



October Events at Trinity:

Oct. 1—Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, here

Oct. 6—Youth Host Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo
Fundraiser for summer camp, 12:30-?
No Breakfast today...plan to stay for lunch and bingo to support Trinity Youth!

All Mondays in October: Harvest Worker Courses, 10a.m. & 6p.m., fellowship hall

All Thursdays in October: Pastor's Bible Study, 11:00am, fellowship hall

Oct. 9—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm, here
Council of Ministries Meeting, 6:00pm

Oct. 10th & 24th (2nd & 4th Thursdays) are Movie Nights—7-9p.m.

Oct. 11-13—Girls Retreat, TBA

Oct. 15—Women's Group meets, 6pm at TBA
Men's Group meets at 6pm at Norman Eubank's home

Oct. 18—Trinity hosts BHS Youth at 5th Quarter,
Trinity's parking lot after home football game!

Oct. 19—Council Retreat, 9am-Noon, here

Oct. 20—Polka Worship, 9:30a.m.

Oct. 23—Hall Reserved by American Legion & Wayne Gosnell, 5-9pm

Oct. 27—Reformation Sunday, Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30a.m.
Women's Ministry Quarterly Gathering & Lunch, 12:15pm here in the fellowship hall (Childcare available, text 210-213-7615!)

Oct. 28—Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meeting here, 6pm

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 Director Leta Garcia
Media Director 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
- Website: www.trinityofblanco.com

Rev. David Mayer
Cell: 830-426-9146
Email: dtmayer75@yahoo.com



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Martin Luther and Five Major Contributions

The last Sunday of October is Reformation Sunday. It is a good time for us and the church as a whole to remember the person and the ideas that propelled the Reformation and inspired many expressions of the “Evangelical” faith. Here are some of the key contributions of Martin Luther:

1. The Ninety-Five Theses and the Protestant Reformation

- **Contribution:** In 1517, Luther famously nailed his **Ninety-Five Theses** to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church, challenging the Roman Catholic Church's practices, especially the sale of indulgences (which claimed to reduce time in purgatory). This act is often seen as the spark that ignited the Protestant Reformation.

- **Impact:** Luther's critique led to widespread religious and political changes across Europe. It resulted in the formation of Protestant denominations and a break from the Roman Catholic Church, reshaping the religious landscape.

2. Translation of the Bible into the local German language

- **Contribution:** Luther led the work of translating the Bible into German, making it accessible to ordinary people who did not understand Latin, the language of the Church at that time.

- **Impact:** Translating Scripture into the language of the people allowed individuals to read and understand the Bible for themselves, reducing reliance on clergy for religious knowledge. It promoted literacy, unified the German language, and encouraged the translation of the Bible into other languages.

3. Justification by Faith Alone (Sola Fide)

- **Contribution:** Luther championed the doctrine of “justification by faith alone” (sola fide), affirming the New Testament's teaching that salvation is a free gift of God's grace, received through faith in Christ, rather than through good works or the purchasing of indulgences.

- **Impact:** This biblical principle became a cornerstone of reforming churches. It emphasized a personal relationship of trust in God's gift in Christ and turned believers away from a works-based view of salvation.

4. The Priesthood of All Believers

- **Contribution:** Luther promoted the idea of the “priesthood of all believers”, which held that all Christians have direct access to God without the need for an intermediary priesthood. Every believer has an equal standing before God (Luther: “We are all equally priests...no man can make himself higher than another.”). According to Luther, the vocation (calling) of every believer is sacred, whether it is as a pastor, farmer, teacher, or parent. He rejected the idea that only those in religious orders or clergy had a holy calling. Luther elevated the dignity of everyday work as a way to serve God. (Luther: “All who are baptized may claim that they are already consecrated priests, bishops, and popes.”) This did not eliminate offices such as pastor, but rather elevated the calling of every believer to serve God and neighbor and serve the cause of the Gospel.

