

The Trinity Trumpet

June 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

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*“[T]he Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” **Genesis 2: 7***

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.” **Psalms 139: 13 - 15***

*“What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. . . ' But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world?” **Romans 3: 3 – 6***

Unique, Not Flawless

God's creation is filled with wonder and intricacy. When people come wrestling with their value or identity, feeling insignificant and of little worth, I direct them to consider their fingerprint. Fingerprinting is used for identity because they are unique. Look at your own fingerprint closely with a magnifying glass you can see the detailed, one-of-a-kind picture of markings that make you identifiable as you. No one, ever – none of the current 8,298,979,488 people in the world or the trillions who have gone before, or the how ever many there will be until the Lord returns will ever have the same markings as that finger you are pondering; not even twins. The chances of any two people having the same is 1 in 64 billion.

Beyond that, DNA is even more unique, mapping out all the parts that make you, you; then there is your retina, your voice print not to mention your memories, thoughts, and experience that are unique to you. The point being that as the psalmist wrote, each one of us is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” You were knitted together; you are intricately woven; just like looking at a fine mesh of crochet lace with all of its tiny beads that come together to make a beautiful outcome – so are you made.

In all of creation, only one part received something unique from God as well. Only with man did God form him and then breath His own breath into them to make them alive. *“The man BECAME a living creature.”* You are unique. But amid all this talk of uniqueness and your amazing creation the danger is we forget – sin. In our fallen nature we are still unique, God didn't take that from us, but we are not flawless. We can easily and often begin to believe that we are flawless, it comes from our fallen nature where we trade places with God and become a god to ourself, idolatry. It's why Jesus warned in different ways to take the plank out of our own eye before removing the speck in another's, why following Him is more like carrying a cross than being at a festival, why we must learn to die to ourselves before we can ever live in Him. *“All we like sheep have gone astray”* Isaiah said Paul reminds us, *“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” **Romans 3:9b -12***

So, God's Word gives stark reminders of truth. They are words we need to hear; we need to consider daily, constantly as we live each moment, because if we saw what God sees in us, we would most likely collapse in shame and guilt for how we have thought, spoken, or treated our neighbors as we go about self-fulfilled thinking there is nothing amiss in my life (it's always the other one) and ignoring truth. Looking at a beautiful, multifaceted diamond is a wonder; but to take a jeweler's eye piece to it all the flaws become evident. Ever noted jewelers put diamonds on black material to show them, the darkness of the cloth makes the brilliance shine even more.

That's what Paul is talking about above. When we are seen in our truth with all the darkness and shadow we work so hard to deny or ignore, the diamond that God made originally in us (*what we are supposed to be*) shines out in complete contrast. God is right and just to look at us with His jeweler's glass to point out every single flaw. We too

...continued

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



Please Note: We have started our summer worship 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.

VBS "TO KNOW HIS NAME"

June 21-25 | 9 AM-2 PM

VBS 2026 is quickly approaching!

We are on track for another great year. A few more things we need to help items below:

-Praying over VBS. For our day campers to know more about a personal relationship with Jesus. Prayer for our volunteers & the safety & health of everyone.

-Volunteers: we are still looking for volunteers! If you are free & available - we would love to have you! We need classroom helpers, kitchen assistants & clean up crew members. If you're available - please contact Megan at (402) 681-0806 or Megan.hansen328@gmail.com

-Financial donations are always welcome as well. Please drop off with the church office.

Our ending program will be at 2 o'clock on Thursday June 25th. Please plan to join us!



Congratulations to our Confirmands!



Back row, L to R: Lucas Plumb, Moran Sieh, Tyler Pieken, Taylen Hansen, Blair Krohn, Paxton Holst. Front row, L to R: Stella Rold, Josilyn Heilig, Rylinn Madden, Astelle Graham, Aubrey Graham.



Congratulations to our TLC Class of 2026!




