



**Building His Body  
By  
Reflecting the  
Son**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

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

**Vacancy Pastor  
Maggie Kent, Office  
Secretary**

**ELDERS:**

**Lowell Coody, 865-  
9638  
Lee Hobratschk, 885-  
6090  
Bobby Barrett, 885-  
3450  
Gene Remmert, 885-  
3886  
Tracy Schiller, 865-  
2748  
Joel Grigar, 885-1415**

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# **TRINITY TIDBITS**

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



## **HOLDING THE VISION BRIGHT**

Sometimes an image is burned into our memories so vividly that many years later we can still recall the shapes, the colors, and even the sounds associated with the event. More often, we are able to visualize the scene for awhile, but before long, details become blurred and indistinct. After more time has passed, we may be able to recall what we saw, but we cannot “see” it again in our “mind’s eye”. That is why we have “Kodak moments!”

It was a picture perfect setting, when Peter, James, and John were on the mountain with Jesus. Peter was ready to remember it always: “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

But then it was time for them to go down and on toward Jerusalem. There was a time in the courtyard of the high priest when Peter forgot the vision from the mountaintop. Maybe he began to remember it on another hill not much later. Jesus was once again the central character in a group of three, but his clothes was not shining; it had been stripped from him.

Later in his life, Peter realized how important it was to remember those events. He wrote: “I will always remind you of these things...; I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live...; I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.” (2 Peter 1:12-15 NIV)

Then he shared a verbal picture from his mental photo album: “...we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.” (2 Pet 1:17-18 NIV)

When you stand with Peter around a courtyard fire and are tempted to deny your Lord, when you are brought to your knees in grief before the crosses of your life, it is important to “hold the vision bright” and remember Peter’s snapshot of Jesus’ glory. When the image blurs and the shapes and sounds and colors become indistinct, it is time to come back to the mountain and listen once again to what God has said through his beloved Son.

The Lenten discipline is designed to help you hold the vision bright.

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent as we encounter “A Time for Renewal.”

**Pastor Gil Franke**

**Meet Gilbert and Beth Franke.** Gil is our part-time pastor during the interim until we have a new full-time pastor.

I am a retired Lutheran (LCMS) pastor living in Bellville, Texas, married to Beth Walters Franke, a retired public school librarian. My hobbies include sailing, amateur radio (WB5RFQ), traveling, reading, and writing, especially poetry. Beth shares many of these interests with me, including reading, sailing, reading, amateur radio (KD5KAD), reading, and traveling. She also does needlepoint, cross-stitch, works puzzles (Sudoku, etc.), and plays cards (Bridge, Canasta). Oh, did I mention reading? Beth works part time for Escue and Associates, book distributors for public school libraries, in Brookshire TX.

We have one son, Ethan. He and his wife, Melissa, and two year old daughter, Tessa, live in Hickory Creek Estates, four miles north of Bellville on Hwy 36. They are the reasons we located in Bellville!

I am a member of The Society of American Poets and have had many poems published in their quarterly journal, The Poet's Pen. I have also "indie published" three small books of poetry: The Stream of Life (2011), See the Train Come through Our Town (2012), and Christmas Cheer (2012). I have written some 30 hymn texts for special occasions such as anniversaries, retirements, and mission festivals. I have also written and distribute by email, a series of themes, prayers, and reflections on the readings for the Sundays of the church year.

I grew up in Uvalde, TX. and graduated from Uvalde High School ('64), Texas Lutheran University, Seguin TX ('68), and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO ('72). I served as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harrod TX ('72 - '77); Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brenham (William Penn) TX ('77 - '93); and most recently, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Bishop, TX ('93 - '09).

