



Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

TRINITY TIDBITS

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



GIVING THANKS

-- '...that we may know it...' --

“You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

-- Psalm 145:16 (translation: New International Version)

November 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
Gilbert Franke

Maggie Kent, Office
Secretary

ELDERS:

Lowell Coody, 865-9638
Lee Hobratschk,
832-419-2998
Bobby Barrett, 885-3450
Gene Remmert, 885-3886
Tracy Schiller, 865-2748
Joel Grigar, 885-1415

Dr. Martin Luther explained the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer with these words: "God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving." Our Lord taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," so that we will recognize our need – and our Provider.

It is often difficult to see that we are dependent on God for all our physical needs, because we live in a land of plenty. Not many of us go hungry unless we choose to diet! We are not often exposed to the elements unless we are living an adventure! In fact, it is hard for us to appreciate the words of the Psalm (145:16) because we think of desires, not so much as basic needs, but rather as extras that make our lives easier or more exciting.

Sincere thanks to God flows from our hearts when we recognize that He has made us and still takes care of us every day. Just think what circumstances combined to make us citizens of this nation and residents of our particular communities in this day and age! Imagine how our ancestry contributed to the privileges and opportunities that we enjoy! There is certainly nothing that we could have done to "arrange" that!

Because our needs – and most of our desires! – are met so abundantly, it is difficult to see that God is the one who takes care of us. Giving thanks is not as genuine as it could be. If it is difficult for us to see how our physical needs have been met, just think about our spiritual needs! Until God opens our eyes, we are blind to the broken relationship caused by our sin.

Many people around us know there is something wrong in their lives, but they cannot receive God's gift of reconciliation through Jesus Christ because they haven't recognized their need. They don't realize that God has provided abundantly for their spiritual healing and renewed relationship with Him. Just as thanksgiving for physical blessings depends on realizing our dependence on God, so our thanks for spiritual restoration comes from admitting our helplessness in the face of God's grace.

O Lord, have mercy on us! Thanks be to God!!



Church members, please sign the attendance sheet with each family member's name, including children, each Sunday you are in church so the office may keep an accurate attendance.

Introduce yourself to visitors in your pew and encourage them to sign the attendance sheet and make them feel welcome!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Birthdays for the Month!

11/01 Bev Ekarius	11/11 CLAYTON SNEED	11/22 Nettie Swearingen
11/05 Joseph Smith	11/12 Dale Toellner	11/22 Ernestine Schneider
11/06 Fay Alexander	11/14 ALEXIS HORELICA	11/22 Madison Pursley
11/07 Robert Emshoff	11/15 La Vonn Schier	11/23 LAUREN LUTHER
11/08 Barbara Koy	11/18 Leslie Pacher	11/23 Johnnie Sodolak
11/08 Zachery Terrell	11/19 GRACE KRUZEL	11/23 Hannah Browne
11/09 Cody Barrett	11/19 Vernon Ekarius	Susie Busse
11/09 Larry Koy	11/20 Dorothy Coody	11/26 Charlie Sams
11/09 Jason Sams	11/21 Rhonda Pavelka	Betty Richter
11/10 GRAYSON ROBERTS		11/27 Kristen Cash
11/11 Pam Epperly		11/27 Krystal Cash
11/11 Margaret Jatzlau		Gaylan Christiansen
		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	11/23/1963 Robert & Betty Richter
11/12/2010 Dale & Susie Toellner	11/27/1965 Pat & Mary Buechmann

Prayers for Nursing Home Residents

***Ellie Michaels**
 Tuscan Community Assistant Living
 28019 Norfolk Trail Ct.
 Katy, TX 77494
 House phone – 281-574-9724
 Manager of Tuscan Community Living is – 832-361-4064

***Eddie Svinky - Colonial Belle – Sealy**

***Louise Kinsey - Colonial Belle – Sealy**
 Nettie Swearingen – Colonial Belle-Sealy

Shut Ins

***Edd and Clara Gerstenberger**
 Kruse Village Long Term Care
 1700 East Stone Room 213
 Strawberry Lane
 Brenham, TX 77833

***Bernice Hintz**
 P. O. Box 1651
 Brenham, TX 77833
 979-289-2568

***Lavonn Schier**
 Caretakers: John and Shirley Schier
 4726 Oxbow Circle East
 Fulshear, TX 77441-4448
 281-346-0452

***Joyce Meyer**
 10563 Kulow Rd.
 Sealy, TX 77474
 979-865-8295

***Jo-Anne Gilliam**
 2545 Hwy 159 E.
 Fayetteville, TX 78940
 979-966-8587



Seniors' Day Luncheon



SENIOR DAY! - Mark your Calendar –

Our next Senior Day Luncheon at Trinity is Wednesday, November 6th at 12:15 p.m. Come and enjoy a turkey and dressing dinner! We will play Bingo and Dominos after the luncheon or just enjoy the food and fellowship! Remember to invite your friends and neighbors. Please sign- up on the sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend. If you have any questions please contact Mary Buechmann 885-2730, Geraldine Barrett 885-3450 or Antoinette Romano 281-217-7177.

