

The Trinity Trumpet

July 2024

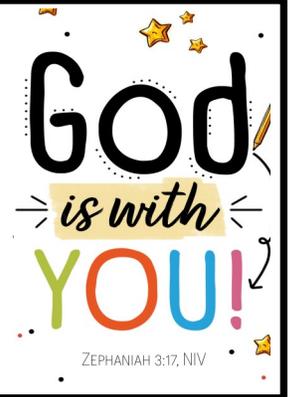
www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

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This is the FIRST EVER repeat of a newsletter, but in lieu of our camping “experience” this past week – it rang true again to me so...here it is... *Originally written for American Lutheran Church – August 2022.*

*“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” **Genesis 4: 7***

*“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” **1 Peter 5:8***

*“Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. (alternate lyric - but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.) You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same; and He must win the battle. (alternate lyric – He holds the field forever.)” **A Mighty Fortress verse 2***

A Raccoon, an Open Window, and a Plastic Container

One of the funniest parts of camping for me, especially tent camping, is locating and giggling at the newbies who have “never really done this before.” It affects everyone, including those who consider themselves to be campers, but their tent is a RV. There, in the woods, is one great equalizer of camping lore, *Procyon lotor* ... the (**RACCOON**). These nighttime scavengers scour the woods looking not for food, but for the inept “camper” who has either dropped their guard, or who has never experienced a night in the woods. Food is just the bonus reward of locating these individuals.

Early in our camping career we giggled at our sister-in-law who, having taken food into her tent, now in the middle of the night was making noise in a high pitched yet quieted voice, so as to not arouse attention, saying, “shoo, shoo” to the visitor on the other side of her nylon tent, who knew there was something going on here and this younger woman had dropped her guard and broken cardinal rule 1 – *Thou shalt not bring food into thine own tent, lest the devourer come and make a hole in thy tent.*

So... we are camping this last month and three people were in tents in the site next to us. One of the three had apparently camped before, but the other two...not so much. Well as time to sleep came upon us we all zip up into our tents and about an hour later I awoke to the sound of rustling and growling. Several racoons had descended on the camp site realizing that the novice campers had left ALL their food out, even though it was under a screened in area. (you see the one with experience had gone to sleep before them) There was rustling, growling, tearing, things falling off the table, giggling (*that was me*) and eventually they woke to realize something was going on. The traumatic aftermath – “Dang, they took all the brown sugar. Where did that go? They even opened the Tupperware...”, and from the one who had camped before, “Why didn’t you guys put all the food in the car before you went to bed?” And giggles from me.

The next morning the carnage clean up continued as we sat and giggled remembering our own, “first time.” We have learned in all these years to take a rope to tie down our camping kitchen door. All food and coolers in the car. Nothing out that was food of any sort. (My sister-in-law moves her kitchen into her car because the racoons really must remember her because they even have chewed on her kitchen and her bungee cords to get into it; she must have something really good stashed in there.)

The second night we went out to eat and overall, I wasn’t feeling well due to all the health conditions, and something must have been just a little too rich for me. But as we came back to our site in the dark we backed in, locked the van doors, and went to bed as everything was already secured. We had some new neighbors in a different sight so when I again heard the sound of a plastic container being dropped and worked on, I figured here we go again and giggled a bit. The container rolled around and there was one racoon. So, when Becky came back from her “nightly walk” for what ever reason I started imitating my sister-in-law and said in a muffled, high voice, “shoo,

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shoo.” That’s when everything changed.

You see. One of the highlights of camping, besides the water, fires, rustling leaves in the trees, and being out there, is Becky’s mom’s Ginger **Snap** Cookies. (Which btw had already been packed up to move so she had to create these from the deep recesses of her memory; and they were VERY GOOD – only I had a sample) We make sure that every time we go camping there’s a pretty good size half gallon plastic container of those morsels of deliciousness. At this point in our trip we still had not even had any of the Ginger Snaps (other than my sample) and the plastic container was all the way in the back of the van, in a box, under some opened bags of chips. I even thought to myself earlier in the day – “man we haven’t even had any Ginger Snaps yet.”

