



**Building His Body
By
Reflecting the
Son**

JANUARY 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**

**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**

TRINITY TIDBITS

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



Dear saints of Trinity,

This will, of course, be the last time that I address you using this forum as I will begin serving as the Assistant Pastor of Parish Education and Fellowship at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston beginning in January. I will be installed on January 6, but Laura, the kids, and I will still live here in Sealy until our home here in Sealy closes and we close on our new home in Houston.

There is no doubt that 2012 was a challenging year for Trinity. A division in the congregation led to a group of members leaving Trinity to plant a new church in Sealy. Others have left and begun attending church elsewhere. This has caused unrest. There are concerns about how you will be able to pay the bills and how you will be able to pay employees. There are concerns about who will fill positions that have been voided by those who left. It has been encouraging, to say the least, to see how many people have stepped in to fill various positions on boards and committees that were left open by those who left Trinity. Due to the determination of the remaining members of Trinity, the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church has continued without interruption.

Finances at Trinity continue to be a bit of a struggle. Some very difficult decisions regarding the budget have been made and will have to be examined throughout the months to come. Those who served on our Board of Elders and Church Council over the past few months are to be commended for their fine work and determination that they put into creating a budget that would continue to meet the needs of TLC, but also recognize the reality of the situation.

It is my prayer that you, the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, are sent a faithful pastor to serve your spiritual needs soon. Throughout this entire time I have never had a doubt that Trinity Lutheran Church would make it through this rough patch. Even as I leave you, I remain confident of that. Trinity has been around for close to 130 years and by God's grace it will remain for many years.

In closing, I encourage you to stand firm in your faith. Stand firm in what you believe as Lutheran Christians. This world is full of all kinds of winds of doctrine and people who are easily pushed aside and twisted by these winds. One of the great strengths of Lutheranism is that what we believe is so clearly articulated in Luther's Small Catechism and the rest of the Lutheran Confessions. Some see these things as obstacles that must be pushed aside or hidden in some way. My prayer is that you embrace them as your identity.

To God alone be the glory!

In Christ, Pastor Vandercook



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for the Month!



1/03	DAVID KAINER	1/12	Johnny Busse	1/24	Justin Hoffpauir		
1/03	Ryan Ekarius	1/12	Wendy Jamison	1/25	KADEN JUREK		
1/04	ANDIE ANDERSON	1/12	KADE RYLAND	1/25	Doug Browne		
1/06	Carolyn Grisbee	1/14	Katie Every	1/25	Justin Havemann		
1/06	Peggy Jurek	1/14	John Schier	1/26	Keith Zapalac		
1/06	Kimberly Thieleman	1/15	James Lee, Jr	1/27	Shari Cleveland		
1/07	Dale Leland	1/15	Theresa Terrell	1/27	Patsy Novosad		
1/07	Brad Biss	1/16	Fred Paben	1/29	Elgien Konesheck Jr.		
1/08	Melody Anderson	1/16	Sherri Santoro		Stephanie Meyer		
1/08	Royce Sebesta	1/18	Lisa H. Barrett	1/29	Marty Schiller		
1/08	Bubba Louis	1/18	Leslie Anderson	1/29	Nickolas Pavelka		
1/09	Stephanie Sneed	1/19	JAVEN JACKSON	1/30	Beverly Ekarius		
1/09	Stacey Putt	1/19	Rachel Epperly	1/30	Robbie Bozeman Jr.		
1/10	Edd Gerstenberger	1/21	Andi Wood	Andi Wood	1/31	Tara Schneider	Tara Schneider
1/11	LILA MEYER						



Happy Anniversary



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

1/02/1993	George & Janice Wied	1/09/1993	Mark & Robbyn Hill
1/04/1992	Jerry & Julie Ebers	1/11/1958	Melvin & Pat Schmidt ♥
1/04/1992	Jimmie & Jodine Meyer	1/15/1956	Royce and Viola Sebesta ♥



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**



Historical Marker

Trinity Lutheran Church council approved a request several months ago to secure a Texas Historical subject marker for Trinity Lutheran Church. It is to signify the over 129 years that the church has been a part of the Sealy Community. The cost of the 27" X 42" marker is \$1800 with post. The application is being processed but final payment will not be due for several months. Anyone interested in donating to the cost of the marker can contact Grace Holtkamp.

