

# The Trinity Trumpet

## May 2024

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

Pastor:

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever should believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16 – 17*

*“[w]e have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all** . . . [w]hen Christ had offered **for all time a single sacrifice for sins**, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering, He has perfected **for all time** those who are being sanctified.” Hebrews 10:10, 12 – 14*

### TOTALITY

Just a few weeks ago that one word seemed to be everywhere – Totality. In the weeks and days preceding the eclipse, from every place you heard and saw it; from the news to social media posts totality was the word to use and the topic to talk about. People were celebrating being in the path of totality, or mourning being out of it. People were planning trips to get into the path of totality, and highway signs for days before, even on I 80 in Iowa warned people to not stop or park on the road because they wanted to get a glimpse of about 70% of totality.

It is interesting how a word seems to be instantaneously created and then take the spotlight of conversations and considerations everywhere. It’s like the world has suddenly shifted and – oh my gosh we gotta focus everything on the word and the event or situation that is being described. So much hype and hysteria till you have to go see. Just a few years ago it was Derecho, New Normal, AI is a new biggie, just like Zero Dose Children, and FOMO (*fear of missing out*) which is the reason people, even old ones, can’t live without their phones. That’s just to name a few. These buzz words though, bear a truth about Totality and much about the human condition.

Even when saying “totality,” or “being in the path of totality” – you almost want to say it in a sudden, deep, booming voice with a maniacal laugh after; like when the Count on Sesame Street hit his number of the day (*A A A A AHHHH*) or to stir up “respect” like the hyenas in the Lion King who get chills at the name - Mufasa, Mufasa, Mufasa!. After you hear the word, you are trying to use it in every of way. Is it because we tend to be more “black and white” than we wish to acknowledge? Maybe it’s because “total” anything is so certain, so complete in our world of shifting and changing that the word is too powerful to bear a truth.

Yet, there is a totality that we cannot ignore, death. Just as people counted down to the eclipse, holding on and being amazed at even the tiny, dwindling light; in an instant, a moment, the light was gone and dark was there; like a car crash, a heart stopping, one instant brought, and still brings, the totality of darkness to us. Death, struggle, and hardship loom and in an instant, like totality of the eclipse, it’s dark. For our benefit we are reminded of this throughout all of scripture that death (*and its cohorts*) are a totality, a certainty and a truth that bear on every living thing. Despite all our efforts to deny, ignore, overcome, or delay it; there is complete certainty to death. We only fool ourselves if we don’t come to peace with it. You and I stand in the path of it’s TOTALITY even if only on the fringe in the 70% totality, each day the totality of totality looms larger, more sudden, more assured, and darker. **Rom 13: 11b** Paul talks about that day and time looming closer than before. This eclipse is the coming darkness of sin that blotted out the Light of the sun that we once walked in. No matter how we try sin is still evident, total, devastating, and gnawing on lives that wish to see the sun again.

Hence the power and beauty of cross and grave, death and resurrection wound up in Jesus Christ. Other changes in life can be slow and bring potential, but the Totality of the Cross and each person’s death, well that is sudden and final. But, in that one death, the totality of death thought it had won the day, but a different eclipse, a new totality dawned in that instant which consumed the darkness. Like the eclipse, the totality seemed to diminish, and new light began to appear. This change for the Christian takes only a moment, an instant when water and word covered you in baptism. Like a total eclipse and unlike so many other changes in our world, salvation in Christ is instant, total, and completely out of our control. *“The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” 2 Cor. 5:17.*

*..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

...As Jesus bowed His head in death, the song of Christmas became reality as “light and life to all He brings, *(then)* risen with healing in His wings, He stands over death and our life as Lord forever. We still live in that light today, but not totally, not yet. Luther reminds us through scripture that the daily life of the Christian should be one of repentance. Confessing and acknowledging the eclipse of God’s creation in us that each day gets covered and hidden by sin. In speaking that truth, in an instant the totality of forgiveness washes over us as we recall and

claim Christ’s promise to us in baptism, refueled in worship weekly in Word and at His table. When the darkness of our broken self-scared us, the Light of Christ is seen all around breaking into the darkness until, on **that day**, we stand in the glorious light of Christ that has forever eclipsed the darkness.

