

The Trinity Trumpet

March 2024

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

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“Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy... Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, ‘Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed’... But Naaman went away angry and said, ‘I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.’ . . . Naaman’s servants went to him and said, ‘My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’’ . . . Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, ‘Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.’” Sections of II Kings 5 (the story of Naaman the leper)

Naaman – a Lenten journey

I encourage you to read the whole account there in *II Kings 5*, but above are some highlights to help.

Naaman was a powerful military commander of a small area of the Northern Kingdom, was a constant thorn in the side of the king and eventually aided the Babylonian’s to conquer and decimate that kingdom. But prior to this Naaman, for all his might and prestige was a leper, and that was bad news. He was “highly regarded” because he produced many victories, but still was an enemy of the people of Israel, and a leper. His wife, Mrs. Naaman, had an Israelite servant girl who had been captured and enslaved to work for her, who despite her situation, was faithful. She pointed Mrs. N to tell him, “See the prophet in Samaria.”

His king sent a note to get him healed, and the king of Israel is recorded to say, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life?” He tore his robes and word got out. Elisha heard and said send him to me. So Naaman came, pomp and power to the home of Elisha, who sent the equivalent of a sticky note to him that read, “Go, dip yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be cleansed.” And he was!

Lent is a time of the church year that has been perhaps mistreated or mistakenly ignored by many in and of the Church. Like all seasons of the calendar, Lent is intended to be a part of the movement of the baptized closer and deeper in their walk with God. Lent has a penitential nature to it but is a season of the year that is overshadowed by Easter and the resurrection. Lent is 40 days, not including Sundays (*Sunday worship is a celebration of the resurrection*) that can include “disciplines” such as fasting, giving up, etc.

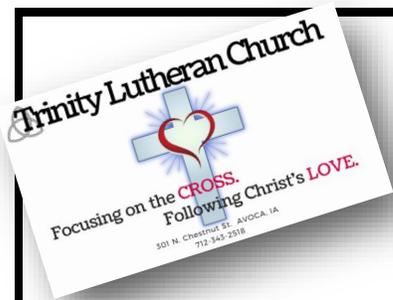
Those are all valuable things to take part in, but not for misery (*the sharing of Jesus’ suffering*), or to be able to boast at the end, “whew, made it, no sweets or meats during lent!” This misses the point. Lent is a gift for the people of the Church to make space, unclutter, and open more room for God to set up His tent. **John 14: 18 – 24**

The journey of Lent is to be a gift opened to set aside the crazy, busy, overwhelming world in which we live and daily put things into practice to allow more room for God to fill us. You see, God is always, and in every part of our lives seeking to fill us with Himself, but He can only fill us with the room we make available for Him. Having no time, no giving, no place for study and even extra worship, leaves very little room. The effect on life: crushing sets of schedules we willingly create and participate in, stress, frustration, exhaustion, even addiction (*including the addiction of busyness itself*) and we become worn down like a pencil with no ability to be sharpened.

Jesus constantly invites, “**Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I WILL give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you WILL find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**” **Matt 11: 28 - 30** What keeps us from responding; from coming into His presence gathering with fellow sinners all destined for death, struggling, weary, worn, tired? Is it because it is too easy? Perhaps we have taken for granted God’s blessing? Maybe we don’t want to acknowledge that we have built our own God’s in life and to do so would expose who we really are? Maybe we want to show up with our pomp and power to be seen, and giving time to a God who invites us to sit still and humble ourselves, well that doesn’t work with the pride we have built in ourselves to be our own god? It’s like being in a time out?

Naaman had the same challenges. He drove up to Elisha’s house, full of himself and his accolades, thinking he had humbled himself by coming in the first place; and when the sticky note read “Go dip seven times in the

...continued



Church Council

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Secretary: Amber Johnson

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Christian Education: Megan Hansen

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Outreach: Arla Pickham

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Stewardship: Nicole Krohn

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Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen

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...Jordan” he was angry. He was a great man, he had power, he had prestige; who was this to Elisha not even come out and see him, much less make a spectacle out of his healing with waving of hands and incantations? Naaman’s pride certainly was working overtime in every way to keep him just where he was and sick.

