

The Trinity Trumpet

December 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



“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10: 34
“Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.” Jeremiah 31: 15
“But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” Malachi 4: 2

From the VERY MOMENT!

Pastor John Bombaro writes, “Immediately after the festivities of Christmas comes the worst story in the Bible known as ‘the slaughter of the innocents.’” (The Worst Story in the Bible, 1517 - 12/28/23) It is striking to consider how much we lose in understanding Jesus, and His incarnation, when we seek to cutesify and lift the Christmas narrative from the pages of the bible. Not wanting to destroy the family celebrations because, yes, Christmas brings joy, but no less danger. From the very moment of His birth, if not His conception one finds it will be risky, even deadly business to confess allegiance this newborn king. Imagine the faith it took for Mary, not only to say yes to the angel, but then to carry that baby with everyone turned on her because she is 14, betrothed (in affect married to Joseph) but still very pregnant with “another one’s child.” How do you respond when you hear of this happening in our own day? No one knew who the baby was to be, but the troubles started right away. The Magi are warned to “go home another way.” Not only stirred by this birth of the King, but for safety from Herod.

Even though Christ’s birth brings a call by angelic hosts of “peace, goodwill toward men,” in the same moment an enemy gives orders to destroy Him, one that results in “all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old and under” massacred by Herod. This is what happens all around Jesus and eventually to Him as well. Jesus is born into a cruel world. Today many simply ignore the birth (covered up in parties and packages), but Herod’s hatred burned on hearing of this birth. His rage and desire to destroy Jesus, led to the death of the Holy Innocents. The Good News turned Herod even meaner. Still, that cruel world was a world with Christ now in it: so, the wise men continued on, the shepherds rejoiced, Mary pondered all these things, and Joseph committed himself to the young boy’s care.

It’s still a cruel world. Many take no notice of the Christ Child, and many turn mean at the mention of His name. Christians around the world are being martyred for their faith, but still, it is a world with Christ in it. Jesus didn’t come to make happiness His main business; He came to fight a war to reclaim His possession. And, if we don’t see Him, even in this Christmas moment, as the Lord God Almighty come to conquer His enemies, regain His usurped kingdom, and slay the dragons that plague us which side will He find us on when He comes again?

This battle has been waged since almost the beginning, and people of faith sacrificed, bled, and risked all to pass on the truth, and to cling to a promise because they understood in stark clarity that they were in bondage and slavery. Longing to be free they clung to a promise that didn’t water God’s work down to emotionalism, but knew the serious nature of God’s work, even while they continued to be reminded daily of exactly why they needed this one to come.

It didn’t end in Bethlehem, that battle raged all through Jesus’ life, right into His battle to demonstrate again who the only true God is. Moses was the one who pointed to truth in the Battle of the God’s that he was called to wage against Pharaoh, and now Jesus has come to Battle against the new God of Caesar (and the reality that all of this world still fights to remain in the lie of the Garden that we can be God). Paul even declares it in Romans 1 that as people fought to keep themselves in charge, in God like naiveté, thinking they were free while all the while they were trapped, and in chains. This battle requires the spilling of blood, and that, just as any other battle, is what still rages on today.

The shadow of the cross falls over the entire story of Jesus’ life from the moment of His birth, forward. He’s born with a price on His head. And Mary herself follows in Rachel’s steps, with all the mothers of Ramah when she is told that her holy innocent, Jesus, will be “a sword that will pierce through [her] own soul” (Luke 2:35)

Celebrate – Yes. Give gifts – Yes. Sing carols and hymns – Yes. But let us NEVER take away from what this is; God has come in frailty and flesh to do battle - to win back what was stolen from Him. What still struggles and fights and rages on in this world of conflict and death; through cruelty, injustice, self-centered and self-reliant living by all the inhabitance of this world. But, and that’s a BIG BUT – it is still a world with Christ in it. It is still a world being remade and that will pass away to reveal the new and renewed Kingdom that God has longed to return it to be. It is still a world where, “IT IS FINISHED” has been declared and lived out; and still a world where the dear Christ enters in where meek souls will risk it all to keep and pass on this message of Christmas as it really is.

Blessings to you all. Immanuel has come, Immanuel has died, and Immanuel will come again. Thanks be to God.

