



## Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where:

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

Ministers      All People of Trinity  
Rev. David Mayer

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

### How to Contact Trinity:

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Rev. David Mayer  
Cell: 830-426-9146  
Email: [dtmayer75@yahoo.com](mailto:dtmayer75@yahoo.com)



### October Events at Trinity:

**Oct. 1—Breakfast at Trinity!** Hosted by the Men's Group, 8:30-9:15a.m.

**All Mondays in October (except for Oct. 2!):**  
**Harvest Worker Courses, 10a.m. & 6p.m.,**  
**fellowship hall**

### All Thursdays in October

**--Mom's Morning Bible Study, 8-10a.m. in the**  
**fellowship hall**

**--Movie Night—7-9p.m. will be a free movie**  
**showing in the fellowship hall**

**Oct. 11—Council of Ministries Meeting, 6:00pm**

**Oct. 14—Eclipse Parking & Youth Fundraiser,**  
**7pm, church parking lot**

**Oct. 15—Polka Worship, 9:30a.m.**

**Oct. 17—Men's Group meets for fellowship,**  
**6:30pm, TBA**

**Oct. 21—Youth hosts Community Garage,**  
**Rummage & Craft Sale at north parking lot,**  
**6am-6pm**

**Oct. 23—Stephen Ministry Training begins!**

**Oct. 25—Hall Reserved** by American Legion &  
Wayne Gosnell, 5-9pm

**Oct. 28—Confirmation Class, 8am-1pm** Parents &  
students meet with Pastor, fellowship hall

**Oct. 29—Reformation Sunday, Worship** with Holy  
Communion & **Youth Sunday, 9:30a.m.**  
*No Sunday School Today*  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Lunch at 11:00a.m.**  
**Youth Corn Maze Outing—depart from**  
**church at 11:30a.m. and return around 3p.m.**



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## **Trinity Family,**

### **Pastor's Office**

The first thing that comes to mind that I want to highlight is the Pastor's Office. If you haven't seen it yet, come by and see the finished product. There are so many people who gave a helping hand and a guiding eye. First, thanks to those who remarked that the office needed help. I did not argue. I was directed to Arlene Hamlin who worked up the master plan to sharpen the image. Norman Eubank and Richard Palmer led a group of men who worked on the paneling. Hal Switzer and I drove to San Antonio and picked out a desk and chair. Many people contributed to the finished work. Obviously, I am the recipient of the benefits of the labor, however, it is an office that reflects a look of professional presence. I do feel totally spoiled. Thanks for the love.

### **Harvest Workers New Testament Course and Bible Study**

**Harvest Workers** is still getting off the ground. Many have logged in and have begun to view the material, especially the videos that I made. This course will cover every book of the New Testament. If there is someone who has not been able to get onboard or those who would like to join, please contact me.

I am ready to begin a **Bible Study** that is less structured but digs more into the details of a book of the Bible. I will contact those who have signed up, but if you would like to join this, please contact me.

### **LCMC Annual Gathering**

Our Annual Gathering will be outside of St. Louis, MO, October 1 through 4. I will be here for worship and arrive there Sunday evening and return Wednesday evening. It is good to be connected to the rest of LCMC, to be inspired in mission, enriched by fellowship, and represent our church and District.

### **Praying For Rain**

A small group of pastors and others have been gathering as often as possible on the north side of the Old Courthouse at noon to pray for rain. When we began there was not a cloud in the sky. God has given us partial answers, but we are declaring our dependence on Him for a generous amount of rains that will cause our rivers and creeks to flow, our lakes and tanks to fill up and the ground water to rise, and all that to bring life and hope to people and animals and plants. We trust that what God gives will be safe and not destructive. Jesus said to ask, seek and knock. It honors him to become partners of his kingdom blessing by asking him for the good we need. I know that we are not the only ones who pray for rain.

