



April at Trinity:

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
Parish Administrator Angie Daniels

How to Contact Trinity:

- P.O. Box 487,
703 North Main Street,
Blanco 78606
- Office: 830-833-4771
- Fax: 830-833-1381
- Email: trinityblanco@gvtc.com
- Website: www.trinityofblanco.com
- Rev. David Mayer
dtmayer75@yahoo.com
830-426-9146

 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
L♥VE US IN PERSON

Mondays in April—Harvest Workers Bible Study at 10am or 6pm with Pastor on April 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th. (*No class on April 8!*)

Thursdays in April:
--**Pastor's Bible Study**, 11am in the fellowship hall (*No class on April 11!*)
--**"Chosen" video series, Season 4**, 7pm
Popcorn provided!

April 5—Confirmation Practice, 4pm in the sanctuary

April 7—Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15am hosted by Men's Group
Sunday Worship & Confirmation Sunday for 6 Youth! 9:30am
Reception for Confirmands at 11am
No Sunday School Today

April 8—Church Office Closed today
Pastor on vacation this week
Eclipse Parking Fundraiser by Youth today in Trinity's parking lot

April 13—Ecumenical Men's Breakfast at Trinity, 7-11am at Trinity's fellowship hall

April 16—Co-Apt Wellness Fair, 4-6pm
Men's Group to serve hot dogs
Council Meeting, 6:30pm

April 17—Trinity Takeaways Cooking, fellowship hall kitchen at 9:30am
Ladies Game Day at Trinity, Noon-2pm
Men's Group meets for fellowship, TBA, 6:30pm

April 21—Life Sunday observed at worship
Women's Ministry Potluck Lunch & Gathering, Noon-1pm, fellowship hall

Trinity Family,

Confirmation Over! Over?

We will celebrate the faith testimony on April 7th! This brings together two things that are together in Scripture: faith and baptism. The free gift of salvation offered in baptism and the faith in the One who saves. It is not that there has been no faith up until Confirmation. It is that six of our youth will make a public proclamation of faith. "For if you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Our Confirmands will graduate, right? Wrong! They will be finished with our fun and productive gatherings we have had on Saturday mornings, but they will be beginning their journey as intentional disciples of Jesus. Since they will profess their faith all their future participation decisions will be theirs to make right? If you, parents and sponsors, will no longer feed them or provide housing and guidance on their way to maturity, then yes, you could make a case for it. If not, then you will know that the faith they express is like a tender plant planted in the garden. That plant needs fertilizer, watering, weeding and care so that their faith will not die, but grow through the love and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Congratulations and blessings to our six confirmands: Carson Cooley, Briley Thomas, Darby Kersten, Skylar Finch, Layla Lukich and Creed Finch. I am proud of you and want to say that I had a great time with you during Confirmation class. I was also blessed to have parents, sponsors or grandparents who were part of our adventure. Thanks!

Contemporary Worship Service

Trinity Lutheran Church has the happy problem of bumping up against the limits of our growth potential based on space. We know that growth means we are alive and that what we are doing and what we are as church attracts unchurched to Jesus and the fellowship of faith. The plan is for us to begin a second worship service, and one that is contemporary in style.

Since a contemporary worship service will involve guitars and such instruments, we need to "shake the instrument players out of the trees" or attract those who are not yet part of our family to join us. We should not think that an undertaking like this is all about human planning and gifts. Part of what needs to be worked out is a time for the service on Sunday morning. Council has mentioned possibly moving our 9:30 service to 9:00 AM. Sunday school could then be at 10:15 AM, and the second service could be at 11:15 or 11:30 AM. Since we can't control who will attend the contemporary service, there will be a natural feeling of loss when some of our people will attend the second service. Two responses: one, we can reconnect, if it is important to us, during the Sunday school hour, and two, we have to keep in mind that the second service is an act of faithfulness to the Great Commission. We need to reach the next generations and people who are more comfortable with a contemporary style. Therefore, we need to be in prayer for God's blessing and leading and protection. I think this is an amazing adventure for the Kingdom of God. We will begin small to get our feet wet, to develop our style and to draw musicians together. Keep an eye out for a meeting on April 17th for a gathering of those interested in this. And again, let us pray!

Emmaus Men's Walk

I am on the Men's Walk as one of the clergy on May 16 - 19. We are looking for men to join us. If you have been on a Walk and can sponsor someone, let me know.

