

May Events at Trinity:

May 5—Breakfast Served at Trinity! 8:30-9:15a.m.
breakfast served in the fellowship hall by the Ruth & Esther Women's Service Teams

-Walking Prayer-a-Thon, 1-2:30pm in the north parking lot at Trinity

May 8—Council of Ministries Meeting, 6pm

May 12—Happy Mother's Day!

Baby Bottle Boomerang!

Between Mother's Day, May 12th and Father's Day, June 16th Trinity's Life Team invites everyone to pick up a baby bottle from the narthex and return it filled with donations for the Share Center and their work promoting life in our local community.

May 15—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm, here

May 16-19—Walk to Emmaus at Wellsprings Retreat Center

May 19—Pentecost Sunday Worship, 9:30am

May 20—Stephen Ministry Training, 6pm, here

May 21—Women's Group meets, 6pm
Men's Group meets, 6:30pm

May 27—Church Office closed for Memorial Day

VBS 2024 - June 3-7 at Trinity

Yes! The dates have been set and we are excited for Vacation Bible School in 2024. Many volunteers, helpers and students will be learning about God. Join us! Registration for students will fill up, so don't delay! Volunteer forms are posted in the Narthex and available on the website (www.trinityofblanco.com). For more information contact VBS Coordinator, Alexis Pawelek or email the church office at trinityblanco@gvtc.com

Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where:

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

Ministers All People of Trinity
Pastor David Mayer

Media Director Sheila Mercer
Music Director Leta Garcia
Secretary Angie Daniels

How to Contact Trinity:

- Fax: 830-833-1381
- Website: www.trinityofblanco.com
Trinity's Website has all the news from the newsletter, including recordings of pastor's sermons, (click on the "sermons" tab at the top of the page, for a listing of past sermons available.)
- Email: trinityblanco@gvtc.com
- P.O. Box 487,
703 North Main Street,
Blanco 78606
- Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm
- Phone: 830-833-4771
- Rev. David Mayer
Email: dtmayer75@yahoo.com
Cell: 830-426-9146



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
L  VE US IN PERSON

Trinity Family,

Holy Week marked the one-year mark for me at Trinity Lutheran. There has been some good “water under the bridge,” although not a whole lot of water over the dam, with the Blanco River running dry. Unless you all are good at hiding things, I haven’t seen any tar and feathers. Therefore, I am looking forward to another year.

As I look forward to doing good things, I know there is a matter of the foundation of our plans that we need to work on. That foundation is prayer. It is too easy for capable people to forget what Proverbs 16:9 reminds us of, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” We want to make sure that our plans are in line with and have the blessing of the Lord, so that He establishes what He wants. It is safe to say that only praying people are able to discern the will of God and stay in step with the Spirit of God.

In the second chapter of Daniel, it says that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had a dream that troubled him. He asked the impossible of his wise men. He not only asked for the interpretation of it, he asked for what the dream was. If they did not tell him the dream and its interpretation, the king was going to have all the wise men put to death. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, slaves in the king’s court, exiles from Judah, were affected by the edict.

Daniel’s response was to go to his three friends and ask them to plead for mercy from God by revealing this mystery. They prayed! During the night God revealed the dream to Daniel in a vision. He burst out in praise to God: **“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.”**

As a result, Daniel told the king the dream and its meaning, saving not only his life, but the lives of many others. Interestingly, it was a vision of a statue that represented the kingdoms from Babylonian, Persian, Greek and then to the Roman Empire, which would be toppled by a “stone cut out of a mountain.” It is a clear reference to Jesus and his kingdom. The point for us? It was a living relationship with the living God exemplified by worship, yes; faithful obedience, yes; and prayer.

