



TRINITY TIDBITS

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

**Building His Body
By
Reflecting the
Son**

DECEMBER 2015



Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th
6:00 pm



Christmas Day Service
Friday, December 25th
9:00 am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 am Fellowship
**9:00 am Sunday
School & Bible Study**
10:00 am Worship

Church Phone:
979.885.2211
Fax 979.885.7003
Web site
www.tlcsealy.org

Pastor:
Kenneth Bersche
Pastorken@tlcsealy.org
979-398-0762
**Maggie Kent, Office
Secretary**

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

**Word from
Our Pastor**

Being Helpless: Being Hopeful

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:5-8 ESV**

I can't think of anyone who desires to become helpless! For myself, the past couple of months, I have been, for the most part, helpless. My double hernia surgery was very simple and pain free with a little soreness. I had no problems with the surgery itself, but the worst part of the situation was the recovery. I felt helpless! The doctor said I couldn't lift anything over five pounds. Oh, limitations, limitations, limitations! That means I can't even pick up a gallon of milk.

During my recovery, I worked at home for a few days which was harder than expected. I would look around and see all the things that needed to be done and I couldn't do it or I shouldn't do it. Maybe you feel or have felt the same way, helpless. In my opinion, there is nothing worse than being helpless! (By the way, thanks to all of you who helped me and my family during my time of helplessness.)

That's also where we are spiritually: HELPLESS. As St. Paul reminds us: the good I want to do, I don't do; and the bad I don't want to do, I keep on doing. We confess this regularly in our confession of sins in worship, "We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone." HELPLESS!

Now as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, God reminds us of His Son becoming helpless for us. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world not as a valiant warrior or even as some super hero. He sent Jesus into the world to be conceived of the virgin Mary and to be born as a human infant yet also completely being God. God became "helpless". He had no input on His city of birth, the tiny, little villa of Bethlehem. He had no input on His birthplace, a feeding trough for animals. Jesus, the true Son of God came into our sin-filled world as a helpless infant. He truly emptied Himself as a servant for us. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we don't only leave our attention on the helpless infant in the wooden manger in Bethlehem. We also focus on the helpless servant who was crucified on the blood stained wooden cross of Calvary. Jesus became helpless for us so that we who were helpless by our sinful condition might be justified before our Father. Through Jesus, we are no longer helpless but HOPEFUL! And this being hopeful is having the full assurance of eternal life.

We celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, when God's Son became helpless so that we are now hopeful with eternal life. Blessings to all of you this

Church Office Closed At Noon On Wednesday, December 23rd.
Church Office Closed Thursday December 24th Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25th Christmas Day
Monday, December 28th

Greetings to you on this Special Day


12/01 Charles Ekarius	12/15 Monika Foltz	Bill Blume
12/02 Adolph Leschper	12/15 Cy Vojtek	12/26 Carol Barrett
12/04 Klarissa Smith	12/16 Linda Blume	12/26 Clifton Langton
12/09 Bobby Barrett	12/16 Brittany Luttrall	12/27 Austin Keeton
12/09 BELLA GRIFFIN	12/16 Debora Waldrop	12/28 Reed Langton
12/09 Brooke Munoz	12/17 Laura Kutra	12/28 Kylie Wolf
12/10 Robert Julian	12/17 George Wied	12/29 Clayton Fritsch
12/11 Travis Pavelka	12/20 Doris Holtkamp	12/30 Hilda Allison
12/12 Geraldine Abel	12/22 Monica Kent	
12/14 Ruth Szymanski	12/24 Charles F. Bolten	




Happy Anniversary

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

12/07/1963 Paul & Loyce Orsak	12/12/2009 Gaylan & Deborah Christiansen
12/07/1958 Gene and Betty Remmert	12/19/1998 Jason & Kelley Kruzel
12/08/1973 Johnny & Susie Busse	12/22/1973 David & Patsy Novosad
12/10/1988 Doug & Rhonda Browne	12/31/1944 Eddie & Shirley Svinky



Prayers for Nursing Home And Shut Ins


<p>*Eddie Svinky - (Hospice) Veranda House - Sealy</p> <p>Ethel Donnelly - Colonial Belle Sealy</p> <p>Charles Bolten 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>
---	--



Baptism Kaylee Adelyn Smalley, Owen Lane Paben, Drew Bradley Paben, Reagan Diane Paben are proud to announce that these four grandchildren of Fred and Ruth Paben have been received into God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism on Sunday, October 18, 2015 administered by Rev. Kenneth Bersche.





Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Pat and Mary Buechmann. November 27, 1965
There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good



Sympathy for the family of Josh Putt who went to be with his Lord on Thursday, October 22, 2015. Please keep the family in your prayers.


Sympathy for the family of Delores Lindhorst who went to be with her Lord on October 28, 2015. She is the sister to Jerry Grunke.


Sympathy for the family of Ervin Lee Kiesewetter, who went to be with his Lord on Monday, November 2, 2015. Ervin is a brother to Vivian Kveton. Please keep the family in your prayers.


Sympathy for the family of Georgia Edna Wied, who went to be with his Lord on Saturday, November 21, 2015. Please keep George Wied and Leisha Wied and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers.


Sympathy for the family of Edna Finke, who went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Please keep the family in your prayers.


Thrivent Choice Dollars Many Trinity Members of Thrivent Choice Dollars have directed those dollars to several institutions. Remember to continue doing this every two or three months by calling 1-800-847-4836. After March 31, 2016, any funds not directed will be moved into the Thrivent General Fund and distributed to other organizations. Contact Grace Holtkamp for information.


CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - Christ Lutheran Church of Pattison will celebrate its 125th

Anniversary on Sunday morning, Dec 13, in the 10:30 service. Speaker is Texas District (Area D) Mission/Ministry Facilitator (MMF) Rev. Jon Braunersreuther. A catered lunch will be served afterward in the Fellowship Hall. Our church is at 35912 Royal Rd @ Hwy 359. All are invited to celebrate with us!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA! – Free pictures of children with Santa! Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9:00 am-11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church. All you can eat for \$5.00! Children under 8 eat free! Sponsored by Sealy Lions Club. Proceeds benefit Lions Charities. EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

Evangelism Team **NEEDED!** Anyone who loves their church and loves their Lord Jesus. We need folks to help on our evangelism committee. NO STRESS INVOLVED! Currently we need someone (preferably a team of people so you don't have to do it every Sunday) to browse through the attendance cards and find the visitors immediately following worship so that they can be visited that Sunday afternoon. We also need volunteers to help design a new brochure for the congregation. This brochure can be presented to guests when they are visited by the pastor. Yes, it would be great if someone could help pastor make brief "thank you" visits to those who worshipped with us that morning. If interested, please contact Ruth Szymanski at 979-885-3944 or Pastor Bersche at 979-398-0762. Thanks!



Preschool-Congregation

al Thanksgiving Dinner *thank you!* To ALL who helped support the 17th Annual Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner. Without our congregational and preschool parent support towards our Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner this would not have been a success. Special thank you to Mary and Pat Buechmann for all the help from beginning to end and Stacy Picard for helping in the church office all week, Mark Meloneck for the use of his pit, and Dean Jacobson for spending his entire day working with the turkeys. A big thank you to everyone who helped debone turkeys, carrying roasters, washing pots and pans, serving food, making tea, helping with desserts, transporting meat from the pit and help with the silent auction. Thank you to all who gave extra monetary donations towards the dinner. Thank you for making **your** preschool program continue to teach and spread the love of our Lord and Savior. From the bottom of my heart and for the love of the Lord, thank you everyone! Ms. Maggie



Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met on November 5th with eight members and Pastor Bersche present.

After the opening prayer, Betty Herridge gave the topic, "Boring."

The Ladies Aid Christmas party and meeting will be on December 3rd. Members are asked to bring a gift in the amount of \$10.00 plus a non-perishable food item for The Sealy Christian Food Pantry.

Hostesses for December are Betty Remmert and Susie Hartmann.

