

The Trinity Trumpet

October 2025

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

(402)-750-8327

mattbahnfleth@tlcavoca.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

Sue Paulsen

(402) 639-6054

tlcspaulsen@tlcavoca.com



*“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose, I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” [Jesus said to them] Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” **John 12:27-28a; 31 - 32***

*“The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.” **Numbers 21: 8 – 9***

*“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***

You’re Waiting for WHAT?

Seasons of waiting are a challenge. We have considered the WORK of waiting, and work it is! We spent time thinking of the POWER of waiting; if trusting, despite the pressures of the world, not bending our knee, the miraculous delivery of our lives comes to light as The Christ, Jesus Himself, walks in this furnace of life with us – and though it surprises others, there is nothing but celebration in what we knew to be true.

So, what ARE you waiting for? In this season my mind moves back to Charles Schultz “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.” The simple yet misguided story of Linus, the poor, faithful yet confused youth who blends the beauty of the Christmas Story with the myth of the Great Pumpkin. Linus sounds a lot like us. As we have been considering waiting for the last several months, it is a natural move to pick up the question.

People have been led into believing, and then waiting for, some things with tragic results throughout history. Jimmy Jones ring any bells? “Peace in our time.” “The war to end all wars.” “This ship is Unsinkable.” Just to name a few. The Great Pumpkin is no different. From the same mouth that will declare that beautiful testimony of the True Christmas promise, comes the invitation to wait in the cold fall night of Halloween, amid a pumpkin patch, to see the Great Pumpkin rise. And why would you wait? Because, when the Great Pumpkin rises, he will bring toys to all the good girls and boys. The catch – well, the Great Pumpkin only comes to one patch a year, that is the sincerest; and Linus declare his pumpkin patch to be the sincerest, the one with NO hypocrisy. That is quite a leap Linus.

Too often in life we wait for the Great Pumpkin in our life as well. In the cold and struggles of this world’s condition, we are willing to give it all, no matter what we must suffer through, to get those “toys.” But, for Lucy what turns her off from the invitation to be part of Linus’ preparation for this celebration happens as he is working on his own pumpkin, to be sincere. Seeing Linus doing this work Lucy declares, “You didn’t tell me you were gonna kill it!”

Lucy, you told the truth. To find life it takes death; but we don’t like that, and we don’t want to be a part of that, yet it is the very promise of what one, far superior to the Great Pumpkin, tells us is how we finally receive the blessings of what is promised. (and btw, it is much better than toys) To have resurrection there must first be a death. To be honest and sincere, death must happen. To find salvation requires something we don’t want to be part of, namely sacrifice and death. Yet this is the very something that Jesus is more than willing to do as He jumped into this life with us, taking on our sin and killing it so that we would not be disappointed.

Moses in the wilderness was given God’s command to build a staff and make a serpent so when God’s people were bit by that accursed snake, even as they were dying, they would live. When they looked at the very thing that was killing them, the poison of sin for their deeds, they saw the very thing that would be lifted up to make them whole, as Jesus became the poison to destroy death’s claim. In realizing what had been done for them, they would tell others to come and see, as Linus wanted to do; but this was no Great Pumpkin handing out toys, this was a type that pointed to the one who would come and be that very thing to look upon to find life.

The moment Linus was waiting for, that he and his pumpkin patch were sincere enough to be worthy of the Great Pumpkin’s Rising to bring gifts that will not last. What we wait for is a rising of far superior affect and reach. We are waiting for the crucified and resurrected Jesus, who has already risen for eternity, to come and call us into our rising with Him. He will call us from sleep and change those still on the earth in a “twinkling of an eye” and we will be changed. Changed from mortal to immortal, from perishable to imperishable, from failing to faultless, from frail to forever strong never to die, or suffer, and never to be disappointed in all the Great Pumpkins we try to put our trust in. Best of all, we bear the promise on our foreheads, and in our hearts, children of God; not because we are so sincere, but because He is, has been, and forever will be.

