

July Events at Trinity:

- July 1—Harvest Workers Bible Study, 10am & 6pm** in the fellowship hall
- July 2—Barnabas Time** for Stephen Ministers, 6pm, fellowship hall
- July 4—Church Office closed** for 4th of July
- July 7—Breakfast at Trinity!** hosted by the Men's Group from 8:30-9:15a.m. in the fellowship hall
- July 8—Harvest Workers Bible Study, 10am & 6pm** in the fellowship hall

Thursdays at Trinity:

- Pastor's Bible Study, 11am** in the fellowship hall on July 11 and 25 only
- MOVIE NIGHTS, 7-9pm** in the fellowship hall, Everyone is welcome to invite a friend popcorn will be provided!
- July 10—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm**
Council of Ministries Meeting, 6pm
- July 11-15—Secretary on vacation**
- July 15-21—Pastor on vacation**
- July 22—LAST Harvest Workers Bible Class, 10am & 6pm,** in the fellowship hall
- July 26-27—LCMC Texas District Annual Gathering,** Zion Lutheran Church, Kerrville
- July 29-Aug 4—Pastor on vacation**

Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where: "God is Seen,
 Love is Felt,
 Lives are Changed"

Ministers	All People of Trinity
Pastor	David Mayer
Music Minister	Leta Garcia
Media Minister	Sheila Mercer
Parish Administrator	Angie Daniels

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Trinity Family,

The "Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States, interestingly enough comes from War of 1812, a conflict that was an extension of the war for independence. This anthem, written by Francis Scott Key, symbolizes the resilience, courage, and spirit of hope of the American people.

The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain. Some of the reasons were that the British attempted to restrict American trade and they impressed American sailors into the British Navy. There were also tensions that came from the United States desiring to expand its territory.

In September 1814, British forces attacked Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. This fort was a vital defense for the city and its harbor. The British intended to capture Baltimore. For 25 hours, the British navy bombarded Fort McHenry, unleashing a heavy barrage that lit up the night sky. The fort's defenders, however, held their ground, despite the overwhelming firepower they faced.

During this battle, Francis Scott Key, an American lawyer, happened to be on a British ship. He was there to negotiate the release of an American prisoner. Watching the attack, Key anxiously waited to see the outcome of the battle. When dawn broke on September 14, Key saw the American flag, the "star-spangled banner," still flying above Fort McHenry. This sight inspired him to write the poem "Defense of Fort M'Henry," which would later be set to music and become known as "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Freedom is rarely given. It often must be fought for, and the struggle must continue in every generation because there are always people and forces from within and from outside the country who see our freedom as an opportunity to grasp what we have for themselves. The "Star-Spangled Banner" had its roots in the War of 1812, and particularly the Battle of Fort McHenry, but it speaks to a resolve of the American people to enter into the struggle to cherish and protect what God has given us as a nation. May our flag always be there because we don't let it fall.

Happy Independence Day! God bless and protect the United States of America!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Pastor's Membership Information Class—On the first Sunday of each month, Pastor David invites anyone wanting to learn more about Trinity Lutheran Church and membership in the congregation to stop by his office after worship services at 11:00a.m.

Pastor David will meet with interested visitors to answer questions and provide information about the Lutheran faith tradition, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), and Trinity, Blanco. All are welcome to learn more!

Serving on Altar Duty in July—

During the month of June, Sophie Johnson, Sandy Mann, Sheri Riley, Janice Culton and Clara Gourley prepared the altar for Sunday worship. Thank you, ladies for your service to the Lord and Trinity Lutheran Church!

On duty during the month of July will be Jan Gass, Martha Gosnell, and Christine Bushong. 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.



**Certificate of Appreciation Awarded
to Medora Beckmann on June 2,
2024**

“In grateful appreciation for your 17 years of exceptional service as Treasurer for Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, Texas. In this position, you faithfully and diligently kept the Council apprised of our financial cash flow, providing detailed reports of cash withdrawals and outstanding checks. You carefully monitored Trinity's General Fund account and the Building Fund. You were instrumental in shepherding Trinity's money market account at two Blanco

financial institutions in order to maximize our return. During this entire period, you were one of the two authorized signatories for all checks written to cover church expenses.