Thank goodness for the Lenten voice of his servant, “Dude, really? If he told you to go prove your power and might doing some major challenge so that you could be healed, you would have jumped on that in a heartbeat. But instead, he told you to do something simple that required no flash or power on your part beside bending your knees to go down in the water, humbling yourself to be a receiver of a gift that would bring healing. So, what, you’re too important, too busy, too tied up in your self-image do it? That is what the Lenten voice does; it calls us from the world and everything that is dragging us from God and pushing Him out, so that we recognize again our true nature and need of a redeemer and salvation. You’ve been dipped what is so hard about coming to sit?

Naaman’s Lenten journey is ours as well. God’s constant invitation to come and be washed with His word of challenge and promise. No flash just the word’s it is finished and it’s for You. Confess, eat, drink, listen. We are all invited to come and humble ourselves leaving all self-importance at the door; come and drop our cares and expectations of how this should go and sit and learn...and you Will find rest. *(after you get out of the way – until then we are still “Naamaning” ourselves.)* It’s a promise. It is real. It’s a gift from God for you. Receiving it just takes some dying on our part so that we can live, now and forever.

ps: **EGO** – Edging God Out **LENT** – Letting Everything Nonimportant Topple – Pastor Matt

As March progresses-be on the lookout for new youth ministry programs for our younger youth.

SEEDLINGS will be for the group will be our youngest group and will meet during the week on an afternoon time after school. We will begin slow with once a month to get ourselves "well planted" but the intention is to move to every other week and possibly even weekly. **This group will consist of youth who are attending K - 2nd Grade.** There will be learning, games, snacks, music, craft. We are gonna learn all the ways we can learn and share our faith.

Our older group will be the **SPROUTS** and will follow the same format for rolling out and intention of learning. **This group will consist of youth who are attending 3rd - 5th grade and possibly 6th Grade.**

We are looking for adults of every age, male and female, who would desire to be a part of passing on the faith to our youth, growing the Web of faith within our congregational family. Through the process of development these servants of the kingdom will be trained and also empowered to grow this ministry and the faith and vitality of our congregation inside and outside of TLC. We are looking to grow Vibrant Faith in all members of the congregation. The definition of Vibrant - full of energy and enthusiasm, pulsation with movement and bright and striking as we grow faith that is not for us, but to grow the kingdom by calling others to Christ. Vibrant then is movement and action just as Faith is not a noun, but a verb (action) that leads to action.



March 31, 2023 a series of Tornadoes hit the Little Rock, Ark area including the town of

Wynne. NALC Disaster Relief has been present since soon after the storm but the work of Disaster Relief takes years. A service and mission opportunity is available for youth and adults to travel the 10.5 hours to Wynne and to serve for the week helping to clean up, build, share care, and whatever we are asked to do. Adults with building experience would be a huge benefit. We will depart on

Saturday July 13 early in the AM to travel, get established and directions. We will return Saturday July

20th. Please contact Pastor Matt ASAP so we can claim spots for housing and begin our planning process.

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

March/April Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, March 3rd, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Sue P
Scriptures & Prayers	Neil Paulsen
Acolytes	Kiptyn Lamp
Support	Ron Winter
	Sunday, March 10th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Greg Petersen, Dora Rock, Donna Rold,
Scriptures & Prayers	Sue Blakestad
Acolytes	Jordyn Madden
Support	Adam Krohn
	Sunday, March 17th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Marge Petersen, Jordyn Madden, Eric Sieh
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	Ethan Hansen
Support	Dean Krohn
	Sunday, March 24th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Laird Buboltz, Jeff Harder, Stephanie Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Arla Pickham & John Scott
Acolytes	Katie Scheffler
Support	Shela Jacobsen

	Maundy Thurs., March 28th, 6:30 p.m.
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Dale Krohn, Dean & Joy Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Dorothy Nelsen
	Good Friday, March 29th, 6:30 p.m.
Scriptures & Prayers	Amanda Holst

	Sunday, March 31st, 7 a.m. EASTER
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers	Janiece Schroder
Acolytes	
Support	Gary Soetmelk

	Sunday, March 31st, 9:30 a.m. EASTER
Communion Bread	Betty Oehlertz & Makenna Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion	Becky Bahnfleth, Jim & Karen Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers	Karen Rodriguez
Acolytes	Evan Harder
Support	Dale Krohn

	Sunday, April 7th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion	Ronda Holst, Robb & Amy Jacobsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Cristin Rold
Acolytes	
Support	Mike Krummel



First Communion Classes are forming to invite new members to join us at the Lord's Table beginning Maunday Thursday during worship. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm to 3:30 pm in the confirmation class room beginning this Sunday March 3, then March 10, 17, and 24. Each student should bring their bible and catechism to class, a work book will be provided.



