



January Events at Trinity:

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:

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Pastor David Mayer
Email: dtmayer75@yahoo.com
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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. 4—Brunch at Trinity! 10:15-11 AM, FH
Hosted by Women's Teams Ruth & Hannah

Jan. 5—Church office re-opens, 9am-1pm
Trinity hosts BISD Teacher Appreciation Lunch, fellowship hall

Jan. 6—Meals on Wheels Delivery Begins Today!
**Continues each Tuesday in January*
Barnabas Time, Cindy Hawkins' home 5 PM

All Thursdays—Pastor's Bible Study, 11am

Jan. 12—Harvest Workers Class resumes meeting
on Mondays at both 10am & 6pm

Jan. 14—Ladies Game Day, Noon-2pm
Council Meeting, 6pm

Jan. 18—Installation of Council Officers, 9 AM
Annual Congregational Meeting,
In the sanctuary immediately after service
to review 2025 events and approve the 2026 Budget

Jan. 20—Women's Group meets, 6pm, FH
Men's Groups meets for fellowship, TBA

Jan. 25—Women's Ministry Quarterly Gathering & Lunch, FH at 12:15 PM

New Year 2026!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, a new year, 2026, is before us. It will be filled with blessings and opportunities. And it will also have challenges. Here are some thoughts that I am "preaching" to myself because I need them.

Living in and by God's Promises

The promise of God is that He will always be with us and never forsake us. The promise of God is that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. The promise of God is that God is for us and that nothing can separate us from His love in Jesus Christ. Among many others.

Living In and From God's Presence

May each day begin with something like: "Good morning, Lord. Thank you for your love and salvation. Here I am, Your son/daughter. Show me what you want me to do today. Use me this day to bring your cause success. May I impact the people I meet today with your loving kindness. Bring me into those situations that you have uniquely made me to transform for your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen." (Of course, use your own words if you want.)

Pursuing a Purpose That Matters

William Carey (1761-1834) Missionary to India wrote: **"I'm not afraid of failure; I'm afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter."** Let our highest focus and our greatest efforts be on things that really matter.

Personal Growth in Marriage

Keep tender, thoughtful, kind, not keeping track of the other's faults. Forgive. And then forgive again. Affirm, encourage and name the good we see in each other. And, of course, do all things in love, with an unconditional positive regard toward each other.

Personal Growth in Parenting

Let us call our sons and daughters, youth or adults, to faith, faithfulness, worship and service. May every area for which we set the bar high for them, be areas that we hold ourselves accountable. May our actions match our words. Above all, let us show love and mercy, encouragement and hope, because we ourselves need it and that is what builds up.

Personal Growth in Study

May we be lifelong learners. Excellence in study is not only for matters of the Bible and faith, but in every aspect of life, so that we can be influencers in every domain of our world. After all, it all belongs to God, and He cares about it.

Personal Growth in the Bible

Let us figure out a routine, small and simple maybe. No matter. We have many resources. Our Harvest Workers class is going through every book of the Old Testament right now. Our Thursday Bible study digs deeper into every book we study.

Growth in Ministry

Life is not life abundant if we keep it to ourselves. Life is meant for contribution, giving, serving, helping. What is the way God has called you to serve? What are the things you need to say "no" to, so that you can do something else well?

On a Personal Note

It is my privilege and passion to be serving God here in Blanco at and through Trinity Lutheran Church. There is nothing like being connected to a people of God doing God's work together. Please pray for me and our congregation. Thanks for your partnership.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dave

If this gets to you in time, Merry Christmas from Tanya and myself. Blessings on your new year.

January 5th 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 Luncheon 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.

To find out more about how to support BISD teachers and staff, contact a Council Member or Travis Kersten.

BLESSINGS PROJECT (AKA: Angel Tree) 2025!

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 21st, volunteers wrapped the gifts for the families.

Many thanks to Ashley & Alexis for their diligence in organizing and coordinating the event!

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.

ECUMENICAL MEN'S BREAKFAST -

On December 13th about 80 men from the community gathered in Trinity's Fellowship Hall for the monthly Blanco Ecumenical Christian Men's Breakfast.

Pastor David gave the devotion and Trinity's Men's Group (CMOB) prepared and served the breakfast that was enjoyed by all.



Women's News:

December 7—Women's Group "Sip & Something" Event was a big success! Over 10 participants attended the



Women's Group first "Sip & Something" Event to paint on boards or ornaments for Christmas. Volunteers donated paint, wood, brushes and other supplies and everyone brought their own drinks for an afternoon of fellowship and art. Everyone was very happy to create their projects and plans were made to host another "Sip & Something" in the Spring.

