

December Events at Trinity:

Dec. 1—Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15a.m. hosted by the Hannah & Deborah Women's Teams
1st Sunday in Advent Worship, 9:30a.m.

Mondays: Dec. 2, 9, & 16 – Harvest Workers,
10am & 6pm, here in the fellowship hall

Dec 3—Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers,
6pm, here

Thursdays: Dec. 5, 12, & 19 – Bible Study, here

Dec. 6—Decorate the Church for Christmas!
Join Altar Guild at 4:30pm to set the scene for the holiday—All are Welcome to join us!

Dec 8—2nd Sunday in Advent Worship and Holy Communion
Angel Tree/Blessing Project Gifts due to church today!

Dec 11—Ladies Game Day, here at Noon
Council Meeting, here at 6pm

Dec 12—Movie Night, here 7-9pm, free popcorn!

Dec. 15—3rd Sunday in Advent Worship, 9:30a.m.
Youth Angel Tree/Blessing Project Gift Wrapping TODAY at Noon!

Dec. 22—4th Sunday in Advent Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30am

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, 5:00pm (**Church office Closes today at Noon today and reopens January 2nd!*)

Dec. 25—Merry Christmas!

Dec. 29—1st Sunday of Christmas Worship, 9:30am

Dec. 31—Annual Reports for 2024 from committees due to the church office by today.

Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where God is Seen

1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:19

Love is Felt

John 13:34-35

Lives are Changed

Romans 12:1-2

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

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



Small Groups

Wow! We already have about 30 people who have signed up to be in a small group (life group, house church, growth group), and that is just the first Sunday.

The mission is to foster well rounded disciples in authentic relationships through small groups so that the following five purposes are in balance: fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry, and evangelism.

I will work with those who said they will help on a task force for developing small groups for Trinity Lutheran, Blanco. If anyone else would like to join us, let me know. More on this later.

The Gospel of Luke

This year we are going to study the Gospel of Luke in depth!

The three-year Bible lectionary (list of readings) is based on one year for each of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospel of John gets sprinkled in all three years. The new church year, beginning this month, is based on the Gospel of Luke.

Instead of going through Luke in a more scattershot kind of way, I will be preaching through Luke throughout the year from beginning to end. The only time we will look at Luke out of sequence will be during Holy Week. We will have a few Sundays that will be different, such as Veterans Sunday. I believe you and I will have a clearer understanding of Luke and his presentation of the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Veterans' Sunday

Trinity's many military veterans strike a handsome pose after Vet Sunday Service on November 10, 2024. Held yearly on the Sunday closest to Veterans Day, November 11th, Trinity's service honors those who have served in the U.S. or an allied nation's armed forces.

We salute our veterans and thank them for their service!

Trinity's Altar Guild— December Schedule



Thank you to Arlene Hamlin, Lacy Lukich, Sharon Wolbrecht, and Cindy Hawkins for their service to the altar and to Sunday worship during the month of November! During the month of December, Bonnie Triesch and Tara Seymour need

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extra help as their team has only 2 members! If you can pitch in during the busy December, please contact Bonnie to help prepare the altar for worship services.



Friday, Dec. 6th DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS—The holiday season is ramping up and help is needed to decorate the church and sanctuary for the Christmas Season! We will meet at church at 4:30pm to decorate the building and the brand new tree in the sanctuary! Contact Bonnie Triesch for more information at 210-705-2811.

Sign up for poinsettias! If you would like to help off-set the costs of poinsettias for the church to decorate the altar during the Christmas season, please sign up on the bulletin board to purchase a poinsettia. The cost per plant is \$7/each and may be designated “in Honor” or “in Memory” of loved ones. A complete list of will be included in the bulletin for Dec. 24th.

Sunday School News!

2024 The Angel Tree/Blessing Project—There are several ways to participate!

Full Sponsor: take a child from the board and purchase their clothing and wish list. Partial Sponsor: take a child from the board and purchase either their clothing or wish list. Donating Sponsor: choose a name and donate to that name or just make a general donation towards all Blessing Project kids. Dedicated shoppers will use the funds donated to make sure every child receives their special gifts. Item Sponsor: donate general items that can be divided where needed. Some common wish list items are coloring books, coloring supplies, arts & crafts, sports balls and stuffed animals. Also, common needs are socks and underwear. Bike Sponsor: donate towards the bike fund, there are children this year that have a bike on their wish list. We will be watching ads to get the best deals possible on bikes.

ALL GIFT DONATIONS ARE DUE BACK AT CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH

And after Sunday School Dec. 15th, we be wrapping gifts and organizing the project!

EVERYONE is welcome to join! For more information, contact Ashley Finch (830-237-6288)



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Cheering on a Comeback

Like most sports fans, I love a good comeback! There's nothing quite like when a team mounts a comeback after falling hopelessly behind. It is thrilling to experience how the players, coaches, and fans rally to support one another and celebrate each step along the way just to get back into a position to potentially be victorious!