DINNER TICKETS! (If Not Sold Out!)

Preschool – Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Tickets are \$9.00. You may purchase the tickets on Sunday mornings before and after the worship service or come by the church or preschool office. Remember that 500 is the limit! Call the church office to see if tickets are left to purchase.

Congratulations to Our New Married Couple
Eric Gum and Patricia Rother
 Married on Saturday, October 12, 2013
 Here at Trinity Lutheran Church – Sealy
 Pastor Gilbert Franke Officiate



Ladies Aid

News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met on October 3rd with nine members present.

President, Ruth Paben, called the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Betty Herridge gave the topic, "The God who invites you".

After the business meeting and committee reports were given, "Happy Birthday" was sung to four members who had October birthdays – Ursula Kutra – October 12th, Ruby Emshoff and Ruth Paben – October 21st and Betty Remmert – October 31st.

After the table and closing prayers were given, refreshments, brought by members were served by hostesses, Vivian Kveton and Betty Remmert.

Our next meeting will be on November 7th with hostesses being Ruby Emshoff and Antoinette Romano.

Visitors are always welcome.

Loretta Dziadek



Kenya Mission Trip! Another amazing adventure with Christ at the Vision for Kenya Eye Clinic.

The team I was with went to a Kenyan village called Rombo on the Tanzanian border so we were able to share the word of Jesus with both Kenyans and Tanzanians. It was a long trip to Rombo but the Lord was there waiting for us with 1140 souls showed the way to the clinic to hear God's word and receive treatment for various eye conditions. We only had internet for about 20 minutes on 1 day at our location so I was only able to upload pictures to facebook from Saturday when we had the safari. There are many more to come as I

have time to post them so keep watch there are some amazing stories to share with all the pictures taken while Rachel and I were there.

Some of the stats for the Rombo team are:

People treated each day:

174 Monday
288 Tuesday
233 Wednesday
241 Thursday
204 Friday
1140 Total

45 Surgeries

163 RX Glasses

177 Reading Glasses

99 RX and Reading Glasses

649 Treated by the doctors other than Surgeries.

WOW is all I can think to say as I digest this trip.

Arrangements were made in August with ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya), LCMS, NURU, Kenyan Lutheran Hour, Evangelist, Pastors, and many other volunteers to help us with our mission. When we arrived on location in Rombo Monday morning, the volunteers were there anxious to get to work. There were people waiting to hear the word of God and receive treatment for various eye problems. We set up and stayed busy all day each day of the week.

The local schools brought the children in to see the doctors. It was amazing to see at the eye charts the number of children that couldn't see the Big E at the top of the chart but what was more amazing was to see those same faces with huge smiles when they put on their new prescription glasses and everything that was in sight was clear. They could see things in the distance, they could see the print in the Bible, and they could see the vibrant colors around them. These are all things that some of them had never seen or had not seen in a long time. Then you would get the child that was born with cataracts and had never seen anything but a haze until the doctors removed the cataract and put a new lens in their eye and they could see for the first time of their life.

I have attached a picture of a young girl the day after cataract surgery and a school group

gathered around 2 of my teammates (Robbie and Nathan). The group was asking them why they had come to help them. This was what Robbie wrote about the conversation with them. "As I sat at the refracting table on Wednesday morning about 15 to 20 young ladies from the Rombo Girls School rushed upon me. They had many questions and I tried to answer them all. Most of my fellow teammates came to my rescue but I said it's ok. The questions kept getting deeper and I knew we were heading in the right direction. The question finally came. Why are you here? I am here because of Jesus! He sent me and my teammates because He loves you and wants you to see! They all gave that big smile that I love to see those Kenyan children give! That is so nice they kept saying. We are happy that you came from the United States to help us!" We all had similar experiences with the Kenyans but Robbie summed it up quite nicely. We talked about Jesus and prayed with every person that came to the clinic.

