

# The Trinity Trumpet

## February 2024

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

**Pastor:**

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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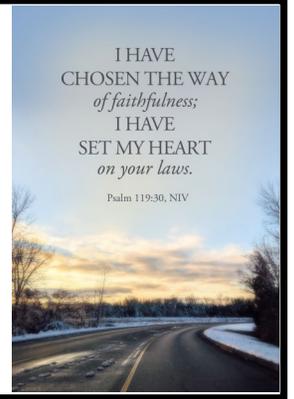
**Sue Paulsen**

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I HAVE  
CHOSEN THE WAY  
of faithfulness;  
I HAVE  
SET MY HEART  
on your laws.

Palm 119:30, NIV



*"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." 1 Corinthians 3: 6 - 7*

*"God gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" Ephesians 4:11 - 15*

*"...let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, . . . For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned." Hebrews 6:1a, 7 - 8*

### **Jesus-synthesis**

The intricacies of creation are evident and when pondered them, beyond our belief and comprehension. The singularity of your fingerprint, in ALL time and history, also your retinal scan, your voice pattern; these intricacies make you uniquely you. The same is true of the Church, distinctly intended to be something peculiar through baptism, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Every plant has this uniqueness also as cells complete all the intricate work, in their own uniqueness, to make it move, produce, grow, heal, remain, until all the energy is used and the parts falter, or tragedy besets them; what then is left, is death. The process of life doesn't just happen and can easily be hindered by denial of needed basics – light, water, rich soil in which to root and grow. As the initial work of the protective seed degrades when planted it adds to the fertilization of the now budding plant. Soon it breaks from the darkness of the earth, and a process of photosynthesis takes over to grow, sustain, and flourish the plant. Part of that flourishing is physical growth which is internal; part of it is fruit bearing and addition to the world which is external growth.

Along the way interruption, or diminishing, of the needed elements of growth happen to the plant from external sources; or there is a tragic break or crushing that comes from a careless shoe or falling branch. Death becomes a great possibility, but life, with care and tending, can set in again for the plant. This is the work of Lent.

If we consider the great deal of scripture, and God's referencing what is faith and life, it so often comes back to agriculture and the plant, the seed, and how it grows and what it bears, or at least is meant to bear. We must ask ourselves some questions then, standing before God's call and blessings of life and salvation through Christ: What is His call and claim on our life, which is no less significant that a parent's deepest desire for the well being and success of their child? How can what He knows and provides for us to flourish, be hindered, from the outside and within? Perhaps worst of all, I myself am hindering the true growth and bearing of fruit that God desires and has made possible in me, by water and spirit. Because of external conditions or worse off, self-set boundaries and limitations inflicted by our own self, I cut myself off from the basic needs of life in faith – worship, study, prayer, giving, and bearing of fruit through service and the taking part in producing fruit by invitation and conversation with other leading to a life of faith, more than just, "hey you should come to church, it's a really nice place?"

The fruit of an apple tree is another apple, and when squeezed by pressures you get apple juice from it. The fruit of an orange tree is another orange, and when squeezed by pressures your get orange juice from it. The fruit of a disciple, (a christian) is to be another disciple, who when squeezed by the pressures of life, comes a mix of brokenness and better the overwhelming the response of Christ Himself.

I believe, that despite any grumbling that will come my way, most of the people of the Church, though called and baptized, have become accepting of an illusion and false voice in the world. Bryan Wolfmuller would say, *"We have become nose blind to the stench and decay around us because we just have become use to it."* Despite a person's claim in their need for Christ and the centrality of God in their life, this voice has led people, as scripture depicts, to deny Christ and the needs He tells us exist for us due to our frailty and condition, by accepting the

*...continued*

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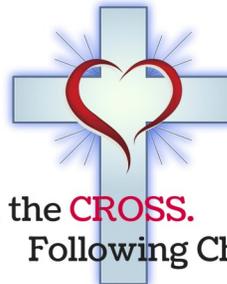
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**Trinity Lutheran Church**



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

301 N. Chestnut St. AVOCA, IA  
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...ignoring of the basics of life as okay. "We know the story." "We aren't too bad?" "I can do time with God alone." This list goes on and on to include too busy, too tired, too hurt, too lost, and on and on.

Yet in becoming part of the Church intended to receive Jesus-synthesis, we take in through worship, giving, study, prayer, life giving light that takes the toxins from

around us like carbon dioxide and the pressures of life and He Jesus-synthesize it all to grow and bud us. Washed and nourished continually, daily even, by the water of baptism and the fertilizer of forgiveness, bread and wine, conversation of faith, struggles of faith, confession and absolution, we grow stronger and taller and begin to bear real fruit to the world: the saving word of Jesus Christ and His gospel. All to spread to others in service and invitation, fellowship and true heartfelt conversations of faith, calling them as new fruit to join us on the branch that is TLC and to flourish as God makes us grow.

