

# The Trinity Trumpet

## September 2026

[www.tlcavoca.com](http://www.tlcavoca.com)

**Pastor:**

**Matt Bahnfleth**

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**Director of Ministry in Daily Life:**

**Sue Paulsen**

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*"Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?' 'It is,' Jonah said. 'And I'm so angry I wish I were dead.' But the Lord said, 'You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?'" **Jonah 4: 6 - 11***

*"Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?" **Ezekiel 33:11***

### ***It's a Real Fish Story – The Worm that Catches a Prophet, and you and me!***

Have you ever read the book of Jonah? It is a quick yet amazing text which shows the length and desire of God for His creation, but that also reveals, our vision is often too small and misses a "God's eye" view. First and foremost – Jonah is not about the fish, not the size of the fish, not the kind of fish, we like to make Jonah fishy but if we do that, it only becomes a fish tale. There is so much more happening here: a city that doesn't know God and is hated by God's people because they are Assyrian and responsible for the first exile and plunder of God's people. A prophet called by God who hates the who and where God is sending him so he runs the other way and goes, down, down, and down till he is in the belly of a boat feeling very secure that God can't find him here.

Sorry Charlie, eh Jonah. God's eye is set everywhere. Big storm, quick vote, Jonah goes swimming and as he like Peter sinks thinking he can control the mind of God and even go the opposite way with out recourse. Big fish, major stomach revulsion on the beach near Ninevah so Jonah figures, I guess I'm here, so let's get this over with; so he walks a bit into the city, declares three days and God will wipe this place off the map, and walks out taking a ring side seat for a long-awaited destruction of a major and hated enemy. But, the people listen, king commands repentance even the cows – and TA DAH, God changes His mind saving the city. Thrilling isn't it.

Jonah on the hill gets really mad with God, "I knew You would do this. I knew You were gracious, merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. God, I wish I were dead!" It's HOT, even more than IOWA HOT!! In fair week. God makes a plant grow and brings lovely shade and makes him comfortable. Plant good, God still bad according to Jonah. Next morning a worm more destructive than a huge fish takes Jonah's hopes way. Jonah – "God I wish I were dead."

Recognize yourself in Jonah's story. Love that God calls us but hate where He sends us. Not those people Lord, not that person, they deserve to be punished and to suffer. If nothing else, to be ignored and left to their own fate. Complaining, even cursing God all the while knowing those words imbedded deep in us – "He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." The liturgy music and biblical words roll through our hearts and minds – "doesn't mean I have to like it." And even more, while we are complaining, or whimpering, God sends something else to care for us, to comfort us. We never say thanks, we just enjoy it, after all – I'm due this for all I have done for God. But then, it goes way and back we go into the cycle of despair and complaining which is so easy for us to drop into, because, well, we deserve better.

Then God's voice speaks to us: from His Word, from His pulpit, in the midst of our receiving forgiveness after confession, all as we hold out empty hands to receive the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation won for us in Jesus' suffering and death as we receive bread and wine. And what does God talk to us Jonah's about, but the worm. You are angry about the plant that you had nothing to do with, but that I brought up in one night, and I made perish in one night. It's a plant; and allowing that worm to do what worms do, well that's part of my mercy to call you to faithfulness just like that city. In my grace I gave you shade and respite but now it's back to life in the sun. Have you ever considered how much compassion I have for my whole creation that doesn't know me or want to hear me? All the people, and cows, that are dying alone, forever, on their own because no one will preach to them because they are an enemy just like that city Ninevah.

The greatest fish story isn't the one that grows in the telling about "the one that got away." It's the story that fishermen and women for Jesus tell about the worm that seeks to destroy and that turns us inside upon ourselves called sin; and the God, who despite all of our complaining, rejection, and running away still brings temporary relief to us, calling us to confess that we have been trying to do it our way and it only leads to destruction. More importantly has given His own Son to die so that we might have a relief forever. Relief of knowing that He and He alone, has made a way for sinners and enemies just like us.

Blessings, Pastor Matt

### **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

| <br>Weekend of | Total<br>Attend- | Total Gifts<br>Received |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 08/02                                                                                            | 99               | \$3,475.00              |
| 08/09                                                                                            | 93               | \$4,089.00              |
| 08/16                                                                                            | 100              | \$6,893.00              |
| 08/23                                                                                            | 90               | \$1,655.00              |

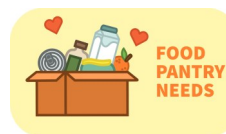


Beginning on Sunday, September 20th, we will go back to two services with Sunday School and Fellowship in between the services. The traditional service will start at 8:15 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and our Contemporary Services at 10:15 a.m. We look forward to worshipping with you!

