

The Trinity Trumpet

May 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

(402)-750-8327

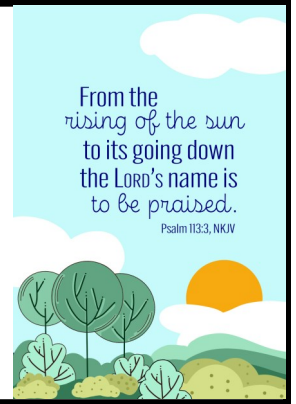
mattbahnfleth@tlcavoca.com

Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

Sue Paulsen

(402) 639-6054

tlcspaulsen@tlcavoca.com



*“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.” **Mark 4: 26 - 28***

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies**, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” **John 12: 24 - 26***

*“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” **1 Peter 1: 24 - 25***

Dust in the Wind

“Dust in the Wind, all we are is dust in the wind.” That’s the stirring and somewhat solemn song of truth by the band Kansas from 1997. I have found that the longer I have been active in study, worship, prayer and all the marks of discipleship – God opens doors in almost every single arena of my life seeking to bring me back to Him or to grow my understanding, and therefore my actions to be more like His as well. Of course, that means that I must understand how God’s two Words work, the Law and the Gospel, which includes teaching me to understand them. They are the water, sunlight, soil, and fertilizer that makes things (Christians) grow.

People who live in Iowa and Nebraska have understood for some time the thought of being dust in the wind. As far back as the dirty 30’s the winds and lack of moisture produced unimaginable devastation and storms of dirt thrown by the wind, as far East as even Washington D.C. People acted to guard from it happening again, but “It is the doom of men that they forget” Merlin stated in the movie Excalibur, and it is so true.

I have watched for years as more of the tree lines and wind breaks have been torn out to make way for another acre or two of planting. What will the side effects be of such removal of trees and barriers, I guess we will have to see. But I also have watched for some time the same sort of thing happening in the lives of people throughout the Church.

The Lord of Heaven and Earth has so overwhelmingly blessed us that we have, in many cases, forgotten the truth of faith and life in the Church, and been drawn towards Satan’s web. Culture around us has moved steadily to an individualistic, isolated, death denying, self-saving, you are in control of life way, not realizing that every one of those things stand opposite of the faith and the nature of God in the entire scripture. There is no truth but mine so I can cancel people, even God. I cannot see who I am addressing on social media so there are no boundaries about out cruelty and false witness in what I say or post, just a techy way that has been around at coffees and such called gossip. The direct correlation between lower attendance in worship, study, and the marks of discipleship and the rise of hatred, anger, abuse, etc., can easily be seen if we just stop to lift up our eyes to a bigger picture.

As we adopt a YOLO so get it now attitude, we sacrifice the truth; that if this is all there is we are in a world, or an eternity, of hurt. On the other hand, if we realize we live this life as preparation for a much better one that is to come, promised by a crucified and risen savior, then the things of this world like the flowers and grass are all fleeting. We are dust in the wind. Here is where Jesus steps in and seek to be planting something much different for His people. Wastefully, extravagantly even, He casts the seed of His word out to people, longing for a harvest that will come. We become part of that as well when we, who are dying to this world, begin to grow, sprout, and move to be part of that harvest. But there is the rub.

The seed of God’s Word is a death knell for those who would be His, because you can’t have resurrection without life, you can’t have life without death. If the seed wants to stay as a seed that is all it will be. Jesus points out that if that seed dies, stops living as a seed, in the soil of His will and way, it becomes a living, breathing, growing plant that continues to spread until it bears fruit – with more seeds – so that it can be perpetuated and spread. One apple seed becomes an orchard just as one person takes on faith dying to the desires of this world and their self, becomes a servant of others that bring Jesus to life, calling others to join them in the harvest.

To our great favor, God in His baptismal promise, begins a good work in us and He will seek to see it through to completion at His return. He allows things to fade and wither, in all the struggles that come, to turn our hearts back to Him and Him alone. His faithfulness carries us through all the valleys of death, even to the final one, not because we deserve it or have done ...

Church Council

President: Nicole Krohn
(712) 309-2318

Property Management: Harley Spencer
(712) 544-2120

Secretary: Amber Scott
(712) 249-2688

Christian Education: Megan Hansen
(402) 681-0806

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**.

301 N. Chestnut St. AVOCA, IA
712-343-2518

...anything to earn it, but because He alone is the one who can make things grow. The seed of His Word is the key and longing to receive it and to be killed by it, we find a hope beyond our expectation or understanding. He bursts out of the shell of that seed as streams of living water, nourishing us in Word and Sacraments to grow, spread and bear fruit.

