



January Events at Trinity:

Trinity Volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels Tuesdays this month—check the sign up sheet for the dates you are scheduled, and please notify the church office if you make changes to the schedule.

Jan. 1—Happy New Year!! 9:30a.m Worship
Sunday School for Adults, 10:45-11:45a.m.

Jan. 2—Church office re-opens, 9am-1pm

Jan. 3— Meals on Wheels Delivery Begins

Jan. 4-5—Secretary on vacation, volunteer in the office

Jan. 11—Council of Ministries Meeting,
6:00pm, fellowship hall

Jan. 12—7pm, *The Chosen* video series shown in the fellowship hall, *see page 7*

Jan. 15—Installation of Council Officers, 9:30am Annual Congregational Meeting,
In the sanctuary immediately after services to review 2022 events and approve the 2023 Budget

Jan. 22—Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30a.m.

Jan. 23—Towards *Belief* study begins at 6:30p.m.

Jan. 29—Life Sunday & Youth Sunday
9:30a.m. Worship
5th Sunday Potluck Luncheon, Noon

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, Interim

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

How to Contact Trinity:

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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:

January 2023

Merry Christmas Season, Happy New Year, & Happy Epiphany.

January 1st marks the beginning of a new year. Sometimes we eagerly anticipate new things. We want the new car, the new grandchild, or the new vacation. At other times, we dread new things. A new house means giving up the old home which houses precious memories. The new job means learning unfamiliar protocols and befriending different colleagues. A new year brings new opportunities and new struggles, new trials, and new blessings.

The year 2023 will provide newness. Will you react to new events? How will you respond to new trials? How will you share new blessings with others? The year ahead lies unknown. You and I do not know how the year will work out.

God promises us many new things. God's newness is always something to be anticipated. They are undeserved blessings. While we do not know how God's new things will work out, we do know the final story of them. God defeats evil through the person and work of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

What are some of the new things which God promises?

- You promised new birth through baptism. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God has given you new joy so that you may sing a new song. "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him." Psalm 98:1
- God has made a new covenant with you. "'Behold, days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.'" Jeremiah 31:31
- You have been given a new commandment. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34
- You will be given a new heart. "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26.
- You are being given a new mind. "... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator." Colossians 3:10

As we begin this new year together, remember that the Lord is making "all things new." (Revelation 21:5) To him be all honor and glory!

Grace & peace,



Pastor Patrick

BIBLE 101 Sunday School, led by Pastor Welton from 10:45-11:45a.m will begin to study the Gospel of John in January. This Sunday School class is for beginners as well as experienced Bible scholars. Join us in the fellowship hall.

LIVE STREAMING AGAIN! Facebook is again live streaming the Sunday services from Trinity! After a technology glitch was remedied, Sheila Mercer, Media Director, has been able to live stream Sunday Worship Services from Trinity. Past recorded services are also available to view on our website www.trinityofblanco.com, under the sermons tab.



towards **belief**
SERIES

Towards Belief follows Australian pastor and host, Karl Faase as he travels to the UK, USA and Australia to interview more than thirty leading authors, speakers and academics as they seek to defuse the top belief blockers of our time. This series responds to the questions of the seeker and clarifies the answers for the Christian.

www.towardsbelief.org.au



Series Host
KARL FAASE

***Towards Belief* Study Begins Monday, January 23, 2023**

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Suffering	6:30PM, January 23, 2023
The Bible	6:30PM, January 30, 2023
Supernatural	6:30PM, February 6, 2023
Religious Violence	6:30PM, Feb. 13, 2023
Exclusive Faith	6:30PM, Feb. 20, 2023
Church Abuse	6:30PM, Feb. 27, 2023
Science & God	6:30PM, March 6, 2023
Homosexuality	6:30PM, March 13, 2023
The Church	6:30PM, March 20, 2023

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. Over 30 leading Christian academics, pastors, authors and apologists discuss questions such as sexual abuse in the Church, religious violence, the existence of suffering, the credibility of the Bible, the compatibility of science and faith and the Church's teaching on homosexuality, among many other important topics. Is the Church an outdated institution destined for extinction? Toward's 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. Featuring interviews with Prof. John Lennox, Erwin McManus, Nicky Gumbel, Os Guinness, Michelle Tepper, Joel A'Bell and many others. Hosted by Karl Faase.

A sign up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up to attend, to that copies can be prepared of the workbook that accompanies the study. For more information, contact the Church Office (830) 833-4771.