As a member of Trinity's Church Council, you not only kept the Council apprised of the church's financial status, but you also provided wise insight and historical perspective into the many issues facing Trinity during multiple periods of exceptional challenge. Your leadership and willingness to go the extra mile in service to your church and your God were an inspiration to us all and was gratefully appreciated.”

With this certificate, the Church Council of Trinity Lutheran Church and the entire Congregation express our heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional service. **Well done, good and faithful servant!**

Jerry Gass, President, of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council presented the plaque along with Karen Wagner, Evangelism Chair, and Angie Daniels, church secretary. Medora was presented with a dozen roses, a gift certificate to the Chess Club, and heartfelt thanks from the congregation.

Sign Up to Deliver Meals on Wheels in August!

Trinity Lutheran Church participates in the Meals on Wheels program for the Blanco community by organizing volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound each January and August. (We also pitch in during the month of May, if requested.) A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex for volunteers to sign up on Sunday mornings. Meals are picked up from our fellowship hall kitchen by **9:30am** on Tuesdays only so that delivery can be completed by Noon. Currently we only have 4 recipients to deliver a week's worth of frozen meals to—if you know of anyone that might benefit from this program, please contact Lainie Parker, MOW Coordinator, at 830-554-0564.



Women's News for July: Have a Safe & Happy Summer!

LADIES GAME DAY—Wednesday, July 10 from Noon-2pm, everyone is welcome to bring your lunch, snacks or refreshments and play games in the cool fellowship hall. For more information, call or text Barbara Eubank at 713-206-6518. The Game Day is set for the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

WOMEN'S GROUP meets for fellowship, dinner and devotions at the home of a member at 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (which coincides with the monthly Men's Group meeting.) This month we meet **on July 16 at 6pm** and our hostesses will be Christine Bushong and Sharon Wolbrecht. (*Exact location will be confirmed soon!*)

QUARTERLY WOMEN'S GATHERING, Sunday, July 14 at Noon in the fellowship hall. We will gather for a potluck lunch, enjoy fellowship, discuss business, and make plans for future activities. For more information, contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer.

TEAM T-SHIRTS HAVE ARRIVED for those that requested a Women's Ministry Team T-shirt and ordered through Barbara Eubank. The shirts are in the 4 colors representing the 4 teams: Esther (blue); Ruth (green); Hannah (orange); and Deborah (pink.) Pick up your team shirt from the church office on Sunday or during office hours, M-Th. Those shirts not picked up will be at the Gathering on July 14.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—Crocheters, knitters, and crafters are needed to create prayer shawls. These shawls are prayed over and dedicated at worship before being given to anyone in need of God's comfort and peace. Shawls have been gifted to cancer patients, those who've lost a loved one, or anyone in need of a reminder that God loves and cares for them. If you need directions for how to create a shawl, or know of someone that might benefit from one, please contact Brenda Moore at 512-550-2281, or the church office.

TRINITY TAKEAWAY MEALS are available for anyone needing a ready-to-go meal either for your family or for someone you know that could use a night off from cooking. Homemade and frozen, these ready to cook meals are located in the kitchen freezer next to the narthex. Directions for preparing are included with the meals. Please sign the list on the door when you take a meal. For more information about attending the next cooking date or to find out more, contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer (210-213-7615.)

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST...Our next opportunity to host the congregation at a breakfast will be **August, 4th!** The Esther and Ruth Women's Service Teams will be providing breakfast from 8:30-9:15a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So, we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!)

Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with the Pastor or Cindy Hawkins, our Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator. Trinity's Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Trinity Lutheran Church Sponsors Little League Baseball & Softball Teams in 2024



News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President
Hal Switzer—Vice-President
Karen Steiger—Secretary
Keith Morgenroth—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 May 8, 2024 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Council members in attendance were Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Pastor David Mayer, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. After 17 years, Medora Beckmann resigned from her Treasurer's position, effective May 1st. Hal Switzer made a motion to appoint Keith Morgenroth to replace Medora on the Church Council. Sheri Riley seconded the motion, and the Council members present approved the motion. Pastor David based his devotional on Romans 12:6-21...Living the Christian Life as the Holy Spirit empowers us to do so.

