

The Trinity Trumpet

January 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth
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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

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BLESS US
in this new year, Lord.



My future is in
**YOUR
HANDS.**
PSALM 31:15, NLT

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God . . . this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12: 1 – 2

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” 2 Cor 4: 16

Renewing the Mission and Vision

When Bishop Dan Selbo visited Trinity, along with other congregations in the NALC in Iowa, he spoke to those in attendance about the continued movement of the NALC over its 15-year life to Renew its mission and vision to become a discipling and disciple making church body. The life of the Christian is to be about the vocation (or work) of our identity as baptized children adopted into the inheritance of God our Father’s kingdom that feeds and informs all that we do. This work is clearly defined with Jesus’ last words prior to His ascension back to the Father. We call this of course – the Great Commission. His words, to what was soon to become His Church, His Body in the world, formed and informed by the Holy Spirit’s presence were simple: “As you go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19 – 20

This is to be our marching order in our daily lives as baptized children of God, no matter the age, in the constant teaching and moving of one another together to build and serve His Church in the world, to call others to know and follow Christ and not the world, and to be on and about the mission to bring others to Him to know Him. When did we as the Church lose this commission and call? How did this direction from the Lord, who sacrificed Himself that we might have life not death, become a watered-down idea about being nice, leaving the work to others, replacing our call with other things that hold sway over our lives, and a Jesus that just wants us to be happy? This is a hard but honest set of questions that we need to ask of ourselves, our congregation, and the Church as a whole.

The bishop reminded us, through scripture in the book of Acts that it is only when the church turned in on itself, became focused about being rather than going, that the church floundered and faltered. But when the church, again in Acts, recaptured it’s focus outside, into the world, to the service, invitation, and teaching of others outside itself it grew in numbers, gifts, generosity and vision of possibilities because God was again the focus and not ourselves.

Scripture has countless references to renewal, restoration, and turn abouts because the people become active as the body together, to worship, serve, invite, give, study, and pray – together. Not alone. In all of this study of scriptures God has been calling through the Holy Spirit to move the leadership of the NALC to acknowledge where we have been in shortfall of our callings, and at the same time to celebrate the good that is being done and of value to the work we are called to be doing. This even directed the body to ask the question, “if it doesn’t meet with the direction and work of that Great Commission, why are we doing it?” Which in turn leads us to ask how does everything we do mesh with the 4 Core Values of the NALC from its inception? How does it inform our work at the congregational level to limit or build, as needed, the opportunities to be a fully balanced congregation in all we do? How does ...

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



...everything fit into the 4 actions of congregations that are discipling and disciple making; growing in study and understanding inside as we gather people together, while also preparing people and then sending them out into the world around us to do the work of that Great Commission? Those 4 areas are Invitation, Retaining, Discipling, and Sending.

To this end 4 council members already have gone through the Renew Retreat for Congregation and visioning. These four people will be leading the new council to be established and installed in early February, along with others invited to share in the process, on a one-day retreat using the Renew process to grow in understanding and celebration of God's leadership and renewing call for our congregation.

This retreat will lay out a clear plan for council and direction, not into the nuts and bolts, an inward focus, but out into the world where God is calling us, by growing and strengthening the discipleship of those who are part of the body here. I would ask for all of our members and those connected to TLC to be praying for the leadership who God will raise up, and for the process to Renew and strengthen our ministry here so that many many will be drawn to know Christ and to walk in a different way, outside ourselves as we follow Jesus and His command, just as His first disciples.

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



The TLC Annual Meeting will be held on January 25th , between services, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School classes that day. Your attendance is appreciated!

The 2026 altar flower sign up sheet is up in the Narthex now. Anyone is welcomed to sign-up for a weekend to celebrate an occasion, honor someone, or simply contribute to worship in this way. Simply choose the date and write your "message" information and your name next to the date you wish to provide flowers for the altar. This list is communicated once a month to our local flower shop. They deliver the flowers for the altar on the weekend you have signed up for. If you'd like specific flowers/ colors, you would call the flower shop to make those arrangements ahead of your sign up date. The flower shop will then bill you directly.



Council Members and Committee Chairs: Please have your annual report and/or any information for our annual meeting emailed to me by Tuesday, January 6th to be included in our annual meeting packets. Packets for the annual meeting will be available for all to pick up in the narthex on Sunday, January 11th. Thank You-Sue tlcspaulsen@tlcavoca.com

If you would like a copy of your annual giving statement for 2025, please contact Sue in the office at tlcspaulsen@tlcavoca.com.





January 01	Lesley	Krummel
January 01	Evalyn	Irlbeck
January 02	Carmen	Martens
January 02	Harper	Allspach
January 04	June	Buboltz
January 06	Conner	Hansen
January 07	Kaeden	Lane
January 08	Derek	Kardell
January 08	Vicki	Schuelman
January 10	Jim	Lechtenberger
January 10	Jessi	Wade
January 12	Erik	Jorgensen
January 13	Mary	Hildebrand
January 14	Roger	Kay
January 16	Julie	Miller
January 16	Joshua	Guyer
January 17	Wendy	Dierking
January 17	Alan	Sieh
January 18	David	Kardell
January 18	Gage	Clay
January 18	Ryker	Krummel
January 19	David	Sampson
January 19	Lauren	Guyer
January 19	Amanda	Holst
January 19	Evan	Harder
January 20	Callum	Maassen
January 21	Penny	Langer
January 22	Jimmy	Young
January 22	Henry	Nelsen
January 23	Nicole	Krohn
January 24	Bruce	Krummel
January 25	Darian	Hansen
January 25	Hayden	Woltmann
January 25	Rita	Kohlscheen
January 25	Lauren	Knop
January 26	Christopher	Jarrett
January 26	Kate	Jarrett
January 26	Aidan	Gaines
January 28	Cole	Harder
January 28	Lori	Snyder
January 28	Lou	Funk
January 28	Autumn	Emmanuel
January 29	Jason	Best
January 31	Sophia	Luth
January 31	LeRoy	Hansen
January 31	Denise	Young
January 31	Madison	Long