 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY Birthdays for the Month!** 

2/01 Debbie Fait	2/11 GAGE GRIGAR	2/24 Diane Henry
2/01 AmberJacobson	2/11 Darrell Palm	2/25 Renee Laake
2/03 James Gilliam	2/13 Sonny Lauzon	2/25 Mildred Pless
2/04 Wayne Ekarius	2/14 Dorthy Gerhart	Charles Abel
2/06 Lisa Dziadek	2/14 John Griffin	
2/08 Sabrina Schiller	2/14 REAGAN HOFFPAUIR	2/28 CHARLIE ARRIAGA
2/08 Troy Tesch	2/15 LUKE EKARIUS	Joyce Amthor
2/01 COURTNEY DZIADEK	2/19 Carolyn Bankhead	Zachery Gilmore
2/09 Riley Rath	2/21 Michael Jurek	Tara Schneider
2/10 Jay Luedecke	Ben Lewis	
	2/22 JONES KRAMPITZ Andi Wood	

 **Happy Anniversary** 

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

2/01/1946 Edwin & Estelle Remmert ♥	2/14/1989 Bill & Ann Reay
2/11/1967 Dale & Sieg Leland	2/23/1963 Vernon & Bev Ekarius
	2/24/2007 Cy and Ashley Vojtek

 **Please keep in your Prayers our Nursing Home Residents**

**Ellie Michaels Eddie Svinky Lillie Wittenburg  
Estella Heintschel Louise Kinsey**

**Shut Ins**

**Edd and Clara Gerstenberger Joe and Bernice Hintz  
Sharon Salyer Lavonn Schier Joyce Meyer**



On behalf of my brother Bryce States and I wish to thank all of the many people who sent cards, food, memorials and flowers to us at either Christ Lutheran in Plattewoods Mo. and Trinity Lutheran in Sealy. We also thank both Pastors Arnold Froeland and Vandercook for their support.

Barbara Vohs and Bryce States



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Thanks you for your generous donations to the pantry over the past several months. Your support has been a tremendous help and you are appreciated very much.

Sincerely, Sealy Christian Pantry



To Maggie, Robin and Trinity Lutheran Preschool Board,

I want to thank you so much for giving Naomi a scholarship for the rest of the year! I cried out and praised the Lord when my husband told me. It is so important to us that Naomi is able to go and attend TLPS. She absolutely loves all of you and learns valuable lessons. Given our current circumstances it is such a blessing to have the scholarship. My health is improving everyday by the Grace of God. Again, thank you with all my heart. God is so good; He is truly healing me every day!

Jennifer Trevino – Preschool Mom



# Food Pantry

It's that time of year again!

The Sealy Christian Pantry will hold our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Pancake Supper and Sing-a-Long" on Friday, February 8, 2013. Serving begins at 5:30 pm, and admission is free. Love offerings will be accepted.

The "Saints and Sinners" band, with Rita Zaskoda, Dennis Marek, Jamie Marek, and Pastor Kevin, will perform their signature combination of polka and traditional, Southern Gospel music, beginning at 6:00 pm. The band came together about six and a half years ago, first leading St. John Lutheran Church in a polka worship service before branching out into the Southern Gospel genre. They lead the music at St. John on the last Sunday of each month.

During the time Pastor Haug was chaplain of the Pantry he came up with the idea for the very first "Pancake Supper and Sing-a Long" led by the "Saints and Sinners". Six years later we are still going strong, and the band is an integral part of our fundraiser.

"We have a good time praising God as we sing and lead people in their own worship of God," said Haug. "It brings us great joy to make a joyful noise and see people tapping their feet and singing to music that has transcended generations. At least one more generation of Christians will be able to sing what their grandparents and great-grandparents sang in their praise and worship of God."

We invite each of you to join us Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend or two as well! We love to spend time visiting with you and hopefully give back a little of what you give to us when you support the Pantry.

Thank you so much for your generosity, from all of us at the Sealy Christian Pantry!

**Samantha Waxler**



**SENIOR**



## DAY LUNCHEON!

The inclement weather didn't "dampen" the spirit at the Seniors' Luncheon held January 9<sup>th</sup>. After graciously welcoming everyone, Mary Buechmann invited everyone to sing Happy Birthday to the January Birthday celebrant, Fred Paben. In addition, a round of applause was given to the January anniversary honorees; George and Janice Wied – 20 years; Melvin and Pat Schmidt – 55 years!!!

We are most grateful to Maggie Kent for presenting the devotion based on Luke 7:11-16; *Jesus Raises a Widow's Son*; revealing Jesus as the great prophet and Savior for all people and the revelation that He is the light, the way, and the

truth by whom we are saved. She extended blessings on the food.