- **Impact:** This belief empowered laypeople to take a more active role in their faith, empowering every believer to see their life as a representative of God on earth.

Continued page 3

5. Reform of Church Practices and Liturgies

- **Contribution:** Luther advocated for reforming church worship, eliminating many rituals and sacraments. He focused on preaching and the centrality of Scripture in worship.

- **Impact:** Luther's reforms influenced the development of new liturgical practices, including congregational singing, services in the language of the people, and a focus on preaching the Word.

We will look at some of the contributions of the Lutheran Reformation on Reformation Sunday in October and during the month of November.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Dave

Trinity's Altar Guild—

Thank you to Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Connie Cox, and Rosalind Ellis for their maintenance and preparation of the altar for communion and worship during the month of September! Serving during the month of October, will be Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley, and Connie Russell. If you are interested in serving Trinity as a member of the Altar Guild, please contact Bonnie Triesch at 210-705-2811.



Rocky Chisholm (right), Jim Geistfeld, and Pastor Dave bring some down-home gospel music to Trinity's August 25th worship service. The "Rocky Road Band" also provided all the music for the Sept. 22nd Service, (due to the pianist and organist attending the Women's Retreat!)

If you play an instrument and would like to add your musical talent and/or voice to the band for special music during worship, talk more with Rocky Chisholm, Jim Geistfeld, or Pastor David.

Women's Ministry News—

The Women attending the 2024 Retreat had another grand time in Concan, Texas the weekend of Sept. 20-22! Our lodging was on top of a beautiful hill and all enjoyed the view looking down on the Frio River Valley—Very peaceful!



Lacy Lukich coordinated and organized the retreat lodging, registrations,

food, activities, and all the little things that made the event so special. Sharon Wolbrecht led our study of the Women of the Bible. We celebrated two ladies on their September birthdays and ate delicious food every chance we could! To find out more about the retreat, ask one of the participants about their experience!

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER:

Oct. 15th Women's Group, Each month on the 3rd Tuesday, all Women of Trinity, family and friends are invited to meet at 6:00pm for fellowship, a light supper, and Bible Study at the home of a participant. Contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer (210-213-7615) or Sally Anderson (210-831-7070) if you are interested in co-hosting in October, or another month. In October we have one hostess secured and need a second volunteer to share duties and expenses for the meal.

Oct. 27th Women's Ministry Quarterly Gathering & Lunch, 12:15pm-1:30pm in the fellowship hall. This month we will offer supervised childcare for anyone that wants to attend the gathering. Please send a text to Mary Jo Pfeiffer at 210-213-7615, with the number and ages of children attending—this is important to provide enough staff to provide adequate supervision.

Invite a friend to come for the pizza, salad and dessert luncheon, along with your ideas and suggestions to share for Women's Ministry at Trinity!

Trinity Takeaways—The Women of Trinity began this ministry in 2023. Since then, we have organized 3 cooking dates where volunteers came up to the church's kitchen to prepare meals ready to "heat & eat" from the freezer. Utilizing donations by members and funds applied for from Thrivent Community Action to purchase supplies, the ladies gather to prepare between 10 and 15 meals at each of these cooking sessions.

Since our last cooking day in April 2024, (and with a few extra meals prepared at home by Mary Jo Pfeiffer) **more than 22 meals have been distributed** through church members for family and friends in need of a night off from cooking! This project has been a very successful and rewarding ministry of the Women's Group and is funded through a Thrivent Community Action Grant which purchases food and storage supplies. Members also donate meat for the meals. If you are interested in joining a group of 5-8 ladies that help in meal prep, storage of the meals in the freezer, and clean up afterwards, contact Mary Jo at 210-213-7615

Youth News

First Communion Instruction, taught by Pastor David, was held on Sept. 22nd. Steele Finch, Adley Mann, and Eric Meyertons learned more about what communion means and why it is important. Steele, Adley and Eric's first opportunity to celebrate their first communion will be on October 13th.

