



Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

November 2011

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Fellowship

9:05 am Sunday School

&

Bible Study

10:15 am Worship

Church Phone:

979.885.2211

Fax 979.885.7003

Web site

www.tlcsealy.org

Rev. David Vandercook
Maggie Kent, Office Secretary
Katie Thomas, DCE Intern

ELDERS:

Alan Boehm, 885-6882
Robert Fait, 885-7955
Brad Biss, 713-419-2774
Vic Grisbee, 865-5393
Lee Hobratchk, 885-6090
Jimmie Meyer, 627-0070
Jim Pursley, 885-6438
Matthew Rath, 865-8430
Robert Richter, 885-2086
Carl Sebesta, 865-0366
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TRINITY TIDBITS

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



All Saints

Most of you probably already know that October 31st holds an extra amount of significance for us than it does for those who are not Lutheran. October 31st was, of course, the day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg. This effectively kicked-off the Lutheran Reformation.

What you might have never thought about, though, is why he did it on October 31st to begin with. (No, it had nothing to do with all the trick-or-treaters that were walking the streets that night or who might knock on the church door asking for candy. As a matter of fact, "Halloween" is a derivative of "All Hallows Eve." All Hallows is another name for All Saints Day.) It had to do with what was happening the next day. November 1st is (and was in Luther's day) All Saints Day. While we typically don't celebrate All Saints Day on November 1 unless it lands on a Sunday, Christians at that time gathered for worship on November 1st no matter what day of the week it happened to occur. Luther's timing of the publication of these objections to church practice had a lot to do with the fact that October 31st is All Saints Eve.

But what is All Saints Day? To our 21st Century ears it sounds like an outdated, irrelevant festival perhaps. We may even think at times that this is a Roman Catholic festival that has nothing to do with us. After all, one of the many objections that the reformers had to the Church of their day was the worship of saints.

We define "saint" a little differently than the Roman Catholics do. A saint is any believer, past or present. So you, dear Christian friend, are a saint because of what Christ did for you on a cross at Calvary over 2000 years ago.

We use All Saints Day not as a way to worship or pray to those who have died in the faith, but rather as a way to give thanks to God for the Christian witness that they gave during their lives here on earth. We give thanks to God for sending his Son to die for them so that they might be presented to their Heavenly Father as holy and blameless on the Last Day when all the dead are raised. To top it all off, we rejoice that we too are numbered with the Saints because of Christ's righteousness credited to us.

One of the ways that the Church often celebrates All Saints Day is by giving thanks to God in prayer for those members of our congregation who have passed away over the last year. We plan on doing just that this year at Trinity as we observe All Saints Day on November 6. I hope and pray that you'll join us!

God's Blessings!
Pastor

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Happy Birthday



Birthdays for the Month!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/01	Bev Ekarius	11/12	Dale Toellner	11/22	Nettie Swearingen
11/01	Hoffman Foerster	11/13	CAROLYN ADAMS	11/22	Ernestine Schneider
11/01	Clayton Schavrda	11/13	Karen Every	11/22	MADISON PURSLEY
11/05	Tracy Semmler	11/14	Dolores Hildebrandt	11/23	LAUREN LUTHER
11/06	Fay Alexander	11/15	ELIZABETH ADAMS	11/23	Johnnie Sodolak
11/07	Robert Emshoff	11/15	La Vonn Schier	11/23	Nathan Nadia
11/07	Melissa Schmidt	11/16	J. P. Gerhart	11/23	Hannah Browne
11/08	Barbara Koy	11/17	Gwen Gonyer	11/24	COLTON POWERS
11/08	Zachery Terrell	11/18	Jeffrey Schmidt	11/24	Susie Busse
11/09	Cody Barrett	11/18	Jerry Schmidt	11/26	Charlie Sams
11/09	Larry Koy	11/18	Leslie Pacher	11/27	DAKODA SCHUKNECHT
11/09	Jason Sams	11/19	GRACE KRUZEL	11/27	Betty Richter
11/10	GRAYSON ROBERTS	11/19	Vernon Ekarius	11/27	KRISTEN CASH
11/11	Pam Epperly	11/20	Dorothy Coody	11/27	KRYSTAL CASH
11/11	Margaret Jatzlau	11/21	Nancy James	11/28	Gaylan Christiansen
11/11	CLAYTON SNEED	11/21	Rhonda Pavelka	11/30	Bruce Terrell
11/12	Casey Killough			11/30	Evelyn Michaelis



