



TRINITY TIDBITS

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



Read Romans 6:1-14
Psalm 100

Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

Easter People

APRIL 2015



April 2nd
7:00 pm

Maunder Thursday Worship
Service with Communion (Songs
for Tomorrow) Psalm 116

April 3rd
7:00 pm

Good Friday Worship Service
(The Song of Silence) Psalm 22

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Fellowship
9:05 am Sunday School
&
Bible Study
10:15 am Worship

Church Phone:
979.885.2211
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Web site
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Vacancy Pastor
Gilbert Franke

Maggie Kent, Office Secretary

ELDERS:

Lowell Coody, 865-9638
Lee Hobratschk,
832-419-2998
Bobby Barrett, 885-3450
Tracy Schiller, 865-2748
Joel Grigar, 885-1415
Johnnie Sodalak 885-3873
Stephen Stuessel 885-9496

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

- 1 Peter 1:3 ESV

Pierre, an inmate in a French prison before the Revolution, knew the only way out was through the morgue. He made an arrangement with Henri, the mortician. A few weeks later the tolling of the chapel bell was Pierre's call to freedom! He crept into the morgue that night, crawled into the casket, and waited anxiously on top of the corpse until morning.

What if he should be discovered!? Finally: tack, tack, tack! The lid was nailed in place. Pierre was jostled around as the casket was loaded onto the old cart, which became his carriage to a new life! When it stopped, he knew he was outside the prison at the cemetery. It would only be a matter of time before Henri opened the lid for his escape.

Pierre waited . . . and waited. At last he heard footsteps, and then a voice intoning: "We now commit to the ground the body of our brother, Henri, dust to dust, ashes to ashes." Pierre was buried with Henri in death; he had escaped the prison!

We have been buried with Christ in His death; we have escaped the slavery of sin. But thanks be to God, we have been united with Him also in His resurrection! We have a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We live as Easter people!

Lord Jesus Christ, each day as I remember my baptism, make me die to sin and live for You. On the far side of Your cross and empty tomb, You have released me from the prison of death and filled me with a joyful hope and confidence that I am alive in Your love forevermore. Amen.

- Pastor Gil Franke

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH!

GREETINGS TO YOU ON THIS SPECIAL DAY

4/02 Tracy Schiller	4/18 Marlene Leiber	4/25 KAYLA ROMANO
4/02 Rachel Wolf	4/19 Donald Munoz	4/26 Carol Jean Hauschild
4/02 John Fullen	4/19 Eric Gum	4/26 Jerry Leiber
4/03 Audra Luttrall	4/20 Denise Kopecky	4/26 Geraldine Barrett
4/03 Jennifer Smith	4/21 Glenwood Kveton	4/29 NICOLE FASHNER
4/13 CAYDEN KOPECKY	4/22 Brent Novosad	4/30 Kimberly Hobratschk
4/14 Craig Fasher	4/22 Antoinette Romano	4/30 Edwin Remmert
4/15 Brent Foltz	4/23 AVERY GRIGAR	
4/17 Sarah Emshoff	4/23 Eddie Svinky	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

LET'S REJOICE WITH THESE COUPLES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE DESIGNATED ANNIVERSARIES.

04/02/1967 Larry & Barbara Koy	04/19/1988 Donald and Felicia Munoz
04/02/1983 Jerry & Linda Schroeder	04/25/1998 Joe and Jennifer Smith

