

The Trinity Trumpet

April 2023

www.tlcvoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

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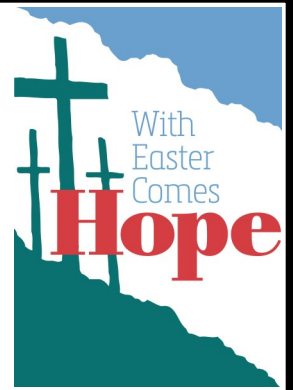
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"If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8: 31b

"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God" 2Timothy 1: 7-8

"The death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6: 10-11

Empty Means EMPTY!

Out the front window of the parsonage we last lived in was the "Lutheran Cemetery." It was the length of two full blocks and width of one and one-half. Every year, especially at Easter time, but also Memorial Day and other such holidays, but especially at Easter we would watch out the window as streams of people came to visit, place flowers or such; but all I could think of was the angelic messenger's words as he spoke to early morning women and confused disciples saying, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" I say this in with no disrespect or judgement, but those words rang clearly in my head each time.

So, before you misunderstand me, my mother and father are buried in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mom died over twenty years ago, my dad about six years ago. When mom died, I went back to visit once, but found myself saying the same thing, "Why am I looking for the living among the dead?" After that it was only my dad's burial that brought me back; and in tears and loss I released my dad, remembered mom, and when I left knowing that I would not stop again, put my hand on the place that was now filled with the perishable bodies of my mom and dad in the mausoleum, and said, "I'll see you again." That was it. Each of us grieves differently. But that angelic statement is never changing.

In this Eastertide season, one must ask why do we seek so much death? Why do we find ourselves almost drawn to it and to places where death is overwhelming? Or, in the opposite direction, we seem to run from it in denial thinking that we can somehow delay death through health regimens, medical procedures, covering it up with surgery, dyes in our beards, or changing its name. Even in the Church after a death has occurred in the body many seek to call it a celebration of life rather than burial of the dead, somehow missing the keen importance of facing Death head on, with no blinders. Why do we need to face Death this way, call it by its proper name Death? Because it is inevitable. Paul squarely reminds us in **Romans 6:23**, "for the wages of sin IS DEATH." There just isn't any wiggle room. Even if I try to deny and "sin" in my life, I still know that I am a fragile, finite creature and from the minute I am born I am moving toward death. In the movie with the same name, we are all on death row, moving through our days we are, "Dead Men [and Women] Walking."

But here is where we, as people who have been washed, redeemed, adopted, and inherited into the family of God have a hand up – quite literally. The angelic question states an eternal profession of truth – Empty means EMPTY. This Good News affects not just this moment of our life, but it should have bearing on every moment of every day. We do have a hand up, in fact two. Pierced hands of our Lord that still bear the marks of our sin and the cost it carries, and two feet, marked as well; together that move, lead, carry, and hold us in each day. So not only do we find an empty tomb where Christ has left behind all of our sin that he bore in His body on the cross, but we find life through death, despite death, crushing death. *"I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done,"* writes the psalmist in **118:17**.

The emptiness of that tomb, now flooded with fresh air and light from the sun, calls me to ask the question for myself - Why do I look for the living among the dead? What makes me keep going back to ways, actions, and thoughts that I want Christ to bury? How is it that I keep digging up, as wisdom from my past, what I am not able to do or how far my actions can't reach for Him as they halt me from "proclaiming what the LORD has done," even in a mess like me? What power of death constantly holds before my eyes the failings and atrocities that I have committed upon creation, others, God's love, and even myself that make me, with so many in scripture, say, "it would have been better that I was never born?" How is the fear of death making me clutch and tight fistedly hold on and minimally share the blessings of my life, myself, and my talents towards others flowing from God's hands?

