



Building His Body  
By  
Reflecting the Son

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# TRINITY TIDBITS

A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy, Texas



*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.  
Psalm 127:1 (ESV)*

**June 2011**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Fellowship

9:05 am Sunday School

&

Bible Study

10:15 am Worship

Church Phone:

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Web site

[www.tlcsealy.org](http://www.tlcsealy.org)

Rev. David Vandercook

Maggie Kent, Office Secretary

Katie Thomas, DCE Intern

## ELDERS:

Alan Boehm, 885-6882

Robert Falt, 885-7955

Brad Biss, 713-419-2774

Vic Grisbee, 865-5393

Lee Hobrathschk, 885-6090

Jimmie Meyer, 627-0070

Jim Pursley, 885-6438

Matthew Rath, 865-8430

Robert Richter, 885-2086

Carl Sebesta, 865-0366

Wes Schuknecht, 865-5142

Barry Wolf, 877-0341

We are nearing completion of the renovation of our narthex as I write this letter. The walls have been painted; the plumbing fixtures are installed; the floors are installed; even the sanctuary itself received a new paint job. All that remains is to put the finishing touches on the project.

As with any remodeling project, there have been bumps along the way. We were optimistically hoping that the project would be done by Easter or a little after. That didn't happen. Plans change. Things don't always work out exactly the way we would like them to. But in the end, we're getting a great finished product. If you haven't gotten a chance to see our newly-renovated narthex and restrooms, you should. The finished product is beautiful.

Numerous members of Trinity along with others in the community deserve credit for all the hours of work they put in to make this renovation happen. I won't attempt to list all of them, in fact, out of fear of missing someone! We will formally recognize the volunteers and donors who made all of it possible in a dedication event later this summer.

It's important to understand now, though, that as the psalmist writes (see above), unless the Lord is part of our building projects, the projects are pointless. Without keeping the mission of the Church in mind, our projects, even when they look great, will ultimately fail. As a church, we are to preach Christ and Him crucified. Without that Gospel message, there is no reason for us to even exist.

God has certainly been with Trinity Lutheran Church over the years. As we look back over 128 years of history, we can plainly see that. Our completed narthex is not just a testimony to the efforts of those who volunteered their time, talent, and treasures; it is a testament to God's work among us!

*God's Blessings! Pastor Vandercook*



# Birthdays for the Month!



|                         |                        |                            |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6/02 Milburn Robison    | 6/09 HUNTER WALDROP    | 6/19 HANNA DIEMER          |
| 6/02 Heather Bozeman    | 6/10 Lowell Coody      | 6/19 KAYLEIGH SCHMIDT      |
| 6/02 Justin Szymanski   | 6/10 Jerry Ebers       | 6/21 Johanna Buechmann     |
| 6/02 Lauren Thielemann  | 6/10 Carl C. Hinze     | 6/21 Betty Herridge        |
| 6/03 Sieg Leland        | 6/10 Debbie Hinze      | 6/21 Dan Kieke             |
| 6/03 Laura Vandercook   | 6/12 Lynette Lee       | 6/21 Rose Marie Trenckmann |
| 6/05 EDEN DIEMER        | 6/13 AUSTIN JACOBSON   | 6/22 HOPE GRIFFIN          |
| 6/05 ALLYSSA VANDERCOOK | 6/13 Dalton Luttrall   | 6/23 BAILEY SCHNEIDER      |
| 6/06 Donna Emshoff      | 6/14 Brett Ebers       | 6/25 Larry Alexander       |
| 6/06 Louise Kinsey      | 6/14 BRIDGIT HARTMAN   | 6/25 Jimmy Szymanski       |
| 6/06 Paul Orsak         | 6/14 MEGHAN HEIN       | 6/25 LUKE THIELEMANN       |
| 6/07 Charles Every      | 6/14 Scott Jansen      | 6/26 Brandon Ebers         |
| 6/07 MALLORY PURSLEY    | 6/14 John Zuber        | 6/26 MATTHEW LEE           |
| 6/08 Donna Smith        | 6/16 Ben Epperly       | 6/26 Karen Schaare         |
| 6/09 FORD ANDERSON      | 6/16 Beverly Fritsch   | 6/27 Brenda Cash           |
| 6/09 KRISTINA JAMES     | 6/18 Tamara Diemer     | 6/28 Ann Reay              |
|                         | 6/18 Susan A. Leschper | 6/29 Stephen Stuessel      |
|                         |                        | 6/29 Kolby Wolf            |



## Happy Anniversary



Let's rejoice with these couples as they celebrate the designated anniversaries.