When we pray, let us remember that we also need the rain of spiritual blessings, guidance and wisdom to live a life that honors and glorifies God.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Dave

**PRAYER TIME**--We need prayer warriors. We need to cover our ministry and people in prayer, as well as many who request God's blessing. I know many pray at home and "without ceasing" in many locations and circumstances; wonderful! However, it is also good to come together with one heart and mind and pray. Prayer time at church will be on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM, beginning October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Trinity's Altar Guild—**

Thank you to Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht, and Cindy Hawkins for their maintenance and preparation of the altar for communion and worship during the month of September!

Serving during the month of October, will be Bonnie Triesch, Tara & Caroline Seymour, Amy Rust, and Jayne Lightfoot. If you are interested in serving Trinity as a member of the Altar Guild, please contact Bonnie Triesch at 210-705-2811.

## **Women's Ministry News—Looking Ahead to the Future**

For the past 6 years, Claudia Smith has revitalized Women's Ministry at Trinity. In September, Claudia announced that she will step down as leader. Under her leadership, the Women of Trinity have met quarterly to plan for service projects, to promote ministries within our walls, and to find new ministries such as the first Sunday of the month breakfasts and the "Trinity Takeaways." One of the many gifts Claudia has given to us has been her tireless efforts to bring the women of Trinity together for support, service, and ministry!

As we look to the last three months of 2023, the search continues to find our next Women's Ministry Leader. What new opportunities are possible for Women's Ministry at Trinity? How will our next leader bring the women of the church together for fellowship and service?

If you are interested in finding out more or have an interest in serving as a leader, please talk with Claudia Smith (830-388-0370) or call Angie Daniels in the church office (830-833-4771).

## Youth News & Upcoming Events

**October 14—Eclipse Parking Fundraiser** Hosted by Trinity Tribe in the church's parking lot. On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> the Hill Country is the perfect spot to enjoy the eclipse of the sun that you've been hearing so much about on the news.

With that in mind, Trinity Tribe will sell parking spaces in Trinity's parking lot for \$20 per vehicle. Concessions will be for sale by the Youth with funds raised benefiting the Youth Campers and their efforts to fund Summer Camp in 2023.

## **October 21<sup>st</sup>—Trinity Tribe Rummage, Craft, and Community Yard Sale and Fundraiser at Trinity's Parking Lot**

Reserve your space at Trinity's parking lot with a \$20 fee and sell your crafts, rummage, and or yard sale items, etc... Trinity Youth will work at the event as well as offer some concessions to raise funds for Summer Camp.

Set up begins at 7am that Saturday morning. By 6pm that day, each vendor must clean up their site—no leftovers or trash allowed.



For more information contact Ashley Finch.

## **October 28<sup>th</sup> –Confirmation Class**

Six youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> have joined confirmation with Pastor Mayer. The youth and a parent or family member will meet on Saturday morning, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00a.m. for a light breakfast, confirmation instruction, and end after lunch at 1:00p.m. We will continue to meet once a month on a Saturday.

**October 29<sup>th</sup> –Corn Maze FUN TRIP!** On the last Sunday of October, all youth are invited to a fun outing to a Corn Maze between Stonewall and Fredericksburg. We will leave the church at 11:30a.m. and siblings and parents are invited to join us. Youth Ministry will pay for entry into the maze, but please have lunch beforehand—**\*NOTE:** There will be a potluck lunch after worship at church on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, so please enjoy lunch before the trip to the Corn Maze!

Plans are to return to the church about 3pm. For more info, contact Ashley Finch, 830-237-6288.

**COMING IN NOVEMBER—Food Race!** *(Details to follow soon!)*

**SUMMER CAMP IN 2024 SET FOR JUNE 21-25—Mark Your Calendars!**

**News From Your Council of Ministries**

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

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

### **Notes from the August 9, 2023 Council of Ministries Meeting**

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Council members present were Sally Anderson, Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Travis Kersten, Pastor David Mayer, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, and Karen Wagner. Pastor David's devotional "Is it ok for us to pray for ourselves?" was based on Psalm 67. When we pray for God to bless us and then praise Him for those blessings, that allows His ways to be made known on the earth and His salvation to be given among all nations.

