



Trinity Lutheran of Blanco

Where:

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

Ministers All People of Trinity
Pastor Rev. David Mayer

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

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AUGUST 2023

For Meals on Wheels delivery during August!

Trinity is responsible for delivering meals to the homebound in our community during August. **A week's worth of boxed meals are delivered once a week on Tuesdays—so deliveries are limited to only one visit per week. Two teams of drivers are still required to make those deliveries. See the sign up sheet posted in the narthex to sign up to deliver in August or to check the date you signed up!

Aug. 1—Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers,
6:00p.m. fellowship hall

Each Thursday in August—MOVIE NIGHT at
Trinity's fellowship hall!, 7-9pm

Aug. 6—Breakfast at Trinity! 8:30-9:15a.m. in the
fellowship hall hosted by the Esther & Ruth
Women's Service Teams

Aug 9—Council of Ministries Meeting, 6pm

Aug 13—Blessing of the Backpack's Sunday!

Aug 15—Men's Group Meets, TBA 6:30pm

Aug. 16—BISD's First Day of Classes



Dear Trinity Family
I Am Impressed and Grateful

First of all, I really like how our community of faith has joy, love and kindness in large measure. Tanya and I love being part of Trinity. It's not perfection that makes the difference, but an intentional determination to have a family resemblance to our Heavenly Father.

Second, "somebody" (actually more than one person, not me) had a hare-brained idea that the pastor's office needed serious refurbishing. It actually did need it. So, Arlene Hamlin was called to the rescue to plan the work. One week a cheerful crew of men came as they were able to install paneling. They were Norman Eubank, Richard Palmer and worker Ross, Hal Switzer, Kevin Hawkins, Keith Morgenroth, Wayne Gosnell and Ray Wolbrecht. I helped out one day. Thanks guys for being generous with your time, energy, tools and know how. The work is not done, but the difference already is night and day. Arlene has blinds and curtains to go up and I will be getting a larger desk (to have more room to make it look like I'm working harder). I am blessed! A good looking office reflects well on Trinity.

Third, Camp Eagle and VBS. What can I say? Two great weeks of ministry! Twenty-one of us went to Camp Eagle. Ashley Finch organized and led our group. Ron, Tyler, and Riley Bigler and I also went as adult sponsors. It was a great way to get to know the youth and adults. Thanks, Ashley, for investing in our youth to raise up the next generation of strong believers.

VBS was phenomenal! 110 kids were registered and, get this, 75 volunteers helped prepare, decorate and make it happen. Thanks for leading Alexis! Thanks, everyone else! So many lives were taught the goodness of God. Jesus was made famous and the Bible was honored as the living Word of God. May the spiritual impact be lifelong.

Harvest Workers New Testament Course

I am very impressed by the number of people who have signed up for the Harvest Workers video-based course on the New Testament, Matthew through Revelation. It requires an internet connection, watching a 30 minute videos on your own each week and some other preparation. Once a week we will meet at church as a "cohort" to discuss that week's video. In fact, we will have two identical sessions, once on Monday morning around 10:30 AM (TBD) and once on Monday evening around 6:00 PM (TBD). There are 36 video lessons, so it will take that many weeks.

Attendees will have an account on a platform called MinistryGrid where you will sign in and access the lessons. I have worked up the list of students with email addresses listed as I will need the right email for each student. Copies of the list will be available on Sundays to verify your information.

Bible Study

For those who would rather jump into the pages of the Bible in a more hands on study, we will begin this after the Harvest Workers course begins. We will meet sometime during the daytime Monday through Thursday. I have to watch how many evenings I commit myself to. If there are too many for one group, it might be that there is someone who is good at leading a group and who is able and willing to lead a Bible study who can lead one group.

Let Me Know

I often have this suspicion that I am not getting all the work done that I should. It's not about being busier. It's about working smarter and getting important things done. If you know I'm forgetting something, please let me know.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Altar Guild in August

Thank you to Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Connie Cox and Rosalind Ellis for their service to the altar and to Sunday worship during the month of July! During the month of August, Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley and Connie Russell will prepare the altar for services.