Paul’s day, “you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” That day is – Today! Totally. For You.

He is Risen!!!

Pastor Matt



Confirmation will be held during our worship service on May 19th. Nine children will be celebrating their Affirmation of Baptism. Please join us as we recognize this important milestone in their life of faith.



Please join us as we celebrate our graduating Seniors, during worship on May 5th. Seniors will be recognized and scholarships will be awarded during this time. Following the service there will be a light reception hosted by the church council.



The end of the year Sunday School Recognition Program will be held on Sunday, May 12th during our worship service. Please join us in celebrating all of those that help and attend to plant seeds of faith in our children!



### **DAY CAMP**

SAVE THE DATE  
**JUNE 24-27**

It’s almost summer and that means time for VBS Registration. Our camp will be for Pre-School ages 3-5 (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and those entering 1st thru 6th grade (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) Registration will open in May and be posted on our Facebook page. Please keep an eye out for that! Also, to make our program run as smoothly as possible and provide the best learning for our kids....we need you! We have lots of ways to help....classroom helpers, hall monitor helpers, kitchen helpers, hosts, or be part of the clean up crew. Please let Sue if you are willing and available to help those days!!

## May/June Volunteer Schedule

	<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 Rock
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Jorgensen
Acolytes	Kavin Rold
Support	Dale Krohn
	<b>Sunday, May 12th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Janiece Schroder, Becky Bahnfleth, Kiptyn Lamp
Communion	Donna Rold, Janiece Schroder, Eric Sieh
Scriptures & Prayers	Janae Sternberg
Acolytes	Katie Scheffler
Support	Dean Krohn
	<b>Sunday, May 19th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Janiece Schroder & Becky Bahnfleth
Communion	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers	Sue Blakestad
Acolytes	Laird Buboltz
Support	Gary Soetmelk
	<b>Sunday, May 26th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Janiece Schroder & Becky Bahnfleth
Communion	Becky Bahnfleth, Reva Bylund, Jerry Conroy
Scriptures & Prayers	Arla Pickham
Acolytes	Jacob Collins
Support	Greg Petersen
	<b>Sunday, June 2nd, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Makenna Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Karen & Jim Hansen, Jeff Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Greg Petersen & Lane Thornton
Acolytes	Ethan Hansen
Support	Mike Krummel



Worship at First Christian Church in Council Bluffs.

Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
03/24	115	4,136.00
03/31	230	5,190.00
04/07		11,116.94
04/14		2448.00



Betty Lundergard– Karen Pope

Keith Denton– Betty Oehlertz



Harlan Community Youth Gathering

Our last meeting of this school year will be on Wednesday, May 8th at 5:30 p.m.!



May 25	Ron	Winter
May 25	Teresa	Hoepner
May 25	Wendy	Jorgensen
May 25	Allyson	Nielsen
May 25	Nolan	Krohn
May 26	Callie	Gronborg
May 26	Lori	Sampson
May 26	Marley	VanCleave
May 27	Cassidy	Feigenbutz
May 27	Chad	Hansen
May 27	Regina	Hansen
May 27	Alan	Blakestad
May 28	Ashtyn	Danker
May 28	Jake	Olesen
May 29	Kaleah	Guyer
May 31	Verdean	Berry

May 13	Linda	Schumacher
May 13	Taryn	Constable
May 14	Corey	Madden
May 16	Erin	Carroll
May 16	Claira	Yates
May 17	Kaden	Jorgensen
May 19	Trey	Starr
May 19	Kevin	Hansen
May 19	Wayne	Krohn
May 19	Michael	Sampson
May 21	Taylen	Hansen
May 21	Michael	Hansen
May 21	Steven	Jorgensen
May 23	Lexy	Knop
May 24	Devin	Hoepner

May 01	Ayden	McCarthy
May 02	Kaeden	Rold
May 02	Vance	Pattee
May 03	Eliza	Luth
May 05	Kendra	Hansen
May 05	Gianna	Rock
May 05	Dale	Tech
May 06	Jacob	Kelly
May 06	Emery	Brockhoff
May 09	Jagger	Johnson
May 09	Jennifer	Plumb
May 10	Becky	Jacobsen
May 10	Mabel	Jacobsen
May 11	Cohen	Griffen
May 12	Adalin	Lamp
May 12	Gary	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

...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.