Trinity Lutheran needs the support of a team who will stand in the gap together in prayer on behalf of our people, our mission and all we do. I see a team of men and women, or one team of men, and one team of women, who gather weakly and intercede for our needs as well as for wisdom and knowledge that we cannot have without God answering our prayer. I can see us gathering for 30-40 minutes a week. This will not be a gossip session, or a social group, but a prayer group. We will practice being more impressed with God’s power and goodness than with the problems and challenges we pray for. Let me know if the Spirit of God is calling you.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave



Confirmation Class of 2024

(L to R) Creed Finch, Pastor Mayer, Carson Cooley
Briley Thomas, Darby Kersten, Layla Lukich, Skylar Finch

**2024 Confirmation Class
Faith Statements & Bible Verse**

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."

I believe that God created the universe, humans, and all animals. God is very powerful, he created heaven and earth for us to live on.

I believe that Jesus is the son of God and God sent Jesus to earth to sacrifice and teach us. Also for us to go to heaven and that Jesus loves us and wants us to do good things and not sin.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives me courage to do good things and to be a good example, to help others and to show others how God wants me to act.

Praying to God and Jesus gives me strength during scary and fearful times. If I get stuck in a scary high place, God gives me strength to get down safely.



Carson Cooley

Carson also celebrated his baptism on April 7!

Psalm46:1: “God is my refuge and my strength, our ever present help in trouble.”

I've been coming to church since I was 6 days old, but, the first time I felt God's presence was when I was 7 years old. We were working cows down south and took a calf to the trailer. We were trying to get the calve's mom in with the calf. We got her on the trailer, but then she turned around and started running at me. I stood there frozen in shock until I felt God pushing me out of the way. It was then that I realized Faith means believing in God. My Faith means He loves me and helps in hard times, He keeps me safe and is always there. God is the creator of all things great and small and we can always count on him.

Creed Finch



1 Peter 3:3-4: “Your beauty should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God's sight.”

I've been attending church at Trinity Lutheran since I was little. I've enjoyed growing my Faith through VBS and Sunday School, but there was one time that I really felt the presence of God in my life. I was out on the softball field and I was standing out there nervous and unsure of what I was supposed to do. So I started to pray and when I was talking to God I felt a peace come over me. I was able to get the job done without all of the nervousness I had before. And while at camp I felt moved to give myself to God and fully embrace what his gifts mean. Knowing the sacrifice Jesus made for me and everyone else makes me feel God's love even more every day.

Skylar Finch



My confirmation verse is **Jeremiah 29:11. It says “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.”** God says he has plans for us and they are good. We also have a future in God and it is good, too.

As Christians we believe in Jesus and that he was crucified on a cross for our sins. We also have a faith in Christ that he will lead us in all that we do and is always watching over us. We go to church to learn more about him and praise him. We pray to ask forgiveness, give thanks, and call on him in times of trouble, or just to talk. As followers of Jesus, we should bring people to church, pray with them or for them and tell them about Christianity. My faith in Jesus means that I will get to spend forever in Heaven.

Darby Kersten



My Testimony: It all started when I was in Fifth Grade. I go to a Christian School in Bulverde. We always listened to Christian music every morning. My teacher, Mr. Armstrong said don't be shy if you need God in your life, raise your hands. I knew God but hadn't fully accepted Him at that time. I was the first person to raise my hand, then some of my friends raised their hands, then the rest. Mr. Armstrong called on me first and asked, “Layla, why did you raise your hand?” I said to Mr. Armstrong, “I know Him. I pray to Him, but I just don't feel He's with me?” He said OK and went on to my other friends and we're all crying at that point.

He asked me to give him a hug, so I did. He wanted all of us to get in a circle and pray, so we did. At that moment, I felt a big relief in myself. I had never felt this before. I knew God was with me at that moment and felt like I was a new person.

I remember getting in the car after school and I said to my Dad, “Dad, I have God in my heart.” He was like, “What?” I said, I have God in me, Dad. He was so happy for me and gave me a big hug. I remember my Mom being so happy for me as well.

I love the Lord and still have Him in my heart to this day. He walks with me through thick and thin, as well as in the hard times and best times. I have grown so much more in the three years with God, and I want to grow even more. I also picked a life verse in Sixth Grade. I prayed to God and asked for him to help me find one. I looked at the Bible everyday and I kept going to this one page and it says: **Psalms 56:3-4, “When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. In God's word I praise—In God I trust and am not afraid of what mere mortals can do to me.”** That verse has helped me, everyday since then. That is my Testimony, I hope you liked it.