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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
 712-343-2518

The angelic question turned profession then helps me to sort out this mess by declaring the truth of this world and my condition against the backdrop of Jesus' own death and resurrection. I need to call death, Death. Whether it is the end of a life, failing of life, the weakness, brutality, stubbornness, carelessness, or selfishness of my living as a "Dead Man walking," because I am dust and to dust I will return, I need to give it is proper due to keep me seeing the spaciousness of that empty tomb. Ezekiel proclaimed God's command to prophetically tell dusty, dry bones that the Lord was going to make them live, and so they did. (*Ezekiel 37: 1-14*) The Gospels all record that when the world, including you and I, were at our worst - even more than all the worsts we recall and imagine from our life, as we rejected, abandoned, betrayed, and killed the God of our creation who has always been for us; God's answer was to let death kill itself. You heard me - at the crucifixion in our worst, when we wanted and asked for the removal of Christ Jesus from hindering us in our way, God let the act of dying kill Death and it's hold on us, forever.

God has always looked on His beloved creation, from the moment of the fall, and saw Dead Men walking right into a tomb to be sealed forever behind us. But with no hesitation, God saw and declared that we would be Live Men walking, because He already saw that that tomb was empty and was going to be forever for those who hold on to Jesus; those who come looking in death for one that is forever alive. So I have to keep asking the question of myself, "Why am I seeking the living me amidst a dying world" as every death tries to step up and convince me this is what I am? I ask, so I can take that death, excuse, choice, failure, and flaw and put them in that tomb so Jesus can seal it up forever. Because - empty means empty, whether it is where my beloved rests waiting for the coming again of Christ, or in the death that tries to overcome and stifle in me the creation God has made to serve Him and all the world. And if I do go looking still for the living among the dead, when I look at it squarely and honestly, I can trust and see it is a lie that bears no power. Jesus Christ is Risen. Risen Indeed! Alleluia.

Pastor Matt



Sunday, April 2nd- Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, April 5th- Easter Cantata- 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 6th- Maundy Thursday,

First Communion- 6:30 p.m. Worship

Friday, April 7th-Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. Worship

Saturday, April 8th- Easter Vigil, 7 p.m. Worship

Sunday, April 9th-Easter, 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Worship

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



Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
2/26/2023	151	2697.00
3/5/2023	—	4026.00
3/12/2023	145	—
3/19/2023	—	5494.00



It's Peanut Butter Jelly Time!

Did you know Sunday, April 2nd is **National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day?!**

And what better way to stock the TLC Food Pantry with these staples than by having a little friendly competition! Details will be provided on the prior Sunday (March 26th), but just know — it's **GAME ON!!**

If you aren't able to attend April 2nd, you can still make a difference! We will be collecting peanut butter & jelly through out the month of April. Donations can be placed on the table on the north side of the Narthex or downstairs in the Food Pantry totes outside of the Church Office.



Kathy Jacobsen— Nancy Kelly

Carolyn Oldenburg— Norma Krohn

Sue Irlbeck— Leanne Travis

Mary Jane Peterson— Reva & Bill Bylund

Keith Peterson— Reva & Bill Bylund

LaVerne Kock— Ronda Holst, Betty Oehlert

Bob Brown— JoAnn Krummel, Betty Oehlert



PROMISED TREASURES LENTEN SERIES Continues- MATTHEW 13:52 MAUNDY THURSDAY—WATER AND BLOOD

Jesus was baptized into death through water and blood, and on this night, we celebrate receiving the testament which our Lord inaugurated in the Lord's Supper. God's people appreciate why both water and blood poured out of Jesus' side when He died on the cross and how they still pour out to us now in His forgiving sacraments.

GOOD FRIDAY—THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

The wood of Jesus' cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened.

EASTER VIGIL—THE OIL OF JOY AND GLADNESS

The power to smell fragrance is incredible, and fragrant oil is powerful when placed on those anointed to serve as prophets, priests, or kings. Jesus is the ultimate Anointed One, the Messiah. In Him, we are baptized and sealed now and for eternally. Everyone's life has a fragrance, one of life or death. Since we are baptized into Christ, our life is fresh and new every day.

