

Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco, Texas

Where:

*"God is Seen,
Love is Felt,
Lives are Changed"*

Ministers All People of Trinity
Rev. David Mayer

Media Director Sheila Mercer
Music Director Leta Garcia
Parish Administrator Angie Daniels

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April at Trinity:

April 2—Maundy Thursday Worship, 6pm

April 3—Good Friday Worship, 6pm

April 4—Celebration of Life for Jim Geistfeld,
10:30am, here at sanctuary, with lunch to
follow in church fellowship hall

April 5—Resurrection Easter Sunday worship
with Holy Communion

April 6—Church Office Closed Monday

April 7—Stephen Ministers Barnabas Time, 6pm

April 8—Ladies Game Day, here Noon -2pm
Thursdays, April 9th & 30th ONLY—Pastor's Bible
Study, 11 AM, FH

Mondays, April 13th & 27th ONLY—Harvest
Workers at 10am and 6pm

April 15—Council Meeting, 6pm, FH

April 16-23, Pastor out of the office

April 20—Prayer Shawl Gathering, 11:30am, FH

April 21—Women's Group, 6pm at Wicker Ranch
Men's Group, 6pm, TBA

April 24-26—Women's Retreat in Sabinal

April 27—Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meets, 6pm, FH

April 30—Co-Apt Wellness Fair at BHS, 4-6pm
CMOB Men's Group to serve hot dogs



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Brothers and Sisters

Mbi bara ala na iri ti Jesu Krist. You didn't understand that? I guess you don't know Sango from the Central African Republic. I said, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. How important language is to understand and be understood!

My siblings and I learned two languages almost simultaneously growing up. We were born in India and were surrounded by our English speaking family on one hand and Indians from the state of Andhra Pradesh who spoke Telugu. From my parents we learned English, and from our friends, Alexander and Daniel, and others, we learned Telugu. At home we ate porridge, toast and fried eggs for breakfast. From our friends I learned to enjoy the taste of rice and hot curry.

We Mayer kids would burst out of the house after breakfast and hit the Telugu world running. At lunch we'd hear the call for mealtime. When we got home our parents spoke to us in English and we responded in Telugu, without thinking. It must have been quite a sight to see these blond kids chattering away in an Indian language. My mother expressed concern for how we would communicate with grandparents back in the States.

What a gift it is to speak different languages. I had colleagues in Africa who could, without losing a beat, move gracefully between Gbaya, Sango and French. Every time I hear someone speak another language I have this longing to know that language.

However, the spoken language is not the only way we communicate. Even within one language group there are cultural differences that may keep a person from understanding another person. People have different ways of thinking, they listen to different kinds of music, the people they hang out with may have developed a whole new way of expressing themselves. Values will also vary according to upbringing, families of origin, and personal faith and experience.

So it is that we people of faith have a challenge before us: how do we speak of the love of God

in Jesus Christ using the linguistic and cultural languages that are understood by others. How are we doing communicating in Spanish? How well do we speak and understand "Cowboy"? Are we succeeding in making sense to those who speak "Gen X or Gen Z" or how about "Unchurched" or "I don't know anything about church or God"?

It is rare for one person to have all these language skills. But usually in a church we find a variety of gifts so that someone at least can talk the talk. Consider yourself a cross cultural missionary if you are able.

Leaving the Central African Republic, I was heading back to the States for home leave on an Air France flight. The flight attendant assumed that I was not French and she asked me a question in English. I responded in French. She came back to me in English, perhaps because my accent didn't match what she thought a Frenchman should have. I came right back in French. She finally changed to French and asked me where in France I was from. Cool. Really cool.

There is also great satisfaction when we connect and speak the right "language" to convey Christ, be it English, Spanish, German or Sango, for example, or the cultural languages that exist sometimes within the same families or communities. It is never the church's task to make everyone the same as us. It is our task to go into the whole world, far and near, and learn ways to make the good news understood. We do this when we use different languages. We do this when we use music, and customs that are dear to other people.

God came down to earth, giving up the language of heaven. In Jesus he took on the language and culture of human beings so that we might understand the blessing he wanted to get across.

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

It's a challenge and a privilege.

Pastor Dave

Vacation Bible School 2026—High Seas Expedition—June 8th-12th

URGENT—Volunteers needed!! There are currently NOT ENOUGH volunteers registered to host the 80+ youth we host for our Vacation Bible School... PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER—WE NEED YOU!

