



**Building His Body  
By  
Reflecting the  
Son**

**January 2014**

**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  
Gilbert Franke**

**Maggie Kent, Office  
Secretary**

**ELDERS:**

**Lowell Coody, 865-  
9638**  
**Lee Hobradschk,  
832-419-2998**  
**Bobby Barrett, 885-  
3450**  
**Tracy Schiller, 865-  
2748**  
**Joel Grigar, 885-1415**

# **TRINITY TIDBITS**

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



## **Echoes from Eternity**

*For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
 "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?*  
*Or again,  
 "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me  
 a son"?*  
*And again, when he brings the firstborn into the  
 world, he says,  
 "Let all God's angels worship him."  
 Hebrews 1:5-6*

*(ESV)*

Before God said a single word to start  
 the pendulum of days and make time run,  
 He spoke a gentle word within His heart:  
 "Today I have begotten You, my Son!"  
 His words came bouncing off a cosmic cloud,  
 and, ringing clearly down from age to age,  
 were sung by angels to a frightened crowd  
 of shepherds, players on a midnight stage:  
 "Today the Savior has been born for you!"  
 Now when your heart is filled with doubt and fear  
 God's ancient word is just as fresh and new.  
 So listen very carefully and hear  
 The echoes from eternity declare:  
 "Today you have become my child and heir!"

© Gilbert A. Franke, December 2004

### **BLUES CARDS ARE BACK!**

**Members and Guests, please print your name and your child  
 or children's names and complete address (both physical and  
 e-mail) on a blue card located in the pew and place it in the  
 offering plate for your attendance.**

**Elders**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY Birthdays for the Month!



1/03 DAVID KAINER	1/12 Johnny Busse	1/25 Doug Browne
1/06 Peggy Jurek	1/14 John Schier	1/27 Shari Cleveland
1/06 Kimberly Kornegay	1/15 Theresa Terrell	1/27 Patsy Novosad
1/07 Dale Leland	1/16 Fred Paben	1/29 Elgien Konesheck Jr.
1/08 Melody Anderson	1/18 Lisa H. Barrett	Stephanie Meyer
1/08 Royce Sebesta	1/19 Rachel Epperly	1/29 Marty Schiller
1/09 Stephanie Sneed	1/21 Andi Wood	1/29 Nickolas Pavelka
1/10 Edd Gerstenberger		
1/11 LILA MEYER		



## Happy Anniversary



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

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

### 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

**Charles Bolten** – Colonial Belle Sealy

**Edna Finke** – Solera - West Houston

2101 Greenhouse Rd. Houston TX 77084, Room phone 281-599-5558

### 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

Ms. Maggie



## Ladies Aid News

Trinity Ladies Aid Society met on December 5<sup>th</sup> with nine members and five visitors present.

The meeting was opened with a prayer and a short business meeting was held.

Members and visitors then enjoyed singing Christmas carols, with Robert Richter leading the singing. A gift exchange under the beautiful Christmas tree was enjoyed. Food items were also collected for The Sealy News and Christian Food Pantry.

Trinity Ladies Aid will host the January birthday party at Colonial Belle Nursing Home. Ruby Emshoff will check on an available date for the party.

Antoinette Romano and Betty Herridge will audit the books before the January meeting.

Betty and Gene Remmert observed their wedding anniversary on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

After the closing and table prayer, delicious refreshments brought by the members were served by hostesses, Ruth Paben and Betty Herridge.

Our next meeting is on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visitors are always welcome.

Loretta Dziadek

New Phone Number:

Barbara Vohs – 713-516-2704



**Baptism & Adult Confirmation** – Patricia Lynn Gum has been received into God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism and Adult Confirmation on December 8, 2013 administered by Rev. Gilbert Franke.



Trinity Lutheran Preschool would like to say thank you to Pastor Gilbert and Beth Franke for the monetary gift towards books for the preschool program. You are greatly appreciated!

# STUDYING GOD'S WORD

“Christian Education, a spiritual discipline from the cradle to the grave”

“Just how important is it to be in touch with God’s Word?” ONLY as important as it is to be touched by God Himself, for it is in His Word that God touches us with His love and grace and blessing!