Altar Guild News—Thank you to Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Rosalind Ellis and Connie Cox for preparing the altar during the month of December. On duty during the month of January will be Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley and Connie Russell. Please call Bonnie Triesch at 210-705-2811, if you have any questions or if you are interested in serving on one of the teams that prepares for worship each Sunday.

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the narthex for members to sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Altar flowers may be listed in honor of events/people or in memory of loved ones. An altar guild member or the church office will contact you to find out if you will bring your own flowers or order them locally the week prior.



THANK YOU! The Church Staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous gifts received at Christmas. We each strive to serve God in our unique ways and to give him the Glory! The Council and Congregation's appreciation for the work we do is such a blessing!

Many thanks and God bless, Your Church Staff

Thank you so much to whoever fixed up the nice '80's bag. Bobby was a newcomer, since he just turned 80 on Dec. 18th. He was really getting after the cookies. He was enjoying everything—tried to get my cookies and I said "no, no". Again, Thank You, Judy Brewer

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Paul Gosnell, age 100, smiles as he receives his "Over 80" Christmas Bag.

The bags, a Trinity Christmas tradition, were chock full of goodies and included hand-made Christmas cards from the Church Youth.

Paul's card was made by Brenna Kersten and brought a big smile 100 years in the making.



Sunday School News:

BLESSINGS PROJECT (AKA: Angel Tree) 2022! With your help we were able to gift children from local families in the community! Thank you to our Trinity members that purchased gifts, donated funds, assembled bikes, sorted and wrapped gifts—you are appreciated!

Children's Sunday School Returns January 8th! During the school Christmas break we will not have Sunday School for children, that is on Jan 1st, but will return to classes on January 8th. Come and join us!

There are currently three youth classes at Trinity:

- Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten with Kathy Kersten meets across from the copy room;
- Elementary with Ashley Finch & Rosalind Ellis meet in the Youth Room; and
- Middle and High Schoolers with Karla Riley & Sally Anderson meet in the annex kitchen (in the narthex.)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Jan. 15th immediately following worship in the sanctuary to review 2022 and approve 2023 Budget.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET are available in the narthex for members to review prior to the January 15, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting. Pick up your copy on Sunday morning or during church office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm. A copy of the proposed 2023 budget will also be included in the Annual Report, distributed on January 8, 2023, the Sunday before the Annual Congregational Meeting on the following Sunday, January 15.

News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President
Hal Switzer—Vice-President
Karen Steiger—Secretary
Medora Beckmann—Treasurer
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary

Leta Garcia—Worship
Karen Wagner—Evangelism
Norman Eubank—Property
Alexis Pawelek—Education/Youth
Wayne Gosnell—Stewardship

COUNCIL NOTES—from the November 9, 2022 Meeting

Vice-President Hal Switzer called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Wayne Gosnell, Travis Kersten, Alexis Pawelek (later), Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, Karen Wagner, and Pastor Patrick Welton. Member guests were Sally Anderson and Ashley Finch. They were in attendance as potential new Council members. Pastor's devotional was taken from various verses in the end of the book of Acts, concentrating on Paul's last days in Jerusalem with Felix and Festus, ending with Paul sharing his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Minor corrections were made to the Minutes from the October 12th meeting. The Action Items were briefly discussed. Travis made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, and Wayne seconded the motion. Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through October 2022, and Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of October 25, 2022. Pastor submitted his Pastor's Report and announced that 3 new acolytes have completed training and will be joining the 2 current acolytes that TLC has serving in that capacity. He also announced that he will be conducting new member classes on Sunday, November 27th and Sunday, December 4th.

Committee Reports:

--Youth – In Alexis' absence, Ashley Finch gave her report announcing that the Food Race benefitting the Student Pantry at the Good Samaritan Center was very successful. Hosting 5th Quarter went very well with about 100 kids in attendance. Ashley requested that the Gaga Pit be moved to the 2 corner parking spots to get it further away from the road. Wayne agreed to summon up the muscle power needed.

--Stewardship – Wayne announced that Keith Morgenroth had to cancel his last Financial Literary Seminar session. He is willing to do the Seminar again this Summer for high school and college students. Hal and Wayne passed along a preliminary drawing of a possible new Church Complex to be used to show members what their Legacy Giving monies might fund. Arlene Hamlin drew up an impressive architectural type of blueprint.

--Evangelism – Karen W reported that the Potluck was good, and that the Men's Breakfast was also good and very well attended. TLC will provide the green beans for the Community Thanksgiving meal, sponsored by The Ministerial Alliance, and hosted this year by St Ferdinand's Catholic Church on Sunday, November 20th. Karen W and Claudia Smith will take care of everything.

