

# The Trinity Trumpet

## May 2023

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

**Pastor:**

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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*"I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, . . . For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. . . . Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:6 - 10*

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." Ephesians 2: 19 – 22*

*"... like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:2 - 5*

### Home Improvement

Finally, it is turning to Spring and those home and yard projects can begin. The ritual of "Spring Cleaning," sprucing up what has been let go in Winter, takes on many forms. From opening the windows for fresh air or pulling everything out and deep cleaning the nooks and crannies, to clearing the leftover lawn waste and planting new flowers. Farmers are chomping at the bit to dig and turn ground, as the sweet smell of fresh broken earth fills the air in anticipation of a harvest. People are getting ready to start a new construction project or working to add some room; Spring cleaning and projects certainly is a part of each life.

It should be of no surprise to us that God is in His Spring-cleaning mode as well, like always. The Springtime of the Church's year begins in Lent as we, in dark and cold, look again at our condition, summing up the clutter and noticing the leaks and needed repairs. Just as flowers break through the ground to show its radiance, Easter too bursts forth and begins to bloom, and with that bloom comes the fragrant beauty of Pentecost that is carried on the breeze and makes us stop and breath deep the beauty of God's work for us, and a desire to share it daily.

When it comes to those building projects - planning is essential. The opening line of Psalm 127, one of the Songs of Ascent comes to mind, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." We easily forget that God is in a never-ending construction time with us as He constantly seeks to call us closer and to build us, together and individually, into His temple for service in the world. Though we would all quickly agree with the statement of the psalmist, that building our selves just won't work unless God is the builder, in honesty we by our very nature fight God's reconstruction projects.

God's Easter bloom has broken out of the ground and is none other than His own Son, crucified and risen, having paid all cost and taken on all consequence for our sin; and it is He who sends that Holy Spirit to work to build us into His dwelling more and more with each passing year. We like to think we are done in faith and growth, and perhaps we allow God some tweaking of our lives, but faith is not just holding on to God, but trusting what He is doing in us because He never stops the construction project in you and me.

C.S. Lewis in his work *Mere Christianity*, talks of this very thing as he writes, "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

This Easter faith bids us to trust in the Lord with all of ourself (Deut 6:5) allowing God to work in us and giving us grace so we can assist others with forgiveness and compassion as God tirelessly works to make us His palace sending us to help others to come and see. After the projects are done, we sit back and like the Lord's seventh day - rest in the work around us saying, "Yep, that's what we were dreaming." But God's work will continue until we all come to rest in Him, and His Kingdom, forever.

Be strong and courageous as the Lord bangs around on your house, weather it is fixing a leak or a major renovation, don't try to pull His permits and block His work because He above all knows what His final project in us is to look like, who, where, and when it is to serve, and how extensive this is; even if it is a total renovation, relax in the Master Builder's hands. Don't settle for a cottage - but let Him make you into a palace. As Peter reminds us, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. . . . After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Pastor Matt

**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



Please join us on May 14th, as we celebrate our High School Graduating Seniors! We will be honoring them during our 9:30 a.m. service. Scholarships that were awarded from our Endowment and Memorial committees will also be announced during this time. There will be a light reception of coffee/cookies/bars to honor the Seniors and their families following the service, hosted by the church council in the fellowship hall. The entire congregation is encouraged to stay for the reception!



First Communion was held during the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6th. Congratulations to our first communicants! (pictured above) Cohen Griffen, Guy Scheffler, Hudson Harder, Rilon Hilgenberg, Jordyn Madden, Trevor Madden and Sage Brockhoff.



VBS will soon be upon us! Registration will open online on May 1st on our Facebook page. Completing registration early helps us greatly in our planning!

Registration will then close on May 22nd. We are in need of helper volunteers for that week as well! If you are available all of the days or any of the days, the help is greatly appreciated. I am also looking for help with clean up this year. It would consist of helping in the afternoon after the VBS day is over to get the fellowship hall picked up and ready for the next day. Please let Sue know if you are available to help in any way!

**Vacation Bible School is June 26th—29th!**



(Pictured above) Ashlee Peterson & daughter, Quinn, put together Easter baskets with lots of goodies! The baskets were given to the food pantry last month!

### 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



CHURCH  
BUSINESS

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
3/26/2023	120	13725.16
4/2/2023	208	13789.00
4/9 & 4/16	259, 107	10,666.00
4/24/2023	125	15292.42

## May/June Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, May 7th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	N/A
Communion	N/A
Scriptures & Prayers	Dora Rock
Acolytes	Emery Brockhoff
Support	Dean Krohn
	Sunday, May 14th, 7:00 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Dale Krohn, Dean & Joy Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Cristin Rold
Acolytes	Maeleigh Rold
Support	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, May 21st, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Kristen Krohn, Terry McCarthy, Dorothy Nelsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	Parker Krohn
Support	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, May 28th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Roger Nelson, Peggy Osbahr, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Sue Blakestad
Acolytes	Kadence Coolidge
Support	Ron Winter
	Sunday, June 4th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Neil Paulsen, Sue Paulsen, Greg Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Greg Petersen
Acolytes	Evan Harder
Support	Mike Krummel