The September Mite Box contribution was given to Trinity Lutheran Preschool and the December contribution was sent to the Krause Village in Katy and Texas Children's Hospital.

The Ladies Aid will host the January birthday party at Colonial Belle Nursing Home.

Betty Herridge accepted the office of Vice President and Program Chairman.

Betty Richter observed a birthday in November and she and Robert also had an anniversary in November.

Pastor Bersche gave the closing prayer and refreshments brought by members were served by hostesses, Ruth Paben and Betty Herridge.

Visitors are always welcome.

Loretta Dziadek



Thanks to ALL who helped support the 17th Annual Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner. Without our congregational and preschool parent support towards our Preschool Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner this would not have been a success. Special thank you to Mary and Pat Buechmann for all the help from beginning to end and Stacy Picard for helping in the church office all week, Mark Meloneck for the use of his pit, and Dean Jacobson for spending his entire day working with the turkeys.

A big thank you to everyone who helped debone turkeys, carrying roasters, washing pots and pans, serving food, making tea, helping with desserts, transporting meat from the pit and help with the silent auction. Thank you to all who gave extra monetary donations towards the dinner. And a special thanks to everyone signing up and donating food items towards the dinner. Thank you for making YOUR preschool program to continue teaching and spreading the love of our Lord and Savior. From the bottom of my heart and for the love of the Lord, thank you everyone!

Thank you to all who donated their electric roasters to use for the vegetables. We would like to say a big thank you

to HEB in Columbus for ordering the turkeys and Mikeska's in Columbus for smoking the turkeys for the dinner.

I was so very thankful for all the parents and church members involved in the preparation of the dinner. Each day there was a job that needed to be fulfilled. Everyone found their spot and began working. Most of all we enjoyed great fellowship.

Thanks to Robin Jacobson for coordinating the Silent Auction. Thanks to Rhonda Pavelka and Jodine Meyer helping with the auction during the dinner.

A lot of time and work goes into the preparation of this fundraiser. God has blessed this preschool in so many ways with teachers, parents, congregational members and the love of these precious children. This gives us joy to do what we do for the Lord. I am so proud to be part of the family of God here at Trinity. Again Thank You For All Your Love and Support!



Themes! The themes for the month of December are: The Birth of Christ and Giving to Others. The children will learn the story of Joseph, Mary and how Jesus came to be in our lives. Children will also learn how great it feels to give to others who are less fortunate.

The children, parents, and congregational members can help in giving to the Christian Food Pantry. If we have each child bring several non-perishable items to donate, there would be many happy families with a Christmas meal. All the food will be delivered to the Sealy Christian Food Pantry by the children.

Children will also continue to learn the letters T, C, O, R, and N along with the shape STAR and color WHITE. The Bible Verse for the month is "A Savior is born, He is Christ the Lord." The Bible stories for the month are:

Nov. 30th – Dec. 4th

Jonah and the Big Fish

"Pay Attention" from Preschool Devotional Book

Daniel and the Prisoner & Daniel and the Lion

Dec. 7th – Dec. 11th

Esther the Beautiful & Queen Esther Saves the People

"God Is Faithful" Preschool Devotional Book

Mary and Joseph

Dec. 14th-Dec 18th

"The First Christmas"

"A Time to Rejoice" Preschool Devotional Book

"The Miracles of Jesus"



Food Pantry! Each year Trinity Lutheran Preschool takes up a collection of canned food items for the Christian Food Pantry. The collection will begin the first day of December.

Located by the sign-in-sign-out book is a box labeled Christian Food Pantry and we would like each child to fill and bring items to be placed in the box for families that would not be able to have a Christmas Dinner.

Items that can be brought are canned sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, stuffing mix, cornbread mix, canned fruit or you can buy or clean out your pantry for items that you do not want or use and are not outdated. This is a great way to do God's work by helping the

less fortunate so they could have a blessed Christmas with their family.



The four year old class will take a walking field trip to the Christian Food Pantry to deliver the items of food. We also need a few parents to help walk with the children. If anyone would like to bring a little wagon the day of the field trip, this would be greatly appreciated!

