

# The Trinity Trumpet

## February 2025

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

God is  
LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16



Pastor:

**Matt Bahnfleth**

(402)-750-8327

[mattbahnfleth@gmail.com](mailto:mattbahnfleth@gmail.com)

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

**Sue Paulsen**

(402) 639-6054

[tlcpaulsen@gmail.com](mailto:tlcpaulsen@gmail.com)

*"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us." 1 John 4: 10 - 12*

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" 2 Cor 1:20*

*"God Will Do What He Promises" Jeremiah 1:12*

### Learning to Live without Disappointment

A woman woke up one morning, turned to her husband and said, "Honey, I just had a dream that you bought me a new gold necklace. What do you think it means?" He answered, "I don't know, but Valentine's Day is coming soon. Then maybe you'll know." A few nights later, she again woke up after having a dream. She said, "This time, I dreamed you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know on Valentine's Day," he replied. The morning of Valentine's Day, she again woke up telling him about her dream: "This time I dreamed that you brought me a diamond necklace. What do you think it means?" "Honey, be patient," he said. "You'll know tonight." That evening, the husband came home with a package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it—and found a book titled *The Meaning of Dreams*.

As Valentine's Day and the "Month of Love" is fast approaching, I can't help but feel saddened for Charlie Brown, still looking into the deep hole of his mailbox, longingly waiting for a valentine card, that will never come, from that little red-haired girl. Just like the woman in the illustration above, Charlie all of us longingly pine for things or dream of things that we would wish to have. In Charlie's case, he's longing for a sign that there are reciprocal feelings from this little girl for him. The woman is pressing the issue of her husband's love by what he buys for her. Both find themselves disappointed, as we all do so often in life.

We can picture what we would like to have happen in our minds so clearly, and completely (because it is perfect, and it is a sign of where our heart is – us) that there is no way for the reality of life to match the fantastic illusion we have created. It's like reading a book first and then watching the movie; the movie doesn't match up and much is either altered or discarded. Disappointment.

There is one valentine that doesn't disappoint, once we see it for itself as it is and not as my heart or feelings want it to be. That Valentine comes from God, 1<sup>st</sup> class, priority, delivered to your ears and your hands, and then to your heart. It is the gift of faith. It comes not from our heart but is a gift from God, and when we hear with our ears the word of life in the scriptures, and taste and see that the Lord is good, we trust that love given, and that is enough, because Christ is enough, and He makes us enough.

Delivered priority mail for the world that first Christmas night, shared and made available over and over through the preaching and the word, sealed with the very red blood of Jesus Himself, to stamp that gift and assure it's delivery to you, as water, word and oil seal the envelope, "you are marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, forever." His promises are real, they are kept, they are remembered because He is faithful, even when we are not.

Still, even with this gift our disappointments come, but not because of the one who has made the promise. As we seek to make the gift and promise what it is not: a magic solution, a Santa delivery of wishes, a genie in a bottle to correct our mistakes, our hearts turn again only for us, and we feel disappointment. Thank God that He tells us exactly how to discard the disappointing, as weekly He draws His own to Him to receive His Valentine Card.

As we hear words of forgiveness for Christ's sake, gripping again the truth of our condition – we find true love. As we hear the Word of God and the preaching, they enter our ears and move our hearts to call us to see our brokenness, and where we are broken to proclaim to us the cross of life – we find true love. As we sing heartily and participate fully in the service – we find true love. When gifts are placed in an offering plate, reminding us of how much we have been given, and empty hands come seeking to be filled with hope – we find true love.

..continued

# Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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

...And even as we depart, the blessings of our mighty loving God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, wash over us to go with us into what is to come, assured the God keeps His promises – and we find true love.

Open it up. Ponder it deeply. Let this Valentine Card wash over you with the warmth of the blood that washes away all stains and will one day place fully on us the robe of righteousness, just as the Prodigal Father did when His son came home. But don't forget, you wear that robe today. You won't be disappointed.