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
11/30	29/71	19,001.00
12/07	44/144	4,480.00
12/14	42/80	19,386.10



January Meeting Dates:

Wed., Jan.14th, 6:30 p.m.-Bible Study
 Wednesday, Jan. 28th, 6:30 p.m.– Bible Study



The TLC monthly newsletter is available online at our website!

www.tlcavoca.com

An emailed version will no longer be available. Please check each month to stay up to date on our latest happenings! Mailed newsletters will continue to those previously receiving paper copies.



Sunday School will resume for the second semester on Sunday, January 11th at 9:30 a.m. Please also note that there will not be Sunday school classes on Sunday, Jan. 25th, due to the TLC Annual Meeting.



Please consider opening up your home this summer to our wonderful VBS counselors! We will need 2-3 additional host homes this coming summer. The dates will be June 21st thru June 25th. Please let Megan Hansen know if you are interested or have any questions about hosting! 402-681-0806

January/February Volunteer Schedule

	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, Dean & Joy Krohn
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Jorgensen	Janiece Schroder
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	Amber & Lance Scott
Acolytes	Elayna Hansen	Taylen Hansen
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	John Scott
	Sunday, January 11th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, January 11th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Dora Rock	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Eric Sieh	Donna Rold, Katie Scheffler, Janiece Schroder
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Autumn Emmanual	Donna Rold
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	Joslin Heilig	Hudson Harder
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, January 18th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, January 18th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Dora Rock	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Morgan Sieh	John Scott, Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Kendra Hansen	Janae Sternberg
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	Ryan & Gina Winter
Acolytes	Paxton Holst	Jersey Harris
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Sunday, January 25th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, January 25th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Dora Rock	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Reva Bylund	Judy Williams, Ron Winter, Linda Andersen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Dierking	Linda Andersen
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Mike & Holly Hansen Family
Acolytes	Lauren Knop	Taylen Hansen
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, February 1st 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, February 1st 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth, Angela Sieh	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion/Offering	Wendy Dierking	Becky Bahnfleth, Lacey & Shane Brockhoff
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Ava Paulsen	Becky Bahnfleth
Greeters	Chris & Wendy Dierking	Dan & Megan Hansen Family
Acolytes	Blair Krohn	Rylinn Madden
Worship Steward	Morgan Sieh	Adam Harder

Fellowship

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

January Communion Bread

Emery Brockhoff &
Sage Brockhoff

Worship Volunteers

If you are unable to volunteer during your scheduled time at worship, please help by finding a replacement. Switching available dates with others on the schedule is a great place to start. Thank you, everyone!

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: November 13, 2025

Members Present:

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

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Amber J, seconded by Christina R. 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 R, seconded by Ryan Winter. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: No report this month. Will review in December.

Pastor's Report: No report.

President's Report/Comments: No report.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Breeze email function is not working correctly for us currently and is causing issues in our communication channels. Breeze is aware and working on the fix. Youth group traveled to Baxter Arena for the Zach Williams concert. 28 youth and 6 adults attended. Please have any information submitted for the newsletter by the 20th of each month. Thank You!

Council Reports

Property Report: No report

Service: No report

Outreach: We had a nice evening for the Fall fellowship Celebration. The event was shared on social media, on bulletin boards in surrounding community businesses and through word of mouth. We had plenty of food, games and fellowship. Pictures of the event will be shared in the monthly newsletter, on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and maybe on Facebook. The event went well and we are hoping to do a similar event next year. The Family Fellowship committee is working on another gathering for December that would involve sharing Christmas carols. We are working on finalizing the details of the event. I have reached out to Amber Mohr to learn about possible needs from the community. More discussion with community leaders to develop local mission work. I am still working on the logistics for our younger members to become prayer pals with the older members of the congregation.

Stewardship: No report

Finance: New volunteers needed to count offering beginning January 1st.

Education: Megan and Angela are working on finalizing details of the Christmas program. VBS closing program will be at the end of the last day of VBS not in the evening.

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: Snow removal contract with Jared Phippen has been finalized. Carpet cleaning bids continue to come in and areas to be cleaned will be noted later. Iowa Mission district tithing will be tabled until December. Nicole has been in contact with 3 different businesses for the Fellowship hall renovation. We are waiting on bids. Letter received from the City of Avoca regarding galvanized water pipe and lead testing. Sue will contact the City.

December 3rd will be the start of the Advent services. Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm, 6 pm and 11 pm. No service on December 25th. We will have one service on December 28th at 9:30.

New Business: We will have 3 open positions. Nicole will contact the nominating committee. Eric Sieh will be running for re-election. Amber Johnson and Ryan Winter will not be seeking re-election. The December council meeting will be moved to December 18th at 7 pm.

Visioning: No discussion

Adjournment: Amber Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Christine Rausch

Next meeting will be held on December 18, 2025 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</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>5</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>6</p> <p>9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>19</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 Choir Practice Office Closed</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30-7 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>26</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>27</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>28</p> <p>5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Youth Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastors Day Off</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.