Pastor Matt will be leading worship at Carstens Farm, outside of Shelby, on Sunday, September 13th. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. The worship band will be accompanying him with the service.



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 year's proceeds from the sale will be used to provide assistance of needs in the community. It is not too early to begin packing items to donate. If you have questions, please speak with Shirly Pattee or Jolene Henning.



The food and clothing pantry are in need of items. Donations can be left in the hallway downstairs.

The food pantry is in need of:

Hamburger Helper, sugar, flour, cereal, tortillas, pancake syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, and shampoo, ketchup, mustard, and salad dressing. Please only clothing that is in season and food that has NOT been expired will be accepted.

Thank you!



Hand chimes!! What a beautiful sound! Youth in 3rd through 6th grade are encouraged to come and play in this group. The ability to read music is not required. The songs are color-coded and written with alphabet letters instead of music notes. Practice is once a week at 4:15 on Mondays for 45 minutes. We share our music at worship once a month. The first practice for this season will be Monday, September 14. Please come and check it out! If you do not fall into this age group, but want to play, please come also. Kathy Soetmelk, Becky Bahnflath, Kim Krohn



|              |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| September 01 | Larry     | Chapman   |
| September 01 | Lu Ann    | Jensen    |
| September 03 | Lane      | Thornton  |
| September 04 | Jaycie    | Schuelman |
| September 04 | Dean      | Willett   |
| September 04 | Benjamin  | Kramer    |
| September 05 | Robert    | Scott     |
| September 05 | Kristyn   | Nielsen   |
| September 05 | Tirian    | Peters    |
| September 07 | William   | Bylund    |
| September 09 | Henry     | Best      |
| September 10 | Kyle      | Sternberg |
| September 10 | Janet     | Holtz     |
| September 10 | Kami      | Willett   |
| September 10 | Sage      | Brockhoff |
| September 11 | Karen     | Pope      |
| September 11 | Gayle     | Stuart    |
| September 11 | Shelby    | McCreedy  |
| September 11 | Ella      | Hansen    |
| September 12 | Kerry     | Danker    |
| September 14 | Katherine | Collins   |
| September 14 | Katie     | Johnson   |
| September 15 | Deanna    | Whyte     |
| September 16 | Stephanie | Harder    |
| September 17 | Joy       | Best      |
| September 17 | Evelyn    | Soetmelk  |
| September 20 | Marilyn   | Chapman   |
| September 22 | Corbin    | Pieken    |
| September 23 | Karen     | Rodriguez |
| September 24 | Bobbi     | Lund      |
| September 25 | Blake     | Holst     |
| September 25 | Joy       | Krohn     |
| September 25 | Trevor    | Madden    |
| September 26 | Krislyn   | McCarthy  |
| September 26 | Jason     | Rold      |
| September 28 | Darren    | Krohn     |
| September 29 | James     | Best      |

## Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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

### Confirmation Class



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!



"Have you been thinking it's time for a new TLC shirt?! We have too! The Church Council is planning to offer TLC T-Shirts this fall. More information to come soon so keep an eye out!"



As our young adults begin moving into college, new homes, etc., we would really appreciate their new addresses! This allows us to keep updated and keep connected with them. Of course, any change in address or contact information that you may have is always appreciated to let Sue in the office know!



As school gets underway here, so will Youth Group! Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th, starting at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served! Please encourage your 9th thru 12th graders to attend and to bring a friend along! I look forward to meeting and growing with this group again! The schedule thru December will be incoming soon to your emails. September dates are the 9th and 30th at 6 p.m., with our "Friday Night Be the Lights" annual event begin held on Friday, September 18th. Thank you!



When you  
pass through  
the waters,  
I will be  
with you.  
Isaiah 43:2



Christian Service is up to a lot of good! They will be delivering 48 quilts to Gabriel's Corner, New Vision and Phoenix House. This ministry is looking for more people who would like to join in and help. Ways to help would include anyone 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. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Young or Kathy Soetmelk.



In order to keep our momentum going with Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, I need to find new sources of funding. Our goal is to fund the youth programs that pack shoeboxes: Lutheran Youth Group, Botna Valley Achievers, FFA, FBLA at the school, Cub & Boy Scouts, and the Presbyterian Youth Group. My Goal is to give each group \$1000.00 to buy things to pack the boxes and \$1000.00 each to pay for the postage. The goal for each group is to pack 100 boxes, so \$2000.00 for each group would be needed. *In addition to packing your own shoeboxes, would you be willing to donate towards this important ministry for children around the world to learn of Jesus' love?* You may donate this money to Trinity Lutheran Church and designate it for Operation Christmas Child. I would like to give the money to those groups by October 1st. Thank you.