EASTER SUNDAY—WELCOME TO THE PROMISED LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

As Joshua led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, so Jesus crossed the river of death by His death and resurrection and leads us to the promised land of heaven, which will never end. Although the promised land of heaven is not ours in its fullness yet, heaven still meets earth because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.



Indescribable Joy of Giving - Chapter THREE - The Rev. Taylor Stempniak

NURTURING GENEROSITY

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. Brothers, pray for us. Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

My husband, Luke, has a gift for gift giving. I can't send the man to the grocery store without him coming home with a bouquet of flowers. He's spent a tremendous amount of time figuring out my taste in just about everything. Whether it be food, candy, art, or jewelry, he tends to know exactly what I'll love. My appreciation for his generosity and consideration truly knows no bounds, but throughout our relationship, we've run into a bit of a problem. I'm grateful for gifts, and I know that they are undoubtedly signs of his love, but when I think about love, I don't think of wrapping paper or fresh cut flowers. I think about words. More than anything, I need profession and affirmation. I need proclamations. "Yes! I love you!" and "Of course! I'm proud of you!" and "Absolutely! I enjoyed spending time with you!" and so on. You get the idea.

You can see where the conflict may pop up. For all that I desired words, I was too worried about sounding ungrateful to express what I needed. When I finally just confessed that I needed him to say nice things to me, he was baffled. We had a couple of conversations about it, he explained that he put much more stock in actions than in words, and I made him take the Love Languages Quiz. After we talked, he snuck in "I love you" more often in our day-to-day life, but as we continued to grow closer to one another and mature, things changed more drastically.

Along with gifts, suddenly I was getting cards with messages written inside. Some of the messages were sweet, some were silly, but all of them were full of love. He recognized what I needed, and even though it came unnaturally at first, he was bound and determined to use his gifts ("*Giving a card counts as a present,*" he has remarked) to help me feel exactly how important he finds our relationship. Relationships — romantic, platonic, familial, or otherwise — are the building blocks of community, and how we cultivate healthy relationships with the people in our lives teaches us a lot about what it looks like to create healthy communities. For a marriage or friendship or even just society as a whole, to function there has to exist a willingness to give to one another. To be clear, I'm not just talking about picking up the tab for lunch or selecting the perfect box of Valentine's Day chocolates.

Just the very act of being in relationship is an act of giving. We give of ourselves. We take time to listen, to encourage, to communicate and to rejoice. Healthy relationships and communities look like the kind of community Paul describes in his letter to the Thessalonians. God created us with intentionality so that we would dwell alongside each other, not only learning from each other's gifts but also encouraging each other's gifts. We show gratitude for those who care for us, and, just as importantly, we learn how to care for our neighbors the same way. Being in relationship with one another provokes us to think about our gifts in a new light and with new creativity.

My husband never would've considered the way his gift for gift-giving could help fulfill my longing for words of affirmation, but the stack of cards he's given me has become one of my most treasured possessions. When we spend time with one another and develop empathy for one another, a desire to care and an outpouring of generosity are the natural results. But this isn't a hollow generosity; it is a generosity that considers the needs and desires of those we give to. We don't keep insisting on chocolates and flowers when our loved one needs words of comfort and reassurance. We take time to invest in our relationships and communities, so that we may be still and listen to the needs and desires of those around us.

A spirit of generosity grows from spending time with one another, sharing burdens and joys, and from a heart willing to listen to the honest needs and wants of our loved ones, communities, and our church. The necessity of relationships and the generosity that forms there is modeled for us on the very first pages of scripture, where our Lord dwells with Adam and Eve in the garden. Our God is not distant but present alongside his beloved creation. Moreover, our Lord responds with tremendous mercy and giving, clothing the naked Adam and Eve even after they have fallen into sin, recognizing their desire for dignity, even amid pain and suffering. Our Lord continues to show us the importance of relationships, taking on flesh and dwelling amongst us as the one we call Immanuel, "God with us." How could we ever seek to live separately from one another?