Happy Anniversary



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

11/04/1978	Lee & Kim Hobratschk	11/16/1963	David & Carol Jean Hauschild
11/10/1990	Robert & Melody Anderson	11/27/1965	Pat & Mary Buechmann
11/12/2010	Dale & Susie Toellner	11/23/1963	Robert & Betty Richter
11/15/1997	Cliff & Krisha Langton		

Jodine Meyer-713-503-1781



Please keep in your Prayers our Nursing Home Residents

Kirby Amthor Ellie Michaels Eddie Svinky

Maydell Reichardt Walter Schneider Lillie Wittenburg

Estella Heintschel

Shut Ins Gladys Bolten Oridell Ekarius J. P. Gerhart

Edd and Clara Gerstenberger Joe and Bernice Hintz

Sharon Salyer Lavonn Schier Joyce Meyer



New Arrival!

God has blessed Amber and Schyler Prentice with a beautiful daughter, Meggan, who was born at 29 Palms California, Tuesday, October 18, 2011. She weighed 7lbs and 7 oz. and 24.3 inches long. Grandparents are Bob and Terri Julian and Mary Peters. Congratulations!



Blood Drive – Trinity Lutheran Church will be hosting Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center a Blood Drive on Sunday, November 13th, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, visit www.giveblood.org and login to Digital Donor. Enter sponsor code 1881 or contact Jimmie Meyer at (979) 9-885-2211.



Change of Address – Nita Bruemmer

6075 East FM 1462

Rosharon, TX 77583

New phone number is 713-515-7379



New Phone Number Contact

Jimmie Meyer-713-503-1780



Food Pantry

Pantry News

In September we were able to reach out and furnish food for 193 families, which helped feed 622 individuals. It's such a satisfying feeling when it can be seen that this is making a difference in these people's lives. We will always be in need of paper grocery bags. If you would be so kind, please save them for us.

September was a special month for us. This was the month that the coordinators furnished what was needed to put on a luncheon to honor all the people who gave time out of their lives to physically help get the food out to the people in need and keep the pantry property looking nice. **THANKS** to everyone who served in this capacity. We couldn't have accomplished what we have done without you.

Vernon Ekarius



DINNER TICKETS!

Preschool – Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Tickets are \$8.00. You may purchase the tickets on Sunday mornings before and after the

worship service or come by the church or preschool office.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION **Romans 5:3-5**

3Not only so, but we[c]also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;4perseverance, character; and character, hope.5And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

At first glance, the words in Romans 5:3 seem rather incomprehensible. After all, does anyone actually rejoice in suffering? When everything in your earthly life crumbles around you and you are left completely broken, is it possible to put Paul’s words into action and “glory in our sufferings?” The reasoning behind this point of view seems absolutely foreign to us. Who in their right mind would rejoice in pain and hardship as they are experiencing it? Although we naturally seek to avoid pain and suffering completely, it is absolutely unavoidable. It is unavoidable because we live in a broken, sinful world. If we look beyond ourselves and look at the deeper meaning of this verse we see that suffering cannot steal the peace Christ alone brings us. Why can we rejoice in suffering? Look again at verse 3....”because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” As God helps us through suffering, He teaches endurance, He develops character in us, and he gives us hope. Our relationship with God is transformed through suffering. That is truly reason to rejoice and glorify God! Why would we want to stay locked in our own complacency if we are given the opportunity to have a closer relationship with Christ and experience his goodness?

This looks wonderful on paper, but can we carry it out in our daily lives? Can we take these comforting words, apply them to our life in suffering, and firmly believe that God uses our afflictions for good and to bless others?

