

TRINITY TRUMPET

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Pr. Matt Bahnfleth

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12: 4 – 7
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1: 7
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!" Psalm 111: 10

To Fear and Not to Fear- That is the Answer

How can Jesus tell us to fear God because of what He can do and then turn around and say but don't have any fear? It has been prevalent in much of my own study lately and came up in a Sunday Bible study with the text above, and in discussion with confirmation class as we are looking at how God uses the Law, and how Satan misuses the Law in 3 ways.

The fear of the Lord is not being afraid of God, but always keeping the right understanding of who is the Creator and who is the creature. The word "fear" in scriptural talk means deep respect, awe, and wonder for God, rather than being afraid of Him in a negative way. Jesus calls us to respect God because of the truth of His power. In Paul's words:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen." Romans 1: 18 – 25

Luther knew this as he wrote his explanation to the First Commandment simply and clearly. You shall have no other Gods before Me. **What does this mean? We are to FEAR, love and trust God above all things.** Shouldn't love be first? NO. We are sinners in a broken world, our love for one another and even God is twisted and works from our own motivations and desires which are always for us. Our love for God can never be right until we have the proper fear of God. Proof – when we are declaring our love for God and hating people, even in the body of Christ, will God say we are loving Him? NO. *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."* **1 John 4: 20** Our natural condition, conceived, steeped, and covered in sin gives us

the idea that we can do what we want as a Christian. We can have righteous anger, we can judge and condemn others, we can walk away rather than work to find reconciliation and forgiveness. But when we hold ourselves up against God rather than others the Laws work of being a mirror leaves no doubt we are who all of scripture declares us to be.

Fear of the Lord is the place that should, as Luther declared, bring us to Holy Terror standing exposed in our sin, because we can hide nothing, even our thoughts from God, so He rightly can judge and condemn us. That fear is what should be making us look at our actions, thoughts, and words daily fighting to go a different way. With no fear, we just give permission to carry on as always. But if this fear is all you have then, as Johnathan Edwards wrote about in his book, Sinners in the hands of an Angry God: then watch out. That fear becomes afraid of God, terrified and leads us to other terrible places.

That's why Jesus immediately talks about the sparrows above. Sparrows are cheap, even disposable; I mean 5 for two pennies. Jesus declares not one of them is forgotten before God, He knows them all; and if He cares that much for them, how much more important are you to Him, who sent His Son into the world to redeem you with a purchase made with His very blood? You are of more value than all the sparrows, so don't be afraid of Him, but put God in His proper place and you in yours. Understanding this balancing act of faith is the only answer to loving God faithfully. With proper fear of God, we learn what love looks like and does as it transforms how we love God by loving all those around us.

In loving His way more and more, we develop a trust in what God can do though us and has done for us, that frees us from the bondage of our own angers, emotions, desires to be god to ourself, and our self-righteousness that so easily rears its head in us. We are simul justus et peccator, at the same time saint and sinner. Let us work to not allow the "peccator" in us have the day, but learning what God has done for us and the unrepayable debt of forgiveness He has giving in our baptism, rethink, work for peace, forgive and seek forgiveness; it is the heart of what is to make Christians who they are, demonstrated by Jesus Himself and His prayer from the cross for those who condemned Him to death, including you, and me.

Peace



Coming Up

September 30th- Bible Study &

Meal 6p

October 2nd- Friday Night be
the Lights Event"

October 14th- Bible Study &

Meal 6p

October 28th- Bible Study &

Meal 6p

Youth Group



Church Business

Weekend Of	Total Attendance	Total Gifts Received
Aug. 30th	88	545.00
Sept. 6th	80	4393.00
Sept. 13th	75	3431.00
Sept. 20th	52 / 97	7104.50



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



Thank you for all the donations to our annual rummage sale and to all who assisted setting up and preparing for the sale. We had a successful sale again this year & proceeds will be used to assist in the purchase of new communion ware.