I must give Linus credit for one piece of wisdom though, one tidbit that we all need to remember both young and old. This wisdom has many levels of meaning for us as well other than the literal intention of his statement. So, thank you Linus, I need to be reminded constantly, “Never jump into a pile of leaves with a wet sucker.”

...continued on next pg

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) 307-0919

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
08/24	97	1925.00
08/31	110	745.00
09/07	56/77	7084.00
09/14	74/66	605.00

...Old Tom had it right, the waiting is the hardest part. But in the struggle, if we are waiting for the correct thing, Christ Jesus, we will not be disappointed with gifts that will not last, being found not sincere enough, and waiting all night out in the cold, because we have been 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 the invitation to come and join us in God's patch, and we do so 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.

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.



Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry is in full swing and shoeboxes are lovingly being filled with gifts for children in need around the world. For many it will be the first time they will be introduced to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The shoeboxes that are packed out of love are the only gifts many of these children will ever receive. The packed boxes are God's miracles and we can never know how your shoebox can impact the life of a child.

For more information or to get a shoebox, please contact Gary Soetmelk at 712-307-0268.

Filled shoeboxes can be left at the church, starting in November, and must be returned by Nov. 23rd, so they can continue on to the children.



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

With these changes have come some frustrations, as our sent emails are ending up in peoples spam/junk folders. Please check those for any emails in the last month! We have been working with our technology company to try and get this resolved. In the meantime, if you would mark those emails "as not spam," that may help.

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!

October Meeting Dates:

Wed., Oct. 1st 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.-Bible Study

Wed., Oct. 15th, 6:30 p.m.- Shoebox Packing

Tues., Oct. 28th, 7 p.m.-Concert at Baxter Arena, Departure Time TBA

Thank you, parents, for answering the call to drive! I'm only in need of one more parent driver for the upcoming concert. Thanks again- Sue 402-639-6054



October 02	Annabelle	Buboltz
October 02	Ellia	Krummel
October 05	Max	Scheffler
October 06	Justin	Woltmann
October 07	Cael	Berndt
October 07	Nicholas	Buboltz
October 07	Justin	Kelly
October 07	Courtney	Robinson
October 08	Travis	Lane
October 08	Charles	Pattee
October 09	Ashtyn	McCarthy
October 09	Macy	Thornton
October 10	Marlin	Andersen
October 10	Amy	Jacobsen
October 10	Jaelyn	Johnson
October 10	Dale	Kardell
October 10	Dennis	Taylor
October 11	Rilon	Hilgenberg
October 11	Lucas	Plumb
October 12	James	Schueman
October 13	Jerry	Espeseth Jr
October 13	Gemma	Rold
October 13	Arlene	Roush
October 14	Amy	Buboltz
October 14	Kevin	Jorgensen
October 14	Duane	Nielsen
October 15	Kimberly	Gress
October 15	Kathy	Nelson

October 15	Valdine	Schueman
October 16	Chelsie	Madden
October 16	Nash	Schroder
October 17	Kendal	Best
October 17	Kasen	Krummel
October 17	Jaden	Luth
October 19	Alexandria	Kramer
October 19	Jason	Krummel
October 19	Janet	Pattee
October 19	Jacob	Roush
October 19	John	Scott
October 19	Lori	Winter
October 20	Trace	Phippen
October 21	Gayle	Carroll
October 21	Norma	Pattee
October 22	Kasey	Coolidge
October 23	Kevin R.	Jacobsen
October 23	Emily	Roush
October 24	Olivia	McCarthy
October 25	Reece	Schueman
October 26	Jo Ann	Schuemann
October 27	Adryan	Bruce
October 27	Collin	Harder
October 28	Lisa	Irlbeck
October 29	Suzette	Blakestad
October 29	Donna	Rold
October 30	Don	Buboltz
October 31	Mark	Bornholdt
October 31	Matt	Todd



