



Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where God is Seen

1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:19

Love is Felt

John 13:34-35

Lives are Changed

Romans 12:1-2

Ministers All People of Trinity
 Rev. Patrick Welton

Music Director Leta Garcia
Media Director Sheila Mercer
Parish Administrator Angie Daniels

How to Contact Trinity:

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December Events at Trinity:

- Dec. 4**—Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15a.m.
2nd Sunday in Advent Worship, 9:30a.m.

- Dec. 11**—3rd Sunday in Advent Worship and Holy Communion
Cookie Exchange, Noon, fellowship hall
Hall reserved for FCA Banquet, 4:30-9pm

- Dec. 18**—4th Sunday in Advent Worship, 9:30a.m.
Baptism of Briar Rose Pawelek
Youth Blessing Project Gift Wrapping at 12:30p.m. TODAY!

- Dec. 22**—Church office Closes at Noon Until January 2nd! **If you should need to contact Pastor in an emergency, please call him at 830-385-2345, or Angie Daniels, secretary, at 830-385-0518

- Dec. 24**—Candlelight Service with Holy Communion—5p.m.

- Dec. 25**—Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30a.m.

- Dec. 31**—Annual Reports for 2022 from committees due to the church office by today. Please email to trinityblanco@gvtc.com, or drop off a copy.



Trinity Mission Statement:

Not having it all together, nor pretending to, our quest is to help in making mature, authentic disciples through teaching and preaching sound Biblical doctrine that will inform, inspire, equip, and connect God's people to God and to each other, and to evangelize with the Good News.

Pastor's Post:

December 2022

Happy Advent!

The last church year ended with the festival of Christ the King on November 20, and a new year began on November 27. Each year, the readings focus on a different narrative. The focus of 2022-2023 is the Gospel of Matthew.

The church readings are based around a three rotation. This system of readings is known as the lectionary. Each year concentrates upon one of the three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We read the gospel of John on special occasions during all three years. We especially read John during Lent and Easter. The three years are imaginatively known as year A, year B, and year C. And yes, year A is Matthew, year B is Mark, and year C is Luke.

What makes the Gospel of Matthew special? The evangelist wrote this gospel to the Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians knowledgeable in the Old Testament. Using the Old Testament, this gospel shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the prophesied Messiah. Each gospel rhetorically organizes the teachings and events of Jesus' life. The Gospel of Matthew is gathered around five sermons, or discourses, (chapters 5–7; 10; 13; 18; 24–25). Chapters 5-7 contains the Sermon on the Mount, which is the most memorable sequence of Jesus' teachings. The passages between the discourses are known as narratives. They typically arrange important events which helping us understand the larger story or redemption. The first narrative contains the birth narrative of Jesus. The last narrative, chapters 26-28 contain the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



As we read from the gospel of Matthew, I pray we will praise Jesus as the prophesied Messiah.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Patrick

Veterans' Sunday—November 13, 2022

Wayne Gosnell shared a photo from the service of some of Trinity's veterans. Thank you all for your service!





Trinity Women's Ministry 1st Annual Cookie Exchange

Come join us for our first annual Cookie Exchange on Sunday, December 11th, Noon in the Fellowship hall. Bring a batch of your favorite cookie or holiday treat and be ready to have some fun!



Appetizers and snacks will be provided.
For more information talk with Claudia Smith or Angie Daniels.

Trinity's Altar Guild—December Schedule

Thank you to Ashley Finch, Sandy Switzer, Pam Meier and Karen Steiger for their service to the altar and to Sunday worship during the month of November! During the month of December, Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Rosalind Ellis and Connie Cox will prepare the altar for worship services.



DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS—Thursday, Dec. 8th beginning at 10am. Help is needed to decorate the church, sanctuary and tree for the Christmas Season! Contact Bonnie Triesch for more information at 210-705-2811.

Sign up for poinsettias! If you would like to help off-set the costs of poinsettias for the church to decorate the altar during the Christmas season, please sign up on the bulletin board to purchase a poinsettia. The cost per plant is \$7/each and may be designated "in Honor" or "in Memory" of loved ones. A complete list of will be included in the bulletin for Dec. 24th.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



How Do You View the World?

I recently attended PLI Leadership's Discipleship to Missional Community (D2MC) training and was asked this question: "How do you view the world?" That's not something any of us probably think about apart from being specifically asked! The presenter went on to describe two common perspectives that Christians typically adopt and proposed a third one that might better reflect the life of a disciple of Jesus.

