



Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where:

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

Ministers All People of Trinity
Rev. David Mayer

Media Director Sheila Mercer
Music Director Leta Garcia
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April at Trinity:

April 2—PALM SUNDAY

Trinity Lutheran Church Youth invite members and guests to breakfast before the church service in the fellowship hall on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. We will be serving pancakes and all the fixin's from 8:30-9:15a.m.

Palm Sunday Worship, with Holy Communion, 9:30am

Farewell Reception for Pastor Welton,
After worship in the fellowship hall

Youth Prayer-a-Thon, here at Trinity's parking lot, 2-4p.m.

April 6—Maundy Thursday Worship,

with Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar, 6:00pm

April 7—Good Friday Worship, 6:00pm

Good Friday Experience, 8:00pm, at the Courthouse Square, Blanco

April 9—Easter Resurrection Worship

Celebrated today at 9:30am

April 30—5th Sunday Potluck Lunch, 10:45am

No Sunday School today

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, each other, and to evangelize with the Good News.

Brothers and Sisters,

After seven wonderful months as your interim pastor, I will be leaving on Sunday, April 2. It has been a joy to be you during this time of transition at Trinity Lutheran. With the call of Pastor Meyer, this time of transition has drawn to a close.

In the words of Saint Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:3-5).

Some of you have asked: Where will you be next? The answer is, I do not yet know, although I am exploring several possibilities. Currently, I am arranging pulpit supply through the area. I continue to search for a permanent call in the Central Texas/Hill Country area. Throughout the Bible, God's people are called to be ready to go where God leads them. We will miss you deeply. Trinity Lutheran Church will ever be written upon my heart and held in my prayers.

Trinity, and most especially its people, will hold a special place in my heart. You are the congregation that my children remember most, both graduated high school in the fellowship hall. Trinity helped send me to seminary. Most of my seminary projects were performed at Trinity. Trinity partnered with Christ Seminary of the Institute of Lutheran Theology and created an internship position for me to serve the congregation while being mentored. After graduation, Trinity created a staff position while I searched for a call. Little did I know that my first call would be as an interim pastor at Trinity. My life as an ordained ministry of Word and sacrament began at Trinity Lutheran Church on the evening of September 8, 2022.

People of Trinity, you have been gracious during my time with you. You have been patient as I try to find my voice for proclaiming God's Word for us today. You have been long-suffering. I have learned the liturgy. You have endured my overly academic voice when teaching. You have been forbearing as I attempt to minister God's Word of reconciliation to you individually. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

I would like to thank you for everything Trinity has done for me over the past few years. The interim call committee and church council, thanks for your confidence in me. Angie, thanks for your patience with the new guy in the office. Shelia, thank you for learning the media. Janice & Leta, thanks for the music. Worship Assistants and acolytes, thanks for serving our Lord. Ushers and safety team, thank you for allowing me to focus on the service. Students of Crossways and Toward Belief, thank you for taking time out of your week to think about God's Word and the progress of the Gospel message in our world. Students of Bible 101, thank you for spending ten years in various studies; we have covered over two-thirds of the Bible together. Stephen Ministers, thank you for supporting the care of the congregation and community. And I especially want to thank all the people of Trinity for your love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless you all and Trinity Lutheran Church. I wish all of you grace, love, and peace.



Pastor Patrick

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have been so blessed to worship alongside you and serve our LORD together. Thanks so much for all of your kindnesses, hospitality, and for the love you have extended to me and my family. Your intentional investment in my children by engaging in relationships with them was such a blessing to this momma. Thank you for giving me the privilege of praying for you and your friends. Thank you for being such good role models of taking care of your families, especially your parents. Thanks for all the great Bible study hours, I have learned so much from you and appreciate how much you each love the Word of God. I am grateful that you let me give away Bibles every chance I got, that was a blessing to me, and your encouragement was an inspiration to me.

