

**Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas**

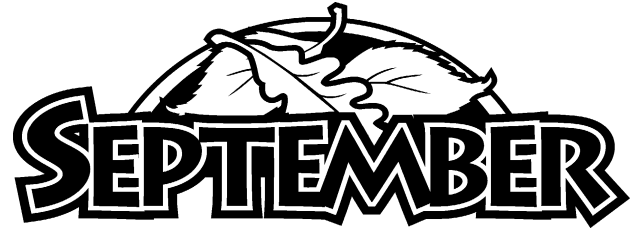
Where: "God is Seen,  
Love is Felt,  
Lives are Changed"

Ministers	All People of Trinity
Pastor	Rev. David Mayer
Music Minister	Leta Garcia
Media Minister	Sheila Mercer
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](mailto:trinityblanco@gvtc.com)
- Website: [www.trinityofblanco.com](http://www.trinityofblanco.com)

Rev. David Mayer  
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**Events at Trinity:**

- Sept. 1—Breakfast at Trinity!** Hosted by the Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams from 8:30-9:15am in the fellowship hall
- Sept. 2—Labor Day—Church Office Closed**
- Sept. 3—Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers,** 6pm in the fellowship hall
- Thursdays—Pastor's Bible Study,** at 11am  
**MOVIE NIGHTS on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Thursday evenings from 7-9p.m. in the hall. Popcorn provided!
- Sept. 7—Crochet Tutoring** with Brenda Moore, 10am-Noon here at Trinity. Call Brenda for more information at 512-550-2281
- Sept. 11—Ladies Game Day,** Noon-2pm, here  
**Council Meeting,** 6pm, here
- Sept. 17—3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
Women's and Men's Groups meet at 6:00pm for fellowship, a meal, and Bible study/devotions  
**-Women's Group,** Call/text Mary Jo Pfeiffer, 210-213-7615, for more info  
**-Men's Group,** Call/text Roland Pfeiffer, 210-213-7614, for more info
- Sept. 20-22—Women's Retreat!**
- Sept. 22—Sunday Worship** with "Rocky Road Band"
- Sept. 23—Lucky Leaf 4-H meeting,** 6pm here
- Sept. 29—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Bring a Friend Potluck Lunch** following worship services at 11:00am in the hall (*No Sunday School today*)



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### Risks Worth Taking

In a past sermon by Leonard Sweet, an intriguing story was told about Tom Lind, a salesman from Montana, who found himself in an unexpected predicament just before Thanksgiving. Tom was following his regular route along the southern Oregon coast in his trusty old pickup, carrying a small camper on the back.

In a sudden, spontaneous decision, Tom chose to take the scenic route, intending to continue south and east. Little did he know that this spur-of-the-moment choice would alter his fate. As he ventured deeper along the blue highway, the weather took a drastic turn. The drizzle swiftly transformed into swirling snowflakes, and the elevation climbed rapidly. Nevertheless, undeterred by the weather, Tom persisted in his journey with his pickup.

But the snowfall intensified, and soon Tom found himself trapped in the midst of a blizzard whiteout. Forced to halt, he decided to wait out the storm, assuming road-clearing crews would soon rescue him and his truck from the icy clutches of winter.

What Tom was unaware of was that the very route he had chosen was closed after the initial winter snowfalls until the spring thaw. Lacking this crucial piece of information, he remained convinced that help would arrive once the weather improved. Believing it was the prudent choice, he opted to stay in his truck, avoiding the risks of exposure and getting lost in the snow.

As days turned into weeks, Tom failed to show up at his next sales appointment, sparking concern among his family, friends, and local authorities. They initiated a search, but their focus remained on the well-traveled paths, completely unaware of the snow-blocked back track Tom had taken.

Tom clung to his big truck for over eight weeks, chronicling his thoughts, hopes, fears, and dwindling options in a journal. Tragically, his journal revealed that around January 15, the harsh conditions finally took his life. In his attempt to play it safe and minimize risks, Tom unknowingly chose to opt out of life.

This tale raises important questions for us all. Do we know the business of taking risks? What are the risks worth taking?

