

# The Trinity Trumpet

## July 2025

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

Pastor:

**Matt Bahnfleth**  
(402)-750-8327  
mattbahnfleth@gmail.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

**Sue Paulsen**  
(402) 639-6054  
tlcspaulsen@gmail.com



### I Got Nothin'

*"In the end, all we are, are beggars." Note found in Luther's hand or pocket upon his death.*

*"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." Paul writing in 1 Timothy 1:15*

*"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2*

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10*

Playing cards this evening with the two young counselors we are hosting from Okoboji for VBS I kept saying, "I got nothing," Thinking about having to write this newsletter I have been saying to myself, "I have nothing," When I think of all the need in the world and across the street, and feeling overwhelmed and unable to help, "I want to confess, "I got nothing." And then, remembering Luther's words penned down, and perhaps carried with him for years to remind himself of his true condition; Luther freely admitted he had nothing. When talking to a first communion class about our need for communion and the community of faith gathered in worship, driven by the realization that what I deserve from God is nothing, because I have sinned and deserve death, I spoke of Oliver Twist. As hungry and frail little Oliver gets up the gumption to take his empty bowl, barely given any thing in his first portion, to the House Warden, Oliver declares the truth of every human alive. We have nothing.

Now for the world this translates that we haven't had enough, and we want more as in greed, power, and avarice. When will we ever have enough? So, we come back to the world over and over and demand and declare that we deserve more. But when will we ever have enough? For people in this mode of life, they have no sense of contentment, they just want more. More money, bigger house, bigger farm, more windows in my office, that more important title, a better spouse, or children, bigger vacation, better looks so I have my looks redone. It really is a downward spiral of and uphill climb that leaves one in the end saddened for all the truly meaningful things and relationships they missed while they fought to engulf and devour.

But that's not what Oliver is doing here. He has been prodded by others to ask for what they all know that they need, more food – for life, fullness, strength to carry on. So, Oliver in his adorable naivete brings his bowl emptied of gruel and stand before this towering, overfed, warden who cares nothing for these children and in fact enjoys his cruelty to them. And Oliver in his timid quivering but confident voice, (knowing what he truly needs) raises this bowl and says, "Please sir, I want some more." He's not demanding because he deserves, but realizes his true state and condition, and he knows without what his heart is truly desiring, he is going to die.

The response he gets, is on one hand what you expect, on the other so cruel and heartless you can't but feel for this little whelp of a guy. "More" booms the deep and growly voice, "You want MORE?!?" And here is where Jesus fits in. Sadly, when we are not getting what we think we deserve or desire we ask (demand God give up the goods) and when His answer is no or wait, we see Him as the cruel warden bellowing out, "You want MOOREE?!?" Or we have been led astray and come to believe that God is the great big Easter Bunny-Santa-kind-a vending machine we all want, and He just is waiting to hop, hop, hop on over and make all our dreams come true.

For those who believe the latter, I recommend you read, well the Bible, but also an article at 1517.org by Ryan Matthias – God is Deadly Serious About Sin. God has not and will not change His mind about sin. It crushes me when I ask the question, "What do I deserve for my sin?" and people young and old alike respond, "Forgiveness" NO. You do not. God's answer through Paul is that the wages, the payment you are

..continued

to receive, just like a paycheck, is DEATH, total, absolute, forever death. That's the last word. A holy God cannot deal with sin and until we come to deep understanding of this, then all the rest gets skewed.

For those who take what I have just written and want to say, "See, God is the booming warden who's voice declares that He's counting sins like Bad Santa and you haven't been good for goodness sake, so, "I have no hope, I am doomed, God could never love me after what I have done and what I have been," because He is totally angry with me because so I don't even dare ask for...well anything. I recommend you read, well the Bible, but also an article at 1517.org by Ryan Matthias – God is Deadly Serious About Sin. God has not and will not change His mind about you as His beloved, corrupted, creation, and His desire from before the foundations of the earth that you be His forever.

One way leads to total despair, the other to self-righteousness and the thought that I got this. Nope – You Got NOTHIN. And that's the point that Luther, Paul, Jesus, and Isaiah above all point to – you are a beggar, your sins have separated you from God and the only reason He can't reach is the wall you are building. If you could actually come to the understanding that there is no greater sinner than you, your outlook on others, God, creation would all change because you would see the terror, yes terror of your sin and no one else's, and you would come to see the beauty of God's truly amazing grace, undeserved, unrefined, and unimaginable that Jesus would be so deadly serious about sin that He would die to pay my tab.