Pastor Matt

## Midterm Hugs



Last year our church family sent 15 care packages to young adults within our congregation who are continuing their education post-high school. The response was very much appreciated by the recipients! The time has come to send out care packages to our young adults again! Similar to last year, each person will have a box with a personalized list of "favorites" for each young adult, and this year's list of favorites goes well beyond food. There will be a clipboard to sign up to "adopt" a young adult in the narthex of the church in February. As we continue to grow this program, the hope is to create lasting connections between members and the young adults of our church family. Stay tuned for more details shared in the weekly church bulletin. Please contact Amber Johnson (402) 681-6847 for further questions.

Feb. 12th-6:00 p.m.

Feb. 26th-5:30 p.m.

March. 12-5:30 p.m.

March 19th-5:30 p.m.

April 2nd-5:30 p.m.

April 16th-5:30 p.m.

April 30th 5:30 p.m.

May 14th-5:30 p.m.



Youth Group will be meeting for bible study on the dates listed. The bible study is titled "He's Where the Joy Is." I'm still hoping to add a few activity/event dates to our second semester calendar. It's not too late to get involved, our group would love to welcome any 7th thru 12th grade student interested in growing their faith alongside us.

## Seedlings and Sprouts youth ministry is expanding to two meetings a month!



Starting in February and unless a conflict arises, both younger youth ministry opportunities will be moving to twice a month. At these meetings which go from 4pm to 5:30 pm when we meet, we learn about a different story from the Bible. We talk about the character and get to know the story, we sing, and share snacks, there are object lessons, crafts, and games all depending on the account from the Bible we are looking at. If you are interested in having a youth be part of these times, please let Pastor Matt know so there will always be enough supplies and snacks for everyone.

Seedlings is for youth K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grades      Sprouts are youth 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

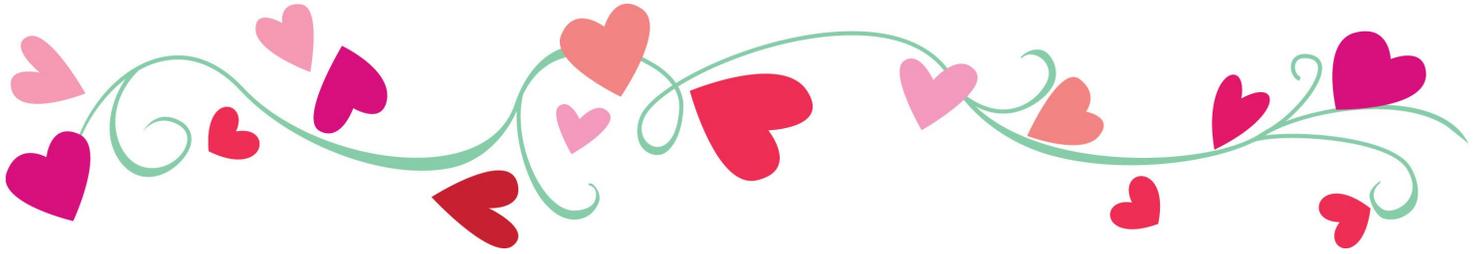
## Iowa Mission District Summer Mission Journey

We will be joining with youth throughout Iowa to travel to North Carolina in the Burnsville / Ashville area to assist in recovery work from Hurricane Helene. The dates for this trip are **July 20 – July 28** (there may be one day added for travel). We will be housed, at this moment in a church in the area. Work may include: demolition, drywalling, laying flooring, debris removal, building sheds. Depending on the final number going cost would be \$450 per person. We would also like, depending on how many attend, if one or two adults would go as well. There will be an information meeting on Sunday **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, between services, to give more information and answer any questions. We are currently seeking to know ASAP how many from our congregation will be joining in. Mary Bates, head of NALC Disaster, has also asked if collectively the Iowa MD could raise \$10,000 to go towards expenses for the long-term work there.