God is the one planting, watering, feeding, tending, and even breaking up the ground of complacency around us to deepen our roots, grow our limbs and reach to God and neighbor bearing the message and evidence of the cross in all we do, including in our failures, because the Master Gardener is doing what He does despite us.

Lent comes this year on Valentine's Day. A no more fitting combination of days placed together by our Lord than this. In Lent we are invited to come and ask hard questions of ourselves and our life and our life together as the body. To face even harder painful truths about who we really are and haven't been, and in the breaking and the tending, learn the amazing power of that unfathomable love that isn't a bunch of chocolate, but flesh, blood, nails, spear, wood and grave that seek to recreate in us, true life, new life, eternal life lived today.

God invites us to come, those who are weary of doing, doing, doing always to be exhausted, to come and rest in Him.....  
- Pastor Matt

**2024 Lenten Worship Services - Guided to the Cross**



Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross, and throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. The services of Lent will reveal how Christ and His cross serve to show us the amazing power of love of God and what He does for us, and as ways for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

*Each week there will be a light soup supper with soups, breads, desserts and beverages beginning at 5:30 pm (free will offering)*

*Worship will begin at 6:30 pm*

<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>Guided to Repentance</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>February 21</b>	<b>Guided to Hope</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>February 28</b>	<b>Guided to Love</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>March 6</b>	<b>Guided to Peace</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>Guided to Trust</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>March 20</b>	<b>Guided to Perseverance</b>

### 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

## Feb./March Volunteer Schedule

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
12/31	115	3376.40
01/07	119	2952.00
01/14	cancelled	-----
01/21		



Susan Peterson— Mark Bornholdt

### \$5 Challenge

Thank you for those who collected those \$5 bills for just the few months that we did, and for those who gave an offering the day of the collection. Together we gathered \$2057.00 US which at today's current rate of exchange is equal to 5,193,925 TSH (Tanzania Shillings) The hope in this simple exercise was to help us do a few things. First to think about a commitment in faith and work to keep it. Secondly, to sacrifice a small piece of our daily life, \$5 bills when we got them back in change, and think about the people in Tanzania, and other places, where they have not. Third, was to help us see how the collective power of individual's seemingly small sacrifices of \$5 bills could come together in the community to make a large impact in international ministry. And finally, to begin helping us thinking about ministry on a global scale in our call as the church of Christ. So, thank you again for your gifts of love, or asante sana kwa zawadi zako za upendo.

	Sunday, February 4th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Pastor Matt
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Jerry Conroy, Jeff Harder, Ronda Holst
Scriptures & Prayers	Greg Petersen
Acolytes	Jordyn Madden
Support	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, February 11th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Pastor Matt
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst & Emery Brockhoff
Communion	Robb & Amy Jacobsen, Katie Scheffler
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Dierking
Acolytes	Lane Thornton
Support	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, February 18th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Pastor Matt
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Dale Krohn, Dean & Joy Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Rogen Nelson, Kavin Rold
Acolytes	Jacob Collins
Support	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, February 25th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Pastor Matt
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst & Emery Brockhoff
Communion	Terry McCarthy, Roger Nelson, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Karen Hansen
Acolytes	Emery Brockhoff
Support	Greg Petersen
	Sunday, March 3rd, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Kristen Krohn, Betty Oehlertz
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Neil Paulsen
Acolytes	
Support	Dale Krohn

### Ash Wednesday

	Sunday, February 14th, 6:30 p.m.
Communion Bread	Pastor Matt
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Dorothy Nelsen, Greg & Marge Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	Evan Harder
Support	Ron Winter



2024 is in full swing! Below are the meeting dates for our second semester of youth group gatherings.

Please mark your calendars!

We've got some exciting things going on.

We're going to be designing T-shirts/sweatshirts soon, as it's been awhile since our group has done that. Parents please watch for information in the coming month for ordering. Also, the group asked to worship together again at a concert, so we'll be headed to Toby Mac again in March. He's got new groups touring with him, so we'll get to hear some new testimony's and new music. I will need RSVP's for this event as soon as January 28th, so tickets can be purchased. We'll need drivers— so please reach out if you'd like to transport and drive us! Looking forward to a great year ahead of fellowship with this group!

Sunday, Feb. 4th— Following morning worship.

Wednesday, Feb. 7th, 6:15 p.m. –7:15 p.m., Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 6:15 p.m. –7:15 p.m., Bible Study

Thursday, March 7th, Toby Mac Concert, TBA

Wednesday, March 20th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m., Bible Study