To my sweet TLC ladies: I will miss each one of you. I hope I have had a chance to give you one more hug in the last few weeks. I hope you can come see us off in the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, April 2, 2023. I will hold you each in my heart and will miss you deeply. Thank you for your faithful prayers for me and my family. Thank you for the encouragement and for checking in on how we were doing so faithfully, your fellowship was such a blessing. As we depart for unknown places, following God's charge to "go", all that each of you have invested in me will go with me. I am heartbroken to leave you, but I rejoice that we will be together in eternity. I love you so much. But always remember that Jesus, now, HE LOVES YOU MORE! (loud voice intended)

God's blessings to you this day, Amy Jeanne Welton

Trinity Blanco

I wanted to say how excited I am to begin my call to serve you as pastor. What an honor it is to be given this opportunity. Tanya and I are both looking forward to joining you, getting to know you and serving the Lord together with you.

You clearly have a high “happy” and “joyful” factor that shows! I also want to say how fortunate you have been to have Pastor Patrick filling in the gap as interim pastor. Tanya and I appreciate his welcome and graciousness.

For now, just these things:

My first day of work is April 3 and I will be hitting the road running with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services.

I encourage you to put my contact information in your phone or address book. Please feel free to email me. If you need a more rapid response, it will work better to text or call. I do not answer calls from numbers that are not in my contacts in my phone, so please let me know by text who you are or leave a voicemail. I anticipate that I will soon have all of your numbers in my contacts.

If you need me for pastoral care for whatever reason, don't hesitate to let me or Angie Daniels know. I want to know and cannot help if I don't know. Give me a heads up on those who are hospitalized, anticipating surgery or are facing big life change. If it's an emergency, I will do my best to be available, night or day. If you can't reach me, please contact an officer of the church.

My contact information:
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830-426-9146

Our mailing address is:
PO Box 453
Stonewall, Texas 78671

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Holy Week Worship

All services are available in person in the sanctuary or remotely via Facebook Live Stream. (Go to Facebook, and find Trinity Lutheran Church Blanco, Texas.)

April 2—Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Pastor Welton's last Sunday as Interim Pastor.
Youth Host Pancake Breakfast, served in the fellowship hall: 8:30-9:15a.m.
There will be a reception for the Welton Family in the fellowship hall after worship

April 6—Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar, 6:00 p.m.

April 7—Good Friday, 6:00 p.m.

April 9—Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m.



(Photo at right)

**Pastor Welton officiates at the
Baptisms of Ley Thomas and baby girl, Nataley on
March 19th, 2023**

On Palm Sunday, following the worship service and before Sunday School, there will be a Farewell Reception for Pastor Patrick, Amy Jeanne and Caroline Welton in the fellowship hall.

As Pastor Welton's interim with Trinity ends, the congregation is welcome to say goodbye and to offer best wishes for his future ministry. Light refreshments will be served.



Women's News for April—Thursday, March 2, Trinity Lutheran Church hosted the first Lenten Lunch of 2023 in our fellowship hall. Pastor Welton delivered the Lenten message and Leta Garcia played the piano for the short service. Many delicious salads and desserts were provided by the Women's Ministry Teams—enough to serve the 80 or so guests from the community that attended the luncheon. Thank you to everyone who donated food for the lunch! Without your help we could not have put on such a wonderful, well-received luncheon. Freewill offerings received at the lunch totaled \$356.00 and were sent to the Blanco Ministerial Alliance for their use in assisting persons in need.

Important Dates:

Thursday, April 27—Trinity Takeaways - Tentative Start Date: April 27, time TBD 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. I think this will be a fun project...we'll see how it goes. We'll have a \$250 gift card from Thrivent to fund it as an Action Team event. Contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer with questions. 210-213-7615. Maryjopfeiffer@gmail.com

Sunday, May 7—Breakfast at Trinity, hosted by the Ruth & Esther Service Teams
Women's Gathering & Lunch, at Noon all Women of the Church are invited!

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Prayer Shawls are gifted to members and friends that are in need of God's comfort and love. Crocheters, knitters, quilters and crafters create these unique shawls and after they are dedicated and prayed over, they are given to someone in need.

