



**February Events at Trinity:**

**Sunday Worship Services** are held in-person in the sanctuary and also livestreamed on Facebook each week at 9:30a.m.

**HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month

**Feb. 2— Mom’s Bible Study**, Thursdays in February, 8am-9:30am in the fellowship hall

**Feb. 5—Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15a.m.** hosted by the Deborah & Hannah Women’s Ministry Service Teams

**Feb. 6—Towards Belief Study** in the fellowship hall at 6:30pm  
**Continues on all Mondays in February!**

**Feb. 8—Council of Ministries Meeting, 6:00pm**, fellowship hall

**Feb. 12—Altar Guild Annual Meeting and Women’s Ministry Gathering**, Noon in the fellowship hall, lunch will be served

**Feb. 21—Men’s Group meets for fellowship**, TBA, 6:30p.m.

**Feb. 22—Ash Wednesday Worship** with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, 6:30p.m.

**Feb. 23—1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Luncheon** at St. Ferdinand’s Catholic Church, Noon

**Feb. 25—Hall Reserved, 9am-Noon** by Karen Wagner for Cemetery Association Meeting

**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.

**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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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God has been good and merciful to us. The Christmas season is over, and Lent will soon be here. Ash Wednesday will be February 22. Keep watch for announcements about our Lenten services. The Bible is a huge part of who we are at Trinity Lutheran. We have a Bible in the pews; many of us carry a Bible to the service. We read from the Bible as a part of our service. Our liturgy is based upon the Bible and quotes it often. Both our adult Sunday school classes and youth classes use the Bible as the primary source of their study.

Of course, this is part of who we are. As a congregation in the LCMC, we have a strong view of the Scriptures and the role they play in our lives. As a LCMC congregation, Trinity Lutheran confesses...

“The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them, God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

“We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.”

This is important for who we are. We can turn to the holy words for wisdom, comfort and hope. It will change our lives. God works through the written page to call us to repentance and give us his blessings of forgiveness, faith, and hope.

Recently one of our members asked if I have a favorite study Bible. This is a great question. I have several recommendations, but I don't recommend you go out and buy them all. One study Bible should be enough. Before I give my list, we should discuss translations. Get a Bible you can read. While I have fond memories of the King James Version, KJV, I find it difficult to read. My general recommendation is the English Standard Version, ESV. It is an excellent translation, though not perfect. The New King James Version, NKJV, is also good and keeps more of the KJV language that we know and love. The Bibles in the pews are the New International Version, NIV. If you want an easy-to-read version, I recommend the New Living Translation, NLT.

Ok, now back to study Bibles. I have four recommendations.

First, if you want a Lutheran Study Bible, get the Lutheran Study Bible by Concordia Publishing House. The notes are a good Lutheran reading of scripture. Occasionally the notes stress LCMS particulars, but overall, they are good. The actual translation in this Bible is the ESV text. (Note: This is not the Lutheran Study Bible-NRSV published by Augsburg Fortress Publishing. Avoid this ELCA publication.)

Second, I personally use the ESV Study Bible by Crossways. While I like this Bible, it is too heavy! Fortunately, Crossways makes a student's version and a concise version. I recommend the ESV Student Study Bible the most. While Crossways published it for youth, it is not childish. The ESV Study Bibles have a Presbyterian slant in the notes but are most often good. (Note: There are many study Bibles with the ESV text. This is a particular study Bible.)

Third is the old reliable NIV Zondervan Study Bible. It is now published as the Biblical Theology Study Bible. Its notes have a nondenominational slant.

Fourth is the study Bible I gave everyone else in my household. This is the NKJV Study Bible by Thomas Nelson. Occasionally the notes are Baptist-y, but overall it is good. (Once again, this is a particular study Bible; there are many study Bibles using the NKJV.)