**LaVerne Kock**— Mary Kay  
Hockabout, James Schnoor,  
Judy Leed, Maxine Sornsen,  
Roger Jacobsen, Kathleen

Kohorst, Lynn & Callie Gronberg, Gary  
Dunsdon, Ann Roof, Janiece Schroder

**Bob Brown**— Janiece Schroder, Jerry & Diane  
Stamp, Richard & Jan Holtz, Normalee  
Krohn, Duane & Kristi Nielsen, Judy Leed,  
Robin & James Rittenberger, Judy Ring



Our Sunday School Program is getting ready to wrap up for another school year. Please join us on May 21st as we celebrate our students!



## GENEROSITY'S RIPPLE EFFECT

Remember the days of “paying it forward” when you went to McDonald’s or another restaurant with a drive-through lane? You’d get to the window expecting to pay for your Big Mac, and the cashier would happily announce, “The guy in front of you already took care of your order.” What a feeling that was! Someone you didn’t even know paid for your lunch!

Then what did you do? The generosity you experienced became contagious! You wanted to get in on it, didn’t you? So, you paid for the person behind you in line, right? It was fun to see just how long that would go on — five cars, six cars — how long could we keep it up? Sometimes the cashier would tell you how many times it happened already and what number you were in that line of spontaneous giving.

**READ - 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 Offering to The Temple** In *1 Chronicles 29*, we hear how King David started his own line of spontaneous generosity. In this story David gave from his own private treasury to the temple of the Lord. He had already given a great offering of gifts in service to the temple as he was a generous man, but this was another gift entirely. He says to Israel, “The palace will not be for man but for the Lord God” (v. 1). In the ESV, “palace” is the word *bi-rah* which can also be translated as “temple.”

This offering, King David says, was given to the fullness of his power and strength. He gave as he was able to give, which, in his case, was significantly. We see that among the gifts given to the temple were gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx and precious stones, and marble. Then David encouraged others to give to the house of the Lord as well. Notice he doesn’t ask them to match his gift — surely that would have been impossible for almost all who heard his invitation — but he asked them to offer whatever they could, willingly and in service to the Lord. He even uses the word “consecrate” to show that this kind of free will giving is holy, set apart for the work of the Lord. As the leaders were moved they also made their offerings, and there was great joy.

The author of Chronicles reports: “Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly” (*1 Chronicles 29:9*).

David led the way by sharing his bounteous gifts and inviting others to join him in generosity. He wasn’t asking Israel to do something he was unwilling to do himself. Rather, he modeled joyful giving, and those who were leaders in the community followed the king’s example and gave freely and sacrificially. This story shows us how contagious giving can be. When we see someone we trust giving joyfully, not worrying about what they might be parting with but instead excited about what God is doing, we then see others giving in the same way. Generosity has a ripple effect. It is exciting! But most times we need to invite others to join us! We may be denying them the opportunity to share in our joy if we never mention what God is doing and how we can be a part of it.

**READ - 2 Corinthians 8:1-12 Encouragement to Give Generously** We are all familiar, no doubt, with Jesus’ observation of the widow in the temple who put into the offering her last two coins (*Luke 21:14*). Jesus makes the point that the poor widow gave more than everyone in the temple because she gave out of her poverty all that she possessed, and she gave it to God as an act of worship. That story is indelibly marked in the minds of all who love Jesus and are passionate about stewardship and generosity. That nameless widow is a hero of giving.

There is a story that is probably less well known than the widow’s mite, a story about a community which gave out of its poverty. Paul tells the story about the church in Macedonia in *2 Corinthians 8*. He remarks that this faith family was experiencing a “severe test of affliction” and that they were in a state of “extreme poverty.” Nonetheless, they gave an offering, a collection to be delivered to the saints in Jerusalem, not only according to what they could afford, but well beyond that! In fact, Paul says, they begged for the chance to give to the collection that would provide relief to brothers and sisters they had never met! Can you even imagine begging someone to give you the chance to give?!

All of this occurred because of the great joy the Macedonians had in the Lord. Their abundant joy caused them to be extremely generous. It is important to notice the order of things here: first, the Macedonians gave of themselves to the Lord. They gave their hearts and their lives to Christ, by the will of God. Second, they gave of themselves to Paul and his companions. Third, they gave overwhelmingly of their possessions in service to those who were suffering, though they themselves were suffering. This is the miracle of faith in our lives. We are transformed by the love of Christ which brings us great joy, and in that joy we are compelled to be generous which brings us even more joy.

As leaders and members of a local faith community, the Holy Spirit works to form us into generous people. As we grow in faith and generosity, we set a powerful example to those around us that there is great joy in giving. As our congregation becomes more generous and more trusting in God’s ability to provide, our mission and ministry expand beyond our imagination. The generosity we express creates generosity amongst those for whom we act generously. A ripple effect of giving is started. People are moved to joy. For those still on the sidelines of ministry and mission, our generosity connects people and creates new relational bonds which strengthens the body of Christ as they step out in faith to engage a cause greater than themselves.

