

The Trinity Trumpet

July 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

Matt Bahnfleth

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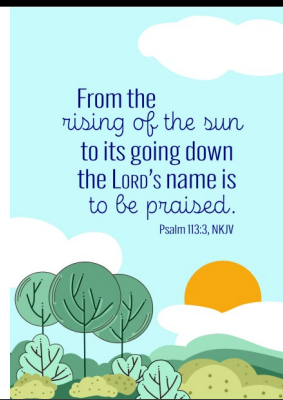
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Director of Ministry in Daily Life:

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“Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.” 1Peter 2 4: 10 – 12, 14 – 16,

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5: 13

Freedom - A Most Terribly Misused Word

Freedom’s definition is found in Genesis 2: 25, “And the man and the wife were both naked and were not ashamed.” In that moment the writer states what perfect freedom looks like. Adam and his wife were naked, they had nothing to hide from one another or God, they were totally exposed and vulnerable to one another and God, they were in a perfect relationship of serving others (God and their spouse); and when people today blush to hear that in stark honesty, which exposes the truth here, they were not ashamed because they were as they were made to be. Can you imagine standing before God today, totally exposed and feeling no shame. Heck, some of you are covering body parts or trying to cover your actions with fig leaves.

This is Freedom as it has been intended from creation. Perfect relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and the whole creation. Freedom was about being completely taken care of so you could concentrate on caring for your neighbor. Freedom is about serving the others around you. Christian freedom is about getting past “evil” that would turn us in on ourselves and make us, like Christ, reach out to the other. To serve and care for them, even in their most undeserving times, because Jesus has done that for you so that you might be made whole. Freedom is being totally exposed for who you are, and yet in your vulnerability and desire to cover up and be for yourself, you reach out to the other who is in the same condition but doesn’t know what this all means.

Freedom has been mistreated forever. In a hot minute, freedom became something you had to earn, something you had to fight or die for; something you could acquire by what you do. Freedom became the reward of those who did for themselves so they could wave the banner of freedom and show others, “look what I did, look what I achieved.” Freedom became the “pay” for my work, rather than a gift meant to be opened and shared. Its lowest state was emblazoned over Auschwitz entry gate, “Arbeit Macht Frei” – work makes one Free. It’s most dangerous place wrestles with American independence as we claim freedom increasingly at the cost of those around us. “My freedom should give me what I want, when I want, and the right to have it that way.”

Paul, though, states that freedom is so much more. The freedom created in the garden by God’s own hand is a gift that is handed over to His creation. The freedom to see others, in fact everything including God, as important and to serve them because you are served. He even goes as far as to call it a slavery to God, not as the American slavery brings up memories of stolen and abusive lack of freedom, but as an indebted servant of one who has given everything to you. It’s amazing to see the far-reaching effects of one single piece of fruit, in one single moment that enslaved humanity and stole our freedom. When freedom was thrown out, it made slaves of us all desiring to serve ourselves, at the cost of the community which God had built.

Paul again reminds us that we who were individuals, have been made to be a community in Christ. In the washing of baptism where His mercy claims us who are outcasts, foreigners, rejects, slaves to become again the community that was there at creation; not perfect because this disease of sin still stains and mars everything until Christ’s return but living in what will be coming to pass at His return. It is Christ’s work, His “Arbeit” that makes one free. It is His freedom that He freely and wastefully pours out to others inviting them to come and be focused not on what I need, because I have it all, but on those around me who in fallen world need to see and hear God’s lover brought to them, time and time again, by a preacher.

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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

...A preacher who themselves has been freed and who has grown to know what that means; one who also needs a preacher to come to them from the outside as well to proclaim Christ, His law and His gospel to rouse us from evil and to stand in His light of forgiveness. Even more because Jesus Himself bore the price and the suffering for our sin, Paul directs us not to use His freedom as a cover up, saying we are with Christ while we allow the evils of sin to run roughshod over us and others.

So, this month – blow stuff up! Celebrate freedom but consider what the real what True Freedom is and what it offers for you and those around you through Jesus Christ. We don't need fireworks to celebrate our freedom in Christ, we sing and serve and give and see just like in the garden, blowing up the evils around us, helping to tear others free from their slavery, releasing the captives to live now and forever as slaves of God. Live naked, exposed and vulnerable before God and others; not the strong one who can do it themselves, but the dependent child claimed in mercy, help with pierced hands, and the focus of God's eye that makes us look out not in – FREEDOM.

Blessings Pastor Matt

 BIBLE Weekend of	Total Attend- ance	Total Gifts Received
05/31	185	5,604.00
06/07	97	3,275.00
06/14	63	4,041.00
06/21	85	5,555.38

JULY 19th

Two Opportunities to Worship!

On July 19th, we will have our combined worship service at 9:30 a.m., with guest speaker, Barbara Jotkze-Torrier, from Lutheran Services.