Well, when I went, “shoo, shoo” Becky responded with “It’s not that funny. Where are our Ginger Snaps?” “What?” I said, “they are in the van.” “Where are they?” she retorted? “In the van!” “Well that container next to the car sure looks like our container of Ginger Snaps opened up and on the ground.” I jumped into action and came out with a flashlight to prove her wrong. Last night when I closed the car it was in the back, in a box, underneath an opened bag of Gardetto’s snacks; and I was sure of it!

As I came out of the tent, my heart sank as I recognized the design of the container laying next to my car door, on its side, lid on the ground; and looking in to find 2 partial Ginger Snaps and 3 untouched cookies remaining. **WHAAT!!!!????!!!** How could this happen? I know it was in the back of the van, in a box, under the open bag of snacks. I turned my flashlight to the car to realize that my window was open. Then it got real; not feeling well and knowing it was all packed up when we drove in with my window open to enjoy the air, I turned off the car, and went to bed, and didn’t roll up the window. So now in terror (if you haven’t seen these packs of carnivores in action – watch out) I started to look into to the van windows looking for more of the critters in there, “feasting, and eating, and smoking” like Hobbits on the well won field of victory. Thank goodness – none. In fact – it all looked pretty normal. But it was 3 a.m. so I put the Ginger Snap carcass in the car, closed the window to wait for morning to see what had happened.

It was quite surprising in the morning when the sun was up and I opened all the doors and the back of the van, other than a few noticeable raccoon prints, nothing was moved. NOTHING. Even the already opened bag of Gardetto’s snacks was sitting in the box where the container of goodness had been. *That’s when I mentally wrote this newsletter.* That raccoon knew where the goodness was. He knew what he wanted. With all the other possibilities there, he could sense the one thing that was best about camping, and he took it. He must have wrestled it through the van, to the window, and dropped it in one shot on the grounds so it would open, then he took his fill leaving us... in Becky’s mind nothing (but I still ate 2 of the others – they are sooo good)

That raccoon remind me that no matter how secure I think I am, how much I have done to prevent anything from happening, any “sin” from being in my life, I CAN NOT! Because in my sickness, I will always leave a window open and when I least expect it, and the enemy is ALWAYS ready to pounce. That’s what Cain was warned of, that what Peter told his people to be aware of that in every moment, the enemy is prowling around looking for someone who left the window open, someone to devour; and he knows what the best thing is and he that’s what he’s after. He knows how to take the best and rip it from us, leaving scraps. Jesus warns us that every other shepherd comes in the wrong ways and only has one intent, to steal and kill. It doesn’t have to be physical, more often it is in the mental, emotional, spiritual things he is after to get you to hang up your hat, surrender to the world, and give in and give up. DON’T leave your window open.

That is why the hymn [A Mighty Fortress](#) by Luther rings so true. With might of ours cannot be done, “*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,*” The world is trying to convince people today that you can do it, you can fix it, you can make it better. [We cannot.](#) We can participate with Christ, but we, even on our best day of doing all we could, would still need Jesus to die for that day. The most important part here is to realize that what I can do, is to work on keeping my windows closed. Listening to God’s warnings and words I can work to master it, close things up as tight as I can, focus on the Word, but the enemy will still be prowling and lurking to find my weakness. He always, always knows how to go after the good stuff, the prized possession – you. To wrestle you out the window and away from Christ. (Especially when you think everything is all locked up) That’s why active participation in all aspects of life in the Church also is vital. Here we are fed, nourished, supported, challenged, even reminded when our window is open, forgiven. Here there are people who have been through it so that when it happens to you, you can find support. Here Christ the Man on the field, the only one who can win the battle, who is chosen by God Himself, stands to overcome and restore and to ultimately block the enemies hold on you. Even if he drags you through your whole life and drops you out to devour you, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen – forever has one and holds the field, so that we can hold on to Him forever. Just like those few cookies left, I had the foretaste of the feast to come – because there will be another trip, more Ginger Snaps, but even in that moment of sadness – I had hope.

