



Building His Body By
Reflecting the Son

TRINITY TIDBITS

A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy, Texas



Christmas Communication

The barber had been cutting hair for many years in his small town. Of course,

that meant he had shared many stories and jokes. Some of those jokes and stories were funny and some were the ones that needed to stay in the barber shop. He would many times be the one to tell a rude and crude joke and think nothing about it.

One day, one of his customers invited him to go to an old-fashioned revival meeting in a tent, outside of town. The barber reluctantly went after being chided by the customer time and time again throughout the previous week. The barber had never seen anything like it. All the people there were praying for each other and singing and praising God. He was moved so he wanted to get baptized that very night.

So the day following his gloriously saving event, he wanted to share his new faith to someone. He wanted to witness to the lost and he figured his shop should be the place to start. His first customer of the morning came in. The barber invited him up into his chair and so the customer did so. Meanwhile the barber was trying hard to muster up the words to speak. He lathered up the shaving cream and put it on the man's face. Then he sharpened his single blade razor. He then started shaving the man. That's when he got the nerve to say something and share about his last night's experience.

As he stood there with his razor poised over the man's throat to shave him, he asked the customer the simple question, "Are you prepared to meet God?"

Communication and the right timing are important for sharing the good news of Jesus. That included both verbal and nonverbal communication of the gospel. The Bible reminds us that at just the right time, God sent His Son into our world to save us poor, miserable sinners.

Notice all throughout the Christmas story found in the first two chapters of Luke how much communication happens: angels appear and speak, Mary and Elizabeth talk about pregnancy and their children to come, angels communicate the birth of Jesus to shepherds, and shepherds in turn then communicate what they saw and heard.

At Christmas God truly communicates to us His great love for us. He could have but didn't sit on the sidelines and do nothing or say nothing. Instead, He took the initiative and sent His Son, Jesus, to enter our world. He communicates both verbally and non-verbally His love through Jesus' birth, life, teaching, healing, death, and resurrection. He then calls us to share or communicate His love for all people. Not only at Christmas but at all times, may we convey the communication about Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Ken

December 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Sunday School
For All Ages

Worship Service

10:00 am Sunday

Church Phone

979-885-2211

Preschool Phone

979-627-7846

Fax

979-885-7003

Website

www.tlcsealy.org

Pastor

Kenneth Bersche

Pastorken@tlcsealy.org

Church Secretary

Maggie Kent

secmaggie@tlcsealy.org

ELDERS

Lowell Coody

Joel Grigar

Doyle Kornegay

Mark Romano

Tracy Schiller

Ronnie Schmidt

Stephen Stuessel

Barry Wolf



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

12/01 Charles Ekarius	12/12 Sherri Putt	12/16 Carol Wied	12/27 Austin Keeton
12/01 BANE WILLEVER	12/12 DAWSON VILLALOVOZ	12/17 Laura Kutra	12/28 Reed Langton
12/02 Adolph Leschper	12/14 Ruth Szymanski	12/17 George Wied	12/28 AUTUMN MARTINEZ
12/04 Avery Bozeman	12/15 Cy Vojtek	12/20 Amber Nedd	12/28 Kylie Wolf
12/04 Klarissa Smith	12/16 Linda Blume	12/22 Monica Kent	12/29 Clayton Fritsch
12/05 BRADLEY PICARD	12/16 Adam Carrion	12/25 Bill Blume	12/30 Hilda Allison
12/09 Bobby Barrett	12/16 Brylie Nedd	12/26 Clifton Langton	12/31 Barry Wolf
12/09 Brooke Munoz			
12/10 Garret Nedd			
12/11 Travis Pavelka			

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."
(1 Thessalonians 3:12)

12/07/1963	Paul & Loyce Orsak
12/08/1973	Johnny & Susie Busse
12/09/1972	Carl & Carol Wied
12/10/1988	Doug & Rhonda Browne

TITHES & OFFERINGS Thank you for your Tithes and Offerings! Offerings may be dropped off or mailed to 402 Atchison, Sealy, TX 77474. Please use your church offering envelopes requested by Stewardship to ensure that you will be given credit for your contributions.

Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6
Joyce Meyer, Colonial Living, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 7747



Thank you for donating towards the Caring for Kids Project! Knowing these kids have food is a blessing during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Thank you, Ms. Maggie



(CATERED MEAL) LAST DAY TO ORDER PLATES IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Please join us for the Circle of Friends on Wednesday, December 4th at 12:15 pm. Please contact Mary Buechmann 979-885-2730 or 281-728-0973 if you are planning to attend since the cost of the meal is \$10. Desserts are always welcome.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

On Saturday, December 7th, come and have breakfast with Santa 9:00 am – 11:00 am. \$5.00 Donation – All you can eat!

Children under eight years old eat FREE. Also, FREE pictures of children with Santa!

Thrivent Choice

November 8, 2024

Amount of Deposit \$975.00. Please take time and call 1-800-847-4836 and designate your funds to Trinity Lutheran General Fund.