Jesus was nearing the end of his ministry on earth and two Greeks came to see Jesus. The presence of non-Jews looking for Jesus was a reminder that the world needed saving and as one person, Jesus could not reach many. It was not going to happen if Jesus saved his life instead of losing it.

Jesus said, "I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Jesus, reflecting the love of the Father, was a risk-taker. Risk-taking means setting aside self and going for a purpose higher than the now, higher than safety, higher than self. Jesus was willing to give up his life on the cross for a greater purpose.

We look to Jesus, "the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) Like a seed planted and raised to new life, in his death and resurrection Jesus made Himself available to the whole world. That means, you and me.

Jesus said in Matthew 13:44-45 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

For the joy of love and reward, Jesus gave his life, "all that he had," to pay for and offer us forgiveness, peace and fellowship with God, eternal and abundant life. The choice is ever before us, to live so safely that we opt out of life, or to calculate taking a risk for the possibility of a fuller life, greater adventure and a legacy that transforms the lives of others for Jesus 'sake.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Dave

## **Cards & Letters**

**Learn to Crochet with Brenda Moore!** Brenda offers free tutorials to help anyone that needs a refresher or wants to learn how to crochet. Join her at the church on Saturday, September 7 from 10am-Noon. Brenda is also the coordinator for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, a ministry that donates crocheted shawls to anyone that is in need of God's comfort and love. For more information about the tutorials or Prayer Shawl Ministry, contact Brenda at 512-550-2281.

**GriefShare** Program offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. The meetings offer a caring, confidential environment where we learn why grief affects us the way it does, and how to work through it.

The free classes include instructional video, workbook, and interaction. The classes will be at the First Methodist Church, 105 N LBJ Dr, Johnson City. GriefShare begins Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am-Noon & 6:30-8:30pm and continues every Tuesday for 13 weeks. For information or to register, call Cindy Leonard: 512-771-8783 or by email at [cleonard@mhm.org](mailto:cleonard@mhm.org). You can also go to [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org) and learn more about the program.

**LUCKY LEAF 4-H CLUB MEETS AT TRINITY**—The local 4-H club will meet at Trinity on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm in the fellowship hall/youth room areas (depending on the type of gathering.) Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday the youth and sponsors will meet in the hall. We welcome the opportunity to support this community activity!

**THURSDAY MOVIE NIGHTS**—We have completed showing the 4<sup>th</sup> season of “*The Chosen*” series and will continue with Season 5 when it debuts in early 2025. In the meantime, join us for inspirational movies on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. As always there is plenty of fellowship and free popcorn!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**—The **Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be Sunday, November 24, 2024** hosted by First Baptist Church at the Gem of the Hills Community Center. Trinity Lutheran Church will provide desserts for the meal. If you are interested in helping, by either donating desserts or transporting them to the Gem of the Hills, please contact Karen Wagner at 210-601-8042

## **MEMORIALS IN AUGUST**

### **In Memory of Stella Ziegler**

By Roy & Doris Phipps  
Arlene Hamlin

**Altar Guild Report**—Thank you to Ashley Finch, Sandy Switzer, Sally Anderson and Karen Steiger for their service to the altar during the 4 Sundays in August. During the month of September, Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Connie Cox and Rosalind Ellis will prepare the altar for services.

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's chosen ministry is to serve on a rotating schedule during the year to prepare the altar for worship.

## **Upcoming Trinity Tribe Youth Events:**

**October 6—Youth Host Spaghetti lunch with Bingo Fundraiser!**

**October 11-13—Girl's Retreat & November 1-3—Boy's Retreat**

## **SEPTEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

*\*\*Please use this handy section to keep track of monthly responsibilities organized by Sunday. Each Sunday there are many important opportunities to serve your church. Call the office for more information*

	<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Sept. 15</b>	<b>Sept. 22</b>	<b>Sept. 29</b>
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<i>Open</i>	Wayne & Martha Gosnell <i>in Memory of Wayne's Parents</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>
<b>Ushers</b>	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Jim Clifton	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Clifton	Cindy Hawkins
<b>Lector</b>	Alexis Pawelek	Roland Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten	Keith Morgenroth	Lacy Lukich
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<i>No communion</i>	Sally Anderson	<i>No communion</i>	Ashley Finch	<i>No communion</i>
<b>Greeters</b>	Hal & Sandy Switzer	Roland & Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Edward Weirich	Bonnie Triesch Pam Nabers	Trinity Tribe Youth
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>In September:</b>	Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Connie Cox, Rosalind Ellis			