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...To the novice next door I said, "I hope he (the raccoon) didn't do too much damage," dropped his head and said, "He even took my cheese. I really like my cheese." The next day after they came for me, I just smiled and looked at Becky and said, "Hey, he left three cookies and they were delicious." So – watch out for raccoons, work to close up your windows and places he wants to get in, and by all means enjoy the bits of heaven he shares now with us."

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE AND WHOSE YOU ARE.

Pastor Matt

Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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

July/August Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, July 7th, 9:30 a.m.
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

	Sunday, July 14th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Dora Rock, Donna Rold, Janiece Schroder
Scriptures & Prayers	Daniel Pattee
Acolytes	Jaelyn Johnson
Support	Mike Krummel

	Sunday, July 21st, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Eric Sieh, Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers	Jerod Johnson
Acolytes	Katie Scheffler
Support	Eric Sieh

	Sunday, July 28th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Denise Young & Stephanie Harder
Communion Set Up	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst
Communion	Judy Williams, Becky Bahnfleth, Reva Bylund
Scriptures & Prayers	Cristin Rold
Acolytes	John Scott
Support	Dale Krohn

	Sunday, August 4th, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Bread	Joy Krohn & Kristen Krohn
Communion Set Up	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion	Jerry Conroy, Jim & Karen Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers	Janiece Schroder
Acolytes	Ethan Hansen
Support	Greg Petersen



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 so please let Sue or Pastor know of your intention or desire to serve, even if you were on the team before.

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

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
05/26	90	6285.00
06/02	99	3285.00
06/09	101	—
06/16	80	2250.00
06/23	92	2816.33



Joan Johnson-Reva & Bill Bylund, Deanna Krummel

Katherine & Vernon Hinz– Elizabeth Miller

Don Hansen–Karen Pope, Bill & Reva Bylund, Betty Oehlertz

Rose Petersen-Karen Pope, Betty Oehlertz, Deborah Stendrup



July 01	Margery	Petersen
July 02	Kya	Hargens
July 02	Daniel	Pattee
July 02	Kristi	Nielsen
July 04	Lane	Nelson
July 04	Ryker	DeJong
July 05	Jordan	Young
July 05	Faith	Guyer
July 05	Nolan	Guyer
July 05	Stella	Rold
July 05	Amber	Scott
July 06	Lilah	Partlow
July 07	Kyle	Jorgensen
July 08	Maryellen	Luth
July 08	Jerod	Johnson
July 08	Everleigh	Anzalone
July 11	Luke	Sternberg
July 11	Brenda	Kay
July 13	Eleanore A.	Willett
July 14	Kade	DeJong
July 16	Cash	Freeman
July 17	Burke	Pattee
July 18	Johnni	Pattee
July 19	Reese	Knop
July 19	Betty	Oehlertz

