

# The Trinity Trumpet

## June 2024

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

Pastor:

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

**Sue Paulsen**

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For surely  
I KNOW THE  
plans  
I have for  
**YOU**,  
says (the)  
Lord...  
TO GIVE YOU A  
future  
WITH  
*Hope.*  
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

*“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” Psalm 51: 3 – 5, 17*

*“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam,...But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one-man Jesus Christ abounded for many.” Romans 5: 12, 14 – 15*

### D.O.A.

In the 1950’s movie, D.O.A., remade in 1988 and again since, the “hero” of the story is out at a celebration and is given a lethal dose of a slow working, but totally fatal poison. Most of the movie is the recounting of the man’s search to discover who his murderer is before his death. Aided by someone in each film, the murderer is uncovered, and in true Hollywood fashion, prior to the “hero” riding off into the sunset of his own murder. Through twists and turns, the trail leads to the least likely candidate – but that’s enough to get you started.

Nothing should surprise a person, especially a Christian who has heard scripture, that its entire recounting is, in fact for the hearer – you and I, the original script of D.O.A. It starts out at a party, a celebration feast. The whole of creation has been brought into being with a word and breath by a creating and loving God. Amidst the beauty and party, the “hero and heroine” are given poison, resembling the tale that mean stepmother from Sleeping Beauty, whose jealousy sought to kill the one who was loved, with poisoned fruit. The “hero and heroine” are poisoned from jealousy by one who hated God and wanted to run this creation his way, the deceiver- Satan.

But unlike the movie, what was poisoned was a choice, not a drink. The beautiful fruit was laced with a slow working, lethal dose of the most fatal of all toxins, Sin. The fruit is just the cup of delivery, but the choice to trust and hold fast to this good and creative God of life, or to take our fate into our own hands, that is where the poison lay. They drank the cup, all of it, and their eyes were opened to the fact that they, and all those who would be born from them, and their children would be born D.O.A. **Genesis 5: 1b ff** *“When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image.”* God’s image- perfect, everlasting, abounding in love, Adam’s image- DOA, broken, selfish, self-seeking, finite.

David confronts this truth as well in Psalm 51, when he cannot hide that he is a stealing, covetous, adulterous, murderer, who worshiped himself as an idol; just as each one of us does when we sin. So, when we finally come to see that we are poisoned, D.O.A., we start looking for our murder. Someone must be to blame. Someone must have poisoned us; someone must be at fault. Look in the mirror, face your murder head on. The worst part of our whole story is it takes us so long to realize the truth that we are D.O.A., and we are to blame-our murderer. Things change when we see, suddenly we value life and each moment’s importance. Not to run, but to be present, to share, to give, to live. After all, when you realize how terminal you are, you see how fragile you and others are.

But, unlike the movie, our story, has a true hero. Jesus Christ, who comes right into our script, dressed for the part,  
..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

...because He who is eternal is now D.O.A. too, just like us, for us, with us. He even goes so far as to seek out the ultimate murderer, Satan, and puts his poison to death by drinking the whole cup of it, the very cup He prayed about in the garden. He who knew no sin was made sin, and drank the death of all the world, every last drop.

So, we celebrate each week, and in fact every day, the celebration of creation again, as our creating, loving, redeeming God hands to us a cup of death, but not ours, His. The one who drank the cup gives us the cup of blessing to drink and participate in, a cup filled with life, His life of forgiveness and resurrection. We still must deal with the consequences of Sin every day, most especially that we are running out of time in this life. But, as we drink deep from the cup given to us at the feast, with bread to fill us and sustain us on our journey, we hear the words, "This is my body and blood, given and shed – FOR YOU," and we sing, "now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy," because we

who are dead, are made alive, we who are lost are now found. We get to keep drinking the antidote for the disease that kills us, again and again, and look forward to the day we stand looking dimly in the mirror, not at a murderer, but through and clearly at the Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life.

He is Risen!!!