Trinity Lutheran and enjoyed "The Christmas Story" by all. A BIG thank you to all that helped make this luncheon a success, especially Mary Buechmann, and outreach to everyone this Christmas season. Thank you to all that attended. A HUGE thank you to everyone who generously donated food and toys for the Holiday Dinner Food Drive. Children's Christmas Bags for the Sealy Christian Food Pantry were handed out by Johanna and Mary Buechmann on Wednesday, Dec. 19th. I hope everyone was blessed and fulfilled by His Grace.

Thanks, Johanna

Buechman



Ladies Luncheon

The lunch was well attended with around 85 ladies from the community and




SENIOR DAY LUNCHEON!

A total of forty-five seniors gathered for the Christmas Luncheon on December 5th. A catered meal consisting of Chicken Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and salad was served with a wonderful array of desserts provided by Mary Buechmann, Faye Hintz, Avie Klopsteck, Betty Remmert, Antoinette Ramono, Karen Schaare, Carolyn Stall, Nettie Swearingen, Janice Wied, and Gerri Barrett.

Mary Buechmann extended a special welcome to everyone, and followed by recognizing the December birthday celebrants: Bobby Barrett, Geraldine Abel, Doris Holtkamp, Charles Bolten, Hilda Allison. Continuing, she acknowledged the following anniversary honorees: Gene and Betty Remmert, Johnny and Susie Busse.

Following Pastor Vandercook's devotion from Isaiah, Chapter 11 everyone joined in saying the common table prayer.

Janice Wied shared her musical talents by playing the piano and everyone joined in singing a selection of Christmas carols. Following, everyone enjoyed visiting, playing Bingo and Dominoes.

A very special thank you to Mary Buechmann and Antoinette Romano for the beautiful Christmas décor, Janice Wied for the delightful Christmas music, all the ladies who provided the delicious deserts, and especially each attendee - you made it a special time for all of us!

The next Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for January 9, 2013! The hostesses are Diane Clover, Faye Hintz, Betty Remmert, and Karen Schaare and they will be serving soup and stew. After all the holiday indulging, won't that be a welcomed treat!

We are looking forward to seeing you at our next luncheon January 9th! The signup sheet is in the Narthex, and remember to invite your friends.

If you would like to bring a dessert, please advise one of the January hostesses or one of the persons listed below. Bought items are always welcome! Thank you!

If you have any questions, please call!
**Antoinette (885.7932), Mary (885.2740),
 Geraldine (885.3450)**



Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society met on December 6 for their meeting and Christmas party. Hostesses were Ursula Kutra and Betty Herridge.

Betty Herridge gave a very interesting story "Mary and Child Time?"

The Nursing Home party will be in January. Date to be announced.

Rose Marie Trenckmann and Nettie Swearingen are to audit the books.

Members visited shut-ins during November.

Betty and Gene Remmert observed their 54th wedding anniversary on Dec. 7th.

Hostesses for January 3rd are Loretta Dziadek and Antoinette Romano.

Christmas party with Christmas carols were sung with Robert Richter leading the group. Maggie Kent and Robert Richter were guests. The delicious refreshments were served and enjoyed.

The Christmas gifts were distributed by Ruby Emshoff and Nettie Swearingen. Everyone enjoyed the gifts beneath the decorated tree.

Next meeting is January 3, 2013 and guest are welcome.

Nettie Swearingen



Wow, it is hard to believe that half of the school year is gone! I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and you are ready for 2013. I know that God has a lot of plans for all of us for this year. Always pray and God will guide you to the right path. Enjoy your new year!

The staff and I would like to say "thank you" to everyone for the wonderful gifts that were given to us for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Themes! The theme for the month of January is Community Helpers, such as doctors, firemen, policemen, veterinarians and many more. The children will play out roles in their classrooms and learn the importance of these careers and how people serve and help the community.