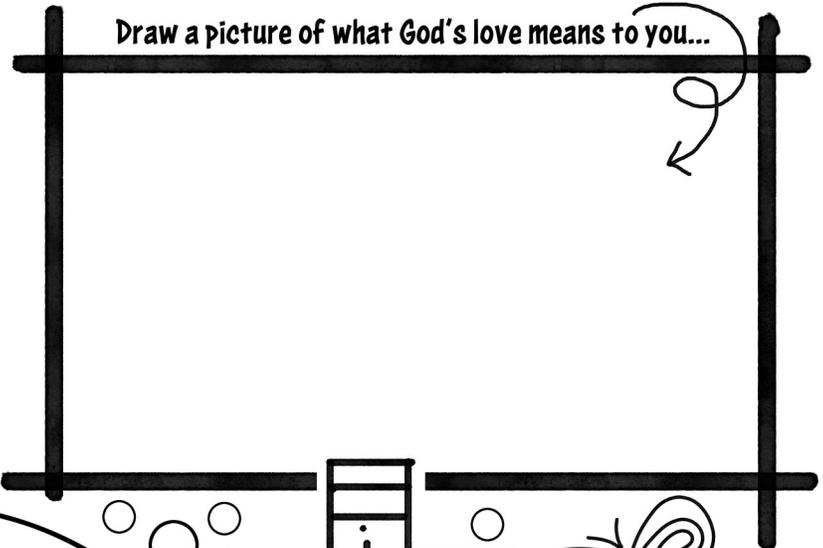


**The Young Chimers are seeking to gather youth of the congregation**

to play hand chimes, make music to God's glory, learn about faith and life and all through meeting to put into use the hand chimes that we received as a gift in the Fall from American Lutheran Church in Illinois. We are seeking anyone who would like to look into this ministry opportunity who are **(for the present time 3rd grade thru 6th grade)** to come to a short informational meeting on Sunday **February 23rd immediately after Second Service**. We will meet those who will be leading it, hear about this ministry and how we hope to grow it, and to work together to develop a schedule of rehearsals to play to God's glory, learn about the gift of music, and round out our lives serving the congregation and possibly the surrounding community. Please plan to attend the **meeting in the fellowship hall February 23rd after Second worship, we plan on the meeting lasting 1/2 an hour.**



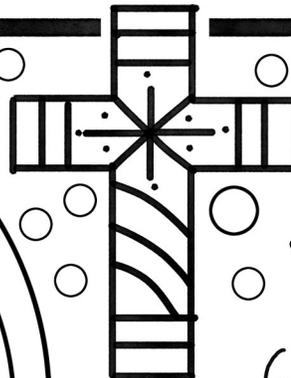
**ALL ABOUT  
GOD'S  
LOVE**



What's your favorite Bible verse about God's love...



**JESUS LOVES ME**



God's love is...

Three horizontal lines for writing.



February 01	Loleta	Hansen
February 01	Jeremy	Holst
February 01	Kaleigh	Lane
February 01	Dorothy	Nelsen
February 01	Carol	Sampson
February 01	Julianne	Thompson
February 04	Gailen	Sidebottom
February 04	Diane	Stamp
February 04	Jerry	Stamp
February 05	Ellynn	Griffen
February 05	Gavin	Winter
February 06	Roy	Guyer
February 06	Lauren	Yates
February 07	Barbara	Piittmann
February 08	Henry	Paulsen
February 10	Darlene	Eggerss
February 11	Evelyn	Scott
February 12	Lorie	Espeseth
February 12	Lynn	Gronborg
February 13	Samantha	Andersen
February 15	Lezli	Griffen
February 15	Denise	Hargens
February 17	James	Berry
February 17	Guy	Scheffler
February 18	LaDonna	Conroy
February 19	Evelyn	Clayton
February 19	Lance	Scott
February 20	Ashley	Nielsen
February 21	Ann	Carroll
February 21	Gregery	Fritz
February 22	Paul	Harder
February 22	Mary	Lechtenberger
February 23	Gary	Krummel
February 24	Larry	Feekes
February 24	Jo Ann	Krummel
February 25	Joel	Andersen
February 25	Dale	Krohn
February 26	Amber	Johnson
February 26	Patricia	Jorgensen
February 27	Jessica	Rold

**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

 BREEZE CHURCH Weekend of	Total Attend- ance	Total Gifts Received
12/29	75	-
01/05	25/72	10,328.00
01/12	34/77	-
01/19	32/84	1,579.00
01/26	39/88	2951.01

Nancy Mohr– Betty Oehlertz



**February Communion Bread**

Joy Krohn



The following text message was sent out during the month of January: *“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.”* If you did not receive this message, please call the office, 712-343-2518, so we can make sure you’re signed up for notifications, should you choose. Also, keeping us up to date with current contact information is always appreciated! Thank you!



