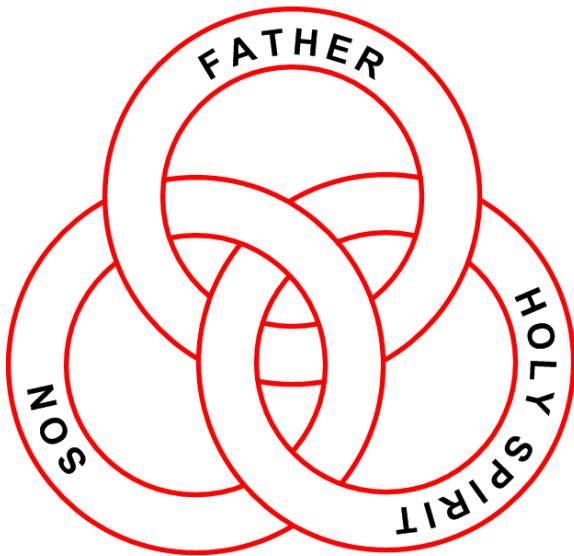


Men's



Trinity Lutheran of Blanco

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



February Events at Trinity:

Sunday Worship Services are held in the sanctuary and also livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30a.m.

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month

Feb. 2—Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15a.m. hosted by the Men's Group

Feb. 3—Harvest Workers meets Mondays in February in the fellowship hall at both 10:00am & 6:00pm

Feb. 4—Trinity Takeaways Cooking Day, 10am, fellowship hall kitchen
Stephen Ministry Barnabas Time, 6pm
Here in the fellowship hall

Feb. 8—Men's Ecumenical Breakfast held at Trinity's fellowship hall, 8am

Feb. 10—Prayer Shawl Gathering, here in the fellowship hall at 11:30am

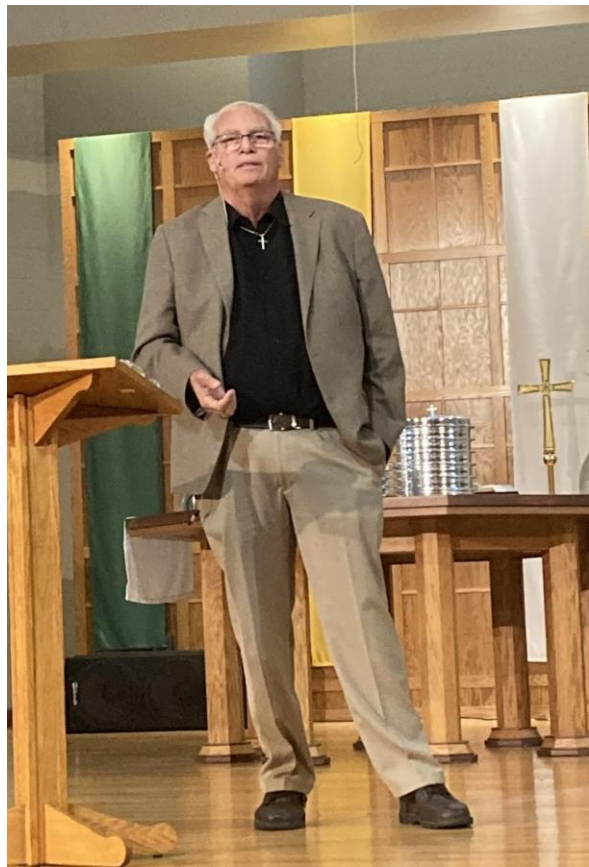
Feb. 12—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm, here Council of Ministries Meeting, 6pm, fellowship hall

Feb. 18—Men's & Women's Groups meet together for fellowship, here at church, 6:00p.m.

Feb. 21—Pastor Jay West at Trinity

Feb. 24—Lucky Leaf 4-H Club Meeting, fellowship hall at 6pm (*Harvest Workers meet in narthex*)

LOOKING AHEAD: Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday Worship on March 5th at 6pm.



Mark your calendar!

Pastor Jay West will be here the weekend of February 22-23.

Pastor West has a teaching and healing ministry for inspiring, renewing and equipping people.

You can find Pastor West's online presence on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram. He has formerly served as Director of Christian Education (DCE) and pastor with LCMS churches, assisting in two church plants.

Currently he is a national motivational speaker who has addressed over 2,100 venues, including churches, ministries, schools and businesses. This includes nearly 200 Lutheran churches, as well as other churches of 65 different denominations.

The weekend is intended to be for teaching, healing and renewal. Pastor West offers an "un-hyped, gentle approach, releasing God's power, providing hope, encouragement, and faith for the healing process."

My friend and colleague, Pastor Percy Smerek, who used to pastor Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonewall, has

invited Pastor West several times to Stonewall as well as one time to Medina, Texas where Pastor Smerek lives now. Pastor Smerek gives his warm endorsement.