Lucky Leaf 4-H Club of Blanco meets at 6pm at Trinity's fellowship hall for once a month Monday meetings*. (**Dates will be on the church calendar and are subject to change with scheduled school events.*) In October, the 4-H Club will be meeting on **Monday, Oct. 28th**, at 6pm.

Harvest Workers study of the Old Testament will also meet here on Mondays at 6pm and will utilize another space here at church that night.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 6th at 12:30pm, **Trinity Tribe Youth** host **Spaghetti Lunch & Bingo** here at Trinity's Fellowship hall!

Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Dessert for \$10 suggested donation. Bingo Games for \$2, \$5, and \$7 depending on prize level.



Funds raised will benefit Trinity Youth and Summer Campers.

SUMMER CAMP IN 2025 SET FOR JUNE 21-25—Mark Your Calendars!

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

Notes from the August 14, 2024 Council of Ministries Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Council members in attendance were Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Travis Kersten, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner.

Pastor David gave a devotional taken from Hebrews 11-12, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses ...Biblical heroes who bore testimony to the power of faith and to God’s faithfulness... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” as we are guided by The Holy Spirit and make wise decisions as Church Council members.

There were no corrections to the July 10th Council meeting minutes. The Action Items were discussed. Travis made a motion to accept the Minutes, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. Sheri gave the Financial Report through July 2024. Keith gave the Treasurer’s Report as of July 31, 2024. Pastor submitted his report for August 2024. Among the items included was Trinity hosting one of the livestream sites of the Global Leadership Summit held on Aug. 8-9. It was well received, and Pastor hopes to do the same thing next year hopefully emphasizing more participation from Trinity members and people from the community. Travis made a motion to except Laura Smith Walla as a member of Trinity. Norman seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion.

Committee Reports:

Youth and Education – Karen W reported for Ashley that she handed out 60 backpack tags and 30 keychains during the Blessing of the Backpacks and Meet the Teacher events. 14 New Teacher Boxes were handed out between the 3 BISD campuses. These boxes were assembled during the VBS Missions project. The Youth Sunday School program kicks off again Sunday, Aug. 18th with an Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. A major Camp Fundraiser will be the Spaghetti Lunch, followed by Bingo held on Sunday, Oct 6th. October 11-13 is the Girls’ Retreat held at The Lost Cypress Ranch near Kendalia. The theme will be ...We saved You a Seat. A Prayer Cross with a paper pad & pencil has been added to the outside of the Youth Room for anyone who wishes to include prayer requests. The Lucky Leaf 4-H Club has requested to use our Fellowship Hall the 4th Monday evening of each month from 6-7pm. Travis made a motion to allow the Lucky Leaf 4-H Club to use our Fellowship Hall each 4th Monday evening, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Stewardship – No report was given.

Evangelism – Karen W and Sally are still working on a banner for Seymour’s Garage fence. Our next 5th Sunday Potluck will be September 29th.

Worship – Travis reported that Sheila in the Media Room is working on a schedule to train Grayson Culton to make slides in her absence. The Rocky Road Band will provide music on Sunday, Aug 25th, and then again on Sunday, Sept 22. Americana Gospel Music is their genre.

Property – Norman submitted his report. Mike Blasi did some necessary carpentry work. Norman, Angie, and Hal restored the Memorial Cross Wall in the Fellowship Hall. Norman announced that the auxiliary parking lot lighting project has been put on hold for the time being. Hal announced that Briana Crenshaw will probably close her coffee truck business and will gift the power pole she had to have installed to Trinity.

Hal made a motion to accept all the Committee Reports, Karen W seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Old Business – The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated as follows: Oct. 13, Hal Switzer and Oct. 27, (*Reformation*) Karen Wagner

The Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, November 10th will be the election of Council Officers whose terms are expiring and will include updating the Congregation's Constitution By-Laws revising job duties of the Council Treasurer & Financial Secretary.