Paul Gosnell, age 100, who is in Memory Care in Fredericksburg, wraps himself in a Prayer Shawl lovingly crocheted by Trinity's Prayer Shawl Ministry. The prayer shawls are distributed to those who are in hospitals or care facilities as a reminder of God's encompassing love for them and Trinity's commitment that they are fondly remembered.

At this time, we have a short supply of prayer shawls, but would like to continue the ministry and need your help. If you would like to create a prayer shawl and donate it to the ministry, please bring your shawl to the church office or to the narthex where a basket has been designated to collect them.



REMEMBER THE HOMEBOUND AT EASTER—We remind everyone to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with those not able to worship with us in person. Send a card, make a phone call, or stop by for a visit to share Easter greetings and to remind them that their Trinity family continues to lift them in prayer.



**Baptisms of Ley Thomas and
daughter, Nataley on March
19th.**

Wesley "Ley," Briley (her first opportunity to acolyte!) Brittany, Colton, Pastor Welton and Nataley with her sponsors, Sammy & January Ruiz.

Congratulations!

Altar Guild News—

On duty for the month of April will be Sophie Johnson, Sandy Mann, Sheri Riley, Janice Culton and Clara Gourley. Thank you to Bonnie Triesch, Tara & Caroline Seymour, Amy Rust and Jayne Lightfoot for their service during the month of March setting up the altar for worship and Mid-Week services during the busy Lenten season!

If you are interested in serving Trinity as a member of the Altar Guild, please contact Bonnie Triesch, at 210-705-2811. Trinity's Altar Guild is composed of groups of 3-4 members who serve, in a rotating schedule, during the year. ****Copies of the 2023-2024 Altar Team Schedule are available from the bulletin board in the Narthex, or by calling the church office.**

(Pictured right) The Fabulous Triesch Sisters were in attendance on Sunday, March 26th to honor their father, Kenneth Triesch by presenting the altar flowers in his memory that day.

Pictured are Diane Sides, Connie Cobb, Peggy Moore and Bonnie Triesch.

The photo was taken in front of the window donated by the Willie Triesch Family. Willie was the grandfather of Kenneth Triesch and the sister's great-grandfather.

(Are you related to one of the families who donated the stained glass windows in the sanctuary? Call Angie in the church office to share your story!)



THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH FOR THEIR SERVICE AT WORSHIP!

--LENTEN LECTORS: During Lenten Mid-Week Services, three youth lectors read the Call to Worship and Gospel texts. **Grayson Culton, Stella Byrom and Darby Kersten** all did an excellent job!

--SUNDAY ACOLYTES: This year we have 4 youth that have taken on serving as Acolytes at the Sunday services. Trinity's acolytes are: **Creed Finch, Kacen Haas, Darby Kersten and Briley Thomas.**

Share your thanks with the youth of Trinity, and let them know how much we appreciate them and their service! Their willingness to participate in worship at Trinity is commendable.

APRIL 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor: Rev. David Mayer / Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School for All Ages from 10:45-11:45 a.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 - Palm Sunday Breakfast Served 8:30-9:15am Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30am Welton Farewell Reception, 10:45am Prayer-a-Thon, 2-4pm	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Worship, 6pm “The Chosen” Video Series, 7pm	7 Good Friday Worship, 6pm 8pm Good Friday Experience on the square, Blanco	8
9 Easter Sunday Easter Resurrection Worship, with Holy Communion 9:30a.m.	10 <i>Church Office Closed today</i>	11	12 6pm Council of Ministries meeting, here	13 “The Chosen” Video Series, 7pm	14	15
16	17	18 Newsletter articles due TODAY! 6:30pm Men’s Group meets	19	20 <i>Secretary out of the office today</i> “The Chosen” Video Series, 7pm	21	22
23 communion	24	25	26	27 “The Chosen” Video Series, 7pm	28	29
30 5th Sunday Potluck today—no Sunday School						

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

Serving in the Month of April

There are many opportunities to serve at Trinity Lutheran! If you are interested in serving, call the church office.

