

The Trinity Trumpet

January 2025

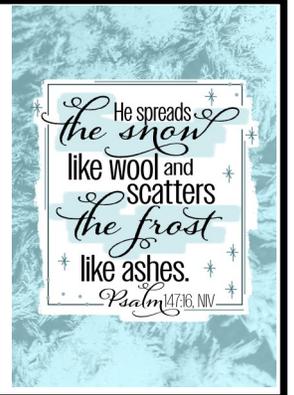
www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

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*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. **Zephaniah 3:17***

Martin Luther said music is a window to the soul. I tend to believe it as pieces of music I hear can be haunting; they make me stop and demand that I listen; all kinds of music, still demanding of my attention. Some are hymns, some are newer piece, some are simple, some complex enough that I miss them the first twenty times I listen to them, but suddenly they draw my attention away from me and the world to – well simply Christ. The Messiah. The only Savior of the world; the amazing gift we just celebrated of what our loving, benevolent Father has done in the sending of His only Son (Jn 3:16-17); the gift we long and wait for with all our hearts to return to establish His Kingdom as was always intended in the Creation

One such piece comes from a musical artist, The Future of Forestry in a piece titled The Earth Stood Still. It calls the listener to see Mary and the child to be: *“A teenage girl and her son-to-be, A simple trip far as they could see, The sky was clear and the hour serene, But did they know what the night would bring?”* Mary, did you know?

Why did she say yes, this teenage girl? Speaking to the messenger of God almighty, “I am the servant of the Lord. I live to do Your will!” That is perhaps the eternal question, yet in her saying [use me as You need Lord to bring Your Word to this broken world,] perhaps she knew how desperate her own, and our condition was.

The next stanza declares it aloud – *“Lonely hearts strung across the land, They've been waiting long for a healing hand, My heart was there and I felt the chill, When love came down and the earth stood still, When love came down and the earth stood still.”* You and I were there, with Mary, longing beyond our understanding for what we really needed – a Savior. Humanity still hungers have what we lost. As Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless Lord, until they rest in You!”

“Shepherds stirred under starry skies, Tasting grace that would change their lives, The angels trembled and the demons did too, For they knew very well what pure grace would do.” That night as the Angels declared the first gift of Christmas to outcast shepherds, God Himself was wrapped in human flesh. Humble, fragile, powerless, able to lose that life in a moment, like all of us, He came to overcome this humanity, the power of sin that weighs on it, and death, the final enemy. In doing that, we were no longer cast aside, but received with the whole world a gift beyond compare. *“The hope of the world and a baby boy, I remember Him well like I was there that night, My heart was there and I felt the chill, Love came down and the earth stood still, Love came down and the earth stood still”*

As people Christ’s family, we too remember we were there that night, and when we ponder this amazing gift which is beyond our reach to comprehend, it does make us feel a chill. We are invited to feel the stir of Christ’s power opening our eyes again to that true gift of Christmas. We can also remember standing on a darkening hillside, watching criminal’s sentences being carried out on Roman crosses. There the Christmas gift hung dying on our true Christmas tree, lit and aglow with the glory and beauty of God’s salvation, paying the tab for the whole world dying around Him. And when that gift burst from the tomb, wrappings and packaging all burst and discarded we really saw the Earth stand still, because forever the world, our humanity, and the Devil were defeated. They had their teeth knocked out by the heal of the Christmas child.

..continued

Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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

...So, now it is a New Year. Another year of waiting for that Child to come back and finalize His work already begun in us and creation. What are we to do? Sing. Sing the haunting songs that demand that others too would stop and hear that Christ the King has died for them; He has freed them from sin. Sing the tune ever more deeply, and do what another beloved hymn calls for, *"I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus our Savior He came here to die, For lost broken people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander out under the sky"*

Happy New Year Pastor Matt



The TLC Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th, between services, at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School classes that day. Please plan to attend the meeting!



If you would like a copy of your 2024 giving statement, please contact Sue in the office. Thank You!



Council Members and Committee Chairs: Please have your annual report and/or any information for our annual meeting to me by Tuesday, January 7th to be included in our annual meeting packets. Packets for the annual meeting will be available for all to pick up in the narthex on Sunday, January 12th. Thank You-Sue



Youth Group will meet twice in January for bible study. We'll gather on Wed., Jan. 8th and Wed., Jan. 29th from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Dinner will be served! We've been having some great meetings. Teens can join in at anytime and invite their friends along too!



"Breeze" is our software management program that we use for all sorts of things! Most notably as our online directory that allows us to easily keep our records up to date, and members to be able to login to find other members contact information to stay connected. We will sometimes use Breeze to text the entire congregation. (I think we've done this twice in our history, and it was done to alert everyone that weather had changed our Sunday worship plans.) Due to new regulations, everyone now has to give their consent to allow us to text you. This will only need to be done once. In January, you should receive the following message from us via text: *"Trinity Lutheran Church is verifying you want to receive reminders & alerts from Breeze ChMS. Reply YES to opt-in, STOP to cancel. Msg&data rates may apply. Unless you reply YES to this message you will no longer receive messages from Breeze ChMS on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church."*

Please respond YES so we can keep you posted on any timely information that may arise! Thank you!