The letters for the month for the classes that are ready to move on are P, L, U, G, and H. The shape and color for the classes will be learning are SQUARE and YELLOW.

The Bible Stories for the month are:

Jan. 7th – Jan. 11th

Simon Peter the Rock/The Stories of Jesus

Jan. 14th – Jan. 18th

A Sick Servant/The Farmer's Seed

Jan. 21st – Jan. 25th

A Tiny Seed and a Big Tree

Jan. 28th Feb.1st

The Net

The Bible Verse for the month is: "Trust in the Lord and do Good" Psalm 37:3. The Commandment for the month is: You shall not murder. The children will learn the meaning that we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

 **Dress As A Community Helper!** On Friday, January 25th we would like the children to come to school as one of their favorite community helpers! During the entire month we will be learning about our community and how our community helpers provide the necessities for us to live a better life.

Who knows what these little preschoolers will be when they grow up. But what an opportunity to have them dress and act out a role who they think is an important part of their lives and the encouragement to grow and become one.

 **Food Pantry!** The children and parents had a great time delivering the food to the Christian Food Pantry on Friday December 14th. Each year it is amazing how much food is collected.

Thanks to all the preschool parents and their children, along with Altar Guild, Senior Day, Ladies Aid, Quilt Guild, Ladies Christmas Luncheon and Church Members. We thank you for all the food collected! Thank you to Patsy Tomasek for informing the children why the Sealy Christian Food Pantry is so important to the community.

The children were so cute taking their walking field trip to the Pantry with the parents pulling the wagons. Most of all the children learn why we collect the food and the procedure of how food is given to the ones in need.

 **Wear Yellow Day!** On Wednesday January 16th the children can wear the color YELLOW to reinforce the color for the month.

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 should 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 January are:

January 7th – January 11th

Hailey McKenzie/Abigail Mlcak

January 14th – January 18th

Emily Mock/Lauryn Necker

January 21st – January 25th

Julissa Olvera/Madison and Megan Ondruch

January 28th – February 1st

Hayden Orsak/Zachary Orsak

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

 **Silly Hat Day!** On Friday January 11th, the children are having a Silly Hat Day! This is a fun day for the children to wear or decorate a hat and make it as silly as possible to wear to preschool.

We always enjoy and love to see the children on any silly day because they are so cute and adorable! I love when the parents help their children get very creative on any silly day. So decorate a hat and make it silly!

 **Popcorn and Movie Day!** Did you know the official popcorn month is in October but according to the tradition the national popcorn day is celebrated on January 19th? Did you know that the Native Americans actually discovered "Corn Popping." Popcorn became famous during the Great Depression of 1933 that spread across the world and United States. During the depression, popcorn was considered a snack food.

During the days of the Great Depression, corn was the only weapon for the struggling farmers of America who used it to raise their income.

On Wednesday January 23rd, the preschoolers will enjoy the history of popcorn along with a movie. Please have your child bring a snack bag of popcorn to preschool and a boxed drink so we can enjoy our popcorn with a movie. The movie the preschoolers will watch will be a Veggie Tale Movie.

 **At Home Safety!** Retired Trooper Gary Pflughaupt will come to the preschool to talk to the children about Safety at Home. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn what to do if someone comes to the front door. Do I answer the door or what do I do? Mr. Gary will also talk to the children about telephones, guns, matches, electricity, household products and helmet safety.

Some of us have swimming pools, so he will talk to the children about pool safety, floods, streams, creeks and other water safety issues.

He will talk to the children about storms, lightening and tornadoes and what we need to do about critters such as raccoons, good snakes, bad snakes, spiders, bees and much more.

All this will take place on Wednesday, January 9th at 10:00 am. Maybe your child will come home and teach you a little about safety at home!

 **Camouflage Day!** On Friday January 18th, the preschoolers can come dressed in camouflage pants, tops, hats etc. This can be any color of camouflage and if you do not have camouflage, just wear the colors of camouflage.

Camouflage also means to hide, just like Jesus hid in the tomb for three days before he joined God. But even though we are blended, God still wants us to stand out. So don't forget Camouflage Day!