	April 2 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 9 <i>Easter</i>	April 16	April 23	April 30
Altar Flowers	Charles & Karla Riley	<i>Open</i>	David & JoAnne Hesskew	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>
Greeters	Paul & Lacy Lukich	Arlene Hamlin	Sidney & Connie Cox	Keith & Bobbie Morgenroth	Trinity Youth
Acolyte	Briley Thomas	Creed Finch	<i>TBA</i>	Darby Kersten	Creed Finch
Lector	Arlene Hamlin	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Keith Morgenroth	Roland Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten
Ushers	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley
Usher Team	Team 1	Team 2, Richard Palmer	Team 2, Richard Palmer	Team 3	Team 3
Communion Assistants	Ashley Finch	Karen Wagner Travis Kersten	<i>No Communion</i>	Norman Eubank	<i>No Communion</i>

Altar Team on Duty in April: Sophie Johnson, Sandy Mann, Janice Culton, Sheri Riley and Clara Gourley

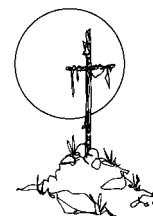
Good Friday Experience

WHAT IF...you could accompany me...while I suffer?

You are invited to experience what it would be like to go to the cross with Jesus.

April 7 at 8:00pm

Immediately following your local church's Good Friday services, you are invited to follow Jesus each step leading to his crucifixion. This will be an outdoor experience. Men and women from our local churches will re-enact the steps leading to Jesus' crucifixion. Please note that this experience may not be suitable for young children. The re-enactment is very life-like. Walking will be involved as we progress to each station around the entire courthouse lawn.



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Blanco CoAPT's 6th Annual Safe & Drug-free Wellness Fair



Trinity's Christian Men of Blanco (CMOB) served almost 200 chili dogs at the 2023 CoAPT event at Blanco High School on March 1st.

The community-wide event featured almost 40 area organizations and provided needed information on a variety of health and wellness issues. Trinity Lutheran Church is happy to support this event each year.

Blanco CoAPT stands for the Coalition of Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment of Substance Abuse.

Life Thoughts

The [Dallas Morning News](#) ran this opinion piece by Amy O'Donnell, **Texas Alliance for Life's Communications Director**, on Wednesday, March 16, 2023.

This is a response to the incorrect claims that the Texas pro-life laws that protect unborn babies from abortion, particularly the Human Life Protection Act, are preventing doctors from providing abortions in rare cases necessary to save the mother's life. This is not the truth about the Texas laws.



Recently, the Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York-based abortion advocacy firm, filed a lawsuit asking a Texas state court to clarify the exceptions in Texas abortion laws regarding pregnant women with certain rare, but life-threatening medical conditions. The case, filed on behalf of five Texas women and two physicians, is *Zurawski vs. Texas*.

When Amanda Zurawski was in her 18th week of pregnancy, *well before viability*, she suffered from a rare but severe condition known as preterm premature rupture of membranes, or PPROM. In other words, her water broke. There was little chance her baby could survive and without intervention, Zurawski's life was in danger from infection. Six different doctors interviewed for this report said the *standard of care is to induce labor with the intent to save the mother's life, knowing that, sadly, the unborn child would not survive*. All six confirmed this is permitted under Texas law. Unfortunately, Ms. Zurawski's doctor waited until she had developed sepsis before providing the appropriate treatment. She lost her baby, and she almost lost her own life, *but that had nothing to do with Texas laws*.

In August 2022, the Texas Human Life Protection Act went into effect which *protects unborn babies from abortion beginning at conception*. That law *specifically allows* a physician to perform an abortion when "in the exercise of reasonable medical judgment, the pregnant female . . . has a life-threatening physical condition aggravated by, caused by, or arising from a pregnancy that places the female at risk of death or poses a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function unless the abortion is performed or induced." Nothing requires a woman's death to be imminent or her unborn baby's heart to stop beating before the baby is removed. The heartbreaking tragedy of aborting a baby to save the mother's life need not endanger the mother's life as well.