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**SEPTEMBER 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO**

Pastor David Mayer—Worship: 9:30 AM, (*Service also Live streamed on Facebook at 9:30a.m.*)

**Fellowship Time** in the hall after worship every Sunday! Sunday School for All Ages beginning at 11:00 AM

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>1</b> Breakfast at Trinity! Hosted by Hannah & Deborah Teams, 8:30-9:15am	<b>2</b> <i>Office closed for Labor Day holiday</i>	<b>3</b> 6pm Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, here	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Pastor's Bible Study, 11am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10am-Noon Crocheting with Brenda Moore
<b>8--Communion</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Noon-2pm Ladies Game Day, here 6:00pm Council of Ministries meeting	<b>12</b> Pastor's Bible Study, 11am  <u>7-9pm Movie Nite</u>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Women's Group, 6:00pm TBA Men's Group, 6:00pm TBA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Pastor's Bible Study, 11am	<b>20</b> <i>Women's Retreat begins</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22—Communion</b>  <i>Women's Retreat ends</i>	<b>23</b> Newsletter articles due TODAY!	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pastor's Bible Study, 11am  <u>7-9pm Movie Nite</u>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Lunch at 11am</b> <i>(No Sunday School today)</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Pastor attends LCMC National Conference, Iowa</i>					

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**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
Keith Morgenroth—Treasurer	Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary	Sally Anderson—Stewardship

**COUNCIL NOTES—from the July 10, 2024 Meeting**

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council members in attendance were Sally Anderson, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Pastor David based his devotional on Psalm 34. A life should be connected to God...not only when we are in need...but also as we celebrate His goodness. As Church Council members, Pastor reminded us to go to the Lord with all things... to pray for wisdom and blessing upon our congregation... and to put all we do in God's Hands, because He will guide us.

There were no corrections to the June 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes. The banner design still needs to be discussed, but other Action Items had been taken care of. Keith made a motion to accept the Minutes, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through June 2024. Keith gave the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2024. Pastor presented his report for July. Hal made a motion to accept Jessica Conklin as a member of Trinity and to reinstate Dianna Jones Maddox's membership. Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion. Pastor announced that Harvest Workers will finish the NT Study July 22, and then take a break until early September. The Global Summit Training will be held August 8-9 in the Fellowship Hall via video presentation. There are still spaces available as each participant must be registered to watch the presentation. The Youth Church Camp weekend was held June 21-25. The theme was "We shall not be shaken".

**Committee Reports:**

Youth and Education – Ashley announced that the girls that did not go to Summer Camp but did help raise money at the Prayer-Walk-a-Thon will be taken to Schlitterbahn. The 'Blessing of the Backpacks' will be held Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Tentative kickoff for Youth Sunday School is August 18<sup>th</sup>. Ashley announced that The Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Fundraiser will be held Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Young Girls Retreat will be October 11-13 at the Lost Cypress Ranch. A Boys Retreat is tentatively planned for November 2-3. Summer Camp next year will be held June 22-25 in Rockport...the theme will be 'Fisher's of Men... Jesus makes us Fishers of Men'.

Stewardship – Sally handed out a listing of Thank you Letters/Monthly Newsletters received from March 2024-June 2024. It was decided to keep these letters for a full year before discarding them.

Evangelism – Karen W discussed a solicitation for ads in a sports program for Blanco HS. It was decided to put this on hold and possibly look into purchasing a banner for display rather than an ad in a program. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck June 30<sup>th</sup> was a big success.

Worship – No report was submitted. Pastor David announced that he met with Leta, and they have chosen hymns for the next 3 months. He also shared that when the women are on their retreat, September 22, the men would conduct a worship service with special music.

Property – Norman submitted his report. 8 church pews were repaired and should be handled/moved with care in the future.