There were two minor corrections to the Minutes of the April 16th Council meeting. Karen Steiger thanked Sheri Riley for doing a great job filling in for her as Secretary at the April meeting. Norman Eubank made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Karen W seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through April 2024. Three CD's and the TLC Operational Checking Account are at Texas Regional Bank. Other monies are at Security State Bank & Trust, and with Thrivent. There was no Treasurer's Report for April 2024. With the resignation of Medora Beckmann, effective May 1, 2024, Council approved Sheri Riley to be the authorized signor on the church's accounts along with Gerald (Jerry) Gass, President of the congregation.

A realignment of duties for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer were discussed. Sheri would collect the offerings, make the bank deposits, and sign the checks. Keith would do more extensive reporting on Trinity's financial position.

Pastor presented his report for May. A discussion took place on how Trinity will handle funeral Honorariums. Pastor proposed a set procedure for members and non-members that can be given to the funeral director as well so that he/she can address the matter when visiting with the families.

Committee Reports:

Youth & Education – Ashley gave her report via conference call. She reported that Cameron Anderson had received a \$2,000. Scholarship from Trinity, and will be honored on Senior Sunday, May 19th. VBS registration is full at 113 students. The preparation is going well. This year's Summer Camp (Jun 21-Jun 25) theme will be "Defender" taken from Psalm 62:6. Ashley has plaques of the baseball teams that Trinity sponsored this year that will be displayed. Flag football will kick off June 10th with 45 players participating so far. The Walk-a-thon was held May 5th, and so far, almost \$4,000. has been raised.

Stewardship – No report was given. A thank you note was received from Layla Lukich for the Confirmation Cross that she received from Trinity.

Evangelism – Karen W reported that the next 5th Sunday Potluck will be held June 30th. Ham will be provided.

Worship – No report was given.

Property – Norm submitted his written report. Routine maintenance plus extra landscaping to include cleaning out the gutters and getting a quote for trimming trees on church property. All 8 units of a/c and air handlers were checked. The Fellowship Hall painting project was completed. The Sanctuary Carpet replacement/installation is in progress. Norm hopes that if all goes well the carpet will be installed this week and Sunday worship can go on as usual. He is waiting for a quote to install auxiliary parking lot lights.

Sheri made a motion to accept the Committee reports, Norm seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Old Business

– There were no correspondence letters. The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated as follows: June 9, Sheri Riley; June 23, Norman Eubank.

Pastor announced that he will meet after Sunday School on a future Sunday with people interested in having a contemporary service. Jerry still needs to talk to Sally Anderson about making a banner to put on Seymour Garage’s fence. Hal is still working on electronic giving possibilities. A printed policy was distributed concerning crosses displayed on the Fellowship Hall wall. The Council decided which crosses to display as Memorials.

New Business

– The 1st Sunday Breakfast in June will be the 2nd Sunday, June 9th because of VBS. The Council decided to honor Medora for her service on Sunday, June 2nd with a certificate of appreciation designed by Wayne Gosnell, a plaque, a bouquet, and a gift certificate.

Upcoming events include the study of Revelation in Sunday School, Harvest Workers on Mondays, Thursday mornings is Bible Study with Pastor on Genesis, Thursday evenings is The Chosen, and the Women’s Game Day was held today with 8 women attending. There will be a Women’s Group Gathering on the third Tuesday evening of each month coinciding with the Men’s Group Gathering. The first gathering will be at Barb Eubank’s house on May 21st at 6:30pm. The Men’s Group meets at Kevin Hawkin’s house also on May 21st at 6:30pm.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm with everyone reciting The Lord’s Prayer.

