

The Trinity Trumpet

August 2026

www.tlcavoca.com

Pastor:

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*"Therefore, I **appeal** to you therefore, 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*

"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." Proverbs 24: 33 – 34

What's in Your Wallet?

Alistar Begg, in his Truth for Life – 365 Daily Devotions, vol. 1 has an intriguing devotion entitled Countering Spiritual Laziness. And I found it compelling to be reading a sermon of Martin Luther's about receiving the Sacrament of the Altar worthily. Alistar's devotion starts:

"We've all seen it. In the worlds of sports, business, and academics, less gifted individuals often go further than those with greater abilities due to one trait: diligence. Such people are willing to take seriously the challenge of laziness and do what they must to overcome its allure. You likely either are one of those people or aspire and work to be one. But if we are honest with ourselves. This same diligence is often lacking in our spiritual lives."

What he's getting at is what the writer of Proverbs was sharing as wisdom for the people of God, it is dangerous and easy to allow our lives of faith to become overgrown beds of weeds and thorns that choke out the Word which God is so constantly and abundantly sowing.

In his sermon Dr. Martin was making the point that receiving the sacrament, and in effect all the Church offers that you can get nowhere else, can't be forced and should not be ignored, but rather one should have a:

"hunger and thirst for this food and drink, otherwise harm is sure to follow. This hunger and thirst are not created by compelling a man, but by showing him his frailty and need so that he will see his wretched condition and feel the desire to be delivered from it. This happens ... when you recognize that you are weak in faith, cold in love (for God), and faint in hope. You will find that you are disposed toward hatred and impatience, impurity, greed, and whatever other vice there is. This you will undoubtedly find and feel if you really look at yourself."

He goes on to state that the words, "Take and eat this is my body given for you. Take and drink all of you; for this is the cup of the new and eternal testament in my blood poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt 26: 26-28) "should be shouted out loudly so that all can hear them clearly so every Christian can have these words close to himself and put his mind on them above all others." Why? Because these are the very words that Paul is writing to the Romas about presenting themselves to fully, constantly, needlingly and what is acceptable to God which is our spiritual worship.

Which Alistar Begg writes about in another devotion titled A Call to Commitment where he states that the Paul's word appeal comes from the Greek word – logical. "In other words," he writes, "[Paul's] exhortation is not based on emotion or manipulation. Rather, Paul is making a rational, urgent entreaty to his readers, all on the strength of God's mercy." Because - "There is no dimension of our humanity that is not affected by our willful rebellion against God. Yet by his mercy, God doesn't count His people's sins against them, and He has withheld the condemnation we deserve. Instead, He has taken our sins and counted them against His only beloved Son."

If we truly understand why Jesus has come, not for our momentary gain or joys, but to redeem the lost and dead of His creation, would we not set everything aside for a period daily and weekly to come into His presence and give thanks? I was plucking weeds at the church from the rock beds thinking to myself, well one, I hate rocks, but two, I hate weeds. I would love to have gardens, even covered with rocks, to stay pure and beautiful, but there too weeds can grow. An enemy makes it so.

Then I thought, if only I hated my sin as much as I hate weeds, then I would keep working and growing to acknowledge the truth of me and desire all the more to stand in God's presence, among all the other weedy people as we hear His word of forgiveness as we confess our truth. Where He speaks to us in hymn and song calling us to see our truth considering His love, mercy, and His amazing grace that is given not because I am something special, but just because He loves me. Where we can hold out empty hands and present sin laden children to be washed clean and then fed and nourished with those words "Take and Eat, Take and Drink" for the forgiveness of sins, as Christ His very self gives to me life and salvation and the promise that in Him, it is sure.

Pastor Matt



The Choir Rummage Sale will be held September 25th, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and September 26th, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will be accepting donations beginning Sunday, September 20th at noon. This years proceeds from the sale will be used to provide assistance of needs in the community. It is not to early to begin packing items to donate. If you have questions, please speak with Shirly Pattee or Jolene Henning.



All students entering 7th grade and up are encouraged to get signed up for confirmation classes. Class will start on Wednesday, September 2nd. Parents, please let Pastor Matt know as soon as possible if your child will be attending, and students, please invite a friend to join you this year!



The "My First Bible" class is now forming. This class is led by Pastor Matt and will be held on August 8th, from 8 a.m. to Noon. All students entering 3rd grade and up are invited to attend! Please call the church office at 712-343-2518 or contact Pastor Matt, if you're able to join for a morning of great learning that will help for a lifetime!