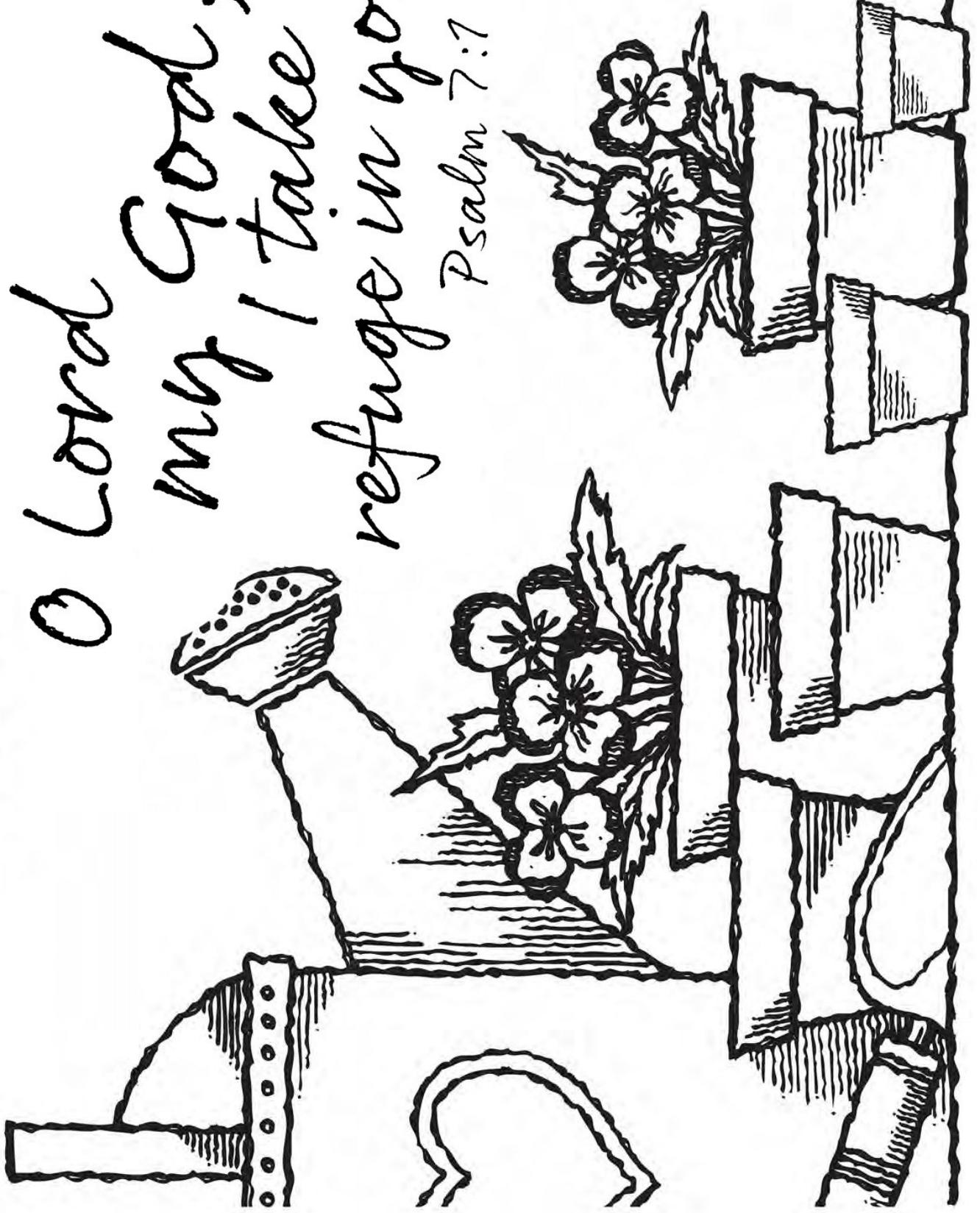
July 19	Etta	Partlow
July 19	Timothy	Kramer
July 20	Shirley	Thies
July 20	Brynnleigh	Lane
July 21	Cassidy	Espeseth
July 21	Hervetta	Ronnfeldt
July 22	John	Luth
July 22	Kathy	Soetmelk
July 23	Dean	Krohn
July 23	Ethan	Nielsen
July 23	Gerald	Rold
July 23	Terry	McCarthy
July 25	Randy	Lamp
July 27	Elayna	Hansen
July 27	Shane	Nielsen
July 28	Ellanor	Johnson
July 28	Bonnie	Kardell
July 28	Tatum	Knop
July 28	Peggy	Oswehr
July 29	Niles	Schroder
July 29	Jill	Clayton
July 29	Bobbi	Sieh
July 30	Parker	Krohn
July 31	Jill	Feigenbutz
July 31	Terin	Griffen



Pictured Above: Roger Nelson, Betty Oehlertz, Janiece Schroder. Roger was gifted a quilt during his extended stay in the hospital. The Christian Service group gifts many quilts yearly to those who have been sick, had hospital stays, those staying in shelters, etc. Recent recipients have also included victims of this springs tornados.

O Lord
my God,
take
refuge in you.

