

The Trinity Trumpet

March 2025

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

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mattbahnfleth@gmail.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

Sue Paulsen

(402) 639-6054

tlcpaulsen@gmail.com

Lent

*Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within me.*

PSALM 51:10, ESV

There Ain't No Luck About It

Now, we move from a month of Love to a month of Luck and all the while waiting to see if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow and if March is coming in or going out like a lion or a lamb. So moves the months of the season of Winter. Though many think the season is of no good because of cold and snow, I (besides being a lover of cold and snow) have grown to see Winter as a much needed and important season. In comparison to the other three seasons which seem to be involving growth, this season looks to many as death. Preceded by the harvesting and falling of the months before it, ending the growing time Winter looks bare and bleak, grey not green. It looks as if nothing is growing; or so it seems.

The fact is if there was no Winter, the other three would not be as fruitful or look so good. Without Winter everything would run out of energy, be used up, and fail to produce. In God's wisdom as He set the stars, sun and moon in the sky, He also sets the seasons in order. In God's magnificent plan of life, a period of rest is already penciled in to place. Unlike all of creation though, humanity was to pass through the seasons, but without a season of its own. We were intended to have a Spring and a Summer but Fall and Winter were unnecessary because we were already, fully, and fantastically where we were to be. Walking in a garden made for us, with the Creator in such a close and open relationship, that we really cannot imagine it.

Enter the Fall as Death entered where there was to be none, and death reigned invading every part of the garden, humanity, and every relationship. With death also came mistrust of God and an impossible reliance on our selves to make things go. We as Paul says in **Romans 1**, "because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped the creature rather than the Creator...God gave them up to their dishonorable passions." Fall and Winter had come, and God let us go because He cannot make us love Him. To think that we can be or do enough, or that we don't have to do anything, proves the point that we are either ignorant of who God and we are, or we are worshiping our selves calling it worship of God. It's our inherent nature as Winter people. Death becomes us because we live in it denying it and missing the truth that this is not where we want to be so even in **Genesis** God tells Adam and Eve, and us, "Remember you are dust. And to dust you will return."

This brings us back to luck. Luck is defined as, "success or failure apparently brought by chance rather than one's own actions." So, what happens to us isn't by our doing, but the ethereal winds of life that bring bad, or the amazing power of a bonus that got me out of what I was in. Sitting at the care center with an older man in a wheelchair I asked what had happened, an accident, fell from ladder and broke many ribs. He didn't relate it luck, good or bad, he called it what it was, "I was stupid." 90-year-old, ladder, wet ground, gutter full of leaves...history. Winter has set in. Standing in a clear relationship with God, of who He is and who we are takes luck out of the conversation and allows an honesty of our life.

Despite the Winter, the other seasons still come, growth still happens, but it doesn't happen by chance, it is God designed, before the Fall, and still running faithfully and to it's intended end, despite it. The things that happen and often we let define us happen because of sin, but God's never ending and never-failing love is continuing to grow and move us forward until these tired and battered bodies and lives come to their final Winter. Death still reigns, in this world. But our Lenten journey to the cross and tomb shows us that despite all the

..continued

Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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

... hardships of this life, God in deep love for a creation that willingly and knowingly walked away from Him, never has changed His mind. In fact, as Christmas that kicks off the winter shows us, God's great love would even wear our weakness, our death, so that He could set His face like Flint toward Jerusalem and the Cross so that death would have its teeth kicked out as it bit Jesus for a moment, as He drove His heel into death's face.

Without Winter there can be no life. Without a Cross there is no empty tomb. Without death there can be no resurrection. But there ain't no luck involved. From the beginning of the seasons, God had it in His hands. When the Fall tore it apart, God had it in His hands. When we are who we can't help to be, it's God not luck allowing Winters to set in, and keeping us safe beyond our knowledge that grows us ever more to seek His face, to learn what He says about what love of Him means, and shows us the great extent that love will go to make Winter, begrudgingly give way to spring and new life. All those who rest in the Lord are seeds planted in the Winter, and they are awaiting the glorious Son to shine light upon them so that they can be burst from the from their seed coat, by God's power and love to live forever in His glow and kingdom forever. No more death, tears, or luck needed, just life.

Blessed Lenten Journey

Pastor Matt

Journey of Stones

Trinity will be hosting this year's ecumenical Lenten Soup & Prayer Services. Each Wednesday, and throughout Holy Week, as worshipers enter the worship space, we pick up a stone and carry it with us. Throughout the scriptures the powerful image of rocks and stones (and our willingness to use them as weapons) will be a concrete reminder of the theme of each message. As we depart, we will lay those stones each week at the foot of the cross to hear the promise of Easter, and the stone closing Jesus' tomb as powerful reminders of how our Lord removes our stones of sin.

