

The Trinity Trumpet

September 2023

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*“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given you.” **Romans 12:3***

*“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath. **But** because of His great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!” **Ephesians 2: 1 - 5***

The Insidious Evil of Evil

I thought we would spend the end of the year seeking to understand what Christmas means to us, so that upon the arrival of that celebration we might have a fuller, richer view of the event and perhaps put things in proper perspective. There’s no better place to start than evil or sin. An article I was reading began with an often-asked question, “If God created us, and we’re born with original sin, didn’t God make evil?” Good question, bad understanding of evil.

We term the events that begin in Genesis 3 and throughout the rest of the Bible, The Fall for a reason. It implies that we have dropped down from where we were; because evil is not something that is added to us, it is not something created. Evil is a corruption. The condition of original sin that our parents issued into God’s creation took something away from its condition. Creation, you, and me, we are lacking something. We aren’t what we used to be, are supposed to be by nature. We all know it, but will we admit it to ourselves? And right there is the proof of the insidious nature of evil.

I have told people that we mistakenly refer to ourselves as human, but this is anything but true, it is part of the evil lie. We are shadows of human, not recognizable when stood up next to what human looks like, the incarnate Jesus Christ in His fully human nature. Jesus is what human is meant to be, if you want to see what a human could do and be all the time, look at Jesus. Rather, from the moment “we” reached out to take control not trusting God’s way shame, hiding, fear, murder, greed, seeking of power, the unfathomable extend to evil took root and took on corrupted flesh. Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, the builders of Babel, Absalom, Herod, Pilate, Paul, Peter, you, me “we are all covered up in it,” as Denzel’s character stated in the movie *Glory*. All except one – who waited in the wings, till the appointed time, but still working, and sustaining His beloved creation, even though it deserved and now owned, absolute destruction.

The insidiousness of evil is that by definition, it is something “*proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects.*” Like rust on that beautiful car, you do everything you can to avoid it, stop it, even to cover it up; but in the end, it will be completely and utterly be consumed by it. Even more, it is so subtle that evil convinces us that it we are just fine, we even begin to see evil as good so that it grows and spreads; always leaving us hungering and thirsting for more. Just as Capt. Balbosa stated about the affects of take a cursed “treasure” in the first *Pirates* movie, “*...the more we gave them away, the more we came to realize. The drink would not satisfy, food turned to ash in our mouths, nor the company in the world would harm or slake our lust. We are cursed men... Compelled by greed, we were.*”

It is why capitalism, and a capitalistic attitude thrives: we are never full, we want something new, we want something better. As Pr. Wade Johnson states, “*there never is enough so [in the wake of evil] we destroy marriages, generations, churches, schools, communities, nations; demanding of them what they can’t give as we place impossible expectations on them only to find out that our idols have cracks and problems of their own.*”

You know it, I know it – It was never meant to be like this. You come to see it at the bed of a loved one in the hospital. In your own hospital bed. As your marriage crumbles, jobs disappear, addiction and despair grow...it wasn’t meant to be like this. Just as Jesus weeps at Lazarus’ grave, He too acknowledges this is not what was supposed to happen.

...continued

Church Council

President: Kathy Soetmelk
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Property Management: Dale Krohn
(402) 880-5072

Secretary: Amber Johnson
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Christian Education: Beth Buboltz
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Worship: Eric Sieh
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Finance: Ryan Winter
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Outreach: Arla Pickham
(712) 343-6764

Stewardship: Nicole Krohn
(712) 309-2318

Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen
(402) 490-2423

Trinity Lutheran Church



Focusing on the **CROSS**.
Following Christ's **LOVE**.

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...We know from scripture the creation was called good. Very good with people in it. But the minute they stopped taking God at His Word...evil got its foot hold, and you can't turn back. As soon as that fruit looked better than God's Word, evil took humanities greatest gift, being in the *imago Dei*, and left us with a shell. As

Jesus declares to people that they were, "empty tombs, whitewashed graves." So, here we are, and so we don't and can't talk ourselves out of this Paul writes in many ways and places, that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" or as Isaiah put it, "All we like sheep have gone astray."