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

## February/March Volunteer Schedule

	<b>Sunday, Feb 2nd, 8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 10:15 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Dora Rock & Linda Andersen
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold	Kendra Hansen, Jeff Harder, Collin Harder
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Suzette Blakstad	Katie Scheffler
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck	Amber & Lance Scott Family
Acolytes	Tyler Pieken	Blair Krohn
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Adam Harder
	<b>Sunday, Feb 9th 8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, Feb 9th 10:15 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst	Dora Rock & Linda Andersen
Communion/Offering	Taylen Hansen	Jeff Harder, Stephanie Harder, Katie Johnson
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Donna Rold	Amber Johnson
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Pastor Matt & Becky
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	Jaelyn Johnson
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh	Mike Krummel
	<b>Sunday, Feb 16th 8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, Feb 16th 10:15 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst	Dora Rock & Linda Andersen
Communion/Offering	Kiptyn Lamp	Terry McCarthy, Dorothy Nelsen, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Nicole Krohn	Christina Rauch
Greeters	Kathy & Gary Soetmelk	Scott & Christina Berndt Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Kiptyn Lamp
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Dean Krohn
	<b>Sunday, Feb 23rd 8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, Feb 23rd 10:15 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst	Dora Rock & Linda Andersen
Communion/Offering	Hayli Paulsen	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Dora Rock
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Lisa Irlbeck	Sue Blakestad
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck	Dan & Megan Hansen Family
Acolytes	Rylinn Madden	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	John Scott
	<b>Sunday, Mar. 2nd 8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, Mar. 2nd 10:15 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder, Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold	Dean & Joy Krohn, Katie Scheffler
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Lucas Plumb	Travis Lane
Greeters	Wendy & Chris Dierking	Rose Krohn
Acolytes	Stella Rold	John Scott
Worship Steward	Pastor Matt/Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter



### **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](mailto:eric.m.sieh@gmail.com)

### **Fellowship Leaders**

Feb. 2nd– Dorothy Nelsen & Leslie Nielsen  
 Feb. 9th– LeAnne McCarthy & Karen Hansen  
 Feb. 16th– Wendy Dierking & Reva Bylund  
 Feb. 23rd– Denise Young & Kathy Soetmelk  
 If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.

## December Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on December 12, 2024 with the following members present: Kathy Soetmelk, Darrian Irlbeck, Shela Jacobsen, Sue Paulsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Eric Sieh, and Ryan Winter.

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order with Ryan Winter leading the devotion.

A motion was made by Nicole Krohn to approve the agenda, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck, motion carried. Darrian Irlbeck made a motion to approve the November minutes, Eric Sieh seconded the motion; motion carried. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Ryan Winter, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck; motion carried.

### Thank You Cards:

Thank you cards were sent to Kristen Krohn and Stephanie Harder for organizing the successful Abelschiever event. Beth Buboltz, Angela Sieh, Megan Hansen, and Nicole Krohn for coordinating and helping with the Sunday school Christmas program.

### Council Reports:

#### Stewardship- Nicole Krohn

I have put together Holiday Care Packages and they are available in the Narthex. Items included in the care packages are extra items from a similar initiative from last December. These care packages will be available throughout the month of December. Anyone is able to take a care package to share with those who are homebound or in care facilities during the holiday season.

#### Worship- Eric Sieh

No new report.

#### Outreach- Arla Pickham

Getting to know members of the church by featuring volunteers each month in the newsletter.

#### Property Management- Darrian Irlbeck

No new report.

#### Education- Megan Hansen

The Sunday School program was on Sunday & went really well. We will now be on a break until Jan 12th when we begin the spring semester. Discussion was held as a council to consider the Sunday school schedule allowing one Sunday a month to take as family time or attending fellowship. At this time Sunday school will continue as regularly scheduled. Families can still worship together and attend fellowship. Having the Sunday school kids serve as readers during one service a month. What would this look like? Is it something we want to try? These questions were discussed as possibilities and will have future conversation as we approach the new year.

#### Finance- Ryan Winter

No report.

#### DFDL- Sue Paulsen

Please have annual reports and any information to be included for our annual meeting emailed to me by Tuesday, January 7th.

