

The Trinity Trumpet

March 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

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Lent

Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within me.

PSALM 51:10, ESV

“He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.”

Isaiah 53: 2 - 3

“Behold, my servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—

” Isaiah 52: 13 -14

Victory and Defeat

Do You remember Jin McKay? Weekly he would show up in our living rooms, back when you could watch sports for free, see more that you can now, and enjoy the experience of competition without making it your life. Jim’s voice always showed up as that famous fanfare like music started with the timpani playing; can you hear it? Dum Dum Da Dum Dum Da Dum as the trumpets blared over top Na, Na, Ne Na Na Na ... Charles Fox did a great job with that. You see athletes skiing, twirling on ice, bull riding, car racing and more as Jim declared, “the thrill of victory” but then the horrific video of the Austrian long jump skier coming down the ramp, veering off course, and crashing with his head bobbling and helmet flying off, as Jim declared, “and the agony of defeat.” It was such a searing image, almost made you want to turn away as he flew sideways off the run.

I’ve been thinking about the Olympics a lot lately as they have again run their bi-annual two-week drama before the world. The colorful and amazing spectacle of people of different ages and abilities coming together to compete in friendship and peace, amidst a world that always has itself set to war, and chaos, serving the self rather than the neighbors around us. The Olympics always seek to show us something better for the world. The Olympics also show us how successful one can be with dedication and attention to detail. And yet as we worry about medal counts longing to hear our national anthem played as the flags are raised, we still are living in a world of temporary achievements and awards that tarnish and rust as those athletes stand on the podium in exceeding joy, glowing in victory.

That’s why I also have been thinking of the prophet Isaiah, 600 years before the birth of Jesus, writing in such clarity and assurance of one who was going to come to truly set the world to rights, and peace. But the description of this one, have you ever paid close attention? From growing like a young plant even there and throughout His life this one would have no form or majesty that would draw any attention to Himself. He had no sparkle or glow that we should desire to be around Him. Unlike famous athletes or movie stars, the world ignored Him and still does. He was despised, rejected, overflowing with grief so people would even turn away from Him. And when the greatest competition came in His life, He was so marred that Isaiah describes Him as beyond human likeness. It was so bad that Isaiah even states His form didn’t even look human.

By every account, and still in the world’s eyes today, Jesus was a major loser. He failed in the “success” measurements of the world and got terribly beaten up by it all. People see the tools of His sport, the Cross, and it symbolizes shame and defeat, the agony of being a loser (as the image of that one comes off the ramp). If Jim McKay was calling it, he might say it this way, the “Victory of Defeat.” That’s why Jesus was so longed for and declared to be coming by Isaiah as his people are in exile longing for the beauty of old; Isaiah declares that amid all that pain and suffering will come a victory that will last. Paul talks about us running races for a crown that perishes, but Jesus ran His course to acquire a medal beyond this world.

As we worry about Gold, Silver, and Bronze, Jesus cared about flesh and blood. He came into the agonies of this world taking them all on Himself so He could win a competition no one else could. We still compete for life, how long can we make it, how much can we have, but Jesus competed for the value of you that so often is hidden and tarnished, ...

Church Council

President: Nicole Krohn
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Property Management: Harley Spencer
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Secretary: Amber Scott
(712) 249-2688

Christian Education: Megan Hansen
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Worship: Eric Sieh
(402) 650-3065

Finance: Joy Krohn
(712) 307-0496

Outreach: Christina Berndt
(712) 269-6763

Stewardship: Beth Nielsen
(402) 689-1981

Treasurer: Shela Jacobsen
(402) 490-2423

Trinity Lutheran Church



Focusing on the **CROSS**.
Following Christ's **LOVE**.

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...corrupted by sin in a broken world. Isaiah knew that God was looking past the world, then and now, people feed in sin and sorrow and saw His most favored creation falling off the course, crashing, hurting, as it continued to compete to make it work. As He looked, He desired the supreme award to be hung around His neck as the angels and host of heaven sing, Glory to God in the Highest, the heavens unfurl and peace and justice take their proper place. The award He desires, not

gold or silver, but you. As Jesus hangs from the cross, you are placed around the neck of your beloved Father, washed, adopted, redeemed.

