

Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

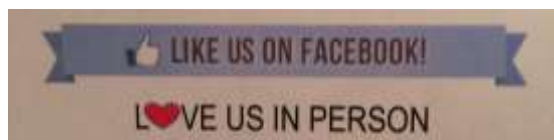
Where:

*"God is Seen,
Love is Felt,
Lives are Changed"*

Ministers	All People of Trinity Rev. Patrick Welton
Media Director	Sheila Mercer
Music Director	Leta Garcia
Parish Administrator	Angie Daniels

How to Contact Trinity:

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March Events at Trinity:

Thursdays in March—*The Chosen* video series shown in the fellowship hall, 7:00p.m.

Mondays in March—*Towards Belief* video study led by Pastor Welton, 6:30p.m.

Mar. 1—Mid-week Lenten Worship Service, 6:00pm, sanctuary

Mar. 2—Lenten Luncheon at Trinity, see page 3

Mar. 5—MEET & GREET Pastor and Mrs. David Mayer, 10:45a.m. after worship in the Sanctuary followed by a **CATERED LUNCHEON** in the fellowship hall—see pg 3!

Mar. 8 Hall Reserved by Sandy Switzer, 2-4pm
Mid-Week Lenten Worship Service, 6:00p.m. in the sanctuary
Church Council Meeting, 7:00pm

Mar. 10-12—Girls' Retreat, Kendalia

Mar. 12—Called Congregational Meeting, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary
No Youth Sunday School today

Mar. 13-17—BISD Spring Break

Mar. 15—Mid-week Lenten Worship Service, 6:00pm, sanctuary

Mar. 19—Baptisms at Trinity Worship, 9:30am

Mar. 22—Mid-week Lenten Worship Service, at 6:00pm, sanctuary

Mar. 26—Hall Reserved by Finch Family

Mar. 29—Mid-week Lenten Worship Service, at 6:00pm, sanctuary

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.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lutherans follow the liturgical year. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end with the breaking of the Easter vigil. Christians began to keep Lent in the early days of the church. By the third century of our Lord, the church began to prepare for celebration of the resurrection. At first, the season of preparation was just Good Friday and Holy Saturday, but over the years, the season grew to forty days.

During Lent, Christians practice special practices to prepare for celebrating the resurrection. Historically, the common practice was fasting and giving to the poor. The Roman church mandates giving up meat on Fridays. (Our Lutheran confessions observe that medieval Roman Catholics ate extravagant fish dinners in the name of fasting!) But other things can be given up instead. Some give up a vice, such as smoking. In the past, I have given up social media.

In recent years, many are using Lent as a season to do something extra. I heartily recommend reading an extra devotion. If you are not up for reading a devotion, there are many audio devotions that you can listen to on your phone. (Look at groundupgrace.com or lhm.org for audio devotions.) We can donate more time and resources to charity. Help at Good Sam or your favorite group. Maybe even reach out and help your neighbors extra during this season.

Lent is forty days long. Why forty? Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting before beginning his ministry. Moses spent 40 days fasting while receiving the Law from the Lord. Elijah fasted forty days in the desert before encountering the Lord God at Mount Horeb. Beyond these, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years.

There is a trick with counting to forty during Lent. You don't count the Sundays. If you counted the Sundays, there are actually forty-six days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. But the Sundays are not part of the fast. This means, if you give up eating chocolate during Lent, you can eat as much chocolate as you want on each Sunday! Why? Sundays always celebrate the resurrection, even within the Lenten season. Further, every week needs a day of rest, even a week of fasting.

Now a frequent question about Lent is "do I have to?" As Lutherans, the answer is no, but.... No, we don't have to; Jesus did it all. Fasting and alms giving do not add one iota to what Jesus did. He doesn't need our good works to prove that we are really saved. We are free because of what Jesus did. But we can use our freedom in Christ to do something special because of what the Lord first did for us. We can do a Lenten practice as a way of remembering the great sacrifice Christ made on the cross for our sins.

As we journey toward the cross the Lent, I pray that the Christ's sacrifice will bring you great joy and enliven your hope of the age to come.