There are many other good choices. Regardless of which Bible you read, spend time reading it. If reading is not your thing, listen to an audio Bible. We live in a time when audio Bibles are easy to find. They are freely available on your computer or phone. The Lord has richly blessed us with his Holy Word. We should spend time with it and learn of the Lord's great mercy and grace for us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace & peace,



Pastor Patrick

## Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30pm February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Trinity's sanctuary and also livestreamed on Facebook.

Mid-Week Worship Services are Wednesday evenings at 6:30p.m.

Trinity's Lenten Luncheon will be held Thursday, March 2  
at Noon in the fellowship hall

### New Photo Directory in 2023!

The Council of Ministries has approved updating our membership directory and taking new photos of everyone this year. Our last directory was made in 2017, so we are past due in updating our membership photos.

A photo directory is a great tool in keeping Trinity members connected to each other and to be able to place a name with a face from church. Many members look forward to seeing all the new faces at Trinity and we want everyone to be included!

Alexis Pawelek, our photographer, began taking members photos on Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> after worship services in the fellowship hall during the potluck luncheon. (A temporary "studio" has been set up behind the partition in the fellowship hall, closest to the youth room.) All member photos will be taken in front of a black backdrop, so please plan your attire accordingly.

If you were not able to have your photo taken Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, you will be contacted to schedule a photo on another Sunday morning in February.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Each member will be asked to confirm their contact information on file, as well as offer the BEST way to be contacted about events at Trinity. (Please note if you prefer regular mail, email, text or phone call to inform you about important events.)

We hope that everyone will consider having their picture included in the directory!

For more information, contact Ashley Finch, 830.237.6288 or Angie Daniels in the church office, 830.833.4771.







Trinity's Christian Men of Blanco (CMOB) hosted the Blanco Area Ecumenical Christian Men's Breakfast on January 14th. After feasting on scrambled eggs, crisp bacon, and biscuits and sausage gravy, Pastor Welton delivered the devotional to the 46 men from area churches in attendance. The offering of almost \$500 went to support the Blanco Ministerial Alliance with the majority of the funds typically going to assist people in need who are transiting the area.

### **Men's Group Meets in January**

Trinity's Men's Group met at the home of Wayne Gosnell and enjoyed a mild Texas evening in front of the fire pit. (Note the shorts and short sleeves...in January!)

Trinity's Men's Group meets monthly at a host's home for fellowship, food, and a devotion. Offerings collected at these monthly meetings are used by the Men's Group for projects that benefit the community.

All men are invited to attend! To be placed on the email contact list, contact Wayne Gosnell at [gosnelltexas@gmail.com](mailto:gosnelltexas@gmail.com)





# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## Raising up Future Ministry Leaders

In my work for the Texas District, I have the privilege of sharing about our association and have often been invited to give a presentation about LCMC. One of the questions that I have been repeatedly asked over the years I just love to answer: “Where do your pastors come from?” My answer: “Well pastor trees, of course!!” After a good chuckle, we then engage in an important conversation that many congregations have neglected for far too long. What my tongue-in-cheek answer points out is that the initial question presumes that pastors are “produced” from some external source. This line of thinking is problematic.

Many Lutherans in well-established American denominations have relied heavily on church camps and campus ministries to speak into young people the calling of God to vocational ministry. Over twenty years ago, a study of first-career seminary students in one Lutheran denomination revealed that the overwhelming majority personally experienced his or her call to pastoral ministry primarily through either a church camp or a campus ministry. While camp directors and campus ministers received this news as a great affirmation, it also exposed another weakness: a student’s home congregation was a far less significant factor.

This outsourcing of vocational calling to church camps and college ministries is particularly problematic for our association of congregations that does not have a developed system of affiliated church camps or college ministries to funnel our youth to in hopes that those youth may discover God’s calling to be ministers of the Gospel. But the truth is, I believe that the local congregation should be the center of vocational calling and leadership development in the church.

