

The Trinity Trumpet

September 2025

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

(402)-750-8327

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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

Sue Paulsen

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"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." Lam 3:25

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3: 5-6

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry." Psalm 62: 5

"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 Power of Waiting

Seasons of waiting are a challenge. Last month we considered the WORK of waiting, and work it is! I'm always struck by the scriptures as the psalmist or others use words of such confidence and assurance when they make statements like, "I waited patiently for the Lord." I feel a tinge of curiosity that any human could write those words that way. I mean patience – who does it so seemingly well, no one. We are now, more than ever, people who have no patience for anything. We exist in an immediate gratification culture sped up by technology, online Prime purchases delivered in a few hours after orders, fast food... The art of waiting is a lost art today.

I remember Nancy from the congregation in Illinois. A nurse of 60 plus years, diagnosed at 80 with Breast Cancer. In one of our conversations Nancy, with a gravelly low voice from smoking for decades, looked me dead in the eye and said, "Pastor, I'm not very patient being patient." Nancy, I get it. I hate waiting, I loathe it with deep loathing. But did I tell Nancy that – NOOO. I looked her right back in the eye and said, "Tough!" A truly fine pastoral care moment. I didn't join her in another of our human whimpering pity parties that we all like to hold. There are times and places for those but today was not that day. Why, because we had wrestled through this many times and today, she needed to hear a word from a representative of the Lord, imperfect as the psalmist. A broken, sinner who doesn't enjoy waiting on anything anymore than having his toenails removed. (and that's what patience feels like sometimes – especially when it comes close to home or stands in the face of our mortality and our illusion that somehow, we are in control of everything or should be).

Nancy, like you and I in these struggling times, needed to hear that GOD was bigger than all this. That God is always working for good, our good, despite how we may perceive things. He clearly knows all the pieces we cannot see and putting that all together is why He tells us not to wait for something, but to WAIT ON HIM. His waiting with the power of God having made a way, given an answer, crushed these moments forever in the death and resurrection of Jesus; and through that act healing our every ill, covering our every need, supplying for our every want. But we want it now! And here's the POWER of waiting. The power doesn't come from me, anyone or anything around me except from God's gracious hand. To know God, more than lip service words, but to add all the things of life together and know beyond a doubt that He is good and working for our good.

It is knowledge that takes a lifetime to grow, but at each step of the way reveals the truth while learning even more deeply the truth, that sets us free. Freedom to know He is bent down to hear me just as He came down to walk in our muck. Freedom to know that He will make our paths straight because in our baptism we have our path straightened already as we wear the robe of Christ's righteousness. Freedom to have the power of God's word fortifying and strengthening our waiting even in the face of the worst-case scenario.

Take Shadrack, Meshak, and Abednego as a supreme case. Having ignored Nebuchadnezzar's command to bow to the gold statue at the musical sound, they stood condemned to be tossed into a fiery furnace, seven times hotter than ever before. Given a last chance to change their minds and save their lives, I love what they said to this earthly lord. "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." That is the power of waiting on the Lord, power to despise all in this world because we already have it all for eternity in Christ.

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Church Council

President: Nicole Krohn
(712) 309-2318

Property Management:

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
07/27	78	3,165.00
08/03	90	3,492.00
08/10	92	985.00
08/17	105	8,577.50

...Old Tom had it right, the waiting is the hardest part. But in the struggle, there is a power burning to be released in us, from Christ Jesus. Washed, fed, blessed, and sent we go about the work of waiting serving the neighbor around us for and in Christ. We pass on the powerful promise of 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. May the Power of the Lord work richly in you. Peace be with You all. PM

Are you handy with tools and great with organizing projects? We are looking for those who are willing to share their time & talents with the church by helping with maintenance and building tasks. Our hope is to form a group to help manage the role of property management. If you feel called to serve or would like more information, please contact Nicole Krohn at (712)309-2318 or nkrohn0524@yahoo.com.



It's time for the Rummage Sale! The sale will be held September 26th and 27th. Drop off and set up will begin on Sunday, September 21st. We accept most anything-like furniture, clothing and toys, etc. Please do not bring your items to the church until the 21st. If you need help getting large-heavy article to the sale, please let us know and we will find help getting them to the church. Please contact Shirley Pattee. 712-249-0911 Help setting up and also taking down on Saturday the 27th would be much appreciated! Again, please contact Shirley if you are willing to help! Join us in the fun!

Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

As the new school year gets under way, may we think about blessing the ministry that is the AHSTW Backpack Program for our local AHSTW primary, intermediate, and high school. This program relies heavily on donations of food to fill the bags, and monetary donations to help purchase appropriate options for those in need. In the month of September, I encourage us to come together as a church family, in support of a very necessary program.



We will be accepting donations of capri sun pouches and applesauce cups, as well as any monetary donations to purchase additional items. If you have any questions or want additional information regarding the AHSTW Backpack Program, please reach out to myself or Nicole Krohn.

