



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!! *Church Office Closed*
- Jan. 2—Church office re-opens, 9am-1pm
Meals on Wheels Delivery Begins Today!
- Jan. 8—Rotary Meeting, Noon, fellowship hall
- Jan. 11—Pastor’s Bible Study, 11am
**Continues each Thursday after*
- Jan. 15—Harvest Workers Class, 10am & 6pm
**Continues each Monday after*
- Jan. 16—Men’s Group meets for fellowship, TBA
- Jan. 17—Council of Ministries Meeting,
6:00pm, fellowship hall
- Jan. 20—Confirmation Class, 8:30-1pm, hall
Stephen Ministries Retreat, 8:30am-4pm,
Trinity’s old kitchen
Hall Reserved by Sophie Johnson, 3-6pm
- Jan. 21—Installation of Council Officers, 9:30am
Annual Congregational Meeting,
In the sanctuary immediately after services
to review 2023 events and approve the 2024
Budget
- Jan. 28—Sunday Worship, 9:30a.m.
Women’s Gathering & Lunch, Noon

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY:
Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday Services on
February 14th, 6:00p.m.

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
Pastor David Mayer

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

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Dear Family in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Since this newsletter comes to you before Christmas, I want to take this opportunity to send our Christmas blessings and good cheer. It is our privilege and joy to be part of the Trinity family. Thank you for your love! From Tanya and me.

Looking Forward from 2024 to 2030

On November 11 our Council met in retreat. It was good to meet when we were not taking care of regular business, and instead looked at Trinity Lutheran Blanco strategically. The basis of our conversation and study was a document called "The Church of 2030 Looks Very Different...And That Future Is Bright.

Before they give what is hopeful, they paint some sobering realities:

- The churches in the United States, in many places are becoming smaller and many are shutting down; church is not the obvious place for Americans to go for faith, fellowship and purpose as they were in the 1950s and 1960s
- Count the numbers in a congregation of those who are 50 and under on a given Sunday

The point is not to beat ourselves over the head and say it is hopeless or "poor me." But to recognize that we have a condition and a challenge that we can do something about, and need to do something about if Trinity Blanco will be alive and thriving in 2030.

The most telling reality is the number of adults who are active or somewhat active:

- 20s - 5
- 30s - 5
- 40s - 5
- 50s - 19
- 60s - 35
- 70s - 37
- 80-90s - 8

This was done with some estimation on my part of the ages of members, but it is close enough to get the main idea across. Our strength is in seasoned Christians who have a wealth of life and faith experiences, who are steadfast, and who have much to offer to younger generations. Our challenge is to reach younger generations and new people of any generation.

The following are general descriptions of traditional churches today:

- Churches are focused on making members, volunteers, listeners, attenders but not disciples
- The lives of people inside the church are not much different from those outside the church
- Pastors were taught to do typical pastoral duties, but few were taught how to invest in discipling and mentoring people around the Word of God
- Congregational cultures tended to center around a personality, politics or programs, seldom discipleship
- Church scorecards tend to be focused on lagging indicators (giving and attendance), a reflection of where the church is and not the activities that make a church thrive.

What will it take?

- The one thing that has made the most shift toward a vibrant church is relational discipleship; a disciple making disciples by investing in and doing life with others
- The people of God doing ministry: praying, caring, inviting people, sharing the faith
- Investing in one's community
- Being a friend to sinners

The numbers are sobering and simple math will tell us that if we don't do anything differently, in five to 10 years, we will be really hurting. However, the situation doesn't frighten me because we can see the challenge and we have time to do something about it.

We will be working on these issues this coming year. We are determined to not wait until 2030 and be victim to trends. We are alive, we are people of faith, we love our church and we love the Lord. He has given us a mission and it is not about us, but about His kingdom and the people He wants in it. By His help and guidance we will partner with Him to make a congregation that will be alive, thriving and multiplying until Jesus comes again.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE! Each Sunday you can connect with Trinity and join in live streaming worship from the sanctuary by going to Face Book at "Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, Texas." Sheila Mercer, Media Director, records and sets up those live streams each Sunday. Past recorded services are also available to view on our website www.trinityofblanco.com, under the sermons tab. Unplanned technology glitches may still occur occasionally, but we do our best to avoid them.

