



January Events at Trinity:

Trinity Volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels Tuesdays this month—check the sign up sheet for the dates you are scheduled, and thank you for your service to the homebound in Blanco!

Jan. 1—Happy New Year!! Church Office Closed
Jan. 2—Church office re-opens, 9am-1pm

Jan. 5—Breakfast at Trinity! 8:30-9:15am
Hosted by Women's Teams Ruth & Hannah

Jan. 6—Trinity hosts **BISD Teacher Appreciation BBQ Lunch**, fellowship hall

Jan. 7—Meals on Wheels Delivery Begins Today!
**Continues each Tuesday in January*
Barnabas Time, here at 6:00pm

Jan. 8—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm
Council Meeting, 6pm

Jan. 9—Pastor's Bible Study, 11am
**Continues each Thursday after*

Jan. 13—Harvest Workers Class, 10am & 6pm
**Continues each Monday after*
Prayer Shawl Meeting, 11am-1pm, here

Jan. 19—Stephen Ministry Sunday
Installation of Council Officers, 9:30am
Annual Congregational Meeting,
In the sanctuary immediately after services to review 2024 events and approve the **Women's Ministry Quarterly Gathering**, 12:15pm luncheon and meeting with childcare provided,

Jan. 21—Women's & Men's Groups meet for fellowship, TBA

Jan. 27—Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meeting, 6pm
4-H meeting held in hall and Harvest Workers meet in narthex kitchen area

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 Secretary 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

Trinity Small Groups

Steve Gladen, small groups pastor at Saddleback Church has a quote in his office: **“Vision without implementation is hallucination.”** Your enthusiastic response with the signup sheets is an encouragement to get on with it. I would rather begin the formation of small groups and learn and adjust as we go, than wait until we have everything just right. So, if you will join me in pursuing this ministry without being perfect, let’s go for it. I’m adapting Steve Gladen’s ideas below:

1. GETMO, Good Enough To Move On

We’re not waiting for perfection, which is the death nell of a great idea. A great idea will bring its own energy and we will fine tune as we go. Good stewards, not super heroes.

2. Leaders in training, not experts

Leaders are facilitators, not Bible or group dynamic experts. Studies will be provided and leaders will be trained. In fact, the next step will be finding individuals or couples who will facilitate (lead by drawing people into discussion, finding balance in who contributes, being the gatekeeper of grace-filled welcome and interaction. One of the things that a facilitator will do is identify a host person or couple. They will also set the parameters: whether the group is for singles, young families, multi-generational; how many they want to begin with, etc.

3. Life groups as purpose driven groups, not special interest groups

Special interest groups accomplish a task (Altar Guild, Sunday school class, men’s group or women’s group) and are important and strategic. Small groups focus on healthy individuals and groups by building on the five biblical purposes: fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism and worship. We will focus on relational groups.

4. Relationship Building, Not Multiplication

Some groups will be small and grow slowly, some groups will grow large. That will depend on the leader and the group. It makes sense that we not grow a group in order to split it up. We’ll keep it simple: help leaders help their groups to grow closer, and encourage groups to be a safe and loving place to invite others, members of Trinity or otherwise.

From Steve Gladen: **“When John and Mary walk in the front door of a small group, they’re hoping that someone will be there who will greet them warmly, love them for who they are, pray for their challenges, encourage their growth in Christ, and praise their answered prayers. The last thing they want is those friends they are starting to trust, those people who they now feel ready to open up with, suddenly say, “OK, it was fun knowing you. Let’s all pray about the new small groups we are going to start!” Life on life takes time. One piece of iron doesn’t sharpen another piece of iron with one brush against it. Iron on iron has to happen many times in order for both to be sharpened.”**

We will grow the number of groups by identifying leaders who will start new groups by attracting people to join, not by arbitrarily dividing groups that have grown.

5. Group size dynamics

We don’t want to have strict rules about how large the group gets. Leaders and groups will keep an eye on the group dynamics. The emphasis of small groups will be authentic relationships and not a large party where individuals get lost in the shuffle. Training will address this wonderful “problem.”