January 01	Barbara	Brown
January 01	Evalyn	Irlbeck
January 01	Lesley	Krummel
January 02	Carmen	Martens
January 04	June	Buboltz
January 06	Conner	Hansen
January 07	Kaeden	Lane
January 08	Derek	Kardell
January 08	Vicki	Schuelman
January 10	Jim	Lechtenberger
January 12	Erik	Jorgensen
January 13	Mary	Hildebrand
January 14	Roger	Kay
January 16	Joshua	Guyer
January 16	Julie	Miller
January 17	Wendy	Dierking
January 17	Alan	Sieh
January 18	Gage	Clay
January 18	David	Kardell
January 18	Ryker	Krummel
January 19	Lauren	Guyer
January 19	Evan	Harder
January 19	Amanda	Holst
January 19	David	Sampson
January 20	Callum	Maassen
January 21	Penny	Langer
January 22	Henry	Nelsen
January 22	Jimmy	Young
January 23	Nicole	Krohn
January 24	Bruce	Krummel
January 25	Darian	Hansen
January 25	Lauren	Knop
January 25	Rita	Kohlscheen
January 25	Hayden	Woltmann
January 26	Aidan	Gaines
January 28	Autumn	Boysen
January 28	Lou	Funk
January 28	Cole	Harder
January 28	Lori	Snyder
January 29	Jason	Best
January 31	LeRoy	Hansen
January 31	Madison	Long
January 31	Sophia	Luth
January 31	Denise	Young

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

 BUCHS Weekend of	Total Attend- ance	Total Gifts Received
12/01	41/86	3808.00
12/08	—	—
12/15	40/92	9413.00
12/22	39/78	9011.28



Sue Ronnfeldt– Ronda Holst
Bob & Victorine Jensen– Gerald & Donna Rold



Fellowship Leaders

Jan. 5th– Peggy Osbahr & Karen Pope
Jan. 12th– Ronda Holst & Sue Blakestad
Jan. 19th– Kathy Soetmelk & TBA
Jan 26th– Church Council for Annual Meeting
If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027

January Communion Bread
Joy Krohn

January/February Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, Jan. 5th, 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 5th, 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Eric Sieh	Stephanie Harder & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Holly Hansen	Jim & Karen Hansen, Evan Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Morgan Sieh	Cristin Rold
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	Chelsie Madden & Family
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	Ethan Hansen
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Dale Krohn
	Sunday, Jan. 12th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 12th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Neil Paulsen	Dean & Joy Krohn, Kiptyn Lamp
Scriptures & Prayers	Kathy Soetmelk	Becky Bahnfleth
Greeters	Chris & Wendy Dierking	Brandi Pieken Family
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	Jaelyn Johnson
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Ryan Winter
	Sunday, Jan. 19th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 19th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Eric Sieh	Stephanie Harder & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Leslie Nielsen	Terry McCarthy, Neil Paulsen, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Janae Sternberg	Jerry Conroy
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family	Nicole Lamp & Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Kiptyn Lamp
Worship Steward	Dean Krohn	Ron Winter
	Sunday, Jan. 26th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, Jan. 26th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Dorothy Nelsen	Jerod & Amber Johnson, Jacob Collins
Scriptures & Prayers	Linda Schumacher	Jaelyn Johnson
Greeters	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk	Amber & Jerod Johnson Family
Acolytes	Rylinn Madden	Lucas Plumb
Worship Steward	Matt Bahnfleth	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, Feb. 2nd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, Feb. 2nd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Dora Rock & Linda Andersen
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold	Kendra Hansen, Jeff Harder, Collin Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Suzette Blakstad	Katie Scheffler
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck	Amber & Lance Scott Family
Acolytes	Tyler Pieken	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Adam Harder



Worship Volunteers

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then let Eric Sieh know. Eric can be contacted by calling/texting him at (402) 650-3065 or by emailing him at

eric.m.sieh@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do to help at TLC!

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 need to see Jesus in his glory, and that is the work of the Spirit. He can work in us to stop being distracted, and instead be entranced by our Lord.



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 23)**



This is so completely different than that counterfeit notion of Christianity as some kind of external religious effort where we try to attach outward behaviors to ourselves, that we think will make us acceptable to God and impressive to others. That is a dead-end street because it relies on our own efforts – our own power to will change into our lives. That is not Christianity. Christianity is about the work of the Holy Spirit to call us, convert us, and to change us. This doesn’t start skin-deep, but heart-deep. Or as Paul puts it in Ephesians 3:16: “I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.” This is the deep center of who we are. It is our core, our heart. Basically, Paul is dealing in a spiritual way with what has become a common practice in physical exercise. What matters in fitness and in sports technique is our core. A strong core is the reason why top golfers are able to hit the ball so far. It’s not about their biceps but their core. And what Paul is saying is that the same thing is also true spiritually. It’s the core that God is interested in and goes to work on because it’s the foundation of everything we are and all that we do. It’s the part of us that isn’t obvious to other people; it’s the real us. It’s us on our own, it’s us in our bedroom, it’s us in our car, and it’s the part of us that lasts forever. Of course, our outer selves – our bodies, with all of their functions and faculties – is important. But they are not all-important, or even most important. Yet our culture is fixated on the outer-self – how we look, what we have, where we live, what we do, what we earn, or how significant we are. That’s one reason why our culture cannot understand the kind of change that the Holy Spirit brings or recognize the extent of the divine power that such change requires – because it’s in the “inner being.” Paul is saying that the Spirit’s power is at work in our inner selves and is the reason the Christian can say that the outer self is wasting away, but yet we are rejoicing, because we are being inwardly renewed. That’s why the Christian should not fear death. The great American evangelist D.L. Moody put it (per his biographers): “One day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody, of East Northfield is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now.” He was talking about the inner man, the real him. That’s where the Holy Spirit goes to work. God uses the Spirit so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, so that we might be filled with the fullness of God. And God uses prayer as one of the methods to complete his purposes.



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

JANUARY
2025

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.

Sunday Worship Services Schedule
Traditional Worship at 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School/ Fellowship/Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 10:15 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated during each worship service.