Please join us for a light soup supper from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, with worship following immediately.

The light soup supper includes soups, breads, desserts, and beverages. A free will offering will be collected to be divided between Walnut and Avoca Food Pantries.

Ash Wednesday Written in Stone March 5 -

Imposition of Ashes and Communion

Week 1 Rejected Stones March 12

Week 2 Sticks and Stones March 19

Week 3 Hearts of Stone March 26

Week 4 Upon THIS Rock April 2

Week 5 Crying Stones April 9



First Communion Classes are forming to invite new members to join us at the Lord's Table beginning Maunday Thursday during worship. Classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm to 3:30 pm in the confirmation classroom beginning Sunday March 23rd, each Sunday thru April 13th. Each student should bring their bible and catechism to class, a work book will be provided.



Food Pantry Needs

- Oil
- Boxed Potatoes
- Tea
- Applesauce
- Soup (other than Tomato or Chicken Noodle)
- Oyster crackers
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Powdered Milk
- Sugar
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Hamburger Helper
- Corn muffin mix
- Macaroni & cheese
- Toilet paper
- Laundry soap
- Shampoo

**Thank you everyone
for your donations.**

 Weekend of	Total Attend-	Total Gifts Received
02/02	46/82	-
02/09	43/72	-
02/16	55/80	11,411.00
02/23	44/100	12,217.00

 **Bob & Vic Jensen**— Barb Brown
Glenn Johnson— Janiece Schroder
Wayne Jacobsen— Jerry & Donna
 Rold, Bill & Reva Bylund, Bonnie Kardell

Church Council
President: Nicole Krohn
 (712) 309-2318
Property Management: Darian Irlbeck
 (712) 307-1007
Secretary: Amber Scott
 (712)-249-2688
Christian Education: Megan Hansen
 (402) 681-0806
Worship: Eric Sieh
 (402) 650-3065
Finance: Ryan Winter
 (712) 307-0553
Outreach: Amber Johnson
 (402) 681-6847
Stewardship: Christina Berndt
 (712) 269-6763
Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen
 (402) 490-2423



March 01 Christopher Best
March 01 Neil Paulsen
March 01 Michael Schueman
March 02 Dale Roush
March 02 Bodee Winter
March 03 Jordan Jacobsen
March 05 Alexis Crees
March 05 Kelsey Harder
March 05 Joyce Kardell
March 06 Ethan Hansen
March 06 Roxanne Plymale
March 07 Arla Pickham
March 07 Donna Schueman
March 08 Robb Jacobsen
March 08 Brenda Kelly
March 09 Tanner Lamp
March 09 Charles Lane
March 09 Makenzie Long
March 10 Jade Brockhoff
March 13 Laird Buboltz
March 13 Lois Partlow
March 13 Saydi Paulsen
March 13 Morgan Sieh
March 15 Gerald Conroy
March 15 Tyson Osbahr
March 16 Olivia Sieh
March 17 Brynlee Holst

March 17 Erin Ronnfeldt
March 17 Lynn Roush
March 18 Angela Fritz
March 18 LeAnne McCarthy
March 18 Jolene Schueman
March 19 Wayne Allen
March 22 Nicholas Nelsen
March 22 Shirley Pattee
March 23 Barbara Schueman
March 24 Everett Hansen
March 24 Gary Nielsen
March 25 Tucker Osbahr
March 25 Navi Robinson
March 25 Jackson Woltmann
March 26 Taylor McCreedy
March 27 Thorin Boysen
March 27 Andrea Danker
March 27 Abigail Roush
March 28 Jacob Collins
March 29 Emma Jorgensen
March 29 Kiptyn Lamp
March 29 Hartvig Nelsen
March 30 Anderson Boysen
March 31 Adam Hansen
March 31 Kimberly Krohn
March 31 Kimarie Maassen
March 31 Wyatt Sieh

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

Fellowship Leaders

March 2nd— Amber Scott & TBA
 March 9th—Linda Schumacher & Dora Rock
 March 16th—Lori Winter & TBA
 March 23rd—Kathy Soetmelk & TBA
 March 30th—Judy Williams & TBA
 If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.