What can a church do to help raise up ministry leaders for the future? I believe there are some small shifts that you and your church can make that will lead to significant impact! First, love your youth and children in your church. Words of welcome and kindness can make a bigger difference than you might imagine. Strike up a conversation by asking questions and getting to know young people and what they are interested in. Secondly, teach the faith in ways that are fun and engaging. Thirdly, encourage and affirm young people both with your words and invitations to serve and to lead. Perhaps the most powerful sentence you will ever speak to another will begin with “I see in you...” Finally, pray for God to move in their lives to hear and answer the call.

Pastors do not grow on trees, but they do grow up in our congregations! I want to encourage you to make a Kingdom investment by investing in future church leaders. If you want to learn more about raising up future leaders, I would be delighted to begin that conversation with you!

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*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](http://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](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org).*

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## **Altar Guild Report—**

Thank you to Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley and Connie Russell for their service to the altar and to Sunday worship during the month of January! In the month of February, Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich and Sharon Wolbrecht will prepare the altar for worship services.

**Altar Guild Service Schedule for 2023-24:** The previous 2022-23 schedule of Altar Teams will end this month. A new schedule for March 2023 through February 2024 will be available at the Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Women's Ministry Gathering/Lunch. Altar Guild President, Bonnie Triesch will review procedures and share any new Altar Guild news at the gathering on Feb. 12.

As always, volunteers are welcome to join an Altar Teams! You will be joining an existing group of ladies who care for the altar, set up for communion, and prepare for baptisms and other special worship events for one or two months a year. The teams rotate each year, with some teams only serving one month and other teams serving twice a year.

\*\*Contact Bonnie Triesch, at 210-705-2811 to join a team or speak more with a current Altar Team member to find out how you can join in this important ministry of preparing the altar for Sunday services.

## **Women's Ministry Gathering & Altar Guild Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Fellowship Hall**

We invite all ladies of Trinity to a Baked Potato Bar luncheon, immediately after Sunday School on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie Triesch will hold the Annual Altar Guild Meeting to elect officers and review new/old business concerning the teams and Altar Guild procedures. Altar Guild members will be able to pick up their 2023-24 Service Schedule as well as review changes to the procedures for setting up the altar for Sunday Worship.

Other items of business for Women's Ministry will be distributing the 2023 Women's Ministry Yearbook and setting up the schedule of Sunday Morning Breakfasts. There will also be an opportunity for members to discuss upcoming events, plan for future events, and other business as needed.

Join us for fellowship and be sure to bring ideas for Women's Ministry to serve and share at Trinity.



## News From Your Council of Ministries

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

### COUNCIL NOTES—from the December 14, 2022 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Wayne Gosnell, Travis Kersten, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, Karen Wagner, and Pastor Patrick Welton. Newly elected Council members Sally Anderson and Ashley Finch were also present. Pastor's devotional was taken from Hebrews 12:18-29, which emphasizes Christ's coming to us. This passage supports the major theme of Hebrews...Jesus Christ is superior to all Old Testament types that point to Him. Hebrews 12 also contrasts the power of God shown in the Old Testament to the love of God, through Jesus' death & resurrection, shown in the New Testament.

The Minutes were reviewed and corrected as follows: Jayne Lightfoot was spelled correctly, and there was only one basketball goal installed. Jerry suggested and then made a motion to postpone the Church Council Retreat until after Trinity has a permanent Pastor. Travis seconded the motion. The Council approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through November 2022. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of November 25, 2022. \$1,000.00 was used to open the Endowment Fund. In recognition of the CD rates increasing in recent months, Jerry Gass made a motion to transfer \$100,000.00 from the General Fund account to a higher yielding instrument (certificate of deposit). Hal Switzer seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Pastor submitted his report, and announced that Perry Fruhling, LCMC Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries is resigning as of January 6, 2023, in case Trinity's Call Committee was planning to work with him. Patrick also announced that Cindy Hawkins will be joining TLC as a Worship Assistant. Toward Belief will be a new\_9-week Bible Study series starting on Monday evenings, January 23<sup>rd</sup> that he will teach.