✠ Prayers for Nursing Home And Shut Ins

<p>*Ellie Michaels Tuscan Community Asst. Living 28019 Norfolk Trail Ct. Katy, TX 77494 House phone – 281-574-9724 Manager of Tuscan Community Living is – 832-361-4064</p> <p>*Eddie Svinky – Veranda House – Sealy</p> <p>*Nettie Swearingen Colonial Belle-Sealy</p> <p>*Edna Finke 832-419-4658 Solana at Cinco Ranch 24001 Cinco Village Center Blvd Apt 1148 Katy TX 77494</p> <p>Ethel Donnelly – Colonial Belle Sealy</p>	<p>*Clara Gerstenberger Kruse Village Long Term Care 1700 East Stone Room 213 Strawberry Lane Brenham, TX 77833</p> <p>*Bernice Hintz P. O. Box 1651 Brenham, TX 77833 979-289-2568</p> <p>*Lavonn Schier Caretakers: John and Shirley Schier 4726 Oxbow Circle East Fulshear, TX 77441-4448 281-346-0452</p> <p>Charles Bolten Colonial Belle – Sealy</p> <p>*Louise Kinsey - Colonial Belle – Sealy</p>
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DATE CHANGE HOLY COMMUNION

The Elders have recommended and the Church Council approved moving Communion from our regular third Sunday, May 17, to the fourth Sunday, May 24. This will allow a more guest-friendly service for the families of our Preschool graduates on the 17th, and a sacramental celebration for our Memorial Day weekend observance.

Circle of Friends Luncheon!

When: Wednesday, April 8th

Time: 12:15 pm

Sign Up To Attend!!

Come join us for “Circle of Friends” to include our younger seniors and those younger that would like to have lunch with us.

Join us on April 8th at 12:15 for lunch. Come enjoy the meal and fellowship! Remember to invite your friends and neighbors.

Please sign you and your friends up in the narthex if you would like to attend or bring a dessert.

Contact Mary Buechmann, Antoinette Romano or Geraldine Barrett for any questions.

Easter
He IS Risen!
Easter Sunday Services:

7:00 am Sunrise Service

SUNRISE Service with Communion

8:00 am Easter Breakfast

Easter Fellowship Breakfast

10:15 am Easter Sunday

Worship with Communion

meeting

**Congregational Meeting after Church on
Sunday, April 26th to vote for upcoming
preschool board members.**

In Case You Haven't Heard . . .

. . . if that were possible!! Pastor Kenneth Bersche has accepted our Call to be Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy!! And of course, the next question is, how soon will he be here? He will be here at the end of June or early in July.

That probably needs a little explanation. Even before we had our Call meeting, Pastor Bersche told us that if he were to be Called and were to accept, he would not be able to come before the end of the school term. Melissa, his wife, is a teacher in the Vernon School District. Since they live in a parsonage, she would have no place to live as she finishes her teaching contract if Pastor Bersche were to leave before the school term is out. He was also concerned that their two daughters, Samantha and Danielle, should be able to finish the school year at Vernon.

Lest we become impatient, here is some perspective to keep in mind. If we had decided to call a graduating candidate from one of our seminaries, we wouldn't know yet who our pastor would be. Call Day in the placement process is April 29, 2015, and seminary graduates typically are not installed until July or August. We are about a month ahead of that schedule!

Adult Bible Class is just finishing a study of the Book of Deuteronomy. In one of the last sessions, we considered the passage from chapter 31:1-8, where Moses told the people that God had chosen Joshua to succeed him as the leader of the Israelites when they moved across the Jordan and into Canaan. Joshua didn't step forward and ask for the job. Moses didn't choose Joshua; the people didn't elect him. God selected Joshua for the task. In the same way, God has chosen the Reverend Kenneth Bersche to be the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sealy, Texas.

The Holy Spirit involved all the members of the congregation in the process of discovering His will through the process outlined by our Synod. The Spirit also guided Pastor Bersche in discerning that he should accept this Call. When he is installed, he will be God's man in the pastoral office here at Trinity. We will respect him in that way and thank God for Pastor Bersche and his family. We pray that he will remain our faithful pastor and we faithful members under his care until the time that God, in His gracious wisdom determines to move Pastor Bersche to another place of ministry, which, pray God, will be a long time from now!!!

– Pastor Franke



Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid Society met on March 5th with nine members present.

The topic “The Power of Prayer” was given.