God himself became human and dwelled alongside his friends through weddings and fishing trips and grief-stricken funerals. Moreover, the generosity that Christ shows our community extends past turning water into wine and healing the sick — it is a generosity that is willing to give of itself so that we may see that grace is an outpouring of God's own sacrificial love. Filled with this love, and in relation with the Holy Spirit, we are freed to go into our communities, equipped with the spiritual gifts the Lord has freely given us, and think creatively, mercifully, and joyfully about how God's generosity may overflow onto all we meet.

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April 01	Jorden	Johnson
April 02	Linda	Feekes
April 03	Dean	Schueman
April 04	Harrison	Nelsen
April 04	Connie	Schroder
April 05	Melissa	Christian
April 06	James A.	Johnson
April 06	Barbara	Lynch
April 06	Blakely	Maassen
April 06	Maelie	Madden
April 07	Sally	Matthies
April 07	Makenzie	Whyte
April 08	Baylee	Meyers
April 11	Nancy	Kelly
April 11	Rylinn	Madden
April 11	Kyle	Rock
April 11	Traci	True
April 12	Jordyn	Madden
April 12	Katherine	Roush
April 13	Reva	Bylund
April 13	Mark	Gress
April 13	Abbie	Willett
April 15	Emma	Blotzer
April 15	Milton	Hanson
April 15	Christian	Jorgensen

April 15	Roman	Scheffler
April 16	Leslie	Nielsen
April 18	Cody	McCreedy
April 18	Nancy	Mohr
April 19	Bella	Lamp
April 19	Kamryn	Tooley
April 20	Ronda	Holst
April 21	Harleigh	Brockhoff
April 21	Lucy	Krohn
April 22	Hugo	Dittmer
April 22	Roger	Kubik
April 23	Cristin	Rold
April 23	Talon	Stevens
April 24	Shela	Jacobsen
April 26	Ross	Pattee
April 26	Harley	Spencer
April 27	Zoey	Maassen
April 27	Lisa	Willett
April 28	Lacey	Brockhoff
April 28	Karen	Dittmer
April 28	Heather	Smith
April 28	Nicole	Tiarks
April 30	Tenley	Pattee
April 30	Katelin	Schroder



Scholarship applications for graduating seniors are due by April 1st. They can be mailed in to Trinity Lutheran Church at PO Box 456, Avoca, IA 51521 or emailed to tlcspaulsen@gmail.com. Thank You!



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, Depart at 3:30 p.m. on Friday. Please get \$60 registration checks to Pastor Matt by April 1st.

Sunday, May 7th—Our last meeting date of the school year! Activity & Time to be announced.

...continued

Engage

1. How can your spiritual gifts be used to care for your neighbor? How can your neighbors' spiritual gifts be used to care for you or your neighbor?
2. Are you willing to think creatively about the gifts and resources the Lord has given you? What is one way to show generosity that you've never shared before?
3. How might prayer equip you and your community to live generously?
4. How does generosity — or lack thereof — affect the sustainability of relationships? Of communities? Of the church?

Prayer - *God of mercy and grace, you have taken delight in pouring out love and blessings upon your people. Help us to recognize the needs of our communities and the ways that you have uniquely equipped us to give of ourselves for the sake of our neighbor. Reorient our hearts towards a spirit of generosity, grace, and love. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Youth group members met on March 5th to paint a depiction of one of the bible stories that leads to

EASTER. Members were then challenged to create a devotional to along with their painting! Be sure to the artist's about their paintings!