Layla Lukich



Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

My faith Statement by Briley Thomas

My faith:

God created us all equally. God made us all for a purpose. God knows everything we are going through at every moment and everything we will go through in the future. He knows the best ways to handle every situation, so we get the best possible outcome, and we get to trust him with our hearts. We must follow his path and trust that he always knows what is best for us. Jesus helped me through my highs and lows when I felt alone. He would put his shoulder on me and tell me that I was not alone and that he was always right there.

How I found him:

My grandparents would take me to church every Sunday and every time I came, I felt like I was growing closer to God and wanted to learn more about him, so I got my first Bible. I still read it to this day, one page at a time.

The Holy Spirit is the one that speaks to my heart, and it helps me know if I am doing something wrong or if I have made a good decision about something. The Holy Spirit forgives us of our sins, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God. The voice of the Holy Spirit has been described as a whisper that only I can hear, and I can only be filled by the Holy Spirit by my faith and my decision to please the Lord.

After confirmation, I will continue to serve in my church. I will stay positive and help others learn about God. I will be a leader not a follower. I will honor and respect my parents and family.

What God means to me:

To me God means that whatever I go through he will be right there beside me. In 1 John 4:12 it says, "no one has ever seen God; but if we love one another God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us". To me this verse means that no matter what I am going through I should put the Lord first.

Briley Thomas



YOUTH NEWS FOR MAY

Walking Prayer-a-Thon, Sunday—May 5th, 1-2:30pm Youth will be participating in this fundraiser for Summer Camp and the Scholarship Fund. There are two ways that you can choose to sponsor a youth—you can sponsor for an amount per lap or a set total amount. Each youth will also be assigned prayer requests to pray for others in need of prayer as they walk their laps. If you have a specific prayer request you would like to submit for our youth to pray for, please submit those requests to trinitylutheranblanco@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE...June 21-27, SUMMER CAMP: Trinity Youth & Sponsors spend time together in Concan nurturing and strengthening their faith. June 1st Camp Deposits of \$75 are due to reserve your place with the remainder of fees to be raised through fundraisers.

Thank you, Trinity for your support of youth!!

Altar Guild May News—The Altar Team on duty for the month of May will be Bonnie Triesch, Tara & Caroline Seymour, Amy Rust, and Jayne Lightfoot.

Many thanks to Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht and Cindy Hawkins for preparing the altar for worship during the busy month of April, which included Confirmation and a Baptism!

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, in a rotating schedule, during the year.

**March 3, 2024 - - Trinity's
Stephen Ministers Commissioned
during the worship service on
March 3rd.**

(Pictured right) Three members were prayed over as they were commissioned to join the Stephen Ministry Team at Trinity.

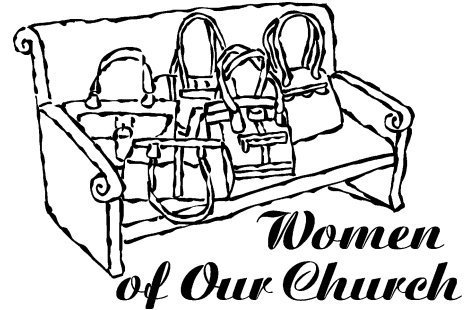
Rocky Chisholm, Christine Bushong and Brenda Moore completed their training and will begin serving as Stephen Ministers.

For more information about Trinity's Stephen Ministry and the support they can offer when there is a crisis in your life, contact Cindy Hawkins or Pastor Dave.



Women's Ministry News:

17 ladies met for a (generous) potluck lunch and Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, April 21 after church and Sunday School. After a short devotion many items were discussed while sharing survey results. Lots of information, ideas, and suggestions were discussed. While many activities may be considered in the future, several have been and are being implemented currently.



