

# The Trinity Trumpet

October 2023

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

Pastor:

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The LORD  
**YOUR GOD**  
has  
**CHOSEN**  
**YOU**  
to be a people for his  
treasured possession.  
DEUTERONOMY 7:6, ESV

*“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but **each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” **James 1: 13 - 17***

*“To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.*

*It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” **Genesis 3: 17***

## The SELF-Inflicted Wound of Suffering

Last month, I set us on a course of seeking to understand Christmas in a far deeper and richer way, as we ponder the value of the incarnation (God’s taking on human flesh with its corrupt and rotting nature) and the profound gift of God’s confirmed love for a fallen humanity. We considered how slow and dedicated Evil is that makes it all-the-more “evil,” and something to constantly to be called to our attention as we go, because it convinces us that we are not what scripture itself declares we are – ALL sheep gone astray, deserving the death and separation of God for all eternity.

As I have pondered this and November’s letters, I began a detailed reading from the Genesis, because as Julie Andrew’s character Maria declared, “Let’s start at the very beginning, it’s a very good place to start. When you read you begin with” Genesis and a GOOD and even Very GOOD creation with God’s crowing creation, mankind, set into the midst of the garden. Then comes chapter 3. We see God has and only can make Good. THAT’S IT. And yet just as Light can only be defined against Dark, so with Good, evil and darkness lay in the wings.

I had never caught it before, because just like everyone, we get the idea in “over known texts” of scripture that we understand what is going on, and then, in the insidious nature of evil, we simplify, read over, cut off, or assume (and you know what that means) that we have this scripture thing down pat. Buzzer sound inserted here. In fact, I always lead into study of the Bible with the reminder of 2 things: first, we should always assume that the last time we read it we could have been wrong, and second, that we should always read as if we have never read before so that we carefully pay attention to each word.

In the account of the fall, I have always taken it that Adam, Eve, and the “serpent” made a mess and, in response and revenge, God cursed them and the world as a punishment. But that’s not what it says. Look again at the above quote from Genesis. Look at **Genesis 3: 14 – 15**. In fact, God does curse the serpent, and declares that it has become more cursed than the rest of creation; yet in the very next line God declares a promise of healing what the serpents lies have created, with the promise of an offspring who would crush his head, and the worst that he could do was bite His heal.

But to Adam, and Eve, God declares “because they have listened to other voices” than God’s, they unleashed exactly what He had warned them would come from choosing to go in a way other than His. The thing they have opened the door to and allowed run free unchecked is the chaos that God had put into order in creation. They released death into the creation, and all the different ways that death makes itself known. It is quite simply a self-inflicted wound. James declares it quite poignantly that each person still bears in themselves the evil desires and the ability to be enticed away from God’s way by simply listening to another voice, their own fallen one, rather than God’s voice of truth.

...continued

### **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  
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**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

## Trinity Lutheran Church



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

301 N. Chestnut St. AVOCA, IA  
712-343-2518

It is fascinating how easily we get swayed and led away from recognizing our own contribution in this affair, and how deep culture's influence is and the world's desire to destroy. If old enough, you might remember the one line that has fed Christians and non-Christians to this day to think they are not responsible for the mess in which we

exist. (*Take no responsibility or accountability*) The line came from Flip Wilson's character Geraldine. The quote, "**The Devil MADE me do it.**" Not according to James, and the rest of scripture. In fact, the only thing, as in Genesis 3, that Satan can do is issue lies and wave carrots before our noses. Our inborn hearts of evil and selfishness does the rest, and it leads to where? Death! No wonder why Jesus calls him a deceiver and the Father of lies.

God knows from the moment He walks back into the garden, if not before, that something has changed. Adam and Eve aren't out in the open and exposed to His gaze that admired their beauty as His marvelous creation. Instead, they were hiding and had made covers of leaves (*which will dry out and crumble and need to be made again*) and they more than anything were now afraid of God's voice rather than desiring to hear all He had to say.

The corruption continues still today as we play the blame game when exposed or flat out deny (*like an addict*) that we don't have any problems somehow believing that we stand before God proudly because we have nothing to hide. Yet, people still hide, they ignore God's Word, we try to cover ourselves with cheap faltering covers that cannot help but crumble before the truth, and we know it. That pain inflicted on others because of your feelings, that failing that exposes you when it comes to light, that short fuse, that gossipy nature, that mumbling inner hatred of others, that despising and looking down on others because they don't measure up – all self-inflicted wounds; and together we all continue to create suffering for ourselves, and in our suffering, we inflict it on others. Hurt people hurt people.