LWML/TLWM

Many thanks for continuing to donate personal care items to Orphan Grain Train and diapers and other items to the Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center! The Mission and Ministry Walk collected \$125 which was given to the Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center. On Tuesday December 3rd at ten o'clock, we will join Ladies Aid in delivering Christmas goodie bags to our worship-from-home members. Between now and our next meeting, our prayer focus will be on Texas students studying to be Lutheran pastors. LWML Texas District provides grants of \$60,000 in seminarian scholarships to Texas students. Our next meeting is on December 10th at two o'clock. Hope to see you there!



For
Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 18th
At 4:30 pm
Meet in the gym to get song books and the list of places to go Caroling.



Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24th
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Church Leaders

Officer Electees for 2025 are:

- President-----John Vrablec
- Vice President-----Terry Hankins
- Treasurer-----Ruth Szymanski
- Stewardship-----Janice Wied
- Board of Christian Growth-----Nikki Vrablec
- Fellowship-----Joanne Dixon
- Trustee-----Jason Carr
- Secretary-----Kimberly Kornegay
- Elder-----
- Usher-----David Novosad
- Preschool Liaison-----Karina Carr



THE BLESSING BOX PROJECT

Next Blessing Box Project is Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church gym. For more information, please call Ruth Szymanski 979-885-9504. This project is growing, and we can use your help!



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets every Wednesday from 10-11 am. Please meet me in the glass room.



The themes for the month of December are: The Birth of Christ and Giving to Others. The celebration of Christmas is often accompanied by the giving and receiving of presents and cards. The birth of Christ is the gift of Jesus, the son of God, beginning his earthly life. Jesus is God's gift to us; He is our Savior!

The children will learn the story of Joseph, Mary and how Jesus came to be in our lives. Children will learn how great it feels to give to others who are less fortunate.

Children will continue to learn the letters T, C, O, R, and N along with the shape STAR and color WHITE. The Bible Verse for the month is "A Savior is born; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11). The Bible stories for the month are:

Dec. 2nd – 6th

"Boy King Josiah"

"The Brave Queen"

Chapel Time with Pastor Bersche

"Fiery Furnace"

"Daniel and the Lions"

"Jonah the Big Fish"

Dec. 9th – 13th

"An Angel Visits Mary"

Chapel Time with Pastor Bersche

"Baby Jesus is Born"

"Shepherds Visit"

Dec. 16th – 19th

"Simon and Anna Meet Baby Jesus"

Chapel Time with Pastor Bersche

"The Bright Star and the Three Visitors"

Children are learning the Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder. What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way but help him in all his physical needs.

Christmas Gift Ornament Gift Exchange!

Your child's teacher gave you a name for the class ornament gift exchange. Please bring to class by Monday, December 9th and no later than Friday, December 13th.



Fantasy of Lights! This year's theme for the Fantasy of Lights is Cowboy Christmas. Please make sure your permission forms are turned into the office

or your child's teacher. Please arrive at the float around 6:30 pm. The parade will promptly begin at 7:00 pm. Thank you to all the parents who helped in decorating the float for preschool. A big thank you to Spenser and Arielle Pitcock for using their truck, trailer and other items.



Candy Cane Story – The children will enjoy the story of the Candy Cane and watch a short video about it on Tuesday, December 10th. Your child will learn the Legend of the Candy Cane. The Cane is like the staff used by the shepherds in caring for sheep. Jesus is our "Good Shepherd." Red is for God's love that sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross. The Stripes remind us of Jesus' suffering-his crown of thorns, the wounds in his hands and feet; and the cross on which he died.



Dress as a Grinch Character – On Wednesday, December 11th the children will read and watch the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Your child may dress as one of the characters from the movie.



Wear White Day! Since we are learning the color WHITE for the month, we would like the children to wear something WHITE to preschool on Friday, December 6th. Children can wear white clothes, socks, shoes, hair bows, neckties or whatever you can think of to reinforce the color WHITE!



Flashlight Day! On Wednesday, December 4th the children may bring a flashlight to preschool labeled with their name. The teachers will have fun and exciting projects for the children to use their flashlights. They will hear the story about the "Lost Sheep" and use their flashlights to find him.



CUTE Ugly Sweater Day – The children can wear a CUTE UGLY SWEATER on Friday, December 13th. We can all get into the spirit of wearing a cute ugly sweater given to you by someone for Christmas or a sweater you are embarrassed to wear in public. You can also make your own cute ugly sweater to wear to preschool.



Christmas Caroling! The entire preschool will go on a walking field trip to Austin County State Bank and sing on Friday, December 13th at 9:00 am. If you are able to make this and help chaperone the preschoolers, we would love you to come along. The bank employees will have a snack for them to enjoy.



Christmas Party! Each child in the classroom will draw names so we can have an ornament gift exchange among the children. The ornaments can be around \$5.00. This way the children can have fun exchanging their gifts but the gift will go straight into their bags so they can open the gift at home.