April/May Volunteer

Schedule

	Maundy Thurs., April 6th, 6:30 p.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Donna Rold, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Pray-	Arla Pickham
	Good Friday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m.
Scriptures & Pray-	Greg Petersen
	Saturday Easter Vigil, April 8, 7 p.m.
Communion Set Up	Backy Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Roger Nelson, Dorothy Nelsen



- ◆ Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth– Given in memory of Don & Joan Bahnfleth
- ◆ Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth– Given in memory of Carston & Merna Koeller
- ◆ Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth– Given in memory of our Children’s Children
- ◆ Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family– Given in memory of Sue Irlbeck
- ◆ Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family– Given in memory of Stacy Rock
 - ◆ Karen Pope– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in honor of the military
- ◆ Alan & Suzette Blakestad– Given in memory of Ethan Holst & other family members
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of Cheryl Haynes
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of Jason Woodward
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of Steve Frum
 - ◆ Ronda Holst – Given in memory of Dave, Joel, & Ethan Holst
 - ◆ Ronda Holst – Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt and Firp & Marge Holst
 - ◆ Jim & Patti Cumper– Given in memory of Glenn Lee
- ◆ Frank & Marlen Nelsen– Given in memory of Jordan Leigh Nelsen
- ◆ Frank & Marlen Nelsen– Given in memory of Teresa Leigh Kardell
- ◆ Frank & Marlen Nelsen– Given in memory of Keith & Mary Jane Peterson

	Sunday, April 2nd, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Dorothy Nelsen, Greg & Marge Peterson
Scriptures & Prayers	Karen Hansen
Acolytes	Kavin Rold
Support	Gary Soetmelk
	Easter Sunday, April 9th, 7:00 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Dora Rock, Donna Rold, & Janiece
Scriptures & Prayers	Neil Paulsen
Acolytes	Kendra Hansen
Support	Shela Jacobsen
	Easter Sunday, April 9th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Eric Sieh, Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	Katie Johnson
Support	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, April 16th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Judy Williams, Ron Winter, & Becky Bahnfleth
Scriptures & Prayers	Travis Lane
Acolytes	Kaden Lane
Support	Adam Krohn
	Sunday, April 23rd, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Reva Bylund, Jerry Conroy, & Jim Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers	Danny Pattee
Acolytes	Roman Scheffler
Support	Larry Chapman
	Sunday, April 30th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth, Janiece Schroder
Communion	Karen Hansen, Jeff Harder & Steph Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Gayle Stuart
Acolytes	Evan Harder
Support	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, May 7th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Ronda Holst, Amy & Robb Jacobsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Dora Rock
Acolytes	Emery Brockhoff
Support	Dean Krohn

Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes- March 8, 2023

Kathy called the meeting to order on March 8, 2023 with Dale Krohn, Eric Sieh, Shela Jacobsen, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, and Beth Buboltz in attendance. A thank you card was sent to Jay Olesen who helped a stranded motorist.

A motion was made by Dale Krohn to approve the agenda with Eric Sieh to second the motion, motion carried.

The February council meeting minutes were corrected. The minutes state Committee reports are due 2 weeks before the meeting. The correction should state *1 week prior to the council meeting not 2 weeks. Minutes were corrected and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Nicole Krohn, seconded by Beth Buboltz, motion carried.*

The treasurer's report was reviewed with no bills submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Dale Krohn, seconded by Nicole Krohn, motion carried.

Pastor Matt shared with the council the hope for the group to spend time on visioning and goal setting. Members of the council will take time together to study the bible and discuss thoughts from the book titled *Letters to The Church*. On Wednesday, April 5th the cantata will provide the lenten service at 6:30pm. Thursday, April 6th will be the Maundy church service at 6:30pm. The Good Friday church service will be on Friday, April 7th at 6:30pm. Church services for Easter will be held on Sunday, April 9th with two service times: 7:00 am and 9:30 am.

Sue Paulson provided a report about the LYO group. LYO met on February 19th, after worship to make a tie blanket and baked goods to donate to the benefit auction for Rachel Knop. Lunch was provided along with a discussion on verses related to helping others and being the church. LYO met again on March 5th for lunch and to use paint, a canvas, and creativity.