Wednesday, April 3rd, 6 p.m.—7 p.m., Bible Study

Sunday, April 14th, Worship Abroad, TBA

Wednesday, April 24th, 6 p.m.—7p.m., Bible Study

Wednesday, May 8th, 6 p.m. —7 p.m., Bible Study, Senior YG Appreciation

February 01	Julianne	Thompson
February 01	Jeremy	Holst
February 01	Loleta	Hansen
February 01	Dorothy	Nelsen
February 01	Carol	Sampson
February 01	Kaleigh	Lane
February 04	Gailen	Sidebottom
February 04	Jerry	Stamp
February 04	Diane	Stamp
February 05	Gavin	Winter
February 06	Lauren	Yates
February 06	Roy	Guyer
February 07	Barbara	Piittmann
February 08	Henry	Paulsen
February 10	Darlene	Eggerss
February 11	Evelyn	Scott
February 12	Lynn	Gronborg
February 12	Lorie	Espeseth
February 13	Samantha	Andersen
February 15	Denise	Hargens
February 17	Guy	Scheffler
February 17	Jerrald	Setran
February 17	James	Berry
February 18	LaDonna	Conroy
February 19	Evelyn	Clayton
February 19	Lance	Scott
February 20	Ashley	Nielsen
February 21	Gregery	Fritz
February 22	Paul	Harder
February 22	Mary	Lechtenberger
February 23	Gary	Krummel
February 24	Jo Ann	Krummel
February 24	Larry	Feekes
February 25	Joel	Andersen
February 25	Dale	Krohn
February 26	Amber	Johnson
February 26	Patricia	Jorgensen
February 27	Jessica	Rold

### Sola Scriptura: A Bible Study on the Functional Authority of Scripture

will be held on Zoom at the Church

Part 2: The Norm of Faith led by Rev. Dr. Steven E. King will begin on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm CST.

A Latin phrase meaning “Scripture Alone,” Sola Scriptura is one of the traditional Lutheran slogans used since the time of the Reformation. Part 2: "The Norm of Faith," will show how an active view of the Word informs and guides our understanding of what Scripture says, or you can say this study talks about what the Bible means based on what it does. In terms of how we come to clearly communicate our faith and our doctrinal teachings, to speak of Scripture as the “norm” of faith means that IT (scripture) is the standard against which our theology and proclamation are measured.

Session 1. The Revealed Word  
Session 4. The True Word

Session 2. The External Word  
Session 5. The Norming Word

Session 3. The Functional Word  
Session 6. The Final Word

The only cost to participants is \$7.00 shared with the church for the workbook.

## 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

...A resurrection which was testified to by a tomb that was empty, and that could not be, and never has been, explained away. The only reasonable explanation is that it happened just as Jesus said it would happen.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 14)**



The transformation of the disciples is also a testimony to the reality of Jesus’ resurrection. They were a group that had been defeated and had pretty much given up. They had even hidden themselves away. The body of Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, and there was nothing left to do or to say. Then the next thing we see, they were out on the street, and Peter was saying in Acts 2:32, 36: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses of this. Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah”. What brought about this change in Peter? Where did Peter get this power from? He had been hiding from the rest of the world, confused, a defeated man, a denier. And before that, he was just a fisherman. How did he come back? How come he’s so bold now? Because it is the work of the immeasurable greatness of God’s power. The exact same power that raised Peter’s Lord from the dead, raised Peter and the rest of the disciples for the depths of their own uncertainty and lack of faith. Without the reality of the resurrection, there would not be a single page of the New Testament. The apostles would have no gospel to preach, and we would have no story to tell. But as we read in Acts 2:30-31, “Since he was a prophet, (speaking of King David) he knew that God had sworn and oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: He was not abandoned in Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay.” The body of Jesus did not decompose in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Not for a moment. Why? Because of the immeasurable greatness of God’s power in accomplishing this physical, objective, historical resurrection of a man from death. But the resurrection does not stand alone. Jesus has not only been resurrected but he has been exalted to the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places. He has now returned to the place from which he had come.

ALL ABOUT

GOD'S LOVE

Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...

What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...

JESUS LOVES ME

God's love is...

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p>1 2 p.m.—TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food &amp; Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Worship</p>	<p>2 Pastors Day Off</p>	3
<p>4 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Youth Group 5:30p.m.— 7p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>5 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Youth Group 5:30p.m.— 7p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>6 5 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.—Youth Group</p>	<p>7 5 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:15 p.m.-7:15 p.m.—Youth Group</p>	<p>8 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food &amp; Clothing Pantry</p>	<p>9 Pastors Day Off</p>	10
<p>11 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 5:30p.m.— 7p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>12 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service</p>	<p>13 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>14 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>15 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food &amp; Clothing Pantry</p>	<p>16 Pastors Day Off 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	17 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Church Council Retreat @TLC
<p>18 8 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 5:30p.m.— 7p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>19 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship</p>	<p>20 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service 6 p.m.-7 p.m.—Youth Group</p>	<p>21 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service 6 p.m.-7 p.m.—Youth Group</p>	<p>22 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food &amp; Clothing Pantry</p>	<p>23 Pastors Day Off</p>	24
<p>25 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 5:30p.m.— 7p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>26 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship</p>	<p>27 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service</p>	<p>28 5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service</p>	<p>29 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food &amp; Clothing Pantry</p>		

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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P.O. BOX 456  
AVOCA, IA 51521-0456**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

301 N. Chestnut Street  
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(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.**