Many Blessings,
Christina Berndt

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



September 01	Larry	Chapman
September 01	Lu Ann	Jensen
September 03	Lane	Thornton
September 04	Benjamin	Kramer
September 04	Jaycie	Schueman
September 04	Dean	Willett
September 05	Kristyn	Nielsen
September 05	Robert	Scott
September 07	William	Bylund
September 10	Sage	Brockhoff
September 10	Janet	Holtz
September 10	Kyle	Sternberg
September 10	Kami	Willett
September 11	Ella	Hansen
September 11	Shelby	McCreeady
September 11	Karen	Pope
September 11	Gayle	Stuart
September 12	Kerry	Danker
September 14	Katherine	Collins
September 14	Katie	Johnson
September 15	Deanna	Whyte
September 16	Stephanie	Harder
September 17	Joy	Best
September 17	Evelyn	Soetmelk
September 20	Marilyn	Chapman
September 22	Corbin	Pieken
September 23	Karen	Rodriguez
September 24	Bobbi	Lund
September 25	Blake	Holst
September 25	Joy	Krohn
September 25	Trevor	Madden
September 26	Krislyn	McCarthy
September 26	Jason	Rold
September 28	Darren	Krohn
September 29	James	Best



Ring! Ring! Ring! The adult bell choir is looking for 2 or more people who would be interested in playing in the bell choir as a regular bell ringer or a substitute. Practice is on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The first practice is Sept 8. Please contact Kathy Soetmelk if you are interested. Cell phone number is 712-249-9027. Thank you.

The youth bell choir is starting again on Sept 8 at 4:15 in the fellowship hall. We practice until 5 pm. I encourage all who played last year to be a part of the bell choir this year even if you are older than 3rd through 6th grade. I also encourage any youth 3rd grade and older interested in trying the bells to come and be a part of the bell choir. You do not need to be able to read music. Please contact Kathy Soetmelk 712-249-9027, Kim Krohn 402-210-6625, or Becky Bahnfleth 402-750-8661, if you are interested. Thank you. See you on the 8th!!



Our email information has changed! Pastor Matt's new address is mattbahnfleth@tlcavoca.com and Sue can be reached at tlcpaulsen@tlcavoca.com.

Emails went out in August to parents with kiddo's from Kindergarten thru College. We are trying to make sure grade information and contact information is current. If you don't see an email from us, please check your junk mail and/or reach out to Sue. The switchover to our new email addresses have put a few kinks in the process that are still being worked out.

Also, if anyone has any new contact information, please let Sue know, so we can reach you! This can be done via email, calling or filling out a connection card in the pews.

Thank you for keeping us up to date. Your help is appreciated!



We are looking for more volunteers to help on Sundays here at Trinity. Anywhere from 3rd graders on up, are needed to serve. If you would be willing to help or serve in a different capacity than you are already serving, please let Eric Sieh know. He can be contacted by email at eric.m.sieh@gmail.com or text/calling 402-650-3065.

September/October Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, September 7th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, September 7th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Donna Rold	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
	Sunday, September 14th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, September 14th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Janiece Schroder	Lacey & Shane Brockhoff, Jacob Collins
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Jennifer Plumb	Greg Petersen
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Family	Nicole Lamp
Acolytes		
Worship Steward	Dale Krohn	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, September 21st 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, September 21st 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumacher	Evan Harder, Gage & Hayli Clay
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Cristin Rold	Kathy Soetmelk
Greeters	Rose Krohn	Adam & Stephanie Harder Family
Acolytes		
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, September 28th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, September 28th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Ava Paulsen & Sue Paulsen	Stephanie Harder & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Eric Sieh	Jim & Karen Hansen, Kiptyn Lamp
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Morgan Sieh	Donna Rold
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	Greg & Marge Petersen
Acolytes		
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Greg Petersen
	Sunday, October 5th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, October 5th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Janeice Schroder & Dora Rock	Becky Bahnfleth & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Morgan Sieh	Joy Krohn, Terry McCarthy, Dorothy Nelsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Christina Berndt	Janae Sternberg
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Lance & Amber Scott Family
Acolytes		
Worship Steward	Pr. Matt Bahnfleth	Lance Scott

September Communion Bread

Stephanie Harder & Kadence
Coolidge



Fellowship Leaders

Sept. 7th— Ronda Holst & Sue Blakestad
 Sept. 14th— Nicole Krohn & Wendy Dierking
 Sept. 21st— Karen Pope & Peggy Osbahr
 Sept. 28th— Kathy Soetmelk
 If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please
 contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.