GOD ← YOU → WORLD

We are tempted to understand the world simply as the forces that oppose God. God is on one side, the world is on the other, and the Christian is in the middle. With this worldview, you find yourself in the tension of either turning towards God or towards the world. This is the whole devil on one shoulder and angel on the other sort of picture! This perspective leads Christians to see the world as dangerous and develop a separatist culture to better reflect the life that we believe God is calling us to live. Unfortunately, this approach makes it difficult to share Jesus with the world.

GOD → YOU → WORLD

Another common way that Christians understand our relationship between God and the world is as God's ambassadors and missionaries to the world. The world is opposed to God, but God is on a mission to redeem the world and God needs us to reach the world. Those who follow Jesus are sent out to share God's love with the world. This worldview can lead to Christians to see our role as central and essential to God's redemptive plan for the world. The problem with this is that we can begin to see ourselves as too important. This is reflected in statements shared by Bill Hybels and others that the church is God's "Plan A" for the salvation of the world and there is no "Plan B".

YOU → GOD → WORLD

A third alternative worldview was also proposed: What if we viewed the world through God as reflected in the life of Jesus? In Matthew 9:36 as Jesus surveyed the crowds in all their lostness he was full of compassion, not condemnation or judgement. While the world is opposed to God and God is on a mission to redeem the world, his plan for doing so centers in Jesus, not you or me. But God does have a plan and a purpose for us, too: We are called to join Jesus in his love and compassion for the world, adopting his posture and perspective as we share the Good News of Jesus. What would change in your life if you adopted this third worldview with God at the center of it? What ways might you better reflect Jesus' care and compassion for the world? How can your church better share Jesus with the world that he died for?

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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Sunday School News!

(Pictured right) The Youth collected over 300 pounds of food in the 2022 Great Food Race to restock the student Pantry at the Blanco Good Samaritan Center.

Youth & Parents:

We will be filming our Christmas program on December 4th, hope you come and be a part of this annual tradition! The video will be shared during worship on Dec. 18th and 25th.



Trinity Tribe Youth, *pictured left*, collected suitcases, backpacks and duffel bags during the month of October (and some of November) for Foster Kids and Homeless Youth as their Kid to Kid Service Project this year! They gathered and loaded up over 100 bags that will be dropped off and distributed to three different organizations that service the San Antonio and Hill Country areas!!! We are sooo proud of them and their servant hearts!

2022 The Angel Tree/Blessing Project—Trinity Lutheran has been blessed with the opportunity to provide God's love to children and families through a Blessing Project, (formally known as the Angel Tree). The children range in ages and live in Blanco. We would love to make sure every child gets a new outfit, package of socks and underwear, and a couple of items from their wish list. Most of the items the children have selected are fairly cheap.

There are several ways to be a **Blessing Project Sponsor**: Full Sponsor: take a child from the board and purchase their clothing and wish list. Partial Sponsor: take a child from the board and purchase either their clothing or wish list. Donating Sponsor: choose a name and donate to that name or just make a general donation towards all Blessing Project kids. Dedicated shoppers will use the funds donated to make sure every child receives their special gifts. Item Sponsor: donate general items that can be divided where needed. Some common wish list items are coloring books, coloring supplies, arts & crafts, sports balls and stuffed animals. Also, common needs are socks and underwear. Bike Sponsor: donate towards the bike fund, there are 4 children this year that have a bike on their wish list. We will be watching ads to get the best deals possible on bikes.

ALL GIFT DONATIONS ARE DUE BACK AT CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DEC. 11TH

We will have a group wrapping/gathering following Sunday School at 12:30p.m. on Dec. 18th! EVERYONE is welcome to join! ✨ **PLEASE NOTE**—There will not be Sunday School for Children on December 25th. Ashley Finch, Sunday School

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DECEMBER 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Interim Pastor: Rev. Patrick Welton--Worship: 9:30 AM, Sunday School: 10:45 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 2nd Sun. in Advent Breakfast hosted by Esther & Deborah Teams, 8:30-9:15am 9:30am Worship	5	6 6:30pm Final Crossways 6 class	7	8 10am Decorate the church for Christmas— Everyone is welcome to join us!	9	10
11 communion 3 rd Sun. in Advent 9:30am Worship Noon Cookie Exchange, here Hall Reserved for FCA Banquet, 4:30-9pm	12 January 2023 Newsletter articles due TODAY!	13	14 6:00pm Council meeting	15	16	17
18 4 th Sun. in Advent 9:30am service, Youth Christmas Video & Baptism Blessing Project gift- wrapping TODAY at 12:30p.m.	19	20 6:30pm Men's Group, TBA	21	22 <i>Church office</i> <i>closes today at</i> <i>Noon until Jan. 2,</i> <i>2022</i>	23	24 Candlelight Communion Service, 5:00p.m.
25 —communion Merry Christmas! 9:30am service No Youth Sunday School today	26 <i>Church office closed</i> <i>until Jan. 2: 2023</i>	27	28	29	30	31 Annual Reports for 2022 due to the church office today