Pastor David and Karen S gave a short report on the LCMC District Gathering held at Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville on July 26-27. The keynote speakers Greg & Susan Finke were very good, and Pastor is considering getting copies of their book Joining Jesus on His Mission...How to Be an Everyday Missionary for each Council member as a good resource in moving the Congregation forward. Pastor David will be attending the LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention, Sept 29-Oct 2 in Marion, Iowa. The Council Retreat will be held Sat., Oct 19 in the Fellowship Hall.

New Business – Travis made a motion to allow Keith Morgenroth to be a signatory for the Thrivent Accounts, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

– Hal is going to put together a Nominating Committee for the Officer elections on November 10th and reported that as he begins to formulate the 2025 Budget, he will use the current budget and make changes as they are brought to his attention. Hal is going to put together a Budget Committee that will present the 2025 Budget, awaiting membership approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. He also announced that the insurance company (Brotherhood Mutual) that Trinity uses has changed its structure, and they need a new proxy signature of an authorized representative.

Council decided to table the request from The Johnson City Christian Food Pantry for a donation. And concerning the upcoming Young Life Fundraiser Banquet Monday, September 23rd, it was decided to not participate in funding the Banquet, but instead continue to support them with our quarterly contribution of \$200.00.

Travis suggested that Trinity might host a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, perhaps on the Teacher Workdays at the beginning of the Spring semester. Three shifts for the 3 different campuses involves about 150-200 teachers & staff. The hosting pastor would have the opportunity to pray over the staff of the entire school district. Sheri made a motion to pursue the idea of Trinity hosting a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in January 2025, Keith seconded the motion, and the Council approved the motion.

Travis, also, announced that Trinity could still sponsor a sign on the Football field fence. He would get all the information and give it to Angie to finalize the sponsorship. Upcoming Events were discussed. Angie will be on vacation August 26-29. Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen W seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRINITY?

Online Contributions Available Using Tithe.ly!

Download the **Tithe.ly** app to your smartphone, and set up your account. Choose "Trinity Lutheran, Blanco," and input the amount of your contribution. The Tithe.ly app provides an option to include the transaction fee as part of your gift or the amount of your gift will be reduced by that fee. Enter your preferred payment method and process the payment.

Once you have completed set-up, the next time you access the **Tithe.ly** app the process is streamlined.

FROM TRINITY'S LIFE TEAM—October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

It's October and that means Pastor Appreciation Month! Does your pastor know how much they are appreciated? You see your pastor on Sundays and maybe even tell them "Great sermon", but Sunday morning is far from the start and end of their duties. In fact, a large majority of pastors indicate they are on call 24 hours a day. The pressure of their position is felt even by their family members, probably more so than they would ever admit.



In recent studies, many pastors reported that they often hear more negative feedback than positive. We would like to encourage you to take time this October to let your pastor (and their family) know how much they are appreciated. Sometimes they need an encouraging reminder that what they're doing is seen, received, valued, and making a Kingdom impact. Here are a few ideas of how you or your church can celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month:

- Write meaningful cards and messages.
- Have children make 'thank you' art projects and gifts.
- Hold a text event, flood their messages with words of gratitude.
- Surprise the pastor with a gift card for a family outing or dinner.
- A gift tree.
- Encourage them to take a day off.
- Offer help with some repair projects.