The quarterly “Mite Box” offering was given to Lutheran Social Services.

Plans for the Lenten soup supper, to be given by the Ladies Aid on March 18th, were discussed.

On Friday, May 8th our annual Mother's Day bake sale will be held at Citizens State Bank starting at 9:00 am.

“Happy Birthday” was sung to Vivian Kveton who had a March 25th birthday.

Hostesses for April will be Betty Remmert.

After the closing and table prayers, refreshments were served by Ruth Paben and Ruby Emshoff.

Loretta Dziadek



Each year the preschool comes together with St. Jude's Research Hospital to teach the children the importance of bike safety while raising money for childhood cancer research. Bike safety week will be Monday, April 20th- Friday, April 24th.

St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee is the first institution established for the sole purpose of conducting basic and clinical research into catastrophic childhood diseases, mainly cancer.

St. Jude's Research Hospital sends us a week long program that teaches the children about bike safety with story color sheets, reading book and DVD. The DVD is about Bikewell Bear and lessons about bike safety.

We are asking each child to donate \$1.00 or more that would go towards St. Jude's Research Hospital to help families in need with the cost of treatments for their child who has cancer.

St. Jude's Research Hospital was founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas. The hospital is an internationally recognized biomedical research hospital dedicated to childhood cancer. Patients' care and research are supported through funds raised by ALSAC, which is American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities.

ALSAC covers all cost not covered by insurance for medical treatment rendered at St. Jude's Research Hospital. Families without insurance are never asked to pay. With the support of you and others more than

18,750 patients have been successfully treated at St. Jude's Research Hospital.

As a preschool we teach the children about what donations are and how we can help families in need. With each child's donation of \$1.00 or more to St. Jude's Research Hospital for support, we can help millions around the world both through increased safety and cancer research and treatment. Let's try to raise as much money as we can to help these families in need.

 **Bike Safety with Retired Trooper Gary!** Retired Trooper Gary Pflughaupt will come to the preschool to talk to the children about Bike Safety on Tuesday, April 21st at 10:00 am.

Mr. Gary will reinforce Bikewell Bears lessons from St. Jude's on bike safety. He will talk to the children about the importance of wearing a helmet, watching out for people, and being aware of parked cars and knowing driveways can be dangerous while riding a bike. Teaching safety is important here at Trinity.

 **Easter Party!** The preschool Easter party will be Wednesday, April 1st beginning at 9:30 am until 10:30 am.

The children will have a Chicken Nugget Party. We will have a sign up list for parents to bring items needed for the party and help with games.

Each child will need to bring in six filled plastic eggs. Please fill each egg with individually wrapped candy inside. The children will have a small Easter egg hunt outside with their homemade Easter baskets made by them. We will have the room moms go through the baskets to make sure each child will have the same amount of eggs to go home.

I thank everyone who signs up for the refreshments, but we NEED parents to sign up in advance to help with the games.

 **Court Day!** The four year old classes will take a field trip to Judge Cheryl Kollatschny, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 Austin County Court. This will be a walking field trip since it is located at 201 Atchison.

This will take place on Wednesday, April 29th, leaving around 10:15 am. After the tour the children will head to the park to play and have a picnic lunch. So please be sure to have your child bring a lunch with a drink!

First they will meet and say hello to Valerie Graves who works the front desk. She answers the phones and collects money and helps you where you need to go.

Susie Busse, who is the full time Court Administer, will take the children on a guided tour of the court, let the children sit in the benches, discuss a few

court room proceedings and discuss the duties of a Judge and her duties as a Court Administrator.

Permission forms must be signed and remember to bring a sack lunch with a drink. Parents are needed to help chaperone field trip and park day.

 **Park and Picnic!** Springtime is here with great spring weather. With the beautiful sunshine the children are looking forward to their field trip to the Austin County Court and after having a fun day at the park with lunch. Classes will need to bring a sack lunch along with a drink. The children will decorate a special bag for their lunches as a reminder to the parent not to forget.