#### Committee Reports:

--Education & Youth – Ashley Finch reported that there will be no children's Sunday School December 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. The middle school & high school groups will begin a series Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> entitled "How to Stay Christian in School" taught by Karla Riley and Sally Anderson. The Angel Tree wrapping gift project will be held this Sunday beginning at 2:00pm. The kids involved will earn points toward camp this summer. The Good Samaritan Center sent the Youth a thank you note for their food donation. The Sunday School Christmas video will be shown this Sunday and Christmas morning Sunday.

--Stewardship – Wayne reported that Keith Morgenroth is willing to repeat his Financial Literacy Seminar for the high school & college youth this summer. Annual reports of the Council members are due. Hal announced that Claudia Smith will not be doing a water-color drawing of the new church proposal as was reported during last month's Council meeting.

--Evangelism – Council decided to continue the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday breakfasts before the morning Worship Service but start with February 5<sup>th</sup> since January 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Sunday...Men's Group will be in charge. It was also decided to continue the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potlucks, but not to have one on December 31, 2023. Karen W suggested we table Teen Challenge visits until TLC has a permanent pastor so he can decide how to move forward. Pastor thought that was a good idea.

--Worship – Travis reported that Sheila was struggling with Facebook live-streaming being down and Tami helped her get that going again. He also reported that Sheila is actively posting info/events on Facebook, so he encouraged the Council to submit items they may choose to post. Life Sunday/Youth Sunday will be January 29<sup>th</sup>. Pastor announced that TLC's Life Team will give a temple talk on that Sunday. It will also be 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck.



--Property – Norman submitted his report. Blanco A/C replaced two heat contactors. New air handlers are in the budget for next year. Blanco Electric repaired the outlet on the power pole in the parking lot. Norman replaced some rotten wood on the old church sign, and progress on the new church sign awaits action on Norman's part. New Age Computers could not repair the old candelabras, so it was decided to display them, but not use them. Wayne & Bobby Brewer helped Norman put up the outdoor Nativity Scene.

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

Old Business –

- Wayne received thank you notes from Lutherans For Life, Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center, and ILT. And he received a summary of giving from Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- The Communion Assistants Schedule was filled through Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Proposed 2023 Budget was included in our packet for review before presenting it to the congregation for their review. It will be presented for approval at the January Congregational Meeting.
- The Minutes of the November Congregational Meeting were briefly reviewed, but were not included in our packet.
- Travis gave a Call Committee update. They met on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. They are still gathering information...processing...praying. They have received about 11 or 12 applicants. The listing is still on the LCMC website.
- Wayne announced that he still has blank spots on the Greeter List.

New Business –

- Jerry reminded everyone that April 9<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday. Patrick's Interim Pastor period was set up for 4 months which would end this month. Norman made a motion to extend another 4-month Interim contract through the end of April if Patrick was willing (which he was). Hal seconded the motion. And the Council members approved the motion.
- Pastor's Ponderings and the memory verses included in the bulletin were complemented.
- A sub-committee of the Council (Travis-worship, Sheri-budget, Hal-vice pres, and Jerry-pres) will meet with Sunday employees to discuss job descriptions/expectations. This will probably not happen until after the Holidays.
- Annual Reports of Council members are due by December 31, 2022.
- Jerry suggested we consider doing a new Church Photo Directory. Perhaps have a rough draft to present to the new pastor to help him identify members. Then not finalize it until after he arrives, so he can add his input. If pictures are taken inhouse, maybe take them during a potluck dinner when more people are here.

Upcoming events include Men's Group on December 20<sup>th</sup> at Jerry Gass' house. He and Sidney Cox will provide the food. A discussion of Christmas bonuses took place. Travis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sheri seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm and everyone recited The Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Karen Steiger



**2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**—Active Trinity Lutheran Church students, either seniors in High School or those attending college are encouraged to apply for the Trinity Lutheran Church Scholarship—you may request an application from the church office. Email your request to [trinityblanco@gvtc.com](mailto:trinityblanco@gvtc.com), or call the church office at 830-833-4771. Copies are available to pick up from the Narthex on Sunday morning.