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

January 6th Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at Trinity

Trinity's Church Council is planning a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on the first Monday of January. All Blanco ISD employees will be our guests at a BBQ Lunch served in our fellowship hall. We hope to serve approximately 175 dedicated school staff at the two lunches that day:

11:30am-12:15pm for Elementary & Central Office/Transportation
12:15-1pm for Middle School and High School.

Travis Kersten will BBQ and with help from Charles Riley and other Council officers, the lunch has been coordinated. However, the Council wants all members to lift up our BISD staff and their continued dedication to the children of Blanco, so please consider participating Jan. 6th!

Contact the Council member coordinating the items still needed, or sign up on Sunday at the narthex bulletin board:

Karen Wagner

Sally Anderson & Ashley Finch

Karen Wagner

DESSERTS for the luncheon

RAFFLE ITEMS/DOOR PRIZES, like gift cards or gift baskets

TEACHER SUPPLIES: pens, scissors, sticky notes, glue, dry erase markers, etc...so teachers can fill a small bag with things they need for their classroom.

Also needed are volunteer GREETERS to meet and greet BISD staff and share encouragement

BLESSINGS PROJECT (AKA: Angel Tree) 2024! With your help we were able to bring Christmas to children from local families in the community! Thank you to our Trinity members that purchased gifts, donated funds, assembled bikes, sorted, and wrapped gifts—you are appreciated!

Trinity Tribe Youth assisted in collecting, wrapping, and labeling all those gifts with the help of many members of the congregation. On Sunday, December 15th right after services, volunteers wrapped gifts for the families.

Many thanks to Ashley for her diligence in organizing and coordinating the event!

ECUMENICAL MEN'S BREAKFAST -

Approximately 80 men gathered on December 14th at the Blanco Methodist Church for the monthly Blanco Ecumenical Christian Men's Breakfast.

This month's breakfast featured a Christian Men's Barbershop Quartet harmonizing a series of inspirational tunes that were enjoyed by all.

The next breakfast will be at 8am, Saturday, January 11th at St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church in Blanco.



LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE! Each Sunday you can connect with Trinity and join in live streaming worship from the sanctuary by going to Face Book at “Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, Texas.” Sheila Mercer, Media Director, records and sets up those live streams each Sunday. Past recorded services are also available to view on our website www.trinityofblanco.com, under the sermons tab. Unplanned technology glitches may still occur occasionally, but we do our best to avoid them.

Altar Guild News—Thank you to Bonnie Triesch and Tara Seymour and extra helpers for preparing the altar during the month of December. On duty during the month of January will be Sandy Switzer, Karen Steiger, and Sally Anderson. Please call Bonnie Triesch at 210-705-2811, if you have any questions or if you are interested in serving on one of the teams that prepares for worship each Sunday.

The 2025 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the narthex for members to sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Altar flowers may be listed in honor of events/people or in memory of loved ones. An altar guild member or the church office will contact you to find out if you will bring your own flowers or order them locally the week prior. If payment is made through the church, please mark your envelope with “altar flowers” before dropping it in the offering basket. The cost of 2 altar arrangements plus delivery is now \$95.00, but members may bring their own arrangements. Please coordinate with the Altar Team on duty or the church office to be sure the flowers are here when the altar is set up. Thank you!

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Please thank the Women of the Word for me! The gift certificate was very thoughtful! It does my heart good to be a servant of our Lord Jesus Christ! To see the Holy Spirit doing His miraculous work over this special Women's Retreat weekend, that the ladies take time out of their lives to attend! That in itself is a testimony! Praise God!!!
Thank you! Lacy Lukich

The Church Staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous gifts received at Christmas. We each strive to serve God in our unique ways and to give him the Glory! The Council and Congregation's appreciation for the work we do is such a blessing!
Many thanks and God bless, Your Church Staff

THANK YOU to everyone that sent Christmas and Thank You cards during the month of December. I enjoyed each card, filled with the many expressions of love and support...you all really made my month special! Thank you also to the Women of Trinity for the thoughtful gift of a beautiful blanket and a gift box filled with MORE goodies that warmed my heart!!
Love my Trinity Family, Angie Daniels

News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President	Travis Kersten—Worship
Hal Switzer—Vice-President	Karen Wagner—Evangelism/Fellowship
Karen Steiger—Secretary	Norman Eubank—Property
Keith Morgenroth—Treasurer	Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary	Sally Anderson—Stewardship

COUNCIL NOTES—from the November 13, 2024 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Council members in attendance were Sally Anderson, Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Ashley Finch, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner. Wayne Gosnell sat in as member input.