May God bless you and keep you, and us all in His Peace during the storms of life. Pastor Matt

Lenten Services

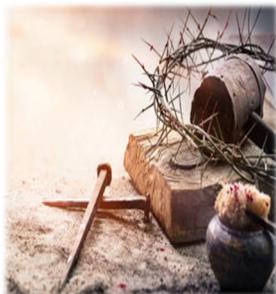
Dying His Death, Living His Life is the theme of our Lenten Journey and reflections this year. In our mid-week worship services for Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in His death so that we might live with Him in His resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for Him. In word and song, we contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Week 2: - March 4 - 7 pm: Dying to Greed, Living For the Treasures of Heaven

Week 3: - March 11 - 7 pm: Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith

Week 4: - March 18 - 7 pm: Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace

Week 5: - April 1 - 7: pm: Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace



Easter lilies are available to order now. They may be ordered in memory or in honor of someone. Lilies will be left at the church and put out at our Easter services. Orders need to be placed by March 11th, and may be done by signing up in the Narthex or by calling Sue at 402-639-6054. Lilies are \$20 each.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our sanctuary look so beautiful during our Easter services!

Our Fellowship hall renovation is underway! Thank you to all the many who have helped pack and move items so more work can begin. Please check Facebook for any updates and/or our weekly bulletin, as the project continues. Office hours will be irregular for the time being, but please call Sue at 402-639-6054, if you need help with something.!



First Communion Classes are forming to invite new members to join us at the Lord's Table beginning Maundy Thursday during worship. First Communion classes are for 4th graders and older, and their parents. Classes will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m., on each of the following Sundays: March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Each student should bring their bible and catechism to class, a work book will be provided. Please contact Pastor Matt if your child will be attending or with any questions you may have.

The TLC monthly newsletter is available online at our website! www.tlcavoca.com
Please check each month to stay up to date on our latest happenings! Mailed newsletters will continue to those previously receiving paper copies.





The Family Fellowship Ministry is really looking forward to warmer weather and a time to gather outside. This ministry would LOVE to have a "Summer Kick Off" on Saturday, May 30th. This event is still in the planning stages. We are looking for additional people who want to do the planning and preparation for the event. After the event is planned we will have additional opportunities for helping on the day of the event; if you are more of a "doer" than a "planner". As of now, we would LOVE to have anyone who is interested in the planning of this event to reach out to either Amber Johnson or Gina Winter.

 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
02/01	70/69	9983.00
02/08	47/75	3889.00
02/15	50/74	2030.00
02/22	44/68	2506.26



**Wednesday, March 4th,
Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.—
6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 18th,
Movie Night, Details TBA**

**Wednesday, April 8th,
Bible Study**

5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 22nd,
Bible Study,**

5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 6th, Senior & Summer Sendoff,
5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.**



March 01	Christopher	Best
March 01	Neil	Paulsen
March 01	Michael	Schueman
March 02	Dale	Roush
March 02	Bodee	Winter
March 03	Jordan	Jacobsen
March 05	Kelsey	Harder
March 05	Joyce	Kardell
March 05	Alexis	Crees
March 06	Roxanne	Plymale
March 06	Ethan	Hansen
March 07	Arla	Pickham
March 07	Donna	Schueman
March 08	Robb	Jacobsen
March 08	Brenda	Kelly
March 09	Charles	Lane
March 09	Tanner	Lamp
March 09	Makenzie	Long
March 10	Sarah	Gross
March 10	Jade	Brockhoff
March 13	Saydi	Paulsen
March 13	Lois	Partlow
March 13	Laird	Buboltz
March 13	Morgan	Sieh
March 15	Gerald	Conroy
March 15	Tyson	Oswehr
March 16	Olivia	Sieh
March 17	Erin	Ronnfeldt

March 17	Lynn	Roush
March 17	Brynlee	Holst
March 18	Angela	Fritz
March 18	Jolene	Schueman
March 18	LeAnne	McCarthy
March 19	Wayne	Allen
March 22	Nicholas	Nelsen
March 22	Shirley	Pattee
March 23	Barbara	Schueman
March 24	Gary	Nielsen
March 24	Everett	Hansen
March 25	Jackson	Woltmann
March 25	Tucker	Oswehr
March 25	Navi	Robinson
March 26	Taylor	McCree
March 27	Abigail	Roush
March 27	Andrea	Danker
March 27	Thorin	Boysen
March 28	Jacob	Collins
March 29	Emma	Jorgensen
March 29	Kiptyn	Lamp
March 29	Hartvig	Nelsen
March 30	Anderson	Boysen
March 31	Adam	Hansen
March 31	Kimberly	Krohn
March 31	Kimarie	Maassen
March 31	Wyatt	Sieh

Fellowship

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

March Communion Bread

Joy Krohn

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!