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 has groups of 3-4 members who serve during the year.

Women's Ministry News

August 6—Sunday Morning Breakfast hosted by the Esther & Ruth Women's Service Teams, 8:30-9:15a.m.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming September Events including:

September 3—Breakfast at Trinity hosted by the Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams, 8:30-9:15a.m.

September 10—Women's Gathering & Lunch, Noon-1pm in the fellowship hall

AUGUST RESPONSIBILITIES

***Please use this handy section to keep track of monthly responsibilities organized by Sunday. Call the office for more information*

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Greeters	Charles & Karla Riley	Wyatt & Ashley Finch	Amy Rust	James & Debbie Caudell
Altar Flowers	Roland & Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Stan & Karen Steiger	In Honor of Kaitlyn's Birthday by David & JoAnne Hesskew	In Memory of Our Parents by Hal & Sandy Switzer
Usher Teams	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
Acolytes	Briley Thomas	Creed Finch	Kacen Haas	Darby Kersten
Lectors	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten	Lacy Lukich	Lacy Lukich
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Norman Eubank	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer
Altar Guild	Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley, Connie Russell			

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL... Trinity's Sunday School will kick-off with the **"Blessing of the Backpacks,"** on **August 13th!** All Students, Parents, Teachers and BHS Staff are invited to receive a backpack tag with scripture and special prayers for another school year. Don't miss it!



STEPHEN MINISTRY—If I am interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or I have questions about Stephen Ministry, what do I do?

If you have a calling to provide care and support to hurting people, becoming a Stephen Minister is one way to live out that calling. It is an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith – a life-transforming experience.

The first step is to prayerfully consider becoming a part of this crucial, caring ministry. Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to help you discern how God might be calling you to ministry.

Then, as an important part of your discernment, contact Pastor David Mayer or any of our TLC Stephen Leaders:

Sandy Switzer
Hal Switzer
Cindy Hawkins
Claudia Smith

They can give you more information, answer questions, and talk to you about the application, interview, and training process.

(Article originally published by Brenda Darkovich for Holy Martyrs Church , Medina OH)

Training to become a Stephen Minister begins in October!—We will host training classes for interested members to become Stephen Ministers on **Monday, October 23rd**. For more information contact Cindy Hawkins or find out more during the month of August, when Stephen Ministry will host Temple Talks about what they do as Stephen Ministers and the upcoming training sessions.

Life Thoughts



Thank You from the SHARE Center

Trinity Lutheran donations in 2023 totaled \$1,719.60—that's up from last year's \$1,696.28 that was raised!! Yay!

I cannot express enough how appreciative we are of Barb Geistfeld and Arlene Hamlin, the Trinity Lutheran family, and Pastor David, for supporting this fundraiser and our efforts here at the SHARE Center.

These funds will allow us to continue providing our free medical care and educational support to anyone experiencing an unplanned pregnancy so that they realize abortion doesn't have to be their only option. Thank you for helping men, women and teens feel empowered to choose life for their children!! We definitely could not do this without you all!

Your sister in Christ,
Kim Barton, *Executive Director*

P.S. If you find a baby bottle from the SHARE Center, please return it to the church office and we will see that it gets back to them to utilize in their mission and ministry. THANK YOU



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Gathered & SENT

As I sit down to write this article, my mind is full of all the last-minute arrangements that are yet to be completed for our 2023 District Gathering in New Braunfels, Texas. Yet as many of you read this, the Gathering itself will already be in the rearview mirror. I am praying for a wonderful Gathering that inspires and empowers God's people to be SENT by Jesus to be his witnesses in the world!

Our theme this year is SENT and is derived from Jesus giving the Great Commission in Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." It is my firm belief that the church is defined by its mission. We do not simply occupy space in this world while consuming resources. We are SENT by Jesus for a mission! The challenge is for each person, and every congregation to discern what that looks like in your day-to-day life in your community and context.