Pastor West's ministry is for us at Trinity, and it is also an opportunity for us to invite people from our community as well. I'm looking forward to his teaching and ministry.

A free-will offering will be the way we support his ministry. Tanya and I will cover his flight from Nebraska.

Pastor Dave

Here is a tentative schedule:

February 21, Friday

Visit with people informally (to be arranged)

February 22, Saturday Morning

9:30 - 11:30 AM Two Teaching Sessions

Noon and Afternoon, available for visits

February 23, Sunday Morning

Preaching during worship

Sunday Evening - Closing teaching and healing service

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Dave

Trinity Hosts BISD Staff Appreciation Luncheon—January 6, 2025



On January 6th, more than 20 Trinity members teamed up to host the Blanco Independent School District's faculty and staff for a barbecue luncheon.

Done in conjunction with the Blanco County Rotary Club and coordinated by TLC's Travis Kersten, the event was held to show the teachers and staff how much they are appreciated and how important they are to the Blanco community.

Leta Garcia did double duty as both a TLC member and a Blanco Rotarian. Thanks to good food and good fellowship, the event was a rousing success.



Altar Guild Report—

Thank you to Sophie Johnson, Sandy Mann, Janice Culton, Sheri Riley, and Clara Gourley for their service to the altar and to Sunday worship during the month of January! In the month of February, Jan Gass, Martha Gosnell, and Christine Bushong will prepare the altar for worship services.

Altar Guild Service Schedule for 2025-26: The previous 2024-25 schedule of Altar Teams will end this month. A new schedule for March 2025 through February 2026 will be available from Altar Guild President, Bonnie Triesch, as well as a review of procedures and any new Altar Guild information.

As always, volunteers are welcome to join Trinity's Altar Teams! You will be joining an existing group of ladies who care for the altar, set up for communion, and prepare for baptisms and other special worship events once or sometimes twice a year. The teams rotate each year, with some teams only serving one month and other teams serving twice a year.

****Contact Bonnie Triesch, at 210-705-2811 to join a team or speak more with a current Altar Team member to find out how you can join in this important ministry of preparing the altar for Sunday services.**



Stephen Ministry at Trinity Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

Cindy Hawkins, leader of Trinity's Stephen Ministry, prepares to serve chocolate cake, marking the ministry's ten years of service to the church and the community.

Trinity currently has 11 active Stephen Ministers who work confidentially to help those who are experiencing hard times. More ministers are needed!

If you might be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Angie in the church office for referral. We'd love to have you!

Cindy Hawkins, Trinity's Stephen Ministry Leader, presents gifts of gratitude to Sandy and Hal Switzer, who were instrumental in starting this ministry ten years ago.



(Thank you to Wayne Gosnell for sharing these photos. If you have photos to share of events/celebrations at church, please email them to the church office at trinityblanco@gvtc.com.)

Memorial Gifts in January

In Memory of Beverly Ann Zercher Hawkins

By Marie Anna Lindeman

Cicero Rust III

and

LaVerne, Vernon & Mary Piehl to the Scholarship Fund

Roy and I thank you, TLC members and Women's Ministry for the lovely Christmas "goody" bag. Lots of useful, good items. Thanks also to Trinity's Life Team and the wonderful volunteers that assembled them.

Thank you, Doris and Roy Phipps

Thank You!



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



God's Extraordinary Work

In my days as a pastor of a congregation, one of my joys was planning sermon series during the different liturgical seasons of the church calendar. One year I stumbled upon the idea of doing a summer series called "Characters of the Bible." Each Sunday after Pentecost, we started walking through the Old Testament and studied the men and women of God that we read about in the Bible. For many adult congregation members, this was the first time these stories had been revisited since their childhood days when they were taught in Sunday School classes. Unfortunately, these stories are often not the topic of the regular preaching during Sunday morning sermons.

Through this sermon series, we began to focus on a theme that we find throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible: that God uses ordinary people like you and me to do his extraordinary work! Sometimes we remember the Sunday School stories of these Bible characters and imagine them as superheroes. As we stand in awe at what God does in and through their lives, sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the bible character themselves was a sinful human being just like us.

For some people, learning that the person God used in a mighty way as an instrument of his activity in the world is also an imperfect sinner can somehow be seen as a stain, as if it makes the story less powerful. Perhaps this is why the undesirable or scandalous parts of these stories are often glossed over. But I truly believe that the fact that God works through sinful men and women like you and me is by God's own design and demonstrates that the power is not of man, but of God. Because of this fact, it displays God's power even more! As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:7, *Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. We who minister in Jesus' name are mere sinners: imperfect, broken vessels who are tasked with delivering the perfect and powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Therefore, no one should be overly impressed with the messenger and our hope ought not be placed in a pastor. When we place pastors or any church leader on a pedestal, we inevitably will be disappointed when we realize that they, too, sin and fall short. Pastors and all church leaders are called to lead not perfect lives, but to walk honestly and humbly, confessing their sin before God and one another and receiving the forgiveness of sins we all need.