Nicole Krohn shared the exciting news from the Toilet Paper Drive that concluded February 19th with approximately 220 rolls donated to the TLC Food Pantry. The updates to the Food Pantry needs continue to be shared in the Sunday announcements. Nicole would like to conduct a survey to gather feedback on how the church can create a welcoming environment to visitors and see where we can make improvements. The red chairs in the narthex will be relocated to the Sweet Vale of Avoca Museum. April 2nd is National PB & J Day. On Sunday, April 2nd the congregation will be invited to donate jars of peanut butter and/or jelly that will be given to the local food pantries.

For old business, Yandas came and installed the new recording box which allows the recording process to be simpler. With this new recording box streaming capabilities are available if the council decides to use this feature. Other repairs completed by Yandas consisted of the motorized screen and replacing the light bulb for the projector. Nine congregational members attended the AED training. Replacement pads and a battery have been ordered to update the current pads and battery in the AED machine. Sue will be out of the office on March 23rd and March 24th. The report from the Audit Committee was shared with the council. Dale Krohn shared more information about the tuck pointing project. There will need to be a special congregational meeting to approve the tuck pointing project expenses. This special meeting will be held on March 26, 2023 after the worship service. Church council meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:00pm. No new business for discussion.

Membership Changes: Address change for Barb & Robert Brown, 512 East Wood St., Avoca, IA #101. Deaths and funerals: Kathy Jacobsen-DOB- 04/02/1950; DOD-02/10/2023, Funeral-02/14/2023, Pastor Matt Bahnfleth officiated.

Dale Krohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth Buboltz, motion carried. The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

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

...so that you could truly say of yourself, “I was blind to him, but now I see him – more and more and more!”



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 6)**

Back to our subject of prayer..... Praying for hope. Most of the ways we use the word, “hope” is all about uncertainty. “I hope I don’t trip.” “I hope it doesn’t rain tomorrow.” “I hope the stock market rectifies itself.” It has no sense of confidence. But the New Testament, when it uses the word “hope,” knows nothing of uncertainty. God wants us to “know what is the hope to which he has called you”. To know this hope is to know the assurance of a reality that you have not yet fully experienced. It is not something that is in doubt. It is something that has been promised by the God of truth. It is a secure hope. It is a hope that breeds confidence. It is a hope based on the knowledge that “those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”, and “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.” So, in the book of Ephesians, Paul is telling the early Christians that he is praying that they might actually know the hope to which God has called them in Christ Jesus. He doesn’t simply mean only an intellectual knowledge; he means knowing both intellectually and experientially. Hope is objective. It is a reality based on truth. And also, hope is subjective. The reality is something I take hold of with my heart. Biblical hope is what enables our hearts to remain calm when we think, “one day I will pass away.” Biblical hope means our hearts respond to the thoughts of our own death by saying, “Jesus is risen. My faith is there, in him. He’s my hope. He will not fail me.” This is probably most evident in our lives when we attend funerals, for they are moments where people come face to face with mortality – face to face with hope or hopelessness. There is a very good chance that at a funeral service you will hear the words, “Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.” How does that work? How can you have a certain hope: If it’s hope, it can’t be sure and certain; and if its’ sure and certain, it’s not hope. But luckily for us, the hope that God gives is different – it is a reality that is absolutely assured but that is not yet fully experienced. It is by having a real and living relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ that get to know him and know this hope he gives us. It is sometimes best said, “No God, no hope. Know God, know hope.”

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship	3 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	4	5 7 p.m. Easter Cantata No Confirmation Class	6 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday	7 11 a.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship	8 7 p.m. Easter Vigil Worship
9 7 a.m. Easter Worship 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship	10 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Office Closed	11 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	12 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	13 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	14 Pastors Day Off 3:30 p.m. Depart Youth Spring Re- treat Confirmation Okoboji ReCharge	15 Youth Spring Retreat Confirmation Okoboji ReCharge
16 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School Youth Group Spring Retreat Confirmation Okoboji Re- Charge	17 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	18	19 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Con- firmation Class	20 9a.m.-Bible Study 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing 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/Sunday School	24 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	25 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	26 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Con- firmation Class	27 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	28 Pastors Day Off	29
30 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School						

**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.