--Worship – Travis passed around copies of his report. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed The Polka Service on Sunday, October 23rd. Bonnie Palmer needs help decorating the Christmas Tree, possibly on a Thursday. Refer to his report for other information. Travis announced that Sheila Mercer is now fully in charge of Website updates, Facebook, and the Media Room.

--Property – Norman reported that the basketball goals have been installed. The candelabras are in the care of New Age Computers to consider whether they can be repaired. A few changes were made to the Rental Agreement of The Fellowship Hall which is found on page 22.

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

Old Business –

--Wayne received two Appreciation Letters. One from Ethnomedia and another from Adult & Teen Challenge. Travis passed around copies of the Pastoral Job Posting that the Call Committee plans to send out to certified LCMC pastors.

--The Nominating Committee has received agreements from 3 people who are willing to fill the expiring terms on the Council if approved by the Congregation on Sunday: Ashley Finch (Youth & Education), Sally Anderson (Stewardship), and Karen Wagner (Evangelism).

--Hal presented a 2023 Budget that the Budget Committee (Hal Switzer, Medora Beckmann, Jane Lightfoot, and Keith Morgenroth) had formulated at their meeting on October 4th. After an extensive conversation

concerning particular budget items, Norman made a motion to move \$15,000 from the normal Checking Account on the Balance Sheet to Line Item 499c (Scholarship). Wayne seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion. It was decided that A Pastoral Discretionary Fund will continue to be handled through Benevolence spending. No decision was made on contributing \$250 to Project Graduation; even though, it was discussed. The Annual Fundraiser monies are not used to fund camp. A separate fundraiser raises money for camp. Hal made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget as presented, and Karen W seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the Budget.

New Business –

--Medora announced that an Audit Committee consisting of Connie Cox, Sheri Riley, and Claudia Smith have audited the books, and all seems to be in order.

Norman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sheri seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm and everyone recited The Lord's Prayer.

JANUARY 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.

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Altar Flowers	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Usher Team	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 4, Paul Granberg	Team 4, Paul Granberg	Team 1	Team 1	Team 2, Richard Palmer
Acolytes	Creed Finch		Kacen Haas	Kacen Haas	Creed Finch
Greeters	Hal & Sandy Switzer	Jayne Lightfoot	Stan & Karen Steiger	Travis & Kathy Kersten	Trinity Youth
Lectors	Kathy Kersten	Lacy Lukich	Keith Morgenroth	Ron Bigler	Grayson Culton
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer	<i>No communion</i>	Norman Eubank	<i>No communion</i>
Altar Guild	During the month of January:	Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley and Connie Russell			

REMEMBER THE DATE(S) YOU SIGNED UP to deliver Meals on Wheels in January!

The sign up sheet is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board and Lainie Parker, MOW coordinator, also has a copy.

Boxed sets of meals, lasting a week, must be picked up by 9:30 a.m. at Trinity's fellowship hall, in order that delivery can be completed by Noon. We are still ONLY delivering once a week on Tuesdays. Two teams are needed for the two routes served by the Meals on Wheels Program. ****If you find you CANNOT deliver on the date you signed up for, please let Angie or Lainie know so that a replacement can be called and the meals delivered on time. Thank you!**



Women's Ministry News

On December 11th Women's Ministry hosted our 1st Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange. We played Hallmark Christmas Movie bingo, enjoyed some light appetizers, a Hot Cocoa Bar and many delicious cookies! The ladies each left with cookies and lots of Christmas spirit! Kathy Kersten asked if anyone wanted to donate cookies for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Christmas Banquet to be held later that evening and she was happy to have a tray full of cookies to serve.

Thank you to everyone that was able to join us at the cookie exchange! **Our next Gathering of Women's Ministry will be Sunday, February 12th, 2023. We hope to see you there!**

First Sunday of the Month Breakfasts to Continue at Trinity in February 2023

Due to a positive response by members and visitors, the Council of Ministries would like to continue serving breakfast in the fellowship hall on the first Sunday of each month. The breakfasts were hosted by the Women's Service Teams and the Men's Group of Trinity in a monthly rotation. Between 30 & 50 participants attended the breakfasts before church services in the fellowship hall.

The first Breakfast at Trinity for 2023 will be **February 5th from 8:30-9:15a.m.** and hosted by the Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams. (The Men's Group will host March 5th breakfast.) A schedule for the remaining breakfasts will be published soon.

