



**Building His Body By  
Reflecting the Son**

**January 2016**

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISER!!**



**TRINITY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL  
CHICKEN SPAGHETTI DINNER  
FUNDRAISER!  
DRIVE THRU  
ADVANCE TICKETS \$10.00**

**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](http://www.tlcsealy.org)**

**Pastor:  
Kenneth Bersche  
[Pastorken@tlcsealy.org](mailto:Pastorken@tlcsealy.org)  
979-398-0762  
Maggie Kent, Office  
Secretary**

**ELDERS:  
Bobby Barrett, 885-3450  
Lowell Coody, 865-9638  
Joel Grigar, 885-1415  
Lee Hobradschk,  
832-419-2998  
Doyle Kornegay,  
512-694-8057  
Tracy Schiller, 865-2748  
Johnnie Sodolak  
885-3873  
Stephen Stuessel  
885-9496  
Barry Wolf, 877-0341**

# TRINITY TIDBITS

A monthly newsletter for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sealy, Texas  
**FROM THE PASTOR**

## Letting Go of the Past

There is a church in Atlanta, Georgia that has an unusual custom. On every New Year's Eve, they gather for worship. What is so unusual about this service is that they have a dozen small fires burning on the altar, carefully tended. The members in worship at this service are handed white slips of paper and a pencil. They then write down the sins and worries and concerns that are getting in the way of abundant spiritual living. After the sermon, each person walks to the altar of the church and drops his or her slip of paper into the fire. The thoughts written on it are those each person wants to get rid of in the new year.

It is a unique ceremony. If all churches would follow the same practice, we might find insurance premiums going up, up, and up. Fire Departments across the country would be very nervous and on edge every New Year's Eve. Although, we at Trinity don't gather together for worship on New Year's, we can individually start fresh without issues that drag our spirits down.

For this coming year, in our minds, let's do something like that church in Atlanta. Let us mentally and spiritually get rid of all those things that make life less than it should be for us. Face them, name them in your heart for only God to see. Then bring them to the altar with you the next time you receive the Lord's Supper. And as you leave the altar, know that they are gone! They are forgiven and forgotten. Yes, that jealousy and envy you and I might have, the resentments and anxieties that make us almost sick with worry, they are gone. Even our bad habits along with all those things that make life a burden and not a joy are gone! Deliberately, turn these over to God and receive His forgiveness and new spiritual life that He has for you through His Son, Jesus.

As we enter into a new year, 2016, let us let go of the past problems that drag us down. And with the crucified and risen Lord Jesus, let us go forward with His peace, courage, hope, and joy. What a happy and blessed year 2016 will be!

*Pastor Ken*

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Chicken Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser  
Wednesday, January 27, 2016  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
DRIVE THRU ONLY! Tickets \$10.00**

You can purchase your tickets in the Church or Preschool Office.  
Come and enjoy Chicken Spaghetti while supporting the preschool!  
A donation list will be posted for parents to help with some of the ingredients for the dinner! Please look at the glass window, sign up and bring in your items ASAP!



Thank you in advance! Ms. Maggie

1/03 DAVID KAINER	1/12 Johnny Busse	1/25 Wayne Grigar
1/06 Peggy Jurek	1/14 John Schier	1/27 Shari Cleveland
1/06 Kimberly Kornegay	1/15 Theresa Terrell	1/27 Patsy Novosad
1/08 Jeannie Holland	1/16 Fred Paben	1/29 Elgien Konesheck Jr.
1/08 Melody Anderson	1/18 Lisa H. Barrett	1/29 Danielle Bersche
1/08 Royce Sebesta	1/19 Rachel Epperly	Stephanie Meyer
1/09 Meagan Keeton	1/19 PRESTON VILLALOVOZ	1/29 Marty Schiller
1/09 Stephanie Sneed	1/25 Doug Browne	1/29 Nickolas Pavelka
1/11 LILA MEYER		1/30 Beverly Ekarius




**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 ♥


**Prayers for Nursing Home And Shut Ins**


<p><b>*Eddie Svinky - (Hospice)</b> Veranda House - Sealy</p> <p><b>Ethel Donnelly</b> Colonial Belle Sealy</p> <p><b>Charles Bolten</b> Colonial Belle - Sealy</p> <p><b>Joyce Meyer</b> Colonial Belle - Sealy</p>	<p><b>*Clara Gerstenberger</b> Kruse Village Long Term Care 1700 East Stone Room 213 Strawberry Lane Brenham, TX 77833</p> <p><b>*Bernice Hintz</b> P. O. Box 1651 Brenham, TX 77833 979-289-2568</p> <p><b>*Lavonn Schier</b> Caretakers: John and Shirley Schier 4726 Oxbow Circle East Fulshear, TX 77441-4448 281-346-0452</p>
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 Poinsettias gracing the Altar are given in dedication by various members in Honor or Memory of a loved one.


 **Prayer List** Thank you for all the updates on the prayer list of your loved ones and dear friends. Prayers are always needed and updates help us to pray for their needs.