March/April Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, March 1st 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 1st 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth & Angela Sieh	Emery Brockhoff & Collin Harder
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelsen	Jeff Harder, Steph Harder, Kiptyn Lamp
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Lucas Plumb	Karen Hansen
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family	Chuck & Chelsie Madden Family
Acolytes	Morgan Sieh	Claira Yates
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	Greg Petersen
	Sunday, March 8th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 8th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth & Angela Sieh	Emery Brockhoff & Collin Harder
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumacher	Terry McCarthy, Dorothy Nelsen, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Maeleigh Rold	Amanda Holst
Greeters	Chris & Wendy Dierking	Sue Paulsen Family
Acolytes	Sage Brockhoff	Harper Allspach
Worship Steward	Dale Krohn	John Scott
	Sunday, March 15th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 15th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth & Angela Sieh	Emery Brockhoff & Collin Harder
Communion/Offering	Eric Sieh	Neil Paulsen, Greg & Marge Petersen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Morgan Sieh	Jerod Johnson
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	Lance & Amber Scott Family
Acolytes	Astelle Graham	Autumn Emmanuel
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Sunday, March 22nd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 22nd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth & Angela Sieh	Emery Brockhoff & Collin Harder
Communion/Offering	Morgan Sieh	Donna Rold, Katie Scheffler, Janiece Schroder
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Autumn Emmanuel	Bella Lamp
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Greg & Marge Petersen
Acolytes	Griffen Cohen	Elayna Hansen
Worship Steward	Eric Sieh	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, March 29th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, March 29th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Becky Bahnfleth & Angela Sieh	Emery Brockhoff & Collin Harder
Communion/Offering	Linda Andersen	John Scott, Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Dierking	Travis Lane
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck Family	Brandi Pieken Family
Acolytes	Taylen Hansen	Hudson Harder
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Adam Harder
	Maundy Thursday, April 2nd 7:00	Good Friday, April 3rd 7:00 p.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Rhonda Holst	NA
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelson, Linda Schumacher,	NA
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Maeleigh Rold	Peggy Osbahr
Greeters	Scott & Christina Berndt	NA
Acolytes	Trevor Madden	NA
Worship Steward		
	Easter Sunday, April 5th 7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday, April 5th 9:00 a.m.
Communion Support	Reva Bylund & Rhonda Holst	Janiece Schroder & Bella Lamp
Communion/Offering	Wendy Dierking	Judy Williams, Ron Winter, Becky Bahnfleth
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Linda Andersen	Danny Pattee
Greeters	Linda Schumacher	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk
Acolytes	Jersey Harris	Joslin Heilig
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	Mike Krummel

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 8, 2026

Members Present:

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

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

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

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Minutes were in order and no corrections made and a motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Amber Johnson, 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 Amber Johnson. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: There will be a Men's group on Saturdays at 7am. The first day will be this Saturday January 10th. Just a reminder I will be gone the week of January 26th.

President's Report/Comments: None

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Information for the annual meeting packet is due now. Please submit reports. Youth group will start back up on Wednesday, Jan. 14th. There was a possible unannounced person in the church last week, prompting questions about door security, possible camera needs, etc. Yandas- our sound system support people- were here on Tuesday for our yearly calibration/resetting/testing. This took them longer than they anticipated and they replaced the mixer. They believed the mixer to be having issues with internal memory. The mixer was originally purchased in 2019. They said we should expect some extra charges from this visit. City of Avoca missed scheduling us for the lead testing. Should be coming soon to take care of that. The current months newsletter will be available each month on our website. Paper mailings will continue to those receiving them via the mail, emailed notifications will no longer be sent. Please submit any information you have for the monthly newsletter by the 20th of each month.