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.

Hal announced that Trinity will soon accept electronic payments.

New Business –

Pastor David will be attending the LCMC National Convention in Marion, Iowa on September 29-October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

After reviewing the Benevolence Giving by quarters, Norman made a motion to accept the Benevolence designations for the next quarter based on predetermined factors used in the past quarters. Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

The Council Retreat was set for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at church from 8am-12pm. Lunch will be provided. A Congregational Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service. Voting on By-Law changes and the election of 3 expiring Council positions (President, Secretary, and Worship Director) will be the main items of business at that meeting.

Upcoming events include Pastor David's Thursday morning, July 11, Bible Study on I Peter and that evening the 3<sup>rd</sup> episode of the 4<sup>th</sup> season of The Chosen will be shown in the Fellowship Hall. The Women's Group Quarterly Meeting will be this Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Women's Bible Study group will be meeting at Christine Bushong's home, with Sharon Wolbrecht helping, on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, while the Men's Bible Study will be meeting that same evening at Roland Pfeiffer's home, with Ray Wolbrecht helping. Angie will on vacation starting tomorrow, July 11-15, and Pastor David will be on vacation July 15-21 and July 29-August 4.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

**BREAKFAST AT TRINITY—First Sunday of September!**

**The Hannah & Deborah Women's Service Teams will host breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30-9:15a.m. in the fellowship hall. The ladies provide homemade breakfast casseroles, fruit, pastries, juice, and coffee before worship begins at 9:30a.m.**

**Make your plans to join us!**

**YOU ARE INVITED—AUGUST 2025!**

The Global Leadership Summit was hosted here in Trinity's fellowship hall on August 8 & 9. While Pastor Mayer has participated in this event for many years, it was Trinity's first opportunity to find out more about GLS.

On Thursday, August 8, I attended three of the speaker's lectures and thoroughly enjoyed the presentations. I have continued to reference the leadership themes and strategies from the speakers I heard. I plan to take advantage of next year's GLS, and I encourage everyone else to consider joining me here—See you in August 2025!

Angie Daniels



# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## Too Busy NOT to Pray

I don't know about you, but I am tired. I'm not the kind of tired that can be managed by an extra hour or two of sleep. Rather I am talking about the rhythms of a full and busy life where there are simply not enough hours in the day, days in the week, or weeks in the month to get everything done. The day-to-day activities of life, even life in ministry, can result in a weariness that can steal our joy of living the life that we are so busy living that we really aren't actually living! Have you ever felt this way?

As I think about my weariness and the endless "To Do" lists, I recall a conversation I had with my mom 20 years ago. She had called me just to chat and I didn't really have the time. I told her I was busy, and she asked what I had going on that day. I rattled off all the things I had to get done and she replied: "Oh, my! You are busy. It sounds like you probably need to pray." I was frustrated with her: "Mom, I don't have time to pray!" As soon as I said it, I realized how foolish I was. My mother answered, "Bryce, listen to yourself. You're a pastor! You are too busy NOT to pray!"

As was often the case, my mom was right. No matter how busy I am or how much is on my calendar, my "To Do" list pales in comparison to Jesus': there were always more sick people to heal, more demons to cast out, more sins to forgive, more disciples to teach, and more towns to visit. Remarkably, Jesus never seemed to be in a hurry and yet made an impact everywhere he went.

In Luke 5:14-15, we read this about Jesus: *But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet he often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.* No matter what demands of ministry Jesus faced, he regularly retreated for quiet time with his Father in heaven. Do I really think I don't need this in my life?

Once again, I must come to terms with the ways that I fall short of what I think I should be as a follower of Jesus, as a husband and a father, and as a pastor. In the busyness of my life, I need to remember that I am too busy not to pray. I long to live an unhurried and yet impactful life like Jesus did. And that means I need to regularly withdraw for prayer and fellowship with God. Whenever I do, God restores my soul and fills me up to continue to carry out the work he created me for. I invite you to join me in this and expect that we will be amazed at all the Lord accomplishes in us and through us.

*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org). © 2024 Bryce J. Formwalt, All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission. September 2024*