Pastor’s devotion was taken from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 9. Be a cheerful giver, not just of money, but love and time, as well. What God gives to us is meant to be shared.

There were several corrections to the Minutes of the October 9th Council meeting. Under Old Business, 2nd paragraph, the last two sentences should read, “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, December 29th. Keith made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Norman seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report and reviewed the graphs through October 2024. Keith gave the Treasurer’s Report as of October 31, 2024. Pastor Dave submitted his report for November 2024. He received many positive comments on John Brones’ testimony given on November 10th, Veteran’s Sunday. The FCA sponsored event, Field of Faith, had some very moving student testimonies. Pastor had heard from Pastor Bobby Leggett. He and Dayna have moved to Brenham and accepted calls to Salem Lutheran – NALC. Dayna is the Youth & Children’s Minister. Ken McWilliams and his wife, Mary Beth Chalk, would like to join Trinity. Norman made a motion to accept them as members, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

--Youth and Education – Ashley reported that Trinity will not host 5th Quarter next year. The Corn Maze outing was a big success with 11 youth attending. The Youth Food Race will be held on Sunday, November 17th. Trinity is again participating in the Angel Tree project with 10 families (24 kids) in the Blanco area receiving gifts. The deadline for bringing the requested gifts is Sunday, December 8th and wrapping those gifts will take place Sunday, December 15th. Ashley asked if there is extra money in the Youth Account at the end of the year, could that money be transferred to the Youth Camp Account. Council members agreed to make that transfer. On December 30th this year’s Confirmation Class will be going to Main Event Entertainment Center as a late celebration.

--Stewardship – Sally had not received any thank you letters this month.

--Evangelism – Karen W reported that she purchased a new 12ft Christmas tree for Trinity. The Community Thanksgiving Meal will be held at The Gem of the Hills on Sunday evening, November 24th, hosted by First Baptist Church. Trinity is responsible for bringing the desserts. Ashley reported that a \$250.00 deposit for the portable lighting equipment that was used in the parking lot for 5th Quarter was charged to Evangelism, but it will be charged back since the equipment was returned in good condition.

Evangelism will be broken out in two parts: Evangelism and Fellowship. If Karen W stays as Fellowship Chairperson, Sally would like to be Evangelism Chairperson. This leaves Stewardship as a vacant Committee. Wayne Gosnell is willing to serve as Stewardship Chairperson provided, he finds several other people to serve with him, so they can cover for him during the times he is out of town.

--Worship – Travis reported to Jerry that all was going well with his committee. Sheila has a few issues to discuss with John, the sound manager... choir microphones, Facebook volume, and recording issues. She will be on vacation Dec 18 – Jan 2 and is planning to find a replacement during her absence. Pastor Dave suggested one individual be solely responsible for checking the sound before and during the service. This could possibly be a paid high school student, who would be responsible for finding his own replacement when he cannot be present.

--Property – Norman submitted his report. There are currently no major projects. An insurance inspector made several safety suggestions that Norman said he would take care of.

Keith 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 and Pastor Dave is working on music for a Contemporary Service.

--Sally presented suggestions for the wording on the church banner. She is still working on the actual design of the banner. Jerry reiterated that placement of the banner on Seymour's fence as people are at the stop light coming onto US281 at Lowe's would be an excellent location. Hal reported that electronic giving seems to be working. Wayne suggested that a QR code might be worth consideration.

New Business

--The next steps following the Council Retreat would include looking into "small group" possibilities. Pastor Dave emphasized that building relationships to carry out "mission work" would be a purpose for these small groups. They would base their time together studying Scripture/thoughts from the previous Sunday's sermon. Pastor plans to teach on 'joining Jesus in His mission' during the Lenten services. It is not so much a 'how to' as it is a lifestyle change.