Council Reports

Property Report: None

Service: None

Outreach: We will be starting Midterm hugs soon.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: We will begin looking for housing for our VBS counselors. If anyone is interested or know of someone willing to house any counselors please reach out to Megan Hansen.

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: The City of Avoca will be coming soon to complete the lead pipe testing.

New Business: Discussion was held on church security and doors being left unlocked. Discussion was held on possible key fob for entry into doors. Prices and information will be gathered and shared at the next meeting. Discussion was held in regards to installation of 3 cameras for security. Motion made to add 3 cameras for security by Eric Sieh and seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

The 2026 proposed budget was reviewed. Motion made by Amber Scott to approve the 2026 proposed budget for final approval at the Annual Meeting, seconded by Eric Sieh.

Bids from Martin and Sons & Patriots Choice for the fellowship remodel were reviewed and discussed. Both bids will be presented at the Annual Church council meeting with the bid from Martin and Sons being the councils choice. Motion made by Eric Sieh to approve the 2 presented bids with the council suggested total monetary approval of \$74,000 to account for any possible changes and an addendum for possible abatement to increase the bid by an additional \$60,000. Seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

Visioning: No discussion at this time. Pastor reminded current council members that the annual renewal meeting is scheduled for February 7th.

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

Next meeting will be held on February 12, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

BIBLE READING PLAN: *From Death to Life*

During Lent, Christians observe 40 days of confession, prayer and renewal. Just as our Savior fasted and faced temptation in the desert for 40 days, we use this season to grow our faith and prepare to minister.

Use this Bible Reading Plan to follow Jesus to the cross and then rejoice at his empty tomb on Easter. Travel through Scripture to reflect on who Jesus is and what he lovingly endured to give us life.



The Dry Desert

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 [Ash Wednesday]
- Genesis 3
- Psalm 63:1-8
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Sunday: Hebrews 4:14-16



Hope on the Horizon

- Numbers 21:4-9
- 2 Samuel 7:1-16
- Job 19:23-27
- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Daniel 7:13-14
- Zechariah 9:9-17
- Sunday: Romans 8:22-30



Our Sacrificial Lamb

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Exodus 12:1-17
- Psalm 23
- John 1:1-34
- John 10:1-18
- 1 Peter 1:18-23
- Sunday: Revelation 5



Hatred & Persecution

- Psalm 22
- Jeremiah 20:7-13
- Matthew 24:1-31
- John 11:45-57
- John 15:18-25
- 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4



Hosannas for a King

- Psalm 24:7-10
- Jeremiah 23:5-6
- Matthew 21:1-11
- John 18:33-40
- John 19:1-16
- Hebrews 1:1-12
- Sunday: Revelation 7:9-17



Journey to the Cross

- John 2:13-22
- Mark 14:1-11
- John 13:1-17
- Matthew 26:26-30
- Luke 22:39-46
- Mark 14:27-31, 66-72
- Palm Sunday: Ephesians 1:18-23



Victory Through Christ

- Isaiah 53
- Matthew 26:47-56
- Mark 15:16-20
- John 6:47-58 [Maundy Thursday]
- Matthew 27:32-54 [Good Friday]
- Psalm 16:5-11 [Holy Saturday]
- Easter Sunday: Luke 24:1-8;
- 1 Corinthians 15:47-57

Note: Sundays, known as "mini-Easters," are excluded from Lent's 40 days. But this reading plan includes verses for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study FELLOWSHIP HALL CLOSED	2 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 FOR RENOVATION	3 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	4 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class @United Church 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study 7 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	5 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	6 Pastors Day Off	7
8 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. First Communion Class 3-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	9 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir	10 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	11 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class@ United Church 7 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	12 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	13 Pastors Day Off	14
15 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. First Communion Class 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	16 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	17 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	18 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Youth Group Movie Night 7 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	19 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	20 Pastors Day Off	21
22 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. First Communion Class 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	23 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	24 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	25 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 7 p.m. Lenten Worship Service	26 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	27 Pastors Day Off	28
29 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. First Communion Class 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	30 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.— Bell Choir	31 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study				

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 N. CHESTNUT STREET
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AVOCA, IA 51521-0456**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Lutheran Church

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(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.