p.m. Council Meeting	9 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m —6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	10 Pastors Day Off	11
12 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School	13 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	14 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 6p.m. Bible Study	15 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30p.m.-Lenten Worship	16 9a.m.-Bible Study 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m —6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 5 p.m.- Youth Group "Sidewalk Prophets Concert	17 Pastors Day Off	18
19 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class	20 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	21 6p.m. Bible Study	22 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30p.m.-Lenten Worship	23 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m —6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry Sue Out of Office	24 Pastors Day Off  Sue Out of Office	25
26 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class	27 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	28 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 6p.m. Bible Study	29 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30p.m.-Lenten Worship	30 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m —6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	31 Pastors Day Off	

**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.**