Recently, my wife and I came back: After a six-month absence from the church we attend when in town, we were finally able to come back to worship on a Sunday morning this month. Life and ministry commitments had us on the road since Easter and we truly missed the church that had become family to us. But the comeback we experienced was not personally thrilling for me. Instead, I sheepishly walked through those doors, wondering what people were thinking of us after all this time. I even found myself saying "the prodigals have returned" to one of my friends.

As I began to process it, my experience really bothered me. Why did I feel this way? No one was judgmental at all. Not one person asked, "where have you been?" Many greeted us with joyous expressions of welcome. So why did I, a minister of the Gospel who should definitely know better, feel such guilt and shame? And if I had this intense struggle, for how many others might similar feelings be an obstacle to coming back to church?

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we are more likely to encounter people who may not be in the pattern of attending church regularly. Many may be struggling with intense feelings of guilt and shame even thinking about returning to worship. Some of these feelings may get projected onto other church members, like my thinking we would be judged or looked down on. Other feelings might be more of an internal spiritual battle. Regardless, it is mission-critical for the church to cheer on the comeback.

If you haven't been active in church lately, I want my experience to be an encouragement for you. While the devil will use every trick he can to keep you away from the life-giving experience of a faith community gathered around word and sacrament, trust that God desires your presence and participation. I am confident that you will encounter a loving, welcoming reception by your church family who will celebrate your presence.

If you are a regular worshipper, please enthusiastically support and encourage any and all comebacks! Begin to pray daily for the Holy Spirit to gather those whom the Lord calls to come back to worship. Pray for God to bring to mind specific people to pray for and encourage. Perhaps God is leading you to reach out to someone. Be mindful to not inadvertently contribute to any feelings of guilt or shame. Instead, take an interest in them out of genuine love. Offer to meet for coffee or lunch. Find out what's going on in their lives and how you can pray for them. Consider inviting them to a special event, small group, or service project that gives the opportunity for casual, relational connection. And most importantly, when you see someone new or that you haven't seen for some time, warmly welcome them and simply let them know you are so happy to see them. These simple actions can make a difference as we cheer on a comeback!

*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.
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DECEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

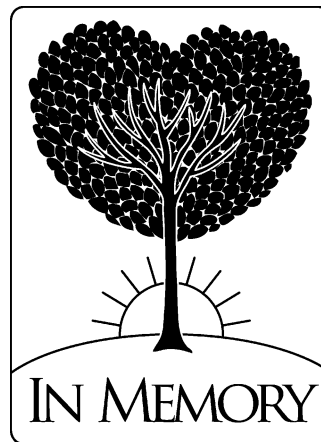
**Please use this handy section to keep track of monthly responsibilities organized by Sunday. Each Sunday there are many important opportunities to serve your church.

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 24 5pm Candlelight Worship	Dec 29
Altar Flowers	<i>OPEN</i>	Hal & Sandy Switzer	<i>OPEN</i>	Cymbre Wicker	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
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	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley	David Hesskew David Barker Charles Riley
Worship Asst.	Barb Geistfeld	Barb Geistfeld	Jim Clifton	Jim Clifton	<i>TBA</i>	Jim Geistfeld
Greeters	Robert & Tara Seymour	Jim & Barb Geistfeld	Richard Palmer	Travis & Kathy Kersten	Wayne & Martha Gosnell	Trinity Youth
Lectors	Ron Bigler	Keith Morgenroth	Arlene Hamlin	Mary Jo Pfeiffer	<i>TBA</i>	Alexis Pawelek
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Sheri Riley	<i>No communion</i>	Karen Wagner	Ashley Finch Sally Anderson	<i>No communion</i>
Altar Guild	In December:	Bonnie Triesch & Tara Seymour				

Memorials in November

In Memory of Medora Beckmann

By Cicero Rust III
 Mr. Loy Moe
 Marie Anna Lindeman
 Cymbre Wicker
 Arlene Bayless
 Louise & Tom Koch
 Mark Liesmann
 Steve & Cathi Smitherman, to Scholarship Fund
 Jerry & Jan Gass
 Bobby & Judy Brewer
 David & JoAnne Hesskew



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DECEMBER 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 - 1st Sun. in Advent Breakfast hosted by Hannah & Deborah Teams, 8:30-9:15am 9:30am Worship	2 Harvest Workers Class, 10a & 6p	3 6pm Barnabas Time	4	5 11am Pastor leads Bible Study, here	6 4:30pm Altar Guild Decorates the church/sanctuary tree for Christmas!	7
8 - Communion 2nd Sun. in Advent 9:30am Worship Blessing Project/Angel Tree gifts due to church today!	9 Harvest Workers Class, 10a & 6p	10 Newsletter articles due TODAY!	11 Noon Ladies Game Day, here 6:00pm Council meeting	12 11am Pastor leads Bible Study, here	13	14
15 3rd Sun. in Advent 9:30am service Blessing Project/Angel Tree gift-wrapping TODAY	16 Harvest Workers Class, 10a & 6p	17 5pm Women's Group Christmas Party, here 6pm Men's Group, meets at Gass'	18	19 11am Pastor leads Bible Study, here	20	21
22 - Communion 4th Sun. in Advent 9:30am service	23	24 Candlelight Communion Service, 5:00p.m.	25 Merry Christmas! <i>Church office closed until Jan. 2, 2025</i>	26	27	28
29 9:30am Worship	30	31 Annual Reports for 2024 due to the church office today				

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

Notes from the Church Council Meeting on October 9, 2024

Vice-President Hal Switzer called the meeting to order at 5:58pm. Council members in attendance were Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Travis Kersten, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Pastor Dave read Psalm 100 and Psalm 103 and based his opening prayer on the attributes of God...good, wonderful, gracious, kind, and powerful Lord. May He guide us in His wisdom as we make decisions as a Council.

