

# The Trinity Trumpet

## April 2024

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

Pastor:

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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*“After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” **John 19: 28 – 30***

*“He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” **Matthew 28: 6***

**3 + 3 =**

Early in life we learn that math matters. Though there may be arguments about the learning process and teaching of mathematics, the absolute laws of math cannot be pushed aside. If I go to the bank and the teller asks how much I want, and I say \$100, they must count out that amount, so it adds up. If they just hand me a wad of bills, then I would add them up to assure that I got what I am expecting to receive. Baking, cutting wood or materials to build with...Math is everywhere and in everything. Often though we struggle with the why. Why do I have to learn this? I will never use it. That's a mistake. Math is used by us and around us in every day more than we recognize. Math is part of the natural law around us, just like gravity, etc. You get the point.

So why do I need to do math in my faith, after all this is a congregational newsletter? Because  $3 + 3 =$  something. It is an unchangeable law in this creation and is something that applies to us and everything around us in every day more than we recognize. Math isn't influenced by feeling or hardships, it doesn't get lost in celebration or drown its sorrows when crushed, math just is, and has a correct answer and application, then there's everything else. The same is brazenly true with  $3 + 3 =$ . It is what it is.

If you haven't "figured" it out yet the 3 and 3 are words. Cosmically changing and defining words. Words spoken by God Himself so that you and I could repeat them and push back the world and all its negative laws. What negative laws you ask? That sin is in every part of this creation, that corruption and decay are constant from the fall of creation itself to the things we build, and that the inevitable outcome is death, for everything. Try as we might to push it back, the lingering effect of sin cannot be stalled and certainly cannot be denied its payment. It is a law.

Paul reminds us that this law was there from the crunch of that fruit in the garden, but it became clear to us when God gave His Law to Moses for His people. Paul points out in **Romans 7:7**, *“What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’”* And **Gal 3:17** *“The law, introduced 430 years later, [from Abraham to Moses] does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.”* Shrewdly Paul acknowledges the equation I am talking about,  $3 + 3 +$  something.

So WHAT IS IT? It's the three words on each end that bookmark Jesus' time in a tomb, in death, for us. **It Is Finished! + He Is Risen!** What do these words of exclamation mean for us. The first 3 is on us. We are the reason for the crucifixion, the suffering, the dying as sin still rules over us and in us more that we want to acknowledge. Jesus had to live and cry out the first 3 words, “It Is Finished” hanging in our place, in our stead, for our salvation. On the other end, shared in so many ways in the Gospels, humankind which made Good Friday and God's suffering necessary, because of the law of sin and death, is bookended with a word of something astronomical and incalculable in any imagination. The law of death is – you are dead, life has ceased, and yet when people came looking in the place that they knew death was on display; death was gone. It just didn't add up. “He's not here. He is Risen! Look – no body,” no death, no decay or corruption; only new, resurrected, perfected and imperishable humanity out walking around in Jesus, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep; of a restored creation. (*Notice the plural there, fruits, that means that all who die in him to will be made new.*)

...continued

### **Church Council**

**President:** Kathy Soetmelk  
(712) 249-9027

**Property Management:** Darian Irlbeck  
(712) 307-1007

**Secretary:** Amber Johnson  
(402) 681-6847

**Christian Education:** Megan Hansen  
(402) 681-0806

**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

...That's right. Now there is a new law! Death (in trusting the words of Christ Jesus alone and His work alone) has no power. Death is ... dead! You and I need to be shocked like all the people at the tomb, and then spend the rest of our life learning to trust those 6 words, held together and written in blood, for You and me. We live as Saturday people, between the cross and the empty tomb. We live in the shadow and seeming power of death, and our desire for it, because we choose it more

than we want to admit. My very nature, by law, is opposed to God and anything about Him. Yet that tomb is, and for us some day will be, empty because of God's unimaginable love for us that He would do the math of salvation with you in mind, and willingly die to make the equation a law to itself.

Go ahead, add it up. It always comes out the same. I am a sinner in need of redeeming and constant repentance, needing to hear those words of power and mystery that means more than I will ever understand...IT IS FINISHED! + HE IS RISEN! = Life eternal with my creator, and life lived differently with all those around me. SO – Blessed Easter Season as you live through the tombs of life. Live it up, in Jesus Christ the Lord.

– Pastor Matt

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**SEEDLINGS** (K - 2nd Grade) and **SPROUTS** (3rd - 5th grade and possibly 6th Grade) will have their first gathering in April!

**Seedings will meet on Tuesday, April 16th at 4 p.m. and Sprouts will meet on Thursday, April 25th at 4 p.m.** There will be learning, games, snacks, music, craft. We are going to learn all the ways we can learn and share our faith. Please register with Pastor Matt so materials, etc can be gathered ahead of time.

This ministry is still 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! Please connect with Pastor Matt if you are interesting in helping out!