Blessings,



Pastor Patrick

2023 LENTEN SERMON SERIES THEME: "People Jesus Met"

Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday, ***the Hypocrites***

Sunday, Feb. 26, ***Satan***

Wed. Mar. 1, ***Magdalene, Joanna & Suzanna***

Sunday, Mar. 5, ***Nicodemus***

Wed. Mar. 8, ***the Rich Young Ruler***

Sunday, Mar. 12, ***the Woman at the Well***

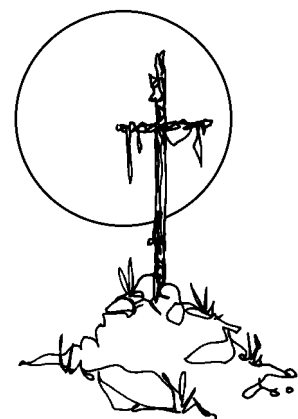
Wed. Mar. 15, ***the Adulterous Woman***

Sunday, Mar. 19, ***Man Blind from Birth***

Wed. Mar. 22, ***Zaccheus***

Sunday, Mar. 26, ***Lazarus***

Wed. Mar. 29, ***Mary & Martha***



All Mid-Week Lenten Services are held at 6:00p.m. and Sunday Worship is at 9:30a.m.

Sunday, March 5, 2023--MEET AND GREET at Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, 10:45-11:45a.m. with RECEPTION AND LUNCH to follow.

After six months of prayerful consideration in following where the Lord is leading our congregation, the Call Committee unanimously suggest Pastor David Mayer to be our next permanent Pastor. At the Church Council meeting on February 8, the Council also unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

The Call Committee & Church Council invite the congregation to visit with Pastor and Mrs. David Mayer. There will be a Meet and Greet during the Sunday School hour to allow members to visit with the Mayers. A catered luncheon will follow.

The following **Sunday, March 12 will be a Called Congregational Meeting** for the purpose of extending a Pastoral Call to Rev. Mayer.

By going to www.Facebook.com/Faithlutheranchurchsequintx/video you can watch sermons by Pastor Mayer. We urge you to view several sermons.

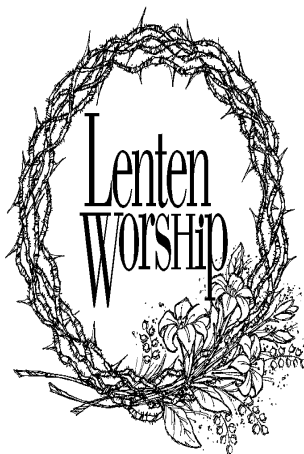
Please plan to join us.

Gifts to the Memorial Fund in February

In Memory of Dwight Knoll

By Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Rust

2023 Lenten Luncheon Schedule



March 2 Trinity Lutheran Church—Help is needed with set-up, serving, clean-up and donations of salads and desserts—**sign up or call the church office if you can help!**

March 9 St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church

March 16 Blanco United Methodist Church

March 23 St. Michael's Episcopal, New Hope Lutheran, Mt. Horeb
and Kendalia Community at First Baptist, Blanco

March 30 First Baptist Church

Lunches are all held at the respective churches and begin at Noon

Freewill offerings received from the series of community luncheons are used by the Blanco Ministerial Alliance and their assistance to people in need in our community.

Notes from the Women's Ministry Gathering on February 12, 2023

Nineteen ladies gathered at Noon after church and Sunday School in the fellowship hall for a Women's Ministry Gathering, our first in 2023! Claudia Smith opened the gathering with a warm welcome and a prayer. Lunch was served, and everyone enjoyed baked potatoes with all the toppings, Valentine's sweets and iced tea. Each woman at the meeting received the 2023 Women's Yearbook, which includes an Altar Guild Schedule for 2023-24.

Bonnie Triesch, Altar Guild President, opened the gathering with a short Altar Guild Meeting. **For a complete list of Altar Guild items discussed, see page 5.**

Following Bonnie's presentation, Claudia Smith discussed other business, including:

1. **Lenten Luncheon at Trinity on Thursday, March 2nd**—Women's Ministry helps Karen Wagner, Council Evangelism Chair to organize this event. Freewill offerings received at the community luncheon are used by the Blanco Ministerial Alliance. Donations are needed from Trinity members of salads and desserts, along with volunteers to set up, serve, and clean-up. The lunch will be held in the fellowship hall and there will be a short Lenten service, including a message from the Pastor and hymns. A sign up sheet will be posted for you to sign up with what you can bring for the lunch and whether you can help that day. Please sign up early as the lunch historically serves about 90+ people.
2. **MEET & GREET With the Mayers, Sunday, March 5th**—The Call Committee and Church Council have set this opportunity for the congregation to meet and greet with Pastor and Mrs. David Mayer at 10:45a.m. (There will not be Sunday School that day.) After the Meet & Greet there will be a catered luncheon for everyone. The Women's Teams will provide desserts for the lunch.
3. **Sunday morning breakfasts**—Due to their popularity, the Women's Service Teams have agreed to continue to provide breakfasts on the first Sunday of the month before worship services in order to encourage fellowship, attendance, and to give families in a rush to make it to church an opportunity to enjoy breakfast. Two Teams will serve on their scheduled Sunday and may serve whatever breakfast they plan. May 7th will be the Esther & Ruth Teams turn to serve the breakfast. A schedule has been posted on the Women's bulletin board, in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. Monthly hosts of the breakfasts will be publicized in the monthly newsletter. The Women serve alternately with the Youth Group and Men's Group to provide these fellowship breakfasts.

Comments/Concerns:

Prayer Card Ministry: Amy Jeanne Welton has taken on the card ministry for sending cards to those listed in the Sunday prayers. She left cards, addressed and stamped, for anyone that wanted to write a note or sign to encourage those on the prayer list. Many ladies signed the cards with notes of encouragement.

Trinity Takeaways: Mary Jo Pfeiffer shared a ministry where ladies gather to prepare meals to freeze and then distribute as needed to anyone needing a ready-to-prepare meal. Many ladies were excited to participate and Mary Jo will get recipes and apply for funds from Thrivent for the project. *See below!*

The Gathering concluded at 1:00pm with many ladies staying to help tidy up the kitchen and hall. The next Gathering date will be **May 7th**.

Trinity Takeaways—Ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church will prepare one-dish meals such as soups and casseroles. We will put the meals in gallon bags and freeze them. When a family from Trinity or our community has additional stress, illness, or is just extremely busy; we will provide a frozen meal to make their life easier...if only during a specific mealtime.

Tentative meeting date: April 27, time TBD

Contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer with questions. 210-213-7615. Maryjopfeiffer@gmail.com

Altar Guild Report—Thank you to Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich and Sharon Wolbrecht for their service setting up the altar for worship during the month of February! The Altar Team on duty for the month of March will be Bonnie Triesch, Tara Seymour, Amy Rust and Jayne Lightfoot.

Notes from Bonnie Triesch at the Altar Guild Annual Meeting on Feb. 12th include:

Welcome to our newest Altar Guild Members: Christine Bushong, Rosalind Ellis, Jayne Lightfoot, Cindy Hawkins, Sharon Wolbrecht and Sally Anderson!

Officers for 2023 will be Bonnie Triesch, president; Arlene Hamlin, vice-president; and Pam Nabers, secretary.

Changes for 2023:

1. Use the white linen cloth to cover wine trays and bread on the communion table at worship services.
2. Set up for communion to be done no earlier than on the Friday or Saturday before services.
3. Communion bread, from the freezer, to be placed on the table Sunday morning.
4. Fill the inner circle with grape juice on Sunday mornings or it will spoil.
5. Fill both wine and grape juice cups to the rim line of the tray.
6. Do not stack wine trays after filling them. Instead, place each tray on the kitchen table and cover with cloth (this is to prevent tarnishing of the metal trays.)
7. Place stacked wine trays, with grape juice on inner ring, on Sunday morning **no later than 8:45a.m.** so that the communion table is set before members begin arriving for worship.
8. Never leave urns or flowers on the altar, always remove them after services. Check to see the fresh and potted flowers are watered. Do not put potted plants in the fridge, instead set them on a plate or in a pot cover to catch water and leave them on the counter in the kitchen.
9. Remove liquid candle soot from wicks with a clean cloth and never cut the wicks.

****Copies of the Altar Guild Service Schedule, which includes all team members and their phone numbers, are available to pick up on Sunday at the Women's bulletin board or call the church office to request a copy by mail or email. The schedule is also included in the 2023 Women's Yearbook.**

Consider joining an existing Altar Team! Trinity's Altar Guild has groups of 3-4 members who serve, in a rotating schedule, during the year. Most of our dedicated teams are made up of 4 ladies each, but extra help is always appreciated! Each team is responsible for one month at a time, serving for less than one hour together to set up for worship on a Saturday morning. As a new member of the Altar Guild, you will serve along with ladies that have been serving for years. For more information, talk to an Altar Guild member or call Bonnie Triesch at 210-705-2811.