Global Leadership Summit

We will have a live feed of the Summit on August 8 & 9. We have registrations paid for, for both students and adults. I'd like to start signing people up to fill up our open spots.

Membership Class And Process

If you are interested in membership, please contact me to start the process: meet with pastor, present names to Council and then receive you as members. It is great to have people join us in this committed relationship.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Dave

Lenten Suppers Well Attended in 2024!

Trinity's Men's Group, the Christian Men of Blanco (CMOB) provided the Lenten meal for the congregation on Wednesday, February 28th. Charles Riley showed the mob how to make homemade spaghetti (actually, Charles made the spaghetti with Cooper's help while everyone else watched). With the rest of the mob helping with other tasks, a delicious meal was enjoyed by all!



✝ - ✝ - ✝

Some 85 men from Blanco County and the surrounding areas gathered on Saturday, March 9th for the monthly Blanco County Ecumenical Christian Men's Breakfast. Held this month at St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church in Blanco, the speaker was Father Jim Harnan from Ireland, formerly the resident priest at St. Ferdinand's. He lamented the often passive nature of Christian churches today and challenged the men to be active disciples of Christ, carrying

the gospel into the wider community and serving those in need.



The next Men's Breakfast will be at 8 am, Saturday, April 13th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Blanco.

Blanco CoAPT's Annual Safe & Drug-free Wellness Fair—April 16th

Trinity's Christian Men of Blanco (CMOB) will again cook and serve chili dogs at the 2024 CoAPT event, held April 16th from 4-6pm at the Blanco High School Cafeteria. The community-wide event features almost 40 area organizations and provides 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.

Women's News for April—

THANK YOU TEAMS ESTHER & HANNAH! On Saturday, March 9, Trinity Lutheran Church Women's Service Teams Esther and Hannah prepared and served a luncheon following the funeral services for June Jennings. About 70 friends and family attended the luncheon. Thank you to everyone who donated food for the lunch, assisted with set-up, serving, and/or clean-up afterwards! Without your help we could not have been able to provide such a wonderful, well-received luncheon.

Important Dates:

Monday, April 15th—If you would like a Women's Team T-Shirt, we will place an order in early April for more shirts in the colors of the 4 service teams. For more information, contact Barbara Eubank at 713-206-6518 or call Angie Daniels in the church office 830-833-4771.

Wednesday, April 17:

--Trinity Takeaway cooking session 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Just show up if you can come! We're always looking for new recipes to consider that can be prepared and frozen in gallon bags. For more information or to suggest recipes, contact Mary Jo at 210-213-7615 or maryjopfeiffer@gmail.com.

--Ladies Game Day! Bring your favorite card games, board games, etc., as well as your lunch, beverages, or snacks to the Fellowship Hall starting at Noon. We'll play and fellowship until 2:00pm. Just come when you can and stay as long as you can, sharing time with your Trinity sisters.

Sunday, April 21, Quarterly Women's Gathering at noon (or as soon as possible after Sunday School). As suggested at the January meeting, this will be a Potluck. Please bring whatever you would like to share for lunch. We'll share information and ideas gathered from the 2024 surveys. We'll also have the opportunity to gather more information about what our ladies would like to see and do for and with Trinity. Hope all of our ladies can join us.

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.

At this time, we have a good supply of prayer shawls, but will always accept more! If you would like to create a prayer shawl and donate it to the ministry, please bring it to the church office or for more information or instructions on how to create a shawl, contact Brenda Moore at 512-550-2281.

REMEMBER TRINITY'S HOMEBOUND—We remind everyone to share the good news 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 greetings and to remind them that their Trinity family continues to lift them in prayer.

Altar Guild News—

On duty for the month of April will be Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht and Cindy Hawkins. Thank you to Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley, and Connie Russell for their service during the month of March setting up the altar for worship and Mid-Week, Holy Week, and Easter 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 2024-2025 Altar Team Schedule are available from the bulletin board in the Narthex, or by calling the church office.**