"He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness" Ephesians 4:11-13

OCTOBER 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*

	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20 Polka Worship	Oct 27
Altar Flowers	Jon & Casey Brones	David & JoAnne Hesskew	Open	Open
Ushers	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
Worship Assistant	Cindy Hawkins	Cindy Hawkins	Barb Geistfeld	Barb Geistfeld
Greeters	Paul & Brenda Moore	Ray & Sharon Wolbrecht	Marie Anna Lindeman & Sharon Cox	Hal & Sandy Switzer
Lector	Ron Bigler	Arlene Hamlin	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Alexis Pawelek
Communion Assistants	No communion	Sheri Riley	No communion	Sally Anderson

Altar Guild	In October:	Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley, Connie Russell
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Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco
P.O. Box 487, Blanco, TX 78606 830-833-4771 email: trinityblanco@gvtc.com

OCTOBER 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer -- **Worship: 9:30 AM, Sunday School: 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6pm Barnabas Time	2	3 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	4	5
6 — <i>No breakfast today</i> 9:30 Worship 11am Sunday School 12:30pm Youth Host Spaghetti Lunch & Bingo, here!	7 Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	8	9 Noon-2pm Game Day, here 6:00pm Council of Ministries meeting	10 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall <u>7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall</u>	11 <i>Girl's Retreat begins</i>	12
13 Communion 9:30 Worship First Communion Celebrated today! 11am Sunday School	14 Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	15 6pm Women's Group meets, TBA 6pm Men's Group meets, at home of Norman Eubank	16	17 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	18 5 th Quarter hosted by Trinity, HERE	19 9am-Noon Council Retreat, fellowship hall
20 Polka Worship, 9:30am 11am Sunday School	21 Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm	22	23 Hall Reserved by Wayne Gosnell	24 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall <u>7pm Movie Night, fellowship hall</u>	25	26
27--Communion Reformation Day 9:30 Worship 11am Sunday School 12:15pm Women's Gathering & Lunch	28 Harvest Worker Courses, 10am & 6pm Lucky Leaf 4-H club meeting, 6pm	29	30	31 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall		



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



A Mission Minded Lament

Last week I received the following email from a concerned church member offering a heartfelt and faithful lament for the mission of the church. I asked for his permission to share it with you anonymously:

I was going through some old documents at my parents' house today. I came across an old bulletin and I was at first amazed... and then scared. I grew up in a small town in Texas. Our Lutheran congregation was the big church in town, but not the only church. As I think back, everybody I knew went to some church.

The bulletin dated December 2, 1956 showed the attendance the previous Sunday had been a whopping 255 people! And this was no fluke: the attendance on Thanksgiving Day was 212! The 1960 census population for the town was a little over 600 people. In other words, this Lutheran church had regular worship attendance of more than 40% of the whole town's population while numerous other churches thrived nearby. Fast forward to today and that same church reports and average worship attendance in the 80s while the town's census population grew by 30% between 1960 and 2020. Today, about 10% of the community's population is in worship at this church. In 67 years, the attendance fell by 65% and the attendance as a percentage of population fell by 75%!

The attendance figures in my hometown church struck me to my core. Are we (the Church) doing something wrong? How do we deliver the Good News (law and gospel) to this generation? Are we missing some huge opportunity to get people to listen? For, if they do not hear, how can they believe?

I know that we can never bring back the past, but the Gospel can change the future and make it even better. Many people today feel hopeless, helpless, and numb. The news constantly talks about the divide among people: liberals and conservatives, skin colors and nationalities, rich and poor, religious people and the unchurched. Many people do not acknowledge their sin, are not willing to forgive and cannot comprehend faith, grace or salvation.

Contrary to the news reports and popular opinion, I believe that love, hope and joy exist in this world and are prevalent in the Church. The real Church is not angry old people criticizing sinners; nor is it Puritans conquering Satan. The true Church is the fellowship of saints who have grievously experienced sin, mercifully accepted forgiveness, and found the love, hope and joy that abounds within them as a gift of God's grace. And they freely and joyfully share these gifts with others (especially those different than themselves) through their everyday lives.

If this was how the Church was known in the world, do you think people would want to listen? How do we (including the whole LCMC) become that kind of Church? Any ideas? Lots of prayers and contemplation. Enough for now.

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. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org. © 2024 Bryce J. Formwalt, All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission. October 2024