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



October/November Volunteer Schedule

	Sunday, October 4th 8:15 am	Sunday, October 4th 10:15 am
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
	Sunday, October 11th 8:15 am	Sunday, October 11th 10:15 am
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen, Angela Sieh	Stephanie Harder, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Michael Hansen	Jim & Karen Hansen, Sue Paulsen
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Wendy Dierking	Amber Johnson
Greeters	Chris & Wendy Dierking	Jerod & Amber Johnson Family
Acolytes	Michael Hansen	Elayna Hansen
Worship Steward	Darrian Irlbeck	John Scott
	Sunday, October 18th 8:15 am	Sunday, October 18th 10:15 am
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen, Angela Sieh	Stephanie Harder, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Ronda Holst	Neil Paulsen, Katie Scheffler Peggy Osbahr
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Kennedy Wyman	Bella Lamp
Greeters	Eric & Angela Sieh Family	Jersey Harris & Family
Acolytes	Lauren Knop	Tanner Lamp
Worship Steward	Shela Jacobsen	Ron Winter
	Sunday, October 25th 8:15 am	Sunday, October 25th 10:15 am
Communion Support	Marlene Nelsen, Angela Sieh	Stephanie Harder, Evan Harder
Communion/Offering	Roger Nelson	Kendra Hansen, Taylen Hansen, Donna Rold
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Autumn Immanuel	Gary Soetmelk
Greeters	Ryan & Amanda Graham	Rose Krohn
Acolytes	Trevor Madden	Brynnleigh Lane
Worship Steward	Mike Jorgensen	Gary Soetmelk
	Sunday, November 1st 8:15 am	Sunday, November 1st 10:15 am
Communion Support	Reva Bylund, Ronda Holst	Bella Lamp, Brynnleigh Lane
Communion/Offering	Linda Schumacher	Steph & Evan Harder, Gary Soetmelk
Scriptures & Prayers Readers	Astelle Graham	Nicole Lamp
Greeters	Megan & Dan Hansen Family	Heath & Nicole Lamp Family
Acolytes	Jersey Harris	Hudson Harder
Worship Steward	Dan Hansen	Sue Paulsen

If you are unable to serve 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. Please let the office know of any changes by Thursday each week, if possible. Thank You!

October Communion Bread: Joy Krohn & Molly Scott

Thank You
for Serving!

Happy Birthday



October 02 Ellia Krummel

October 02 Annabelle Buboltz

October 05 Anthony Wade

October 05 Max Scheffler

October 06 Justin Woltmann

October 07 Courtney Robinson

October 07 Justin Kelly

October 07 Nicholas Buboltz

October 07 Cael Berndt

October 08 Charles Pattee

October 08 Travis Lane

October 09 Ashtyn McCarthy

October 09 Macy Thornton

October 10 Amy Jacobsen

October 10 Marlin Andersen

October 10 Dale Kardell

October 10 Jaelyn Johnson

October 10 Dennis Taylor

October 11 Rilon Hilgenberg

October 12 James Schueman

October 13 Jerry Espeseth Jr

October 13 Arlene Roush

October 13 Gemma Rold

October 13 Lucas Plumb

October 14 Kevin Jorgensen

October 14 Duane Nielsen

October 14 Amy Buboltz

October 15 Valdine Schueman

October 15 Kimberly Gress

October 15 Kathy Nelson

October 16 Chelsie Madden

October 16 Nash Schroder

October 17 Kendal Best

October 17 Jaden Luth

October 17 Kasen Krummel

October 19 Jason Krummel

October 19 Jacob Roush

October 19 Janet Pattee

October 19 Lori Winter

October 19 Lexi Kramer

October 19 John Scott

October 20 Trace Phippen

October 21 Gayle Carroll

October 21 Norma Pattee

October 22 Kasey Coolidge

October 23 Emily Roush

October 23 Kevin Jacobsen

October 24 Olivia McCarthy

October 25 Reece Schueman

October 26 Jo Ann Schuemann

October 27 Adryan Bruce

October 27 Collin Harder

October 28 Lisa Irlbeck

October 29 Donna Rold

October 29 Suzette Blakestad

October 30 Don Buboltz

October 31 Mark Bornholdt

October 31 Matt Todd

Agenda/Minutes
Date of Meeting: August 13, 2026

Members Present:

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

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

Recognizing Guests: None

Thank You Cards: None

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

Treasurer's Report: Report and bills were submitted. A motion was made to approve the report by Beth Nielsen, seconded by Amber Scott. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor just returned from a pastoral workshop. Supplies are coming in for convocation, communion and confirmation. Pastor continues working with the St. Johns Lutheran Church in Dunlap to assist with services as able and discussion was held on compensation. Iowa Mission District convocation is coming up at the end of this month.