Fact is brothers and sisters in Christ, you are Oliver. And You need to know what the true hunger is in life and begin to care for that piece. The rest will be taken care of as you go. When you, like Oliver, nudged by others around you, knowing what we all need; and you rise and stand before that warden who holds total judgement in His hands, and you say, "Please sir, this week, I am still, despite my every wish, a sinner who hurts you, me and everyone around me, but I want to be assured of Your forgiveness – I WANT SOME MORE. Jesus bellows from the Cross, from the tomb, from bread and wine – with a voice of peace and comfort, "More, you want some MORE!?! Because you asked and because I am so anxious for you to be mine, you can have more, there is plenteous forgiveness in the house of the Lord. YOU GOT NOTHIN! and YOU GOT IT ALL!

Peace be with You all. PM



## Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands!



Pictured (L to R,) front row: John Scott, Kiptyn Lamp, Ethan Hansen, Jaelyn Johnson, Katie Scheffler; back row: Laird Buboltz (Pastor Matt Bahnfleth) Jake Collins, and Lane Thronton. This group was confirmed on June 8th.



### Exciting News!

The foundation repair project to resolve the basement water issue is just around the corner. The project is scheduled take place July 7th - 15th . During that time, a portion of the parking lot will be sectioned off while the work is being completed. You will still be able to park in the unaffected portion of the parking lot during this timeframe.

Also to note, the air conditioning units will be temporarily removed during the foundation project. The church will be without air conditioning for worship on July 6th & 13th . Feel free to dress for your comfort as you join us in worship during this timeframe. The A/C units will be reinstalled as soon as possible once the foundation project is completed.

**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

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
05/25	...	7370.00
06/01	97	4925.00
06/08	174	...
06/15	76	6844.00



**Karen Johnson**– Marlin Andersen

**Carolyn Bintz**– Linda Andersen



July 01	Margery	Petersen
July 02	Kya	Hargens
July 02	Kristi	Nielsen
July 02	Daniel	Pattee
July 03	Luke	Schroder
July 04	Lane	Nelson
July 05	Faith	Guyer
July 05	Nolan	Guyer
July 05	Stella	Rold
July 05	Amber	Scott
July 05	Jordan	Young
July 06	Lilah	Partlow
July 07	Kyle	Jorgensen
July 08	Everleigh	Anzalone
July 08	Jerod	Johnson
July 08	Maryellen	Luth
July 11	Brenda	Kay
July 11	Luke	Sternberg
July 13	Eleanore	Willett
July 16	Cash	Freeman
July 17	Burke	Pattee
July 18	Johnni	Pattee
July 19	Reese	Knop
July 19	Timothy	Kramer
July 19	Betty	Oehlert

July 19	Etta	Partlow
July 20	Brynnleigh	Lane
July 20	Shirley	Thies
July 21	Cassidy	Espeseth
July 21	Hervetta	Ronnfeldt
July 22	John	Luth
July 22	Kathy	Soetmelk
July 23	Dean	Krohn
July 23	Terry	McCarthy
July 23	Ethan	Nielsen
July 23	Gerald	Rold
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	Osbahr
July 29	Jill	Clayton
July 29	Niles	Schroder
July 29	Bobbi	Sieh
July 30	Parker	Krohn
July 30	Lainey	Schroder
July 31	Jill	Feigenbutz
July 31	Terin	Griffen



Trinity will once again be hosting a back to school night for local school age children. Please consider donating to this ministry. Sturdy back packs

for older children and brightly colored backpacks for elementary aged kids would be greatly appreciated, along with the need of classroom supplies, such as, folders and notebooks, markers, colored pencils, dry erase markers and pencils. We are also looking for donations of bars and cookies for the night of the event, which will be held in Mid-August. Donations may be left in the narthex.

Thank You!



Just a reminder: It's not too early to start gathering things up that you would like to donate to our rummage sale in September 26th

and 27th. We accept most anything-like furniture, clothing and toys, etc. Do not bring your items to the church until the sale .

Thank You!