We are looking for more people who are willing to tie quilts, sew quilt blocks together, and/or cut quilt blocks. Sewing and cutting blocks may be done at home at your leisure. Tying quilts takes place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of each month. No Experience Necessary: Will Train! If you have any questions, please contact Denise Young or Kathy Soetmelk.



August 02	Delaney	Carroll
August 02	Michelle	Freeman
August 02	Sheryl	Harder
August 02	Peggy	Jacobsen
August 02	Exton	Hansen
August 03	Courtney	Hensley
August 03	Jennifer	Partlow
August 05	Jayna	Engle
August 05	JoAnn	Moore
August 05	Kieghan	Johnson
August 06	Becky	Woltmann
August 06	Marie	Madden
August 08	Breanna	Pauley
August 10	Samantha	Scheffler
August 10	Seth	Schmidt
August 10	Ava	Paulsen
August 10	Makenna	Paulsen
August 11	Gary	Collins
August 11	Cara Beth	Buboltz
August 11	Janae	Sternberg
August 12	Larry	Lippold
August 12	Andrea	Emmanuel
August 14	Jackson	Hensley
August 15	Michael	Scheffler
August 15	Karen	Hansen

August 17	Courtney	Harder
August 17	Gary	Soetmelk
August 17	Matthew	Sternberg
August 17	Julaine	Carley
August 17	Ron	Tapke
August 17	Alice	Botcher
August 18	Alisha	Allen
August 18	Ethan	Hoepner
August 18	Brittany	Kelly
August 19	Eli	Collins
August 19	Wilma	Klindt
August 21	Preston	Krohn
August 21	Kristen	Krohn
August 22	Lillian	Boysen
August 23	Roger	Nelson
August 23	Jordan	Blotzer
August 24	Betty	Kubik
August 25	Connie	VonEschen
August 25	Brody	Hensley
August 26	Courtney	Freeman
August 26	Sienna	Christian
August 27	Jim	Hansen
August 28	Robin	Andersen
August 30	Jovi	Robinson
August 31	Jason	Holst

Want to Know What's Going On In the Iowa Mission District?

The Iowa Mission District Convocation is coming up on Saturday, August 29th in Cedar Falls, IA. The all-day event gives you an opportunity to share in worship, participate in breakout sessions, attend to Mission District business and hear from a keynote speaker. This is a great way to better understand how we fit into the NALC and gain some great ideas we can use here at Trinity! Please let Pastor Matt or Nicole Krohn (712-309-2318) know if your are interest in attending.

August/September Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, August 2nd 9:30 am
Communion Support	
Communion/Offering	
Scriptures & Prayers	Sue Blakestad
Greeters	Mike & Wendy Jorgensen
Acolytes	Stella Rold
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen
	Sunday, August 9th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Bella Lamp, Sue Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Gary & Kathy Soetmelk, Matt Todd
Scriptures & Prayers	Amber Johnson
Greeters	Darren & Nicole Krohn Family
Acolytes	Guy Scheffler
Worship Steward	Matt Todd
	Sunday, August 16th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Bella Lamp, Sue Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Judy Williams, Ron Winter, Becky Bahnfleth
Scriptures & Prayers	Jerod Johnson
Greeters	Holly Hansen Family
Acolytes	Morgan Sieh
Worship Steward	Dean Krohn
	Sunday, August 23rd 9:30 am
Communion Support	Bella Lamp, Sue Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Lacy & Shane Brockhoff, Jacob Collins
Scriptures & Prayers	Bella Lamp
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family
Acolytes	Sage Brockhoff
Worship Steward	Jim Hansen
	Sunday, August 30th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Bella Lamp, Sue Paulsen
Communion/Offering	Jim & Karen Hansen, Linda Schumacher
Scriptures & Prayers	Wendy Jorgensen
Greeters	Linda Schumacher
Acolytes	Harper Allspach
Worship Steward	Adam Harder
	Sunday, September 6th 9:30 am
Communion Support	Christina Berndt, Becky Bahnfleth
Communion/Offering	Eric & Morgan Sieh, Linda Andersen
Scriptures & Prayers	Nicole Krohn
Greeters	Megan & Dan Hansen Family
Acolytes	Claire Yates
Worship Steward	Dan Hansen



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

August Communion Bread

Kadence Coolidge & 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!

	Total	Total Gifts
Weekend of	Attend-	Received
06/28	64	2,056.00
07/05	51	645.00
07/12	78	7,300.00
07/19	39	1,597.00
07/26	70	9,745.00



Norma Herrill-Shirley Thies

Council Meeting Minutes
Date of Meeting: June 11th, 2026

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

Call to Order/Devotion: Meeting is called to order by Nicole Krohn. Devotion given by Sue Paulsen.

