

The Trinity Trumpet

November 2025

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

(402)-750-8327

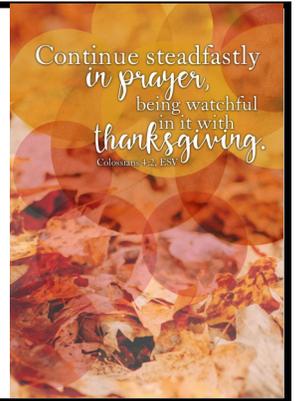
mattbahnfleth@tlcavoca.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

Sue Paulsen

(402) 639-6054

tlcspaulsen@tlcavoca.com



“When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.” Hosea 13:6

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever...They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away... Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” Psalm 107: 1,5,9

What NO STUFFING!?!

There is something special about the sights and smells of Thanksgiving. Decore reminds us of the change from growing seasons to fall and now wintery rest or death depending on if you are the thing that was alive but now isn't, or you are the observer looking out your window at fallen leaves or snow. And as you gaze out you take a deep breath of warm and baking foods: pumpkin and apple pie, roasting turkey seasoned to perfection, warm fresh baked bread. AMAZING. Wonderful.

You come and gather as family and friends, despite all the conflicts and struggles, joys and blessings, and even losses or heartaches of the year. Maybe there is an empty seat, or just one less place setting, maybe there are new little chairs that have been added to your table; but it all brings to bear the life that we live in an upside down, topsy turvy world, corrupted by sin, and yet, broken into by the One we are anticipating as we prepare for Advent's beginning.

As you all are seated and perhaps a prayer of thanks is offered or some sharing of blessed despite the days that have gone by, you look up and, WHAT – there is a carcass of a turkey who has given his life for your celebration but you can hear the outcries and moans because THERE IS NO STUFFING! You can't do this without the stuffing! You could almost get away with no pie or jellied cranberries in the still formed shape of the can, BUT NO STUFFING! The bird is there, the sacrifice is made, but the most important part of the celebration is absent, you feel your spirit's sink because what is to be longed for all year to complete this party has been excluded.

In horror you look to the cook and demand an answer, “Why isn't there any stuffing?” The reply comes quickly and simply, “I didn't feel like it. I was too busy. I got caught up with pumpkin pie.” How could that be? The single most important element of this celebration is dropped for ... busy, didn't feel like it. Everything will be off now. The celebration can go on, but it is in fact as empty and that foul's cadaver in the center of the table.

In Hosea, and in other places throughout God's word, he warns his people and seeks to open their easily closed hearts and minds, to come to Him, to be with Him, to dine with and on Him at a celebration called the Eucharist. The meal of thanksgiving. Not once a year, but weekly. Why? Because He knows how hallow and deceived, we are in this walk we are on constantly attacked and turned by the Master of Lies. He knows how, like that carcass before us, the celebration goes on but it loses joy and power when the stuffing is not there. Hosea declared that it is the Lord who feeds us, but when we have what we want we become claimers of the gifts and to our own demise claim they are ours, we achieved them, and just like that... we forget God, who He is and what He does and has done.

God calls us in the Law to come, *remember* the sabbath, set that apart for our good so we can come and celebrate what He is doing. In the Lord's prayer, we pray for daily bread, (stuffing in preparation) and Luther reminds us that “God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to *realize* this and receive our daily bread with *thanksgiving*.” We need that carb loaded substance of flavor and memories, to fill us, quench our thirsts, and hinder the ebbing of life as the world constantly tries to “knock the stuffing out of us.” We are called to “give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind.” Why would we not come? Didn't feel like it. Too busy. Caught up with other things that are good but are hollowing out our lives as we don't hallow His name.

Don't let your thanksgiving end in horror or hollow echoes of what was alive but now is a cadaver. The table gets set by the LORD Himself, He comes through the Word proclaimed among His broken but loved people, and He Himself is present, as promised, as His feast is given and He offers His very self to fill and complete the celebration for all who come and hold out empty hands. You wouldn't have thanksgiving without the stuffing. Same is true in a life of faith. In Exodus 31:13 the Lord declares, “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.’” Blessings on your celebrations of God's grace for you!

