



Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

JULY 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Fellowship
9:05 am Sunday School
&
Bible Study
10:15 am Worship

Church Phone:
979.885.2211
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Rev. David Vandercook
Maggie Kent, Office Secretary

ELDERS:

Lowell Coody, 865-9638
John Fullen, 210-912-8503
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Jimmie Meyer, 713-503-1780
Jim Pursley, 885-6438
Matthew Rath, 713-670-6018
Carl Sebesta, 865-0366
Alfred Tomasek, 877-0848
Barry Wolf, 877-0341

TRINITY TIDBITS

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



Playing with Snakes

And these signs will accompany those who believe... they will pick up serpents with their hands...

-Mark 16:17a, 18a

The night before I composed this article I killed a snake. You see, we live right next to a drainage ditch that runs between our house and the Knights of Columbus softball field. This ditch is often full of tall grass, making it an ideal habitat for such creatures. Anyway, last night one of our neighbor's kids came to the door rather excited. She wanted us to come and look at the snake they found in their yard.

Laura and Allyssa both went over right away. I went over a couple of minutes later while holding Kaytlin. When I got over there our neighbor's wife was holding a shovel as they all looked at this creature. I have to admit, it was much different than I had expected. I anticipated seeing a rather harmless grass snake or something like that. This snake was much different, though. It had a diamond-shaped head and was larger than I thought it would be.

I was immediately called upon to kill the snake using my neighbor's shovel. After unsuccessfully jabbing it a couple of times, I finally succeeded in cutting its neck to the point that it stopped moving and died. We left the snake there in the yard for our neighbor to get rid of when he got home. Well, once our neighbor saw the dead snake, he immediately identified it as a copperhead! Had I known it was a copperhead (a rather venomous snake); I would have gone nowhere near it. I would have immediately called Sealy Animal Control and had them deal with it. The rest of the evening Laura and I were rather disturbed by the fact that we got that close to something that could have seriously injured us.

My point in all of this is that while God certainly protects us from harm and danger, he also gives reason and senses to *avoid* harm and danger.

Granted, I had no idea what I was dealing with, (I'm no country boy. I like to think of myself as a city kid who doesn't mind getting his hands dirty.) but I really should have known better than to put my health in danger by getting that close to something I knew nothing about.

But, in a way, that's what God's protection is all about. We do stupid stuff all the time. Sometimes we don't realize it, other times we are well aware of what we're doing. Through it all, God provides care and protection. He provides the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ for all those boneheaded things we say and do that hurt ourselves and others. We should certainly not test God, but can we live with the confidence that God's grace is never-ending.

In Christ,
Pastor

July Sermon Themes and Texts

July 1

Theme: "In Christ, Sickness and Death are Powerless"
Text: Mark 5:21-43

July 8

Theme: "Power Made Perfect in Weakness"
Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

July 15

Theme: "Chosen before the Foundation of the World"
Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

July 22

Theme: "All Ate and Were Satisfied"
Text: Mark 6:30-44

July 29

Theme: "I Have Set My Bow in the Cloud"
Text: Genesis 9:8-17



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the Month!



7/01	Seth Jamison	7/10	Angelia Ramon	7/21	Ronnie Hein
7/02	EVA KRUZEL	7/11	Deborah Adams	7/23	Mark Romano
7/04	Edna Finke	7/11	Brad Kent	7/24	Arnold Havemann
7/04	BRIAN GONYER	7/11	Heath Novosad	7/24	David Novosad
7/5/	Ashley Vojtek	7/11	Patti Sebesta	7/24	Joyce Park
7/06	Kim Every	7/12	Sydney Rasbury	7/24	Patsy Tomasek
7/06	Janice Palm	7/13	Theresa Duncan	7/25	Alan Boehm
7/06	Adam Sebesta	7/16	Rae Marie Kveton	7/26	EMMA FOLTZ
7/07	Kirby Heintschel	7/16	Melinda Schiller	7/27	Bradley Bozeman
7/10	Olivia Diez	7/17	Julie Ebers	7/31	David Cash
7/10	Brett Carter	7/18	Robert Richter	7/31	Jerry Schroeder
7/10	LA SHANDA FITZGERALD	7/20	Gloria Havemann		



Happy Anniversary



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

7/7/1990	Barry and Rachel Wolf	7/18/1953	Fred & Ruth Paben♥
7/16/2011	Travis and Brittany Pavelka	7/27/1985	Robert & Terri Julian
7/17/2010	Bradley and Heather Bozeman	7/30/1972	Jimmy & Ruth Szymanski