God recently showed me the meaning of perseverance in the midst of suffering through the lives and experiences of the girls at the Krause center in Katy. I am currently teaching a weekly girls Bible study at the Krause center. The Krause center is an affiliated ministry of Lutheran Social Services of the South. Troubled and abused teens ages 11-17 are sent to Krause to receive help, healing, and hope. They have been removed from their homes or foster placements for a variety of reasons. Most have histories of severe abuse or neglect. The effects of their trauma manifests in a variety of problems for the teenagers which include: bi-polar conduct, emotional disorders,

depression, physical aggression, low self-esteem, property destruction, and drug experimentation.

They profoundly touched my heart on the first visit. To my surprise, they opened up to me almost right away, sharing their struggles and asking questions about God and their faith. Two girls even shared how they have learned that the only way through the pain is to turn to Jesus for healing and hope. The pain these girls have endured is indescribable. Many have been raped, forced to take illegal drugs such as meth and cocaine by their parents as children, abused, and abandoned by their caregivers. Several girls have developed destructive coping behaviors such as cutting or bulimia. These young ladies have powerful stories and testimonies and they all crave the need to be loved by a caring and responsible adult. Although they were asking me questions such as why it doesn’t seem like God answers your prayers even when you cry out to Him and or why is it a sin to live with someone before marriage and how I became to have a relationship with God, I feel like I learned more from them than they did from me. Almost every girl in my group shared how Jesus helps them through the pain and gives them the strength they need to get through each day. As I sat there listening to their struggles, I couldn’t help asking God why he allowed this to happen to these young ladies. Why did God allow them to endure so much undeserved pain and hardship? While it seems completely unfair, there is a purpose behind it. If these young ladies hadn’t experienced such pain and hardship, would any of them have the faith and rely on God the way they do today? Would they be able to honestly say that it’s better with Jesus than without? Through these young lives we see the words in Romans 5 being carried out in real ways. We see that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. We see that hope in Christ is all that we truly need and never lets us down. Instead of avoiding suffering, we see its purpose and welcome it so that our faith can be strengthened and our lives can be a witness and blessing to others who may or may not have experienced similar hardships. These girls taught me more about perseverance than I could ever teach them. I am awed by their strength, perseverance, and mercy. I feel like I am the one that is truly blessed.

Katie Thomas



Fellowship Senior Day!

Mark your calendar - Senior Day Luncheon at Trinity on November 2nd at 12:15 p.m. Chris Steinbach from Lois Kohlkorst’s office will be the guest speaker at this luncheon. He will inform us of the amendments that will be on the November 8th ballot. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors. There will be a sign- up sheet in the Narthex.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild met on October 20, important information and dates to put on your calendars.

I. Poinsettias will decorate TLC for the Christmas season with order forms to be put in blues soon.

II. November 19 at 8:00 a.m. decorate for Christmas, bring breakfast dish to share with others.

III. November 30 at 6:00 p.m. soup supper, members bring soup, bread/crackers, dessert.

IV. December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and December 4th at 2:00 p.m. the Christmas Cantata. Cookies will be needed for reception afterwards. Also workers will be needed to help serve.

V. Next Altar Guild meeting will be the Christmas party on December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Ben's Chuck Wagon will be catering a chicken fried steak meal for \$7.00. Please RSVP to Mary Buechmann by December 1st. Chinese gift exchange will take place with \$15.00 gift value.

Loyce Pacher, *Altar Guild Secretary*



Telecare Is Coming Soon!

Christ has commanded us to love Him and to love one another (Matt. 22: 37-39). He also tells us to "Serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13). We now all have an opportunity to show our love and compassion for our fellow members of Trinity through the Telecare Ministry. Its goal is to call every church member once a month.

Our hope is these calls will serve the following purposes:

- Serve as communication link, both from the church to you, and also from you to the Pastor and Elders, to let us know what your needs are and what's going on in your lives.**
- Discover unmet needs so that they can be addressed.**
- Provide information to questions you may have.**
- Provide listening, care, and encouragement.**
- Take prayer requests.**

It only takes a few minutes a month to make 6 to 8 phone calls to fellow members right from your own home and at your convenience. To make this ministry successful, we need your help! Please call Carolyn Grisbee (865-5393) or Patsy Tomasek (877-0848) for details.



Pumpkin Patch!

