

The Trinity Trumpet

August 2025

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

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“The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” Lam 3:25

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” Psalm 27:14

*“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.” Psalm 130: 5-6*

*“The waiting is the hardest part...you take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hardest part.”
Tom Petty*

The Work of Waiting

Seasons of waiting truly are a challenge. The expression we are to be human beings, not human doings refers to the waiting nature of God’s direction for us in Psalm 46: 10, “Be still, and know that I am God.” To be still goes against the grain for people living in the US these days; face paced, big accomplishment oriented, always driven people we are. When we were in Canada, several people made the statement, “You Americans get up too early.” But too often we mistake being still or waiting for doing nothing. In fact, I would say that it takes far more attention and energy to wait and be still than a person could know.

This waiting rest upon on a promise. That promise is that God Himself will restore His creation upon the earth and it will be as it was before the snake and tree event of Genesis 3. Walking with God, totally exposed with nothing to hide because we are in a right relationship with Him and all things. That time has not yet come though so we are called to keep that time a focus in all we do. Waiting rests on a hope which is laid on the foundation of that promise. It isn’t a whimsical hope like hoping our team will win the championship, or loss of weight will occur, or wealth and riches will abound. These things are based on a longing with no tangible assurance.

As the Christian waits, in hope, on a promise, it is founded on a true reality which has already begun. It is a proven event that will take place, not because of me but of the cross of Christ and His resurrection. It changes us and calls us to a difference. There is a true longing in this waiting that is focused on because it is coming. Notice in the readings above the wantonness of language; that of being a watch man, looking through the dark to see the light come. The encouragement to not wear out in looking but be seeking it as we go. Waiting is an active, focused thing that isn’t doing nothing, but actively seeking to stay focused when all the bright lights try to drown out the light of Christ and we turn our heads and ways to things that will in the end only destroy us.

The promise of God is clear for those who seek Him, who wait upon Him, will find out what good really is at His appearance. But that is the struggle isn’t it. We have heard the promise, but it’s been so long. We get tired of waiting since we are instant gratification people, and we get caught up in tangible things (or at least so they seem). Many things promise us something, but God reminds us it all is passing away, everything but Him and His Word, and those who cling to the Word. It is exactly for these people, who can’t wait, who want more that Jesus came for, you and me. That’s why He calls us to come and sit with Him in worship; there we are fed in so many ways with the strength and encouragement to keep us waiting. In our failure to hold on, we hear Jesus’ forgiveness when we declare this is hard Lord. Then He speaks His word that works to kill the old Adam in us so that we would come even more to cling to the Gospel who is Jesus. He feeds us with His very presence, so we tangibly are reminded that we are forgiven, He is with us, and that we have been dressed in the robe of His righteousness to stand before God not as we are but as He has made us.

Old Tom had it right, the waiting is the hardest part. In reading and hearing His word though, we recall that we do not wait in vain, as people with no hope. We take it on faith, we take it to heart, that even though waiting is the hardest part, we will not be disappointed. Washed, fed, blessed, and sent we go about the work of waiting serving the neighbor around us for and in Christ. We pass on what we have been given, and we do the work of being still to know that He is God, He will be exalted, and He is coming for us.

Enjoy your work. Peace be with You all. PM

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
06/22	120	615.00
06/29	63	8781.20
07/06	61	795.00
07/13	92	3730.00
07/20	56	—



Karen Johnson– Leanne Travis

Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



On July 13th, seven children celebrated their first communion: Harper Allspach, Kasey Coolidge, Eli Graham, Ellynn Griffen, Owen Hansen, Clairra Yates, and Maelie Madden.

Congratulations all!



The following is written with no elation. I have to give up working in the

Church library. Although I have devoted little or no time to the effort I will miss fondling the books and from time to time reading. I gave up my driver's license and that has made many changes in my life; one of which is dropping in on the library. I did try to create an interest in the library but with all of the other media options this is not going to happen. I read on Kindle {I can amp the fonts} I listen to Audible [the narrator is my failing eyes].

It has been a great run and I am happy that I still am able to stay in my own home. I have so many things going well for me and when I get up in each morning I thank God for that.

So long.
Milt Hanson



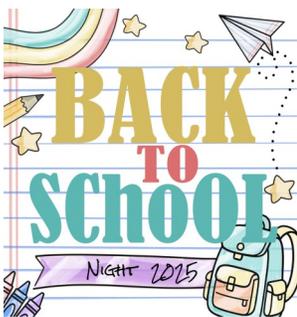
On July 13th, Ellynn Griffen was baptized into the family God, here at Trinity. Ellynn is pictured above with Pastor Matt Bahnfleth. Her parents are Terin & Lezli Griffen. Ellynn's baptismal sponsors are Melissa & John Minshall.