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6/1/1958 Bobby & Geraldine Barrett♥   | 6/13/1965 Edd & Clara Gerstenberger  |
| 6/1/2001 Rocky & Samantha Waxler      | 6/14/1975 Troy & Yvonne Tesch        |
| 6/3/1950 Joe & Alice Burttschell♥     | 6/16/1957 Billy & Doris Schaffner♥   |
| 6/3/1962 Jerry and Mary Grunke        | 6/17/1973 Jerry & Marlene Leiber     |
| 6/4/1994 John & Shirley Schier        | 6/18/1983 Ben & Peggy Jurek          |
| 6/6/2002 Jim & Renee Pursley          | 6/22/1957 Arnold & Gloria Havermann♥ |
| 6/7/1996 Chad & Tinson Rasbury        | 6/26/1971 Wayne & Margie Ashorn      |
| 6/9/2007 Don & Diane Henry            | 6/30/1990 Alan & Wendy Jaminson      |
| 6/10/2006 Matthew and Bethany Roberts |                                      |

Please keep in your Prayers our Nursing Home Residents  
Kirby Amthor Estella Meyer Elie Michaels Eddie Svinky  
Maydell Reichardt Walter Schneider Lillie Wittenburg

### Shut Ins

Gladys Bolten Oridell Ekarius Sharon Salyer Lavonn Schier  
Joe and Bernice Hintz



### Congratulations to Our High School

#### Graduates!

Cody Barrett Brett Ebers  
Kylie Wolf



### Welcome New Members

Trinity Lutheran Church would like to welcome 5  
new members by the Rite of Confirmation on

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Carol Barrett

David Cash

Nichol Fullen

Sonny Lauzon

And

John Fullen (Nichol's husband) who comes to us by  
transfer from Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in San  
Antonio.



### Baptism Robert and Lacey Bozeman are

proud to announce Tatum Grace Bozeman has been  
received into God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism

TODAY Sunday, May 22, 2011 administered by Rev.  
David Vandercook.



I just wanted to say once again to Pastor Vandercook, Cynthia Grigar and Maggie Kent, Thank You, for all of your help with the service of my mother, Muriel McCollister.

There are simply no words to express my heartfelt thanks for the sympathy you have extended toward our family during this time of our loss. Her service was so nice because of your love and care for people.

May God Bless You All,  
Laura Hargrave



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

These verses from 2 Timothy chapter 3 come from a section called All Scripture is Breathed Out by God (ESV). In this section, Paul gives his final charge to young Timothy, pointing to himself as an example of a Godly man, a man who firmly believed in the Gospel and dedicated his entire life to spreading the good news. Paul lovingly mentored Timothy from childhood and taught him to hold to the holy scriptures which reveal the basic teachings about Jesus that are fundamentally true. Paul wrote this letter from a Roman prison cell to emphasize the importance of faithfully teaching the Word in opposition to false teachers and to give final encouragement to young Timothy, pastor of the church of Ephesus. In 2 Timothy, the Lord is calling you to cling faithfully to His inspired Word. The Word of God is truth and the truth never changes. However, in today's postmodern world, people are the final reference points for truth. Truth in this sense is relative. This essentially leads to the belief that what you believe to be right and what I believe to be right can both be right. Therefore, two mutually opposed systems may be right. However, truth needs to correspond to reality. Reality, not our preferences, needs to be the ultimate source and authority for truth. Relativism robs all of our arguments for Christianity of any significance. It makes the defense of supposed truth meaningless.

Dear friends in Christ, we must guard ourselves from moral relativism and instead embrace the inspired Word of God as the ultimate authority. Scripture is relevant in all ages and at all times (1 John 2:12-14). We see in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that scripture is God-breathed. God-breathed literally means that God breathed life into all things, including the Word of God. God breathed life into

all things and sustains and governs all things. Therefore scripture is completely trustworthy because God was in control of its writing, not humans. It is not a human book. It's words are entirely authoritative for our faith and life. We see and know that the Bible is not a collection of stories, fables, myths, or merely human ideas about God. The whole Bible is God's inspired word. Reading scripture as the inspired, inherent Word of God has eternal implications. As broken people living in a sinful world, we sometimes lose sight of what's true. We look to science and reason to give us all of life's answers instead of turning to God....even when the scriptures are right there in front of us! What we always need to keep in perspective above all things is that God's Word is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. It is our safeguard against false teachings and our source of guidance for how we should live. Western society, pop-culture, and moral relativism fool us into thinking that we define our own truth. These influences pull us in the opposite direction of God and have the potential to mislead us into thinking that we don't need God's Word as long as we are living what we deem to be a righteous life. You are not your own authority on truth, especially in regards to spiritual matters. God alone and His Word alone are our only source of guidance. Applying God's Word to your everyday life leads to a life of blessing and fulfillment because you are no longer living for yourself, you are seeking to align your will with God's. Without God's scripture, I would be utterly blind, aimlessly wandering through life chasing after and longing for something more. God's Word is relevant. It is true. God desires for you to seek Him out and have a relationship with Him. Read God's Word, refer to it in all things, and use its teachings to guide your conduct daily.