Dr. Martin Luther wrote in The Large Catechism about keeping the Sabbath day holy: “God’s Word is the treasure that sanctifies everything. By it all the saints themselves were sanctified. Now, whatever may be the hour when God’s Word is taught or preached, when it is heard, read or called to mind, then the person, day and work are thereby sanctified; not because of any outward work, but because of the Word, which sanctifies us all. Hence, I constantly repeat that our whole lives and works must be guided by God’s Word if they are to be pleasing to God or be called holy. Where they are so guided, this commandment exerts its power and is fulfilled.”

We have daily opportunities to let the power of God in His Word touch our lives. As we take up devotional booklets and daily Bible readings, God reaches out to touch us. Especially on Sundays, God’s Word touches us with His accusation of our sin and His proclamation of grace and forgiveness. In Sunday School we bring our little ones to Jesus, “that He might touch them” with His blessing and bestow on them the promise of His kingdom. In Bible Class we gather our high school students, or we come together as adults, to hear and discuss, learn and retain the Word of God. Our divine service is filled with God’s Word, in prayer and song, reading and proclamation!

Dr. Luther continues: “You must continually have God’s Word in your heart, upon your lips and in your ears. Where the heart is unoccupied and the Word does not sound, Satan breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware. On the other hand, the Word possesses such power wherever seriously considered, heeded, and put into practice, that it never remains barren of fruit. It always awakens new thoughts, new pleasures and devotions, and cleanses the heart and its meditations. These are not inert or dead words, but active and living, and although no other interest or need impel us to the Word, yet everyone should

be induced to use it by the fact that thereby Satan is put to flight and hunted down.”

It is in God’s written Word that we are addressed by the Incarnate Word, to hear His invitation: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV) Through the promise of God’s Word, we lay down the burden of our sin at the foot of Christ’s cross.

**How important is it to be in touch with the Word of God?**

**Only as important as LIFE itself!**

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”* (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

## WAYS TO EMPHASIZE EVANGELISM IN OUR COMMUNITY

1. One Sunday this month, imagine that you are a guest attending Trinity Lutheran Church for the first time! Be aware of those things that make you feel comfortable about being here -- and those that make you uncomfortable. Pretend you are not familiar with our style of worship or the hymns we sing. What would help you get through the service more easily? What would encourage you to return?
2. Think of someone who hasn’t been to church in so long that he or she might feel uncomfortable the first time back. Invite her or him to come along with you – or better yet, offer to provide a ride!
3. Each Sunday this month, choose one thing that was said or done in our worship service that you could use as a "starter" for talking with a neighbor or friend about your faith and church life. For example, *“Last Sunday we sang ‘Just as I Am’.* That song always reminds me that God knows all my failings but loves me anyway.” Write the thought down and carry it with you through the

week. Each time you use it to start a conversation with someone, make a mark on the paper. Count up the marks at the end of the week.

4. As you drive around town, look for church signs. See how many you can find for Trinity! Compare them with signs for other churches. Can you think of better places for our signs? Do you think the ones we have do a good job of letting guests know about our church? Report to Pastor Franke how many you found.
5. In your church organization meetings this month (Ladies' Aid, Choir, Bells, Quilting, Bible Studies), take a moment to talk about what you can do to encourage guests to take part in your activities.
6. Memorize *1 Peter 3:15*: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (NIV)
7. Pray that God may use your caring actions, to move some unchurched neighbor to ask you about the hope you have in God's gift of grace through Christ Jesus. Think of our mission motto, "*Building the Body by Reflecting the Son,*" in that way.
8. When you have an opportunity to do something kind and helpful for someone, think about how your actions represent God's love for that person. If you have an opportunity, explain your motive in terms of your response to God's love in Christ.



*Remember*  
THE SABBATH DAY See You Sunday!



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 2014. 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. 7<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**

"God Will Listen" PS Devotional Book

"A Sick Servant"

**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

"The Farmer's Seed"

"Obey Your Parents" PS Devotional Book

"A Tiny Seed and a Big Tree"

**Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**

"The Net".