Pastor Matt



### **Summer Fellowship**

The gathering of God's people is so important to the life of the congregation; even more, so that visitors and others who might be looking for a place to call their faith home would have a place to meet and engage members of the body. Again, this summer we will be having fellowship opportunity weekly, with the hope to make it regular as the year goes on. Each Sunday, beginning June 2 (*the week after Memorial Day*) coffee, juice, milk, and doughnuts or rolls, etc., including some gluten free option, will be available after worship

in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a place for free will donation. We hope you join us and share life and faith for awhile.



### **Never Alone!**

God promises to never leave us or forsake us, yet loneliness and isolation seem to be growing more prominent each year, with devastating effects. Faster culture, cellphone isolation, disagreements – you name it...and there are many, here in our congregation who have voiced this sadness. If you are alone, don't stay alone, God has made you part of a body; come and join in on the first of what will hopefully be many, **Never Alone! Dinners and**

**conversations.** Dinner will be made, conversation, a bit of God's Word to chew on, and brothers or sisters in Christ to share with. The first event will be **Wednesday June 12 beginning at 6pm.** Please **RSVP** to Pastor Matt for planning purposes and to share any dietary restrictions, by **Friday June 7.** Let's walk together as the body so no is ever alone.



### **Cards and Games Church Family Fellowship Evening**

Come out, stay and play a while with family and family. Cribbage, Pitch, Canasta you name it (Poker I guess if no money is involved unless it goes to the offering plates) board games. Simple sandwiches, salads, chips and beverage for dinner. Bring a dessert or salad to share. Come and just have fun with your family of faith on **Friday, June 28 beginning at 5:30 pm** until when ever your done. RSVP's would help with planning, but hey, just get here. And if

you forget to RSVP – get on in here anyway.

# June/July Volunteer Schedule

	<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
	<b>Sunday, June 9th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Makenna Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Steph Harder, Ronda Holst, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Acolytes	Jaelyn Johnson
Support	Shela Jacobsen
	<b>Sunday, June 16th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Makenna Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Amy & Robb Jacobsen, Kristen Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Dierking
Acolytes	Lane Thornton
Support	Adam Krohn
	<b>Sunday, June 23rd, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Makenna Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Dean & Joy Krohn, Terry McCarthy
Scriptures & Prayers	Karen Rodriguez
Acolytes	John Scott
Support	Adam Harder
	<b>Sunday, June 30th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Makenna Paulsen & Sue Paulsen
Communion Set Up	Stephanie Harder & Kristen Krohn
Communion	Dorothy Nelsen, Leslie Nielsen, Sue
Scriptures & Prayers	Neil Paulsen
Acolytes	Kiptyn Lamp
Support	Sue Paulsen
	<b>Sunday, July 7th, 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Greg Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Dora Rock
Acolytes	Laird Buboltz
Support	Jim Hansen

## Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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



**DAY CAMP**

SAVE THE DATE  
**JUNE 24-27**

VBS is approaching quickly! 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 closes May 30th! 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!!



**Home communion delivery is reforming.** This is an amazing opportunity to serve the Kingdom of God, to grow to know amazing members of our community and congregation, to grow in your own understanding of what it means that we are a sacramental people, and more. There is no age limit, just open hearts who want to grow to know the diversity and stories of some amazing people whom God had mad our family. The forming meeting will be held by the end of June so please let Sue or Pastor know of your intention or desire to serve, even if you were on the team before.