Please keep in your Prayers our Nursing Home Residents

Ellie Michaels Eddie Svinky Lillie Wittenburg

Estella Heintschel Louise Kinsey

Shut Ins Oridell Ekarius J. P. Gerhart

Edd and Clara Gerstenberger Joe and Bernice Hintz

Sharon Salyer Lavonn Schier Joyce Meyer



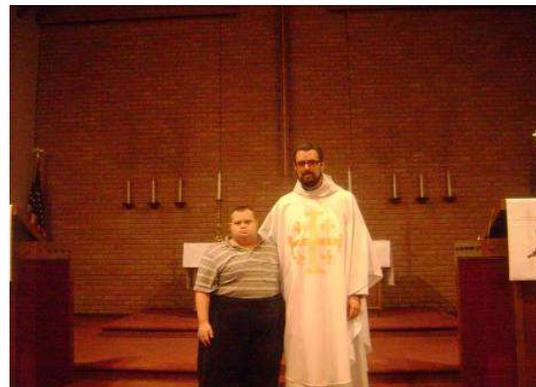
Sympathy for the family of Mary Jo Widacki (grandmother to Tiffany Widacki Lauzon) who went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. Please keep Tiffany and the rest of the family in your prayers.



Sympathy for the family of Joe Burttschell who went to be with his Lord on Sunday, June 3, 2012. Please keep his loving wife, Alice and the rest of the family in your prayers. He will be greatly missed by his church family and everyone who he has touched in his lifetime.



Sympathy for the family of Martha Shivers, (Carolyn Grisbee's mother) who went to be with her Lord on Thursday June 7, 2012. Please keep Carolyn and the rest of the family in your prayers.



Pastor David Vandercook confirmed Erik Wayne Julian on Sunday, June 3, 2012. Parents are Robert and Terri Julian. Congratulations!



- STAMPS! Are you able to use a scissors and follow directions? **HELP IS NEEDED** in trimming used postage stamps from envelopes. Just call the church office at 885-2211 if interested. Thank you, Terri Julian, for trimming stamps from four Xerox boxes filled with envelopes and thank you Patti Sebesta and Doris Holtkamp for trimming also!



THANK YOU

Vic and I want to express our appreciation for the many cards, phone calls, and expressions of sympathy that we have received and continue to receive after the death of my mother. We know that she is worshipping at the Lord's feet, right where she has wanted to be for a long time. We have been overwhelmed by Trinity's thoughtfulness, care, and concern.

God's blessings to all! Carolyn Grisbee

THANK YOU

BASKET OF HOPE THANK YOU
Dear Sealy Trinity Congregation,
There are just no words to express our heart-felt thank you for the generous contribution made to the Basket of Hope project. There were 31 Baskets packed and filled with goodies for the youth and their parents. These Baskets were delivered to the youth battling cancer or other severe illnesses, and the items in the Baskets placed a smile on all their faces and gave them some peace for a while from what each is enduring. One of the Baskets was kept here in Austin County and given to a youth that has a serious illness.

Blessings,

Austin-Waller County Thrivent Board



Maggie,

I wanted to thank you for everything you have done to help me this year, and allowing me the opportunity to work at Trinity Lutheran Preschool. This past year has been a wonderful experience for me, and it was an honor to be a part of you faculty. I can't tell you enough how refreshing it was to work along-side such genuine people. I will truly miss you, Robin and the rest of the faculty next year, and I wish you and your family a wonderful summer. Thank you again for allowing me to be apart of the Trinity Team!

Neysa Smaistrá



Food Pantry News!

In May we were able to distribute food to 181 families, which involved 512 individuals. We will always be in need of paper grocery bags. Please ask for them at the grocery store and save them for us.

On Saturday May 12th, the Sealy Postal Department had an area wide food drive to benefit the pantry. The following Tuesday morning, the postal employees delivered 900 pounds of food staples to us. This couldn't have come at a better time since we are trying to build up our storeroom, getting geared up for the summer. Thanks to these people for sponsoring a food drive and everyone else who showers the pantry with abundant contributions that help make this all possible.

On Thursday May 24th, we held our annual food fair at the Levine Park. This is actually sponsored by the Houston Food Bank since they furnish all the vegetables and deliver it free to us. All we have to do is furnish a place to have it and volunteers to manage it. This was open to anyone in Austin County. We were able to serve 1031 individuals who came from 290 families. "Thanks" to everyone for their dedication and hard work for making this event go as smooth as it did.

Food Pantry is in need of plastic and paper bags!

Vernon Ekarius, Coordinator



TLC Vacation Bible School is fast approaching. This year we will be exploring how to "Trust God" through SKY VBS July 16-20 from 8:30-11:30 am.

See the SKY display in the narthex to sign-up to help with VBS. We still have tons of spots open so don't forget to sign up or contact Leslie Pacher 979-885-8297 or leslie_pacher@yahoo.com.