A little more news about Rongai from the team that went there. They attended church services at Rongai on Sunday morning. They are renting a building for church until they close on their property and build a church. There was standing room only. How cool is that? They have more people that want to hear God's word than they have chairs. I had a chance to talk with Rev. Simba (the called pastor for this new congregation). He said they have over 60 members now. Mickie (the Rongai team leader) said there were many more than 60 in church Sunday. One year ago there wasn't even a Lutheran church in that area and now they have more people worshiping God than they can sit in the building they are using. They also are having Bible study groups meeting during the week in the members' homes. The team that went to Rongai last week were able to share the word with another 1500 people at the vision clinic. It amazes me to see God working in that community.

If I hear information from Kilgoris and Emali, the other 2 locations serving in Kenya, I will forward it to you. All I know about them right

now is that everything went smoothly and they shared the word with many more Kenyans.

Our Lord is working in Kenya and I thank Him for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it. I really appreciate all the support and prayers coming from home.



Pam Epperly



We are getting ready for our Fifteenth Annual Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be on **Thursday November 14th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m.** The cost of the ticket is \$9.00. 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, fire inspections, gas inspections etc., or for whatever else arises in the year. The preschool would like to save enough money to replace the old copier in the preschool office. The copier is ten or more years old. The proceeds from the Thanksgiving Dinner will help preschool get started purchasing or leasing a copier and set aside for bills to get through the summer.

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 your 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 6th, so I can pick up the turkeys on Friday morning to deliver to Mikeska's in Columbus to be pit smoked.

The cost to pit smoke the turkeys is around \$650.00. Mikeska's in Columbus smokes the turkeys for the preschool. It would be a big help if you would like to donate money towards the smoking of the turkeys. You can donate in \$5.00 increments. Make your check out to Trinity

Lutheran Preschool or cash and place this in the envelope provided. All donations will need to be in the preschool or church office by Wednesday, November 6th so I can pay Mikeska's when I pick up the turkeys the day of the dinner.

We are also in need of **thirty-five** of the huge cans of the corn, **thirty-five** of the huge cans of green beans, **thirty-five** cans of the huge yams, **six** cans of the huge cranberry sauce, **thirty** desserts and **thirty-five** loaves of bread which you can order and pick up. 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 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 11th, we will 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. Everyone may leave at NOON.

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 starts around 12:30 pm. If you can save the date, Thursday November the 14th 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 13th and 14th 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 21st for \$9.00. 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 worthwhile to have this fundraiser! Please have all items here at the preschool by Wednesday, November 6th. Can goods and turkey money may be brought in as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for all your 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 children work on the Ten Commandments during Chapel and this month they will be learning "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy". They will learn the meaning of the commandment that we should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it. The Bible stories for the month are:

Week of November 4th – November 8th

God Rewards Ruth's Loyalty & God Chooses David

Week of November 11th – November 15th

David Fights Goliath & Solomon Saves a Baby

Week of November 18th – November 22nd

The Wisdom of King Solomon & Elijah the Prophet

Week of November 25th – November 29th

Jonah Tries to Run From God & Thanksgiving Holidays



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 is 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 November are:

Nov. 4th – Nov. 8th

Presley Harkness & Kasen Hendry

Nov. 11th – Nov. 15th

Daegan Hrachovy & Brooklynn Hundl

Nov. 18th – Nov. 22nd

No Family-Thanksgiving Holidays

Nov. 25th – Nov. 29th

Jolie Kainer

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 15th. 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 26th 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. 8th. 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 Friday, November 22nd to take Christmas pictures.

Please fill out the picture order form and hand back to the preschool office by Monday, November 18th 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 children 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 and cause you to be late.

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

 **Tuition Fees!** Tuition is due the 5th of each month. Please have your tuition turned in by this date.

 **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 7th the theme for the Trinity Lutheran Preschool Float is "Teaching Jesus at Trinity Lutheran Preschool." Preschool is in need of a trailer, a truck to pull the trailer, 25 bales of hay for the children to sit on, a generator, a barn to decorate the float, and parent involvement to help decorate the float.

I need parents to help in decorating the float beginning Monday, December 2nd if we have a barn to use. We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm.

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.

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!

Look for more information about the Fantasy of Lights in the next couple of weeks.

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the table of your heart." (Proverbs 3:3)

 ***Have a Blessed Thanksgiving
Ms. Maggie and Staff***



**MINUTES OF TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 14, 2013**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by President George Wied and opened with prayer. Norma Pavelka presented a devotion from Living Simply.