Let us not forget God's calling and longing for us to come, gather, be fed and nourished as seeds in His field, that we might

blossom and bloom bearing His true radiance out to the people and world around us. Each week He is richly scattering His seeds in the Word proclaimed and the physical word of Communion, Absolution, and Blessing and His desire if for you, because He is for you not against. He can see what is planted inside of you and what it is intended to grow, and how much fruit you will bear. You are part of His great orchard, and He takes great pride in you as who He has made You.
Pastor Matt

Our 2026 graduating seniors will be recognized during our 10:15 a.m. service on May 10th. Scholarships will also be awarded during this time. A light reception will be held in their honor during our fellowship time at 9:30 a.m. that morning. Please join us to help in celebrating!



Come one, COME ALL! To our first full Faith Formation Festival

for Affirmation of Baptism Sunday!



We have 11 young people who will be Affirming their faith on **Pentecost Sunday - May**

24th. There will be ONE Worship Service on that day at 10:15 am. The Faith Formation Festival will begin at 8 am through 10 am. Imagine a faith "science fair" and you will know basically what

this is about. Each of our 11 Confirmands will have tables set up in the fellowship hall and basement hall and classroom near pastor's office. They will have display boards and other mementos of their faith journey, so far, and will be making presentations to those who come to their tables. The congregation is strongly encouraged to come and support these young people on this very special day, and to hear them share their faith with you. People are invited to move from one student to another as they make their presentations, and share their faith with you, and then on to the next. We have done this on a smaller scale in the last three years, but now it is time to open it up to the larger body of the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow from them as they share their story, and perhaps it will awaken and deepen your walk as you reflect on their presentations. **BREAKFAST FOODS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE AS WELL** so you can take a break for a moment at your leisure and then jump back into the learning as you continue around to hear all their stories.




Saturday, May 30th— SUMMER KICKOFF EVENT, 4 p.m. More details on page 6



May 01	Ayden	McCarthy
May 02	Kaeden	Rold
May 02	Vance	Pattee
May 03	Aubrey	Graham
May 05	Dale	Tech
May 05	Kendra	Hansen
May 06	Jacob	Kelly
May 06	Emery	Brockhoff
May 08	Griffin	Maassen
May 09	Jennifer	Plumb
May 09	Jagger	Johnson
May 10	Mabel	Jacobsen
May 10	Becky	Jacobsen
May 11	Cohen	Griffen
May 12	Gary	Pattee
May 12	Adalin	Lamp
May 13	Linda	Schumacher
May 13	Taryn	Constable
May 14	Corey	Madden
May 16	Erin	Carroll
May 16	Claira	Yates
May 17	Kaden	Jorgensen
May 19	Trey	Starr
May 19	Kevin	Hansen
May 19	Wayne	Krohn
May 19	Michael	Sampson
May 21	Michael	Hansen
May 21	Steven	Jorgensen
May 21	Taylen	Hansen
May 22	Bennett	Krummel
May 24	Devin	Hoepner
May 25	Ron	Winter
May 25	Teresa	Hoepner
May 25	Wendy	Jorgensen
May 25	Allyson	Nielsen
May 25	Nolan	Krohn
May 26	Callie	Gronborg
May 26	Lori	Sampson
May 26	Marley	VanCleave
May 27	Cassidy	Feigenbutz
May 27	Chad	Hansen
May 27	Regina	Hansen
May 27	Alan	Blakestad
May 28	Ashtyn	Danker
May 28	Jake	Olesen
May 29	Kaleah	Guyer
May 31	Verdean	Berry



 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
03/22	81/82	5,185.00
03/29	61/103	2,721.00
04/05	63/212	15,853.73
04/12	56/57	2,705.09
04/19	44/65	3,103.00
04/26	70/60	1,944.00



Please Note: On May 31st we will start our summer wor-

ship schedule. We will go to one worship service at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship time will be held on the first Sunday only of each month following the service.