The Pumpkin Patch has gotten off to a great start, and by the time that this newsletter is in your hands, we will have had a great Pumpkin Patch season! On October 8th over 400 pumpkins arrived, and with lots of helping hands, they decorated our lawn quite nicely! Already we've been able to share information about our church, groups within our church, and preschool with some families in the community through our Pumpkin Patch! About 100 school children have already come to Storytime at the Pumpkin Patch to hear stories about Fall and the seasons from our storytellers, learn about pumpkins, and receive a special gift! We're expecting about 100 more children before the Pumpkin Patch closes for the season. We're excited about the opportunity to share God's love with our community this October through the efforts of the Pumpkin Patch!

Laura Vandercook



A Trinity Lutheran Church Tradition

The Trinity Lutheran Church Music Ministry will present a Christmas worship experience entitled "Sing Joy" on Friday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. The Cantata features the Trinity Lutheran Church Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, soloists, and instrumentalists.

The TLC Christmas Cantata has become a tradition in the Sealy Community and has been a part of the Christmas celebration for many families for over 25 years. This year, several members of other churches in the Sealy area have joined to share the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ.

All members of TLC are encouraged to attend the Cantata and invite friends, neighbors and relatives to join in this annual event. Postcards are available in the Narthex and can be used to extend a personal invitation to others.

What a great opportunity for all of us to share in the Good News! The Cantata provides a wonderful time for worship and fellowship. Members of Trinity will provide refreshments in the Fellowship Center following the Cantata. The Altar Guild will host this fellowship event. Childcare will also be provided as needed.

Robert and Debbie Fait



Ladies Aid News

Members of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid meeting were held October 6. Betty Richter gave an interesting topic of a woman's life of the Bible from the book of the Proverbs.

Vivian Kveton and Ruby Emshoff are hostesses for the meeting on November 3.

The nominating committee is for Treasurer and Vice-President.

Doris Holtkamp was welcomed as a guest.

Members are asked to bring canceled U. S. Stamps.

Birthdays observed in October are Ursula Kutra, October 12th, Ruby Emshoff 21st and Ruth Paben 21st.

Betty Richter and Ursula Kutra served the delicious refreshments brought by members.

Next meeting is Nov. 3rd. Visitors are welcomed to attend.

Nettie Swearingen



The Ladies Christmas

Luncheon The Ladies Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 10, 2011 with fellowship at 11 am and lunch served at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center. A program will be after lunch. This year a catered meal will be provided and each table hostess will need to bring their favorite dessert or two. A \$7.00 per plate love donation will be appreciated to help cover the cost of the meal. All ladies of Trinity and their guests are invited to attend this holiday event. So, ladies, gather your family and friends, choose a Christmas theme and decorate a table together. If you would like to help (all is needed) or attend (all are invited), please contact Mary or Johanna Buechmann at 979-885-2730 or by email at jlb30@peoplepc.com for more information and for reservations. Please RSVP no later than Thursday, December 1, 2011. There will be a limited number of tables available to host/decorate. If you were a previous hostess from years past and would like to host a table this year, please let us know soon. Everyone that attends will also need to bring a wrapped religious Christmas ornament for the ornament exchange. Also, there will be a collection taken for small toys for children's Christmas bags and holiday food drive for the Christian Food Pantry. Please put this fun event on your calendars and RSVP for a table and how many attending. All ladies of Trinity are encouraged to attend. Look for more details and official fliers to come in the days ahead.

Johanna Buechmann



October was an exciting month for MOPS as we enjoyed reaching out to the community through Trunk-or-Treat! We enjoyed a large crowd, free food, trick-or-treating, games, face painting, and a bounce house! What a fun community event!

As we move toward November, our group is again reaching out to those in need as we make blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus provides homemade blankets for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of the gift of a handmade blanket. We also will get to hear from Nurse Kerry Kovar!

If you are interested in joining MOPS or would like to know how you can support Trinity MOPS, please contact Laura Vandercook at 979-256-7456 or laura.vandercook@gmail.com.