Dr. Luther in his writings about the bound will (*that we do not have free will in matters of salvations but are lost and condemned creatures, desperately in need of God's help*) gets pushed on still today as people try to place the ability to be good, be different, be all we are meant to be, into our hands say it is up to our choices (free will), yet this is another plain example of the insidious nature of evil, telling us, like Oprah, "Your not bad. There is no sin. You can do the 'right' things all by yourself." And because of evil we desperately want it to be this way. But in the Smallcald articles, in our Book of Concord, Luther states from scripture's revelation, "*This inherited sin has caused such a deep, evil corruption of nature that reason does not comprehend it; rather it must be believed on the basis of the revelation of the Scripture.*" By our selves we will minimize it to the maximum, human reason cannot come to this, but like this past Sunday's when Jesus replies to Peter's answer to His question, "*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven.*"

Over and over, we need to be reminded that original sin isn't something added to us that we can get rid of on our own, but that we have been conceived in (**Psalm 51:1**) and born without something we need desperately. Jesus tell us while He's speaking to the Pharisees that we can't find the way to fix ourselves, correct this mess, fill in the blanks by ourselves by even reading and studying the scriptures when He says, "*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*" Again, Pr Johnson puts it this way, "It's a terrible thing to go to hell knowing all the names of all the kings of Israel."

Still – we know somethings not right. This is not how it is supposed to be. We are missing something, but we need a preacher to come from the outside and point us to the right place. Vanity, vanity, all is vanity what has a man profited if he gains the whole world and yet loose his soul. **BUT...GOD** Pastor Matt

The choir will be holding their annual rummage sale in September. Please consider saving and donating some items . The sale will be held on September 29th and 30th. Items can be dropped off at the church on September 24th, but please, no sooner than that. Your items are greatly appreciated and important for a successful sale!



Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 10th during the 9:30 a.m. worship service!

We sent 47 children within our community back to school with supplies. Thank you, Trinity, for your ongoing support of this ministry!



September/October Volunteer Schedule

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



CHURCH
BUSINESS

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
07/23	101	6,201.25
07/30	75	3,189.00
08/06	101	6,675.00
08/13	96	—
08/20	92	6,421.37



Leo & LaVonne Bargaquist—
 Margaret Berg, Ronny & Charita
 Van Wey



The last of the summer pot-lucks will be held on September 3rd, following the worship service. Please bring a dish of food to share and come enjoy the fellowship!

JUST A SHORT NOTE THAT SHOEBOX SEASON IS GOING TO BE UPON US VERY SOON. WANT TO GO ALL OUT THIS YEAR. RECORD IS 858 SHOE BOXES. WE CAN DO IT BUT IS GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE SOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND THINKING TO GET THERE. SOMEONE ASKED A CHILD SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD: WHO IS JESUS? THEIR ANSWER WAS I DO NOT KNOW HIM. WHO IS JESUS? WITH SHOEBOXES THEY CAN LEARN WHO HE IS. CAN YOU HELP? WILL YOU HELP? THESE CHILDREN NEED US. LET'S GO FOR IT. I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE TO LISTEN TO MATTHEW WEST'S SONG MIRACLE TIME. WITH GOD'S HELP WE CAN DO A MIRACLE FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD. THANKS, GARY SOETMELK

	Sunday, September 3rd, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Kathy Soetmelk, Judy Williams, Ron Winter
Scriptures & Prayers	N/A
Acolytes	Jordyn Madden
Support	Dale Krohn
	Sunday, September 10th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Becky Bahnfleth, Reva Bylund, Jerry Conroy
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	Katie Johnson
Support	Ron Winter
	Sunday, September 17th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Jim & Karen Hansen, Jeff Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Greg Petersen
Acolytes	Kavin Rold
Support	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, September 24th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Amy & Robb Jacobsen, Rhonda Holst
Scriptures & Prayers	Roger Nelson
Acolytes	Jersey Hilgenberg
Support	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, October 1st, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Sue Paulsen & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Dean & Joy Krohn, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Travis Lane
Acolytes	Kaeden Lane
Support	Dean Krohn



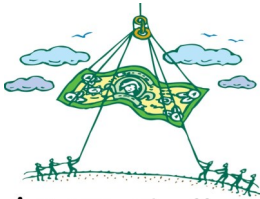


Indescribable Joy of Giving - Wrap Up - Nicole Krohn Reflections of a Hungry Steward