--The BISD Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be held on January 6, 2025. Trinity will host the Luncheon. Travis has agreed to make the bar-b-que, and Charlie Riley will make the beans. Council members are asked to think of good door prizes.

--Jerry reported that all went well at the Congregational Meeting on November 10th.

--The Blanco County Beekeepers Assn sent Trinity an email requesting meeting room space on the third Thursday of each month. The Council members decided not to provide the space because of our own use of the Fellowship Hall on Thursday nights, and the added security needs.

--Jerry reported that there was an extra \$2,600.00 leftover in the 2024 Budget. The Council members decided to round the amount to \$3,000.00 and divide this one-time 'Blessing' equally among the 6 TLC employees as part of their Christmas bonuses this year.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Jan. 19th immediately following worship in the sanctuary to review 2024 and approve 2025 Budget.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET are available in the narthex for members to review prior to the January 19, 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting. Pick up your copy on Sunday morning or during church office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm. A copy of the proposed 2025 budget will also be included in the Annual Report, distributed on January 12, 2025, the Sunday before the Annual Congregational Meeting on the following Sunday, January 19.

REMEMBER THE DATE(S) YOU SIGNED UP to deliver Meals on Wheels in January!

The sign up sheet is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board and Lainie Parker, MOW coordinator, also has a copy. Boxed sets of meals, lasting a week, must be picked up by 9:30 a.m. at Trinity's fellowship hall, in order that delivery can be completed by Noon. We are still ONLY delivering once a week on Tuesdays. Two teams are needed for the two routes served by the Meals on Wheels Program. ****If you find you CANNOT deliver on the date you signed up for, please let Angie or Lainie know so that a replacement can be called and the meals delivered on time. Thank you!**





Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



A New Command

As Jesus gathered with his disciples for his last supper, he not only communed with them, but he also served them in a unique way. Before the meal began, he took off his outer robe, knelt down with a basin of water and a towel, and washed their feet. It was a stunning act of service by the King of kings and Lord of lords! Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

This familiar text is a reminder of what sets Jesus’ followers apart: a self-sacrificing love for one another. Jesus did not say “it would be really neat if you would be nice to one another.” He was not asking his followers to tolerate or put up with one another. He did not offer his example of humble service as a suggestion among a buffet of options. He clearly states this as a new command that is a mark of every single disciple of Jesus. Jesus makes the clear connection that this love will be noticed by the world and is key to sharing Jesus’ love and bearing witness to the Gospel to the world. So, this loving one another thing is *really* important for our mission in the world!

But what does it mean to love one another? What does this look like in your local church and current ministry context? How do we relate to and connect with one another in ways that are loving, forgiving, serving, encouraging, and, in all ways, build up the body of Christ? As an association of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, I believe that it is essential to connect and relate to one another in ways that strengthen our mutual mission and ministry and lead to healthier churches in each of our communities.

For this reason, I would like you to join me and others from across our association as we take two days to dive deeper into this topic. Our Winter Retreats will gather in beautiful Concan, Texas next month around the theme of “One Another”. There are two identical retreats being offered, so choose the one that best fits in your schedule: Sunday evening, February 2 through Tuesday noon, February 4 or Wednesday evening, February 5 through Friday noon, February 7. Each retreat will feature two teaching tracks. LCMC’s Coordinator for Leadership and Pastoral Development Christian Huntley will be teaching the Leadership Track while Texas District Council member Barbara Hoover will be leading the Devotional Track.

The retreat is open to all and is an affordable opportunity to grow in your walk with God and develop your relational capacity to love others as Jesus loves us. If you register by January 11, the retreat registration costs \$120 and includes the program, food, and lodging. To learn more and register online, go to www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat. Feel free to reach out with any questions as we are here to help: 512-942-7776 or info@lcmctexas.org.

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. January 2025

JANUARY 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.