Pastor Matt

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
09/21	70/66	9,779.00
09/28	53/56	4,076.00
10/05	55/82	4,110.00
10/12	80	7,047.80
10/19	56/61	8,278.00



Frank Nelsen– Marlene Nelsen

Randy Piittmann– Peggy Osbahr,
Connie Wiemann Fields,

LaVonne Gerlt– Janiece Schroder

Please join us on November 2nd during worship services, as we will be celebrating All Saints Day. We will recognize all those who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year.



Music in worship provides a beautiful and joyful way to praise the glory of the Gospel! The Praise Band is looking for new voices and/or instruments to join the group. This group is open to everyone and if would like to join, please contact Connie VonEschen @ 712-307-2715.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. The service will be held on Wednesday, November 26th at 7 p.m.



It's time to get your poinsettia's ordered, and help us beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. They are 6.5 inches and will be \$18.00. There is only one size available to order this year. \$3.00 from each plant ordered will go towards supporting the youth group. Please sign up in the Narthex beginning in November 2nd thru Nov. 23rd, and include your "in memory of, etc." information. Plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary for Christmas, unless otherwise specified. Thank You!



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. Please consider supporting this ministry and making a difference to all those who receive a filled shoebox. 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. 16th so they can continue on to the children.

The VBS dates are set for 2026 and we will need your help! Please prayerfully consider hosting counselors in your home. We are looking for 4 host homes this year. The counselors will be here and needing accommodations on Sunday, June 21st thru the morning of Friday, June 26th. Please contact Megan Hansen if you are interested or have any questions. 402-681-0806.



YOUTH GROUP



We had another great “Friday Night be the Lights” event! This year the event was held at the High School cafeteria, after the Homecoming Football Game. 122 students– grades 7th thru 12th grade were in attendance. The AHSTW Student Council and TLC Youth Group helped to decorate beforehand and the Knight of Columbus fried our chicken strips and fries for our meal. Speaker, Jonny Wallace, from Omaha spoke to the kids and then 11 lucky winners were drawn for our giveaways, which included Bibles and Christian apparel. Many, many thanks to the donors and volunteers that make this event possible!!



November 01	Santino	Emmanuel
November 01	Adam	Harder
November 01	Nicole	Lamp
November 02	Kyle	Clayton
November 06	Preston	Scott
November 06	Erika	VanCleave
November 07	Normalee	Krohn
November 07	Tyler	Pieken
November 07	Dale	Schroder
November 07	Laraine	Scott
November 08	Diana	Taylor
November 09	Angela	Sieh
November 10	Mikayla	Emmanuel
November 10	Jersey	Hilgenberg
November 10	Jane	Tech
November 11	James W.	Johnson
November 13	Rachel	Johnson
November 13	Michael	Krummel
November 13	Gregory	Petersen
November 13	Devin	Schroder
November 14	Jacqueline	Boysen
November 14	Holly	Hansen
November 14	Dolores	Harder

November 14	Marilyn	Krohn
November 14	Kathleen	Roush
November 16	Virginia	Lamp
November 17	Hannah	Nielsen
November 17	Tucker	Nielsen
November 18	Virginia	Nelsen
November 18	Brenda	Roloff
November 20	Joyce	Mez
November 22	Jessica	Jacobsen
November 22	J	Olesen II
November 23	Adriawna	Luth
November 23	Ryan	Winter
November 25	Lauren	Christensen
November 26	Julie	Engel
November 27	Madison	Thornton
November 28	Ava	Hensley
November 28	Nathan	Jorgensen
November 28	Sidni	Osahr
November 28	Aaron	Roloff
November 30	Brian	Buboltz
November 30	Heath	Lamp
November 30	Landon	Madden
November 30	Beth	Schueman

November Meeting Dates:

Wed., Nov. 12th, 6 p.m.-Shoebox Packing

Wed., Nov. 19th, 6 to 7 p.m.– Bible Study

Fellowship Leaders

Nov. 2nd– Judy Williams & Julie Miller

Nov.9th—Leslie Nielsen & Nicole Krohn

Nov. 16th-Angie Maassen & Amber Scott

Nov. 23rd-Lori Winter & TBA

Nov. 30th-Marlene Nelsen/
TBA

If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.