Jan. 4—Hannah & Ruth Teams will serve brunch from 10:15-11 AM in the fellowship hall. A schedule for the entire year of scheduled brunch dates is included in the newsletter, see 2026 Brunch schedule on page 9.

Jan. 5—Desserts requested for the Teacher Appreciation 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. 20—Women's Group meets for fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study at 6pm here in the fellowship hall with Sandy Switzer as our hostess.

Jan. 25—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. Plan to join the Women of Trinity as we plan for the Women's Retreat in April and other projects for 2026. For more information contact Mary Jo Pfeiffer.

Pictured above: The 1st "Sip & Something" event.

MEMORIALS IN DECEMBER

There were no memorials received in December. 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.

Altar Guild News—Thank you to Marie Anna Lindeman, Sharon Cox, Karla Riley, and Connie Russell for preparing the altar during the month of December. On duty during the month of January will be Arlene Hamlin, Sharon Wolbrecht, and Melanie Laspia. 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 2026 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 \$105.00, 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!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Jan. 18th immediately following worship in the sanctuary to review 2025 and approve the 2026 Budget.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET are available in the narthex for members to review prior to the January 18, 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting. Pick up your copy on Sunday morning or during church office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm. A copy of the proposed 2026 budget will also be included in the Annual Report, distributed on January 11, 2026, the Sunday before the Annual Congregational Meeting on the following Sunday, January 18.

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 10:30 a.m. at Trinity's fellowship hall, in order that delivery can be completed by Noon. Two drivers 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!**



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The Church Staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous bonus 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

Brunch At Trinity in 2026

Trinity's Council will continue the Sunday morning brunches held on the first Sunday and/or 5th Sunday's of each month. The Women's & Men's Groups will alternate hosting a monthly brunch 10:15-11 AM in Trinity's fellowship hall. All 5th Sunday Brunches will be Potlucks.

Between 30 & 50 participants attend these fellowship opportunities held between the 9 AM traditional service and the 11:15 AM contemporary service. Below is the schedule for breakfasts in 2026 and the scheduled hosts:

Jan. 4 – Women's Group, Teams Ruth & Hannah

Feb. 1 – Women's Group, Teams Deborah & Esther

Mar. 1 - Men's Group

Mar 29th Palm Sunday 5th Sunday Potluck Brunch or Youth host pancake breakfast??

April – *No brunch (Easter Sunday is April 5th)*

May 3 - Women's Group, Teams Ruth & Hannah

May 31st - 5th Sunday Potluck Brunch

June – *No brunch*

July 5 – Women's Group, Teams Deborah & Esther

Aug. 2 - Men's Group

Aug 30th 5th Sunday Potluck Brunch

Sept. – *No brunch*

Oct. 4 – Women's Group, Teams Ruth & Hannah

Nov. 1 - Women's Group, Teams Deborah & Esther

Nov 29th 5th Sunday Potluck Brunch

Dec. – *No brunch*

*NOTE: The Sunday following a 5th Sunday will NOT host a brunch.
(In order that Sunday School is not missed for 2 consecutive Sundays.)*

News From Your Council of Ministries

Jerry Gass—President
Hal Switzer—Vice-President
Karen Steiger—Secretary
Keith Morgenroth—Treasurer
Sheri Riley—Financial Secretary
Wayne Gosnell—Stewardship

Travis Kersten—Worship
Karen Wagner—Fellowship
Norman Eubank—Property
Ashley Finch—Education/Youth
Sally Anderson—Evangelism

COUNCIL NOTES—from the November 12, 2025 Meeting

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Council members present were Sally Anderson, Norman Eubank, Ashley Finch, Jerry Gass, Wayne Gosnell, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, Karen Steiger, and Karen Wagner.

Pastor David's devotional centered around the definitions of ***fanatical vs radical*** as explained in the Anglican theologian, John Stott's, book Radical Disciple. Rather than be *fanatic*... exaggerating half-truths, we are encouraged to be *radical*... 100% committed to the whole truth; specifically in our commitment to following Jesus and His teachings. May we intentionally seek The Holy Spirit's guidance as we make decisions on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Minutes of the October 15th Council meeting were corrected. Keith made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected and amended, Karen W seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The Action Items were discussed. The QR Code has been added to Trinity's ad in The Chamber Blast and in the bulletin. It will also be added to the BCN ad. Wayne reported on his informal study of relating weekly attendance to weekly giving. Interestingly, there is a direct relationship, but even better is seeing that giving continues even when attendance fluctuates.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through October 2025. Keith gave the Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2025. He presented a new, more concise summary of comparisons of this year with last year, by month & year-to-date, actual and budgeted.