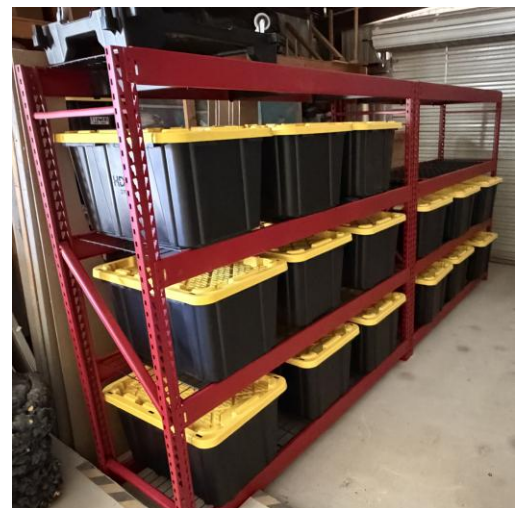
Early Registration is NOW OPEN!

Early registration for volunteers and students is now open for Trinity members! Registration will open for the public by mid-April and will fill up FAST! Pick up your registration forms from the poster in the narthex Trinity's VBS will be held the second week of June 8-12, from 9am-Noon and student enrollment is limited. Volunteers are always needed, so register early and help us to share God's love to our community!!

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Church Storage Building Clean Out

On Saturday, March 21st, volunteers performed a "deep-clean" of the storage building. A dumpster was filled and new storage shelves were installed. Thank you to everyone that pitched in to help!



Life Thoughts - It will soon be time for our annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for the SHARE Center in Bulverde-Spring Branch. The Executive Director, Kim Barton, sent these quotes as words of encouragement to all of us. Our gifts DO make a difference--one family and one life at a time!!!

- I was doing a sonogram and having difficulty getting a tracing of the heartbeat because the baby was moving so much. The father of the baby suddenly said, "See the baby is like me already--dancing all the time!"
- After she'd seen her baby's heartbeat on the ultrasound, we gave the mom a hat and booties set. Although she was still undecided, she held the set up to her tummy and spoke to her unborn child: "Look, your first little outfit."
- She said if she was earlier than four months, she'd choose abortion because "it wasn't really a baby yet." We determined she was only 8 weeks pregnant, but as I held her hand, she saw her little one's heart beating, and I saw one small tear slide down her face. She ultimately chose life!
- "If every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy was shown the respect and support that I was shown despite being a drug addict, they would choose life."

Remember to keep families in your prayers as they struggle with life decisions. Life is a gift from God, but many people do not know that! WE can be the ones who help them see that truth.

Barb Geistfeld, Life Team Leader

Women's News for April—
Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars:

April 5th Easter Sunday Egg Hunt in the fellowship hall between services—a “for-FUN” project for children hosted by the Women’s Group.

April 8th—Wednesday is Ladies Game Day! Bring your favorite card games, board games, etc., as well as your lunch, beverages, or snacks to the Fellowship Hall starting at Noon. We’ll play and fellowship until 2:00pm. Just come when you can and stay as long as you can, sharing time with your Trinity sisters.

April 20th Prayer Shawl Gathering—11:30 AM, in the fellowship hall. Brenda Moore will teach you how to crochet or knit prayer shawls. All supplies are provided! Prayer Shawls are gifted to members and friends that are in need of God’s comfort and love. Crocheters, knitters, quilters and crafters create these unique shawls and after they are dedicated and prayed over, they are given to someone in need. For more information, contact Brenda Moore at 512-550-2281.

April 21st—Women’s Group meets for supper, fellowship, and devotions at the Cor-Jul Ranch hosted by Cymbre Wicker. The Women’s Group meets on the third Tuesday for food, fellowship, and devotions. Don’t miss it!

Copies of the **Women’s Ministry Team Booklet are available to pick up from the narthex, from the bulletin board leading to the fellowship hall. Inside the packet are the 4 Teams: Esther/Ruth/Hannah/Deborah, the members of each team, and their contact information. If you don’t find your name listed on a team, or if your contact information needs to be updated, please contact Angie in the church office (830-833-4771.)