...continued on next page

**Engage**

1. How often do we think that the church (or in David’s case, the temple) is something that belongs to us? Why is this misguided thinking? To whom does it actually belong?
2. Do you find it easy or difficult to invite others to give the way you give?
3. When has someone asked you to be a part of giving to something important? How did you respond to their invitation?
4. In what ways have you experienced giving as a great joy? How has giving increased your ministry?
5. How is giving a faith practice that develops over time?
6. How is generosity a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
7. Why do we have to lead by example when it comes to generosity?
8. When there are successes in giving (time, talents or treasure), how is this celebrated by the whole congregation?

**Prayer** - *Generous God, teach us to be joyful givers, recognizing that all we have comes from you in the first place. May we use the gifts you’ve graciously given us for the sake of the world you love, so that all would come to know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



May 01	Ayden	McCarthy
May 02	Vance	Pattee
May 02	Kaeden	Rold
May 03	Eliza	Luth
May 05	Kendra	Hansen
May 05	Gianna	Rock
May 05	Carolyn	Spencer
May 05	Dale	Tech
May 06	Emery	Brockhoff
May 06	Jacob	Kelly
May 09	Jagger	Johnson
May 09	Jennifer	Plumb
May 10	Becky	Jacobsen
May 10	Mabel	Jacobsen
May 12	Adalin	Lamp
May 12	Gary	Pattee
May 13	Taryn	Constable
May 13	Linda	Schumacher
May 14	Corey	Madden
May 16	Erin	Carroll
May 16	Claira	Yates
May 17	Kaden	Jorgensen
May 19	Kevin	Hansen

May 19	Wayne	Krohn
May 19	Michael	Sampson
May 19	Trey	Starr
May 21	Michael	Hansen
May 21	Taylen	Hansen
May 21	Steven	Jorgensen
May 23	Lexy	Knop
May 24	Devin	Hoepner
May 25	Teresa	Hoepner
May 25	Wendy	Jorgensen
May 25	Nolan	Krohn
May 25	Ron	Winter
May 26	Callie	Gronborg
May 26	Lori	Sampson
May 26	Marley	VanCleave
May 27	Alan	Blakestad
May 27	Cassidy	Feigenbutz
May 27	Chad	Hansen
May 27	Regina	Hansen
May 28	Ashtyn	Danker
May 28	Jake	Olesen
May 29	Kaleah	Guyer
May 31	Verdean	Berry

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes- April 13, 2023

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order on April 13, 2023 with Dale Krohn, Eric Sieh, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Arla Pickham, Ryan Winter, Nicole Krohn, and Beth Buboltz were in attendance. A motion was made by Dale Krohn to approve the agenda with Beth Buboltz to second the motion, motion carried.

The March council meeting minutes were read and approved. Dale Krohn made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Eric Sieh, 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 Ryan Winter, motion carried.

Nicole Krohn shared April 2nd is National PB & J Day. On Sunday, April 2nd the congregation were given the task of donating as many jars of peanut butter and/or jelly throughout the month of April. The collection will be given to the local food pantries. Dale Krohn gave an update on the water leakage on the north side of the church. Beth Buboltz gave an update on Sunday school. End of the school year program will be held on May 21, 2023. More information will be shared next month regarding VBS status.

Our old business were the reflections regarding the Lenten services that were held at Trinity. Our new business consisted of planning the celebration of high school graduates. We will recognize each senior during the church service in May. The Church council will provide bars and cookies for the reception. The council will continue to read a chapter each month from the book titled *Letters to the Church and engage in a discussion related to the chosen chapter. Each month one council member will lead the council in a devotion and bible study. Amber Johnson volunteered to lead the devotion for the month of May.*

Dale Krohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth Buboltz, motion carried. The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary



**Sunday, May 7th**—Our last meeting date of the school year! Worship, axe throwing, and archery tag in

Omaha. Depart at 8 a.m., return by 1:30 p.m.

RSVP's and Drivers needed please!

**VBS, June 26th –29th**– Helpers needed!



Youth group took over the Minden Bowling Alley on Friday, April 7th! 24 youth attended that morning. We bowled, we ate, and we discussed what say "Yes!" to God could look like!

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	2	3 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	4 9a.m.-Bible Study 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	5 Pastors Day Off	6
7 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship TBA Youth Group	8 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	9 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	10 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Con- firmation Class	11 9 a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	12 Pastors Day Off	13
14 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Graduation Sunday	15 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	16	17 5:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	18 9a.m.-Bible Study 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	19 Pastors Day Off	20
21 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School Program	22 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	23 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	24	25 9a.m.-Bible Study 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	26 Pastors Day Off	27
28 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Pentecost Confirmation Service	29 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir	30	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.**