 **Fantasy of Lights!** I would like to thank Aaron and Carrie Ward for letting the preschool use their building to put the float together. Thank you to Tim and Dana Hrachovy for

the truck and trailer, hay and generator. Thanks to all the parents who took time out to come and decorate the float. Trinity Lutheran Preschool placed Best Non-Profit. The main focus is that we supported the preschool, bonded and had fun and was able to get the word out that Jesus loves us all!

Reminder! Preschool will be closed Monday January 21st for Public School Holiday.

Reminder! Please continue to collect aluminum cans, used postage stamps and Campbell Soup Labels for the preschool! Thanks to everyone for all you do in your help and support of the preschool. Everyone is greatly appreciated!

In Christ, Ms. Maggie



**MINUTES OF TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH JOINT
ELDERS/COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF TLC
FELLOWSHIP CENTER
DECEMBER 10, 2012**

Council Members Present: Pastor Vandercook, George Wied – President, Dale Toellner - Vice President, Linda Blume – Treasurer, Jerry Leiber – Stewardship Chair, Fred Paben – Trustee, Jimmie Meyer – Head Elder, Rachel Wolf - Board of Education Chair, Johanna Buechmann – Fellowship Chair, Rhonda Pavelka – Board of Youth Chair, Geraldine Barrett – Secretary

Members Absent: None

Vacant Positions: Evangelism and Usher Chairs

Elders Present: Jimmie Meyer – Head Elder, Lowell Coody, Vic Grisbee, Barry Wolf,

Incoming Elders Present: Bobby Barrett, Joel Grigar, Gene Remmert, Tracy Schiller

President Wied called the meeting to order and presented a brief devotion entitled "Where are the Other Nine?" We, like the ten lepers, were under the sentence of death but Jesus saved us. And just like the nine lepers, we too fail to express our gratitude, but our loving God is faithful and forgives us.

Minutes from the October meeting were presented for review and approval. Jimmie Meyer stated that the minutes reflect the purchase of two computers for \$1,249.59; only one was purchased. Dale Toellner proceeded with a motion that the minutes be approved with the following amendment:

"Major expenses attributing to the negative balance in the General Fund were replacement of two air conditioning units (\$7,542.92) and purchase of one computer (\$1,249.59)."

Jimmie Meyer seconded the motion. President Wied called for a vote: AYES – 10, NOES – 0. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

Fred Paben questioned the status of completion of the Church pictorial directory. Pastor advised that the packet was located in the Church library and contains instructions and a flash drive for completion of the project. George Wied stated that Janice will undertake completion of the directory with the assistance of another individual. Fred Paben volunteered to serve as her assistant.

CHAIR REPORTS:

Linda Blume – Treasurer

Mrs. Blume presented the following financial statements for the month of November: General Fund Expenditures, Designated Funds Receipts and Disbursements and Statements of Revenues and Expenses. (Attachment 12-10-12-1) The cash balances were as follows: General Fund – (\$14,333.20), Building Fund - \$67,947.42, Designated Funds \$44,776.50, registering a cash balance of \$98,390.72 in all funds. General Fund Expenditures totaled \$20,386.49.

Continuing, she suggested an article be placed in the Church newsletter reminding the congregation that upon expiration, their subscription to The Lutheran Witness will no longer be provided by the Church as stipulated in the 2013 Budget.

Jerry Leiber – Stewardship Chair

Mr. Leiber reported that 2012 offering statements will be mailed to the members at year end.

Fred Paben – Trustee

Mr. Paben suggested that rekeying of the five exterior doors be considered, noting that an individual has offered to pay the \$335.00 expense. After discussion, motion was made by Jimmie Meyer approving rekeying of the five exterior doors. Rhonda Pavelka seconded the motion. AYES – 10, NOES – 0 Motion carried.

Jimmie Meyer – Head Elder

Mr. Meyer reported that a listing of potential Pastors to serve during the vacancy is being compiled. In the interim, Pastor Franke has consented to serve during the months of January and February. Pastor Schueler has agreed to fill in if needed. In addition, a Pastor has expressed potential interest in being a candidate for the Pastoral position.