The field trip will take place on Friday December 11th at 10:00 am, leaving here at 10:00 am. We also need the parents to fill out a permission form. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help by donating a wagon and or walk the children to the pantry.

The workers at the pantry will explain to the children the importance of helping one another in times of need. We may be blessed today but no one knows about tomorrow. Parents and congregational members are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to help with the Christian Food Pantry.



Veranda House Field Trip! After delivering the collected food to the Sealy Christian Food Pantry around 11:00 am the children will walk to the Veranda House for senior living, which a privately owned personal care home providing daily care to senior citizens. Veranda House is located across from the Sealy Christian Food Pantry and the children will visit and sing Christmas Carols to the residents. Remember that field trip forms must be filled out to attend.



Let's Be Safe! Retired Trooper Gary Pflughaupt will be at the preschool on Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00 am. Mr. Gary will discuss with the children what being safe means. It means holding your parents' hands when crossing a street or careful not to touch the stove in case it is hot. Always ask your parents or baby sitter before you go outside to play, or what about getting into a car, even if you know the person, unless your mother or father says it is okay. Also why do we have to sit in a car seat?

Mr. Gary knows that safety of children is of the utmost concern. He will teach children in a positive way to be safe without becoming fearful.



Flashlight Day! On Thursday, December 17th the children may bring a flashlight to preschool labeled with their name. This is to recognize that December 22nd this year is the longest night of the year. The children will also read the story of the Lost Sheep. They can pretend to look for their lost sheep with their flashlights.



Pajama Day!! All children! Wear your pajamas to preschool and enjoy the morning with the movie Polar Express on Friday, December 18th! We will have a special snack while watching the movie.

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 December are:

Dec. 7th – Dec. 11th

Tucker Louviere


Dec.14– Dec. 18th

Tre' Martinez and Lucas Mlcak

Jan. 4th – Jan 8th

Olivia Mock and Wyatt Nanez

Please bring your pictures Friday before your child is Family of the Week!

 **Wear White Day!** Since we are learning the color WHITE for the month, we would like the children to wear something WHITE to preschool on Tuesday, December 8th. Children can wear white clothes, socks, shoes, hair bows, neckties or whatever you can think of to reinforce the color WHITE!

Christmas Party! Each child in the classroom will draw names so we can have an ornament gift exchange among the children. The ornaments can be from .99 cents to \$3.00. This way the children can have fun exchanging their gifts but the gift will go straight into their bags so they can open the gift at home.

All ornaments need to be wrapped from whom and to whom and brought to the preschool by Friday December 4th. Please do not forget to bring your ornament gift, as we do not want a sad child without a gift.

The preschool Christmas party will take place on Wednesday, December 16th, 9:30 am – 10:30 am. The preschool party will be a mini corn dog party. Please check the party sign up list to see how you can help by purchasing food items needed for the party. Please sign up ahead of time to help with the games at the party.



Fantasy of Lights Parade

Thank you to Daniel and Jessica Carr and Casey Picard for coordinating all the details in putting the float together for the preschoolers. Thanks to Daniel and Jessica Carr for providing the truck, trailer, hay and generator.

The float will be behind the Sealy Jr. High School, by the football practice field at Highway 90 West and Tiger Alley.

Float must be at 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. Entry number will be announced as soon as I find out.

If you want your child to ride but you are not able to ride, please have a responsible parent riding on the float to take your child with them when the float ends. If you are planning to ride there will be no siblings and no extra family members. If you as a parent along with your child want to ride please let me know by signing the permission form. Permission forms are due ASAP.



Sealy Prenancy Resource Center During December we will be collecting change for the Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center that will be opening soon. The Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center will be located at the corner of FM 1094 and FM 2187. The Sealy PRC will provide services like counseling,

pregnancy testing, adoption support, child birthing classes, personal development education, social work, biblical studies, and material assistance (baby wipes, diapers, clothing and other items).