Sharon Wolbrecht shared that the Annual Ladies Retreat will be held at a new location in Concan on the September 20-22 weekend. In order to arrive at number attending a deposit of \$70 needs to go to Lacy Lukich. Final fee structure will be determined at a later date (maximum approximately \$175). Scholarships will be available for anyone needing one.

Monthly Women's Bible Studies will be held in the evenings. We'll rotate gathering at someone's home and ladies will host in two member teams. We'll meet the same evenings as the men gather for CMOB, that is the third Tuesday of each month. Ladies we ask that you arrive about 6pm, with dinner meal provided by hosts, at 6:30pm. Please bring your own drinks. The Bible Study and devotion begins at 7pm.

First Women's Bible Study will be May 21 at Barbara Eubanks' home, hosted by Barbara and Mary Jo Pfeiffer. (Call or text Barbara at 713-206-6518 for more information.) June's Women's Bible Study will be hosted by Jan Gass and Cindy Hawkins.

Ladies Game Day will be monthly on the second Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch, beverages, and/or snacks. Scheduled for noon to 2:00, although you can play as long as you like! Come and go as your schedule allows.

Quarterly Meetings will continue to be on Sundays after church and Sunday School. We will potluck again in July. Hope all ladies will join us!

"Trinity Takeaways" Project

Enthusiastic volunteers met on April 17th to prepare multiple take-home meals for Trinity Takeaways. Meals are frozen in the annex kitchen and available to anyone who might need extra care due to an illness, stress or "just because!" Members are welcome to utilize the meals or offer them to a friend or family member that might benefit from a stress-free meal. For more information about this project, contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer at 210-213-7615 or maryjopfeiffer@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars:

Women's Evening Bible Study—May 21st at the home of Barbara Eubanks, 6pm.

Ladies Game Day—May 15th here in Trinity's fellowship hall

MAY 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 (830) 833-4771.

	May 5	May 12 <i>Mother's Day</i>	May 19 <i>Pentecost</i>	May 26
Altar Flowers	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>	Mike & Sally Anderson
Usher Team	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 Assistant	Barb Geistfeld	Barb Geistfeld	Jim Geistfeld	Cindy Hawkins
Greeters	Gene & Lorrie Patillo	Norman & Barbara Eubank	Keith & Bobbie Morgenroth	Jim Clifton
Acolytes	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Lectors	Roland Pfeiffer	Alexis Pawelek	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer	<i>No Communion</i>	Ashley Finch
Altar Guild	In May:	Bonnie Triesch, Tara & Caroline Seymour, Amy Rust, Jayne Lightfoot		

Breakfast at Trinity Schedule

Come early to church on May 5th to enjoy breakfast with members and friends before church. The Ruth & Esther Women's Service Teams will provide the breakfast in the fellowship hall from **8:30-9:15a.m.**

The remaining schedule for Breakfasts at Trinity are listed below:

- June 2 Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams
- July 7 Men's Group
- August 4 Esther & Ruth Women's Service Teams
- September 1 Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams
- October 6 Men's Group
- November 3 Esther & Ruth Women's Service Teams
- December 1 Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams



News From Your 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 March 13, 2024 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:53pm, immediately following the Lenten Worship service. Council members in attendance were Sally Anderson, Medora Beckmann, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Pastor David Mayer, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Pastor David started the meeting with a prayer for guidance, faith, courage, and wisdom as we attempt to move TLC forward in love & concern, bringing honor and glory to God in Jesus' Name.

There were no corrections to the Minutes of the February 14th Council meeting. Sally suggested we contact Seymour's Garage (across from Lowe's Grocery) about putting up a banner, which she can make, instead of a Billboard notation carrying a Christian message from Trinity. According to Karen W. and Jerry billboard rentals tend to be quite expensive. Hal is still exploring our options for electronic/online giving. It was suggested that Briana's (Coffee Truck) rent be pro-rated this month because of Spring Break absences.

Ashley made a motion to approve the Minutes, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members present approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through February 2024. Medora gave the Treasurer's Report as of February 25, 2024. The Profit & Loss reports showed the new format separating general operations activities & investment activities.