There is definitely something for everyone to help with at SKY VBS 2012. We need each and every member to pitch in and help make this year's VBS a huge success.

Food donations are also posted on the glass windows as you enter the gym. If you cannot help out during the week of VBS, please consider making a food donation to help out with our snack time.

If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact Leslie Pacher at 979-885-8297.

BBQ CHURCH BARBECUE SET FOR AUGUST 12TH

We have begun to make preparation for our annual barbecue to be held August 12th at the K. C. Hall, with serving to begin at 11:00 AM.

All of the committee leaders' positions have been filled and these people are in need of your help and support. You can volunteer by calling the leader of the committee you would like to serve on. The heads of each committee are as follows:

1. Coordinator – Vernon Ekarius
2. Barbecue – Troy Tesch
3. Purchasing & Preparation – Jerry Leiber
4. Potatoes – Charles Able and Carl Sebesta
5. Sauce and Gravy – Johnnie Griffin
6. Beans – David and Carol Jean Hauschild
7. Serving Line – Mark and Robbyn Hill
8. Secretary/Publicity – Johnny and Susie Busse
9. Donations – Sue Kristynik
10. Sales – Robert Richter
11. Kitchen – Brad and Anne Biss
12. Tickets – Robert and Debbie Fait
13. Set-Up and Clean Up – Bill Blume
14. Auction – George and Janice Wied
15. Serving to go Outside – Sherri Santoro
16. Sweet Treats – Mary and Johanna Buechmann
17. Children's Games – Rachael Wolf
18. Historian – Fred Paben
19. Tea and Coffee – Rhonda Pavelka & Senior Youth
20. Desserts = Ladies Aid

Donation sheets will be in the narthex on July 8th. Pending Church Council approval the net profit from the barbecue will be divided: 40% to Trinity's Building Fund, 40% to Trinity's General Fund, and the remaining 20% to be shared equally among 4 charitable organizations helping Austin County residents. Let's all work together to make the 2012 barbecue a profitable and successful one.

Susie Busse



We will again be offering meal delivery to those members who are unable to come to the KC Hall and pick up their barbecue meals on August 12. To make sure that I have enough people delivering the meals, please call me in advance, with your orders. We will again be serving barbecue chicken/sausage with sauce, buttered potatoes, pinto beans, pickles, and bread. The cost of the meal is \$8.00. Desserts are extra. I will need people to deliver the meals. If you would like to help with that, please Bev Ekarius at 885-2014.

Bev Ekarius



LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION!

August 12th is the day for our annual BBQ this year. The live and silent auctions bring a unique opportunity to donate something handcrafted. We all love to own one of a kind items made by our friends.

We are right in the middle of canning season—how about donating some jellies, vegetables, or fruits? It doesn't even have to be processed—a nice box of fresh tomatoes is a treat for someone without a garden! Also, watch your local stores for big sales on items—it could be the big ticket item of the day! Some merchants may even be willing to donate an item when you tell them that Trinity Lutheran shares the day's profit with several local non-profit organizations. Be sure to ask all your neighbors and friends to attend this year.

Thank You, George and Janice Wied



Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met June 7th with Ruth Paben welcoming everyone.

Betty Richter gave an interesting story "Together with Jesus."

The Mite Box fund was given to "Vacation Bible School."

Ruby Emshoff and Vivian Kveton are the hostesses on July 5th.

Samantha and Rocky Waxler observed their wedding anniversary on June 1st.

Hostesses Ruth Paben and Loretta Dziadek served the delicious refreshments brought by members.

Next meeting is July 5th. Visitors are welcome to attend.

Nettie Swearingen

Choose the Right Half

An elderly clergyman chugging slowly along on a sidewalk was hailed by a middle-aged workman as they neared each other.

"Hi, Jerry," said the workman cheerily. "How are you?"

The old pastor replied, "Oh, I'm about 50/50." "Well," replied the worker, "take the better half and forget the other half."



DAY LUNCHEON!

Trinity's Senior Day was held on June 13 with thirty-three attending the luncheon. Our day began with Bev Ekarius sharing a devotion and grace before lunch. We thank the Ladies Aid for providing the dessert. Everyone had a great time after lunch playing bingo. A big thank you to Bobby Barrett for once again being the bingo caller.

Mark your calendar for the next luncheon that will be held on **July 10** at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that this is not the first Wednesday of the month. We changed the date to the following Tuesday because of the fourth of July being on the first Wednesday. We will play bingo and dominoes following the luncheon. Domino players please bring your dominoes. This luncheon is a time for seniors to come and enjoy the fellowship. You are not obligated to bring food and playing games is optional. You may invite your friends and neighbors. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please note, if you sign up to attend and are not able to come to the luncheon we ask that you call Bev or Patsy and let them know that you will not be attending. The food is prepared according to the number of individuals that sign up. Any questions call Bev Ekarius at 885-2014, Phyllis Sams at 979-732-9477 or Patsy Tomasek at 877-0848.