News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President	Travis Kersten—Worship
Hal Switzer—Vice-President	Karen Wagner—Evangelism
Karen Steiger—Secretary	Norman Eubank—Property
Medora Beckmann—Treasurer	Alexis Pawelek—Education/Youth
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary	Wayne Gosnell —Stewardship

Notes from the Church Council Meeting on October 12, 2022

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Wayne Gosnell, Alexis Pawelek, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, Karen Wagner, and Pastor Patrick Welton. Pastor led us in a devotional taken from II Timothy 2:8-10 and Martin Luther's book Bondage of the Will. The Word of God is not bound. Earning our salvation is beyond our control. The Good News of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, gives us freedom. God is not bound in His relationship to us, "giving to us Jesus" for our salvation and eternal life. There were no corrections to the Minutes.

Jerry addressed the formation of an Endowment Fund, which had been discussed at last month's Council meeting. \$1,000.00 would be used to open the account. Wayne Gosnell, Stewardship Chair, stated that we are now ready to establish our Endowment Account at Texas Regional Bank. He indicated that since he has adequate funds in his budget, funds from the Stewardship budget can be used to open the account. The Council discussed and unanimously agreed with Wayne's proposal. The authorized signers for this account are Jerry Gass, President, and Hal Switzer, Vice-President of the congregation. In Sheri Riley's absence, Jerry gave the Financial Report as of September 2022.

Hal would like to have everyone's budget early enough to be able to approve the 2023 Budget at the November Congregational Meeting. In talking to Travis Kersten about Call Committee expenses, Hal preferred not to create a new Line Item but rather list those expenses under Miscellaneous Expense. The Federal per diem lodging, etc. rates are what he likes to use. Travis will bring it up at the next Call Committee meeting and would have numbers for him soon. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of September 23, 2022. Patrick submitted his Pastor's Report. He has started sending mid-week devotional emails.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

--Youth – Alexis reported that Barnabas Pals is up and running... 9 college students have been adopted by members of the congregation. Deposits for 20 camp spots have been put down at Camp Eagle in Rocksprings for June 30-July 4, 2023. VBS plans have started. The date is July 17-21. The theme will be The Arctic Challenge...where kids find strength in the coolest book...The Bible. A Fall service project has started. The Youth are collecting bags/suitcases/duffels/etc. to be donated to foster kids and/or CASA. Members of the community are invited to join us through posting on several Facebook groups. The Garage Sale Fundraiser raised about \$281.00. The Walk-a-thon money raised was used for Scholarships and Summer Camp.

--Stewardship – Wayne announced that Keith Morgenroth will give his first Financial Literacy Seminar next Saturday, Oct 15th. 13 people are signed up for it. The Tithing Covenants and The Legacy Giving Covenants are being collected in a box in the Narthex now. Sheila Merger will put the whole Stewardship Program on Trinity's website. Arlene will do a schematic of a new sanctuary floor plan, and Claudia Smith will draw a 3-D vision of the plan. This is something to present as a future goal for Legacy Giving. Putting together an estate planning packet is the only thing left to do as far as the timeline for the Legacy Giving Program is concerned.

--Evangelism – Karen W. announced that the 5th quarter event for the high schoolers (Nov 4) is in the 'gathering food' stage. The potluck lunch is scheduled after the Worship Service on Sunday, October 30th.

--Worship – In Travis' absence Jerry passed out a Worship Committee Report that Travis had prepared. Choir members are needed. January is going to be Favorite Hymns Month. Pastor talked to Bonnie Palmer about the candelabras. She would like to have them fixed so they could be used for special occasions. And Pastor will also have Acolyte training. Sheila will have knee surgery in the beginning of November at which time she will find a replacement for her media duties. Please note that our communications (bulletins, newsletters, website, etc.) should reflect the titles of Music Director and Media Director rather than Music Minister and Media Minister, respectively.

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--Property – Norman reported that an Access Point in the Fellowship Hall was installed by GVTC to improve the internet connection. Norman purchased a backboard for basketball, and Wyatt Finch will install it. Norman also reported that he & Angie have been trying to update the list of people who have church keys. Those who have keys are Angie (and shed key), Pastor, Norman (and shed key), Medora, Sheila, Danny, Karen W, Alexis (and shed key), Ashley, Lacy, Hal, and the janitor.

Hal made a motion to accept the Committee Reports and Alexis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Council members present.