Does it seem that the suffering, depression, struggles, fears and addictions seem to be getting stronger and more pronounced in every passing day? Paul describes it as a know war going on within himself (his members) and asks where will relief come from? **BUT...GOD**

Pastor Matt



Here we are. It's time for shoeboxes. Are we ready? Are you ready? Yes. Can we do 500 shoeboxes from just Trinity Lutheran Church itself. We can with God's blessing and some ingenuity. I am going to be asking some people to do some special things for me. I pray you will be willing. Remember the shoeboxes you pack are the seeds that grow and multiply as children and communities around the world are changed by the love and gospel given in the shoeboxes. Remember that the shoeboxes that are packed out of love are the only gifts many of these children will ever receive. They need school supplies and clothes and shoes or sandals and a toy. Let's make this year the best ever.

Thanks, Gary Soetmelk

## WE CAN DO IT.

# October/November 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
08/27	106	2275.00
09/03	98	2700.00
09/10	148	3705.00
09/17	181	3700.00
09/24	170	3497.00



**Leo & Lavonne Bargaquist**– Karen Pope, Bargaquist Family

**Bob Jorgensen**–Richard & Jan Holtz, Betty Oehlertz, Sue & Alan

Blakestad, Karen Pope, Dolores Harder

**Carolyn Spencer**–Sue & Alan Blakestad, Peggy & Leroy Osbahr, Dolores Harder

**Laura Ann Allen**– Callie & Lynne Gronberg

## SAVE THE DATES

TLC Aebleskiver & Sausage Dinner –

Thursday, November 16th!

Salem Lutheran Homes Annual Bazaar—

Tuesday, October 17th.

Please consider donating items as well as shopping the sale.

	<b>Sunday, October 1st, 9:30 a.m.</b>
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
	<b>Sunday, October 8th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Sue Paulsen & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Kristen Krohn, Parker Krohn, Terry McCarthy
Scriptures & Prayers	Neil Paulsen
Acolytes	Laird Buboltz
Support	Greg Petersen
	<b>Sunday, October 15th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Sue Paulsen & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Dorothy Nelsen, Roger Nelson, Leslie
Scriptures & Prayers	Amanda Holst
Acolytes	Kadence Coolidge
Support	Ron Winter
	<b>Sunday, October 22nd, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Sue Paulsen & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Evan Harder & Sue Blakestad
Acolytes	Jacob Collins
Support	Gary Soetmelk
	<b>Sunday, October 29th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Sue Paulsen & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Greg & Marge Petersen, Dora Rock
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Dierking
Acolytes	Jersey Hilgenberg
Support	Shela Jacobsen
	<b>Sunday, November 5th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Becky Bahnfleth & Reva Bylund
Communion	Donna Rold, Eric Sieh, Gary Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers	Arla Pickham
Acolytes	
Support	Mike Krummel

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## Upcoming Dates:

**Wednesday, Oct. 4th, 6:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m.-Bible Study**

**Sunday, Oct. 15th-, TBA. Worship Abroad & Brunch**

**Wednesday, Oct. 25th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m.– Bible Study**

Parents– We will need drivers for our Sunday, October 15th date.

Please let Sue know if you are available to help that day!



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

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



We had a great time at our “Friday Night be the Lights” event after the homecoming football game.

We had 114 teens in attendance! They

were served chicken strips, cheeseballs, fries and desserts. Raffle prizes were given away and we

had a guest speaker, Michael Erlemeier, who spoke on some aspects of what it takes to be a light for Christ. Many, many thanks to all who donated their time, talents and/or resources to this event! The kids all really enjoy this fellowship and outreach!

We also had our first bible study meeting with 19 high school aged students in attendance.

Please pray for our group as we learn and grow in our experiences with God.



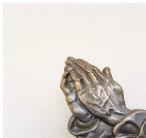
## TRINITY'S FIVE & DIME



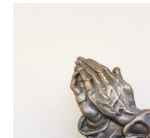
Welcome to "Trinity's Five & Dime". This section is dedicated to stories, experiences, and devotionals where together we can share God's spiritual candy. Glory be to God for the opportunity to share with you some thoughts, experiences, and scripture regarding our everyday lives. Praise and glory to God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

...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...