A permission form must be signed to attend the park and picnic. We also need at least (6) or more parent volunteers to help chaperone, have close eye supervision and help transport the children across the street to the park and back to the preschool.

Without enough parents to help we will have a day outside on the preschool playground and have lunch outside on the picnic tables.

If bad weather occurs we will have the children play games and have their lunch in the gym.

All parents that are helping with the park and picnic please be here by 10:00 a.m. Remember that each child is a precious gift from God and must be supervised. Please do not gather and visit with each other and make sure you are in view of the children at all times.

 **Don't forget your sack lunch and drink for a picnic after the field trip!**

 **Family of the Week!** Family of the week is a program we have that aids children to share their family with everyone at preschool and church. Families of the Week for the month of April are:

April 6th – April 10th Cash Cordes & Riley Hewson	April 20th – April 24th Even Guerrero & Logan Brubaker
April 13th – April 17th Asher Stasny & Jace Buckley	April 27th – May 1st Ava Kircher & Dillon Rogers

 **Wear Black Day!** On Thursday, April 17th the children can wear the color BLACK to reinforce the color for the month.

 **Themes!** The themes for the month of April are: Spring Farm and Sea Animals. The color the children will be learning and reinforcing is BLACK, and the shape is DIAMOND and the letters to teach are B, V, E, W, and K for the ones that are ready to move on.

The Bible stories for the month of April are:

May 30th – April 2nd “The Last Supper” “Resurrection Eggs” April 6th – April 10th “Jesus is Alive” (PDB) “Surprise” April 13th – April 17th “The Blind Beggar” “Think About Good Things” (PDB) “A Small Man”	April 20th - April 24th “Two Small Coins” “Satisfied” (PDB) “The Man at the Pool” April 27th – May 1st “Mary’s Gifts” “Don’t Hide It” (PDB) “Fish for Breakfast”
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MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 9, 2015

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by President Dale Toellner who also said the prayer. Carol Jean Hauschild presented the devotion from 2015 Lenten Devotions for Monday, March 9th “Be Still and See” (Psalm 46:10).

Council Members Present:

Pastor Franke - Vacancy Pastor
Dale Toellner – President
Carol Jean Hauschild – Treasurer
Marlene Leiber - Stewardship Chair
Fred Paben - Trustee Chair
Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair
Ruth Szymanski – Evangelism
Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair
Valerie Engelbrecht - Education Chair
Patricia Gum - Youth Chair
Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair
Johanna Buechmann - Secretary

Council Members Absent: George Wied - Vice President

Minutes from the February 9, 2015 meeting were presented for review and approval. Carol Jean Hauschild made motion to accept minutes. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Unfinished/Old Business:

*Motion made by Patricia Gum to combine the designated funds for Thanksgiving Services, Advent Services, Christmas Eve Service, Christmas Day Service, RWL Ministries, Caring for One Another and Landscape Fund together and call it Pastoral Moving Expense. Each fund would be zeroed out. Fred Paben seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Chair Reports:

Carol Jean Hauschild - Treasurer

*The February 28, 2015 Treasurer’s Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is \$87,751.22, Building Fund is \$55,220.96, Designated Funds is \$56,656.42 and Total - All Funds is \$199,628.60. The General Fund Contributions is \$15,807.28. Total management and general expenses is \$15,023.54. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is \$783.74. General Fund Expenditures is \$15,023.54.

The children continue to learn the Ten Commandments and Lord’s Prayer and know that Jesus loves them.

 **Cap and Gown Pictures!** Treasured Portraits will come and take individual and group cap and gown pictures for the four year old classes that are graduating.

This will take place on Friday, April 10th at 8:15 am. Please be sure to fill out your order form and money and return it to the office by Thursday, April 2nd. No pictures will be taken without the form and money.