The Minutes of the July 12, 2023, Council meeting were amended. Sheri made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended, and Travis seconded the motion. The Council members voted to approve the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report for July 2023, and Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of July 25, 2023.

Pastor David submitted his report and discussed it in detail. A Membership Committee consisting of Pastor, Hal Switzer, Angie Daniels, Karla Riley, and Karen Wagner was formed to review the Trinity family and to have a current Voting Member list available. Pastor announced plans for a Confirmation Class. A 2-day Global Leadership Summit is in the planning stages for next August. Pastor would like to buy 10+ registrations at the super early bird rate by August 11<sup>th</sup>, then perhaps having the Chicago event livestreamed at Trinity. Travis made a motion to allow Pastor to purchase Global Leadership Summit tickets out of his cellphone budget. Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. Jim & Barb Geistfeld, Jim Clifton, Leta Garcia, and Pastor & Tanya represented Trinity at the LCMC Texas District Annual Gathering which was held July 28-29 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

--Youth and Education – Ashley announced that next year's VBS theme will be 'Jungle Cruise Through the Amazon'. She is looking into next year's Camp taking on a different form in that TLC would rent a retreat-type house and formulate its own curriculum & teaching. She also announced that this Sunday, August 13 would be a VBS closet cleanup time; as well as, starting Children's Sunday School and the Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday for all students returning to school. The Community Youth Garage Sale is tentatively set for Saturday, October 21.

--Stewardship – Sally is moving forward to establish goals & a clear purpose by planning a meeting with Pastor David and Wayne Gosnell; then using the Church Constitution to outline specific responsibilities. It was suggested that she have several people on her committee to help with these responsibilities. Sally had received thank-you notes from The Blanco County Child Protective Services, Ethnomedia, and Adult & Teen Challenge.

--Evangelism – Karen W reported that the Fellowship Refreshments sign-up is filled for the next 6 weeks, and the breakfast on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> was a success. Claudia Smith is back, and she & Angie are making plans for a Women's Group meeting.

--Worship – Travis reported that all is going well. He reminded us that Chris with the Blanco FCA will give a Temple Talk this Sunday at the beginning of the worship service. Sheila Mercer, as Media Director, is responsible for maintaining & updating TLC's website, TLC's Facebook page, and operations in the Media Room.

--Property – Norman submitted his report. Quite a few maintenance items were dealt with, mostly involving water leaks. Please refer to his report for the details. Most of the work on Pastor's office renovation is complete. A security mirror for the hall is still on backorder and an underground leak is yet to be found. Pastor David complimented Norman on his availability and willingness to tackle any problem or issue that occurs. Congrats on a job well done as Property Manager!

Travis made a motion to accept all the Committee Reports and Sheri seconded the motion. The Council members approved the motion.

#### **Old Business:**

– The Communion Assistants schedule was updated.

- No update on the pictures for the Church Directory.
- A discussion of the Church Membership lists took place, and at some future date it will be necessary to approve a Voting Member List.
- Jerry gave an update on the Thrivent Investments.
- The Coffee Truck per last Council meeting is moving forward pending Briana Grenshaw's getting city permits.
- The 2030 Church Revitalization handout should be read and reviewed before the Council Retreat on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

– Hal will appoint a Nominating Committee for filling the 3 Council positions that expire this year. It was decided to have 3 positions to be voted on each year. Expiring offices for 2024 are Vice-President, Financial Secretary, and Property Manager. Hal also chooses the Budget Committee to formulate the Budget for 2024, which will be approved by the Congregation during the Congregational Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of January 2024.