"Lord, teach us to pray" Luke 11:1 **(Part 11)**



We can have as many how-to books as we want. We can try as many practical solutions as we can find. But to start there is to start from the wrong end. It is to God, that we go to first, and out of the abundance of his provision and in anticipation of that wonderful day when we are living in his full, unshielded glory, all the other things fall into line. The Apostle Paul writes that he is praying that we would be animated and excited each day by the prospect of your glorious inheritance. But that's not all. Our inheritance is God. And God's inheritance is us. As our oldest Grandson Tyson used to say when he was about 4 or 5 years old, "I bet you didn't see that coming!" We are God's inheritance!! Some biblical experts are divided over the nature of the word "inheritance" as found in Ephesians 1:18. Here it reads, "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance." Now you can read that as regarding the inheritance which is ours – God. And you can also read it as speaking of the inheritance which God has prepared for himself – us. The notions are two sides of one coin. They're not mutually exclusive. God has an inheritance in his people, and we have an inheritance in Christ. From this side of the coin, Paul is referring to the fact that the Father has promised the Son an inheritance – and that inheritance is made up of all who are in Christ. In Malachi, the prophet put it this way in chapter 3, verses 16 and 17: "Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. 'They will be my people,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 'On the day when I act in judgement, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child.'" And in Psalm 33:12 we read this: "What a joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance." So, in this Old Testament picture we have God seeing in his people and inheritance that is his.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Agenda

August 17, 2023

Members Present: Kathy Soetmelk, Dale Krohn, Shela Jacobsen, Sue Paulsen, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Beth Buboltz, Eric Sieh, and Ryan Winter.

Call to Order: Kathy called the meeting to order.

Devotion: Nicole Krohn led this month's devotion.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Dale Krohn, seconded by Ryan Winter.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Correction was made and should read: Joy and Dean Krohn hosted counselors as well as provided pizza. Minutes were corrected and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Nicole Krohn, seconded by Beth Buboltz.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made to approve the report by Amber Johnson, seconded by Nicole Krohn.

Council members reports:

Kathy Soetmelk- President: Thanks to Nicole and her husband Darren, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt and Becky Bahnfleth who all attended the NALC conference as representatives of our church. After the code had been changed the doors seem to be staying locked. Looking for members of our congregation to attend the Iowa District Conference on September 16th.

Director of Ministry of Daily Life- Sue Paulsen: Working on the youth group schedule of dates and activities for the Fall/Winter semester. Also, beginning the process to organize our "Friday Nights be the Lights" event.

"Thank you for sending me to the Youth Formation Days of the NALC convocation. We heard from one speaker who would be excellent for our youth and youth of our community to hear from. Hopeful to possibly coordinate a visit from her to include our school". We had 52 kids registered for our Back to School Night.

Nicole Krohn- Stewardship: The survey has concluded, and the compiled results will be discussed at our August council meeting. Special Assignment: August is underway, collecting needed items for New Visions Homeless Services, and that will continue through the end of August.

Dale Krohn-Property Management: Feekes is installing the air conditioner to the Narthex. Parking lot lines will be repainted before fall season. Tuck pointing will be contacted again to see when they will be coming to complete the project.

Eric Sieh- Worship: Started to assign/find volunteers to be head committees for such groups (greeters, communion/offering, support, scripture/prayers, music/choir, decorating)

Ryan Winter- Finance: No new report.

Beth Buboltz- Education: Formalizing the schedule for Sunday School. Looking for volunteers to help with teaching, helpers, and treats. Sunday school will be the same as last year.

Old Business: Continued discussion about having two worship services.

New Business: Confirmation class will begin September 6th. Meals will start at 5:00-5:30 with class time from 5:30-7:30. Updating the confirmation classroom. Would like to remove the two shelves on the wall to create more space in the room. Ordered some new tables for the room for better student interaction. Nicole Krohn shared her experience at the NALC from Oklahoma City. The experience was insightful. The conference will happen again in two years in Pittsburgh, PA. Sue Paulsen talked about the Backpack Food Program for families in the area. A motion was made by Beth Buboltz to fund the food for this program. Seconded by Ryan Winter. Lauren Guyer is Looking for additional volunteers to help fill the bags and deliver them to the school. Wishing Pastor Matt's one year anniversary in church on Sunday, August 20th.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Nicole Krohn. Next meeting will be held on September 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary



# October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School	2	3	4 5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Youth Group	5 2 p.m.— TLCW Meeting 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Wor- ship	6 Pastors Day Off	7
8 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School  Pastor Appreciation Day!	9	10 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Chris- tian Service	11 5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	12 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m.-Council Meeting	13 Pastors Day Off	14
15 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School TBA-Youth Group Wor- ship Abroad	16 9:30 a.m. Salem Lu- theran Nursing Home Worship	17	18 5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	19 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship	20 Pastors Day Off	21
22 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School	23	24 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Chris- tian Service 10 a.m.-Allen Place Worship	25 6 p.m.– 7 p.m. Youth Group	26 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	27 Pastors Day Off	28
29 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School	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 Service  
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion celebrated during worship.**