JULY 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*

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Altar Flowers	OPEN	<i>In Memory of Paula Zercher by Clara Gourley</i>	OPEN	OPEN
Usher Teams	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
Greeters	Rod & Janice Culton	Mike & Faye Cooley	Jerry & Jan Gass	Michael & Amy Mayo
Lectors	Lacy Lukich	Roland Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten	Alexis Pawelek
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Keith Morgenroth	<i>No communion</i>	Sheri Riley
Worship Assistant	Cindy Hawkins	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Clifton
Altar Guild	In July:	Jan Gass, Martha Gosnell, Christine Bushong		

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

Pastor David Mayer--Worship: 9:30 AM (in person in the sanctuary or livestreamed on Facebook),
 Sunday School: 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Harvest Workers Bible Study, 10am & 6pm here	2 6pm Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, here	3	4 Independence Day! Church Office Closed for holiday	5	6
7 8:30-9:15am Breakfast served by Men's Group in the fellowship hall	8 Harvest Workers Bible Study, 10am & 6pm here	9	10 Noon Ladies Game Day, here 6pm Council of Ministries meeting	11 <i>Secretary Out of the Office until 7/16</i> 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	12	13
14 Communion Quarterly Women's Gathering & Potluck Lunch, Noon	15 <i>Church Office Closed today</i> <i>Pastor Out of the Office this week</i> <i>Secretary Out of the Office today</i>	16 6pm Ladies Group meets for fellowship 6:30pm Men Group meets for fellowship	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>Last Harvest Workers Bible Study, 10am & 6pm here</i> <i>Newsletter articles due today</i>	23	24	25 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	26 <i>LCMC Texas District Annual Gathering begins at Zion Lutheran Church, Kerrville</i>	27 <i>Annual Gathering continues</i>
28—Communion	29 <i>Pastor Out of the Office this week</i>	30	31			



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



If You Build It...?

Growing up in Eastern Iowa in the late 1980s, it was big news when a major motion picture began filming a baseball movie on a family farm. In the movie, *Field of Dreams*, a mysterious voice is heard from beyond: “If you build it, he will come.” As the story unfolds, the lead character plows under his crops mid-growing season to build a baseball field. Then from out of the cornfields beyond centerfield appeared a historic team from baseball lore.

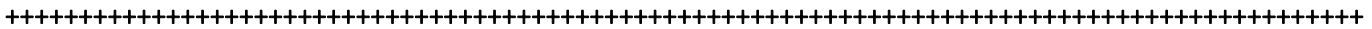
The cultural impact of *Field of Dreams* was significant. Visionary leaders seized upon the infamous movie line and adapted it for their own organizations: “If you build it, they will come.” Even pastors and churches adopted the mantra as ministries scaled bigger and better programs and church facilities, trusting in the idea that new and bigger would attract more people. To some extent, this approach seemed to work! As churches engaged in expanding and improving their ministries and facilities, more people were attracted to it and began engaging with churches in new ways.

Despite these successes, there were also unintended consequences. Fast forward two decades and churches discovered that what once worked was no longer working. Successful ministries needed to be constantly refreshed and renewed with the latest and greatest programs or building renovations to keep people coming. A consumer mentality crept into the church as church attendees began “church shopping” and congregations felt the urge to “compete” with one another.

Church growth began to feel like chasing after a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. How many churches “built it” but the people did not come? While God certainly used the church growth movement, we now recognize the ways it detracted from an authentic faith journey of following Jesus.

What if the church adopted a new mantra based upon an old idea: “If you love them...” How would you complete that sentence? What do you think the result of sharing Jesus’ love might be? For me it would be this: “they will know they are loved by God.” I believe that God is calling us to shift our focus from building better programs and facilities just to entice people to come to the church to hear the Good News towards equipping and mobilizing the people of the church to love people and engage in Gospel mission in their everyday lives. **#LoveWorks2024**

Join us for LOVE WORKS, our LCMC Texas District Gathering, July 26-27 in Kerrville. Learn more: www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering. Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.
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What is a Life Team?