June 01	Adam	Krohn
June 01	Christian	Pieken
June 02	Rodney	Hargens
June 02	Robert	Jensen
June 04	Lillian	Scott
June 05	Dennis	Langer
June 06	Peyton	VanCleave
June 06	Dawsyn	Brockhoff
June 07	LaVonne	Sidebottom
June 08	Philip	Rodriguez
June 08	Bentley	Madden
June 09	Susan	Paulsen
June 10	Travis	Hensley
June 10	Daniel	Rold
June 11	Ken	Collins
June 12	Wayne	Jacobsen
June 13	Penelope	Rold
June 14	Reese	Parker
June 15	Graycen	Partlow
June 15	Shane	Brockhoff
June 16	Madison	Holst
June 16	Nathan	Smith
June 16	Nikki	Jorgensen
June 16	Joseph	Blotzer
June 17	Marlene	Nelsen
June 19	Linda	Andersen
June 19	Benjamin	Ehlers
June 20	Katlyn	Patzner
June 20	Brandy	Luth
June 21	Angie	Brisbois
June 22	Dora	Rock
June 22	Richard	Holtz
June 23	Eric	Allen
June 23	Blair	Krohn
June 23	Judith	Ring
June 24	Abigail	Plymale
June 24	Steven	Denton
June 26	Mark	Bruns
June 26	Hayli	Paulsen
June 26	Ivan	Irlbeck
June 27	Alan	Maassen
June 27	Dennis	Hoffmann
June 29	Rosalie	Krohn
June 29	Rhett	Clayton
June 29	Lyla	Clayton
June 30	Tonya	Olesen

 Weekend of	Total Attend-	Total Gifts Received
04/21	-	3620.00
04/28	-	4012.34
05/05	145	5955.00
05/12	112	3480.47
05/19	-	3070.00



Congratulations to our Class of 2024 High School Seniors! Pictured above: Back Row: Eli Collins, Joseph Blotzer, Nathan Jorgensen, Justin Freeman, Kaden Rold, Ayden McCarthy; Front Row: Britsel Perez, Isabell Wheatley, Jessica Jacobsen, Lilly Scott, Graycen Partlow & Saydi Paulsen



Congratulations to our nine confirmands! Back row: Kadence Coolidge, Parker Krohn, (Pastor Matt), Kavin Rold, Kaeden Lane; Front row: Emery Brockhoff, Evan Harder, Jersey Hilgenberg, Katie Johnson & Jordyn Speede.

## 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

...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.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 (**Part 17**)



Second, we are to experience love by both comprehending it with our minds and knowing it with our hearts. We need to learn to think properly. One of the dangers attached to love of any kind is that we quickly think of it in emotional terms. This will tempt us to believe that somehow or another, our discovery of the dimensions of Christ’s love will all be somewhere in our heart of hearts and will be seen exclusively by changes in our feelings. But no – with every truth of the Bible, the path to our hearts leads through our minds. With some of us, it is our nature that we just want to feel it all; and with others, it is that we want to research it out for ourselves. It is well worth asking ourselves, “Am I led more by my thoughts or by my feelings? Does the road end in my head without teaching my heart, or does the road short-cut to my heart without impacting my head?” The Bible engages both our thoughts and our affections, and we will have robbed ourselves of the experience of the love of Christ if it does not both engage the first and stir the second. Pray for clear thinking about how Christ loves us. And pray for stirred feelings about how Christ loves us. Third, the love of Christ is surprisingly comprehensive. We are used to measuring objects in three dimensions. Paul comes up with four – the breadth and the length and the height and the depth. Perhaps he wants us to see that this love is so vast that it goes beyond our usual yardsticks and means of measuring. We can probably find countless reasons for what Paul was thinking as he wrote, “breadth and length and height and depth.” And we shouldn’t get weighted down in what we cannot know for sure. But it is worth just pondering on that for a while. Maybe it is most helpful to look at what Paul reminds us of in Philippians 2:5-11: “Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – in heaven and on earth and under the earth – and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Christ’s love is measured by contemplating the depth of which he went to secure our salvation and the height to which he was exalted. But whatever way we try to get our heads wrapped around the love of Christ, the main and the plain thing is definitely obvious: his love is limitless, in every way.

## April Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on April 11, 2024 with the following members present: Kathy Soetmelk, Darrian Irlbeck, Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Megan Hansen, Eric Sieh, Arla Pickham, and Ryan Winter. Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Arla Pickham to approve the agenda, seconded by Nicole Krohn. The March minutes were corrected and approved. Megan Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Eric Sieh. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Ryan Winter, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck.

Council Reports: Ryan Winter made a motion to approve council reports, Arla Pickham seconded the motion.

Stewardship- Nicole Krohn

Nicole has been learning about how the backpack food program could be held throughout the summer. Nicole was going to work on learning more about the number of families and communities. More planning will be developed.