-- The Church Council retreat will be on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 1:00pm with lunch provided...specifics will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Travis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

## **OCTOBER 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. Call the office for more information*



	<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>Oct 15</b>	<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Oct 29</b>
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	OPEN	David & JoAnne Hesskew	OPEN	Travis & Kathy Kersten	OPEN
<b>Usher Teams</b>	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	Briley Thomas	Kacen Haas	TBA	Creed Finch
<b>Greeters</b>	OPEN	Jon Brones	Ray & Sharon Wolbrecht	Ron & Tami Bigler	Trinity Youth
<b>Lector</b>	Alexis Pawelek	Arlene Hamlin	Kathy Kersten	Lacy Lukich	Keith Morgenroth
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<i>No communion</i>	Sheri Riley	<i>No communion</i>	Sally Anderson	Ron Bigler
<b>Altar Guild</b>		<b>In October:</b>	Bonnie Triesch, Tara & Caroline Seymour, Amy Rust, Jayne Lightfoot		

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## OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor: Rev. David Mayer -- **Worship: 9:30 AM, Sunday School: 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>8:30-9:15 BREAKFAST!</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>11am Sunday School</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Pastor attends LCMC National Convention</i> <i>No Harvest Worker Courses today</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Pastor attends LCMC National Convention</i>  6pm Barnabas Time	<b>4</b> <i>Pastor returns from LCMC Convention</i>	<b>5</b> <u>Secretary Out of the Office 10/5-10/9</u> 8-10am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall 7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Brones/Pyles Wedding, sanctuary
<b>8 Communion</b> <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>11am Sunday School</b>	<b>9</b> <u>Secretary Out of the Office 10/5-10/9</u> Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  6:00pm Council of Ministries meeting	<b>12</b> 8-10am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall  7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  7pm Eclipse Parking Fundraiser for Youth, parking lot
<b>15</b> <b>Polka Worship, 9:30am</b> <b>11am Sunday School</b>  <b>Noon, Women's Gathering &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>16</b> Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Men's Group meets for fellowship, TBA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8-10am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall  7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6am-6pm Youth Garage, Rummage & Craft Sale in the parking lot
<b>22 Communion</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>11am Sunday School</b>	<b>23</b> Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm <u>Stephen Ministry Training begins</u>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8-10am Mom's Bible Study, fellowship hall  7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8am-Noon, Confirmation Class, here
<b>29--Reformation Day</b> <b>Communion</b> <i>No Sunday School</i> <b>Potluck Lunch</b> at 11am, here <b>Youth Corn Maze Trip, 11:30am-3pm</b>	<b>30</b> Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	<b>31</b>				





# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## Lord, Open Our Eyes!

Have you ever found yourself reading a familiar Bible story when suddenly you are struck with a revelation? Isn't it a joy to read and receive Good News in fresh ways?!?

Recently I was reading Matthew 20 and read once again the story of Jesus healing two blind men along the road outside of Jericho. Jesus performed so many miracles and healings that we are prone to sometimes gloss over them and miss the magnitude of what is happening. Compared to his many other miracles, this one can seem mundane.

In this particular story, the two blind men had heard that Jesus was going to be passing by on the road. So, they began crying out to Jesus: "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" While the crowds sought to shush them, the blind men were persistent in their cries. Hearing their persistence, Jesus calls out to the blind men, "What do you want me to do?" The men replied "Lord, open our eyes." Jesus healed their sight and immediately they followed Jesus.

I wonder how much spiritual blindness we suffer from and simply have not had the faith, wisdom, or courage to cry out with any persistence "Lord, have mercy" to our miracle-working, sight-giving Lord. All too often we endure a less than abundant, faith-filled life, unable to see God and his activity in the world in order to both delight and participate in it.

All around our District I meet devoted church members and leaders who earnestly desire the church to be healthy, strong, and often return to a day of former vitality. Yet I am convinced more than ever that the journey of following Jesus includes the courage of blind men and women crying out to Jesus, "Lord, have mercy on us!" And when the pressures from within the church and out in the world both conspire to silence the faithful pleas for mercy, we are called to persist with an expectant, hopeful faith.

I believe that Jesus will hear the cries of the faithful. When he asks, "What do you want me to do?" I pray that we can have the simple and pure faith to ask for vision: "Lord, open our eyes." Open our eyes to see you for who you are... to see ourselves for who we are... to see your kingdom... to see our neighbors... to see the least, and the lost, and the left out. Jesus is faithful and will answer that prayer and give new vision.

Just imagine the life-giving renewal that Jesus could usher in through humble, honest, and faithful congregations following Jesus into their future with clarity of vision and purpose!

*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org).*

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