The Chosen Video Series Shown at Trinity

Last October, Sharon Wolbrecht began showing this series at the church's fellowship hall on Thursday evenings. She has decided to continue with the next season of the series in January 2023

Whether you have seen "THE CHOSEN" or not, you cannot miss the experience of a group showing on Thursday nights starting January 12 and continuing each **Thursday at 7pm** in Trinity Lutheran Church's fellowship hall. It continues where we left off last fall. There will be popcorn and closed caption—bring your own drink. Men, women, and kids 14 years and over are invited!

What is "THE CHOSEN"? Glad you asked...*From Dallas Jenkins: creator of "THE CHOSEN":*

"I have a passion for people to hear the 'old, old story' again, but for the very first time. When I see Jesus movies, it's very rare for me to be moved or excited, and the same is true for a lot of Jesus-related devotionals. Quite frankly, I've heard it all before, and it's hard to relate to the perfect and sinless son of God. **However, I can relate to the sinners who surrounded Him.** Problem is, most Jesus projects just take you from Bible story to Bible story, glossing over the humanity and backstories of all these characters. So when I started creating a TV show that explores Jesus through the eyes of the people around Him, I found myself getting moved and excited. I was experiencing Him in the way they did, and the reaction to the Christmas special pilot episode about the birth of Christ from the perspective of the shepherds confirmed we were on to something. We kept hearing, "I've heard this before, but never in this way."

Our First 5th Sunday Potluck Luncheon in 2023 will be January 29th!

Our first opportunity to celebrate fellowship at Trinity will be Sunday, January 29th at the 5th Sunday Potluck luncheon held in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and enjoy gathering in fellowship!

Trinity Lutheran Church
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JANUARY 2023 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 <i>9am-1pm, Church Office re-opens</i>	3	4 <i>Secretary on vacation today—Volunteer in the office</i>	5 <i>Secretary on vacation today—Volunteer in the office</i>	6	7
8—communion	9	10	11 6:00pm Council Meeting	12 Viewing of Chosen Video Series begins at Trinity, 7pm	13	14 7-10 am Men's Ecumenical Breakfast at Trinity
15 Council Officers Installed 11:45am Annual Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary	16	17 Men's Group meets for fellowship	18	19 Viewing of Chosen Video Series at Trinity, 7pm	20	21
22—communion	23 Newsletter articles due TODAY! <i>Towards Belief Study, led by Pastor Welton at 6:30pm</i>	24	25	26 Viewing of Chosen Video Series at Trinity, 7pm	27	28
29 Life Sunday Youth Sunday 5th Sunday Potluck	30 <i>Towards Belief Study, led by Pastor Welton at 6:30pm</i>	31				



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Time to Connect with Jesus and One Another

It is that time of year again! As we ring in 2023 full of hope and anticipation, many will make New Year's resolutions, resolving to improve one's life by committing to new healthy habits. While diet and exercise are the most common and talked about, resolve this time of year is often ambitious and can touch many other aspects of life, including spiritual things. Each year, Christians make fresh commitments to bible study, prayer, worship, volunteerism, generosity, sharing faith, etc.

Now I ask you to consider an invitation. Unlike a lot of New Year's resolutions, this invitation doesn't demand significant life adjustment, but rather one small to medium-size step: schedule a time away to spend with Jesus and others. Jesus himself modeled this pattern with his disciples, perhaps most famously in the story of his Transfiguration when he went up the mountain with Peter, James, and John. So that's it: take a retreat away for unhurried time to connect with God and your brothers and sisters in Christ to simply be present with your Lord and one another. Pretty simple, right?!?

Each February we plan a Winter Retreat in beautiful Concan, Texas on the Frio River. Thanks to gracious hosts, our retreat is very affordable. You can learn all about and register for this year's retreat at www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat. It is a gift to all who attend and participate in it. When I describe our retreat to those who have never been, I often find myself saying that amazing things happen when we simply take the time to get away with God and one another. While it is true that we have retreat programs led by some fabulous guest leaders, the real leader is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the people of God come together for some intentional time away, God always shows up. We learn, we laugh, we love and are loved. As a voluntary association of churches, our strength and gift is most evident when we take the time to connect with one another. In our intentional time away with God and others we both give and receive blessing. And God strengthens and renews each one of us for the difficult journeys of discipleship that surely await us when we return to our regularly scheduled lives in our own communities.

This isn't just for pastors, but for all God's people. And this isn't about just this one retreat that we happen to plan and host. Rather the invitation is for you to simply get away for some unhurried time with God and others to give and receive blessing as God shows up to strengthen and renew Christ's church. So what would it look like for you to take this step? Whether you retreat with us in Concan in February or make other plans, resolve to take time, go away, connect with Jesus and others.

Chances are, like Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration you will find yourself saying, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!"

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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