-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
10/26	50/106	1925.00
11/02	55/87	3925.00
11/09	60/74	7840.57
11/16	46/61	2490.00
11/23	43/148	1870.00



There will be three Christmas Eve services offered to attend. They will be held at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.



Join the Sunday School classes at the second service on December 7th for the annual Christmas program. They plan to share the Christmas story & songs to celebrate the season. This will wrap up Sunday School for the semester. Youth group will be hosting fellowship previous to the service beginning at 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy a coffee, juice, and other breakfast goodies.



Thank you, Thank you to all who participated in this ministry again this year! We donated an amazing amount of boxes to be sent around the world to spread the love of Jesus this season. An outstanding amount of 926 boxes are now on their way from Trinity! Many special thanks to Gary Soetmelk for all he does to ensure this ministry is fulfilled!

Advent



Coming Home for Christmas is the theme of our contemplations based on the prophecy of Isaiah this Adventide and our welcome in the wandering. Come one come all, the season of Advent is upon us as we recall the one who has come and wait in hope and promise for His return.

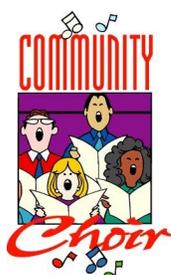
We are going to be celebrating Advent in the light on Wednesdays in Advent. Knowing many who are older wish to attend services, but are hindered in coming because of the dark, we will be having services beginning at 12 noon with a light soup, salad, and sandwich lunch and moving into our time of worship. 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.

We wish to invite all of the Avoca and surrounding communities to gather together in the light as a community of faith waiting for our Lord to return. Our theme is Coming Home for Christmas focusing on Isaiah.

Come on home with us this Advent.

Neola Community Choir

The Neola Community Choir will be performing here at Trinity on December, 7th at 4 p.m.! Please contact Kathy Nelsen at 402-740-8239, if you're available to help bring brownies, cookies or other goodies. Fellowship will following the performance!



Worship Service Change

Please note on Sunday, December 28th, we will only be having one service. Worship will be at 9:30 a.m. that morning. There will be no fellowship gathering on that day.



Fellowship, fun, and ministry- It's been a great month!

December Meeting Dates:
Wed., Dec. 3rd, 6 p.m.-Bible Study
Sunday, Dec.7th, 9:15 a.m.- Fellowship Serving



Pictured above: We attended the Christian concert, headlined by Zach Williams. Above right: We received a sizeable donation to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes, and were able to send 100 filled boxes to children around the world. Pictured below: Youth group along with the Confirmation students helped set up and prepare for the Aebleskiver Dinner!

Fall Fellowship Event

The first Fall Fellowship event was held on October 25th!

We had between 30-50 attendees. The food was great with lots of sweets! The cake walk game was one of the favorite games played that night. The other favorite games were duck charades, ring toss on the witch hat, and leaping frogs into the witches brew. Lots of great costumes. Tara Peters won the jar of corn kernels with her guess closest by not going over the grand total (930 kernels).

Costume Contest results: Favorite adult costume winners were: Shela Jacobsen as the Ten Commandments, Nicole Krohn as Samantha from Bewitched, and Kathy Soetmelk as her grandma. Kids section: Most creative went to Olivia McCarthy dressed as Wednesday from the Adam's Family movie, Isaac Krohn, and Calen Pigsley. Funniest costume went to Bennett Pigsley, Roree Winter, and Marek Pigsley. Best Homemade costume went to Lucy Krohn, Evelyn Pigsley, Nolan Krohn, and Calen Winter.