March Communion Bread

Makenna Paulsen

March/April Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, March 2nd, 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 2nd, 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold	Dean & Joy Krohn, Katie Scheffler
Scriptures & Prayers	Lucas Plumb	Travis Lane
Greeters	Wendy & Chris Dierking	Rose Krohn
Acolytes	Stella Rold	John Scott
Worship Steward	Pastor Matt/Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 6:30 p.m.	
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	
Communion/Offering	John Scott	
Scriptures & Prayers	Angela Sieh	
Greeters	Greg & Marge Petersen	
Acolytes	Morgan Sieh	
Worship Steward	Greg Petersen	
	Sunday, March 9th, 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 9th, 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder, Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Holly Hansen	Kiptyn Lamp, Hayli Paulsen, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers	Morgan Sieh	Peggy Osbahr
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn	Chelsie Madden & Family
Acolytes	Lane Thornton	Laird Buboltz
Worship Steward	Dean Krohn	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, March 16th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 16th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder, Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Matt Todd	Terry McCarthy, Greg & Marge Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Jennifer Plumb	Danny Pattee
Greeters	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk	Sue Paulsen & Family
Acolytes	Jacob Collins	Ethan Hansen
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Adam Harder
	Sunday, March 23rd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 23rd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder
Communion/Offering	Neil Paulsen	John Scott, Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers	Janae Sternberg	Greg Petersen
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck	Brandi Pieken & Family
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	Paxton Holst
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Shela Jacobsen
	Sunday, March 30th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 30th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth	Janiece Schroder, Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Dorothy Nelsen	Morgan & Eric Sieh, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Dierking	Bella Lamp
Greeters	Scott & Christina Berndt Family	Heath & Nicole Lamp Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Jaelyn Johnson
Worship Steward	Scott Berndt	Michael Jorgensen
	Sunday, April 6 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, April 6th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Linda Schumacher	Neil Paulsen, Kavin Rold
Communion/Offering	Taylen Hansen	Ron Winter, Shane & Lacey Brockhoff
Scriptures & Prayers	Suzette Blakestad	Cristin Rold
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Lance & Amber Scott Family
Acolytes	Rylinn Madden	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh	Mike Krummel

January Council Meeting Minutes

The church council met on January 9, 2025 with the following members present: Kathy Soetmelk, Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Eric Sieh, Megan Hansen, Darrian Irlbeck, and Ryan Winter.

Kathy Soetmelk called the meeting to order and led the devotion.

Recognizing Guests: Neil Paulson came to present the possible ideas for the outdoor lighting around the church. This lighting proposal was provided by Echo Commercial Lighting Design.

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

Council Reports:

Stewardship- Nicole Krohn

Holiday Care Packages were distributed by congregation members and all the packages that were put together (11) were used during the holiday season.

Education- Megan Hansen

4th-6th grade students will be offered the opportunity to read in church. No to the question for one Sunday a month to take as a family day.

Property Management- Darrian Irlbeck

Preparation to share information about the foundation project

Worship- Eric Sieh

Volunteers are still needed for both services. lists. Decorating and changing the decorations. Music committee

Financial- Ryan Winter

The envelopes are available in the Narthex of the church.

Outreach- Arla Pickham

No report.

Pastor's Report:

The three Christmas Eve services seemed to go very well this year; in fact I believe they were higher counts than the year prior. Especially to note, that has always been the case, 11pm was pushing over 30 people as it has grown each year. Thank you for allotting the time for Becky and I to go away and rest, (or at least work differently). It was a blessing. As we begin a new year there are things to notice that can help us in our movement forward. Though some have

chosen not to be present more in this last year for whatever reason, there has been an influx of individuals who have been coming, been invited, or coming back to worship. It is this place we need to have council actively in worship and seeking to connect with them to build relationships, invite to fellowship, and in true hospitality welcome them into our midst. Here is where God seems to be working, but we need to talk about what this means and what it would look like in the years to come. I will be finding ways to add information to newsletters and bulletins from a couple of family sites to try to encourage faith development at home as the home is supposed to be an extension of the Church for teaching and reflection. Additionally, I have a new book for us to work through this year, Junk Drawer Jesus, that is attempting to call us to recognize all the ways we have brought "stuff" into our faith that isn't scriptural, with of course the hope to call us to deeper walks with Christ, together. By March at the latest we should begin discussion about the changes made to services, look at pros and cons and seek to move toward a decision in the future, to be announced and implemented (if there is a change starting in the fall). As I am writing, the nominating committee is hitting a wall in seeking another person to add to the council to fill the Stewardship position. May we be blessed this coming year to grow, like Jesus in "Wisdom and knowledge, and in stature before God and men."

Old Business:

Pastor Matt shared his negotiated salary which will be \$54,270. Eric Sieh made a motion to accept the negotiated salary, Nicole Krohn seconded the motion; motion carried. Megan Hansen made a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck; motion carried.