The church is often attacked when the sin of a church leader is exposed... as if it somehow invalidates the many ways God worked through that person for Kingdom good. While it is true that the church is hurt whenever sin goes unconfessed or covered up, God continues to perfectly move, display power, proclaim the Word, and deliver grace and blessing in the sacraments of baptism and communion through the work of imperfect vessels in the church. Despite our sinfulness and brokenness, God still does extraordinary work through ordinary people like you and me.

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.

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
Sally Anderson—Evangelism
Norm Eubank—Property
Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Wayne Gosnell—Stewardship
Karen Wagner—Fellowship

COUNCIL NOTES—from the December 11, 2024 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Council members in attendance were Sally Anderson (Evangelism), Jerry Gass, Wayne Gosnell (as the new Stewardship Chairman), Travis Kersten, Ashley Finch, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, Hal Switzer, and Karen Wagner (Fellowship).

Pastor used Daniel 7:9 in his devotional. The coming of Jesus was prophesied in the OT 500 years before it happened. Never doubt that God has lost control or doesn't know what is happening. Often God "permits" bad happenings so that He can demonstrate His Love by the good that can come out of it: specifically, Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from that death, allows believers in Jesus to be righteous in God's sight and have eternal life.

Thank you to Sheri for recording the activities at last month's Council meeting. The Minutes were corrected to read 'The Budget will be available to the congregation for review starting Sunday, December 29th'. The Action Items were discussed. Wayne will continue to find people to serve with him on the Stewardship committee. Hal will continue to check into using a QR code for electronic giving. Travis made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report and reviewed the graphs through November 2024. Keith gave the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2024. Jerry gave a review of our insurance cost through Brotherhood Mutual (Lutheran Brotherhood).

Pastor Dave submitted his report for December 2024. He recommended Bob & Doris Perez for membership. Travis made a motion to accept Bob & Doris as members, Hal seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. Harvest Workers will be postponed until January 13th, 2025. The Thursday morning Bible Study will break until January 9th. The Community Thanksgiving Meal was very well attended. FBC of Blanco hosted the event at The Gem of the Hills. TLC provided an abundance of desserts. Pastor hosted the first gathering of Hill Country LCMC and NALC pastors. They will meet on the morning of the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be hosted by Trinity in Stonewall. Pastor notified Council that the Huser family of Blanco lost their home, contents, and pets in a devastating fire. After discussions of how blessed TLC is, Travis made a motion to give the Huser family \$3,000.00 to be taken out of the Benevolence fund, Ashley seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

The Council also discussed the NC hurricane assistance donations that have been received by the congregation, and the amount Council would want to approve as TLC's donation. Samaritan's Purse would be the agency to handle the donation.

Dues to a few changes in the Committee positions, it was necessary to clarify these positions. Travis made a motion to accept Wayne Gosnell (Stewardship), Sally Anderson (Evangelism), and Karen Wagner (Fellowship) as appointed members of the Church Council, Keith seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth and Education – Ashley reported that the Food Race was a success. The Youth collected 2 tables of school supplies/food staples to be set up like a mini store for Angel Tree families, with the remaining items to be taken to the Good Samaritan Center. The Angel Tree gift wrapping will be Sunday, December 15th, and the gift pick ups will be Sunday, also. Ashley reported that since the boys did not have a retreat, they would have a

paintball event on Sunday, December 22nd. She also reported a plan to have a Youth Gathering event each third Sunday of the month.

Stewardship – Sally submitted a list of Thank you notes/letters before relinquishing her duties as Stewardship Chairwoman. Wayne met with Rocky Chisholm to review the Stewardship Program. He thought it all looked good, and suggested that we, again, present these ideas to our Church family through a seminar presentation. According to Angie 11 families have signed Tithing Covenants (monies to further the cause of Christ) and 4 families have signed Legacy Giving Covenants (re: trusts/wills). Wayne wants to finalize the greeter list, and he will continue to make announcements to get the time slots filled.

Evangelism – Sally is looking for a picture of the church building to be included on the banner that she is designing. Pastor Dave's vision for our Small Group ministry will become evangelistic as the groups grow and multiply. He plans to introduce the basics of this ministry during the Lenten service sermons.

Fellowship – Karen announced that TLC now has a new 12ft Christmas tree, purchased with money we had left over.

Worship – Travis distributed his report. The Rocky Road Band will provide special music. Leta reported that the choir is practicing weekly, and she has ordered red polo shirts for the choir. Sheila will be on vacation Dec 18 – January 2. She will create slides needed for all the services while she is gone. Kathy Kersten, Pam Nabors, and Grayson Culton will assist during Sheila's absence. Jim Clifton will preach on Sunday, December 29th.