December/January Volunteer Schedule

	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 Readers	Jennifer Plumb	Travis Lane
Greeters	Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth	Henry & Sue Paulsen Family
Acolytes	Lucas Plumb	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	Sue Paulsen
	Sunday, December 14th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, December 14th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Collin Harder & Hudson Harder
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelson	Amy & Robb Jacobsen, Dale Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Dora Rock	Greg Petersen
Greeters	Lisa & Darrian Irlbeck	Brandi Pieken Family
Acolytes	Guy Scheffler	Claira Yates
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Ron Winter
	Sunday, December 21st 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, December 21st 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Collin Harder & Hudson Harder
Communion/Offering	Dora Rock	Dean & Joy Krohn, Kiptyn Lamp
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Lucas Plumb	Danny Pattee
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn	Greg & Marge Petersen
Acolytes	Harper Allspach	Sage Brockhoff
Worship Steward	Darren Krohn	Greg Petersen
	Wednesday, December 24th 4 p.m.	Wednesday, December 24th 6 p.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Ronda Holst	Collin Harder & Hudson Harder
Communion/Offering	Eric & Morgan Sieh, John Scott	Terry McCarthy, Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Morgan Sieh	Peggy Osbahr
Greeters	Megan & Dan Hansen Family	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	Morgan Sieh	Astelle Graham
Worship Steward	Dan Hansen	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, December 28th 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	N/A	
Communion/Offering	N/A	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Autumn Boysen	
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	
Acolytes	Autumn Boysen	
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	
	Sunday, January 4th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, January 4th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Dora Rock	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumacher	Sue Paulsen, Marge & Greg Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Dierking	Cristin Rold
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	Amber & Lance Scott
Acolytes	Elayna Hansen	Taylen Hansen
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	John Scott

Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Henry Best, the son of, C.J. & Hailey Best was brought into the family of God through baptism on Sunday, November 23rd, 2025, during the 10:15 a.m. service. His sponsors are Matthew & Kendal Best. Henry is pictured with his parents. Congratulations, Best Family!



Fellowship Leaders

Dec. 7th– Youth Group
 Dec. 14th– TBD
 Dec. 21st-TBD
 Dec. 28th-No Fellowship
 If anyone would like to help with fellowship, please contact Kathy Soetmelk at 712-249-9027.

December Communion Bread

Denise Young

Thanks for making the Trinity Lutheran Church Aebleskiver and Sausage supper a great success!

Thank you to all our women, men, and youth for making our annual event held on November 20th a success! Whether dining in with us or taking out, all went well!. Approximately, 8000 Aebleskivers were fried, 250 pounds of sausage cooked, and 120 pounds of syrup was made. Thanks again Trinity Lutheran Church family for all your help with our big event! It takes all of us to make it a success. We look forward to next year!

Co-Chairmen, Kristen Krohn and Stephanie Harder



December 03	Linda	Tapke
December 04	Wyatt	Andersen
December 06	Margery	Denton
December 06	Molly	Scott
December 07	Matthew	Bahnfleth
December 08	Oakley	Bodrug
December 08	Liberty	Plumb
December 08	Janee'	Schueman
December 10	Madeline	Christensen
December 13	Maxine	Sornsen
December 14	Deanna	Krummel
December 14	Eric	Sieh
December 15	Jeffrey	Harder
December 15	Isaac	Krohn
December 16	Maeleigh	Rold
December 17	Brock	Partlow
December 18	Hudson	Harder
December 18	Charles	Lees
December 18	Judith	Williams
December 19	Jameson	Fritz
December 22	Terra	Buboltz
December 22	Dean	Christensen
December 22	William	Christian
December 23	Lori	Maurer
December 25	Christopher	Dierking
December 25	Joshua	Krohn
December 25	Janiece	Schroder
December 25	Steven	Schueman
December 26	Ally	Meyers
December 27	Herbert	Rock
December 28	Paxton	Holst
December 29	Todd	Feigenbutz
December 30	Dawn	Harder
December 31	Marcia	Jacobsen
December 31	Michael	Jorgensen
December 31	Katie	Scheffler