"Too Many to Count" PS Devotional Book

"The Treasure and the Pearl"

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**

"Wind and Waves"

"Lots of Guest" PS Devotional Book

"One Touch"

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Sealy Christian Food Pantry on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Each year it is amazing how much food is collected.

Thanks to all the preschool parents and their children, along with Quilt Guild, and Church Members. We thank you for all the food collected! Thank you to Sue Kristynilk and Sherri Santoro 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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:

**Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**

Ellington Mulvany  
Christian Murillo

**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

Luke and Lauryn Necker  
Ella Novicke

**Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>**

Julissa Olvera  
Jamie Olvera

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**

Adelyn and Gage Quinton

Brenna Roberts

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>? 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>h</sup> at 10:00 am. Maybe your child will come home and teach you a little about safety at home!

 **Camouflage Day!** On Friday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 everyone who had a part in trying to have the float for the Fantasy of Lights Parade. If it wasn't for the weather we would have had a great float. Again thank you for your thoughts and concerns.

Reminder! Preschool will be closed Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> 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  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 9, 2013**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by President George Wied and opened with prayer. President Wied presented a devotion from *Portals of Prayer* and "Be On Guard".

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, Rachel Wolf – Education Chair, Valerie Engelbrecht – Education Chair Elect, Pat Buechmann – Usher Chair, Johanna Buechmann – Secretary

Council Members Absent: Ruth Szymanski – Evangelism Chair, Norma Pavelka – Fellowship Chair, Rhonda Pavelka – Youth Chair  
Minutes from the November 11, 2013 meeting were presented for review and approval. Lee Hobratschk made motion to accept minutes. Rachel Wolf seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Unfinished/Old Business:

\*Set time change for meetings during winter season – will remain at 7 pm

\*No further unfinished business.

Chair Reports:

Linda Blume – Treasurer

\*The November 30, 2013 Treasurer's Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is \$11,565.42, Building Fund is \$52,027.00, Designated Funds is \$46,378.49 and Total – All Funds is \$109,970.91. The General Fund Contributions is \$17,554.78. Total management and general expenses is \$15,630.94. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is \$1,923.84.

Jerry Leiber – Stewardship Chair

\*No report presented.

Ruth Szymanski – Evangelism Chair (not present)

\*No report presented.

Fred Paben – Trustee Chair

\*No report presented.

Lee Hobratschk – Elder Chair

\*Christmas Day service with communion at 9 am and Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm.

\*There will be no services for New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

\*Blue attendance cards will start on first Sunday in January.

\*Delinquent members – discussion on members that want to remain on role

\*Discussion on license for choir to copy songs and send electronically. Lee was advised to check on copy right license that the church currently has for further information.

Rachel Wolf – Education Chair

\*Sunday School still needs teachers for this year.

\*Children and Youth are participating in Cantata on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Norma Pavelka – Fellowship Chair (not present)

\*No report presented.

Rhonda Pavelka – Youth Chair (not present)

\*No report presented.

Pat Buechmann – User Chair

\*No report presented.

Pastor Franke – Vacancy Pastor

\*Advent and Christmas services coming up.

\*New nursing home residents.

\*Three new members being confirmed and/or baptized.

Dale Toellner – Vice President

\*Pastoral Call Committee Meeting update – will start meeting again in January 2014.

President Wied called for a motion to approve the Chair Reports. Motion was made by Dale Toellner to accept the Chair Reports as presented. Lee Hobratschk seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

New Business:

\*Various correspondence to the church – none

\*Tony and Audra Luttrall requested to use the Fellowship Center for a Drive Thru Girl Scout Fundraiser on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 from 4 pm to 7 pm. This was okayed to use.

\*No further new business.

There being no further business, President Wied called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Jerry Leiber to adjourn meeting. Dale Toellner seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried. Lee Hobratschk will do devotion for next meeting. Next meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2014. Pastor Franke closed with prayer and led all in the Lord's Prayer.

***George Wied – President***  
***Johanna Buechmann – Secretary***