Since the Human Life Protection Act went into effect, *elective abortions in Texas have dropped from thousands per month to zero*, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Induced Termination of Pregnancy reports. *At the same time, doctors have performed a relatively small number of abortions monthly for "emergency and health" reasons, without any negative consequences for doctors*.

Sadly, misunderstanding among some well-intentioned, but poorly informed, Texas doctors is leading to unnecessary and dangerous delays which threaten women's lives. Texas Alliance for Life *supports clarification of the medical emergency exception language* as well as the *education of Texas doctors* to address that confusion and misinformation. Doctors are routinely educated about other legislation affecting their practice in Texas via the hospitals they serve and the state agency that regulates doctors. We hope that, with this clarification, women across Texas will receive the standard of care they need and deserve during such a difficult time.

Edited by Barb Geistfeld, Trinity Life Team Leader and LFL Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations



Memorial Gifts Received in March:

In Memory of Grace Walker, By Laura Nieman
In Memory of Dorothy Clark, By Roy & Doris Phipps



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



How Deep the Father's Love for You and...

On Sunday, February 26 at 3:28 p.m. I got the kind of phone call that every parent dreads. My youngest son was calling... for a second time. I was in Zoom meeting and had ignored his first call. In our family, we have a code: if the first call goes unanswered and it is an emergency, call back a second time.

"Dad, I'm pretty sure my car is totaled. I'm really sorry." My heart stopped. "Are you okay?" I asked. He replied, "I'm okay, but I'm pretty sure the car is totaled!" I responded, "I don't even care about that right now, as long as you are okay!" He later was able to describe what happened, that another car lost control around a curve and came into his lane and collided with him head-on.

Oh, how it could have been so much more tragic! I *really* love cars, and I loved my son's car, but I would much rather mourn a car than my son! Even though he faces lingering challenges of whiplash and the hassles of replacing his car, the main thing is that he was alive...and he was loved and cared for by his mother and father!

My wife and I are far from perfect parents. If you don't believe me, just ask our college-age sons! Despite our imperfections, we deeply love both boys and would gladly suffer in their place rather than to see them suffer or struggle. But sometimes in life we cannot take away the pain of their trouble. And in our sin, sometimes our expressions of love, care, and concern are not perfect.

This brings to mind what Jesus taught about our Heavenly Father's love in Matthew 7: "*Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.*"

In Christ Jesus we are adopted children of the Heavenly Father whose love is perfect and knows no bounds. He weeps when we weep, laughs when we laugh, suffers when we suffer, and rejoices when we rejoice. Why? Because he loves us perfectly as sons and daughters. This is Good News! And this Good News is for us! And this Good News is for the world, too! Jesus was not only sent as a gift to the righteous, but as a gift to the world, even those who do not know it.

Whether my son knows how much we love him I do not know. His recognition of our love does not change the depth of it! But for our son to receive the full benefit of our love, it is incumbent upon him to receive the gift of our love and engage in an active relationship (which is not natural for teenagers)! This helps me understand God's love for you, me, and all people. God loves us so perfectly and deeply that it is beyond our understanding. But it is only in relationship that we experience the fullness of his love and grace.

So, we have a calling to share this Good News with others. Not only do we delight in the goodness of being children of the Heavenly Father, we long for friends, family, neighbors, strangers, and even enemies to experience it too! As Paul testifies in Romans 5:8, *God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

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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Created With A Purpose Girl's Retreat

Our Trinity Tribe Girls Retreat at Lost Cypress Ranch in Kendalia was a huge success. We started off March 10th at the church with 9 girls who participated in a cooking class with Sherry Wicker (and helper). The girls had a great time learning the tricks to putting on an awesome taco bar. The adults learned a few tricks as well.

After getting settled into our bunks we started our study YOUNique, where we all learned what makes us special and purposefully made.

Our weekend continued with an art class lead by Leta Garcia, a crochet class lead by Tami Bigler (with some wonderful helpers), lots of eating and way too many giggles to count. During our studies we learned about ourselves, our gifts, and how to share our purpose with each other.