### Pastor's Report:

I wish to thank those who are leaving the council leadership for now, until perhaps by God's call and timing your service will be raised up again. We will acknowledge you on the same Sunday that we install the new council for the coming year. But thank you very much for your service and ministry: Kathy, Amber, and Arla. Thank you also for prayerfully answering God's call to lead the congregation – Nicole. You will do wonderfully. We are going to attempt to move Seedlings and Sprouts to 2 sessions a month starting in January, but I would really love to raise up some others to come alongside and teach and share without children as we pass on the faith to the next generation. I would like to discuss Advent and Lent a bit for future visioning as we move forward also. I have the books in now to have us study as we go forward in the new year with the council together. The book is titled Junk Drawer Jesus – and addresses some of the collected clutter of faith that is crowding Jesus out. Christmas Eve services Scheduled for 4, 6 and 11. We should also venture into some discussion about the changes made to services as we look at pros and cons and seek to move toward a decision in the future. I am personally hearing more discussion of one combined service and a separate time for Sunday School, which I take as people seeking to have perhaps the best of both worlds. I know that it is a blessing for Sunday School teachers to have time to focus on teaching and have dedicated time to worship for themselves.

### Old Business:

Nominations for new council members to replace two members who have completed their terms. Arla Pickham has resigned from her role as outreach.

### New Business:

Need to review the proposed budget for 2025. The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 between church services beginning at 9:30. There will be no Sunday school that day so that everyone can attend the annual meeting.

### Adjournment:

Nicole Krohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eric Sieh. Next meeting will be held on January 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

## 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

...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.

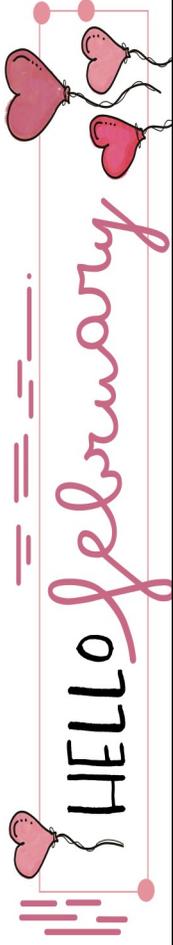


“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1 **(Part 24)**



All this explains what Paul does not say to the Ephesians I am just going to preach to you, because if you are motivated enough, you’ll be able to enjoy a life of gospel peace and security and love and growth. No, he’s actually saying, I am going to pray for you, for God is able to bring you into this experience. I’m going to pray for you because in prayer I am speaking to “him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think”. And the language here is just piled up – encouragement on top of encouragement. God is able – able to do what we ask. He is able – able to do what we think of asking but aren’t sure that we can. He is able – able to do far more than we even thought of asking. There is nothing you can ask for, or think of asking for, about which he does not say, I am able to do better than that. Are we getting the point? He is able. So the encouragement is to come to God and ask him for big things. Maybe we should think of it as this. I believe in the living God, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that anyone can ask or even imagine. What am I asking God for? How big are my prayers, and how big are my prayers for my church? We sin when we think God’s power is limited or doubt his willingness to display his power. Small prayers betray a suspicion that we have a small God. We don’t. He is able to do immeasurably more than we can imagine. So, ask him. Ask as Paul did. Not for health and wealth and happiness, as if you dig in here, you’ll be able to get your home in the Bahamas and the personal jet. No, ask him for bigger things than that – to be filled with his fullness, to be able to grasp the unknowable love of Christ, to live for the treasures of your future inheritance. Ask for those things for the Christians you know – those who encourage you, and those who try our patience and discourage our spirit. If God is able to change you, he’ll certainly be able to change them! How is all this that Paul prays for, and that God wants us to pray for, supposed to happen? According to the power that is at work within us. Not ours, but his. And he is able. Pray like that’s true. Father in heaven, I thank you for the gift of prayer. Even though you there are some things that are a mystery to me, I know that this is a necessity – and I exercise the privilege fully confident in both your ability and willingness to do far more than I could ever imagine or guess. Help me to ask then for big things, for the sake of your glory and through your matchless power. Enable me to pray big. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

A majority of this article that started oh so long ago is based on the teaching and writing of Pastor Alistair Begg.



# HELLO February

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
301 N. CHESTNUT STREET  
P.O. BOX 456  
AVOCA, IA 51521-0456**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FEBRUARY**  
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.**