I would like to invite you to take inventory of all the activities that occupy your day-to-day life, both personally as well as for your church. Typically, our lives are filled with those activities that could be broadly categorized in one of three groups: activities required to sustain life, the things that we enjoy, and then everything else! While it may be worth analyzing the stewardship of all three categories, it is this third that needs our greatest attention.

Here we may identify things that we do because of others' expectations, or traditions that simply haven't been broken or updated, and even things that we have no idea why we do them! It is tempting to replace these activities with more things that we enjoy. But I would suggest that we focus instead on pursuing mission, our God-given purpose. This third category ought to be filled with God-directed and empowered activities of purpose connected to what Jesus SENT us to do and be!

For example, churches often adopt patterns of ministry that were designed with a mission to reach their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ generations ago. Many churches still fill their time and expend their energy trying to maintain these same activities that were once integral to the church's mission but stopped being effective decades ago. Sometimes we need to pause and rethink what we are doing and both why and how we are doing it. Is this how Jesus is sending us to be his witnesses to our community today?

I am excited for our Gathering because we gather for a purpose. Just like Jesus' first followers in Acts 1:8, we gather to be encouraged, inspired, empowered... and SENT by Jesus to live with a mission and on purpose in our communities.

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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Trinity Lutheran Church
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AUGUST 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer--Worship: 9:30 AM, (in person in the sanctuary or live-streamed on Facebook)

Sunday School: 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6pm Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, here	2	3 7pm Movie Night at Trinity's fellowship hall	4	5
6 Breakfast at Trinity today! 8:30-9:15am Hosted by Esther & Ruth Teams	7	8	9 6pm Council of Ministries meeting	10 7pm Movie Night at Trinity's fellowship hall	11	12
13 Communion Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday!	14	15 6:30pm Men's Group meets for fellowship, TBA	16 <i>BISD School Year begins!</i>	17 7pm Movie Night at Trinity's fellowship hall	18	19
20	21 Newsletter articles due TODAY!	22	23	24 7pm Movie Night at Trinity's fellowship hall	25	26
27— Communion	28	29	30	31 7pm Movie Night at Trinity's fellowship hall		

Trinity Lutheran Church Council of Ministries

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

Travis Kersten—Worship
Karen Wagner—Evangelism
Norman Eubank—Property
Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sally Anderson—Stewardship

COUNCIL NOTES—from the June 14, 2023 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Travis Kersten, Pastor David Mayer, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Pastor David gave a devotional on Faith Active in Love, with a Martin Luther emphasis. Good works do not save us but flow from God's saving gift of faith. Ephesians 2:1-10. There were no corrections to the Minutes of the May 10, 2023, Council meeting.

The Action Items were discussed. A more concise Church Mission Statement would be one of the items we can address at our Council Retreat perhaps in early Fall. Jerry complimented Pastor on how complete & detailed his input is. A small group to review Church membership has been formed and is planning to meet in the middle of July. Ashley made a motion to accept the Minutes, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report for May 2023. There are still some issues with Paychex's compatibility alongside Quick Books that should be resolved by next month. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of May 25, 2023.

Pastor David submitted his report. He encouraged everyone to feel comfortable bringing concerns to him and letting him know of visitations that are necessary... the sooner the better. New members will be received next Sunday. Three youth are eligible for confirmation instruction, and a discipleship course is being planned for a 9th Grade member or any adult needing to be confirmed. Pastor announced he is going to camp with the Youth, not as a sponsor but as a presence to get to hang out with the kids. Ray Wolbrecht will preach on Sunday, July 2nd when Pastor is at Youth Camp. Pastor is also asking a guest pastor to preach on Sunday, July 30th. The LCMC Annual Gathering will be held July 28th & 29th at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels. Jim & Barb Geistfeld have offered to be delegates for Trinity since Barb is planning to attend anyway as a representative for Lutherans for Life.