Rachel Wolf – Chair, Board of Education

Mrs. Wolf advised the continued need for Sunday School teachers. Christmas Bags will be distributed to the children after the worship service Sunday, December 16th.

Johanna Buechmann – Fellowship

Miss Buechmann reported that the Seniors' Luncheon on December 5th and the Ladies Christmas Luncheon on December 8th were well attended.

Upcoming fellowship events are:

Christmas Caroling – Friday, December 21st at 5:00 p.m. Fellowship is providing a meal afterward.

Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Vandercook – Scheduled for December 30, following the worship service. Fellowship will provide the main course and members will be asked to provide accompaniments. A receptacle for love offerings to Pastor and Family will available

Rhonda Pavelka – Board of Youth

The Board is planning a youth activity during the holidays.

Pastor Vandercook

Addressing the Elders, Pastor discussed the following concerns relative to his leaving on December 31.

1. His preparation of worship services through January and February. The elders agreed that it would be very helpful if he would prepare January services. .
2. Confirmation. Instructions have been completed for 6th and 7th graders for this year, with the exception of 2 freshman girls. It is his desire that the vacancy Pastor see that they are confirmed by the end of the school year. In addition, he recommended a transition back to the 2-3 year confirmation program.
3. Faith Stepping Stones Continuance of the program is up to Council/Elders. Materials are on the website.
4. Trinity at Prayer Completed through January. Weekly resources are on the website.
5. Trinity's Website Pastor is currently administering the website, a replacement is needed.
6. Shut-ins Documentation is on the computer. Pastor will visit and commune all shut-ins one more time before he leaves.

Jimmie Meyer requested a listing of passwords for the computer in Pastor's office.

Pastor advised that he was made aware of a rumor stating that he knew that he was leaving as early as the spring of the year and provided a detailed recap of the dates and events preceding the official call extended November 15th., confirming untruth to the rumor.

Elders

Jimmie Meyer advised the Elders if they should have any questions to send an email or call. Continuing, he asked for a motion to approve Pastor's mileage for the month of November. Barry Wolf made a motion to approve Pastor's mileage as presented. Lowell Coody seconded the motion. AYES - 4, NOES – 0 Motion carried.

Vice President

Dale Toellner stated that the Call Committee consists of 11-12 members and will meet after the 1st of the year. He and George Wied will co-chair the committee.

He expressed appreciation to the members for serving on council during the past year.

President Wied called for a motion to approve the Chair Reports. Motion was made by Rhonda Pavelka to accept the Chair Reports as presented. Rachel Wolf seconded the motion. President Wied called for a vote: AYES – 10, NOES – 0 Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Wied advised receipt of a letter from Special Olympics stating their appreciation for the Congregation's support. Trinity will be sponsoring a free will offering in 2013 in support of Special Olympics. The poster and letter will be placed on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Continuing, President Wied advised that several items need to be addressed concerning the annual Church BBQ and Auction. Foremost, a Chairman is needed and possibly the appointment of several co-chairs. Suggestions for cutting expenses included rental of the pits at the KC Hall, preparing the beans, potatoes, etc. at the Fellowship center as well as serving the plates, conducting the auction, games, etc.

Jimmie Meyer questioned Council and the Elders of their preference concerning continuance of joint Council/Elders meetings. President Wied advised it would be advantageous to schedule a joint meeting every six months. It was the consensus of both parties that Council and Elders meet separately and schedule a joint meeting every six months.

Jimmie Meyer stated that although his term has expired, he will attend the next Elder's meeting to help during the transition. He added that the next Elder's meeting is January 7, 2013, 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the upstairs conference room.

Fred Paben requested the Elders review the current newsletter mailing list for deletion of candidates who have transferred to another Church or are no longer active in the Church. Doing so would reduce copy and mailing expenses.

Dale Toellner advised that he will conduct the devotion at the January council meeting.

There being no further business, President Wied called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Dale Toellner, seconded by Linda Blume. President Wied called for a vote: AYES – 10, NOES - 0. Motion carried.

***George Wied – President
Geraldine Barrett – Council Secretary***