There were no corrections to the Minutes of the September 11th Council meeting. Travis made a motion to accept the Minutes, Keith seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The Action Items were discussed and had been done.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through September 2024. Keith gave the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2024.

Pastor Dave submitted his report for October 2024. He has 3 students in the First-Communion Class... Steele Finch, Adley Mann, and Eric Meyerton. They and their families will be given Holy Communion before the rest of the Congregation is invited to the front on either of the two Communion Sundays in October. The two books to be referenced at the October 19th Council Retreat were briefly discussed. Pastor also reported on the LCMC Annual Gathering that he attended in Iowa.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth and Education – Ashley reported that the Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo fundraiser was a great success, raising over \$2,600. The Girls' Retreat is this coming weekend in Kendalia. The mid age youth group Sunday School is beginning a beach themed study for 5 weeks. Trinity will sponsor '5th Quarter' after the football game on October 18th.

Stewardship – No report was submitted.

Evangelism – Karen W reported that she had spoken to Sally, and Sally will revisit making the banner to be put on Seymour's Garage's US281 fence. A possible project next year might be decorating the church courtyard fence for Homecoming Weekend.

Worship – Travis reported that Leta wants to start choir practice this week. Sheila (Media room) wants to stay on task with sound testing for special microphones and easier/better accessibility to Facebook. Council agreed to purchase several potted Mums to have on reserve when no altar flowers are provided.

Property – Norman submitted his report. The bi-annual A/C inspection was just completed. Norman replaced all air filters. All is good.

Travis made a motion to accept the Committee Reports, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Old Business –

No updates were made to the Communion Assistants Schedule. Hal reported that the Electronic Giving opportunity is working. Pastor said that instructions for using this option for giving will be in future bulletins. Travis has agreed to make bar-b-que for the Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon on January 6, 2025. He and a team will coordinate all the other needs. Elementary teachers & Central Office personnel will be served from 11:30am – 12:15pm. Middle School & High School teachers will be served from 12:15pm – 1:00pm.

The Nominating Committee has had no other names submitted for the positions of Council members whose 3-year terms are expiring. Hal submitted a proposed Budget for 2025, which was briefly discussed. The Congregation will elect the officers and approve the 2025 constitutional changes at the Congregational Meeting on November 10th. The Budget will be available to the congregation for review starting Sunday, November 17th.

Changes and updates to the Proposed Church Constitution were discussed. Refer to the Proposed Updates for 2024 Constitution handout. Proposed changes are printed in red. Norman made a motion to accept the changes and updates to the proposed Constitution & Bylaws as presented and discussed, Travis seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The Congregation will approve the Updated Constitution & Bylaws at the November 10, 2024, Congregational Meeting.

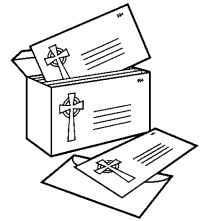
New Business -

The 3rd quarter Benevolence spreadsheet was presented and discussed. Changes for the next quarter were also suggested because of changes that are affecting 3 of our recipients. Travis made a motion to decrease next quarter's amount for FCA by \$200. and increase the amounts for LCMC National and LCMC Texas by \$100. each. Norman seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Travis seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024 DUE BY DECEMBER 31st According to Trinity's constitution, "All committees, ministries, and organizations within the Congregation shall submit reports to the church office at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual January Business Meeting. These reports shall be made available to the Congregation the Sunday prior to this annual meeting." **December 31 is the deadline to submit reports. Please email reports to trinityblanco@gvtc.com or drop off a copy in the church office.**

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES—You may pick up your 2025 offering envelope sets on Sunday mornings from the narthex table. Each member, that chooses to use envelopes for their weekly offerings, is assigned a contributor number, and confidential contribution records are recorded each time an offering is received. It is your decision whether or not to utilize the envelopes.



At the end of the year, each contributor receives an annual contribution statement, which totals contributions of record for the year. Members are also able to use one envelope and one check to make multiple contributions to separate funds. If you do not find a box of contribution envelopes with your name on them, and would like to use a set, please call Angie in the church office, 833-4771. Thank you!



BE A GREETER! Each Sunday morning a dedicated team of volunteers stand at the door of the narthex to greet members, friends and visitors to worship. If you are interested in learning more about serving as a Greeter, please contact Wayne Gosnell at gosnelltexas@gmail.com or call him at 830-833-0586.

Wayne schedules Greeters for each Sunday of 2025 and also sends reminders when it is your Sunday to Greet. Join the greeters and welcome everyone that comes to worship.