**Katie Thomas**



## Slow Down

***Walk a little slower, Daddy, said a little child so small.***

***I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall.***

***Sometimes your steps are very fast; sometimes they're hard to see.***

***So walk a little slower, Daddy, for you are leading me.***

***Someday when I'm all grown up, you're what I want to be.***

***Then I will have a little child who'll want to follow me.***

***And I would want to lead just right, and know that I was true;***

***So walk a little slower, Daddy, for I must follow you.***

**Author unknown**



Youth Ministry Planning Meeting- Do you have a passion for today's youth and want to learn more about how you can have an impact in this ministry? Please join us Wednesday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. for a planning meeting for our youth ministry here at Trinity. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Katie Thomas if you have any questions or seek additional information. [Katie@tlcsealy.org](mailto:Katie@tlcsealy.org).

AMPED High School Ministries ( A Ministry Providing Empowered Disciples) meets every Sunday night from 6:00-8:30 pm. Come hang out, eat, play sports/games, engage in transformational Bible study, and learn how to live out your faith daily by being empowered disciples! Faith Stepping Stones Meeting-Please join Pastor Vandercook and Katie Thomas for an informational Faith Stepping Stones meeting on Wednesday, June 8 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. We will discuss next year's schedule and general details. AIM (Apostles in Mission) Junior High Ministries is starting a youth night just for middle school! Come on out Wednesday, June 22nd from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This program will be offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening beginning June 22nd.

Camp Restore- Trinity's high school students will be serving at Camp Restore in New Orleans June 26-July 2nd. Please keep us in your prayers!

Mission Trip meeting-All youth/adult participants and parents must attend this meeting on Wednesday, June 15th at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars!



### **Pantry News**

In April we were able to distribute food to 184 families, which helped feed 611 individuals. This is 43 more families and 205 more individuals compared to last year in April. We will always have a need for paper grocery bags. Please save them for us.

Every now and then we hear a person tell us that they would like to help and do something at the pantry but don't want to get involved as much as some people are. No problem, we can make it as light or as much as you desire. There is no better feeling than to do something out of the kindness of your heart just because you want to

without any strings attached. All you have to do is contact one of the coordinators from the pantry or Patsy Tomasek at (979)-877-0848, Phyllis Sams at (979)-732-9477, Samantha Waxler at (979)-877-8573 or Vernon at ( 979)-885-2014. We will be happy to find something that is tailor- made for your desires.

**Vernon Ekarius, Coordinator**



**Scrapbooking** will meet on Thurs. June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm-9pm. *Thanks! Laura*



### **Ladies Aid News**

The Ladies Aid Society members of Trinity Lutheran Church were welcomed by Ruth Paben at their meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Richter gave an interesting story, "Not Our Will But Thine."

Annual "Bake Sale" was held May 7<sup>th</sup> on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Highway 36.

Loretta Dziadek and Ruby Emshoff are hostesses for the meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ursula Kutra gave a report on the making and shipping of quilts in the future.

Delicious refreshments brought by members were enjoyed and served by hostesses, Betty Richter and Vivian Kveton.

Visitors are welcome to attend.

**Nettie Swearingen**



### **Church Planning Meeting**

is set for Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All committees and groups or representative from all boards and auxiliary organizations that need to be on the church calendar (July 2011-January 2012) should attend.

The purpose of this session is to coordinate the working calendar for the Boards, Committees, and Auxiliary Organizations of Trinity congregation.

Since the planning meeting is closely scheduled before the Church Council meeting, please be prompt and prepared. It is important to preplan events and to spend our time efficiently.



**Annual TLC Barbecue!** Are you ready for some barbecue - some fellowship? If your

answer is yes, then mark your calendar for Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. That's the date for this year's annual TLC barbecue at the KC Hall. It may seem like a long way off, but if you're planning on making something for the auction, now is the time to get started on that project. Less than three months, and we'll be there! Watch the stores for special sales, or get your artistic side in high gear - it's so much fun to see handcrafted items that have been made with love by our friends. If you have a desire to help in any way with the fundraiser, please call the church office. We have committees that peel potatoes, fix beans, do the actual barbecuing, fill plates, help set up auction items, work the country store, sell desserts, serve tea, have kids' games, help clean up afterwards - get the idea??—there's a place for anyone and everyone to serve - just let us know that you are interested!! AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>—PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR—tell all your friends to come - it's great food, great fellowship (in air-conditioned comfort), and a great way for us to show our love for our Savior through serving others.

One special request from the auction and country store committees - please try to have your items at the church the day before, or even the week before. Just have your name and the fair market value of the item on a piece of paper. We will do the rest. If you need something picked up, please call George or Janice Wied at 865-8357.