Also, on July 19th, Pastor Matt Bahnfleth will be leading "Cowboy Church" worship at the fairgrounds. Our worship band will be joining him there. This service will be held at 10:45 a.m.

Help Support our Mission Trip!



The IMD Disaster Relief Mission Trip Team has created Breakfast Burritos to support the cost of the mission. These Breakfast Burritos are over half a pound stuffed with egg, sausage, shredded potato, cheese, and salsa all wrapped in a fresh burrito tortilla. They come frozen, 5 in a bag for a suggested donation of \$15 per bag. Best suggestions for cooking: thaw overnight in the fridge. To prepare oven bake, airfry or stove top pan for a grilled burrito. Top the way you like and enjoy. Checks or cash are fine. Checks made out to TLC with IMD Mission in the Memo.

Please put cash in the envelope marked for the mission. All payments need to come to Pastor Matt so he can track totals and remainders. Talk to your friends, your neighbors, and your family. Big, Burly, Breakfast Burritos for a cause. They are available TODAY. Mission Team Members: Morgan Sieh, Lucas Plumb, Jerod and Amber Johnson, Angela Sieh, and Pastor Matt.

Family Fellowship Summer Event

Our summer event on Saturday, May 30th went very well! The church parking lot hosted many people from the public which was one of our goals. We had fun seeing so many smiles on the younger attendees as well as the adults. An estimated number of attendees were 50-70 people, including youth and adults. The bounce houses were a big hit for the youth. We provided picnic tables set up under the trees for natural shade with card games available for play. The yard games were fun for the youth and adults who wanted to be interactive. Several pieces of artwork were created by the youth using the sidewalk chalk. Phil and Karen Rodriguez provided live music which was awesome to hear and sing along. Our church covered the cost for the two bounce houses and food items (hotdogs and cookies). The rest of the food items were graciously donated by members of our congregation (cookies, buns, tableware, chips, bottled water and sports drinks). Brats were also donated by Pastor Matt who also grilled the meat for the event. THANK YOU to Pastor Matt for providing your grilling services and the short message shared with the attendees. THANK YOU to those members who came early to set up the event. THANK YOU to those members who donated food to the event. THANK YOU to those members who stayed later to help put everything away. The Family Fellowships Ministry is always looking for additional members to join in the fun of planning events. This ministry is also looking for ideas to host for our church family.

Many thanks to all who help support this ministry!
Gina Winter and Amber Johnson



July 01	Margery	Petersen
July 02	Daniel	Pattee
July 02	Kristi	Nielsen
July 02	Kya	Hargens
July 04	Lane	Nelson
July 05	Jordan	Young
July 05	Amber	Scott
July 05	Faith	Guyer
July 05	Nolan	Guyer
July 05	Stella	Rold
July 06	Lilah	Partlow
July 07	Kyle	Jorgensen
July 08	Jerod	Johnson
July 08	Maryellen	Luth
July 08	Everleigh	Anzalone
July 10	Kavin	Rold
July 10	Nolan	Long
July 11	Brenda	Kay
July 11	Luke	Sternberg
July 13	Eleanore A.	Willett
July 16	Cash	Freeman
July 17	Burke	Pattee
July 18	Johnni	Pattee
July 19	Betty	Oehlertz
July 19	Timothy	Kramer
July 19	Etta	Partlow

July 19	Reese	Knop
July 20	Shirley	Thies
July 20	Brynnleigh	Lane
July 21	Cassidy	Espeseth
July 21	Hervetta	Ronnfeldt
July 22	John	Luth
July 22	Kathy	Soetmelk
July 23	Dean	Krohn
July 23	Ethan	Nielsen
July 23	Gerald	Rold
July 23	Terry	McCarthy
July 25	Randy	Lamp
July 27	Elayna	Hansen
July 27	Shane	Nielsen
July 28	Bonnie	Kardell
July 28	Peggy	Osbahr
July 28	Tatum	Christensen
July 28	Ellanor	Johnson
July 29	Jill	Clayton
July 29	Bobbi	Sieh
July 29	Niles	Schroder
July 30	Parker	Krohn
July 30	Lainey	Schroder
July 30	Luke	Schroder
July 31	Jill	Feigenbutz
July 31	Terin	Griffen



Council Meeting Minutes Agenda/Minutes

Date of Meeting May 12 ,2026

Members Present:

Shela Jacobsen, Pastor Matt, Beth Nielsen, Nicole Krohn, Amber Scott, Harley Spencer, Megan Hansen and Joy Krohn.

Call to Order/Devotion: Meeting is called to order by Nicole Krohn. Devotion given by Megan Hansen.