Laura Vandercook



We are getting ready for our Thirteenth Annual Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be on **Thursday November 10th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m.** The cost of the ticket is \$8.00. This is the major fundraiser for the preschool which helps with the cost for teacher training, criminal background and fingerprinting of teachers, playground upkeep, classroom toys, supplies, snacks, repairs, carpet cleaning, exterminating or for whatever else arises in the year. In the next few years, the preschool would like to save enough money to replace the kiddie cushion with shredded tire on the colorful playground and invest in a new copier. The proceeds from the Thanksgiving Dinner will help cover the cost on one of the two items and set aside for bills to get through the summer.

How this works since this is a fundraiser to benefit the preschool, we need parents and church members to donate food items towards the dinner. This is posted on the large glass window as you enter the preschool. We are in need of **sixty-five** turkeys and you can purchase a turkey for \$12.00 and make the check out to Trinity Lutheran Preschool or you can give cash. Please place your check or cash in an envelope and bring it to the preschool office. We will make one check out to H E B in Columbus since we are purchasing the turkeys from them. Please have your turkey money donation in the office by Wednesday November 2nd, so I can pick up the turkeys on Friday morning to deliver to Mikeska's in Columbus to be pit smoked.

We are also in need of **thirty-two** of the huge cans of the corn, **thirty-two** of the huge cans of green beans, **thirty-five** cans of the huge yams, **ten** cans of the huge cranberry sauce, **thirty** desserts and **thirty-five** loaves of bread and silent auction items. Please feel free to take a look at the Thanksgiving dinner fundraiser sign up list and write your name on the items you wish to donate. Please bring to the preschool as soon as you have purchased your items. This will give me an idea of what I need to purchase for the dinner. Now you can see how expensive this event can be, but with all of the parents and congregation donating food items, this can be a success.

During the dinner we also have a silent auction. If you would like to donate towards the silent auction, this would be greatly appreciated! You can donate new items, hand crafted items, baked goods, gift certificates or whatever you can think of to make this a success. Please give us a starting price on your item.

We also have a work sign up list to help in the kitchen. This is a very important job and beginning Monday November 7th, we begin preparation of our thanksgiving dinner. Please sign up if you would like to help in the kitchen. We try to do most of the preparation during preschool hours.

De-boning turkeys is a big part of the thanksgiving dinner. We desperately need help in tearing the meat off the bones and placing the meat in pans. There is a sign up list for church members and preschool parents to help in de-boning. De-boning usually start around 12:30 pm. If you can save the date Thursday November the 10th to help de-bone this would be greatly appreciated! Sign up if you can help.

Breads and desserts may be brought in on Wednesday and Thursday November 9th and 10th in the morning. If you would like to purchase bread that is closest to homemade, then go to Bill's Country Market. If you would like to bake Mrs. Smith's pies, that would be great also. We try not to make this difficult for everyone, so just remember to be simple.

Tickets will be on sale Monday October 24th for \$8.00. Once we reach our limit of 500 tickets sold, no tickets will be sold after that time. The kitchen is only equipped to handle about 500 plates. No tickets sold the night of the dinner. Remember that this is a fundraiser and by the time we pay to pit smoke the turkeys, purchase the dry goods and ingredients for the dressing, it is worth while to have this fundraiser! Please have all items here at the preschool by Thursday or Friday November 3rd, and 4th. Can goods and turkey money may be brought in as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for all you dedication and support of the preschool program.

(Everyone's efforts are worthwhile and serve a noble purpose)



Themes! The themes for the month of November are: Transportation and Giving Thanks. The children will learn the color GREEN, the shape OVAL, and the letter sound, if they are ready, T, C, O, R and N. The Bible verse for the month is: "Thanks be to God" (1Corinthians 15:57). The Bible stories for the month are:

Week of October 31st – November 4th

General Joshua and the Promised Land
Ruth Must Find a New Home

Week of November 7th – November 11th

God Rewards Ruth's Loyalty
God Chooses David

Week of November 14th – November 18th

David Fights Goliath
Solomon Saves a Baby

Week of November 21st – November 26th

The Wisdom of King Solomon
Thanksgiving Holidays

Week of November 28th

Elijah the Profit



Family of the Week!

Family of the week is a program we have that aids children in being able to share their family with everyone at preschool and church. Each week a family will be chosen to be Family of the Week.