Pastor David submitted his report. He presented each of the Confirmands with a nice study Bible with their names printed on them at the beginning of their 'training'. Pastor is an Assistant Spiritual Director on the upcoming Men's Emmaus Walk, May 16th- 19th, taking place at Wellsprings in Blanco. Pastor also requested his last week of vacation to be April 9th – 15th. It was decided that because of the eclipse, the church office will be closed Monday, April 8th. When considering attendance growth, are we benefitting by having 1st Sunday breakfast and Lenten dinner meals before the Worship services? Comments were shared, but no conclusions were made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth and Education – Ashley reported that Alexis is working on the VBS sign-ups. Student Scholarship Applications are available. The Scholarship Committee consists of Ron Bigler, Charles Riley, Karla Riley, Arlene Hamlin, and possibly Kevin Hawkins. The middle age group Sunday School is finishing up their pizza series and will be celebrating with pizza next Sunday. They are starting a farm series next. Baseball season starts April 6, and Pastor David will be leading the prayer for the opening ceremony. Trinity sponsors two teams. Ashley coaches a t-ball team, and the Hesskews coach a softball team. The Youth will be handing out eclipse glasses with Trinity's logo & slogan during the parking lot space rental on April 8.

Stewardship – Sally handed out a list of all the Thank you Notes and Letters she has received. She also composed a letter she will be sending out to each of our Benevolence recipients encouraging them and expressing TLC's notation of their importance.

Evangelism – Karen W. will be Trinity's contact at Sam's Club. A new Christmas tree needs to be purchased before next year. Ease in moving around the Sanctuary was addressed. Karen W suggested that while pews are being moved for the carpet replacement, they be repositioned to provide better space between the narthex folding doors and the pew end. The Communion tables up front is also causing a crowded situation.

Worship – No report was submitted.

Property – Norman submitted his report. The irrigation system is turned off until further notice. Maintenance issues are going very smoothly. The major projects now include painting the fellowship hall and kitchen. Norm is taking quotes, and he has selected colors. The painting project will hopefully start after Confirmation Sunday, April 7th. Part of the project involves taking off all the crosses on the walls. Council decided to limit displaying crosses on one wall only. These crosses would be memorials of Trinity families. Other plaques, etc. from the Fellowship Hall would be hung on the walls in the hall area. Another major project is replacing the carpet in the Sanctuary. Hoffman Floor will do the job. Worship might need to be in the Fellowship Hall during this time. And the auxiliary parking lot lighting is the third major project. Norm is working with Verde Electric Co. Compliance with the City of Blanco Coding and the Blanco Dark Sky Guidelines must also be met.

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

Old Business –

-The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated through May, with Hal serving on May 12, Jerry on May 19, and Ashley on May 26

New Business –

Holy Week schedule was discussed. On Palm Sunday the Youth will provide a Pancake Breakfast. Maundy Thursday evening service would be held at 6:00pm, and Good Friday evening service would also be held at 6:00pm.

Possible Benevolence support opportunities for Estonia Lutheran Church (Rev. Haamer) will be printed in three Sunday bulletins: Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Confirmation Sunday. The response has already been very encouraging. Our goal is \$10,000. We will finalize our contribution at the April 10th Council meeting. (See below) Jerry read another possible donation opportunity to help with the Panhandle Wildfire disaster through an organization called Mercy Chefs from Alabama, which provides food for the victims. Norman made a motion to send Mercy Chefs \$700.00, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Upcoming events include showing Season 4 of The Chosen beginning at Trinity on Thursday, May 9th. Men's Group is meeting Tuesday, March 19th at Hal's house with Hal & Wayne Gosnell hosting. CoApt Wellness Fair will be held April 16th, from 4-6. Trinity men will again provide hot dogs & chips. The Men's Group meeting should be April 16th but will be on April 17th instead. Llano Baumgartner will host it. The 1st Sunday breakfast at Trinity will be Sunday, April 7th, hosted by the men of Trinity. The next Blanco Ministerial Alliance breakfast will be at Trinity on Saturday, April 13th, and Pastor David will be responsible for finding the speaker, since he will be on vacation. Concerning two complaints about our church chimes, Council decided to ignore the complaints. Hal made the motion, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Ashley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Home of Hope, Estonia Lutheran Mission Special Offerings Through May