Our youth group meetings are starting back up, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again! Our first meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 3rd starting at 6:30 p.m. We'll eat dinner and dive into bible study. I plan to hand out our first semester schedule then, as well. Please encourage your kiddo's to join us. All high school aged teens are welcome! If any parents would like to join me in a leadership role for this group, please do not hesitate to reach out! My number is 402-639-6054. It's going to be a great year of fellowship, fun, and growing in our faith together! Sue Paulsen

FALL FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION

Let's celebrate the incoming Fall season together!

Saturday, October 25th
5:00–8:00 pm

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

Games
A light meal
Costume Contest for all ages

No costume? No problem--come as you are and enjoy the evening!

Please remember: costumes should be family-friendly (no gory or scary costumes, please).

This event is open to everyone who would like to be a part of this special time together.

Volunteers are always welcome to help make this evening a success!

Submitted by: Amber Johnson and Gina Winter

Ladies Saturday Get-a-way!!



Gretchen Ronnevik will be speaking over four sessions about spiritual disciplines - but not how one might think. When we mistake spiritual disciplines for to-dos, time slots in our schedule, or "instagramable" moments, we miss the benefits of Christ's continual and constant work for us. The overall good news is that spiritual disciplines have less to do with what we bring before God and more about who Christ is for us, not only as the author but also the perfecter of our faith. Gretchen loves writing about rich theology rooted in real life. She's authored a training course for intergenerational mentoring called Gospel Mentoring. Gretchen also co-hosts the podcast Freely Given as a part of the 1517 Podcast network. It's a conversation about the freedom that comes through dependence on Christ. Gretchen is a mother to six children who are quickly growing into adults. Her family lives in western Minnesota. Gretchen works as a writer and enjoys knitting, reading many books at once, and embarrassing her teenagers in public. Lunch will be provided. Thank you for signing up to help with planning. **All women are welcome**, and you will need to register. You can do so by giving your information to Pastor Matt so he can go online and register you or go directly to <https://www.1517.org/events/ronnevik-faith-lincoln> There you will find the link to register online.

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: July 10, 2025

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Nicole Krohn, Amber Scott, Sue Paulsen, and Eric Sieh.

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: Cards signed for volunteers at VBS.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Eric Sieh, seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Minutes were in order and no corrections made and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Eric Sieh, seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report: We just completed the second first communion class and are now preparing for the start of confirmation this fall. I will be taking 4 local youth on a mission trip in a couple weeks.

President's Report/Comments: None

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: I've been updating school grade information in Breeze for our TLC children. I will be reaching out to parents in August to try and complete that process. Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 14th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Registration for the event will go out on Facebook the end of July. Any and all help that evening would be greatly appreciated! Please have any information submitted for the newsletter by the 20th of each month. July 17th is free electronic recycling from Shelby Co Bank- I'll be taking what we have left of donated cell phones, as that collection is no longer accepting donations. I will be out on vacation July 28th thru August 1st .

Council Reports

Property Report: Heavy rains during Bible School week brought more water problems. The parsonage was seeping water through the basement block wall on Tuesday, and rainwater made its way into the electrical panel in the quilting room that Wednesday. The foundation project should mop up issues at the church, but the parsonage will need to be addressed. Feekes & WCI are both starting on the foundation project on Monday, July 7th. The project should take about 10 days to complete as long as things go smoothly and the weather cooperates. During the foundation repair a water leak was found and fixed that should help with our current water issue in the basement. North Star Insurance is requiring us to have new fire extinguishers by our renewal date on July 31, 2025. I will have the old extinguishers replaced with new ones next week.

Service: Will be looking for a group to help with music selection for services.

Outreach: Working on a program to establish prayer pals between the younger and older congregation members. Other ideas discussed in regards to bridging the need of visiting shut ins and ill congregation members. Plans are being discussed for a Fellowship harvest gathering.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: 90 kids were in attendance this year for VBS. Megan will begin work on the Sunday school areas later this summer for clean up, painting, and other items.

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: Oxen and Yondas contracts reviewed. Motion made by Amber Scott for 3 year Oxen contract, seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

Motion made by Amber Scott for the Tier 1 contract with Yondas, seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

New Business: Information reviewed from Yondas for new equipment upgrade. Sue will request more information about including a projector upgrade to the system as well.

Visioning: Book discussion tabled until August meeting.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Amber Scott.

Next meeting will be held on August 14, 2025 at 7pm.
Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary



HELLO september

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day-Office Closed 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	2 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	3 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- Youth Group	4 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	5 Pastors Day Off	6
7 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	8 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	9 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	10 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	11 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 7 p.m. Council Meeting	12 Pastors Day Off	13
14 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	15 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	16 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	17 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- Youth Group	18 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 2 p.m. Avoca Nursing Home Worship 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts	19 Pastors Day Off	20
21 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship Rummage Sale Set Up	22 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	23 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	24 No Confirmation Class	25 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	26 8 a.m.—6 p.m. Rummage Sale YG "Friday Night Be the Lights" Event Pastors Day Off	27 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Rummage Sale
28 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	29 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	30				

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER
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.