Gary and Kathy Soetmelk

## September/October Volunteer Schedule

|                              |                                       |                                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                              | <b>Sunday, September 6th 9:30 am</b>  |                                            |
| Communion Support            | Christina Berndt, Becky Bahnfleth     |                                            |
| Communion/Offering           | Eric & Morgan Sieh, Linda Andersen    |                                            |
| Scriptures & Prayers Readers | Nicole Krohn                          |                                            |
| Greeters                     | Megan & Dan Hansen Family             |                                            |
| Acolytes                     | Claira Yates                          |                                            |
| Worship Steward              | Dan Hansen                            |                                            |
|                              |                                       |                                            |
|                              | <b>Sunday, September 13th 9:30 am</b> |                                            |
| Communion Support            | NA                                    |                                            |
| Communion/Offering           | NA                                    |                                            |
| Scriptures & Prayers Readers | Jennifer Plumb                        |                                            |
| Greeters                     | Lisa & Darrian Irlbeck Family         |                                            |
| Acolytes                     | Harper Allspach                       |                                            |
| Worship Steward              | Darrian Irlbeck                       |                                            |
|                              |                                       |                                            |
|                              | <b>Sunday, September 20th 8:15 am</b> | <b>Sunday, September 20th 10:15 am</b>     |
| Communion Support            | Christina Berndt, Becky Bahnfleth     | Greg & Marge Petersen                      |
| Communion/Offering           | Wendy Dierking                        | Donna Rold, Katie Scheffler, John Scott    |
| Scriptures & Prayers Readers | Lucas Plumb                           | Sue Blakestad                              |
| Greeters                     | Mike and Wendy Jorgensen              | Amber & Lance Scott Family                 |
| Acolytes                     | Sage Brockhoff                        | Jersey Harris                              |
| Worship Steward              | Mike Jorgensen                        | Mike Krummel                               |
|                              |                                       |                                            |
|                              | <b>Sunday, September 27th 8:15 am</b> | <b>Sunday, September 27th 10:15 am</b>     |
| Communion Support            | Christina Berndt, Becky Bahnfleth     | Greg & Marge Petersen                      |
| Communion/Offering           | Amanda Graham                         | Shane & Lacy Brockhoff, Judy Williams      |
| Scriptures & Prayers Readers | Maeleigh Rold                         | Karen Hansen                               |
| Greeters                     | Nicole & Darren Krohn Family          | Gina & Ryan Winter Family                  |
| Acolytes                     | Autumn Emmanuel                       | Lauren Knop                                |
| Worship Steward              | Shela Jacobsen                        | Shela Jacobsen                             |
|                              |                                       |                                            |
|                              | <b>Sunday, October 4th 8:15 am</b>    | <b>Sunday, October 4th 10:15 am</b>        |
| Communion Support            | Marlene Nelsen, Angela Sieh           | Stephanie Harder, Evan Harder              |
| Communion/Offering           | Ryan Graham                           | Ron Winter, Becky Bahnfleth, Jacob Collins |
| Scriptures & Prayers Readers | Morgan Sieh                           | Amanda Holst                               |
| Greeters                     | Linda Schumacher                      | Holly Hansen Family                        |
| Acolytes                     | Cohen Griffen                         | Brynnleigh Lane                            |
| Worship Steward              | Matt Todd                             | Greg Petersen                              |

Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

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

Devotions and Prayer: Devotion given by Christina Rauch.

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

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes by Christina Rauch, seconded by Harley Spencer. Motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report: New candles and altar items are being looking into and there will be further discussion with new business.

President's Report: None.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report & Youth Ministry Report: None.

Council Reports

Education: None

Stewardship: None

Finance: Discussed pricing estimates for new blinds in the front two offices. The lesser estimate from Next Gen in Harlan is for Altra brand blinds in the amount of \$3,104 for the 5 windows. From previous discussion, the TLC Women's group will help cover some of the cost. A motion was made by Joy Krohn to approve the estimate for Altra blinds for the 5 office windows for \$3,104 and will work to secure funding from others to cover the remaining expense of the blinds/installation. Seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

Property Management: Sprayed for weeds outside of church. Radon mitigation should be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month. Parsonage and Church will have the mitigation completed.