November Communion Bread

Neil Paulsen & Lane Thornton

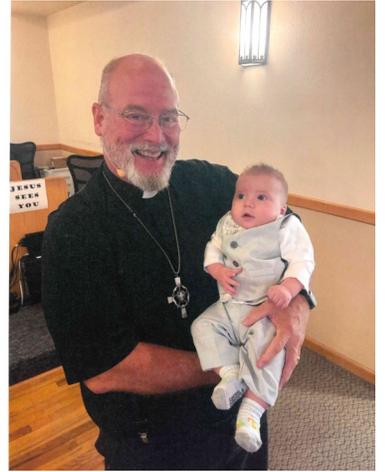
November/December Volunteer Schedule

	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	Neil Paulsen	Karen Hansen
Greeters	Holly & Mike Hansen Family	Dan & Megan Hansen Family
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	Sage Brockhoff
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Sunday, November 9th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, November 9th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Evan Harder & Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Linda Andersen & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Eric Sieh	Judy Williams, Becky Bahnfleth, Jacob Collins
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Dierking	Amanda Holst
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn	Rose Krohn
Acolytes	Joslin Heilig	Jersey Harris
Worship Steward	Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Dale Krohn
	Sunday, November 16th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, November 16th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Evan Harder & Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Linda Andersen & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Reva Bylund	Lacey & Shane Brockhoff, Jerry Conroy
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Jorgensen	Amber Johnson
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	Amber & Jerod Johnson Family
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	Lauren Knop
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Adam Harder
	Sunday, November 23rd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, November 23rd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Evan Harder & Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Linda Andersen & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Wendy Dierking	Holly, Kendra, & Taylen Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers	Autumn Boysen	Bella Lamp
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family	Nicole & Heath Lamp Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Dean Krohn
	Sunday, November 30th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, November 30th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Evan Harder & Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	Linda Andersen & Emery Brockhoff
Communion/Offering	Morgan Sieh	Jim & Karen Hansen, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers	Nicole Krohn	Peggy Osbahr
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	Chelsie & Chuck Madden Family
Acolytes	Brynnleigh Lane	Rylinn Madden
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, December 7th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, December 7th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Collin Harder & Hudson Harder
Communion/Offering	Ronda Holst	Evan Harder, Jeff Harder & Stephanie Harder
Scriptures & Prayers	Jennifer Plumb	Travis Lane
Greeters	Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth	Henry & Sue Paulsen Family
Acolytes	Lucas Plumb	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	Sue Paulsen



Griffin Maassen, the son of, Ashleigh & Cory Maassen was brought into the family of God through baptism on August 31st, 2025. His sponsors are Jake Olesen and Amanda Kardas. Griffen is pictured with mom, Ashleigh, alongside his dad, Cory, and siblings, Blakely, Zoey, and in front, Callum.

Bennett Krummel celebrated his baptism on October 5th, 2025, during the 10:15 a.m. service. Bennett's parents are Emily & Jason Krummel. His baptismal sponsors are Landen Lechtenberg and Cassie Janning. Bennett is pictured with Pastor Matt Bahnfleth, who presided over his baptism.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Advent with a TWIST

Coming Home for Christmas is the theme of our contemplations based on the prophecy of Isaiah this Adventide. The TWIST – to aid in the possibilities of people throughout our community to come and consider Advent in the midst of the rush of the Secular Christmas already set in motion, we are going to be holding midweek Advent times on **Wednesday's from 12:30 pm to about 1:45 pm**. It begins with a light lunch of soups, salads, and sandwiches in the fellowship hall, followed immediately by our time of worship right there in the hall. We might even have a quick carol sing each week. The hope is that daylight hours will encourage those who might not otherwise come out due to the darkness of the season. It is also an amazing opportunity for us to bring others from congregations and neighborhoods to come and gather as the people of God in a community base setting. Mark your calendars, forget about having to make lunch, grab a friend or two as we all plan to Come Home for Christmas this year. We pray that these short times in Isaiah will strengthen faith in the ultimate Christmas gift, Jesus Christ. He is our shelter in the storm, our warmth in the waiting, and our welcome in the wandering. Our exile finally ends through Jesus, for he is our Home.

Angel Tree 2025

We need your help! Starting on November 10th, gift wishes will be available for pickup at both the Avoca and Walnut Library this year or you can email and request to AHSTWANGELTREE@gmail.com



We need unwrapped gifts dropped off at FNIC, 152 S. Elm St., Avoca, no later than Wednesday, November 26th. (Drop off between 9-4, M-F, there will be a box in the entryway) If you have questions, please contact Tatum Christensen at 402-689-8435 or email Nicole @ ahstwangeltree@gmail.com



Thank You!