Altar Guild News—Thank you to Jan Gass, Leta Garcia, Martha Gosnell, Christine Bushong...and extra helpers for preparing the altar during the month of December. On duty during the month of January will be Ashley Finch, Sandy Switzer, and Karen Steiger. 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 2024 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. If payment is made through the church, please mark your envelope with "altar flowers" before dropping it in the offering basket. The cost of 2 altar arrangements plus delivery is now \$95.00, but members may bring their own arrangements. Please coordinate with the Altar Team on duty or the church office to be sure the flowers are here when the altar is set up. Thank you!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Jan. 21st immediately following worship in the sanctuary to review 2023 and approve 2024 Budget.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET are available in the narthex for members to review prior to the January 21, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting. Pick up your copy on Sunday morning or during church office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm. A copy of the proposed 2024 budget will also be included in the Annual Report, distributed on January 14, 2023, the Sunday before the Annual Congregational Meeting on the following Sunday, January 21.

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Dear Trinity Tribe,

Thank you for my basket of pudding, Jello, a puzzle and other stuff. It was very nice to have after my dental surgery.

Love, Briley Thomas

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

Dear Trinity Tribe Friends,

The Blanco Good Samaritan Center would like to extend a sincere Thank You for your most recent donation to our Food Pantry. WOW! What a generous donation—we were delighted to distribute the 8 boxes of canned food items from your Scavenger Hunt (held Nov. 12th) as part of our regular November food distributions.

This is the time of the year when most of us are getting ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Perhaps our friends at the Trinity Tribe are getting ready for a few weeks off from school! During such a busy time, it's easy to lose track of the less fortunate among us. But you haven't forgotten them. That's why your donation during this time of year is so important to us.

Thank you again for helping us help others.

Sincerely,

Debbie Andry, Food Pantry Coordinator, Blanco Good Samaritan Center

Nov. 25, 2023



BLESSINGS PROJECT (AKA: Angel Tree) 2023! With your help we were able to bring Christmas to 32 children from 10 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!

Trinity Tribe Youth assisted in collecting, wrapping, and labeling all those gifts with the help of many members of the congregation. On Sunday, December 17th beginning right after services, volunteers wrapped gifts for the families.

Many thanks to Ashley for her diligence in organizing and coordinating the event! **Merry Christmas!**

Sunday School News:

Children's Sunday School Returns in January! During the school Christmas break we will not have Sunday School for children, but will return to class on January 7th. 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.)

News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President	Travis Kersten—Worship
Hal Switzer—Vice-President	Karen Wagner—Evangelism
Karen Steiger—Secretary	Norman Eubank—Property
Medora Beckmann—Treasurer	Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary	Sally Anderson—Stewardship

COUNCIL NOTES—from the November 8, 2023 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:11pm. Council members present were Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Pastor David Mayer, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Pastor David gave a devotional on ... “What should love look like as we reflect God’s glory as His redeemed people?” How would our relationships be different living as God’s children? How do we lead Trinity as Council members reflecting this true love?

The October 18th Council Meeting Minutes had no corrections except in Pastor’s report he conducted a wedding in Porter, not Portland. Karen S thanked Ashley for taking those Minutes in her absence. Norman Eubank made a motion to accept the Minutes, Hal Switzer seconded the motion, and the Council members voted to approve the motion.

In Sheri’s absence, Jerry gave the Financial Report through October 2023, and Medora gave the Treasurer’s Report as of October 25, 2023. Pastor David submitted his report. The Genesis Bible Study is underway on Thursday mornings at 11:00am, and Harvest Workers Bible Study continues to meet on Mondays at 10:00am and 6:00pm. The Blanco Ministerial Alliance is organizing the Community Thanksgiving Meal, which Trinity will host this year on November 19th at 6:00pm. Pastor requested additional vacation time to be added to the week between Christmas and New Year, so his vacation will be December 26th – January 9th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

--Youth and Education – Ashley reported that the Rummage Sale was a success. The 5th Quarter Event was fun. The Youth’s Great Food Race will take place this Sunday. Two teams go door to door collecting nonperishable food items to restock the Food Pantry at The Good Samaritan Center. Ashley has received the names for the Angel Tree, which is one of the Youth’s Christmas projects. They will also be selling water bottles with the Trinity Logo. The end of season Blanco Middle School pizza party will be held at Trinity on Friday, November 10th.