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Proud Grandpa, James Dollahite shared the blessed news of twins **Wyler Verne and Waylon Shane Dollahite**, born February 13th and weighing 7lb 2oz and 8lb 3oz, respectively!

The twins are welcomed by proud parents, Darin & Shaelynn, and big brother, Kade. Congratulations to the Dollahite Family!



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

MARCH 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 6:00pm Mid-Week Worship	2 Noon Trinity Hosts Lenten Luncheon <u>All Thursdays at 7pm—"The Chosen" video series, here</u>	3	4
5 9:30am Worship 10:45am Meet & Greet Lunch to follow <i>No Sunday School today</i>	6 6:30pm Towards Belief class, here	7	8 2-4pm Hall reserved by Switzer 6:00pm Mid-Week Worship 7:00pm Council of Ministries meeting	9 Noon Lenten Lunch at St. Ferdinand's Catholic	10 <i>Girl's Retreat begins today</i>	11 <i>Girl's Retreat</i>
12--Communion <i>SPRING FORWARD!</i> Congregational Meeting <i>No Children's Sunday School today</i>	13 <i>BISD Spring Break This week!</i> 6:30pm Towards Belief class, here	14	15 6:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship	16 Noon Lenten Lunch at Blanco United Methodist	17	18
19 Two Baptisms today!	20 Newsletter articles due TODAY! 6:30pm Towards Belief class, here	21	22 6:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship	23 Noon Lenten Lunch at First Baptist, hosted by St. Michael's, New Hope, Kendalia & Mt. Horeb	24	25
26--Communion Noon-6pm Hall Reserved by Finch Family	27 6:30pm FINAL Towards Belief class, here	28	29 6:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship	30 Noon Lenten Lunch at First Baptist, Blanco	31	

Trinity Lutheran Church 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	Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary	Sally Anderson—Stewardship

Church Council Notes from January 11, 2023 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Travis Kersten, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, Karen Wagner, and Pastor Patrick Welton. Outgoing member Wayne Gosnell was present because Sally Anderson was unable to attend. Pastor read Ephesians 1:15-23 and titled his devotional '1+2=3' meaning Prayer + Faith&Love = Hope&Riches&God's Greatness. He ended his devotional with a prayer.

The Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. No corrections were needed. Travis made a motion to approve the Minutes, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council favored the motion. The Action Items were discussed. A new CD was opened at TRB. Norman will contact Richard to mount TVs in the Fellowship Hall. Ashley announced that the Scholarship Committee members will be Arlene Hamlin, Mike Anderson, Ron Bigler, Sherri Wicker, and Karla Riley. Sheri gave the Financial Report for December 2022. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of December 23, 2022.

Pastor submitted his report. He announced that his Sunday School class would be starting a new study on the Gospel of John, and his Monday night study -a video series entitled Towards Belief- will start January 23.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

--Education & Youth – Ashley announced that the Senior Sunday School Class will start a new series called 'The Air I Breathe – Worship as a Way of Life'. The Junior Class will start a series called 'Animals of the Bible'. The younger kids will continue learning, crafting, and playing outside. The young girls Retreat will be held March 10-12. "YOUUnique" is the theme...emphasizing special talents and sharing them. The Walk-a-thon Fundraiser should be in March, and Bingo/Lunch in May. We have 8-12 kids in the Sunday School program. Other kids are involved in some of our non-Sunday morning activities. Trinity usually sponsors 2 ball teams at \$500.00 each. And next quarter we will talk about helping to sponsor Project Graduation.

--Stewardship – Wayne announced that Sally had nothing to report.

--Evangelism – Karen W reported that Meals on Wheels is going. She reminded everyone to bring a potluck for the 5th Sunday Lunch, starting at 11:00am.

--Worship – Travis submitted his report. He is scheduling a meeting with the Sunday morning employees. Jerry, Hal, and Sheri will be joining him in that meeting. Bonnie, on behalf of the Altar Guild, would like to have more storage space available for their supplies. Sheila will attend an online training called 'Quick Fix' to better equip herself as Media Director.