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



We are to pray for love. Do we know how loved we are? I would lean to guess that none of us really know how much we are loved. In Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul prays that the Ephesians would grow in their comprehension of that love. “I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God’s love, and to know Christ’s love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Paul wants them, and us, to experience the joy of knowing the unknowable – of knowing how loved we are. So, how do we do that? First, it takes a church. We will not comprehend the love of God in Christ in isolation from “the saints.” This is not something that happens to us on our own in our bedrooms, or on a silent retreat. The love of Christ is discovered corporately. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a church family to recognize how loved we are. It takes the entire family of God – the family that we’ve met and those that we haven’t met, those that have gone before us and those that will come after us – to be able actually to get an idea of the nature of God’s love. The family of God in Ephesus was made up of Jews and Gentiles. The family of God in the average congregation today is made up of people from different backgrounds, different ages and stages of life, different standings socially, and so on. It comprises of male and female, young and old, rich and poor. We can get a glimpse Christ’s love as we sing of that love together, as we encourage one another in it, as we see it displayed in each others’ lives. We grow in our appreciation of his love together.

First Communion was celebrated during the Maundy Thursday service.



Back Row: Elayna Hansen, Brynnleigh Lane, Lauren Knop; Middle Row: Gavin Winter, Cael Berndt, Tanner Lamp, Michael Hansen, Wyatt Sieh  
Front Row: Penelope Rold, Molly Scott, Olivia McCarthy, Ava Hensley

### Summer Backpack Program

Summer is just around the corner! With the end of the school year fast approaching, so is the Backpack Program – an initiative to provide food to children in need within our school district. This program follows the school year, but there is a gap in food support during the summer months. The program currently serves approximately 60 students each week in grades Preschool thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

This summer, Stewardship is asking for your help to cover this need by gathering food donations to fill & distribute bags during summer break. Items can be placed in the marked bins in the Narthex anytime during the month of May.

Items needed:



- Mini cereal boxes
- Instant oatmeal
- Microwave macaroni & cheese cups
- Snack bars (ex: Nutrigrain, granola bars, fruit strips, etc)
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Juice boxes or pouches

If you would also be interested in helping pack bags or distribute them at pick locations, please contact Nicole Krohn, 712-309-2318.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES FOR 2023 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS IN PART DUE TO SOME GENEROUS DONATIONS THAT AL-