Committee Reports—

Youth & Education – Ashley reported that Layla Lukich & Creed Finch painted a wall in the Fellowship Hall. And a new Announcement Board will be hung outside the Youth Room door. Youth Sunday School will resume on Sunday, August 13th. And that will also be the Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday. Youth go to Camp Eagle from June 30-July 4. On Father's Day Sunday the Youth will pass out gifts they have assembled to the men of the Congregation. Laurie Parker has requested the use of a table in the Fellowship Hall for tutoring students in reading on the mornings that her daughter Lainie has Meals on Wheels and will be in the Fellowship Hall already.

Stewardship – Sally had no report to submit. Jerry did report that we had received a thank-you note from The Wellness Fair committee expressing their appreciation to our CMOB men who provided food for the event.

Evangelism – Karen W announced that starting Thursday night Trinity will host a movie night. Sharon Wolbrecht & Cindy Hawkins are organizing this, with the first movie being "God is ..not.. Dead". The men will host breakfast before Worship on Sunday, July 2nd. In reference to after Worship fellowship refreshments, Karen W announced that rather than having a sign-up sheet, she would just call different women in the Women's Group to volunteer bringing food... at least until after VBS. Then the issue will be revisited.

Worship – Travis announced that all with the Ushers is running smoothly. There is no need for Usher Teams at this point. Sheila Mercer has two properly trained substitutes in the Media Ministry...Pam Nabers and Grayson

Culton. Travis said the Job Descriptions were coming along nicely. Ashley announced that Alexis will bring the directory pictures on a USB drive this Sunday, so Angie can get them uploaded to the directory.

Property – Norman presented his report. Highlights: Richard Culpepper has cancelled all his work, so we are now going to use Refrigeration of Texas once a year unless specific needs occur. Our regular lawn mowing person has “retired”, so Norman is looking for someone else. He is relocating bulletin boards in the office hallway. Norman briefly discussed upgrading Pastor’s office. The outside church sign will be updated with current information. Norman has talked to Sally Anderson about helping him do that.

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

Old Business –

The Communion Assistants schedule was completed through September 24th.

New Business –

Council decided that Trinity should continue to support Teen Challenge financially & prayerfully, but not have them give presentations. Perhaps we could invite Chris with Fellowship of Christian Athletes to meet with our youth on Youth Sunday, August 13th.

Regarding the LCMC Gathering held in New Braunfels on July 28 & 29, Travis made a motion to support Jim & Barb Geistfeld as Trinity’s delegates. Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion. Pastor David will make an announcement to the congregation Sunday for anyone else interested in attending the Gathering.

Jerry announced that Trinity was a recipient of a PEC United Charities donation. It was decided to use this money for the youth ministry. The youth Walk-a-Thon raised about \$6,000.00. A discussion of another possible fundraiser took place...to rent parking spaces during next year’s Lavender Festival and/or during the total solar eclipse taking place next April.

Hal has received an inquiry from a woman wanting to put a 7’ by 14’ coffee truck on our property. She would provide her own power & water. Her vehicle would be mobile enough to move when we need our total parking lot space. She needs to have an address before she can apply for the permits, insurance, etc. she needs.

Hal announced that the Investment Committee met on June 8 with our Thrivent advisor. He recommended 6 different bond funds in which to invest our Thrivent money. Upon the approval of the committee, Ray will invest this money in increments each month divided among these 6 money market bond funds, hoping for a 4-5% increase.

A discussion concerning money in the Building Fund checking account at TRB resulted in a decision to transfer some of it to a CD. Hal Switzer made a motion for a set amount to be transferred out of Trinity’s Building Fund at Texas Regional Bank (TRB) to purchase a 6-month CD at TRB. Sheri Riley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Pastor David requested vacation time on Labor Day weekend.

Upcoming events include Men’s Group meeting at Kevin Hawkins house on Tuesday, June 20th. And the men will be preparing breakfast on Sunday, July 2nd.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Travis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with everyone reciting The Lord’s Prayer.