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by motion made by Beth Nielsen, seconded by Amber Scott. 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 Beth Nielsen. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report and bills were submitted for March & April. A motion was made to approve the report by Harley Spencer, seconded by Joy Krohn. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: May is a very busy month for everyone. We get caught up in graduations, confirmation, and the sports schedule seems to go off the rails. No doubt that of religion of busyness is alive and well, yet God continues to call us out of the world to come and rest and be nourished surrounded by the whole body of Christ. I hope that you all seek that time to step aside from that which gives little to nothing to the future and heed God's call to come and rest with Him, daily and weekly.

The Senior Recognition went well, thanks for all the hard work Nicole and all who made the reception happen. I still find myself saddened that more members of the congregation are not present at these important events in the lives of our young , but will continue to seek that support.

The Faith Formation Festival is Memorial Day weekend preceding the Affirmation of Baptism Service. I would like to encourage all of you to plan on being there and participating as well as inviting others to attend. Nicole will assist with presentation of certificates for that service.

I have been doing a great deal of reflecting and pondering over worship. After coming back from Arkansas, I really felt compelled to put together possible scenarios and spoke to Nicole and will present more of that in the meeting and a calling upon your assistance to help us discern what direction we should be taken.

St. John's in Dunlap has voted to leave communion with the ELCA and to join the NALC. There are a few other steps that need to be concluded before it is official, but when it is I would like to have further discussion as to how we might reach out to them (as we should be doing in the larger Church) and assisting them to grow and learn about the church. I have made myself available to them for funerals and hospital visits as needed.

Mission people are going to be working soon on a fund-raising program with Breakfast burritos.

There are several dates to be aware of:

June 15-19 - Annual Society of the Holy Trinity General Retreat. This event normally was in September, but locations have changed from Chicago to Southern Indiana and the date was also changed.

June 26th - July 3rd - Vacation - On Sunday of that time I have to be in Laurens for a Pastor's retirement, we decided to go camping in the Clear Lake area.

Sunday July 19th - "Cowboy Church" at the Fair grounds. We will need to get supplies.

Sunday July 26th - Sunday August 2nd - IMD Youth Mission - I will be here for worship on the 26th and we will depart immediately after for Texas.

President's Report/Comments: No report

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: No report

Council Reports

Property Report: Radon testing completed and they will be here June 3rd & 4th for mitigation. An organizer has been purchased for the furnace room. The electrician will be coming to fix the conduit on the outside of the church after foundation was fixed.

Service: None

Outreach: Summer Kickoff event is still in planning. They have 2 bounce houses rented, hot dogs and food will be purchased.

Stewardship: None

Finance: None

Education: Sunday school wrapped up this past weekend. VBS prep is underway. VBS dates confirmed for 2027.

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: Shela got prices on shirts through Midwest Masterpiece - \$15/ youth - \$20-\$23/adult sizes. Designs are in the process. Discussion held on replacement of chairs. Prices shared and Amber Scott will have more information next meeting. Council members encouraged to attend the Faith Formation festival and assist with setup Friday/Saturday.

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New Business: Discussion was held on placing a camera to the bell choir loft per recommendation of congregation member. The cost was discussed and pricing was shared from Yondas. The quote was - \$11,749. At this time the council does not feel it would be a good use of funds.

Discussion was held on service schedule. Council members will be seeking input from congregation members to assist with planning the worship and sunday school schedule for fall of 2026.

Visioning: No discussion at this time.

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

Next meeting will be held on June 11, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

July/August Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, July 5th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Dora Rock, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Greg & Marge Petersen, Ronda Holst
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	
Greeters	Ryan & Amanda Graham Family
Acolytes	Brynnleigh Lane
Worship Steward	Matt Todd
	Sunday, July 12th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Dora Rock, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Dean & Joy Krohn, Cristin Rold
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Astelle Graham
Greeters	Darrian & Lisa Irlbeck family
Acolytes	Rylinn Madden
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck
	Sunday, July 19th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Dora Rock, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk, Judy Williams
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Kendra Hansen
Greeters	Holly Hansen Family
Acolytes	Trevor Madden
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen
	Sunday, July 26th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Dora Rock, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Katie Scheffler, John Scott, Roger Nelson
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Karen Hansen
Greeters	Gina & Ryan Winter family
Acolytes	Tyler Pieken
Worship Steward	Ron Winter
	Sunday, August 2nd 9:30 am
Communion Support	NA
Communion/Offering	NA
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Mandy Holst
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen
Acolytes	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen

Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!

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!

July Communion Bread

Emery & Sage Brockhoff



july

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	3 Pastors Day Off	4 
5 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	6 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	7	8	9 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 7 p.m. Council Meeting	10 Pastors Day Off	11 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
12 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	13	14 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	15	16 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	17 Pastors Day Off	18 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
19 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Worship at the Fairgrounds 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	20	21	22	23 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	24 Pastors Day Off	25 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
26 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship Pastor & Mission Team Out on Mission	27	28 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	29	30 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	31	

**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.**