**Thanks
For All You Do
For Us,
Pastor Matt!**

October/November Volunteer Schedule

	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, Dorthy Nelsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Christina Berndt	Janae Sternberg
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Lance & Amber Scott Family
Acolytes	Harper Allspach	Autumn Boysen
Worship Steward	Pr. Matt Bahnfleth	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, October 12th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, October 12 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Janeice Schroder & Dora Rock	Becky Bahnfleth & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelson	Leslie Nielsen, Peggy Osbahr, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Dierking	Becky Bahnfleth
Greeters	Amber & Lance Scott Family	Amber & Jerod Johnson Family
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	Astelle Graham
Worship Steward	Gary Soetmelk	Jerod Johnson
	Sunday, October 19th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, October 19th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Janeice Schroder & Dora Rock	Becky Bahnfleth & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Neil Paulsen	Greg & Marge Petersen, Donna Rold
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Amber Johnson	Sue Blakestad
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Henry & Sue Pauslen Family
Acolytes	Trevor Madden	Elayna Hansen
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Mike Jorgensen
	Sunday, October 26th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, October 26th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Janeice Schroder & Dora Rock	Becky Bahnfleth & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Katie Scheffler	Janiece Schroder, John Scott, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Nicole Krohn	Jerry Conroy
Greeters	Wendy & Chris Dierking	Adam & Brandi Pieken Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Darren Krohn	Mike Krummel
	Sunday, November 2nd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, November 2nd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Evan Harder & Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Linda Andersen & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumacher	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk, Ron Winter
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Neil Paulsen	Karen Hansen
Greeters	Holly & Mike Hansen Family	Dan & Megan Hansen Family
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	Sage Brockhoff
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter



**VOLUNTEERS
are key!**

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.

Fellowship Leaders

Oct. 5th-Denise Young & TBA
 Oct. 12th-Reva Bylund & TBA
 Oct. 19th-Kris McCarthy & TBA
 Oct. 26th-Dorothy Nelsen & TBA
 If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.

October Communion Bread

Sue Paulsen &
 Makenna
 Paulsen



FALL FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 25th
5:00–8:00 PM

 Games •  A light meal
 Costume Contest for all ages

Trinity Lutheran Church • Avoca

COSTUMES NEED TO BE FAMILY-FRIENDLY,
(NO GORY OR SCARY COSTUMES, PLEASE.)

Sponsored by
Trinity Lutheran
Church and
Family Fellowship
Ministry



Scan to RSVP

Volunteers and donations are needed for this event! If you can help in any of the following ways, it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for donations of cupcakes, cookies, and cakes. We are also in need of people to judge the costume contest and run a few games. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can volunteer by contacting Amber Johnson at 402-681-6847.

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: August 14, 2025

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Amber Scott, Christina Rauch, Sue Paulsen, Eric Sieh, and Ryan Winter.

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

Recognizing Guests:

Thank You Cards:

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Christina Rauch, seconded by Ryan Winter. 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 Christina Rauch, seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report: Convocation. Mission Trip completed to North Carolina and went very well. Hoping to get more students along next year. Working on organizing the upcoming confirmation group. We have a total of 25 students this year and will be working on breaking into smaller groups. I am also working on setting up My first bible class and will probably be in September.

President's Report/Comments: Website updating is still in progress.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: I've been updating school grade information in Breeze for our TLC children. I sent out a form for parents to fill out, with about a 40% response rate as of today. I've also begun reaching out to college students/parents for their updated info. Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 14th from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. We have 13 signed up to receive supplies. May need to consider discontinuing this ministry for now. Working on the meeting dates for the upcoming school semester for the youth group. We'll begin meeting in September. Please have any information submitted for the newsletter by the 20th of each month.

Council Reports

Property Report:

Service: Will be putting information in the bulletin for needs for the backpack program.