Psalm 7:1



May Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on May 9, 2024 with the following members present: Megan Hansen, Shela Jacobsen, Darrian Irlbeck, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Arla Pickham, and Ryan Winter. Nicole Krohn called the meeting to order and led a devotion in the absence of Kathy Soetmelk. A motion was made by Ryan Winter, seconded by Arla Pickham to approve the agenda. Megan Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. One bill was submitted for the purchase of offering envelopes. A motion was made to approve the report by Amber Johnson, seconded by Ryan Winter.

Megan Hansen- Education

Sunday school will conclude for the academic year with a program at the May 12th Service. We are starting to have initial conversations on what Sunday school curriculum will look like when we start again in the fall.

Nicole Krohn- Stewardship

Stewardship has been making plans for the Summer Backpack Program. Totes have been placed in the Narthex to collect donation items during the month of May, and will hope to continue collecting items throughout the summer months to meet the program's needs. A note has been sent home with students who currently receive bags to notify families of the Summer Program. Several individuals have volunteered to help in packing and distributing bags. Initial bag packing is tentatively planned for the week of May 26th and bags being distributed weekly starting the week of June 3rd.

Sue Paulsen- Director of Ministry in Daily Life Oxen Technology was able to remote in and has video uploading issues resolved. Greg at Yandas music was able to help fix the problem the choir was having with the monitor feedback. LYO: On Sunday, April 14th we traveled to CB for worship and brunch. We had 13 youths in attendance. We met again on Wednesday, April 24th for Bible Study, and did some learning on verse mapping and had 15 in attendance. Wednesday, May 8th, we'll meet for bible study and conclude the meeting for this school year. VBS registration will open on Facebook on Monday the 13th with a close date of May 31st. VBS will be held June 24th-27th. Would like to offer free t-shirts to kiddo's attending who meet the registration deadline. We have offered this in the past. In the past, council has supported this, acknowledging we may not be able to cover the entire cost with registration fees. We come very close to breaking even each year.

Arla Pickham- Outreach: The Two by Two program will start up again.

Ryan Winter- Financial: Working on a new auditing process with the offering envelopes.

Darrian Irlbeck- Property Management: Finalized the person who will be mowing the lawn.

Pastor's Report: Homebound communion delivery is going to get set up in the next month, in process. The Seedlings and Sprouts had their first meeting. Attendance is low but there have been problem solving options to overcome the possible barriers for students to attend. The Hand Chimes were gifted to us from the American Lutheran Church. The basketball hoop in the parking lot needs to be repaired or replaced. Continued conversation with Mary Bates who is guiding us along as we wait for FEMA and insurance to do its work. Then we will know who is in need. We will pray that people will be coming on missions to help us build and support those with little or no support. Tanzania in October. Air fare reduces greatly and it is normally not a rainy season. I still pray that some will join from here to go on this experience. Council members have been given a book titled *Faith Webbing to read for continued goal setting and visioning*.

Old Business: Banking switch hasn't happened yet. The Tuckpoint project will continue to make plans to be completed. Approval of a gift donation for the hand chimes. Megan made a motion to send \$500 from the church for the hand chimes, seconded by Arla P; motion approved. Faith Formation Festival will be on May 15th at 6:00.

New Business: Look for donations for the cost of the T-shirts. Money that was donated to the disaster relief program. Our church will be available for volunteers that come from out of town. Our church will help provide food, a place to sleep. Donation of the estate of Carolyn Oldenburg was received.

Adjournment: Arla Pickham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Megan Hansen. Next meeting will be held on June 13, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Office Closed	Happy 4th of July!	Pastors Day Off	
7 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	8 Office Closed	9 4-5:30 p.m.- Seedlings	10	11 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	12 Pastors Day Off	13
14 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	15 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	16 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	17 6 p.m. Never Alone! Dinner-RSVP	18 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m.-Sprouts	19 Pastors Day Off	20
21 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service Pastor Matt @ Nexus Institute	22	23 10 a.m. Allen Place Worship	24	25 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	26 Office Closed	27
28 8 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/ Fellowship following service 5:30-7 p.m.- Bible Study	29	30 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	31			

**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.**