Property – Wayne distributed Norman's report. In reference to the auxiliary parking lot lighting project, Wayne has talked to PEC. The pole already has a streetlight on it, and PEC will install another light on that pole pointing over the parking lot at no charge. Since we want the brighter light option, the monthly charge will be \$20. Wayne is looking for a shield necessary to comply with the Night Sky requirement. And there is also a solution for the other dark wall by using a gooseneck light reflecting on the white wall.

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

Old Business

– The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated as follows:

- Jan 12 – Travis Kersten; Jan 26 – Wayne Gosnell; Feb 9 – Hal Switzer; and Feb 23 – Sheri Riley
- A discussion of Contemporary Worship Service options took place. Pastor David will research this further after the first of the year.
- There is an interest in Small Groups because over 20 people have signed up. Pastor David would like to arrange these groups by host invitation rather than geographical location.
- The January 6th Teacher Appreciation Luncheon was discussed after Travis distributed a handout. Please refer to the handout as volunteers stepped up to help. Lots of desserts will be needed. Buy iced tea from Chicken Express. Congregation members can be invited to participate by showing love & fellowship. Raffle items and door prizes will be given. Prayers over teachers, staff, students, and events will be offered. And a School Supply Table will be provided for the teachers to fill little bags with supplies as needed for their classrooms.

New Business

- All Council members were reminded to submit their annual reports asap, and before December 31st. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025.
- The American Legion members are remodeling their building and would like to use our Fellowship Hall... to be addressed later.
- In Pastor's absence, TLC staff Christmas gifts were discussed.

Upcoming events include the Women's Group Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, and the CMOB Group also on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00pm at Jerry Gass' house. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, including Holy Communion on December 24th at 5:00pm. The Church Office will be closed December 25 – January 2, 2025.

Travis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Karen Steiger

2025 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS—Active Trinity Lutheran Church students, either seniors in High School or those attending college are encouraged to apply for the Trinity Lutheran Church Scholarship—you may request an application from the church office. Email your request to trinityblanco@gvtc.com, or call the church office at 830-833-4771. Copies are available to pick up from the Narthex on Sunday morning.

Youth host fundraisers to benefit the scholarship account during the year, but gifts can be made at any time. Gifts given in memory or honor of loved ones can be designated to the scholarship fund, or Sunday morning offerings can be given to scholarships by marking your check or envelope with “scholarship fund.”



Tuesday, February 4th –Trinity Takeaway Cooking at Trinity. We will meet at 10am to prepare multiple meals for members to utilize when needed. Contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer with any questions.

Monday, February 10th –Prayer Shawl Gathering, led by Brenda Moore for knitters and crocheters. No experience necessary and yarn and crochet hooks are provided. Come and brush up on your crochet skills or to learn the basics with Brenda in the fellowship hall after the Harvest Workers class—don’t miss it!

FEBRUARY 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.

	February 2	February 9		February 16	February 23
Altar Flowers	Doris Phipps	Wayne Gosnell		<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 Assistant	Barb Geistfeld	Barb Geistfeld		Jim Clifton	Jim Clifton
Greeters	Arlene Hamlin	Jon & Casey Brones		Ken McWilliams & Mary Beth Chalk	Ronnie & Karen Wagner
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Hal Switzer		<i>No communion</i>	Sheri Riley
Lectors	Ron Bigler	Arlene Hamlin		Mary Jo Pfeiffer	Alexis Pawelek
Altar Guild	In February:	Jan Gass, Martha Gosnell, Christine Bushong			

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

FEBRUARY 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer—Worship: 9:30 AM—Fellowship Time: 10:30AM—Sunday School: 11:00 AM
 Services are also available livestreamed on Facebook

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11am Pastor's Bible Study, hall	2	1
2 Breakfast at Trinity, 8:30-9:15am	3 Harvest Workers classes, 10am & 6pm, here	4 10am Trinity Takeaways Cooking today! Stephen Ministry Barnabas Time, 6pm here	5	6 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	7	8 8am Men's Ecumenical Breakfast here!
9—Communion	10 Harvest Workers class, here, 10a & 6p 11:30am Prayer Shawl Gathering, here	11	12 Ladies Game Day, here from Noon-2pm 6pm, Council of Ministries Meeting	13 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	14	15
16	17 Harvest Workers class, here, 10a & 6p Newsletter articles due TODAY!	18 6:00pm Men's & Women's Groups meet together for fellowship, here at Trinity	19	20 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	21	22 9:30-11:30am Two Teaching sessions with Pastor West
23--Communion Pastor Jay West to preach during worship 6pm Closing Session with Pastor West	24 Harvest Workers class, here, 10a & 6p Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meeting, here at 6pm	25	26	27 11am Pastor's Bible Study, fellowship hall	28	

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