What this entails is for your child to bring about five to ten pictures of their family to be placed on the preschool bulletin board in the gym. Always check your calendar of events to see if it is your turn to be family of the week. Families of the Week for the month of November are:

Nov. 7th – Nov. 11th

Blayne Harkness & Kallan Hendry

Nov. 14th – Nov. 18th

Zachary Hiatt & Trevor Hrachovy

Nov. 21st – Nov. 25th

No Family-Thanksgiving Holidays

Nov. 28th – Dec. 2nd

Aiden Johnson & Olivia Johnson

Please bring your pictures Friday before your child is Family of the Week!



Wear Green Day! Since we are learning the color GREEN for the month, we would like the children to wear something GREEN to preschool on Friday November 18th. Children can wear green clothes, socks, shoes, hair bows, neckties or whatever you can think of to reinforce the color GREEN!




Sack Lunch Day! The children will have Sack Lunch Day on Tuesday November 22nd outside on the preschool playground. Look for a decorated lunch sack from your child to use as their lunch sack!




Gift Basket Items! For the Preschool – Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Silent Auction, we need all the parents to bring in their items for the


class baskets by Friday Nov. 4th. The room mothers have been working and collecting these items and now would like to prepare the baskets for the silent auction.


 **Christmas Pictures!** Kay from Treasured Portraits will be at the preschool on Wednesday November 16th to take Christmas pictures.

Please fill out the picture order form and hand back to the preschool office by Friday November 11th along with the money. Please make your check out to Treasured Portraits. If your form is not handed in, your child will not have his/her picture taken.

 **Late Pick Up!** We have a few parents picking their child up late. We understand sometimes circumstances can arise and you could be a few minutes late. But be aware of the time and know that your child is wondering why they are the only ones left and all other children have gone home. So please do not let time get away from you to cause you to be late.

Remember there is a late charge of \$1.00 per minute after 12:05 pm.

 **Updated Information!** Please make sure all phone numbers are updated in your child's file. Also make sure you have people on your child's list as pickup in case of an emergency.

 **Fantasy of Lights!** December 5th the theme for the Trinity Lutheran Preschool Float is "Journey to Bethlehem." I need parents to help decorate the float beginning Monday Nov. 28th. Aaron and Carrie Ward are gracious enough to let us build the float at their home located 1162 Klatt Lane. If you need directions please contact Carrie at 627-7127.

Please return your paper to let us know if you are willing to help in decorating the float. We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm.

We are also in need of 25 bales of hay for the children to sit on.

Aaron Ward will drive and provide the truck to pull the trailer.

Robin and Dean Jacobson will provide the generator.

Robin and I will cut out the letters needed for the float.

Preschoolers in the three and four year old classes will be able to ride on the float. Parents are limited to ride on the float. If you are planning to ride there will be no siblings.

All children must be picked up promptly at their starting entry line. No child will be taken off the float during the parade. If you think you cannot get to the entry line as soon as the float passes by do not let your child ride. Please find a parent that is riding on the float to be responsible for your child's return if you are not able to ride the float. Please let the preschool office know which parent is responsible for your child.

The float will be behind the Sealy Jr. High School by the football practice field at Highway 90 West and Tiger Lane. The float must be at the start up line by 5:00 pm and all children riding the float must be on the float by 5:30 pm. Be sure your child has had a restroom break before entering the float. The parade will start promptly at 6:00 pm.

In order for this to take place we need parent involvement for the decorating of the float. Thanks for your help in advance!

Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving,

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion"
(Psalm 111:4)

In Christ, Ms. Maggie



Come join us...The public is invited to a mission celebration at Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston on Saturday, Nov. 12. The Tanzania, Africa-themed event begins at 7 p.m. and includes a Tanzanian choir and a dessert reception. The evening's featured speaker is Rev. Anssi Simojoki, a Finnish pastor who spent several decades as a missionary in Kenya, Tanzania and other parts of East Africa. He will talk about the pioneering work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, an LCMS mission organization that translates and publishes Lutheran books around the world. Rev. Herb Graf, an LHF speaker in Texas for the past 15 years, will also be honored. For more information, call Memorial-Houston at 713-782-6079.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 12, 2011

Minutes of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting, held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy, Texas, on September 12, 2011 in the Fellowship Building.