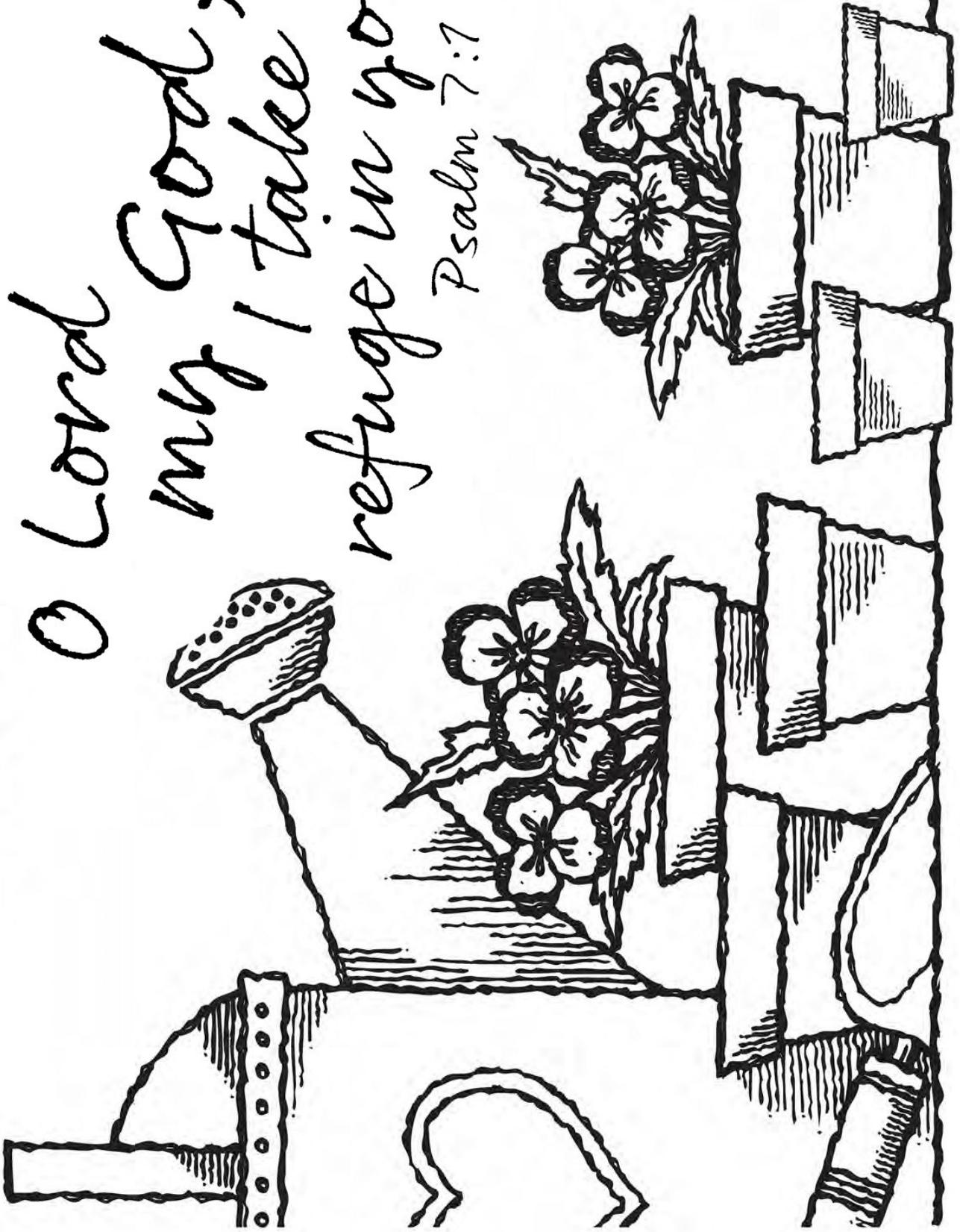
LOWED US TO DO A PACKING PARTY AT TRINITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR LOCAL 4H CLUB TO ALSO DO SHOEBOXES. WE WERE ABLE TO DO 200 SHOEBOXES WITH THOSE EFFORTS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING TO GET INVOLVED WITH A DONATION PROGRAM. HOW ABOUT 10-25 PEOPLE OR FAMILIES SAVE \$10-\$25 PER MONTH FROM APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER TO DO ANOTHER PACKING PARTY IN NOVEMBER. THIS COULD RAISE ANYWHERE FROM \$ 600.00 TO \$ 3750. 00 OR ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN. HOW FABULOUS COULD THAT BE. HOW ABOUT IT. ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY. CAN WE DO 1200 SHOEBOXES THIS YEAR. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER AND GIVE IT A TRY.

THANKS, GARY SOETMELK



O Lord  
my God,  
refuge in you.

Psalm 7:1



## March Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on March 14, 2024 with the following members present: Kathy Soetmelk, Darrian Irlbeck, Shela Jacobsen, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Megan Hansen, Eric Sieh, Arla Pickham.

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Nicole Krohn to approve the agenda, seconded by Megan Hansen. The February minutes were corrected and approved. Arla Pickham made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Eric Sieh, seconded by Nicole Krohn. Megan Hansen nominated a motion to elect Nicole Krohn as Vice President and Kathy Soetmelk as President. Thank you cards were sent to Joyce Mez and Dorothy Nelson for donating money to go towards the Midterm Hugs care packages.

### Council Reports:

Stewardship- Nicole Krohn-This past month, Stewardship assisted with packaging and mailing Midterm Hugs to young adult students of our congregation. Ideas for our next stewardship opportunity are currently being explored.

Worship- Eric Sieh -Still working on forming a worship committee.

Outreach- Arla Pickham-No new report.