President's Report/Comments: Last week, I participated in the online NALC Convocation. The focus of this meeting was to give an annual update on how/what the NALC has done in the past year, the early process of working to grow the NALS (seminary) and to review & approve the budget for next year. Myself, along with Pastor Matt and Eric S., met with members of the council from St. John's Lutheran in Dunlap to discuss how we at Trinity can help to support them during their time of transition. They have recently joined the NALC and hope to begin their call

process soon. We discussed how Pastor Matt could provide worship and other pastoral services as needed to their church, as well as how Trinity can support their church going forward.

Director of Ministry in Daily Life Report: Youth group ministry is in the planning stage for this upcoming school year. Our first event, "Friday Night, Be the Lights" is fast approaching with the hope to have it at the school following the homecoming game again. This would be held on Friday, September 18th. I'm making continual progress on the new look for the bulletin. I've landed on using both Word and Canva.

Council Reports

Property Report: Radon mitigation is scheduled for the week of August 17th for the church and the parsonage. Harley will be contacting the electrician to tend to the exhaust fan located in the chair storage closet and move the switch for that. Nicole reaching out to Pat Martin

regarding the window in the front church office.

Service: Pastor spoke with Kahty Soetmelk and Shirley Pattee for purchase of the candles, chalice and communion trays from the choir.

Outreach: No report

Stewardship: No report

Finance: Donations have been raised to replace the blinds in the office.

Education: No report

Additional Council Report Notes:

Old Business: Discussion was held on replacing chairs in fellowship hall. Currently we have 60 chairs that need to be replaced. Funds will be reviewed and discussion will be held about when will be the best time to purchase new ones. T-shirt discussion was held and 2 t-shirt designs will be offered.

New Business: Holtz Lawn Service will be coming to spray for weed control at the parsonage and church. Seeding will need to be done in February.

Discussion was held on the Backpack program and the need for continuing with supporting the program. Funding and donations for the backpack program are in the process and will be reviewed when completed.

Discussion held on tithing and offering programs to raise money for the building funds.

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

Next meeting will be held on September 10, 2026 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amber Scott, Secretary

October 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 2p TLCW Meeting 4p—6p Food & Clothing Pantry	2 Pastors Day Off 9p "Friday Night be the Lights"	3 7a—8:30 a Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
4 8:15a T. Worship 9:30a Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15a C. Worship 5p Bible Study	5 4:15p Hand Chimers	6 4p-5:30p Seedlings	7 5:30p Confirmation Class	8 4p—6p Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30p Sprouts 7p Council Meeting	9 Pastors Day Off	10 7a—8:30 a Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
11 8:15a T. Worship 9:30a Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15a C. Worship 5p Bible Study	12 4:15p Hand Chimers	13 8:30a-3p Christian Service	14 5:30p Confirmation Class 6p Youth Group	15 4p—6p Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30p Sprouts	16 Pastors Day Off	17 7a—8:30 a Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
18 8:15a T. Worship 9:30a Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15a C. Worship 5p Bible Study	19 9:30a Salem Home Worship 1:30p Peace Haven Worship 4:15p Hand Chimers	20 4p-5:30p Seedlings	21 5:30p Confirmation Class	22 4p—6p Food & Clothing Pantry	23 Pastors Day Off	24 7a—8:30 a Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
25 8:15a T. Worship 9:30a Sunday School/Fellowship/ Bible Study 10:15a C. Worship 5p Bible Study	26 9:30a Salem Home Worship 4:15p Hand Chimers	27 8:30a-3p Christian Service 9a Allen Place Worship	28 5:30p Confirmation Class 6p Youth Group	29 4p—6p Food & Clothing Pantry 4-5:30p Sprouts	30 Pastors Day Off	31 7a—8:30 a Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 N. CHESTNUT STREET
P.O. BOX 456
AVOCA, IA 51521-0456**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**October
2026**

**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.**