Council Members Present: Pastor Franke - Vacancy Pastor, George Wied - President, Dale Toellner - Vice President, Linda Blume -

Treasurer, Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair, Fred Paben - Trustee Chair, Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair, Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair, Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair, Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair, Johanna Buechmann - Secretary

Council Members Absent: Rachel Wolf - Education Chair, Rhonda Pavelka - Youth Chair

Minutes from the September 9, 2013 meeting were presented for review and approval. Dale Toellner made a motion to accept the minutes. Norma Pavelka seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Unfinished/Old Business:

*Nomination Committee - Discussion on positions still needing to fill and ballot will be ready by Sunday, October 20th.

*Congregational Meeting is November 10th (rescheduled).

*2014 Proposed Budget - Discussion on budget. Motion made by Dale Toellner to change the cap from \$1500 to \$2000 on Group Health Insurance for Pastor and Officer Manager. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. Motion made by Fred Paben to approve the 2014 Proposed Budget as written. Dale Toellner seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Chair Reports:

Linda Blume - Treasurer

*The September 30, 2013 Treasurer's Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is \$9,395.04, Building Fund is \$51,554.28, Designated Funds is \$45,923.49 and Total - All Funds is \$106,872.81. The General Fund Contributions is \$18,386.70. Total management and general expenses is \$20,848.30. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is (\$2,461.60).

*Funds would have been (\$4,751.48) if not for BBQ funds.

*Council okayed ACH deposit for members.

Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair

*No report presented.

Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair

*No report presented.

Fred Paben - Trustee Chair

*New Defibulator battery installed

*AT&T U-Verse card received and Norma Pavelka received \$100 cash to use for Fellowship materials.

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair

*Discussion of Life Bridge members receiving letters in January as a transfer is being worked on by end of year by Life Bridge.

*The blue attendance cards will replace the friendship pads in January 2014. The friendship pads will be used for rest of 2013.

*Mission Sunday will be October 20th with a mission message from Mr. Keith Lund, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, with Camp Lone Star.

Rachel Wolf - Education Chair (not present)

*No report presented.

Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair

*Fellowship lunch (pot luck) planned for October 27th for Pastor Profile Survey Luncheon with Pastor Jon Baunersreuther.

Rhonda Pavelka - Youth Chair (not present)

*No report presented.

Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair

*No report presented.

Pastor Franke - Vacancy Pastor

*Discussion on Sunday School and sending out cards to missing students.

*Discussion on missing Sunday School teachers on Sunday mornings to teach.

Dale Toellner - Vice President

*Pastoral Call Committee Meeting update.

Survey closed October 6th. Pastor Jon Baunersreuther will give program about survey during luncheon on October 27th and will preach sermon during service.

President Wied called for a motion to approve the Chair Reports. Motion was made by Jerry Leiber to accept the Chair Reports as presented. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

New Business:

*Correspondence to church - Thank you from Austin County Child Care Conference for use of Fellowship Center with a \$200 donation.

*Request to use the Fellowship Center - none received *Extra pay for Pastor Franke - Motion made by Dale Toellner to give Pastor Franke

\$100 a service extra for Thanksgiving Eve, Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Norma Pavelka seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.
*No further new business.

There being no further business, President Wied called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Dale Toellner to adjourn meeting. Norma Pavelka seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

George Wied and Dale Toellner will do devotion for next meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, November 11, 2013. Pastor Franke closed with prayer.

George Wied - President
Johanna Buechmann – Secretary



7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

 **Baptism -** Pastor David and Laura Vandercook are proud to announce Kaytlin Elizabeth Vandercook has been received into God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism on November 20, 2011, administered by Rev. David Vandercook.



Friend to Friend **Thursday, November 14th, 2013** **Hill Community Center, 1000 Main Street**

We believe in the importance of breast and pap screenings. We recognize that early detection is the key to survival. We want to encourage all women to take advantage of this opportunity. You must be present at this event

to schedule all screenings (breast and pap test). Some STD testing will be available.

Registration – 11:30 am-12:00 pm
Program & Scheduling – 12:00 pm
There will be a host of exhibits and exciting door prizes.
Lunch will be provided, if needed.

Sponsored by:
Department of State health Services – Bellville Office
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
Austin County
Bellville St. Joseph Health Center
Access Health
It's helpful to RSVP to DSHA – Bellville, 979-865-5211 or Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County, 979-865-2072 by November 12th.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless for socioeconomic level, race, color, sex religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