New Business:

The council will bring bars and cookies for the annual meeting that will be held in the fellowship hall.

Adjournment:

Nicole Krohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Eric Sieh. Next meeting will be held on February 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary

Annual Congregational Meeting
Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday January 28, 2025

- The annual meeting was called to order by President Kathy Soetmelk, Pastor Matt gave an opening devotion with a prayer.
- A motion was made by Alan Blakestad to approve the agenda, seconded by Gary Soetmelk, motion carried. A motion was made by Jerod Johnson to approve the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting, seconded by Ronda Holst, motion carried.
- The treasurer's report was given by Shela Jacobsen (see report), a motion to approve the report was made by Amber Scott, seconded by Cristin Rold, motion carried. Kathy Soetmelk thanked the members who served on council and committees. See report for additional presidential comments.
- The 2024 audit was completed by the audit committee. The books were found to be in order.
- The pastoral and Director of the Ministry of Daily Life reports are found in the booklet.

-Church Elections:

Nominations were read for the council and various committees. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Jerod Johnson made a motion to accept the nominations as written, seconded by Gary Soetmelk, nominations ceased. Peggy Osbahr made a motion to vote on the nominations with a voice vote. Cristin Rold seconded. Motion carried. Jerod Johnson made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for all persons nominated, seconded by Alan Blakestad, motion carried.

-Church Council: The two church council members elected are Amber Scott and Christina Berndt. Nicole Krohn will continue with another term. Amber Johnson will complete one year for Arla Pickham's term. Members whose terms have ended are Kathy Soetmelk, Amber Johnson and Nicole Krohn. Members continuing to serve: Eric Sieh, 2026; Ryan Winter, 2026; Darrian Irlbeck.

-Memorial Committee: Members, Matt Sternberg and Kristen Krohn, were elected to serve on the memorial committee. Members whose term has ended are Beth Schueman, 2025 and Amanda Holst, 2025. Members currently serving: Kristyn Nielsen, 2027; Judy Williams, 2026; Nicole Lamp, 2026; Lacey Brockhoff, 2026.

-Endowment Committee: Three members, Cory Maassen, Jason Krummel, Kelsey Coolidge, were elected to serve on the endowment committee. Members whose terms are ending: Cory Maassen, 2025; Kris McCarthy, 2025; Lori Winter, 2025; Currently serving: Joy Krohn, 2026; Julie Miller, 2027; Reva Bylund 2027.

-Audit Committee: Member Dan Rold was elected to serve on the audit committee. Member whose term has ended: J Olesen. Members continuing to serve: Chelsie Madden, 2026; Dean Krohn, 2027.

-Nominating Committee: Ronda Holst was elected for another term. She will be continuing to serve with Adam Krohn, 2027 and Danny Pattee, 2026.

-Nominations for the delegates for the Salem Lutheran homes: annual March 16th at 2:00pm. Need 5 people: Alan and Sue Blakestad, Karen and Jim Hansen, Ryan Winter. Amber Scott made a motion to accept these nominations, seconded Nicole Krohn, motion carried.

-Committee Reports were presented in a written form in the booklet with no further discussion during the meeting. Amber Scott made a motion to approve the reports for the committees, seconded by Nancy Kelly; motion carried.

-Discussion and adoption of 2025 budget, a motion to accept the 2025 budget was made by Amber Scott, seconded by Ryan Winter, motion carried.

-New Business: Foundation repair proposal for the north wall of the church. Darrian Irlbeck, property manager, presented the concerns for the water leakage around the foundation. Poor drainage concerns suggest repairs to prevent further foundation concerns. WCI Basement Repair company from Carroll, IA. Bid was \$48,750 Dale Krohn made a motion to approve the foundation repair, seconded by Ronda Holst; motion carried. Further description of the foundation proposal can be found in the annual meeting booklet.

-Other Business: No other business for discussion.

-A motion was made by Nicole Krohn to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Eric Sieh, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Johnson, Secretary



Easter lilies will be available to order soon. They may be ordered in memory or in honor of someone. Lilies will be left at the church and put out at our Easter services. Orders may be placed thru Sunday, March 30th, by signing up in the Narthex or by calling the office at 343-2518. Thank you in advance for helping to make our sanctuary during Easter services look so beautiful!



HELLO march

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service	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	1 8
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. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— YG 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	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
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. Sa- lem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	18 4-5:30 p.m. Seedlings Class	19 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— YG 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	20 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	21 Pastors Day Off	22
23 8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. 1st Communion Class 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. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	27 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts Class 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	28 Pastors Day Off	29
30 8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. 1st Communion Class 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	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.

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.