At the Feb. 28th Lenten Worship Service our guest Pastor Siimon Haamer shared his testimony to restore the people of Estonia's Christian faith from the oppressive, atheistic Soviet Union. Pastor Haamer leads Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center where leaders are trained to continue proclaiming the Word of God in Estonia. *(Copies of Pastor Haamer's story are available from the table in the narthex for more information.)*

At the April Council of Ministries meeting the Council discussed support of the Home of Hope and encourages the congregation to contribute to this worthwhile mission through the month of May. Gifts may be made through the church by marking your envelope or the memo of your check with "Estonia or Home of Hope". The church office will keep track of these pass-through donations and combine them with a special benevolence offering from the church. For more information speak with a Council Member or call the church office.

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

MAY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Breakfast Served in the hall, 8:30-9:15am Prayer Walk-a-Thon today, 1-2:30pm, here	6 10am & 6pm Harvest Workers Study, here	7	8 6:00pm Council of Ministries meeting	9 11am Bible Study with Pastor 7pm Chosen series shown at Trinity	10	11
12 Communion Happy Mother's Day! <i>Baby Bottle Boomerang begins!</i>	13 10am & 6pm Harvest Workers Study, here	14	15 Noon-2pm Ladies Game Day, here	16 11am Bible Study with Pastor 7pm Chosen series shown at Trinity <i>Walk to Emmaus begins today...</i>	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday <i>Walk to Emmaus concludes today</i>	20 10am & 6pm Harvest Workers Study, here 6pm Stephen Ministry Training, here	21 6pm Women's Group (<i>Evening Bible Study</i>) 6:30pm Men's Group	22 Newsletter articles due TODAY!	23 11am Bible Study with Pastor 7pm Chosen series shown at Trinity	24	25
26—Communion	27 <i>Church Office closed for Memorial Day holiday</i>	28	29	30 11am Bible Study with Pastor 7pm Chosen series shown at Trinity	31	



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



We Are Family

See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are!— 1John 3:1

I have recently been thinking about how rich the image of family is as a metaphor for the church. Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is an association of congregations and “family” is a great word to describe who we are together and how we relate to one another. We have unity in a common confession of faith and a mission to make new disciples of Jesus in the world. Yet we also celebrate our freedom in Christ that leads to diverse expressions of worship and ministry as each family member lives out their faith differently as each is uniquely called and positioned in the Kingdom of God.

As family we connect, communicate, care for one another, forgive one another, share in each other's joys and sorrows, help one another in times of need, hold one another accountable, offer and receive advice and counsel and respect that each family member is ultimately responsible for themselves and their own decisions. Not only is this a good and helpful understanding for our association, but also for the individual members of a local congregation. The brothers and sisters of Christ gathered in a local church are called into a family relationship. When we are attentive to our church family and live into these relationships well, not only are we blessed by the relationship, but we bear witness to God's love to the world, too!

All too often the world sees Christians and the church as unkind, unwelcoming, judgmental, and primarily interested in controlling behaviors according to what the world sees as an antiquated moral code. Unfortunately, some of this reputation is warranted. We probably all are familiar with people and churches that reflect this reality. Yet God's desire for the church is to be the family of God and to lovingly relate to one another in ways that reflect the heart of Christ. If Christians do not love one another, forgive one another, enjoy one another or care for one another, then what does that say about us to the world?

God calls us to be family. We are united in our identity as children of God and co-heirs with Christ. In God's Spirit we are to love one another as Christ loves us, truly caring for one another. As you greet one another, meet with one another, worship and serve with one another, remember that we are family. It will change the way you see and relate to the people you attend church with. And the world will take notice, too. To quote an unbeliever's observation of the early church: “Behold! How they love one another.”

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