Back row, L to R: Chase Wheatley, Ty Nelson, Kaden Jorgensen, Collin Harder, Tucker Osbahr. Front row, L to R: Evie Scott, Makenna Paulsen, Ava Paulsen, Bryanna Wood, Ella Johnson, Terra Buboltz, Aubrey Graham. Not Pictured: Emma Blotzer

...often are not what we should be. So, God judges the world. How – in undeserved mercy and grace. He sends His flawless and most precious gem into the world to be overcome and destroyed by the darkness of His once beautiful creation. But the darkness cannot overcome the Light of this gem. He rises to new life so we also can rise, not just in the end, but every day. He gives us the power to have courage to look at ourselves honestly, in total truth and see where we are not shining, where our flaws overcome the beauty that is intended in us.

And God does it with what Luther calls the greatest beauty on this earth – the bloody, tortured body of God’s own Son, for you. God has redeemed what was destroyed, and through His Spirit He seeks to work daily in us to redeem and restore in all our thoughts, words, and deeds the creation that once walked perfectly with God in the garden, eyes and focus turned not on us or our selves and needs, but on our creator and His Son’s beautiful work. He seeks to lay our sins before us in truth, not to destroy or crush us, but to show us the brilliance of what He is making us, and has made in the end with Him. So each day we can look up from ourselves to serve our neighbors, starting right in our own homes, our congregation, our school, our work, our sports teams, even the crowd seated in the stands. Celebrate with great joy the Unique gift God has made in you, look in honesty at the truth of your life in every moment, and allow His salvation to make you shine like the sun to all you meet.

Peace, ALWAYS! Pastor Matt

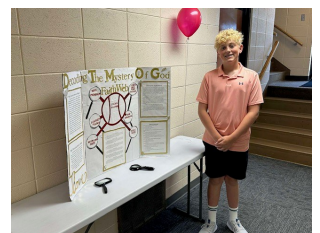
 Weekend of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
05/03	60/52	4,132.00
05/10	80/108	3,906.40
05/17	40/43	5,030.00
05/24	167	2,965.01



Faith Formation Festival

Pictured here is our most recent confirmands presenting their faith formation boards.

Congrats to all on the amazing job presenting!



June/July Volunteer Schedule



Sunday, June 7th 9:30 am	
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
Sunday, June 14th 9:30 am	
Communion Support	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion/Offering	Eric Sieh, Dale Krohn, Terry McCarthy
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Christina Berndt
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family
Acolytes	Joslin Heilig
Worship Steward	Dean Krohn
Sunday, June 21st 9:30 am	
Communion Support	Greg & Marge Petersen
Communion/Offering	Dorothy Nelsen, Leslie Neilsen, Linda Anderson
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Becky Bahnfleth
Greeters	Amber & Lance Scott Family
Acolytes	Paxton Holst
Worship Steward	Adam Harder
Sunday, June 28th 9:30 am	
Communion Support	N/A
Communion/Offering	N/A
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Autumn Emmanuel
Greeters	Gary Soetmelk
Acolytes	Lauren Knop
Worship Steward	Dale Krohn
Sunday, July 5th 9:30 am	
Communion Support	Dora Rock, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Greg & Marge Petersen, Ronda Holst
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Jerry Conroy
Greeters	Ryan & Amanda Grahmn Family
Acolytes	Brynnleigh Lane
Worship Steward	Matt Todd

June 01	Adam	Krohn
June 01	Tyler	Boysen
June 01	Christian	Pieken
June 02	Rodney	Hargens
June 04	Lillian	Scott
June 05	Dennis	Langer
June 06	Peyton	VanCleave
June 06	Dawsyn	Brockhoff
June 07	LaVonne	Sidebottom
June 08	Philip	Rodriguez
June 08	Bentley	Madden
June 09	Susan	Paulsen
June 10	Daniel	Rold
June 10	Travis	Hensley
June 11	Ken	Collins
June 13	Penelope	Rold
June 15	Graycen	Partlow
June 15	Shane	Brockhoff
June 16	Nathan	Smith
June 16	Nikki	Jorgensen
June 16	Joseph	Blotzer
June 16	Jolene	Henning
June 16	Madison	Holst
June 17	Marlene	Nelsen
June 19	Benjamin	Ehlers
June 19	Linda	Andersen
June 20	Katlyn	Patzner
June 20	Brandy	Luth
June 21	Angie	Brisbois
June 22	Dora	Rock
June 22	Richard	Holtz
June 23	Eric	Allen
June 23	Judith	Ring
June 23	Blair	Krohn
June 24	Abigail	Plymale
June 24	Steven	Denton
June 26	Mark	Bruns
June 26	Hayli	Clay
June 26	Ivan	Irlbeck
June 27	Alan	Maassen
June 29	Rosalie	Krohn
June 29	Rhett	Clayton
June 29	Lyla	Clayton
June 30	Tonya	Olesen

June Communion Bread

Denise Young

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: April 9, 2026

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Nicole Krohn, Amber Scott, Christina Rauch, Sue Paulsen, Eric Sieh, and Joy Krohn.