**Save the Date for VBS
"TO KNOW HIS NAME"
June 22-25**



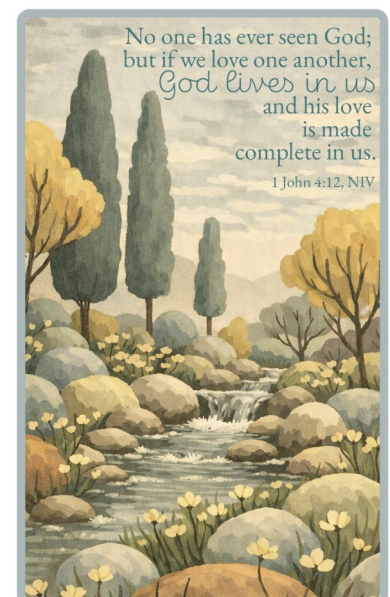
It's time to get your registrations in! Links to register can be found on our facebook page. Also, volunteers are needed! If you would be willing to help during VBS, please contact Megan Hansen at 402-681-0806. 7th graders on up past high school are encouraged to join us. This is a great way to get to connect with our youth!



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



The last day of Sunday school for this school year, will be on May 10th at 9:30 a.m. Thank you to our wonderful leaders, teachers, and helpers for all of your time and talents!



May/June Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, May 3rd 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, May 3rd 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	NA	NA
Communion/Offering	NA	NA
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Nicole Krohn	Cristin Rold
Greeters	Ryan & Amanda Graham Family	Jerod & Amber Johnson Family
Acolytes	Trevor Madden	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Matt Todd	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, May 10th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, May 10th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelson	Holly, Kendra, & Taylen Hansen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Jennifer Plumb	Donna Rold
Greeters	Pastor Matt & Becky Bahnfleth	Henry & Sue Paulsen Family
Acolytes	Lucas Plumb	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Sunday, May 17th 8:15 a.m.	Sunday, May 17th 10:15 a.m.
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumaker	Matt Todd, Kiptyn Lamp, Leslie Nielsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Astelle Graham	Janiece Schroder
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck	Greg & Marge Petersen
Acolytes	Guy Scheffler	Cohen Griffen
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, May 24th 10:15 a.m.	
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen	
Communion/Offering	Joy Krohn, Becky Bahnfleth, Gary Soetmelk	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Janae Sternberg	
Greeters	Ryan & Gina Winter Family	
Acolytes	Elayna Hansen	
Worship Steward	Pastor Matt Bahnfleth	
		<i>May Communion Bread</i>
		Neil Paulsen & Kavin Rold
	Sunday, May 31st 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Sue Paulsen & Ava Paulsen	
Communion/Offering	Jeff Harder, Stephanie Harder, Evan Harder	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Ava Paulsen	
Greeters	Rose Krohn	
Acolytes	Hudson Harder	
Worship Steward	Mike Krummel	
		<i>Worship Volunteers</i>
		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!
	Sunday, June 7th 9:30 a.m.	
Communion Support	Greg & Marge Petersen	
Communion/Offering	Morgan Sieh, Peggy Osbahr, Neil Paulsen	
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Kennedy Wymann	
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen	
Acolytes	Jersey Harris	
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	

Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: March 12th, 2026

Members Present: Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Beth Nielsen, Nicole Krohn, Megan Hansen, Sue Paulsen, Eric Sieh and Harley Spencer.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Nicole Krohn.

Devotions and Prayer: Devotion given by Shela Jacobsen.

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

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Megan Hansen, seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report was discussed and bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Harley Spencer, seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Seedlings and Sprouts are on pause due to basement project. Lenten services are going well with good attendance. Planning for Holy Week services is underway. Pastor will be with a congregation in Dunlap, IA on April 12th to provide worship & communion, as well as provide guidance for their potential move away from ELCA. These responsibilities may increase in the spring and may need to visit other congregations in need. The youth mission trip to Texas is in the early planning stages, finalizing registrations and getting the group organized. Senior recognition is currently being planned.

President's Report: The basement renovation project started on Feb. 23rd and is in progress. I have assisted with communications and answering questions from the contractor. The renovation process is underway with the potential for carpet to be installed in areas outside of the fellowship hall starting Mar. 5/6. I would like to thank the design group for making decisions on paint, carpet, finishes, etc. The council and I greatly appreciate their time and efforts in this project. I have also added information to the church's website regarding small groups and hope to continue working on the website and making updates throughout the year.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report & Youth Ministry Report: I will be out of the office March 23rd, 24th and 25th. Due to that, Holy Week and Easter quickly approaching, I would like to receive any newsletter reports/updates by March 18th, so that I can hopefully have the newsletter in the mail by the 20th this month to reach people by the 1st. I appreciate your help with the earlier deadline! Youth group met twice in the last month. Once to attend Ash Wednesday together, and then again last week for dinner and bible study.

Council Reports

Property Management: Everything is going well with the renovation project. Harley has made a bat trap to hopefully eliminate our flying friends. Pest people are aware of mice dropping sightings.

Worship: Working on updating the altar guild manual.