Property Management- Darrian Irlbeck-Completed tasks: Hang a large painting in the hallway across from the fellowship hall. An anchor was drilled into the wall and the painting has been mounted. The west sink in the church kitchen had a leaking faucet. Faucet cartridges, seats, and springs were replaced. This seems to have resolved the issue. The majority of the folding chairs in the confirmation room and fellowship hall had damaged or missing leg tips. Heavy duty rubber leg tips have been installed on all folding chairs. Ongoing projects: The parsonage dishwasher is not draining after the wash cycle. Filters, drains, and tubes have been inspected, but no blockages were found. A new drain pump motor has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives. The parsonage kitchen cabinets have hinges that may need replaced due to broken base plates or worn out mechanisms. I am going to try to adjust the hinges, but some may need to be replaced. Replacement may be difficult as these hinges are discontinued and the replacements have variances.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life- Sue Paulsen-LYO: We ended our "Experiencing God" bible study. The kids enjoyed this study and participation was good, with an average of approximately 12-15 in attendance. We are digging into the gospels for the remaining Wednesday night bible studies. March 7th, we attended the Toby Mac concert. 23 youth and 4 adults attended. The Youth Group also had shirts designed, ordered and handed out.

Education- Megan Hansen-Just getting started in the new role. Sunday school program will be Sunday, May 12th.

President's Report/Comments: Read a thank you note from Lilly Scott for the donations for the medical supplies.

Pastor's Report: -A review of the Lenten season and weekly services. First Communion classes are halfway through the resource The Feast of Victory from Sola Publishing. There are 12 students of different ages attending the class with a parent. First Communion is part of the Maundy Thursday Worship. Pr. Steven King has been offering the second part of class on Sola Scriptura. There are two in attendance and this class has moved to Tuesdays. On Monday evenings in the month of March a virtual class led by Brad Hales- Why is my church not growing? Both opportunities have had some good learning points and things to consider. The Sower Ministries has been purchased to develop the Seedlings and Sprouts ministries. Each of these will need to be run separately to begin with, but my prayer is that others will come alongside the ministry from several age groups to help develop these opportunities, and perhaps even move to an alternate worship opportunity. The classes individually will be for specific age groups, to keep learning age appropriate. Classes could be combined with the help of others to develop a meal, learning time, worship, and activity. I am planning to hold 1 session for each group in April, and then grow from there. There have been many who have been sick or hospitalized in the last month as well as three funerals were done: Wayne Paulsen, Betty Lundergard, and the Father of Steve Denton, Keith. Taking a few extra days off after Easter to see family. The Iowa District Youth Retreat will be April 12-14th. Someone will need to fill in to preach and lead the children's message on Sunday, April 14th. May 2nd to the 4th will be in Arkansas for continued education. Will be home on Sunday, May 5th, then away for a 48 hour Retreat with STS at the Grizwald Retreat Center.

### Old Business:

Polling place information was shared. Darrian Irlbeck made a motion with Eric Sieh seconded. Polling place for the county.

### New Business:

High school seniors Sunday, May 5th during the service. Council members will bring bars and cookies with the reception in the fellowship hall.

Faith Fellowship Event- Confirmation class students will be sharing their faith by creating a display. The event will showcase the confirmation students share their faith story. The church sign on the corner near hwy 59 will be updated. Congregation will need to be reminded to use the Connection cards in the pew to update demographic information and communion. A reminder will be placed in the Sunday bulletin. Discussion around switching the church bank institute from Midstates to Shelby County State Bank. Shela will look into the logistics of this discussion to share with the council for the April meeting. Easter Lilies were ordered for the sanctuary for Easter. Please have any information for the newsletter turned into Sue by March 21st.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Arla Pickham; motion carried. Next meeting will be held on April 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Senior Recognition/Sunday School 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	6	7	1 5 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	2 2 p.m.- TLCW Meeting 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6:15 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	3 Pastors Day Off	4
12 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Sunday School Program 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	13 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	14 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 4-5:30 p.m.- Seedlings	8 5 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study	9 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	10 Pastors Day Off	11
19 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/Confirmation 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	20	21 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship	15 5 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	16 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	17 Pastors Day Off	18
26 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:30-1 p.m.- Bible Study	27	28 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	22	23 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m.-Sprouts	24 Pastors Day Off	25
			29	30 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	31 Pastors Day Off	

**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.**