Trinity's annual Rummage Sale was a great event with a lot of fellowship and work. Seven days from start to finish, loads of articles were dropped off and our wonderful, faithful workers (some new) took over. Many from the community, as well as, our own members donated. Thank you to all who donated, to those who worked, and those who came and bought the many great articles. —Trinity Choir

Trinity Lutheran Church
Aebleskiver & Sausage Supper

Dine-In or Take-Out

301 N. Chestnut Street

Avoca, Iowa

Thursday, November 20, 2025

To Order Take Out:

Call the day of from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

712-343-2518 or 402-639-9186

Or place an order online through our Facebook link by Thursday
at 10 a.m. on Nov. 20th

Pick Up times: 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dine-in times: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

-No Limit on Orders, may have specified time for pickup

-No Change will be given on site

-Pick up will be drive thru style on the South side of the church.

-Dine-in will enter on the north /northwest doors of the church.

Aebleskivers and sausages will be \$1.00 each.

More volunteers will be needed. Please reach out to

The 2025 Aebelskiver/Sausage Committee,

Stephanie Harder-402-639-9186 and Kristen Krohn-712-249-9902

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 11, 2025

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Sue Paulsen, Eric Sieh, Ryan Winter and Megan Hansen.

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

Recognizing Guests:

Thank You Cards:

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

Treasurer's Report: Report and bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Ryan Winter, seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation is up and running, using a family table style set up. Questioning the possibility of holding advent services at noon. The convocation is the 20th. Two worship services are up and running now. Will be out of the office Sept. 22nd thru 26th.at the Holy Trinity Retreat. Will also be out on November 16th.

President's Report/Comments: None

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Youth group began meeting on Sept. 3rd. Schedules have been emailed to parents. New outlook email addresses for Pastor Matt and myself have been started, along with, Oxen technology updating our systems to Microsoft securities. This transformation has been challenging. Communication through email has been the most challenging, as most emails are going to people's spam folders. We are still working with Breeze and Oxen to get this resolved. "Friday Night be the Lights" event is being planned. Will be held September 26th following the homecoming game. AHSTW student council has asked to help this year. Please have any information submitted for the newsletter by the 20th of each month. Thank You!

Council Reports

Property Report:

Worship: None

Outreach: Fall Fellowship Event is planned for Oct. 25th. Working on advertising the event and details.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: The first Sunday school gathering had approximately 30 kids. Curriculum for the Sunday school kids will begin this weekend. Repainting to wait for now and hopefully tie in with future hall updates.

Old Business: Yandas information about a new camera and projector was reviewed for future planning purposes. The air conditioning unit in the narthex was hooked back up and that project is complete. A new electrical box was replaced in the ladies storage closet. Contacting people about snow removal has begun, so someone can be secured for sidewalks and the parking lot. NALC strategic planning meeting will take place soon with four committed current council members.

New Business:

Discussion about the mold in the fellowship hall. Motion was made by Megan Hansen to go forward with the bid for mold cleaning of the carpet and stairway wall, in lieu of, the prospected upcoming renovation. Seconded by Ryan Winter. Sue Paulsen asked if the church council would support youth group in helping to cover the shipping costs of their Operation Christmas Child boxes. Motion made by Eric Sieh to support the shipping cost and seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Visioning: Book discussion was decided upon to read independently going forward.

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

Next meeting will be held on October 9th, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Paulsen

VETERANS DAY **PORK FEED**



NOVEMBER 11

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

HANCOCK FIRE HALL

VETERANS EAT FREE

ALL OTHERS: FREE WILL DONATION

SPONSORED BY
AMERICAN LEGION
AVOCA & HANCOCK





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:15 a.m. All Saints Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. All Saints Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	3 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	4 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	5 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	6 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts	7 Pastors Day Off	1 8
9 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	10 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	11 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	12 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m. Youth Group	13 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 7 p.m. Council Meeting	14 Pastors Day Off	15
16 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	17 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	18 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	19 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m.— 7 p.m. Youth Group	20 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 2 p.m.— Avoca Care 3 p.m.— 7:30 p.m. Abelskiver Dinner	21 Pastors Day Off	22
23 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study	24 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice	25 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	26 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 Pastors Day Off Office Closed	29
30 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study				Office Closed		

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER
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.