Hostesses for January were Diane Clover, Faye Hintz, Betty Remmert, and Karen Schaare, who served a scrumptious selection of Beef Stew, French Market Soup, and Rubeen Chowder, complemented by homemade cornbread, rye bread and crackers! An assortment of delightful desserts provided by Mary Buechmann, Faye Hintz, Grace Holtkamp, Doris Schaffner, Nettie Swearingen and Gerri Barrett were thoroughly enjoyed.

Following lunch everyone enjoyed visiting, playing Bingo and Dominoes. A special thank you to Betty Remmert, Antoinette Romano, and Karen Schaare for contributing the unique Bingo/Domino prizes.

The next Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for February 6, 2013! We are grateful to Mary Grunke, Grace Holtkamp, Ursula Kutra, Ruth Paben, and Betty Richter for volunteering to be our hostesses!

We are looking forward to seeing you at our next luncheon February 6<sup>th</sup>! The sign up sheet is in the Narthex, and remember to invite your friends. If you would like to bring a dessert, please register your name on the Dessert Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex or advise one of the February hostesses. Bought items are always welcome!

Thanks to each of you for making this such a wonderful event!

If you have any questions, please call!

**Antoinette (885.7932), Mary (885.2740), Geraldine (885.3450)**



## Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Betty Herridge gave an interesting program "Gratitude." Hostesses for the meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> are Ruby Emshoff and Antoinette Romano.

The party at the Rest Home was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

Ruby Emshoff and Nettie Swearingen will check the books.

Hostesses Vivian Kveton and Loretta Dziadek served the delicious refreshments brought by members.

Next meeting will be held February 7<sup>th</sup>. Visitors are welcome.

**Nettie Swearingen**



**Singing in Church!** We all know the wonderful feeling of watching our child/children perform for us. On Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, please make plans for all the

preschoolers to join us for the 10:15 am worship service. The children will be in front of the church and sing some of the wonderful songs that they learned in chapel.

The congregation looks forward each year to listen to the preschool singing praise and be part of the worship service. This is one way we can give back to the church for the support that they give to the preschool.

Please let your child's teacher know whether or not you and your child can attend. This is a great time to invite family and friends to watch the children sing.

Please arrive at 10:00 am and drop off your child in their classrooms. This will give us ample time to practice and be ready for church.

It is very important that you drop off your child and leave IMMEDIATELY because the longer you stay the harder it is on your child. We want your child to be happy and sing beautifully so you will be proud of them. Please mark Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to sing. Your child is little only once so don't let you and your child miss out on this program.



**Preschool Soup Supper!** Preschool will have their Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. You can come and support the preschool and have a bowl of different variety of soups made by the preschool board and preschool staff.

Along with the soup we also prepare cornbread and desserts. The soup supper is a love donation of whatever you would like to give to help the preschool. But the best is eating different soups prepared for you and not having to cook dinner.

Please come and bring the entire family and support the preschool and have some delicious soup. And after you have finished your soup, you are invited to stay for the church service that begins promptly at 7:00 pm.

So mark this event on your calendar and be here at 6:00 pm for soup and an invitation to stay for worship. This is another way preschool earns funds to help with different costs that come our way. Please come and support your child's preschool.

**Dr. Zboril's Office Visits Preschool** The themes for the month of February are: Hygiene, Dental and Health. The children will learn the importance of hand washing, right nutrition and how exercise can keep you healthy.

Teachers will talk to the children about health items such as soap, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes and many more items that will keep you healthy.

Bobbie Novicke from Dr. Zboril's office will come to the preschool on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am to talk to the four year old classes about Dental Hygiene.

The children will learn the importance of seeing a dentist on a regular basis. Bobbie will also show the children the correct way of flossing and brushing.

The Bible Stories for the month of February are:

**Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Treasure and One Pearl

**Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Wind and Waves

One Touch

**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Feb 15<sup>th</sup>**

A Big Picnic

Walking on Water

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>**

Preschool Closed on Monday

Open Eyes

February 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>

Money in a Fish

A Good Neighbor

The Bible Verse for the month is "Love One Another" (John 13:34). The children will learn the Sixth Commandment: "You Shall Not Commit Adultery" and learn the meaning that we should fear and love God, live a pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other. We will learn the color PINK and the shape HEART and the letters P, H, L, U, and G.