 **Narthex Mailbox Christmas Cards!** For all members – please check your church mailbox located as you walk in the double glass doors on the right for Christmas cards. No postage will be paid to be mailed to you. Cards will be recycled after 1/17/2016!

 **Flower Chart** - Please sign up in the narthex on the new Flower Chart for 2016 if you would like to place altar flower arrangements giving God the Glory in memory or honor of birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions.

 **Lay Readers** - Please sign up if you would like to be a Lay Reader on Sunday mornings. The new sign-up sheet is ready for 2016.

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

 **Thanks!** Thanks to all who placed food in the boxes during the month of December for the Sealy Food Pantry. The children walked the food in wagons to deliver to the Pantry. The Pantry talked to the children about being in need and who are hungry and do not have food in their homes.

 **Circle of Friends** – Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 6, 2016 to start off the New Year with Circle of Friends Luncheon. Sign up in the narthex if you are planning to attend.

**THANKS Huge Thank You!!** Thank you to all who help with the Houston Food Bank Truck by distributing food to the community. Your help was greatly appreciated!!



**2016 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** – Please begin use of your new envelopes and continue to do so throughout 2016. This is located in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Marlene Leiber or Bobby and Geraldine Barrett or any member of the Stewardship Committee.



**Church Planning Meeting** – is set for Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All committees and groups or a representative from all boards and auxiliary organizations that need to be on the church calendar (January thru June 2016) should attend.



**Portals of Prayer books January-March** are ready. Please pick one up in the narthex or ask an Usher for help to locate one for you.



**Thank You** - Altar Guild would like to thank everyone that bought poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary. God's Blessings to all.



**Pot Luck Luncheon for New Members** – Sign up and bring in your favorite dish to celebrate the new members who have joined Trinity Lutheran Church this past year. This event will be after church on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>!



**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.



**Ladies Aid News**

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for their regular meeting and Christmas party with eleven members, five guests and Pastor Bersche present.

Members and guests exchanged gifts and enjoyed fellowship. Also, non-perishable food items were donated for the Sealy Christian Food Pantry.

Monetary gifts were given to Maggie Kent and Pastor Ken.

Robert Richter then led the group in singing Christmas Carols.

The books will be audited by the January meeting.

Betty and Gene Remmert observed their anniversary in December.

Hostesses for January will be Vivian Kveton and Antoinette Romano.

After Pastor Bersche gave the table and closing prayer, members and guests enjoyed delicious refreshments brought by members and served by hostesses, Betty Remmert and Susie Hartmann.

Our next meeting is January 7, 2016. Visitors are always welcome.

*Loretta Dziadek*



Happy New Year! Happy New Year! Happy New Year!

“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’” Mark 12:28:31

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 2016. 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!



**Fantasy of Lights!** I would like to thank Daniel and Jessica Carr and Casey Picard for decorating the float and having it ready for Fantasy of Lights.



**Reminder!** Preschool will be closed Monday January 18<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** Thanks to everyone for all you do in your help and support of the preschool.



**Food Pantry!** The children and parents had a great time delivering the food to the Sealy Christian Food Pantry on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Each year it is amazing how much food is collected.

Thanks to all the preschool parents and their children, along with Cotton Boll Quilters, Ladies Aid Society, and Church Members. We thank you for all the food collected! Thank you to the Food Pantry 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 the children learn why we collect the food and the procedure of how food is given to the ones in need.

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Ms. Maggie



**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. 4<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Bersche's Children's Message  
"A Sick Servant"

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>**

"The Farmer's Seed"

Pastor Bersche's Children's Message  
"A Tiny Seed and a Big Tree"

**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Pastor Bersche's Children's Message  
"The Net"


**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>**

"The Treasure and the Pearl"


Pastor Bersche's Children's Message  
"Wind and the Waves"

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.

The children will also learn the Commandment: **You Shall Not Commit Adultery**. The children will learn the meaning that we should fear and love God so that we lead a pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

 **Dress As A Community Helper!** On Friday, January 22<sup>nd</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. 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.

 **Family of the Week!** This program gives an opportunity to share families with everyone. Each week a family will be chosen to be Family of the Week.

Your child should bring five to ten pictures of their family to be placed on the preschool bulletin board in the gym. Always check to see if it is your turn to be family of the week. Families of the Week for the month of January are:

<b>Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b> Olivia Mock Wyatt Nanez	<b>Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Hudson Novicke Grant Ellis
<b>Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 15<sup>th</sup></b> Luke Necker Ryder Nelson	<b>Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 29<sup>th</sup></b> Lainey Olday Elijah Olvera
	<b>Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – Feb 5<sup>th</sup>.</b> Haley Orsak Arlette Oviedo


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

 **Crazy Hat Day!** On Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>, the children are having a Crazy 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!



**Wear Yellow Day!** On Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> the children can wear the color YELLOW to reinforce the color for the month.


 **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. Today, we rely heavily on microwaveable popcorn, which was introduced in the 1980s. To celebrate National Popcorn Day, Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> children may bring popcorn and enjoy it while watching a movie with their friends!

 **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 Thursday, January 14<sup>th</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 15<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!

**A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart. ~Author Unknown**

*In Christ, Ms. Maggie*