Youth host fundraisers to benefit the scholarship account during the year, but gifts can be made at any time. Gifts given in memory or honor of loved ones can be designated to the scholarship fund, or Sunday morning offerings can be given to scholarships by marking your check or envelope with "scholarship fund."

### **FEBRUARY 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.

	February 5	February 12	February 19	Feb 22 Ash Wednesday	February 26
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<i>Open</i>	Wayne & Martha Gosnell	<i>Open</i>		<i>Open</i>
<b>Usher Team</b>	David Hesskew, David Barker, Charles Riley	David Hesskew, David Barker, Charles Riley	David Hesskew, David Barker, Charles Riley	David Hesskew, David Barker, Charles Riley	David Hesskew, David Barker, Charles Riley
	Team 2, Richard Palmer	Team 3	Team 3	Team 3	Team 4, Paul Granberg
<b>Acolytes</b>	Kacen Haas	Creed Finch	Darby Kersten		Kacen Haas
<b>Greeters</b>	Mike & Sally Anderson	Wayne & Martha Gosnell	Medora Beckmann	Norman & Barbara Eubank	Karen & Ronnie Wagner
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<i>No communion</i>	Jerry Gass	<i>No communion</i>	Karen Wagner	Alexis Pawelek Karen Wagner
<b>Lectors</b>	Arlene Hamlin	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Alexis Pawelek		Roland Pfeiffer
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>In February:</b>	Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht			

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Trinity Lutheran Church will host our Lenten Luncheon on Thursday, March 2**

Trinity will host a short worship service, led by Pastor Welton and a salad lunch that begins at Noon. The Blanco community is invited to attend this ecumenical lunch. Freewill offerings collected are sent to the Blanco Ministerial Alliance and utilized with their assistance to people in need. If you would like to help serve that day or bring something for the luncheon, speak more with Karen Wagner, coordinator.

### ***Towards Belief* Video Series Continues Monday Evenings at Trinity's Fellowship Hall**

*Towards Belief* is a series addressing the top belief blockers of our time – the most frequently cited reasons that many have lost confidence in the Church and its message. Is the Church an outdated institution destined for extinction? *Towards Belief* offers thoughtful and compelling responses to the major stumbling blocks to faith. It is a fresh and vital resource designed for a variety of uses within the church context or for individual study. Hosted by Karl Faase, each video in the series stands alone and you are welcome to join the class at any point during the series which will continue on Mondays through March 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE in February**

Video and discussion led by Pastor Welton is held Monday evenings at 6:30pm.

**Supernatural, 6:30PM, February 6, 2023**

**Exclusive Faith, 6:30PM, Feb 20, 2023**

**Religious Violence, 6:30PM, Feb. 13, 2023**

**Church Abuse, 6:30PM, Feb 27, 2023**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 487, Blanco, TX 78606 830-833-4771 email: trinityblanco@gvtc.com

**FEBRUARY 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO**

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

Services are also available livestreamed on Facebook

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8-9:30am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15am</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30pm <i>Towards Belief</i> class, here	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6pm, Council of Ministries Meeting	<b>9</b> 8-9:30am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12—Communion</b> <b>Noon-1pm Altar Guild Meeting for 2023, Women's Ministry Gathering &amp; Luncheon</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30pm <i>Towards Belief</i> class, here	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8-9:30am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter articles due TODAY!</b>  6:30pm <i>Towards Belief</i> class, here	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship, here	<b>23</b> 8-9:30am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall Noon Lenten Lunch at St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  9am-Noon Hall Reserved by K. Wagner
<b>26--Communion</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>27</b> 6:30pm <i>Towards Belief</i> class, here	<b>28</b>				

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

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