Worship- Eric Sieh

Still working on gaining more volunteers to help with worship.

Outreach- Arla Pickham

The Two By Two outreach program has been put on hold for now.

Property Management- Darrian Irlbeck

Installed a new drain pump on the parsonage dishwasher and adjusted the kitchen faucet to work properly. The roof had deteriorated sealant along the edges of the rubber roofing against the brick. Water has been leaking for some time as there is rotted wood and damaged drywall visible from inside the closet directly west of the kitchen. The outer perimeter of the roof has been sealed that is directly west of the kitchen. Replaced the light switch at the bottom of the stairs leading to the balcony with a three way. The northeast entry door needed to be adjusted and the threshold was missing a concrete anchor. The faucet in the nursery was replaced with a brand new one with two new shut off compression valves to fix the leaking copper lines. The handicap door will be fixed by All About Doors Omaha. Ethan Hoepner will be mowing the lawn every other weekend this year. The base plates on parsonage kitchen cabinets need to be replaced. Darrian will get the new signs put on new posts for the highway. These new signs will be done by James Johnson. The north side of the church basement is leaking after it rains.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life- Sue Paulsen

LYO: Our group traveled to Harlan to the last community gathering of the year on Wed, April 3rd. Attendance has been pretty steady this year around 15- 20 kids and that's been encouraging. This will be the first year in the 7 or so year's I've been leading the youth group that we have Seniors to celebrate, which we will do at our last youth group gathering on May 8th. We meet again this Sunday, April 14th at 8:15 a.m. to travel to CB for worship and brunch.

Friday, May 19th at 10 am. The school will have teachers here practicing their reunification plans. Invitations were sent out to graduating Seniors for Senior Recognition Sunday on May 5th. VBS planning is underway. VBS will be held June 24th-27th.

Education- Megan Hansen

Nothing new to report.

President's Report/Comments:

Kathy Soetmelk contacted the Pottawattamie County auditor office and let them know that we would be a polling place for them.

Pastor's Report:

Homebound communion delivery is going to get set up in the next month. The Seedlings and Sprouts will begin April 16th. American Lutheran has given the hand chimes to us to help try to grow more of a music ministry with youth. Hoping we can return the generous gesture. No response about going on the NALC Disaster Relief mission trip in July. Pastor Matt is still planning on going. Another mission trip will take place in October of this year going to Tanzania. Hoping other members will want to participate in this mission trip. Pastor Matt shared an update on his son's medical status. Pastor will need to assist in his son's care. Council members were given a book titled Faith Webbing. One of the main topics was how to visit other members to grow the body of Christ, and how to visit to invite people into the worshiping and serving community of the church.

Old Business:

Eric Sieh made a motion to have the bank checking account be moved from Midstates Bank to Shelby County State Bank, seconded by Nicole Krohn; motion carried. Faith Formation Festival for confirmation students will be held on a Wednesday evening. Council members, family members of the youth. May 15th will be the date. Pastor will be taking 6 youth to Eagle Grove for the retreat. Kathy Soetmelk will be leading the message with Nicole Krohn leading the children message.

New Business:

Getting the Seedlings and Sprouts groups going. Praying for individuals who want to attend mission trips happening later in the year.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck; motion carried. Next meeting will be held on May 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	3	4 4-5:30 p.m.- Seedlings	5	6 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	7 Pastors Day Off	8
9 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	10	11 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	12 6 p.m. Never Alone! Dinner	13 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m.-Sprouts	14 Pastors Day Off	15
16 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	17 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	18	19	20 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	21 Pastors Day Off	22
23 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study 6 p.m.– VBS Counselors Wel- come Dinner	24 9 a.m.– 2p.m. VBS	25 9 a.m.– 2p.m. VBS 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship	26 9 a.m.– 2p.m. VBS	27 9 a.m.– 2p.m. VBS 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 6 p.m. VBS Closing Program	28 Pastors Day Off 5:30 p.m. Family Fellowship Evening w/cards & games	29
30 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 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 will resume after Labor Day.  
Holy Communion celebrated during worship.**