Outreach: Thank you for allowing me to attend the NALC Convocation the week of August 5-8. The opportunity was educational and rewarding. Prayer Pals: My hope is to connect our youth, young adults, and our older adults together to form relationships, fellowship, and discipleship, within our congregation family. The logistics are in the process of finalizations. My intentions are to randomly allow youth to be assigned an older adult to pray and form a relationship over the course of the school year. This relationship could continue if desired. To include the young adults in this opportunity, I'm hoping to expand the Midterm Hugs Ministry to be more of a longer time frame. I'm still working on the logistics for this ministry. Family Fellowship: I am hoping to finalize plans for a Halloween/Fall fellowship gathering to happen in October. We hope to have a light meal or potluck, interactive games for all, and a costume contest. This could be open to the public as well. The Fellowship committee needs to finalize details in order to get this fun event in the calendar.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: we are in the process of lining up Sunday school teachers and cleaning up classrooms. Beth Buboltz will be stepping away from doing the Christmas Program.

Additional Council Report Notes: Discussion was held on encouraging younger members to participate in the church service including readings, acolyting, and serving communion.

Old Business: Yandas Camera projector update has been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

New Business: We will be starting our 2 services September 7th with fellowship at each service.

Discussion was held on the Backpack program and the reduction of assistance from the Foodbank of the Heartland. Nicole is currently seeking some grants and other donations to help offset the cost. Motion made to approve \$7500 budget with fundraising for the remainder by Amber Scott, seconded by Christina Rauch.

Nicole submitted a claim to our insurance for the water damage. Auditor was out this week and no refund at this time.

One of the doors was found to be leaking into the narthex. Nicole contacted All about Doors company and they came and replaced seal as well as placing a rain shield.

Discussion was held on Property Management position and establishing a committee to assist with the needs of the church. An announcement will be made at the next service to see if any volunteers are available in the interim.

Pastor Matt and Amber Johnson discussed their recent trip to the NALC Convocation.

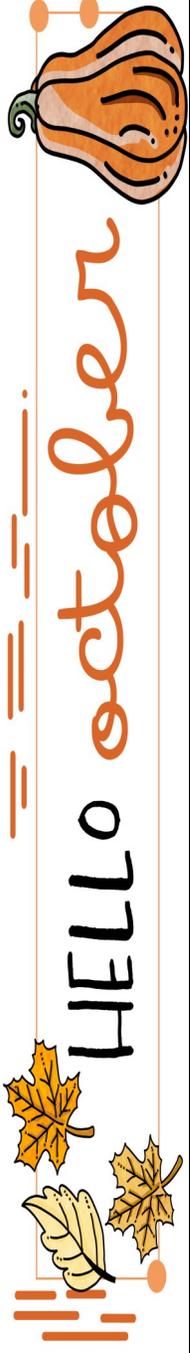
Discussion was held about needing 6 round tables for the upcoming confirmation class. Motion made Eric Sieh to buy 6 tables for confirmation and fellowship, seconded by Amber Johnson. Motion passed.

Visioning: Book discussion postponed.

Adjournment: R. Winter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by E. Sieh.

Next meeting will be held on September 11, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary



HELLO October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	6 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship 4:15 p.m. -5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir Practice	7 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	1 5:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- Youth Group	2 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	3 Pastors Day Off	4
12 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	13 4:15 p.m. -5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir Practice	14 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	8 5:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	9 4 p.m. -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 7 p.m. Council Meeting	10 Pastors Day Off	11
19 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	20 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship 4:15 p.m. -5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir Practice	21 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	15 5:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.- Youth Group	16 4 p.m. -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts	17 Pastors Day Off	18
26 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	27 4:15 p.m. -5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir Practice	28 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship 7 p.m. Youth Group Con- cert	22 5:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	23 4 p.m. -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	24 Pastors Day Off	25 5 p.m. -8 p.m. Fall Fellowship Celebration
			29 5:30 p.m. -7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	30 4 p.m. -6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	31 Pastors Day Off	

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER
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.