Your change can make a difference! Support the lives of babies and mothers by filling a baby bottle with your change, bills and checks. Each child will receive a bottle from their teacher at the beginning of December. We will collect all of the bottles on January 5, 2016. We will then deliver all of the bottles to the Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center. Thank you for joining us in an effort to save the lives of unborn babies by making a positive impact on their mothers.



Help Trinity Lutheran Preschool fill the food box for the Sealy Christian Food Pantry for their field trip! Boxes are located in the narthex and by the church office.



**Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year
Ms. Maggie & Preschool Staff**



MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL/ELDER MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council/Elders Combined Meeting was called to order by President Dale Toellner and opened with prayer. Pastor Bersche presented the devotion from John 15.

Council Members Present: Pastor Bersche
Dale Toellner - President
George Wied - Vice President
Carol Jean Hauschild - Treasurer
Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair
Fred Paben - Trustee Chair
Marlene Leiber - Stewardship Chair
Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair Elect
Valerie Engelbrecht - Education Chair
Patricia Gum - Youth Chair
Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair
Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair
Johanna Buechmann - Secretary
Council Members Absent: Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism
Elders Present: Joel Grigar, Doyle Kornegay - Elder Elect, Tracy Schiller, Lowell Coody, Johnnie Sodolak, Stephen Stuessel

Visitor: Maggie Kent - Church Secretary

Minutes from the October 12, 2015 meeting will be presented and approved at the December 14, 2015 meeting.

Unfinished/Old Business:

*None presented.

Chair Reports:

Carol Jean Hauschild - Treasurer

*The October 31, 2015 Treasurer's Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is \$108,843.26, Building Fund is \$58,199.30, Designated Funds is \$51,892.58 and Total - All Funds is \$218,935.14. The General Fund Contributions is \$25,055.25. Total management and general expenses is \$21,271.15. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is \$3,784.10. General Fund Expenditures is \$21,271.15. A January through October 2015 Contributions and Expenses Report was presented also. The total contributions is \$185,325.72. The total expenses is \$166,773.55. Motion was made by George Wied to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Joel Grigar seconded the motion. Lee Hobratschk asked about the Sealy Ministerial Alliance and Sealy Food Pantry budget balance. All approved. Motion carried.

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair

*Discussion on visitor passing through - a hotel room and cash money was given to him from Sealy Ministerial Alliance

New Business:

*Trinity Goals/Needs for next 5 years - Brainstorm Ideas

1. Evangelism - Stewardship-Visitation Team; Multi media streaming; Community Events-Boo Bash, Facebook page, Fantasy of Lights, Sealy Bration, News Bits, Chamber of Commerce, STS Network, Annual BBQ, Local Sponsorship, Fellowship Pot Lucks throughout the year; Online Tithing/banking
2. Ministry-Preschool - Building limitations, Waiting list; Youth/Sunday School - Leaders, getting involved; Camp Lone Star - getting involved, Future counselors, retreats; Grieving/widow assistance; Shut Ins; TV

monitors at retirement centers etc. link on web site or App, Archives, audio/video streaming; Additional help, number of Worship services and kind of worship services in five years.

3. Physical Facility-Portable buildings; Security of facility, emergency procedures, physical Security; Security cameras; Monitors in back of church; Media Center outdated; Carpet replaced; Sanctuary AC/Heating; Nursery TV - replace TV monitors; HDMI cables; LED lights-install; Schedule work days twice a year; Handheld mics and sound System in Fellowship Center; Ceiling fan and splash guard in Kitchen; Upgrade Shepherds Staff-hardware and software; Directional signs; Remove small sign on Hwy 36; Tile in Sanctuary; Remodel Preschool entrance; More space between Pews; Holiday decorations updated.

*Next Step-Each committee will work on list for next meeting at end of January. The Congregation will be asked what is a priority to them and for donations.

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

Next meeting will be on Monday, December 14, 2015. Dale Toellner led all in the Lord's Prayer.

Dale Toellner, President
Johanna Buechmann - Secretary



Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24th
6:00 pm



Christmas Day Service
Friday, December 25th
9:00 am