Congratulations, Ellynn and family!



August 02	Delaney	Carroll
August 02	Michelle	Freeman
August 02	Exton	Hansen
August 02	Sheryl	Harder
August 02	Peggy	Jacobsen
August 03	Courtney	Hensley
August 03	Jennifer	Partlow
August 05	Jayna	Engle
August 05	Kieghan	Johnson
August 05	JoAnn	Moore
August 06	Marie	Madden
August 06	Becky	Woltmann
August 08	Breanna	Pauley
August 10	Ava	Paulsen
August 10	Makenna	Paulsen
August 10	Samantha	Scheffler
August 11	Cara Beth	Buboltz
August 11	Gary	Collins
August 11	Janae	Sternberg
August 12	Andrea	Emmanuel
August 12	Larry	Lippold
August 14	Jackson	Hensley
August 15	Karen	Hansen
August 15	Michael	Scheffler
August 17	Alice	Botcher

August 17	Julaine	Carley
August 17	Courtney	Harder
August 17	Gary	Soetmelk
August 17	Matthew	Sternberg
August 17	Ron	Tapke
August 18	Alisha	Allen
August 18	Alexander	Hansen
August 18	Ethan	Hoepner
August 18	Brittany	Kelly
August 19	Eli	Collins
August 19	Wilma	Klindt
August 21	Kristen	Krohn
August 21	Preston	Krohn
August 22	Lillian	Boysen
August 23	Jordan	Blotzer
August 23	Roger	Nelson
August 24	Betty	Kubik
August 25	Brody	Hensley
August 25	Connie	VonEschen
August 26	Sienna	Christian
August 26	Courtney	Freeman
August 27	Jim	Hansen
August 28	Robin	Andersen
August 30	Jovi	Robinson
August 31	Jason	Holst



Trinity will once again be hosting a back to school night for local school age children. 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. Donations can be shipped directly to the church at 301 N. Chestnut St. Please have all donations to the church by August 7th. Thank you to those who have already sent donations! We are also looking for donations of bars and cookies for the night of the event, which will be held on August 14th at 6 p.m.

If you would be willing to help the night of, please let Sue know. We'll need people to dish up goodies, greet, set up and tear down.

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!

August/September Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, August 3rd 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund	
Communion/Offering	Amy & Robb Jacobsen, Dale Krohn	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Jerod Johnson	
Greeters	Wendy & Chris Dierking	
Acolytes	Lucas Plumb	
Worship Steward	Jim Hansen	
	Sunday, August 10th 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund	
Communion/Offering	Dean & Joy Krohn, Terry McCarthy	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Nicole Krohn	
Greeters	Holly Hansen Family	
Acolytes	Ethan Hansen	
Worship Steward	Adam Harder	
	Sunday, August 17th 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund	<p><i>Worship Volunteers</i></p> <p>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</p>
Communion/Offering	Dorothy Nelsen, Roger Nelson, Leslie Nielsen	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Kiptyn Lamp	
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family	
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	
	Sunday, August 24th 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund	<p><i>August Communion Bread</i></p> <p>Joy Krohn & Sage Brockhoff</p>
Communion/Offering	Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen, Sue Paulsen	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Travis Lane	
Greeters	Amber & Jerod Johnson Family	
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	
	Sunday, August 31st 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Ronda Holst, Reva Bylund	
Communion/Offering	Dora Rock, Greg & Marge Petersen	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Peggy Osbahr	
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	
Acolytes	Jaelyn Johnson	
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	
	Sunday, September 7th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, September 7th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Ava & Sue Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold, Janiece Schroder, Linda Schumacher	Katie Scheffler, John Scott, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Neil Paulsen	Danny Pattee
Greeters	Dale Krohn	Nicole & Heath Lamp Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Kiptyn Lamp
Worship Steward	Dean Krohn	John Scott

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

...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.