**PandaMania VBS 2011 is still in need of CREW LEADERS.** Crew leaders are the kids guide through VBS week. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or back of church. We can use all the help we can get to make this year's VBS a success!

We need food donations. Please support TLC PandaMania VBS by signing up to donate food items for Tree Top Treats. Sign-up sheets can be found on the windows of the glass room. Please bring all donations by Sunday, June 12, 2011. If you have any questions or would like to help out, contact Leslie Pacher 979-885-8297.



Preschool Graduation Ceremony went very well as all the pre-kindergarten children sang and received their little

diplomas. It is amazing what these children can learn in chapel. As the children go forth into kindergarten, please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you to the Elders, Church Council and Congregation for the use of this facility so we may have this opportunity to teach the love of our Lord and Savior so His love continues to grow in all the children as they prepare for the future.

Thank you to Pastor David Vandercook and DCE Katie Thomas in taking time to share the love of our Lord with bible stories during chapel time.

May God's blessing continue to nurture and grow through all of us with His love.

In Christ, Ms. Maggie



**Volunteer Drivers Needed!**

Cancer patients need your help to get to treatment. The American Cancer Society needs volunteers to drive cancer patients in or community to and from their treatment appointments.

Having cancer is hard. Finding help shouldn't be. That's why the American Cancer Society offers a number of services to help people with cancer and their families overcome obstacles in their personal cancer fight so they can focus on getting better.

One of the toughest challenges patients face is getting to and from much-needed cancer treatments. They may be too sick to drive themselves, may not have a car or someone to drive them, or may not be able to afford gas or other transportation costs. The American Cancer Society provides patients with rides to treatment centers, and that's where you can help.

Your American Cancer Society is looking for individuals who can use their own vehicles to take patients who are undergoing cancer treatment to and from their appointments. If you know anyone in your congregation who has a few hours to spare and would like to make a difference in someone's life, please encourage them to contact us at 979-776-1464



April 11, 2011

Minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting, held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy,

Texas, on April 11, 2011 in the Fellowship Building.

Members present were:

- Dale Leland**- Vice President
- Linda Blume**- Treasurer
- Jerry Leiber**- Stewardship
- Sherri Santoro**-Evangelism & Fellowship
- Vernon Ekarius** – Trustees
- Jimmie Meyer** – Elders
- Leslie Pacher** - Education
- Fred Paben**- Ushers
- Ann Reay**-Secretary
- Pastor David Vandercook**

Dale Leland, presiding, called the meeting to order followed by devotion led by Dale Leland.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting were read. A motion to pass as amended was made by Jimmie Meyer and seconded by Linda Blume.

Motion passed.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Sign on Hwy. 36:** Ralph Candelario, a representative from National Signs has not yet contacted Pastor Vandercook with a sign proposal.
- **Update on Narthex remodeling:** Currently waiting on electrical.
- **Update on Web site page:** The website is currently being designed.
- **Church Directory, presentation by Olan Mills.** Council will table the decision to move forward or not until a future meeting.

### **Reports**

- **Treasurer** The Treasurers report was presented for review by Linda Blume. The cash balance in the General Fund is (\$7,154.39) on March 31, 2011.
- **Stewardship** – Jerry Leiber did not have anything to report.
- **Evangelism** –Sherri Santoro represented Evangelism. Easter baskets were delivered on Saturday to shut-ins and nursing home residents. All were very excited to get a basket.
- **Trustees** – Vernon Ekarius represented the Trustees: The water fountain is now working. Workday is this Saturday.

- **Elders** – Jimmie Meyer represented the Elders. The new projector is in and it has a brighter bulb.
- **Education** – Leslie Pacher reported that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 23, 2011 for infant to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The registration forms are available for VBS. Some groups will be consolidated for summer Sunday School.
- **Fellowship** Sherri Santoro reported lunch will be provided for the Church Work Day. Fellowship will host the annual pancake breakfast Easter morning.
- **Youth** No Report
- **Ushers** – Fred Paben reported that we may consider removing the back pew by the “deer stand” to have room for a wheel chair or we could reduce the size of the pew to meet regulations. Fred Paben made a motion that we alter the size of the back row, Jimmie Meyer second, motion passed

A motion was made by Sherri Santoro to accept the reports as presented, motion seconded by Leslie Pacher. Motion passed.

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### **New Business**

- Pastor Vandercook would like to get a credit card for church business. Leslie Pacher made a motion to look into acquiring a credit card for church use with the matter to be discussed at a future meeting. Pastor Vandercook will research. Motion was seconded by Sherri Santoro. Motion passed.

Leslie Pacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jimmie Meyer. The meeting ended with a prayer by Pastor Vandercook.

Jimmie Meyer will provide the devotional for the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on May 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

George Wied, President  
Ann Reay, Secretary