Outreach: Midterm hugs boxes were all mailed or personally delivered to local addresses. Planning for Summer kickoff event is underway. We are also trying to work with the education chair to revive the Caraway Street Puppets. The potential plan is to do the puppets once a month with a skit and lesson for the K-3 kids. We are also seeking who would be interested in taking on a puppet or to be involved with this ministry.

Stewardship: No report.

Finance: No report.

Education: I have received the packet to start finalizing VBS plans. Courtney Robinson, Kristyn Nielsen and Ashleigh Maassen will be leading our preschool kids again this year. I would like to secure two more host homes this month for VBS counselors. In Sunday school, we are working in a New Testament set of lessons and have some fun activities planned to learn about Easter.

Old Business: Regarding galvanized pipe notice, the church was notified that bottles will be sent for testing soon; will follow up once bottles are received.

The basement renovation is progressing. The biggest part of the project remaining is the stairwell. Tentatively, moving back into the space is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st at 9 AM.

New Business:

Carpet in the Narthex, Sanctuary and upstairs Youth Room need to be cleaned. This was delayed in the fall as timeline for basement project were being determined. Sue will contact Raytech Carpet Cleaning to get a quote. Will also include the parsonage in the carpet cleaning quote as it has not been done in several years. An inquiry was made about radon testing. Harley Spencer will explore options for testing and report back, and it was also decided to include the parsonage. An inquiry was recently made about doing t-shirts again. Shela Jacobsen will ask Neil Paulsen where he went for shirts the last go round and explore possibilities. Discussed importance of checking doors of the church facility nightly for security purposes. Council members will check doors on their designated night. Mowing for the church for 2026 has been secured again with Ethan Hoepnar. Discussed the schedule for Holy Week Services. Palm Sunday services will be at our regular time (8:15 & 10:15am).

...continued

...On Wednesday, April 1st, the Walnut Community Choir will perform at Trinity at 7 pm. Maundy Thursday service will be on April 2nd at 7 pm and will also include First Communion for students currently in the class. Good Friday service will be April 3rd at 7pm. Easter Sunday services will be at 7am and 9am on Sunday, April 5th. Discussion was held regarding significant May calendar events. Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 10th, and discussion of a reception will be determined at the next council meeting. The last Sunday for Sunday School will also be May 10th. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 24th. We will change to our summer worship schedule of one service at 9:30am beginning Sunday, May 31st, 2026. Lastly, Pastor Matt was asked to lead worship during the East Pott Fair in July. Our worship service on Sunday, July 19th will be held in tandem with this service at the fairground, and the time is yet to be determined.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Eric Sieh, seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held on April 9th, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Megan Hansen & Nicole Krohn.

SUMMER EVENT

Open to the Public!

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

4:00 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 N Chestnut St Avoca, IA

LIVE MUSIC **BOUNCE HOUSES** **GAMES for All Ages** **FOOD** **FELLOWSHIP** **MESSAGE**

Bring Your Family & Friends!

Sponsored by
Family Fellowship Ministry
& Trinity Lutheran Church

Summer Event

Summer is coming around the corner with school almost out for the school year! Let's get together on Saturday, May 30th for live Christian music, Christian karaoke, yard games, bounce houses, food, fellowship, and a message from Pastor Matt. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the music and message. Please bring the family and friends. This event will be outdoors in the church parking lot beginning at 4:00pm. To make this event a success we need your help. Specific help includes: contributing food, food prep, set up prior to the event, and clean up at the end of the event. There will be an opportunity to sign up to help make this event a success. Please be on the look out in the narthex of the church for this bulletin board. This event is sponsored by the Family Fellowship Ministry and Trinity Lutheran Church.

PS-> We are still looking for a tent or a way to provide shade. Any ideas please contact the church.



MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastors Day Off	2 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study &
3 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship	4 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship 4:15 p.m.—5p.m. Youth Hand Chimes	5 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	6 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study	7 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	8 Pastors Day Off	9 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
10 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Last Day Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship/ Senior Recognition 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	11 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	12 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study	13 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Confirmation Class	14 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15 Pastors Day Off	16 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
17 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship/Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	18 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	19	20 5:30 p.m.—7:15 p.m. Second Year Confirmation Students	21 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	22 Pastors Day Off	23 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
24 8 a.m.—10 a.m. Faith Formation Festival/ Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship/ Confirmation 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	25 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship Office Closed	26 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	27	28 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	29 Pastors Day Off	30 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast SUMMER KICKOFF 4 p.m.
31 9:30 a.m. Combined Summer Worship Service Begins						

**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.