Altar Guild News—

On duty for the month of April will be Marcie Wagner, Pam Nabers, Connie Cox and Rosalind Ellis. Thank you to Sophie Johnson, Sandy Mann, Janice Culton, Sheri Riley, and Clara Gourley for their service during the month of March setting up the altar for worship and Mid-Week services during the busy Lenten season!

If you are interested in serving Trinity as a member of the Altar Guild, please contact Sharon Cox, at 210-385-2532. Trinity’s Altar Guild is composed of groups of 3-4 members who serve, in a rotating schedule, during the year.

****Copies of the 2026-2027 Altar Team Schedule are available from the bulletin board in the Narthex, or by calling the church office.**

THRIVENT CHOICE—Congratulations! In 2025, Trinity Lutheran Church of Blanco received \$994 through the Thrivent Choice program—and that’s worth celebrating! Your work strengthens communities, and we’re grateful for the impact you make every day.

Good News Ahead: Thrivent is excited to share that enhancements to the Thrivent Choice program are coming soon—including broader member eligibility, full-year flexibility, and a new year-end expiration date. Stay tuned as more details will be shared in the months ahead. We’re grateful to partner with you through Thrivent Choice and look forward to supporting your continued impact.

Blanco CoAPT’s Annual Safe & Drug-free Wellness Fair—April 30th

Trinity’s Christian Men of Blanco (CMOB) will again cook and serve chili dogs at the 2026 CoAPT event, held April 30th from 4-6pm at the Blanco High School Cafeteria. The community-wide event features almost 40 area organizations and provides needed information on a variety of health and wellness issues. The CMOB Men are happy to support this event each year. Blanco CoAPT stands for the Coalition of Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment of Substance Abuse.

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

Pastor David Mayer / Traditional Worship at 9 AM / Sunday School for All Ages at 10:15 AM/ Contemporary Worship at 11:15 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 6 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	3 6 PM Good Friday Worship	4 10:30 AM Celebration of Life for Jim Geistfeld & Luncheon
5 Resurrection Easter Sunday <i>Holy Communion</i>	6 <i>Church Office Closed Today No Harvest Workers</i>	7 5pm Barnabas Time for Stephen Ministers, FH	8 Noon, Ladies Game Day, FH	9 11 AM Pastor's Bible Study, FH	10	11
12 <i>Holy Communion</i>	13 10 AM & 6 PM Harvest Workers Study, FH	14	15 6pm Council Meeting, FH	16 <i>Pastor Out of the Office today</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>No Harvest Workers</i> 11:30 AM, Prayer Shawl Gathering, FH	21 6 PM Women's Group, at Cymbre Wicker's 6 PM Men's Group, TBA	22	23 <i>Pastor Out of the Office today</i>	24 <i>Women's Retreat begins today in Sabinal</i>	25
26 <i>Holy Communion</i>	27 10 AM & 6 PM Harvest Workers Study, FH 6 PM Lucky Leaf 4-H Club meeting, FH	28	29	30 11 AM Pastor's Bible Study, FH 4pm Co-Apt Wellness Fair at BHS Cafeteria (CMOB to serve hot dogs)		

Serving in the Month of April

There are many opportunities to serve at Trinity Lutheran! If you are interested in serving, call the church office.

	April 5 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 12	April 19	April 26
Altar Flowers	Charles & Karla Riley in Memory of past Loved ones	David & JoAnne Hesskew In Honor of daughter, Valerie Isidro's 29 th Birthday	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>
Greeters	Andrew Forsberg	Sidney & Connie Cox	Keith & Bobbie Morgenroth	Paul & Lisa Granberg
Worship Assistant	Stan Steiger	Jim Clifton	Jim Clifton	Jim Clifton
Lector	Ken McWilliams	Roland Pfeiffer	Arlene Hamlin	Ron Bigler
Ushers	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley	David Barker David Hesskew Charles Riley
Communion Assistants	Jerry Gass & Sheri Riley (1 st) Travis Kersten (2 nd)	Sally Anderson (1 st) & Travis Kersten (2 nd)	<i>No Communion</i>	Keith Morgenroth (both)

Altar Team on Duty in April: Jan Gass, Martha Gosnell, Christine Bushong

April 2nd Maundy Thursday Service, 6 PM

Communion Assistant: Norman Eubank
Worship Assistant: Cindy Hawkins
Greeters: Mike & Sally Anderson