 **Silly Sock Day!** On Wednesday, April 15th the children will have Silly Sock Day! The children must come to preschool with shoes on and as soon as they are in their class rooms they may take off their shoes and run around in their socks all morning.

If your child comes in with sandals without any socks, please bring a pair of socks for them. No child will be able to run around without socks. Shoes are a must when going outside to play.

 **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 April 14th 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”.

If Angela decides to have PAY AND TAKE, remember to peel the price sticker and place on your cash or check and place in the Books are Fun box!

Angela will be back to take down the display and bring you the books that you ordered on Tuesday, April 21st.

 **Pre-K Graduation!** SAVE THE DATE! The four year old classes will have a cap and gown ceremony on Sunday, May 17th at the 10:15 a.m. worship service with a reception after the service.

REMINDER! PRESCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD AND MONDAY, APRIL 6TH FOR EASTER.

In Christ, Ms. Maggie

Marlene Leiber - Stewardship Chair

*Contribution envelopes for 2016 ordered (175)

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair

*Communion moved from Sunday, May 17th to Sunday, May 24th due to Pre-school Graduation

*Jimmy Meyer was contacted to clean projectors and check video feed.

*Discussion on concern to sing more familiar hymns in service.

*Discussion on duty ushers absent from Wednesday Lenten service and need to be there.

*Discussion on how ushers need to take collection during services especially with a large attendance.

*Elders paid Janis Lapham \$60 instead of agreed \$50 for playing piano at Pastor Circuit Meeting held at church.

George Wied - Vice President (absent)

*No report presented.

Pastor Franke - Vacancy Pastor

*Confirmation class going well with hope to finish in June.

Valerie Engelbrecht - Education

*Board is working on Youth Service for Palm Sunday themed Why a Donkey? Council okayed use of contemporary music for service. Valerie discussed with Pastor Franke about the service.

*The Jr. High Youth Sunday School class taught by Patricia is going well. Board will work on High School Youth Sunday School class and looking for the right teacher(s) for this class. Valerie thanked Patricia for getting involved with Sunday School and youth.

Patricia Gum - Youth

*Sunday School Youth Group is meeting upstairs now in Youth room.

*Lenten Cross fund raiser - youth have sold 15 to 20 crosses so far and will sell a few more Sundays.

*The Youth Lenten soup supper had a good turn out.

*Discussion on creating a Face Book page for the youth that can also be used for the church to include Twitter. Council okayed to proceed.

Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair

*Ruth met with contact for support group and will be having first meeting.

Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair

*Menu planned for Lenten soup supper hosted by council.

*Discussion on Fellowship Easter Breakfast.

Fred Paben - Trustee Chair

*Outside lights that are out will be replaced along with tree limbs trimmed and gutters cleaned.

Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair

*Volunteers needed for extra services.

*Everything else is okay and will correct issues.

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

New Business:

*Pastor Bersche emailed Dale Toellner about their visit to Trinity.

*Motion made by Valerie Engelbrecht to add Patricia Gum to Youth bank account signature card. Marlene Leiber seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

*No further new business.

There being no further business, President Toellner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Carol Jean Hauschild to adjourn meeting. Valerie Engelbrecht seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Norma Pavelka will do devotion for April meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, April 13, 2015.

Dale Toellner led all in the Lord's Prayer.

*Dale Toellner, President
Johanna Buechmann – Secretary*



Attendance Cards

I NOTICED A FEW NEW FACES IN CHURCH

We try to keep an accurate record of Attendance, Communion and Offerings, to track the Spiritual well-being of our congregation.

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 record of attendance.

On the back of the card please fill out the communion registration acknowledging that you will be receiving communion.

Keeping accurate church records, including Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals goes hand in hand with Attendance and Communion. The Shepherd's Staff is a computer program used by the LCMS for all these records. It generates the year end Annual Parochial Report, required by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Please make sure you and your family is signed in for attendance and communion.