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

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

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

Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report discussed, no bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Amber Scott, seconded by Beth Nielsen. Motion passed.

Pastors Report: Working on food for VBS and the upcoming Mission trip.

President's Report/Comments: Signage updated around the church. The website has been updated with some devotionals and other information.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Microsoft Publisher is being discontinued soon. Therefore, I will be working on a new "look" for our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter. Plan is to put those out concurrently when we start back with worship in the fall. Received a message from Mary, custodian, that she will be gone the week of VBS.

Council Reports

Property: There will be a different person coming to install the radon mitigation system. The new company will be here the 1st week of July with the intent of getting both the parsonage and church done in the same day.

Worship: None

Outreach: The summer event on Saturday, May 30th went very well. There were many people from the public which was on of our goals. We didn't have an exact head count for the attendees but would guess between 50-70 people, including youth and adults. The bounce houses were a bug hit for the youth. The yard games were for the youth and adults. 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 to. Food and beverages were donated by members of the congregation. Brats were donated by Pastor Matt. The hot dogs and bounce houses were funded by the church using the allotted amount of money provided for this event. A total of \$500 was used from the budget of \$800. The bounce houses were paid the day of the event. The \$90 is for the cookies and hot dogs. Gina has yet to submit a receipt. The layout of the event utilized the shade trees to the west side of the parking lot between the two driveways. The bounce houses were along the west side of the northern portion of the parking lot. The food tables and the picnic tables were under the tress. Music was set up by the church/ramp to utilize electricity inside the narthex. The parking lot in that area is flat and shady without needing a tent. The cool breeze made the evening enjoyable with lots of great fellowship.

Advertisement for the event was shared with the public both online and also on paper. Gina copied the flier for each student to take home from the school in the primary building the last week of school. The paper flier was delivered to neighboring community public locations. And the event was also shared on Facebook to capture people on social media. Amber hand delivered a few fliers to the neighbors who live near the church as a personal invite. The personal invites were well accepted as those families attended. Social media was also well accepted as another family attended who were not already congregational members.

Amber plans to print out pictures from the event and display them out in the narthex. Pictures will also be shared with Sue for the church newsletter and be shared in other forms.

The next possible event the Family Fellowship Ministry will be hosting is a Fall/Harvest gathering after the summer.

Christy has talked with Pastor Matt about training for communion to help assist with those who are home bound to receive communion.

Stewardship: None Finance: None

Education: VBS is in a couple weeks. Counselors will arrive on Sunday, June 21st. We currently have approximately 85 enrolled.

Old Business: An update from the city was received in regards to the galvanized pipe for lead and copper testing. The results show that we are within a good range and nothing further is needed to be done. Sheila gave an update on new t-shirt designs. Once a design is selected an order form will be placed in the Narthex for all members to order. Discussion was held on new folding chairs. Amber Scott will do an inventory of chairs that need to be replaced and get pricing together to replace them.

New Business: Discussion was held on replacing the blinds in the office. The TLC lady's group will be helping to pay for some of the cost to replace them and assistance from the endowment committee will be sought for further funding. A letters were received from the Micah House, LSI and New Visions asking if they could come visit to share their mission and information on their programs. Pastor shared dates that are open for them to come and talk with the congregation. Nicole will coordinate with Micah House, LSI, and New Vision to discuss having them all come on one date to visit with the congregation.

Discussion was held about the current service schedule and feedback received from congregation members. Discussion will continue and the schedule for the upcoming service year will be ready for the August newsletter.

Pastor discussed replacing communion ware, candles and other alter items. The flower stands have been welded and are fixed temporarily, so they will need to be replaced as well. Pastor will get information and pricing to the memorial committee to see if they would be willing to fund the replacement. Pastor will be setting up a zoom meeting with the Dunlap church and council members to discuss how to reimburse and schedule Pastors Matts time to assist them.

Adjournment: Eric Sieh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Megan Hansen. Motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary



AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
2 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	3 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	4 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	5	6 2 p.m. TLCW Meeting 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	7 Pastors Day Off	8 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 8 a.m.—12 p.m. "My First Bible Class"
9 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	10	11 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service	12	13 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 7 p.m. Council Meeting	14 Pastors Day Off	15 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
16 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	17 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Home Worship 1:30 p.m. Peace Haven Worship	18 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Seedlings	19	20 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	21 Pastors Day Off	22 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
23 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	24 9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Nursing Home Worship	25 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Christian Service 9 a.m. Allen Place Worship	26	27 4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts 4 p.m.—6 p.m. Food & Clothing Pantry	28 Pastors Day Off	29 7 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
30 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study	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.