# July/August Volunteer Schedule



	<b>Sunday, July 6th 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Linda Andersen, Becky Bahnfleth
Communion/Offering	Jacob Collins, Jerry Conroy, Wendy
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Karen Hansen
Greeters	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	Katie Scheffler
Worship Steward	John Scott
	<b>Sunday, July 13th 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Linda Andersen, Becky Bahnfleth
Communion/Offering	Holly, Kendra & Taylen Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Sue Blakestad
Greeters	Gina & Ryan Winter Family
Acolytes	Rylinn Madden
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh
	<b>Sunday, July 20th 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	NA
Communion/Offering	NA
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Amber Johnson
Greeters	Beth Buboltz Family
Acolytes	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk
	<b>Sunday, July 27th 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	NA
Communion/Offering	NA
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Jorgensen
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen
Acolytes	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Ron Winter
	<b>Sunday, August 3rd 9:30 a.m.</b>
Communion Support	Emery Brockhoff, Reva Bylund
Communion/Offering	Amy & Rob Jacobsen, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Jerod Johnson
Greeters	Wendy & Chris Dierking
Acolytes	Lucas Plumb
Worship Steward	Jim Hansen

## 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)

## July Communion Bread

First Communion Class



On Sunday, May 25th, Trinity welcomed Jovi Robinson into the family of God. Jovi is pictured with dad, Tyler, holding her and, mom, Courtney with big sister, Navi. Jovi's baptismal sponsors were Erika Van Cleave and Dylan & Jayna Robinson.



On Sunday, June 1st, Trinity welcomed Creed Henningsen into the family of God. Creed's parents are Madison Thornton and Austin Henningsen. His baptismal sponsors are Macy Thornton and Travis Henningsen.



Siblings (Pictured L to R), Charley Coolidge and Kasey Coolidge were baptized into the family God on June 15th, here at Trinity. Their parents are Ryan & Kelsey Coolidge. Charley and Kasey's baptismal sponsors are Jordan & Mallory Coolidge.

## 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

...I encourage you to take up your Bible and give those passages a read at your convenience. Maybe you'll spot more than meets the eye.

### TIME

As I have mentioned in the past, the Bible is a book about Jesus. In the Old Testament, he is predicted. In the Gospels, he is revealed. In Acts he is preached. In the Epistles, he is explained. And in Revelation, he is expected, and with that in mind I want to look at some passages that reflect on that, or may have connections in those different areas. In Genesis when sin came into God's creation, it was by one man: namely Adam. In chapter three starting at the sixth verse we find, "The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" Now, we fast forward to the Gospel of John chapter eighteen starting with the first verse. After Jesus had said these things, he went out to the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees and come there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am he," Jesus told them. Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. When Jesus told them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. The first thing I want to point out in this passage from John's Gospel is that I find it ironic that this mob shows up with lanterns and torches, which are instruments of light, along with weapons. They show with these instruments of light in search of the one who is the Light of the World. Also with weapons to deal with the one who is called the Prince of Peace. So, when I compare the passage from Genesis to the one from John there are similarities. Both take place in a garden. In the Garden of Eden, Adam ushers sin into the world by his disobedience to God. Adam tries to hide to avoid his punishment from God and is not successful. In the passage from John, Jesus, also sometimes referred to as the second Adam, is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and in a short time will usher sin out of the world by becoming the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Jesus, however, does not try and hide from his responsibilities because of his obedience to God. Also here in this passage from John, when Jesus told the mob that it was him that they were looking for, everyone fell to the ground. If we Jump ahead a little farther in the New Testament to Philippians, chapter two, verses nine through eleven, we get a connection to that which took place in the Garden of Gethsemane. It reads, "For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every other 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 in Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 8, 2025

## Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Darrian Irlbeck, Amber Scott, and Ryan Winter.

Call to Order/Devotion: Meeting is called to order by Nicole Krohn. Devotion given by Amber Johnson.

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Amber Johnson, seconded by Ryan Winter. Motion passed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes with amendments by Darian Irlbeck, seconded by Ryan Winter. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report and bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Amber Scott, seconded by Darian Irlbeck. Motion passed.

## Pastor's Report:

Pastor is gone next week for a 2 day retreat in Red Oak. He is continuing to schedule baptisms and 10 new members will be brought in to the church during the month of May. Pastor has been asked to become the co-dean of the Western Iowa Mission District and is prayerfully considering this and a decision has not been made at this time.

President's Report/Comments: I have been reviewing various portions of our website, making notes for areas to address and have started to formulate text portions to fill in to the website. No changes or additions have been made to the website at this time.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Youth group will conclude for the school year on May 14th. The Access Elevator was here on May 6th, for annual maintenance.