Members present were:

George Wied- President
Linda Blume- Treasurer
Jerry Leiber- Stewardship
Sherri Santoro-Evangelism & Fellowship
Debra Rath-Board of Youth
Vernon Ekarius – Trustees
Jimmie Meyer – Elders
Fred Paben- Ushers
Ann Reay-Secretary
Pastor David Vandercook

George Wied, presiding, called the meeting to order followed by devotion.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting were read. A motion to pass was made by Fred Paben and seconded by Jimmie Meyer. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- **Web Site**, updates continue
- **Constitution Restructuring Committee**, committee is working on a proposal
- **Call Committee for DCE**, moving forward with the call of a DCE
- **Church Sign**, proposals were presented for a new church sign
- **Pictorial Directory**, there will be a phone tree vote from the congregation to determine if we move forward with a new directory

Reports

- **Treasurer** The Treasurer's report was presented for review by Linda Blume. The cash balance in the General Fund is (17,082.99), Building Fund \$51,241.57 and Total Cash \$80,006.05 on August 31, 2011.
- **Stewardship** – Jerry Leiber presented the Stewardship report. The budget is nearing completion.
- **Evangelism** – Sherri Santoro represented Evangelism. Visitors will be invited to the upcoming Octoberfest..
- **Trustees** – Vernon Ekarius represented the Trustees. On 8-19-11 the new security system was installed. The current janitorial service will remain in place. Solar screens for the east side have been installed. AC repair has been addressed. Narthex floors are showing some signs of “bowing”. Front doors are working nicely.
- **Elders** – Jimmie Meyer represented the Elders. The last meeting addressed budget. Water and shoes were delivered to Bastrop. A love offering was taken up for Glen Richter for \$1,773.15.
- **Education** – No Report
- **Fellowship** – Sherri Santoro presented the report. September 25th will be Octoberfest. The Ladies Christmas Luncheon is being planned. There will be caroling the Wednesday before Christmas.
- **Youth**–Debbie Rath presented the youth report. The youth will volunteer at the Food Pantry and serve tea at the church BBQ. The youth will host some water stations at the annual relay for life and bark for life. There will not be any assistance from the church for Camp Lone Star; however there could be financial aid scholarships made available.
- **Ushers** – Fred Paben presented the Usher Report. Locking the building should be covered. There will be an attempt to improve the flow into the church on Sunday mornings.
- **Pastor Report** Pastor Vandercook reported that he will be gone on October 9th. There are currently 3 students in the Adult Instruction class. The subject of the Sunday School class is Denomination of religion.

New Business

- Gayle Turner requested use of 4 classrooms on 9-18-11 from 2-7 p.m. for a Girl Scout training event. A motion was made by Fred Paben to allow, motion seconded by Vernon Ekarius. Motion passed.
- Cameras are installed
- Nominations committee. A motion was made by Jimmie Meyer to give authority to Pastor Vandercook and George Wied.
- George Wied to appoint a nominating committee for new Council. Motion was seconded by Fred Paben and motion passed.

The devotion next meeting will be led by Leslie Pacher.

Fred Paben made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ann Reay. The meeting ended with a prayer by Pastor Vandercook.

Our next meeting will be on October 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

George Wied, Vice-President

Ann Reay, Secretary



How to Help Your Church Be Alive!

1. Always be present.
2. Always come well ahead of starting time.
3. Come with a holy glow, a radiant face, and a happy mood.
4. Accept tasks whenever humanly possible when you are asked to serve, and then do it faithfully as unto the Lord.
5. Accept the decisions of the chosen leaders, even though they may not concur with your personal feelings.
6. When visiting in another congregation, note things that would be helpful to your home church.
7. Be a faithful member, so that the pastor need not do all the work, but is free to do the work he was called to do.
8. Sit as near the front as possible, and sing the hymns with enthusiasm and zeal.
9. Make tithing a part of your weekly worship. Remember that the church's ministry expenses continue as the same level even when you must be absent!
10. Encourage your pastor...they receive enough discouragements from other places.