--Stewardship – There were 3 thank you letters. LFL, ILT, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

--Evangelism – Karen W. reported that the 5th Sunday potluck was well attended. After careful discussion Council agreed to limit the crosses in the Fellowship Hall to memorials of Church members and those that have an affiliation with Trinity membership. Karen W. reported that in addition to hosting the Community Thanksgiving dinner, Trinity will be providing the turkey, gravy, and stuffing.

--Worship – Travis left his report with Ashley. Leta Garcia (pianist) is back, and all other areas are good.

--Property – Norman distributed his handout. In addition to regular maintenance items, he reported that the electric wiring in Pastor’s office was rerouted, and a revised electrical outlet is needed. The outside sign is on hold pending Worship & Sunday School times needing to be added. The damaged ice machine cabinet will be dealt with as soon as Norman receives estimates.

Ashley made a motion to accept all the Committee reports and Karen W seconded the motion. The Council members voted to approve the motion.

Old Business –

The Communion Assistants Schedule was completed through January 28, 2024. Jerry reminded everyone that the Council Retreat is this Saturday, November 11th from noon – 3:00pm. The Coffee Truck’s 30-day permit ends next Tuesday, November 14th. She has been in operation since October 14th. The port-a-potty will be taken away, and Brianna will have access to Trinity’s restroom on a temporary basis while she comes up with a permanent solution. Brianna will appear before the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 14th to have her permit renewed. The Congregational Meeting is this Sunday, November 12th, following the Worship service to elect the 3 Council

members whose terms are expiring. According to the Nomination Committee, there are no oppositions as of now. During the meeting there will be opportunities to nominate others. The proposed 2024 Budget will be available to Council members before the Congregation sees it starting three Sundays prior to The Congregational meeting on January 21, 2024, where members will then vote to approve it.

New Business – The Holiday schedule will reflect the Church Office closure between Christmas and New Year. The Christmas Eve (Sunday) service will be at 5:00pm, and the regular Worship service will be that morning at 9:30am.

Upcoming events include Harvest Workers on Mondays, Genesis Bible Study on Thursdays, Movie night on Thursdays (but not next week), and Confirmation Class on Saturday, November 18th. Hal made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm with everyone reciting The Lord’s Prayer.

HAVE YOU NOTICED the “Coffia Shop,” a trailer parked Trinity’s north parking lot? The small food/drink trailer owned and operated by Breanna Crenshaw, serves coffee, smoothies and other healthy food items. Fees from the rental of this space benefit Trinity’s Youth Ministry and Evangelism. Stop by for a treat and say “Hi”!

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 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Altar Flowers	Bonnie Triesch	Mike & Sally Anderson	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
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
Worship Asst.	Barbara Geistfeld	Cindy Hawkins	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Geistfeld
Acolytes	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	Creed Finch	Briley Thomas
Greeters	Llano & Lynda Baumgartner	Stan & Karen Steiger	Paul & Lisa Granberg	Steven & Sharee Aery
Lectors	Arlene Hamlin	Alexis Pawelek	Kathy Kersten	Mary Jo Pfeiffer
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer	<i>No communion</i>	Norman Eubank
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 Gathering January 28th!

During December, two wonderful ladies agreed to co-lead Women's Ministry in 2024—Sandy Switzer and Mary Jo Pfeiffer! They have set our first Gathering of 2024 for Sunday, January 28 at Noon in the fellowship hall. A delicious lunch of gumbo will be provided as we gather for fellowship, fun and a new year!

The most important part of Women's Ministry at Trinity is YOU, and we need YOUR input as we move forward. We invite ALL ladies to attend the gathering to share their ideas on what is working, what's not, and what their hopes and plans are for our future at Trinity and in our community!