A Life Team is a Gospel-motivated group of church members that communicates and shares the abundant love of Christ as it relates to life issues within the church and the community. We are part of the Lutherans For Life Frontline that spreads the Life message to the individual congregations where they live. Members are equipped through specialized training and are then available to help the pastor with what otherwise might be an overwhelming task. Life Teams are unified, trusted teams that the pastor can utilize to provide life-issue expertise, consistent initiatives, and access to dedicated resources. A Life Team will also help the pastor engage and inform the congregation from the pulpit, through Sunday school, and through youth and adult education about the importance of protecting the sanctity of human life at all stages.

Trinity's current Life Team consists of Barb Geistfeld, Life Team Leader, Jim Geistfeld, and Arlene Hamlin. From 2012 to 2017, it was just Jim and Barb. In August of 2017, three new members went through the required training and became certified: Arlene Hamlin, Claudia Smith, and Sabrina McGrath. We were all installed as a Life Ministry of Trinity on October 29, 2017. Though we are now down to three members, our current Life Team is still affirming the sanctity of life at all ages and stages in multiple ways. An annual Sanctity of Life Sunday has been held now for several years, complete with a life-affirming bulletin insert from Lutherans For Life. Mother's Day and Father's Day bulletin inserts support and encourage Christian moms and dads. Resources like LifeDate and brochures on life issues are made available to all. We have continued to distribute the 80 and Over gift bags at Christmas. We continue to promote the support of the SHARE pregnancy resource center with our annual Baby Bottle Boomerang.

But we would like to do more. There are so many Life issues we have not addressed. Just look at the iceberg! We would like to have more special projects that would involve our youth, minister to our older adults, and teach all of us about the life issues that surround us. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Life Team and helping us expand Trinity's ministry to support Life, please contact Barb Geistfeld at bgeistfeld@gvtc.com; 830-388-8640/cell; or 830-935-3415/home.

Just as importantly, if there is a life issue you want to hear more about, please contact me. We can get a speaker, showcase a selection of appropriate resources, and learn about this topic together. As you have heard me say many times, abortion is just the tip of the iceberg. Consider becoming a voice for Life that can address these issues and help our brothers and sisters at Trinity be voices for Life as well.

Barb Geistfeld, Trinity Life Team Leader



For more information about Lutherans for Life, (LFL), pick up a copy of the Summer 2024 issue of LIFEDATE, a free quarterly publication from LFL in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Life Thoughts-Bib Project!! Barb Geistfeld--Life Team Leader

You may know that members of Trinity knit and crochet prayer shawls for those in need. In other churches, this ministry is expanded to include lap blankets and other items for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. But did you know there is one item these places *always* need but *rarely* get. Adult-sized bibs! Yes, bibs. Bibs are used to protect the clothing of the wearer...whether it is a baby, an older person, or someone with a disability that impairs their ability to feed themselves. Because they are worn several times a day and may have to be washed after each use, they wear out quickly. This means there is likely to be an ongoing need for these.

August 21, 2024, is National Senior Citizen's Day. In honor of our seniors, the Life Team is announcing an *on-going* project to provide **adult bibs** for whomever needs them. A quick search on Amazon revealed a Simplicity pattern for adult-sized bibs. You may also find this and other adult-sized bib patterns at your favorite fabric store.



Here are some suggestions from *Sophie Johnson, our resident expert* : These facilities need bibs for both men and women. Fabrics that can be worn by either sex are more easily distributed. But having some that are distinctly masculine or feminine is also good! Don't be afraid to use some unique (maybe wild) fabric patterns.

Make sure the bib is long enough to cover the entire lap. Take the pattern pieces, hold them in place on a volunteer, and measure where their length ends. You may want to extend the pattern pieces to allow making a regular version and a longer version.

Use high quality Perma press fabric with generous seam allowances and a standard stitch count. These will be washed often. The better the fabric quality, the longer the bibs will last.

Some patterns show bibs that are open down the front. Use solid front patterns for the best protection.

Velcro attached at the ends that go around the neck are the best. Easy on, easy off.

Sewing adult-sized bibs may be a novel idea for you, but you may be surprised at how gratefully these bibs are received. We may even find someone in our own congregation that would be glad to receive a bib. In the end, know that providing a gift that is truly needed will bring joy and satisfaction both to those giving and to those receiving. Happy sewing!!