2025 Christmas Poinsettia's



- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk-Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Gary & Kathy Soetmelk- Given in honor of those in the military
 - ◆ Hervetta Ronnfeldt-Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt
- ◆ Hervetta Ronnfeldt- Given in memory of Dave, Joel, and Ethan Holst
 - ◆ Bill & Reva Bylund-Given in memory of loved ones
 - ◆ Ronda Holst – Given in memory of Dave, Joel, & Ethan Holst
- ◆ Ronda Holst- Given in memory of Russ Ronnfeldt and Firp & Marge Holst
- ◆ Jerod & Amber Johnson- Given in memory of Jackson William Johnson
 - ◆ The Johnsons- Given in memory of Karen Johnson
 - ◆ Alan & Suzette Blakestad-Given in memory of Ethan Holst
 - ◆ Maxine Sornsen & Family- Given in memory of Gene Sornsen
- ◆ Henry & Sue Paulsen Family- Given in memory of Cheryl Haynes and Steve Frum
 - ◆ Eric & Angela Sieh- Given in memory of Martha & Erwin Sieh
 - ◆ Chris & Wendy Dierking- Given in memory of Bryce Albright
 - ◆ Alan & Bobbi Sieh- Given in memory of Martha & Erwin Sieh
 - ◆ Alan & Bobbi Sieh- Given in memory of AJ Sieh
 - ◆ Darlene Eggerss- Given in memory of Kenneth Eggerss & loved ones
- ◆ Nancy Kelly- Given in memory of Everett & Leona Piittmann, Troy Walker, and Randy Piittmann
 - ◆ Ryan & Gina Winter & Family- Given in memory of Grandma & Grandpa Winter
 - ◆ Peggy Osbahr—Given in memory of Beulah Strong & Bill Wiemann
 - ◆ Cindy Heilig- Given in memory of Victorine & Bob Jensen and Linda Wittman
 - ◆ Becky Jacobsen & Family- Given in memory of Wayne Jacobsen and Jodi Jacobsen
 - ◆ Holly & Mike Hansen Family-Given in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Linda Schumacher- Given in memory of Tom Schumacher and Leonard & Elva Peters
- ◆ Jason, Amanda, Blake & Madison Holst- Given in memory of Ethan Tyler Holst
 - ◆ Jim & Karen Hansen- Given in memory of loved ones
 - ◆ Dora Rock- Given in memory of loved ones
 - ◆ Dorothy Nelsen- Given in memory of Teresa Nelsen Kardell
 - ◆ Dorothy Nelsen- Given in memory of Don Nelsen
 - ◆ Linda Andersen- Given in memory of Robert Andersen
 - ◆ Jolene & Dean Henning-Given in memory of loved ones



Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting October 9, 2025

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Amber Johnson, Nicole Krohn, Amber Scott, Megan Hansen.

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: Cards sent to businesses for donations to backpack program.

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 Megan Hansen, seconded by Amber Johnson. Motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave an update on his Co-Dean position with the Iowa Mission District Update given on the confirmation class & seedlings and sprouts.

President's Report/Comments: Website updates are being made and can be viewed.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report:

Council Reports

Property Report: None

Service: None

Outreach: Amber Johnson discussed upcoming Fall Festival and midterm hugs. Discussion was held on food and other needs for the night of Fall Festival.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: Beth is stepping away from the christmas program and we will be looking to see what the next steps will be. VBS will be June 22-25. Discussion was held on housing counselors and asking for help now.

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: Renew workshop for the planning committee is November 8th here at the church. Snow removal contract in the works with Jarrod Phippen. Ray tech carpet cleaning came today to give estimate for areas noted and it was \$1795.00. We will table having the carpets cleaned to discuss next month when more information is gathered on the fellowship update.

New Business: Discussion was held on the Costco membership and we will no longer need the membership due to increased cost of products and we are able to get our backpack supplies at Sams. Pastor discussed sponsoring a table for the Good News Ministry Night of Celebration in Council Bluffs on October 20, 2025 to help support prison ministry. The cost would be \$500. Motion made by Amber Johnson to approve \$500 to the Good Global Ministry, second by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Pastor discussed our tidings and support the Iowa Mission District. Discussion was held on sending anywhere from 5-10%. Item tabled to November for further council discussion.

Discussion was held on the update of fellowship hall, classrooms and staircase leading to the narthex. A committee with other congregation members will be formed. Council members to assist with update are Nicole Krohn and Amber Scott.

Visioning: No discussion.

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

Next meeting will be held on November 13th, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

MERRY
CHRIST
MAS





HELLO december

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Youth Group 10:15 a.m. Worship & Christmas Program 4 p.m. Neola Community Choir Performance</p>	<p>1</p> <p>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</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11a.m.—1 p.m. Angel Tree Wrapping Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 a.m.—10 a.m. Angel Tree Pickup</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>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</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>29</p> <p>Pastor Out of Office</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Pastors Day Off Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>
		<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

**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.

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.