April 3rd Good Friday Service, 6 PM

Greeters: Stan & Karen Steiger

Memorial Gifts in March:

In Memory of Douglas Bledsoe

Designated to Trinity Youth Camp Fund

*By Roy & Doris Phipps
Cicero Rust
Sharon Cox
Stan & Karen Steiger
Robert & Tara Seymour
Hal & Sandy Switzer
Mike & Faye Cooley
Jerry & Jan Gass
Sandy Mann*

*David & JoAnne Hesskew
Joseph T. Hartigan Jr.
Wayne & Martha Gosnell
Jack & Rosemary Allen*

*Randy & Brenda Oakes
Harvie Lindeman
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Weber
Gerald & Catherine Hinman
Shirley & Beverley Salazar
Larry & Amy Van Pelt
Norman & Barbara Eubank
Vance & Robin Jenkins*

Designated to Memorial Fund

Hal & Sandy Switzer





Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Too Good to Keep Locked Up

It has been more than a decade since I pastored a church and experienced the special blessing it is to lead a community of faith in the Resurrection celebration on Easter morning. If you are a pastor, then you likely know what I mean. I remember fondly the anxious anticipation for crowds of people to gather and worship the risen Lord. As many pastors do, on Saturday night I would sit alone in an empty sanctuary and pray for God to fill the church and bring together those who needed to hear the Easter story anew. Sunday dawn would rise and with it, excitement as the church filled with all the familiar faces and many new ones, too. The greetings would ring out: "Christ is Risen! – He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Easter lilies adorned the sanctuary and special music triumphantly proclaimed God's glory. For those of us entrusted to preach, it is a special privilege to share the greatest story ever told to a full room of eager listeners. All around the church on Easter Sunday there is a joy that is so powerful and uplifting.

But just seven days later, on the Second Sunday of Easter, I would often wonder, "What happened?" What happened to the joy and enthusiasm? What happened to the crowds and the packed sanctuary? What happened to all that was special the week before? For those who follow the lectionary, the Second Sunday in Easter centers on the story of Jesus breaking in on the disciples who gathered together on Easter evening. After the crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb, the disciples were confused and afraid. They had heard the reports from Mary Magdalene, but the fear had not yet become faith. So, they locked themselves in the Upper Room.

And then Jesus appeared. He stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and his side. John tells us simply that the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. But Jesus was not only there to comfort them amid their fear and confusion. And he wasn't just there to prove that he was alive. Jesus was also there to send them out. He said it again: "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.*" And he breathed on them: "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*"

On Jesus' word, the locked room was transformed from a place of hiding into a place of sending. The peace Jesus spoke did not only quiet their fears, it redirected them with a mission. The disciples who were paralyzed by what happened to Jesus were now mobilized to share the Good News of Jesus to the world. But this is the part of the Easter story that is so easy to miss: The resurrection is not only an event to celebrate; it is the Good News we are sent to proclaim. Just as the Father sent Jesus, Jesus sends us. And he sends us not with our own courage or confidence, but with his peace, presence, power, and purpose.

In Lent we embark on an inward journey of repentance that leads us outward – set free to witness. In Easter, we celebrate the fulfillment of our freedom in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb confirms the Good News of sins forgiven, death defeated, and new life in Christ – news too good to keep behind locked doors.

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

Notes from the Church Council Meeting on February 11, 2026

President Jerry Gass called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Council members present were Norman Eubank, Jerry Gass, Wayne Gosnell, Travis Kersten, Pastor David Mayer, Keith Morgenroth, Sheri Riley, and Karen Steiger.

In Pastor David's devotional he asked us, "Why do we pray for healing?" He based his answer on words from Psalm 103 "Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, praise His Holy Name... and forget not all His benefits...heals all our diseases..." and Isaiah 53, foreshadowing Jesus' suffering, sacrificial death, and healing power, "You (Jesus) were despised by men...bore our suffering... by Your wounds we were healed." We are looking for God's blessings... for Doug Bledsoe's healing... and for the health of our council members and the members of our congregation.