TIME

Have you ever been in a situation, maybe in your teenage years or as a young adult, where you either needed to get something off your chest or mind, or were dealing with an issue that nobody else knew about and you felt like you were drowning in guilt or being overwhelmed in hopelessness? And when you finally unloaded the weight of it, was there a feeling of freedom? Or maybe the person you told of your situation could help you get through the rough waters ahead. With that being said, let us look to the Gospel of John 8:31-32. Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." I had a situation in my early twenties, where I had been asked to do something on behalf of someone else, to which I thought I was lending a hand to someone in need. But it turned out to be the exact opposite. The person I thought I was helping viewed it as the exact opposite and was claiming that certain social and legal lines had been crossed. Local police were involved, and lawyers were going to be needed at some point. All of this came to light mid-morning, and there was nobody that I could turn to at that hour of the day who was not working at the time. My mom was the one that I needed to turn to for help, guidance, and whatever else she could provide for her troubled son. But she was working, and I didn't want to unload this on her during her work hours. So, I waited. And those few hours were the most gut-wrenching period I had ever gone through at that point in my life. But when I was finally able to get to talk to her and explain my situation, it was as if the dark clouds of the storm had all moved out, and there was a little bit of sunlight beginning to break through. Fortunately, nothing ever became of that situation once all the parties involved told their side and gave their details. That story came to a close, and everyone went on with their lives. Literally, getting everything off my chest and out in the open, did set me free, and that burden was lifted off me. Now I want to look at another verse in the book of John, and that is chapter 14 verse 6. Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus is indeed the truth. Jesus is the one that does set us free from the bondage of sin. He does set us free from the hurt and pain that this world hands us on a regular basis. He does free us from our physical ailments (in due time). And Jesus will set you free from whatever you're carrying around when it feels like there is nobody you can turn to. And Jesus' truth is found in his Word. All we need to do is turn to our Bibles and we can find him there. In Matthew 7:7-8 it says, "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." So, seek for the true one who is the truth. Ask him to ease the load you are carrying. And he'll open his door, welcome you in, and he will give you comfort. A peace that passes all understanding. As I started this article entitled time and with the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, the time has come, and this is the last of my writings for the Five and Dime. I've enjoyed sharing with you my thoughts and findings on my spiritual journey. Maybe there is someone new who will take the keys and reopen the Five and Dime, or maybe one day I will pick up the pen and paper again to share more of the sweet nuggets I've found on my journey. So I leave you with a sincere thank you for taking the time to read these stories. And all God's people said, Amen.

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: June 19th, 2025

Members Present: Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Nicole Krohn, Darrian Irlbeck, Megan Hansen and Eric Sieh.

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda by Darrian Irlbeck, seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes by Eric Sieh, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report discussed, no bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Darrian Irlbeck, seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Matt has 8 students signed up for the current communion class. Seedlings and Sprouts are continuing to meet twice each month and going well. Following VBS, He will be off from June 28- July 4th.

President's Report/Comments: I have continued to work on pieces of the website and in the coming month, I hope to be able to make changes to the website (in the background) for approval/edits before the updates go live.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Back to School Night will be coming up in August. No date has been set at this time. Last year, 31 students participated and after donations, \$540 was spent on school supplies for participants. The event will be held as in previous years with participants pre-registering. School supplies will be sought through donations, as well as asking for funding to cover the remainder of needed supplies.

Council Reports

Property: New gutters were installed on the east side of the Church. This should help filter water away from the building and prevent wet carpet during heavy rains. Most electrical receptacles around the church have been replaced and a surge protector will be installed to protect electronics around the Church. New exterior LED lighting was installed on the north and east sides of the building.

Worship: No report.

Outreach: No report.

Stewardship: No report

Finance: No report

Education: VBS starts a week from tomorrow with our Okoboji Counselors arriving next Sunday Afternoon. There are approximately 85 participants signed up for VBS. Following the conclusion of VBS, efforts will be made to explore updating the Sunday School classrooms (ie, paint, decorations, etc).

Old Business: Shela is still waiting to hear back from Oxyn regarding cost of a service contract vs. Yondas service contract for the tech for the sanctuary. Shela will also look into the cost of replacing the camera/projector as well since ours is dated and will likely need replaced soon. Amber Johnson and Becky Bahnfleth will attend the NALC Convocation with Pastor Matt in August. Pastor Matt expressed that he would like to pursue the co-dean position for the Iowa Mission District he has approached about last month. The nomination paperwork needs to be submitted in the coming weeks. A motion was made by Darrian Irlbeck for the council to give our approval for Pastor Matt to accept the co-dean position to the Iowa Mission District pending his confirmation. The motion was seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

New Business:

Sue would like to have her old office computer as it is no longer being used for the church. Discussion was held and a motion was made by Eric Sieh for Sue to have her old office computer for its current market value of \$75. The motion was seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. Motion passed. Back to School Night will be coming up in August and discussion was held about funding for school supplies for participants. A motion was made by Megan Hansen to approve funding for school supplies for all preregistered participants and seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. Motion passed. Megan Hansen will look into cost of painters for upstairs Sunday School area vs volunteers to assist with painting and updates.

Visioning: Discussed chapter 3 of Junk Drawer Jesus.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darrian Irlbeck. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held on July 10th, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Krohn, President



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

					1 Pastors Day Off	2
3 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	4 Pastor Out NALC Convocation	5	6	7 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	11	12 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	13	14 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 6 p.m. Back to School Night 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15 Pastors Day Off	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	18 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	19 4-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	20	21 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	22 Pastors Day Off	23
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	25 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	26 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	27	28 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	29 Pastors Day Off	30
31 9:30 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study						

**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.