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

APRIL 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer / Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School for All Ages at 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 6pm Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, here	3	4 11am Pastor's Bible Study "The Chosen" Video Series, 7pm	5 4pm Confirmation Class to practice Rehearsal	6
7 - Breakfast Served 8:30- 9:15am by Men's Group Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30am Confirmation Sunday for 6 Youth Today! <i>No Sunday School</i>	8 <i>Church Office Closed today</i> Eclipse Parking Youth Fundraiser at parking lot <i>Pastor On Vacation this week-----→</i>	9	10	11 <i>No Bible Study today as Pastor is on vacation</i> "The Chosen" Video Series, 7pm	12	13 7-11am Men's Ecumenical Breakfast hosted by Trinity's Men's Group, here
14 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30a.m.	15 Harvest Workers Study, 10am & 6pm	16 4-6pm at BHS Cafeteria Co-Apt Wellness Fair 6:30pm Council of Ministries meeting, here	17 9:30 Trinity Takeaways Cooking, here Noon-2pm Ladies Game Day, here 6:30pm Men's Group meets for fellowship, TBA	18 11am Pastor's Bible Study "The Chosen" Video Series, 7pm	19	20
21—Life Sunday Noon Women's Quarterly Gathering & Potluck Lunch, HERE	22 Harvest Workers Study, 10am & 6pm	23 Newsletter articles due TODAY!	24	25 <i>Secretary out of the office today</i> 11am Pastor's Bible Study "The Chosen" Video Series, 7pm	26	27
28 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30a.m.	29 Harvest Workers Study, 10am & 6pm	30	31			

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 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Altar Flowers	David & JoAnne Hesskew In Honor of daughter, Valerie Isidro's birthday and Confirmation Class	Marie Anna Lindeman and Sharon Cox In Memory of Loved Ones	Cymbre Wicker In Memory of Mom's Birthday	<i>Open</i>
Greeters	Arlene Hamlin	Sidney & Connie Cox	Keith & Bobbie Morgenroth	Rodney & Helen Bruemmer
Worship Assistant	Jim Clifton	Jim Clifton	Cindy Hawkins	Cindy Hawkins
Lector	Lacy Lukich	Keith Morgenroth	Ron Bigler	Arlene Hamlin
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
Acolytes	Darby Kersten		Briley Thomas	
Communion Assistants	<i>No Communion</i>	Karen Wagner	<i>No Communion</i>	Ashley Finch

Altar Team on Duty in April: Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht, Cindy Hawkins



Memorial Gifts Received in March:

In Memory of June Jennings, By David & JoAnne Hesskew



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Speaking Truth in Love

“But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.” – Eph. 4:15

I was recently asked my opinion regarding how churches, pastors and followers of Jesus should talk about difficult, hot-button topics in a way that is faithful but also does not exacerbate the divisions that often exist between us and the very people we are called to reach with the Gospel. This is an excellent question and is worthy of thoughtful reflection and conversation. I hope that this might spur-on thoughtful dialogue for you and your church as each of us wrestles with the tension between being faithful to what we know to be true and honoring God by loving those who do not share our faith or worldview.

While homosexuality happened to be the topic of interest for this person, similar questions have been asked about abortion and gender identity as well as other contentious topics where a biblical morality and a sense of personal freedom collide. Regardless of what the hot-button topic is, effectively communicating the Gospel is an ongoing challenge for any follower of Jesus. So how do we handle these sensitive topics while being mindful of our mission? We need to speak the truth in love.

Relationships are key to transformational love. The adage “people don’t care about what you know until they know that you care” rings true. I don’t think anyone had their worldview or moral systems rearranged because they were argued into agreement. Our priority must be to get into a position to influence another person. This happens best by building an authentic, loving relationship with people who order their beliefs differently than we do. How do we do this? We find a common interest, make an investment of time, and ask questions of genuine curiosity all while enjoying and celebrating the gift of sharing time. At some point, your new friend will likely reciprocate with curiosity and interest in you and what you believe. Eventually, God will give you opportunities for sharing the Gospel, opening the door for authentic transformation.

Attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit in these moments, courageously meet your new friend right where they are with the truth spoken in love. Recall the compassionate love of God that meets you in your sin, brokenness, and the arrogance of your better ideas. Draw upon that well, seeking to reflect God’s love in your own relationship with the person you are ministering to. Embodying the love of Jesus is critical as we share biblical truth and introduce the Gospel of salvation. With patience, persevere in loving those who see things differently. Remember: they are not an enemy to be conquered... they are the prize to be won!

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.