There will be two worship services offered on Easter Sunday.

Please join us at either 7 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. to celebrate our risen King!



Below are the upcoming meeting dates. We may move the times a little earlier for our Wednesday nights...please stay tuned! We have completed the "Experiencing God" bible study and are now digging into our bibles in the Gospels.

March 7th we are still in need of drivers for the Toby Mac concert. April 14th we will need drivers as well. Please consider helping us out and let Sue know if you have any questions!

Thursday, March 7th, Toby Mac Concert, TBA
 Wed, March 20th, 6 p.m.—7 p.m., Bible Study
 Wed, April 3rd, 6 p.m.—7 p.m., Bible Study
 Sunday, April 14th, Worship Abroad, TBA
 Wed, April 24th, 6 p.m.—7p.m., Bible Study
 Wed, May 8th, 6 p.m. —7 p.m., Bible Study, Senior YG



March 01	Christopher	Best
March 01	Neil	Paulsen
March 01	Michael	Schueman
March 01	Ashley	DeJong
March 02	Laysa	Shreves
March 02	Bodee	Winter
March 02	Dale	Roush
March 03	Jordan	Jacobsen
March 05	Kelsey	Harder
March 05	Joyce	Kardell
March 05	Alexis	Crees
March 06	Ethan	Hansen
March 06	Roxanne	Plymale
March 07	Arla	Pickham
March 07	Donna	Schueman
March 08	Robb	Jacobsen
March 08	Donald	Hansen Jr.
March 08	Brenda	Kelly
March 09	Tanner	Lamp
March 09	Makenzie	Long
March 09	Charles	Lane
March 10	Sarah	Gross
March 10	Jade	Brockhoff
March 13	Laird	Buboltz
March 13	Saydi	Paulsen
March 13	Morgan	Sieh
March 13	Lois	Partlow

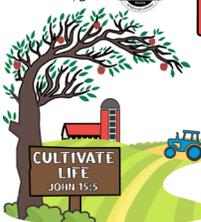
March 15	Tyson	Oswehr
March 15	Gerald	Conroy
March 16	Olivia	Sieh
March 17	Erin	Ronnfeldt
March 17	Lynn	Roush
March 17	Brynlee	Holst
March 18	Angela	Fritz
March 18	Jolene	Schueman
March 18	LeAnne	McCarthy
March 19	Wayne	Allen
March 22	Nicholas	Nelsen
March 22	Shirley	Pattee
March 23	Barbara	Schueman
March 24	Everett	Hansen
March 24	Gary	Nielsen
March 25	Tucker	Oswehr
March 25	Jackson	Woltmann
March 25	Navi	Robinson
March 26	Taylor	McCreedy
March 27	Abigail	Roush
March 27	Andrea	Danker
March 28	Jacob	Collins
March 29	Emma	Jorgensen
March 29	Kiptyn	Lamp
March 29	Hartvig	Nelsen
March 31	Wyatt	Sieh
March 31	Adam	Hansen

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
01/28	110	3589.00
02/04	119	11934.00
02/11	135	3443.00
02/18	96	2722.00
02/25	140	1687.00



Marjorie Sivers— James Lippold
Wayne Paulsen— Dolores Harder, Alan & Sue Blakestad, Gerry & Donna Rold, T.B. Camdin Trust, Roy Guyer, Gene Fritz, Betty Oehlertz, Kay Olsen, Janiece Schroder, Roger Jacobsen, Cliff & Deb Young, Jan & Dick Holtz, Loren Jacobsen, N & L Paulsen, LLC, Judy Ring, Dorothy Nelsen, Ronda Host
Betty Lundergard— Dolores Harder, Ronda Holst

Mark your calendars!



DAY CAMP
 SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 24-27



Update from January: Trinity's previous Nativity scene that was in use will now be re-homed to the granddaughter of Eric Olesen.