All ornaments need to be wrapped from whom and to whom and brought to the preschool by Friday, December 13th. Please do not forget to bring

your ornament gift, as we do not want a sad child without a gift.

The preschool Christmas party will take place on Tuesday, December 17th, 9:30 am – 10:30 am. The preschool party will be a mini corn dog party. Please check the party sign up list to see how you can help by purchasing food items needed for the party. Please sign up ahead of time to help with the games at the party. Only the parents that sign up to help with the party are the ones that may attend.



Mrs. Beth Franke Reads to the Preschoolers!

Mrs. Franke a retired Librarian and a wife to Pastor Gil Franke, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, will read to the preschoolers on Wednesday, December 18th on the Birth of Jesus.



Celebrating Jesus' Birthday

Mary Buechmann, a church member, will make a cake for the children to celebrate Jesus' birthday on Wednesday, December 18th. The cake will be white with white frosting. We will all sing happy birthday to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.



Pajama Day & Christmas Movie!

All children Wear your pajamas ! Bring your pillow and blanket, popcorn, and a drink to preschool. We will enjoy the morning with a Christmas movie, Thursday, December 19th!



Family of the Week!

Your child is asked to bring about five to ten pictures of their family to be placed on the preschool bulletin board in the hallway. Always check your calendar of events to see if it is your turn to be family of the week. Families of the Week for the month of December are:

Dec. 2nd – 6th

Willow Eckert

Dec. 9th – 13th

Parker Gass

Dec. 16th – 19th

Guadalupe Gomez

Please bring your pictures on Friday before your child is Family of the Week!

Christmas and New Year Holidays are:

Friday, December 20, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025.

PRESCHOOL WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

Have a Safe and Blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Ms. Maggie

CHURCH COUNCIL

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES November 11, 2024

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by John Vrabec. Joanne Dixon presented the devotion.

Council members present:

- John Vrabec – President
- Terry Hankins – Vice President
- Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer
- Pastor Ken Bersche
- Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman
- Nikki Vrabec – Board of Education Chairman
- Joanne Dixon – Fellowship Outreach Chairman
- George Wied – Trustee Chairman
- Jason Carr - Future Trustee Chairman
- David Novosad – Usher Chairman
- Kimberly Kornegay – Secretary

Absent:

- Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman
- Preschool - Karina Carr

The Minutes from the meeting held on October 14, 2024, were presented. Terry Hankins made a motion to accept the minutes. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All Council members approved, and the motion passed.

Old Business:

- No old business.

Chairmen Reports:

Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer

- October Report - As of October 31, 2024, the cash balance in the General Fund was \$22,933.67. The Building Fund balance was \$41,799.73 and the Designated Fund balance was \$100,178.25. The Total of All Funds was \$164,911.65. The total contributions for October were \$17,775.00 and total expenses for October were \$24,786.83. The total contributions for the year 2024 were \$233,596.47 while the total expenses for the year were \$232,631.55.

Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman

- Special contributions for the month included:
 - \$183.20 donation for HVAC.
 - \$390.00 donation for Missions.

Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman

- No report.

Terry Hankins – Vice President

- No report.

Pastor Bersche –

- Still visiting shut-ins.
- Official Acts:
 - Baptism on 9/8/2024 - Vaughn David Novosad
 - Death on 9/8/2024 - Carrie Steinbach
 - Death on 9/9/2024 - Bob Witte
 - Transfer out of Trinity Lutheran - Aletha Jeske to Christ Memorial in Houston
- Bible Classes:
 - Sunday Mornings - Matthew 24
 - Wednesday Mornings - 1 John 2

Nikki Vrablec - Board of Education Chairman

- Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for December 8th.
- Still looking for Sunday School Subs.

Joanne Dixon – Fellowship Outreach Chairman

- Thank you to everyone who attended and brought wonderful dishes to the Mission Festival Potluck.

George Wied – Trustee Chairman

- A new faucet has been purchased and installed in the lady's restroom downstairs in the Fellowship Building.
- The front windows of the Fellowship Building have been re-caulked to prevent leaking.

David Novosad – Usher Chairman

- Nothing to report.

Preschool -

- Two more students have been added to the 4 year old class.
- Pam Joseph will no longer be able to substitute. Rachel Hilson will be the new sub.

There being no further reports, Ruth Szymanski made the motion to accept all reports presented. David Novosad seconded the motion. All Council members agreed, and the motion passed.

New Business

- There was discussion about placing an ad in the Austin County Community Map. There will be printed copies, and it will be online for anyone moving into Austin County. After a brief discussion, Ruth Szymanski made a motion to add Trinity to the new community map. Nikki Vrablec seconded the motion. All Council members agreed, and the motion passed.

There being no further business, Nikki Vrablec made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned, and Pastor Bersche led everyone in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. and George Wied will have the devotion.

***John Vrablec – President
Kimberly Kornegay – Secretary***

DON'T FORGET!
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At 4:30 pm
Meet in the gym to get song books and
the list of places to go Caroling.
ALSO!
Christmas Eve Services
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with Holy Communion
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