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

Notes from the Church Council Meeting on February 14, 2024

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 7:17pm, immediately following the Ash Wednesday Worship service. Council members present were Sally Anderson, Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Pastor David Mayer, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Keith Morgenroth was also in attendance to comment on our Profit & Loss reporting. As member input, he will propose a new P & L reporting format because of increased interest rates and Trinity's increased cash reserves.

Pastor David started the meeting with a blessing and prayer for the Holy Spirits' guidance. Keith suggested reporting church operations and investment activities separately. This would not change the numbers. It will, however, allow the P & L to highlight the two different areas. Church operations would continue to be budgeted; whereas the Investment activities would just be reported in such a way to give a summary of those activities as they occur. Council members agreed to begin using this new format. Norman made the motion, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members present approved the motion.

Jerry reminded everyone that Trinity's Operating Bank Account again has a surplus amount that can be transferred to a CD. Hal Switzer made a motion to move funds from the TLC Operating Fund to purchase a 6-month CD at Texas Regional Bank. Ashley Finch seconded the motion, and the Council members present approved the motion.

There were no corrections to the Minutes of January 17th Council Meeting. Ashley announced that she is still gathering the Scholarship Committee. Ashley made a motion to accept the Minutes as printed, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members present approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through January 2024. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of January 30, 2024. Pastor David submitted his report. Confirmation is planned for Sunday, April 7th, with a dress rehearsal at 4:00pm on Friday, April 5th. Six students will be confirmed. Pastor is planning a visit from Pastor Simon Haamer from the Estonia Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Feb. 28th. He would share his & his family's testimony under Communist rule during the Lenten Service, as it applies to this year's theme: "You meant it for evil, God meant it for good".

Committee Reports:

-Youth and Education – Ashley announced that registration for VBS will be available at the end of February for members' families, with the general public registration to begin at the end of March. Scholarship applications are available in the Narthex, and Angie is also sending out emails. Ashley received a thank you card from the Blanco Elementary School Counselor for Trinity's participation in The Angel Tree project, and our continuous support of our local students. 10 campers are confirmed for Summer Camp so far. Trinity will sponsor 2 Youth Ball teams this Spring. Ashley's T-ball team (starts April 6th), and The Hesskew's 12-yr olds softball team are the two teams this season.

-Stewardship – Sally had no report at this time. Sheila Mercer is a member of the Blanco School Foundation, and she presented Jerry with a letter to consider donating to the Foundation on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church. It was decided to table the matter at this time to allow for more specific discussion with Sheila.

-Evangelism – Karen W reported that cakes would be ordered to serve at the fellowship time following The Confirmation service. The next 5th Sunday Potluck is not until Sunday, June 30th. We are skipping Easter Sunday, March 31st which is also a 5th Sunday.

-Worship – No report was submitted.

-Property – Norman submitted his report, and discussed various maintenance issues he has taken care of. Concerning the project of painting the Fellowship Hall, several color selections were discussed. Beige and green seem to be the best choice. Norman is receiving several quotes on painting and carpet replacement in the Sanctuary. The carpeted floor is not to include the floor in the Narthex area, which is marked off past the accordion doors. Hoffman Floors in New Braunfels will include a moving company to move the furniture as part of their bid on new carpet installation. Norman is also getting quotes on lighting the parking lot.

Ashley made a motion to accept the Committee reports, Karen W seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

Old Business – No further updates were made on the Communion Assistants Schedule. Hal reported that Briana requested last month's Coffee Truck rent be pro-rated because she was closed for a week during the freezing weather. Council members agreed with her request. Her rent payments go into the Unallocated Funds a/c. Sunday employees should notify the Church office of known absences. Angie has posted a master calendar on her wall for such absences.

New Business – Pastor David introduced the idea of having regular Church members give Communion to shut ins. The team of interested persons would receive training and provide another layer of visitation besides The Pastor and The Stephen Ministers. The Council members liked his idea. Sunday, April 21st will be Life Sunday celebrated at Trinity.

When considering a Contemporary Service, Pastor suggested we try different options (times, format, etc.) before actually incorporating one. Mass mailings are still an option when announcing a new service(s).

Jerry announced that Trinity's membership at Sam's Club has been renewed. Alexis Pawalek, Norman, Karen W, and Bonnie Triesch should have membership cards.

Upcoming Events include the Lenten meal before the Feb 21st Wednesday night Service that will be a Baked Potato bar hosted by Team Deborah. No Lenten suppers before the Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.