Jacob Roush is currently serving in our Armed Forces. Jacob is a graduate from the AHSTW Class of 2021. His mailing address is:

8201 Frost Ave. S.E.
 Rm E. 220
 Albuquerque, N.M., 87116

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

...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.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 15)**



Some Bible writers see the resurrection and the ascension as just one movement. But Jesus is both the risen Lord and the ascended King. The ascension is a display of his amazing power just as much as the resurrection is. The ascension completed the work of Christ by proving the full acceptance of the Father for Christ’s one sacrifice for sin. In Jesus’ ascension, we read in Hebrews 10:12, “But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.” So where is Jesus, right at this moment as we read this? He is sitting down, at the right hand of God, his sacrifice for sins lying in the past, him preparing a place in glory for his people lying in the past, his sending of his Spirit to gift and empower the church lying in the past. So what is Jesus doing now? He is governing the universe. In Ephesians 1:22 we find this, “And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church.” Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father not to rest, but to rule. He is upholding the universe, and he is directing the universe. For in Hebrews 1:3 we read, “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” To what end? God “appointed him as head over everything for the church.” As he governs all things, he works in all things for the good of those who love him, his church. So when we approach the heavenly throne in prayer, embarrassed by our sin, soiled and stained by our burdens, and weakened by our inadequacies, we discover it to be a throne of grace. We approach it in the awareness of the fact that the One who upholds the universe and governs his church helps its members. So what would be the effect of knowing “the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”? It would be that we would live lives of wholehearted action. When we get this in perspective, it changes ever in our view of the world. The immeasurable greatness of his power galvanizes us. Why? Because there is no reason why we cannot obey God. And there is no reason why we cannot witness to God.

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
January 23, 2024**

Members Present: President Kathy Soetmelk, Pastor Matt, Treasurer Shela Jacobsen, Dale Krohn, Arla Pickham, Eric Sieh

Meeting was called to order by President Kathy Soetmelk

Devotions by Kathy Soetmelk

Approval of Agenda – Motion was made for approval of the agenda by Arla Pickham, seconded by Dale Krohn, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from last meeting- A few corrections are needed for December’s minutes as follows: on Sue’s Report, it should say the Youth Group will not meet Until the new year to replace Not meeting in new year; also needed changed was Sunday Dec 19 to read Tuesday Dec 19. Motion was made for approval of the agenda with corrections by Eric Sieh, seconded by Arla Pickham, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer, Shela Jacobsen, presented financials to the council. A motion was made to approve the Treasurers report by Dale Krohn, seconded by Eric Sieh, all in favor, motion carried.

New Information from Council Members – Pastor Matt: In February will be the 2nd installment of the Sola Bible Study anyone can attend and he’s trying to set up some other Bible studies also. He is also figuring out how to offer all the younger kids to have their own Youth Ministries. Council members can participate in a course called “Why isn’t my Church growing on zoom for 4 weeks on Monday evenings. 1st Communion Class is being scheduled and the first class is on Maundy Thursday. Lastly, he is working on missions trips to Arkansas, Tanzania, and maybe a few others.

Old Business – We have received our new copier/printer we are leasing already. Our first Council Retreat is Friday evening 2/16 and all day Saturday 2/17 to work on Visioning and greet our new council members. 2024 Budget: after: We went over the proposed 2024 budget numbers again. The 2024 proposed budget was approved as written by Dale Krohn, seconded by Eric Sieh, motion carried.

New Business – Arla presented the Council members with a concern about the Christmas hymns/carols sung/not sung during that season. After discussion, Arla joined the Worship Committee to help with this next Christmas season.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Arla Pickham, seconded by Dale Krohn, all in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting to be Feb 16, 2024

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted for Secretary Amber Johnson by Shela Jacobsen, Treasurer



Easter lilies are available to order.

They may be ordered in memory or

in honor of someone. Lilies will be left at the church and put out at our Easter services. Orders may be placed thru Sunday, March 3rd by signing up in the Narthex or by calling the office at 343-2518. Thank you in advance for helping to make our sanctuary during Easter services look so beautiful!



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

Week 3	March 6	Guided to Peace
Week 4	March 13	Guided to Trust
Week 5	March 20	Guided to Perseverance

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.-First Communion Class	4 6 p.m. Council Zoom Training	5	6 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	7 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 4 p.m -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Wor- ship Youth Group to Toby Mac	8 Pastors Day Off	9
10 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.-First Communion Class	11 6 p.m. Council Zoom Training	12 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	13 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	14 4 p.m -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15 Pastors Day Off	16
17 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.-First Communion Class	18 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 6 p.m. Council Zoom Training	19	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 Bible Study	21 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	22 Pastors Day Off	23
24 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.-First Communion Class	25 6 p.m. Council Zoom Training	26 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship	27 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 7 p.m. Easter Cantata	28 4 p.m -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/First Communion	29 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship	30
31 7 a.m. Easter Worship 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship						

**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.**