I wanted to share with you a story! This was written to the preschool to share with everyone by a parent, Dana Hrachovy, and grandparent Bernice Novasad.

Ms. Beatrice is the teacher of the three year old students at Trinity Lutheran Preschool. At the beginning of spring the students planted vegetables and flowers seeds in egg cartons with the help of their teacher. She had the children water the soil and watch to see what happens. How excited they were when the seeds starting to push the dirt up! Before spring break the students took their plants home. One of her students, Trevor Hrachovy, was all excited and wanted his MaMa to plant his six cucumber plants in her flower garden. He helped water and even tried to chop and watched them grow. Trevor wanted cucumbers right away, he

saw the vines grow, then flowers and finally little cucumbers. At last he got to pick them and eat what he had planted. Trevor brought a cucumber to show and give to his teacher, Ms. Beatrice and his class.

As the director of Trinity Lutheran Preschool, I was so proud of Ms. Beatrice. The entire preschool did this project and it is amazing how you can touch one life with a cucumber plant. Trinity Lutheran Preschool is a ministry of the church touching someone's life by sharing the love of Christ, just like that cucumber. We teach children *"Everything God made is beautiful."* (Ecclesiastics 3:11). And we are to take care of and enjoy everything God has made.



In Christ, Ms. Maggie



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 14, 2012

Minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting, held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy, Texas, on May 14, 2012 in the Fellowship Building.

Members present were:

- Linda Blume – Treasurer
- Sherri Santoro – Fellowship
- Laci Tesch – Education
- Sue Kristynik – Evangelism
- Alfred Tomasek - Elders
- Vernon Ekarius - Trustees
- Jerry Leiber – Stewardship
- Fred Paben - Ushers
- Pastor David Vandercook

Pastor Vandercook opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were not available.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business items were discussed.

Reports

- **Treasurer** – Linda Blume presented the Treasurer’s Report. The cash balance is \$6,955.78 in the general fund. The Building Fund cash balance is \$61,239.34. The cash balance in all funds is \$113,843.16.
- **Stewardship** – Jerry Leiber represented Stewardship. There were no items to report.
- **Evangelism** – Sue Kristynik represented Evangelism. There were no items to report.
- **Trustees** – Vernon Ekarius represented the Trustees. The Trustees continue to maintain and repair the building as needed. There are some serious issues with the air conditioners and electrical issues with the lights inside the church.
- **Elders** – Alfred Tomasek represented the Elders. There were no items to report.
- **Education** – Laci Tesch represented Education. Preparations are underway for Vacation Bible School. The 2nd quarter service project will be making decorations for Vacation Bible School. Monthly prizes will be now be given for perfect attendance at Sunday School.
- **Fellowship** – Sherri Santoro represented the Fellowship committee. The pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday was well attended. The next fellowship lunch will be held following the worship service on June 24.
- **Youth** – No report.
- **Ushers** – Fred Paben represented the Ushers. There were no items to report.
- **Pastor Vandercook** – Pastor completed the Sunday Bible Class Study on the resurrection. The Wednesday morning Bible Class is studying Galatians. The Pastor and John Fullen, the congregational delegate, will be attending the District Convention in Lubbock. Pastor has made arrangements to stay with relatives in Lubbock so there will be no expenses for a hotel. He will need

transportation while in Lubbock and will need to be reimbursed for rental car expenses. John will need to be reimbursed for his expenses (hotel, mileage, meals).

- **Long Range Planning** – No report.

New Business

- **Possible Purchase of Property Across the Street** – Fred Paben presented information on the property across the street. This will be presented to the congregation at the upcoming congregational meeting.

Vernon Ekarius motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Second by Jerry Leiber. Motion passed. There were no volunteers for the devotion at the next meeting. The meeting ended with a prayer by Pastor Vandercook.

Our next meeting will be on June 11 at 7:00 p.m.



When Your Ducks Aren't in a Row

On the surface, people, like ducks, can seem to glide effortlessly through life. We’re often the picture of calm, in perfect control. But underneath, we may be paddling like mad to keep up a façade – or just to keep up.

Although we like to look and feel as if we have it all together, the truth is we often don’t. Think how much better we’d feel if we could just admit our weaknesses and doubts. Think how much more genuine our churches would be if we didn’t have to pretend we’re okay when we’re actually struggling.

Surely, God wants the pretense to stop. Set an example for friends and fellow worshipers by ending the mad paddling, embracing honesty and helping one another.