I can recall sitting in my first council meeting last year, and thinking, “What have I gotten myself into?” I had been interested in becoming more involved with our church for quite some time and thought once my kids were a little older, I would find a manageable way to participate. With this thought in mind, when I was approached to join church council, I had some initial hesitation. The timing and role I was being asked to serve in were not my first choice. I had really been thinking something more along the lines of the choir or a regular reader on Sundays sounded nice. As much as I wanted to find an excuse for why it was not the right time or just not a good fit for me, I could not ignore God’s call to serve (1 Peter 4:10).

As we have moved through this study on Stewardship, I have found a recurrent equation catching my attention – that by giving with compassion, humility, grace, and a generous spirit, we overflow with joy and find we have an abundance we could not have planned for. In the 4th chapter, we examined the ripple effect generosity has – “the generosity we express creates generosity amongst those for whom we act generously.” Following the peanut butter and jelly drive in April, I was struck by something a member of our congregation said to me. This person stated enthusiastically, “This was great! What have you got planned next for us?” This was profound to me, seeing the fruit of our combined efforts and hearing that we were eager for more.

When I entered my current role, I had little idea what stewardship meant or how my role factored into the work of the church. Over time I have come to understand how vitally important stewardship is, both inside and outside of the physical church, and seen the impact it can have. I have learned that defining what it means to serve as a steward may look different to each of us. And isn’t that a fantastic thing? There are a variety of ways in which we are called as stewards - our time, our talents and our treasures are individually unique and seem to have no end. Think of the possibilities we have as a congregation when each person acts as a steward of the church. What kind of impact we could make in our local community and beyond if we all responded with an enthusiastic “What do you have planned next for me?” when we are next called to steward.



\$5.00 Challenge

The \$5.00 Challenge

Recently I presented to the congregation an early way to start connecting ourselves to the ministry of Tanzania that I will be presenting to us. The challenge is “easy” and the learning is great, and the outcome of giving will be life changing and saving for us and for others on the other side of the world.

The challenge is actually, meant to be an annual thing begun in January, but we are going to work from now through the end of December. Here it is: **get a box or container and every time you get a \$5.00 bill back from change – don’t spend it put it in the box. Every time you get a \$5.00 bill.** This will be a personal struggle to grow and follow, but also a way to see God’s blessings in abundance as you grow to learn that you always, still have enough.

At the end of the year, we will collect them and put them together with others from the partnership congregations as well – and send it all to Tanzania – Msaranga Mandaka Lutheran Parish, to feed and get basics to those most in need. Let’s see how far and how big TLC’s love and ability to affect the world can reach. There is no age limit, there is no anticipated dollar amount – only what comes from those who have a vision beyond our selves and walls to the farthest corners of God’s kingdom. Please let Pastor know if you are going to participate in this event for stewardship.

Pastor Matt



YOUTH GROUP

September 01	Larry	Chapman
September 01	Lu Ann	Jensen
September 03	Lane	Thornton
September 04	Benjamin	Kramer
September 04	Jaycie	Schueman
September 04	Dean	Willett
September 05	Kristyn	Nielsen
September 05	Robert	Scott
September 07	William	Bylund
September 10	Sage	Brockhoff
September 10	Janet	Holtz
September 10	Kyle	Sternberg
September 10	Kami	Willett
September 11	Ella	Hansen
September 11	Shelby	McCreedy
September 11	Karen	Pope
September 11	Gayle	Stuart
September 12	Kerry	Danker
September 14	Katherine	Collins
September 14	Katie	Johnson
September 14	Robert Jr.	Jorgensen
September 15	Deanna	Whyte
September 16	Stephanie	Harder
September 17	Joy	Best
September 17	Evelyn	Soetmelk
September 20	Marilyn	Chapman
September 22	Corbin	Pieken
September 23	Karen	Rodriguez
September 24	Bobbi	Lund
September 25	Blake	Holst
September 25	Joy	Krohn
September 25	Trevor	Madden
September 26	Krislyn	McCarthy
September 26	Jason	Rold
September 28	Darren	Krohn
September 29	James	Best

LET'S GOOOOO! The new semester for gatherings of faith, friends, food and fun is here. You'll notice a few changes this coming semester. We are going to incorporate a teen study called "Experiencing God" into Wednesday night meetings. 7th and 8th graders: we'll miss you on those nights- but we'll all join back up for our other dates!

Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, Sept. 6th– 6:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15th, "Friday Night be the Lights" Following the Homecoming Football Game

Wednesday, Sept. 27th, 6:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4th, 6:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 15th-, Time to be Announced.
Worship Abroad & Brunch**

Wednesday, Oct. 25th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 8th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 12th, 11 a.m.– 1 p.m.–Christmas
Child Shoebox Packing**

Wednesday, Nov. 29th, 6 p.m.—7p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10th, TBA

*Parents: We will again be asking for donations for our "Friday Night Be the Lights" event that we invite and host for the entire AHSTW Middle School and High School. Please watch your email in the upcoming weeks for more information. TLC: If you'd like to donate your time, talents or resources to this event, please let Sue know! Let's be encouraged as we work to plant seeds of faith throughout our community. *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."* 1 Corinthians 3:6

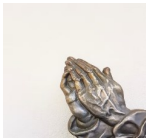
TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



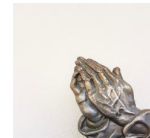
Welcome to “Trinity’s Five & Dime”. This section is dedicated to stories, experiences, and devotionals where together we can share God’s spiritual candy. Glory be to God for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, experiences, and scripture regarding our everyday lives. Praise and glory to God 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

...Peter says that our inheritance is unfading. It’s never going to dissipate or disappoint. It will be there exactly as God has planned, ready to be entered into on the day when God, who is shielding you on your journey, gets you to that destination.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 10)**



So, what is so good about this inheritance? Why is it so wonderful that it can bring us joy and perseverance on the journey towards it, even though in 1 Peter 1:6 we read; “So be truly glad. There is a wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while.” The answer is that the inheritance is so glorious, and the riches are so glittering, because this inheritance is God: God himself. The riches we stand to inherit are what Paul calls in Ephesians 3:16 “the riches of his glory.” So, what is the glory of God? The glory of God is the total of his being. The glory of God is the sum and substance of all that he has revealed to us of himself, which our limited minds are able to glimpse and that our perfected minds will one day grasp. For example, God’s glory is his might, his self-existence, his majesty, his justice, his truth, his righteousness, his holiness, his purity, and we could come up with even more of what God is. But regardless of how we put it, it is the perfection that we see manifested in the human character of Jesus – the Word, who John says, became flesh and dwelt among us so that we might say as it does in John 1:14, “We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”. And one day, we are going to see that glory face to face, and we are going to enjoy it as we praise him for all eternity. There is a good chance that there has been someone in your life with whom you just wanted to spend all your time with. You could not conceive of growing bored of their company, and when you weren’t around them, everything seemed to be a little less colorful because of their absence. Now, focus on the thought that God is infinitely perfect. There will always be more of him and more about him to appreciate and to enjoy, and so his company is unimaginably perfect. And He is our inheritance. The greatest gift of God to his people is God himself. The greatest joy of heaven is God. That is our inheritance, which we are moving towards today. And Paul prays that we would know it and enjoy the prospect of it.

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastors Day Off	2
3 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship Potluck following worship	4 Labor Day— Office Closed	5	6 5 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Youth Group	7 2 p.m.— TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	8 Pastors Day Off	9
10 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School	11	12 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	13 5 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	14 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m.-Council Meeting	15 Pastors Day Off “Friday Night be the Lights” Youth Group Event	16
17 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School	18 Pastor Matt at Retreat	19	20 No Confirmation Class	21 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	22 Pastors Day Off	23
24 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School Rummage Sale Set-Up	25 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship Rummage Sale Set-Up	26 10 a.m.-Allen Place Worship Rummage Sale Set-Up	27 5 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Rummage Sale Set-Up	28 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry Rummage Sale Set-Up	29 Pastors Day Off 8 a.m.— 8 p.m. Rummage Sale	30 8 a.m.— 11 a.m. Rummage Sale

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September
2023

Trinity Lutheran Church

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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 Service
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated during worship.**