There were no corrections to the Minutes of the January 14th Council meeting. The Actions Items were discussed, and two were to be carried over to the next meeting. Travis made a motion to accept the Minutes, including the Action Items to be carried over to the next meeting, Keith seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

Sheri gave the Financial Report through January 2026. Keith gave the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2026. He would like to implement an Internal Control program so that we can prove that our financials are accurate. Pastor David submitted his report. Please refer to his handout for the details. He reported that the Life Groups are ready to go. Pastor and Tanya will be on vacation April 16-23 to visit family in Washington DC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Youth and Education – No report was submitted. Pastor David reported that the Youth had a fishing contest at The Blanco State Park last Sunday, February 8th.

- Stewardship – Wayne discussed his handout entitled, "Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry" by J. Clif Christopher. Key points brought up were...

- 1) Financial giving must be given out of passion and commitment to God.
- 2) The church's focus is on **mission** rather than survival...changing lives, not just paying bills.
- 3) The rich church emphasizes a grand vision by showing what God is doing and what He is going to do.
- 4) A new member class is mandatory to set the expectations of membership.

- Evangelism – Travis circulated the report that Sally had prepared. Please refer to her report.

- Fellowship – No report was submitted. Karen W. did restock the kitchen pantry.

- Worship – Travis reported that Sheila has asked Grayson Culton to fill in for her on Sunday during the 1 ½ weeks she will be gone. She is still looking for a Wednesday evening substitute.

Altar Guild President, Bonnie Triesch, will be stepping down from her position and Sharon Cox will become the new Altar Guild President. Arlene Hamlin will remain as Altar Guild Vice-President. Travis reported that the 2nd Service attendance is picking up which is very encouraging. He, Kathy, and Pastor David will get together to make a few minor changes to enrich the already very friendly, casual atmosphere.

- Property – Norman submitted his report. The 'refrigerator rebuild' quote was declined, but Norman did schedule a preventative maintenance appointment for May. Landscape work will begin on Friday. Make sure all doors that are supposed to be locked stay locked.

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

Old Business

– Wayne submitted a very informative report on Thank You Communications. FCA in Blanco County has been without a staff person, but the regional director is actively seeking a person to fill that position. The Good Samaritan Center prepares 'Panther Packets' which are weekend meals for elementary students who get free meals at school during the week.

- The Communion Assistants schedule was updated as follows: Apr 2, Maundy Thurs, Norman Eubank; 5, Easter, Jerry Gass & Sheri Riley (1st) Travis Kersten (2nd); 12 Sally Anderson (1st); 26 Keith Morgenroth (both) May 10, Mother's Day, Wayne Gosnell (both); 24, Memorial Day Wknd & Pentecost, Ron Bigler (1st); Jun 14 Sally Anderson (1st)

New Business

– Keith made a motion to give \$2,000.00 to Grant Jones' fundraiser, Norman seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. Keith also made a motion to give \$2,000.00 to Luke Johnson, Norman seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion.

The March Council meeting will be after the Wednesday evening Lenten service on March 11th. There will be a meal at 5:00pm before the service at 6:00pm. Trinity will be hosting the Thursday noon Lenten Luncheon on March 19th. The Church Office will be closed the Monday after Easter, April 6th.

Sheri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Travis seconded the motion, and the Council members approved the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm with everyone reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Thank You Communications

Report to Church Council, March 10, 2026

The following communications have been received in the past month from organizations to which Trinity gives benevolences.

Overseas Missions

- **Ethnomedia.** This month's newsletter is nut-and-bolts, focusing on how donations are processed and receipts issued. Trinity supports their sub-ministry in Guatemala, *Deditos* ("Little Fingers" – Bible story videos done with finger puppets and distributed in indigenous languages world-wide).

Domestic Support

- **Community Resource Centers of Texas (CRC).** Letter thanking Trinity for the gift of \$640. The CRC has married up with the Texas Housing Foundation in a program to support those facing housing instability. They provide safe short-term shelter through their motels-for-shelter program. This program helps those in need as well as people affected by local disasters and weather-related emergencies. This program gives the CRC the flexibility to respond quickly and provide safe temporary lodging for those who need it.
- **Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT).** Letter stating that pastors retire all the time and must be replaced. Where will they come from and where will they get their theological training? ILT helps train shepherds; supports accessible theological education; and strengthens congregations, preparing for pastoral transition. The letter asks for continued support to do this mission. The letter highlights the opportunity to provide \$4,000 scholarships to support ILT students.