Pastor David submitted his report. He recommended that Blake & Manon Schanhals and their children, Gus & Lillian, be considered for membership. Keith made a motion to accept them into membership, Sheri seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. Pastor announced that Ray Wolbrecht will be teaching on Intelligent Design Creation at the November CMOB Tuesday evening fellowship (Nov 18th). He also announced that Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. The LCMC Texas District is promoting Giving Tuesday on December 2nd...for every \$ given to LCMC, they would match a \$, up to \$12,000. Norman made a motion that Trinity participate in Giving Tuesday, Wayne seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

After reviewing the attendance chart in Pastor's report, it was suggested to show an Average Attendance for both services, as well as a Total Attendance Average.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth and Education – Ashley announced that the Youth's Fall Festival was a huge success, and after all expenses were paid a profit of \$4,400 was realized. It was decided to do it again next year. The Great Food Race will be held next Sunday, November 16th. The food collection will benefit the Student Pantry at Good Samaritan. The Angel Tree project is starting next Sunday for 31 kids. The gifts will be due on Sunday, December 14th, and we will wrap them the following Sunday, December 21st. Ashley reported that chartering a bus for Youth Camp will cost \$3,500 more than renting vans. A company anonymously donated that difference. The Camp will cost \$403 per student, but students can reduce that amount by participating in activities throughout the year. Camp is also open to non-member students. The Girls' Retreat is scheduled as a Lock-In on December 6-7. They would eat in Boerne, do a pottery activity, and go through the drive-thru lights. Sunday morning the girls will provide food for the fellowship after the early Service.

Stewardship – Wayne is going to give a Stewardship Temple Talk Sunday, November 16th about Trinity's benevolence distributions by organizations, specially giving an update on Alfredo & Anita with Wycliffe Bible Translators. He will also review our Stewardship Program: The Tithing Covenant and The Legacy Giving Covenant.

Evangelism – Sally has been working on an easy-to-use QR code. She has also been designing a nice Thank You Note for all those businesses that donated to the Fall Festival Fundraiser. The outside church sign design is next on her agenda. Wayne suggested working on a plan to reach the neighborhood, specifically the 7 new houses that are planned for the lot diagonally across from the church. Ashley also suggested that the Youth might bless, pray, and post Scripture as these new houses are being built/finished.

Fellowship – Karen W reported that Trinity will supply the desserts for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00pm at the Methodist Church. She also reminded us of Trinity's 5th Sunday Potluck Brunch on November 30th between the two Services (no Sunday School).

Worship – No report was given. Wayne did announce that Arlene Hamlin & Cymbre Wicker will do the reminder notices for Greeter sign-ups before each Sunday.

Property – Norman submitted his report. The HVAC semi-annual inspection was completed & filters were replaced. There was an additional drain line added to the drain pans above the kitchen to correct the overflow problem, which was covered by our warranty. An electrical issue led to realizing that the electrical panel in the hall closet is outdated and Blanco A/C & Electrical will give them an analysis of what is needed to bring it up to code. Norman reported that the media door project was completed. The Stained-Glass Window project needs further discussion. New identification & directional signs have been placed all over the Church property.

The Council members acknowledged that the reports were given and accepted.

Old Business

- Wayne presented a whole list of Appreciation Letters.
- The Communion Assistants Schedule was updated as follows: Dec 21 Sheri Riley (1st) & Karen W (2nd)
Dec 24, Christmas Eve, 5:00pm (continuous distribution) Keith Morgenroth & Ashley Finch

Prayers continue for improvements to our Contemporary Service... increased attendance... engaged participation... live musicians... more sophisticated use of our organ, including coordinated media slides.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 16th to elect the four Council Positions that are expiring this year... Youth, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Fellowship.

No updates on the Budget preparations for 2026. Council members were encouraged to review their individual budgets and give necessary feedback to help with next year's budget.

New Business

- Barb Geistfeld has requested funds for Trinity to purchase Bible story books to be used by Trinity's Life Team. Council authorized funds up to \$200.00 to purchase these books. These funds would be taken from Pastor David's Professional Expenses. Council members also approved the Blanco County Interagency Council's request to meet at Trinity 3 times in 2026...Tuesday, March 10th, July 7th, and November 10th from 2pm-4pm. Keith made the motion to accept the request, Norman seconded the request, and the Council members approved the request.