--Property – Norman submitted his report. He will buy 2 more 8ft tables for the Fellowship Hall. Norman announced that the concrete project (fellowship hall sidewalk & the slab between the fellowship hall and storage building) should be done next week. A modified new outside church sign was discussed...use the old sign, add event announcements, and utilize new lighting features. The issue of repainting the Fellowship Hall was discussed; however, the cost was not included in the Budget. Norman also passed out his 2023 Proposed Property Plan.

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

Old Business

- Wayne received Appreciation Letters from The Share Center, Ethnomedia (Deditos), Blanco County Child Protection & Family Advocacy Board, and Adult & Teen Challenge.
- The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated through Sunday, April 23rd.
- Travis circulated the Call Committee Report. 12 applications have been received to date.

New Business

- The Benevolence giving for this quarter was reviewed. And next quarter's giving was also discussed. It was decided to think about the money given to The Blanco Education Foundation be shifted to Young Life in the next

quarter. Hal announced that he and Kevin Hawkins will attend a seminar about handling gun cases as related to liability issues in Texas.

Upcoming events include the showing of The Chosen video series on Thursday nights. Men's Group is next Tuesday. Wayne will be hosting the event. January 29th will be Youth Sunday, Life Sunday & 5th Sunday Potluck Lunch. The Men will host the 1st Sunday Breakfast on February 5th.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Travis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm and everyone recited The Lord's Prayer.

MARCH 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.

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Altar Flowers	Mark Liesmann	Gosnells & Switzers	Sid & Connie Cox	<i>Open</i>
Greeters	Jerry & Jan Gass	Bob & Sheri Riley	Christine Bushong	Jim & Barbara Geistfeld
Acolytes	Darby Kersten	Kacen Haas	Briley Thomas	Creed Finch
Lector	Kathy Kersten	Lacy Lukich	Keith Morgenroth	Alexis Pawelek
Ushers	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
Usher Team	Team 4, Paul Granberg	Team 5, Zane Smith	Team 5, Zane Smith	Team 1
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Jerry Gass	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer
Altar Guild	In March:	Bonnie Triesch, Tara Seymour, Amy Rust, Jayne Lightfoot		



2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW—
Active Trinity Lutheran Church members in High School or College are encouraged to apply for our Scholarship in 2022.

For more information or to request an application, call the church office, (830-833-4771) or send your request to trinityblanco@gvtc.com.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Kingdom Investing

Recently I have had several conversations about finances that have led me to think more deeply and biblically about the subject. Even though the financial realities of investing over the past year and a quarter have been less than enjoyable, I thoroughly enjoy personal finance. I also take great pride (undoubtedly sinfully so) in being a good steward of God's resources. As a full-time church worker, I am ever mindful of spending the resources entrusted to our ministry with great care. I have pridefully shared with others how much we do together as a district with how little resources we spend doing it like it is some sort of badge of honor.

While my sin of pride is something I need to confess and repent, good stewardship of kingdom resources is indeed a good thing. But I recently realized just how stark the difference in mindset can be between personal and ministry finances. In the name of good stewardship of precious resources, we in the church tend to strictly guard the financial resources entrusted to us. When dollars are spent, we often see it as kissing them goodbye! If this is the case, it is no wonder we think twice before parting with these dollars!

But what if we viewed our spending like an investor who is growing a business? What if every dollar spent represented an investment towards the greater goal of building something of even greater value? What if we viewed God's resources with a mindset of abundance instead of scarcity, and had a vision for investing in the Kingdom building that God was up to all around us?

Business owners often cite the mantra, "You've got to spend money to make money." In most cases I have found this to be true. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents in which he makes a similar point. In the story, Jesus celebrates the servants who put the master's money to work and can produce growth while condemning the servant who hoarded the money and simply returned it to the master. This is a good reminder that God calls us to make Kingdom investments as a part of our faith journey.

As you make your contributions of tithes and offerings through the ministry of your local congregation, thank you for your Kingdom investment. I encourage you to be generous and trust that your investment will in some way advance the mission of God and bring a Kingdom return. If you have a leadership role in making decisions with how your congregation uses financial resources, I pray that you execute your duty with the mind of an investor who isn't merely deciding how dollars are spent, but rather discerning how to best build God's Kingdom near and far. Guided by the Holy Spirit, I pray that we are faithful in our management of the Master's money. Invest in Kingdom mission and ministry with an eye towards growth. Then we can give an account and show a return on the investment when He comes again.

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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