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Altar Flowers	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
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 Assistants	Jim Geistfeld	Jim Geistfeld	Cindy Hawkins	Cindy Hawkins
Greeters	Llano & Lynda Baumgartner	Rodney & Helen Bruemmer	Stephen Ministers	Steve & Sharee Aery
Lectors	Roland Pfeiffer	Kathy Kersten	Sandy Switzer	Ken McWilliams
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Travis Kersten	<i>No communion</i>	Wayne Gosnell
Altar Guild	During the month of January:	Sandy Switzer, Karen Steiger, Sally Anderson		

Women's News:

Jan. 5—Hannah & Ruth Teams will serve breakfast from 8:30-9:15am in the fellowship hall. (*see 2025 Breakfast at Trinity schedule on page 9!)

Jan. 6—Desserts requested for the Teacher Appreciation BBQ Luncheon here at Trinity's fellowship hall. Sign up on Sunday to provide a dessert at this event to celebrate our Blanco ISD teachers and support staff!

Jan. 19—**Women's Quarterly Gathering**, 12:15pm here in the fellowship hall.
 Childcare provided, please RSVP to Mary Jo Pfeiffer at 210-213-7615 to help prepare activities for the kids.

Jan. 21—Women's Group meets for fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study at 6pm. Location and hosts to be announced!

MEMORIALS IN DECEMBER

In Memory of Medora Beckmann

*By Roy & Doris Phipps
 Arlene Hamlin
 Bill & Bobbie Mouser
 Lemae Higgs, Sirkka & Ursula*

In Memory of Beverly Hawkins

By Roy & Doris Phipps to the Scholarship Fund

Memorials or Honorariums may be given to the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, Building Fund and/or Scholarship Fund at any time and for any occasion. For more information, contact the Church Office.

THANK YOU - To all involved in preparing, serving and providing food for the luncheon served for family and friends of Medora Beckmann. It was so good and so very appreciated by all. Medora loved her church family very much and looked forward to her time there every Sunday.
Sincerely, Trena Beckmann

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

JANUARY 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer--Worship: 9:30 AM, Fellowship Time: 10:30AM, Sunday School: 11:00 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! <i>Church office closed</i>	2 <i>9am-1pm, Church Office re-opens</i> <i>No Bible Study with Pastor today</i>	3	4
5 <i>Breakfast at Trinity! 8:30-9:15a.m., hosted by Women's Teams Ruth & Hannah</i>	6 BISD Teacher Appreciation Lunch, 11:30-1pm, here <i>No Harvest</i> <i>Workers class today</i>	7 <i>9:30am Meals on Wheels delivery today!</i> <i>6pm Barnabas Time, here</i>	8 Noon-2pm Ladies Game Day, here 6pm Council Meeting, fellowship hall	9 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	10	11
12-communion	13 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	14 <i>9:30am MOW delivery today!</i>	15	16 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	17	18
19—Stephen Ministry Sunday Council Officers Installed 10:45am Annual Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary <u>12:15 Women's Quarterly Gathering, here</u>	20 Newsletter articles due TODAY! 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	21 <i>9:30am MOW delivery today!</i> Women's/Men's Groups meets, TBA	22	23 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	24	25
26 —communion	27 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here Lucky Leaf 4-H meeting, 6pm in the fellowship hall	28 <i>9:30am MOW delivery today!</i>	29	30 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	31	

Breakfast At Trinity in 2025

On the first Sunday of each month, the Women's & Men's Groups will host breakfast from 8:30-9:15am at Trinity's fellowship hall. The breakfasts are hosted in a monthly rotation, and in 2024, between 30 & 50 participants attended. Below is the schedule for breakfasts in 2025 and the scheduled hosts:

January 5	Hannah & Ruth
February 2	Men's Group
March 2	Esther & Deborah
April 6	Hannah & Ruth
May 4	Men's Group
June 1	**NO Breakfast due to VBS set up on Sunday!
July 6	Esther & Deborah
August 3	Hannah & Ruth
September 7	Men's Group
October 5	Esther & Deborah
November 2	Hannah & Ruth
December 7	Men's Group

Everyone is invited to attend and bring a friend to join you!