Keith announced that The Audit Committee this year-end would be Stan Steiger, Roland Pfeiffer, and Keith.

The entry combination will be changed after January 1st.

The Holiday Schedule will be as follows: The Church Office will be closed from December 25th –January 1st.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Keith seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Celebrate Jesus

Amid the twinkling lights and festive cheer, it's easy to forget why we celebrate Christmas. We can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all: parties and programs, gift buying and cookie baking, travel planning and family gatherings. All the activity of the season can crowd out the real meaning and purpose for the holiday itself. While we may say "Jesus is the reason for the season," what does that really mean for us today? What if an often overlooked Bible story can help us reconnect our celebrations to the true gift of Christmas?

One cold December Sunday when I was in the first grade, I got to read my very first verse with my own eyes out of a real Bible. I still remember it to this day. In Sunday School, we studied a part of the Christmas story that is rarely talked about. The lesson came from Luke 2 and was about Simeon meeting the baby Jesus in the temple. Simeon was a righteous and faithful man who had been waiting for God to send the Messiah to bring salvation to Israel and hope for the world. In fact, the Lord had promised Simeon that he would not die before seeing the Messiah.

We read aloud Luke 2:29-32: *"Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, 'Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.'"* And just like that, my eyes were opened to see Jesus as the true gift of Christmas. Here Simeon sees and responds joyously and faithfully to God's grace in giving Jesus to the world. Can't you just picture the joy Simeon must have experienced as he lifted baby Jesus, praising God and delighting in his goodness and mercy?!?

Then as Luke 2 continues, we are introduced to Anna, an elderly widow who had dedicated her life to serving the Lord in the temple, to prayer and to fasting. She, too, met baby Jesus that day and began praising God and telling everyone that he was the Messiah, the long-awaited anointed one who had come into this world to bring salvation.

I love the story of Simeon and Anna as it reminds us what Christmas is really about. The world is in desperate need of Jesus, the Messiah. Like Simeon and Anna, we are invited to recognize and rejoice with a deeper appreciation for the gift that Jesus is to the whole world. We rejoice and celebrate this season full of hope and gratitude. Our faithful response in celebrating Jesus' birth should be like theirs: gleefully praising God and telling others what this means not only for us, but for everyone who calls on His name.

This Christmas, pause and ask: How can my celebrations better reflect the joy of meeting Jesus, the promised Messiah and savior of the world? May our response give glory, honor and thanks to God. And let us share the Good News with a lost and broken world desperately in need of all that Jesus came to give. JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. So let's celebrate Jesus!

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. © 2025 Bryce J. Formwalt, All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission. January 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church
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JANUARY 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR--TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BLANCO

Pastor David Mayer—Traditional Worship: 9 AM, Sunday School: 10:15AM, Contemporary Worship: 11:15 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! <i>Church office closed</i>	2	3
4 Brunch at Trinity! 10:15-11 AM, hosted by Women's Teams Ruth & Hannah	5 9am-1pm, Church Office re-opens BISD Teacher Appreciation Lunch, 11:30-1pm, here	6 9:30am Meals on Wheels delivery today! 5pm Barnabas Time, here	7	8 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	9	10
11—communion	12 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	13 9:30am MOW delivery today!	14 Noon-2pm Ladies Game Day, here 6pm Council Meeting, fellowship hall	15 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	16	17
18— Council Officers Installed 10 am Annual Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary	19 Newsletter articles due 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	20 9:30am MOW delivery today! Women's/Men's Group meetings, 6 PM, TBA	21	22 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	23	24
25 —communion <u>12:15 Women's Quarterly Gathering, here</u>	26 10a or 6p Harvest Workers class, here	27 9:30am MOW delivery today!	28	29 11am Pastor's Bible Study, here	30	31

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 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
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	Cindy Hawkins	Cindy Hawkins		
Greeters	Jerry & Jan Gass	Rodney & Helen Bruemmer	Sherri & Cymbre Wicker	Steve & Sharee Aery
Lectors	Ron Bigler	Ken McWilliams	Keith Morgenroth	Arlene Hamlin
Communion Assistants	<i>No communion</i>	Ashley Finch (both services)	<i>No communion</i>	Keith Morgenroth (1 st) Sally Anderson (2 nd)
Altar Guild	During the month of January:	Arlene Hamlin, Sharon Wolbrecht, Melanie Laspia		