**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. Your child will be asked 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 February are:

**February 4<sup>th</sup> – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

Kaden Richardson

Isabella Pittillo

**February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Garrett Prause

Adelyn Quinton

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Brenna Roberts

Jasmin Rubio

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Derik Ruiz

Erik Sanchez

Please hand your pictures to your child's teacher the Friday before your child is Family of the Week!

**Bring PINK Items!** On Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>, please have your child bring PINK items to preschool to reinforce the color for the month!

**Books are Fun!** Angela from Books are Fun will have a display set up for us to browse books. She will come and set up the display on Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> if you would like to order books.

To place your order, please write the title or item on the envelope. Place your money in the envelope, then seal and place in the "Books are Fun Box".

Angela will be back to take down the display and bring the books that you ordered on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Go Western Day!** Go Western Day will be Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The children can come to preschool dressed in western clothes to promote the Houston Rodeo!

The children can wear western jeans, western shirts, boots, hats, bandanas and belt. Please NO GUNS! Spurs



## MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2013

may be worn but will be taken away if they hurt another child. So let's see all the cowboys and cowgirls!

**Bring a Postage Stamp!** Each child will need to bring a postage stamp to their child's teacher for the special valentine card to be mailed by the children to their parents. The preschool office will not sell stamps, so please be sure your child brings one stamp to school. You may want to check with your child's teacher to make sure one stamp will be enough, depending on the size of the valentine project.

Please have your stamps here by Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, so the valentine cards can be mailed out in ample time for you to receive by mail.

The children will place the valentine cards in the church mailbox outside the door for the postman to take with him.

If your child has not brought a stamp for their valentine card to be mailed you may pick up the card in your child's cubby.

**Valentine's Party!** The preschool will have their Valentine's Party on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 10:30 am.

We will have an English muffin pizza party. There will be a sign up list for you to bring English muffins, pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese and help with the supervision of games.

Each child will also need to bring a valentine card for each of their classmates for exchanging. Check with your child's teacher for a list of children in their class.

**Fall Registration!** Fall registration will begin Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and end on Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> for the families that are enrolled in the program now! This is giving you first chance to enroll your child for the 2013-2014 school year. Registration packets will be ready for you to pick up on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the preschool office.

After Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>, the enrollment is open to the waiting list and the public. So if you are planning on having your child attend Trinity, please come by the office and pick up a packet and bring back along with registration fee.

Non-refundable registration fee for the 2013-2014 school year is \$80.00. But for early registration and for the month of March and for the ones in the program now will have a discount from \$80.00 to \$65.00 until March 29<sup>th</sup>. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> the registration will be \$80.00.

Along with registration fee, I must have all enrollment forms completed and turned into the office. Registration will be on first come basis.

**Extra Clothing!** Please have an extra set of clothing in your child's cubby. If your child has been sent home with Trinity clothing could you please return the clothing in case we need them for another emergency.

 *In Christ, Ms. Maggie*

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by President George Wied with Pastor Franke opening with prayer. Dale Toellner presented a devotion from Lutheran Witness.

Council Members Present: Pastor Franke - Interim Pastor, George Wied - President, Dale Toellner - Vice President, Linda Blume - Treasurer, Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair, Fred Paben - Trustee Chair, Lee Hobratschk - Head Elder, Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair, Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair, Rachel Wolf - Education Chair, Rhonda Pavelka - Youth Chair, Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair, Johanna Buechmann - Secretary

Visitor Present - Robert Richter

Minutes from the December 2012 meeting were presented for review and approval. Corrections were made as shown on minutes. Dale Toellner made motion to accept minutes with strikes and corrections made. Rhonda Pavelka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Unfinished/Old Business:

\*Fred Paben will meet with Janice Wied on pictorial directory.

\*The outside door locks were changed and the inside door locks were not changed. The door locks for Pastor and Maggie's offices have special keys.

\*Discussion regarding the Church BBQ as to consensus of having the BBQ in the Fellowship Center and rent BBQ pits at KC hall. Jerry Leiber advised the KC is reserved for August and will need to know by February.