Old Business –

--Wayne reported that we received one thank you letter from Ethnomedia. Jerry discussed the Church changing from a credit card to a debit card. There would be one card (number) with the ability to identify whose expenditure by different coding. Those needing a card are Karen W, Angie, Norman, Alexis, and Ashley. Hal would like to have every one's Budget number by the end of next week so he can bring the finished Budget to the November Council meeting and have it ready to be approved at the Congregational Meeting. The Nominating Committee will present candidates for the positions that are open, i.e., Youth, Stewardship, and Evangelism. Ashley Finch is willing to take the Youth position and Karen Wagner will remain in the Evangelism position. Wayne is stepping down from the Stewardship position.

--Jerry handed out the Call Committee report which Travis had prepared. A subcommittee was formed to create the Pastoral Job Posting, which is to be posted on the LCMC website.

New Business –

--Pastor handed out a page on Andrew Cave, a Youth & Family Minister seeking financial aid from our Benevolence giving. It was decided to table this request because we would rather support our members attending ILT or giving directly to ILT's Operating Expenses. Another item in Trinity's Benevolence giving is to the Texas District LCMC. It was decided to keep our quarterly amount the same for now. Travis has suggested to include FCA (specifically for Chris at BHS) in our Benevolence giving with \$500.00/quarter. Council approved \$500.00/qtr for FCA and reduce Teen Challenge to \$200.00/qtr.

--Hal mentioned that Trinity's insurance policy is a great policy with adequate coverage. It is still necessary to have Gatekeepers Insurance because we are paying for the legal protection to have someone on duty who is licensed and trained. And our Workers Compensation cost is an expense on our insurance policy.

--The Church office will be closed December 23 – January 2. The Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00pm. Sunday, Christmas Day will only be a Worship service with Communion, but no Sunday School.

Karen W made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Hal seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm and everyone recited The Lord's Prayer.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022 DUE BY DECEMBER 31st According to Trinity's constitution, "All committees, ministries, and organizations within the Congregation shall submit reports to the church office at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual January Business Meeting. These reports shall be made available to the Congregation the Sunday prior to this annual meeting." **December 31 is the deadline to submit reports. Please email reports to trinityblanco@gvtc.com or drop off a copy in the church office.**

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES—Have Arrived! You may pick up your 2023 offering envelope sets on Sunday mornings from the narthex table. Each member is assigned a contributor number when they join the church, so that confidential contribution records can be recorded each time an offering is received. It is your decision whether or not to utilize the envelopes. At the end of the year, each contributor receives an annual contribution statement, which totals contributions of record for the year. Members are able to use one envelope and one check to make multiple contributions to separate funds. If you do not choose to use weekly envelopes or do not find a box of contribution envelopes with your name on them, please call Angie in the church office, 833-4771. Thank you!



DECEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

**Please use this handy section to keep track of monthly responsibilities organized by Sunday. Each Sunday there are many important opportunities to serve your church.

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24 5pm Christmas Eve	December 25
Altar Flowers	Hal & Sandy Switzer	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
Usher Team	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley Team 1	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley Team 2	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley Team 2	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley Team 3	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley Team 3
Greeters	Robert & Tara Seymour	James Dollahite	Paul & Brenda Moore	Wayne & Martha Gosnell	Hal & Sandy Switzer
Acolytes	Kacen Haas	Darby Kersten	Kacen Haas	Creed Finch	Kacen Haas
Lectors	Arlene Hamlin	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Jim Geistfeld	Kathy Kersten	Roland Pfeiffer
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Wayne Gosnell	<i>No communion</i>	Travis Kersten Sheri Riley	Wayne Gosnell
Altar Guild	In December:	Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Rosalind Ellis, Connie Cox			

Trinity's Memorial Committee has purchased a new oil-filled Christ Candle for the center of the **Advent Wreath**. The previous candle was wax and after many Advent seasons it had become shorter and shorter. The new oil-filled candle can be used for many years to come. The blue candles on the wreath are also oil-filled and were purchased in 1993. Gifts may be made to the Memorial Fund at anytime and may be designated "in Memory" or "in Honor" of loved ones. The candle was dedicated on November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent.



January 2023 will be Favorite Hymn Month! Leta Garcia, Trinity's Music Director asks everyone to list their favorite hymns on the yellow attendance cards on Sundays in December or email them to the church office (trinityblanco@gvtc.com). In January 2023 Leta will include as many of the congregation's favorite hymns as possible.

BE A GREETER! Each Sunday morning a dedicated team of volunteers stand at the door of the narthex to greet members, friends and visitors to worship. If you are interested in learning more about serving as a Greeter, please contact Wayne Gosnell at gossnelltxas@gmail.com or call him at 830-833-0586. Wayne schedules Greeters for each Sunday of 2023 and also sends reminders when it is your Sunday to Greet. Join the greeters and welcome everyone that comes to worship.