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Friendly Reminder: Scholarship applications for graduating seniors are due by April 1st. They can be mailed in to Trinity Lutheran Church at PO Box 456, Avoca, IA 51521 or emailed to [tlcspaulsen@gmail.com](mailto:tlcspaulsen@gmail.com). Thank You!

# April/May Volunteer Schedule



<b>Sunday, April 7th, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion	Ronda Holst, Robb & Amy Jacobsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Cristin Rold
Acolytes	Lane Thornton
Support	Mike Krummel
<b>Sunday, April 14th, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
Communion Bread	NA
Communion Set Up	NA
Communion	NA
Scriptures & Prayers	Jerod Johnson
Acolytes	Kaden Lane
Support	Jim Hansen
<b>Sunday, April 21st, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion	Terry McCarthy, Jersey Hilgenberg, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Danny Pattee
Acolytes	Jaelyn Johnson
Support	Adam Harder
<b>Sunday, April 28th, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Ava Paulsen, Sue Paulsen & Kiptyn Lamp
Communion	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Greg Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Travis Lane & Emery Brockhoff
Acolytes	Kavin Rold
Support	Greg Petersen
<b>Sunday, May 5th, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Janiece Schroder & Becky Bahnfleth
Communion	Sue Paulsen, Marge Petersen, Dora
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Jorgensen
Acolytes	
Support	Dale Krohn

◆ Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth  
Given for the joy of the resurrection of loved ones

- ◆ Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family– Given in memory of Sue Irlbeck
- ◆ Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family– Given in memory of Stacy Rock
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk– Given in honor of those serving in the military
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family– Given in memory of our loved ones
  - ◆ Ronda Holst – Given in memory of Dave, Joel, & Ethan Holst; Russ Ronnfeldt and Firp & Marge Holst
- ◆ Randy & Ginny Lamp– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Collins Family– Given in memory of Nancy Collins
- ◆ William & Reva Bylund– Given in memory of loved ones
  - ◆ Hervetta Ronnfeldt– Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt; Dave, Joel & Ethan Holst
- ◆ Darlene Eggerss– Given in memory of Ken Eggress and family members
- ◆ Ryan & Gina Winter– Given in memory of Grandma & Grandpa Winter
  - ◆ Chris & Wendy Dierking– Given in memory of Bryce Albright
- ◆ Maxine Sornsen– Given in memory of Gene Sornsen
  - ◆ Linda Schumacher– Given in memory of Tom Schumacher, Leonard & Elva Peters; Arlene Sievers
  - ◆ Greg & Marge Petersen– Given in memory of our parents
- ◆ Kristen Undgrad– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Dorothy Nelsen– Given in memory of loved ones
  - ◆ Dora Rock– Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Harley Spencer– Given in memory of Carolyn Spencer
  - ◆ Jerod & Amber Johnson– Given in memory of Jackson William Johnson
- ◆ Shane & Lacey Brockhoff– Given in memory of Wayne & Bob Brockhoff





Please note: Wednesday night meeting times have moved to earlier times! We will continue digging into our bibles in the Gospels thru the end of this school year.

**April 3rd & April 14th we need drivers!** Please consider helping us out and let Sue know if you have any questions!

Wed, April 3rd, Depart at 5:30 p.m.

Harlan Community Youth Gathering

Sunday, April 14th, Worship Abroad, TBA

Wed, April 24th, 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m., Bible Study

Wed, May 8th, 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m., Bible Study, Senior YG, Our last gathering of the school year.



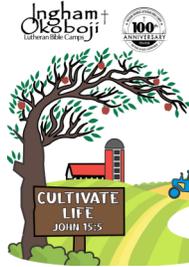
We had a great night of worship together! 27 total in our group on March 7th for the Toby Mac Concert Tour, in Omaha, at the Baxter Arena.

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
03/03	140	↓
03/10	137	
03/17	129	8,782.00



**Betty Lundergard**— Donna Peters, Betty Oehlertz

Mark your calendars for VBS!



**DAY CAMP**

SAVE THE DATE  
**JUNE 24-27**



April 01	Jorden	Johnson
April 01	Kadence	Coolidge
April 02	Linda	Feekes
April 03	Dean	Schueman
April 04	Connie	Schroder
April 04	Harrison	Nelsen
April 05	Melissa	Christian
April 06	Blakely	Maassen
April 06	Maelie	Madden
April 06	Barbara	Lynch
April 06	James A.	Johnson
April 06	Finley	Krummel
April 07	Makenzie	Whyte
April 07	Sally	Matthies
April 08	Baylee	Meyers
April 11	Rylinn	Madden
April 11	Nancy	Kelly

April 11	Traci	True
April 11	Kyle	Rock
April 12	Katherine	Roush
April 12	Jordyn	Madden
April 13	Abbie	Willett
April 13	Mark	Gress
April 13	Reva	Bylund
April 15	Christian	Jorgensen
April 15	Roman	Scheffler
April 15	Milton	Hanson
April 15	Emma	Blotzer
April 16	Leslie	Nielsen
April 18	Nancy	Mohr
April 18	Cody	McCreeady
April 19	Bella	Lamp
April 20	Ronda	Holst