A survey will be prepared for the January 28 Gathering to discuss with the ladies present. For those that aren't able to attend that gathering, we will reach out to you to share the survey and receive your input.

Breakfast At Trinity Continues in 2024—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 are hosted by the Women's Service Teams and the Men's Group of Trinity in a monthly rotation. Between 30 & 50 participants attend the breakfasts before church services in the fellowship hall on the first Sunday of each month.

The first Breakfast at Trinity for 2024 will be **January 7th from 8:30-9:15a.m.** and will be hosted by the Men's Group. Below is the schedule for the remaining breakfasts and the scheduled hosts:

February 4	Esther & Ruth Women's Teams
March 3	Hannah & Deborah Women's Teams
April 7	Men's Group
May 5	Esther & Ruth Women's Teams
June 2	Hannah & Deborah Women's Teams
July 7	Men's Group
August 4	Esther & Ruth Women's Teams
September 1	Hannah & Esther Women's Teams
October 6	Men's Group
November 3	Esther & Ruth Women's Teams
December 1	Hannah & Deborah Women's Teams

Thank you for the "Over 80's" Christmas bags! Bobby really needed the skin lotion as his arms and hands get really dry. He also enjoyed the cheesecake bites and shared them with his buddies at the home. I enjoyed everything, especially the skin lotion that says "restores dry skin for a youthful look!"

Thank you so much, Judy & Bobby Brewer

MEMORIALS IN DECEMBER

In Memory of Roy & Birdie Bruemmer, Laura Nieman, Jo Wicker and Paul Gosnell

By Norman & Barbara Eubank

Memorials or Honorariums may be given to the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, Building Fund and/or Scholarship Fund at any time and for any occasion. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Trinity Lutheran Church
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JANUARY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer--Worship: 9:30 AM, Fellowship Time: 10:30AM, Sunday School: 11:00 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! <i>Church office closed</i>	2 <i>9am-1pm, Church Office re-opens Meals on Wheels TODAY!</i>	3	4 <i>No Bible Study with Pastor today</i>	5	6
7 <i>Breakfast at Trinity! 8:30-9:15a.m., hosted by Men's Group</i>	8 <i>No Harvest Workers class today</i>	9 <i>10:30am MOW delivery today!</i>	10	11 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	12	13
14-communion	15 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	16 <i>10:30am MOW delivery today! Men's Group meets for fellowship</i>	17 6:00pm Council Meeting	18 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	19	20 8am-1pm Confirmation Class Stephen Ministry Training Retreat, 8:30-4pm, old kitchen 3-6pm Fellowship hall reserved
21 Council Officers Installed 10:45am Annual Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary	22 Newsletter articles due TODAY! 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	23 <i>10:30am MOW delivery today!</i> TBD Barnabas Time, here	24	25 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	26	27
28 —communion Noon Women's Ministry Gathering & Lunch	29 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	30 <i>10:30am MOW delivery today!</i>	31			



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



2024... Call to Prayer

For more than a decade, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) has invited members of congregations to engage in an intentional period of prayer at the beginning of each year. Known as “Three Days of Prayer”, former LCMC Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig established this annual practice to draw our collective attention back to the throne of grace. He boldly shared his conviction that “the church of Jesus Christ will never rise up until it first falls on its knees.”

Once again, the call goes out to you and to me. On January 2-4, 2024, we are invited as the body of Christ to follow our Lord Jesus’ example to pray, pray, and pray some more! And if you are reading this message after those specific dates, please set aside your own three days of prayer. There’s nothing special about the particular days themselves, other than it is an annual reminder to set aside an intentional time for focused prayer.

While we do not need set formulas or pre-written prayers to direct us as we pray, some may find it helpful to prepare prayer guides to focus their time. Consider organizing your thoughts with a list of prayer topics. I would encourage you to set aside specific times of day in which you pause, center yourself before God, and offer your prayers in Jesus’ name. For some, the historic practice of pausing for prayer every third hour is a helpful pattern. For others, a morning and evening routine of extended prayer time is more fitting. Still others will gather in groups with their church for a time of corporate prayer on each of the three days. Another idea is to organize a round-the-clock prayer vigil for 72 hours of continuous prayer.