Worship: None

Outreach: None

Old Business:

The discussion regarding replacing worn/ripped folding chairs will be tabled until August. The blinds for Sue's office was discussed and motion was made and approved above. Shela reviewed top choices for t-shirt sayings and "By Grace thru Faith" was voted on to make shirts with this saying. Shela will continue to follow up with shirt colors and make an order form to continue. Discussion was held regarding Trinity's fall worship schedule. A motion was made by Harley Spencer to continue with services at 8:15 a.m. traditional worship and 10:15 a.m. contemporary worship, with Sunday School and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the fall. Seconded by Eric Sieh. Motion passed.

New Business:

Discussion on replacing the window in front office started by Harley Spencer. Window has a faulty seal and has been re-calked & taped numerous times in the past. Harley will plan to get a quote and follow up. Discussion was held about giving beyond our monthly benevolence to New Visions to support initiatives, such as a Laundry Night, which were highlighted during their recent visit. No additional giving will be planned at this time. Pastor Matt presented information and a quote for replacing the altar candles & communion wear. Current communion wear is very worn. The current candles require wax and are difficult to maintain; new candles would use liquid wax and would match existing candelabras in the front of the church. Discussed asking the Memorial Committee or Choir Committee to help fund new communion wear and candles. Harley Spencer made a motion to replace altar candles and new brass communion wear, and to seek funding from the Choir Committee. Seconded by Christina Rauch. Motion passed.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Christina Rauch, seconded by Joy Krohn. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Paulsen & Nicole Krohn.

# SEPTEMBER

| Sun                                                                                                                                                             | Mon                                                                                                       | Tue                                                                          | Wed                                                         | Thu                                                                                            | Fri                                                                         | Sat                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                           | 1<br>4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.<br>Seedlings                                           | 2<br>5:30 p.m. Confirmation<br>Class                        | 3<br>2 p.m. TLCW Meeting<br>4 p.m.—6 p.m.<br>Food & Clothing Pantry                            | 4<br>Pastors Day Off                                                        | 5<br>7 a.m.—8:30 a.m.<br>Men's Bible Study<br>& Breakfast                                    |
| 6<br>9:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Fellowship                                                                                                                 | 7<br>Labor Day<br>Office Closed                                                                           | 8<br>8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.<br>Christian Service                                   | 9<br>5:30 p.m. Confirmation<br>Class<br>6 p.m. Youth Group  | 10<br>4 p.m.—6 p.m.<br>Food & Clothing Pantry<br>4-5:30 p.m. Sprouts<br>7 p.m. Council Meeting | 11<br>Pastors Day Off                                                       | 12<br>7 a.m.—8:30 a.m.<br>Men's Bible Study<br>& Breakfast                                   |
| 13<br><b>9 a.m. Contemporary Worship<br/>@ Carstens Farm</b><br>9:30 a.m. Worship/No Communion<br>10:30 a.m. Fellowship<br>3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study         | 14<br>4:15 p.m. Hand Chimers                                                                              | 15<br>4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.<br>Seedlings                                          | 16<br>5:30 p.m. Confirmation<br>Class                       | 17<br>4 p.m.—6 p.m.<br>Food & Clothing Pantry                                                  | 18<br>8 p.m. "Friday<br>Night Be the<br>Lights" YG Event<br>Pastors Day Off | 19<br>7 a.m.—8:30 a.m.<br>Men's Bible Study<br>& Breakfast                                   |
| 20<br>8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship<br>9:30 a.m. Sunday School/<br>Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:15 a.m. Contemporary<br>Worship<br>Rummage Sale Set Up          | 21<br>9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Home Worship<br>1:30 p.m. Peace Haven<br>Worship<br>4:15 p.m. Hand Chimers | 22<br>8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.<br>Christian Service<br>9 a.m. Allen Place<br>Worship | 23<br>No Confirmation Class                                 | 24<br>4 p.m.—6 p.m.<br>Food & Clothing Pantry                                                  | 25<br>8 a.m.—6 p.m.<br>Rummage Sale<br>Pastors Day Off                      | 26<br>7 a.m.—8:30 a.m.<br>Men's Bible Study<br>& Breakfast<br>8 a.m.—11 a.m.<br>Rummage Sale |
| 27<br>8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship<br>9:30 a.m. Sunday School/<br>Fellowship/Bible Study<br>10:15 a.m. Contemporary<br>Worship<br>3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bible Study | 28<br>9:30 a.m. Salem Lutheran Home Worship<br>4:15 p.m. Hand Chimers                                     | 29                                                                           | 30<br>5:30 p.m. Confirmation<br>Class<br>6 p.m. Youth Group | ➔                                                                                              |                                                                             |                                                                                              |

**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.**