## Council Reports

Property Report: Thank you to Eric Sieh and the Boy Scouts for cleaning up the yard this spring. The yard has been mowed a few times already and I'll be spraying for weeds soon. Materials for new gutters on the east side of the church are in and should be replaced within the next week or two. The southwest window in the big classroom upstairs is inoperable. The operator arm that cranks the window open and closed pulled apart from the sash. Someone has tried to fix this in the past by putting in bigger screws, but those also stripped out. It will need a new sash to correctly fix the issue, but I'm not sure it's worth spending the money on if it only gets opened occasionally. The foundation project is on the horizon. We evaluated the AC units that are going to be removed, and it's been recommended one of the units gets completely replaced while we are doing the project. Feekes Heating & Cooling quoted \$7,000 to install a new AC unit. This would include a brand new unit, whipple, electrical hookups, and mounting pad.

Service: No report

Outreach: Finalizing the plans for the outdoor worship service on Sunday, May 11th at 10:15. Received confirmation from the young adult that her midterm hug arrived finally. The fellowship committee will meet to begin planning a few events for the upcoming year.

Stewardship: No report

Finance: No report

Education: Sunday School will wrap up for the year this Sunday, May 6th. VBS Planning is going well. I am starting to secure volunteers. We are needing host homes for the counselors. Current Registration is at 48, with the goal of having registration open through the end of the month. For discussion with the council. We would like to consider a refresh to decor & paint upstairs. If we were to paint, would we want someone to come in & do it or would we like volunteers? I will start looking at new decor for the space as well. I am thinking of a timeline after VBS but before classes resume after Labor Day

## Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: The change to summer worship schedule starts Sunday May 25th. There is no fellowship that weekend. Fellowship will be the first Sunday of the month for the summer months.(June, July, August)

New Business: Confirmation is Sunday June 8th at 9:30. Faith festival will most likely be June 7th. Invites will be sent out to council members and other attendees.

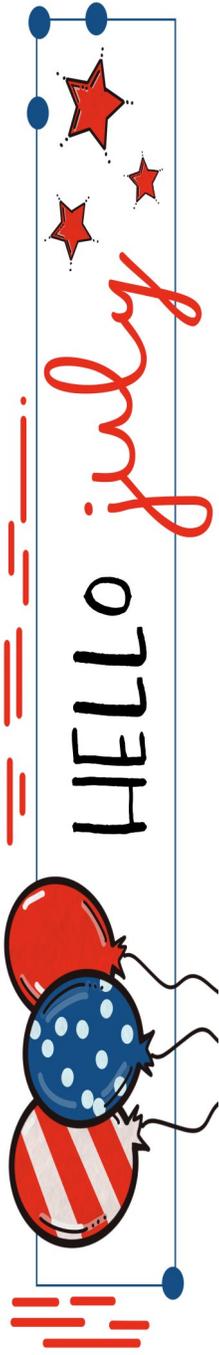
One AC unit is past its useful life and needs to be replaced. The quote is \$7,000 for the unit and replacement costs. Motion made by Amber Scott to approve update of AC unit, seconded by Ryan Winter. Motion passed. Pastor Matt shared a contract with Yondas service for the sound system for an annual reset and preventative maintenance to optimize use of the system. The cost on an annual basis is \$754 with options for a 2 year and 3 year contract as well. Discussion was held regarding the camera in the sanctuary and it possibly needing to be replaced. Shela will look into costs for replacement. Discussion was held regarding a service agreement for anti-virus, service and other options with Oxyn for our computer system. Shela will get quotes.

Visioning: Discussion postponed until the next meeting.

Adjournment: Amber Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Ryan Winter

Next meeting will be held on June 12th, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4	2	3 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	4 Happy 4th of July! Office Closed	5
6 9:30 a.m. Worship/No A.C. 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	7 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship Foundation Repair Begins	8 Pastor On Vacation	9	10 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 7 p.m. Council Meeting	11 Pastors Day Off	12
13 9:30 a.m. Worship/First Com- munion/No A.C. 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	14 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship Foundation Repair Begins	15 4-5:30 p.m. Seedlings Foundation Repair Scheduled to Conclude	16	17 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	18 Pastors Day Off	19
20 9:30 a.m. Worship/No Com- munion	21 9:30 a.m. Worship/No Com- munion	22 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Chris- tian Service	23	24 4 p.m—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	25	26
Pastor Out on Mission	Pastor Out on Mission					
27 9:30 a.m. Worship/No Com- munion Pastor Out on Mission	28 9:30 a.m. Worship/No Com- munion Pastor Out on Mission	29 Office Closed	30	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.

### **Summer Worship Schedule Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**Fellowship following the service on the 1st Sunday of each month.**

**Sunday School will resume after Labor Day.**

**Holy Communion celebrated during each worship service.**