April 21	Lucy	Krohn
April 21	Harleigh	Brockhoff
April 22	Roger	Kubik
April 22	Hugo	Dittmer
April 23	Talon	Stevens
April 23	Cristin	Rold
April 24	Shela	Jacobsen
April 26	Ross	Pattee
April 26	Harley	Spencer
April 27	Lisa	Willett
April 27	Zoey	Maassen
April 28	Nicole	Tiarks
April 28	Karen	Dittmer
April 28	Heather	Smith
April 28	Lacey	Brockhoff
April 30	Katelin	Schroder
April 30	Tenley	Pattee

## 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 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.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 16)**



The fact of the matter is that without the power that comes from God’s Spirit, the disciples could do nothing. But with that power, they could do anything in the cause of God’s Son. This was the power that raised Christ from the dead, and it was the power that drove the mission of the church out from Jerusalem and throughout the Roman world within one generation. That is the power that is available to us. That is the power that can energize our wholehearted action, which can see us stand up and speak for Christ. Paul prayed that the Ephesians would know that power, and live as though that power were real because they knew the resurrection was real. When we look at ourselves, we see our powerlessness, and it holds us back. Then we may think about ourselves. How is it going for us? Are we doing well? Can we manage this? Is this too much of a risk? We need to look at Christ. Not to see him as a Galilean peasant wandering around, but see him as the ascended King, seated in a position of authority above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that has been named. That is what we need. Christ’s position and presence and power are the antidote to our fears. When we’re aware of fears without, when we’re conscious of our weakness within, when we’re aware of the fact that we are not all that we should be, we can rest in the fact of his authority and in his power. So, we say, “Ok. All this power that my Savior has and makes available to me through his Spirit – but I lost my job. All this power – and my health is failing. All this power – and my spouse has died. All this power – and sin still persists. All this power – and I feel so weak.” Well, this is not heaven yet. Experiencing the immeasurable greatness of God’s power does not mean we do not cry, we do not mourn, we do not question. But as we do all that, we must still bow. And we can still walk forward. We may not understand what he is doing right now, but we bow beneath his rule and authority, and we trust his power will lead us through and enable us to obey. Along that path there is safety. And if you talk to Christians who have lived long enough to have experienced ups and downs and the failures and the messes, then most of them will tell you that the greatest progress that they’ve made in their faith journey has not come through triumphs, but in afflictions. We experience the power of God keeping us going and keeping us growing, keeping us obeying and keeping us witnessing, not when the band is playing and everybody’s marching, but when the music has faded and we are crawling along. When we come to the end of our power, that is where we find his. And when we do, we’ll find that it is immeasurable, and that is enough.

## February Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on February 15, 2024 with the following members present: Kathy Soetmelk, Shela Jacobsen, Darrian Irlbeck, Ryan Winter, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Arla Pickham, Eric Sieh, and Megan Hansen.

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Ryan Winter to approve the agenda, seconded by Eric Sieh. The January minutes were corrected and approved. Nicole Krohn made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Ryan Winter. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Arla Pickham, seconded by Nicole Krohn.

### Council Reports:

#### Stewardship- Nicole Krohn

Food drive for the team to win the super bowl had no actual winner. Midterm hugs will be mailed out on Monday, February 19th.

#### Worship- Eric Sieh

Hoping for more volunteers to sign up to help with Sunday worship services.

#### Outreach- Arla Pickham

The 2 by 2 mission project has been put on hold due to an outbreak of COVID in the nursing homes.

#### Property Management- Darrian Irlbeck

Dale took Darrian on a walk through of the church to learn about the current projects.

#### Education- Megan Hansen

Just getting started in the new role. Will know more by next month.

### President's Report/Comments:

A member from Eric Olsen family will be picking up the old nativity scene.

### Pastor's Report:

There's a possible new bible study through zoom titled "Sola Norm of Faith" on Monday evenings. There will be a class via zoom titled "Why My Church is Not Growing" which is going to be on Monday nights at 6:00 for four weeks in March. The First Communion class will begin soon. Organization is yet to be determined. Still working on the mission trip located in Arkansas youth and adults. The youth retreat for the NALC will be in April.

### Old Business:

Scheduling the council retreat. This will happen on March 14th at 5:30. We will have a business meeting, visioning, and goal setting.

### New Business:

Nicole Krohn made a motion for asking more questions about the church being a potential polling location with Eric Sieh seconded, motion carried.

Adjournment: Megan Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. Next meeting will be March 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary



**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.

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Youth Group/ Harlan Community Youth Gathering	2 p.m.– TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Wor- ship	Pastors Day Off	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastors Day Off Youth Retreat		Youth Retreat
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study TBA-Youth Group Worship Abroad Youth Retreat	9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	4 p.m. Seedlings Ministry	5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastors Day Off	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship	5 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.—Youth Group Bible Study	4 p.m. Sprouts Ministry 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	Pastors Day Off		
28	29	30				
8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study						

**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.**