Call to Order/Devotion: Meeting is called to order by Nicole Krohn. Devotion given by Amber Scott.

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

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

Treasurer's Report: No report submitted. Will review at next month's meeting.

Pastor's Report: Everything went well through the Lent services and Holy week. Easter services were well attended. Will be working on seedlings and sprouts and senior recognition.

President's Report/Comments: No report.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Microsoft no longer offers the donation license for using their products, so we had to upgrade to the non-profit licenses totaling 23.09 per month. Water testing supplies arrived and were completed per Pastor Matt. We have not heard the results yet. Ray Tech carpet cleaning was here and completed the cleaning of the carpets in the sanctuary, narthex, youth group room, north hallway landing and parsonage. Please have any information for the newsletter emailed to me by the 20th of each month. I appreciate it! Onyx technology was here 4/7/26 to work on the camera and a software update was completed.

Council Reports

Property Report: Door stops have been put on - Weather stripping on doors have been put on - Alleviating some things that have been hidden for years - Averaging 6-8 hours per week trying to get things fixed and caught up on.

Service: No report

Outreach: Saturday May 30th will be the Family Summer event with games, bouncy houses, music and food. Motion made by Amber Scott to approve a budget of \$800 for the summer event. Seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

Stewardship: No report

Finance: No report

Education: VBS registration has been posted online and forms will be sent home from school next week.

Additional Council Report Notes: None

Old Business: Discussion was held on Senior Recognition on Sunday May 10th at 9:30 am during fellowship. Council will provide food and snacks. Radon testing completed and needs to be retested in the church (due to a fan going at the time). Parsonage will need mitigation completed. Once radon testing is redone in the church a proposal for cost will be submitted. Shela continues to gather information on shirts for the church. Pastor has been asked to provide services during the Pottawattamie County fair on July 9th and September 6th at Karstens farms. Service will still be offered at TLC during those times while Pastor Matt is offsite. Confirmation service will be May 24th at the 10:15 am service. The faith formation festival will be prior to the service from 8 am to 10 am. We will have only one service that day at 10:15 am.

New Business: Discussion held on giving a donation to the United Church for use of their facility during the renovation of the fellowship. Motion made by Joy Krohn for a donation of \$300 to the United Church, seconded by Harley Spencer. Motion passed.

Discussion help on the need to replace some of the folding chairs. Amber Scott will do research on the cost of chairs and replacement pads.

Discussion was held on the decoration of fellowship hall. A committee will be formed for discussion and assistance with decorating.

Discussion held on increased gas prices and if needing to compensate Pastor Matt and Mary. Pastor Matt declined at this time for increased reimbursement. Motion made by Harley Spencer to provide a \$50 gas card to Mary, seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Christina Rauch.

Next meeting will be held on May 14, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

LOVE
is Patient,
LOVE
is Kind.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4





JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	2	3 3:30 p.m. Sprouts	4 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	5 Pastors Day Off	6 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
7 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	8 3:30 p.m. Seedlings	9 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	10 3:30 p.m. Sprouts	11 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	12 Pastors Day Off	13 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
14 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	15	16	17	18 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	19 Pastors Day Off	20 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
21 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	22 9 a.m.—2 p.m. VBS 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	23 9 a.m.—2 p.m. VBS 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	24 9 a.m.—2 p.m. VBS	25 9 a.m.—2 p.m. VBS 2 p.m.— VBS Closing Program 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	26 Pastors Day Off	27 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
28 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship/No Communion 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	29	30				

**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.

Summer Sunday Worship Service Schedule
Combined Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship following the service on the first Sunday of each month.
Holy Communion celebrated during each worship service.