\*Discussion regarding the Elders reviewing the inactive list and sending out letters to these members.

Chair Reports:

Linda Blume - Treasurer

\*The December 31, 2012 Treasurer's Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is (\$9,551.31), Building Fund is \$68,053.33, Designated Funds is \$47,465.50 and Total - All Funds is \$105,967.52. The General Fund Contributions is \$20,686.49. Total management and general expenses is \$15,904.60. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is \$4,781.89.

\*The Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will go into the general fund.

\*The Chamber of Commerce bill was approved by Fred Paben to be paid. The Sam's Club Membership bill was approved by Fred Paben to be paid and to change the names on card to Norma Pavelka and Dale Toellner with Fred Paben to remain on card.

Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair

\*The 2012 financial statements are out.

Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair

\*Discussion on duties of evangelism and was referred to constitution \*Greeters list was planned by Mary Buechmann.

Fred Paben - Trustee Chair

\*Discussion regarding roof leaking in Sunday School room and Youth kitchen and having insurance adjustor look at roof for insurance claim. Motion made by Dale Toellner for Fred Paben to proceed with roof repair. Rachel Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair

\*Each elder received paperwork on what their duties are.

\*Vacancy Pastor salary decided on 50% of normal salary and mileage (\$31,737 plus mileage). A contract will be written up.

\*Discussion on use of facilities for weddings and funerals for members not coming to church and discussion on rental prices for members and non members.

\*Discussion on playing volleyball on Thursday night and who is in charge of group as to locking up and turning lights off.

\*Discussion about attendance forms changing back to blue cards since forms are not getting to Maggie in timely manner.

Rachel Wolf - Education Chair

\*Sunday School teachers are still needed.

\*Sunday School youth will do a service project for the Over 70's Valentine Dinner

Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair

\*There will be a potluck luncheon on January 27th.

\*The Easter Pancake Breakfast will be March 31st at 8 am after Sunrise service.

\*There will be a reception for the congregation for 1st Communion on March 28th after the Maundy Thursday service. There will also be a reception for the Confirmation Questioning when date is set.

\*A June fellowship luncheon is planned for June 30th.

Rhonda Pavelka - Youth Chair

\*Over 70's Valentine Dinner planned for February 10th with Youth and Sunday School \*Soup Supper on February 27th

Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair

\*Ushers signed up with lots of volunteers to include new ones since half of ushers were lost. There are some more volunteers to ask.

\*Ushers to help those to front pew for communion or to stay in pew and let Elder know to give communion at their seat.

\*Discussion about ushers counting people in pews and that it is easier to count from upstairs.

Pastor Franke - Vacancy Pastor

\*Pastor is glad to help as Vacancy Pastor and will work through scheduling for next couple of months with emergencies.

\*Pastor Dale Leland advised he would help out if needed.

Dale Toellner - Vice President

\*Media system is getting old and will need replacing in future

\*Screens need to be cleaned from candle soot. Fred Paben will look into having them cleaned professionally.

President Wied called for a motion to approve the Chair Reports. Motion was made by Dale Toellner to accept the Chair Reports as presented. Rhonda Pavelka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

\*Girl Scouts requested to use the Fellowship Center (upstairs and downstairs) for World Thinking Day on Saturday, February 23rd from 10 am to 3 pm. Motion made by Rhonda Pavelka to let Girl Scouts use the facility. Rachel Wolf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

\*Trinity Lutheran Preschool requested to use the Fellowship Center for Austin County Child Care Training on Saturday, March 2nd from 8 am to 4 pm. This event was previously approved for January 26th which was cancelled and rescheduled for March 2nd. The rescheduled event was approved.

\*1st Communion classes will start Sunday, January 20th after church. Kate Grigar will be working with Pastor Franke. 1st Communion will be on Maundy Thursday. Confirmation needs to be researched further.

\*Church Council Soup Supper will be March 6th.

\*Church Congregation Soup Supper will be March 20th.

There being no further business, President Wied called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Rhonda Pavelka, seconded by Dale Toellner. Motion carried.

Pastor Franke closed in prayer.

George Wied will do devotion for next meeting on Monday, February 11th.

**George Wied - President**

**Johanna Buechmann - Secretary**