The point is this: *how* we pray is not nearly as important as it is *that* we pray. The same can be said regarding what we pray for. First and foremost, give to God in prayer all that is on your heart and mind. Ask for God to guide you as you pray through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what to pray for. We trust as the Apostle Paul teaches in Romans 8 that the Holy Spirit will indeed intercede for us when our own words run out.

Our LCMC staff has developed a helpful prayer guide filled with ideas and resources. You can find it at www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer. This year, we are invited to pray for our congregations and leaders, for those who do not yet know Jesus, and for the church around the world, especially our international mission partners. I would also ask that we remember to pray for the raising up and sending out of future ministry leaders. In Matthew 9, Jesus says, “*The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest.*” We have so much for which to pray. As we begin a new year, I pray that we may see God move in and through his church. Let it start with you and me on our knees.

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. © 2023 Bryce J. Formwalt, All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission. January 2024

Life Thoughts

If.....then

Lutherans have a pretty good handle on the delicate balance between law and gospel; between the gift of eternal life found in the gospel and the doing of good works in response to that gift; between guidance from the indwelling Holy Spirit and our free will. Ephesians 2: 10 affirms that *God created us in Christ Jesus (grace) to do good works* (our “assignment” if you will), *which God prepared in advance for us to do*. In John 15:16 Jesus tells His disciples, “You did not choose me, but *I chose you* (grace) and appointed you so that you might go and *bear fruit*—fruit that will last...” Again, grace is entwined with our assignment to do good works.

Many other New Testament scriptures also exhort us to do good works:

“...let your light shine before others, that they may *see your good deeds and glorify your Father* in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

“They are to do good, to *be rich in good works*, to be generous and ready to share...” | Timothy 6:18

“...so that those who have believed in God may be careful to *devote themselves to good works*”. Titus 3:8

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and *good works*...”. Hebrews 10:24

And finally, the text that so concerned Dr. Martin Luther, “What good is it, my brothers, *if* someone says he has faith *but* does not have works? Can that faith save him?” James 2:14

Ahh! Here we find that little word “if.” Let us examine this tiny word more carefully. The word “if” appears in the Bible several *thousand* times, both in the old and new testaments. Webster’s Dictionary defines the word “if” as a word “*introducing a conditional clause*”. “**If** this happens, **then** this happens”. Why does this matter? Because Jesus used this conditional word “if” over and over again. It must, therefore, be very important for us to comprehend the context and His meaning.

“**If** you love me, [**then**] you will keep my commandments. John 14:15

“Jesus answered him, ‘**If** anyone loves me, [**then**] he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him’”. John 14:23

“**If** anyone does not abide in me [**then**] he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned... **If** you abide in me, and my words abide in you, [**then**] ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you...**If** you keep my commandments, [**then**] you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. John 15:6,7,10

Jesus is appealing to us to remain in Him by the power of the Holy Spirit given to us in our baptism. He tells us that the promises of God are *always* there, and they will benefit us substantially if we love Him, if we abide in Him, and if we keep our eyes fixed on Him as the Holy Spirit indeed leads and enables us to do. **If** we do not love Him or abide in Him, **then** it is to our own detriment. Jesus calls us to live in a constant state of repentance, prayer, and trust, again, possible only by the strength of the Holy Spirit in us. He is surely telling us openly and clearly that **if** we do not remain in Him, **then** there are serious spiritual consequences. Is He saying this to frighten us? Not at all. Jesus says this because He loves us! He loves us so much that He gave His life for each one of us. He *knows* the consequences of us losing our desire to remain in Him. He *knows* the “ifs” and “thens”.

The scriptures call us to submit our will--this free will given to us by God—to God our Father. A constant struggle, is it not? “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you”. James 4: 7-8

May each of us continue to rest in the power of the Holy Spirit so that He might soften our wills and give us the desire and the strength to love Jesus, to abide in Him, and to walk with Him as we continue to do the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do.

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld