



**Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son**

APRIL 2016



**The Semi-Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

Sunday April 24, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Fellowship

**9:00 am Sunday School
&**

Bible Study

10:00 am Worship

Church Phone:

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Web site

www.tlcsealy.org

Pastor:

Kenneth Bersche

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**Maggie Kent, Office
Secretary**

ELDERS:

Bobby Barrett, 885-3450

Lowell Coody, 877-4907

Joel Grigar, 885-1415

**Lee Hobratschk,
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**Doyle Kornegay,
512-694-8057**

Tracy Schiller, 865-2748

Johnnie Sodolak 885-3873

Stephen Stuessel 885-9496

Barry Wolf, 877-0341



YOUTH GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 16th

TRINITY TIDBITS

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



The Tomb of Jesus is Still EMPTY: So why is the church?

Early on that first day of the week, the women went to the tomb in order that they might anoint the body of their master, Jesus. What they found on that glorious day is not what they expected! As they were wondering about the large stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, reality started to show forth. The gospel writer Mark says that after they asked the question: Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb? (Mark 16:3), they looked up and saw the unthinkable.

The very, large stone was moved. The entrance of the tomb was open. The story gets bigger and bigger as they then are greeted with the Easter greeting by an angel. HE IS NOT HERE! HE HAS RISEN! They definitely were not expecting the news of an empty tomb.

The women responded with fear and trembling! An empty tomb? Why, an empty tomb? It made Mary Magdalene wonder. According to John's account of the resurrection, she stood outside the tomb, crying over the situation. The obvious answer was that someone must have stolen the body of her Lord.

Then Jesus greets her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" An empty tomb haunted her. She didn't recognize Jesus standing there in front of her. She thought He was simply the Gardner. "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." (John 20:10-15)

An empty tomb? Death holds nothing over Jesus whether it was twenty centuries ago or even today. The cemetery plot of Jesus is still empty today! That news still makes us wonder but not in sadness. Instead, we rejoice because we know His empty tomb means that our tomb also one day will be empty. That's unexpected great news.

Why then, are churches empty the Sunday after Easter? For some, Christ's tomb is only empty on Easter Sunday and then filled again until maybe Christmas or next Easter. Remember, Easter is not merely a tradition that includes attendance in church. The living Christ is still here today. He is still making post-Easter appearances, each week at churches throughout the world, including Trinity Lutheran Church in Sealy, Texas.

He truly is present when His Word is read and applied to our lives. He truly is present in a special way through His very body and blood. The question is then, since His tomb is still empty because He lives, why is the church empty? The two do NOT go together!

Let us not lose sight of what truly is of first importance in life! The LIVING CHRIST still comes to us and grants us His life.

In the name of the Living Christ,

Pastor Ken

P.S. EASTER WORSHIP IS EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 10 A.M.

God's Blessings to You!

Pastor Ken



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Birthdays for the Month!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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
4/02 AVERY FULLEN	4/20 Denise Kopecky	4/26 Geraldine Barrett
4/03 Audra Luttrall	4/22 Brent Novosad	4/30 Kimberly Hobratschk
4/03 Jennifer Smith	4/22 Antoinette Romano	4/30 Edwin Remmert
4/13 CAYDEN KOPECKY	4/23 AVERY GRIGAR	
4/15 Brent Foltz		
4/17 Sarah Emshoff		



Happy Anniversary

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

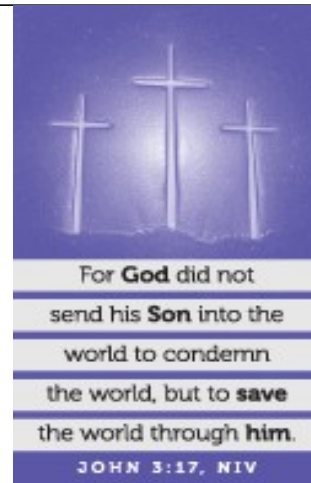
04/02/1967 Larry & Barbara Koy	04/19/1988 Donald and Felicia Munoz
04/02/1983 Jerry & Linda Schroeder	04/25/1998 Joe and Jennifer Smith
04/14/1962 Bob and Ruth Witte	



Sympathy for the family of Karen Schaare who went to be with her Lord on Thursday, March 3, 2016. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Prayers for Nursing Home And Shut Ins

<u>Ethel Donnelly</u> Colonial Belle Sealy	<u>*Bernice Hintz</u> P. O. Box 1651 Brenham, TX 77833 979-289-2568
<u>Charles Bolten</u> Colonial Belle - Sealy	<u>*Lavonn Schier</u> Caretakers: John and Shirley Schier 4726 Oxbow Circle East Fulshear, TX 77441-4448 281-346-0452
<u>Joyce Meyer</u> Colonial Belle - Sealy	



News Bits



The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday April 24, 2016 after the 10:15 am worship service. One item on the agenda will be preschool board members.



YOUTH GARAGE SALE - Trinity Youth Garage Sale will be April 16th 8:00 am-NOON. Please bring your sale items and they may be stored in Sunday School room next to elevator.



CHURCH WORKDAY is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th beginning at 8:00 am.



EVANGELISM MEETING scheduled for Thursday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m.



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. Please contact the church office or Pastor Bersche for any updates.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS LUNCHEON!

Wednesday, April 6th! Time: 12:15 pm.
Enjoy Lunch! Play Bingo! Play Dominoes or Just Have Lunch with Us! Remember to invite your friends and neighbors. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend or would like to make a dessert. If you have any questions, please contact:

Mary Buechmann-885-2730 Antoinette Romano-281-217-7177 Geraldine Barrett-885-3450.



Ladies Aid News

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met on March 3rd 2016 with eight members present.

Betty Herridge gave the topic from Portals of Prayers.

Plans were finalized for the March 16th Lenten soup supper being hosted by The Ladies Aid.

The quarterly Mite Box contribution will be sent to The Sealy Christian Food Pantry.

Vivian Kveton and Susie Hartmann observed their birthdays in March. Susie and Ron Hartmann also had a wedding anniversary in March.

Hostesses for April will be Antoinette Romano and Loretta Dziadek.

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 April 7th and visitors are always welcome.

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 18th- Thursday, April 21st.

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 19th 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.



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 27th, leaving around 10:00 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 leads you where you need to go.

Susie Busse, who is the full time Court Administrator, 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 After Court Day!

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 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 4th-April 8th

Lauren Waters

Chloe Hardin

April 11th-April 15th

Julianna Blazek

Ethan Blazek

April 18th-April 22nd

Aubrey Lockstedt

Bradley Picard

April 25th-April 29th

Haylee Shook

Asher Stasny

Please bring and hand your family of the week pictures to your child's teacher the Friday before your child is family of the week.



Wear Black Day! On Friday, April 8th 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:

April 4th – April 8th

“A Small Man”

Pastor Bersche-Bible Story

“Two Small Coins

April 11th- April 15th

“The Man at the Pool”

Pastor Bersche-Bible Story

“Mary's Gifts”

April 18th – April 22nd

“Fish for Breakfast”

Pastor Bersche-Bible Story

Friday PS Closed

April 25th – April 29th

“Jesus Goes Home

Pastor Bersche-Bible Story

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



Cap and Gown Pictures! Stephanie Meyer 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 15th at 8:15 am. Please be sure to fill out your order form and money and return it to the office by Wednesday, April 6th. No pictures will be taken without the form and money.



Silly Sock Day! On Wednesday, April 13th the children will have Silly Sock Day! The children must come to preschool with shoes on and as soon as they are in their classrooms 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.

Pre-K Graduation! SAVE THE DATE! The four year old classes will have a cap and gown ceremony on Sunday, May 22nd at the 10:00 a.m. worship service with a reception after the service. **REMINDER! PRESCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd FOR SCHEDULED BAD WEATHER DAY.**

Changes

This year has been a tough year for Trinity Lutheran Preschool with teachers leaving midyear. I have greatly enjoyed working with these teachers who are creative, positive and cooperative and who really care for your children. We all have to prepare and expect change that is not easy and is out of our control. Life in general will have many changes as we now see with these teachers who are growing and experiencing different areas in their lives yesterday, today and tomorrow.

It is with a heavy heart that you and your children are experiencing this at Trinity. God prepares us for the unexpected and amazingly places others in our path to fulfill His plan. We may not see it today but God may call us to do things that don't feel natural to us at first. As we listen and respond to the call of God, we get connected to our deeper desires. After all, the things God calls us to do are things that he created us to do. As the director I want to assure you that you and your child will be well taken care of as the new staff learns from the best of the old staff.

I want to give credit to Ms. Kristi, Ms. Beatrice and Ms. Robin for being amazing backbone through the changes. I thank you teachers and parents for your support throughout the year. Together, we have truly created meaningful learning opportunities through our unexpected changes.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!” (Revelations 15:3)

In Christ, Ms. Maggie



The Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President George Wied. Patricia Gum presented the devotion Glass Beach from 1 Thessalonians 5 and prayer.

Council Members Present: Pastor Bersche
George Wied - Vice President
Carol Jean Hauschild – Treasurer
Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair
Fred Paben - Trustee Chair
Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair
Ruth Szymanski – Evangelism
Valerie Engelbrecht - Education Chair
Patricia Gum - Youth Chair
Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair
Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair
Johanna Buechmann - Secretary

Council Members Absent: Dale Toellner - President

Minutes from the February 8, 2016 meeting were presented for review and approval. Carol Jean Hauschild made a motion to accept minutes as written. Lee Hobratschk seconded the motion. All approved. Motion past.

Unfinished/Old Business:

- *The Memorial Fund was audited by Grace Holtkamp and Geraldine Barrett on February 11, 2016, and results proved all entries were satisfactory. Discussion on Memorial Fund Policy in which Carol Jean will re-write regarding volunteers and will bring back to the April meeting for approval.
- *Discussion on document destruction. Lee and Ruth will look in the attic.
- *Fred Paben announced Work Day will be April 30th.
- *Discussion regarding Open Concealed Carry signage. This was referred to Maggie.
- *Church Pictorial Directory - Patricia and Eric Gum are willing to do photo directory and would need to know ahead of time when to do it.

Chair Reports:

Carol Jean Hauschild - Treasurer

*The February 29, 2016 Treasurer's Report was presented. The cash balances in the General Fund is \$113,828.24, Building Fund is \$59,431.34, Designated Funds is \$60,093.32 and Total - All Funds is \$233,352.90. The General Fund Contributions is \$15,577.09. Total management and general expenses is \$19,588.46. The Excess (deficit) of contributions over expenses is

(\$4,011.37). General Fund Expenditures is \$19,588.46.

Jerry Leiber - Stewardship Chair

*Jerry will order 150 boxes of contribution envelopes from 176 boxes ordered last time.

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chair

*In February \$201.80 were paid for bills.
*There were 2 funerals.

George Wied - Vice President

*No report presented.

Pastor Bersche

*Report presented.
*There were 2 funerals - Eddie Svinky and Karen Schaare and 1 wedding - Hannah Browne and Matthew Mueller.
*Adult Bible Study is studying Revelation.

Valerie Engelbrecht- Education

*Palm Sunday - Celebration for kids during Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt after church.
*VBS materials are in.
*Valerie discussed expenses on class materials and digital materials.

Patricia Gum - Youth

*Youth are still selling crosses until Easter.
*Tickets for the Baked Potato fundraiser on sale now.
*Items for Garage Sale coming in.
*There are 15 youth and 4 chaperones going to the July National Youth Gathering.

Ruth Szymanski - Evangelism Chair

*The teams are still visiting guests.

Norma Pavelka - Fellowship Chair

*Easter Pancake Breakfast will be March 27th at 8 am.

Fred Paben - Trustee Chair

*Work Day will be April 30th.
*Lee Hobratschk found vendor for letters on the Hwy 36 sign.
*The lights in sanctuary were all changed to LED bulbs and more bulbs were ordered for other areas. Since changing to LED bulbs, the electrical bill was lower from previous month.

Pat Buechmann - Usher Chair

*All is okay.

Vice President Wied called for a motion to approve the Chair Reports. Motion was made by Ruth Szymanski to accept the Chair Reports as presented. Norma Pavelka seconded the motion. All approved. Motion past.

New Business:

*Lee Hobratschk reported Denise Kopecky asking about an Eagle Scout project for a young man with discussion on ideas for him. Lee will check with Maggie regarding projects for the preschool.
*Fred Paben will check on the portable mic in the sanctuary that is not working well.
*Lee discussed with Gene Remmert about obtaining funds from Thrivent and needing volunteers to help with it. Patricia and Valerie will help Gene with it.

There being no further business, Vice President Wied called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Lee Hobratschk to adjourn meeting. Valerie Engelbrecht seconded the motion. All approved. Motion past.

Valerie Engelbrecht will do devotion for April meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2016. George Wied led all in the Lord's Prayer.

Dale Toellner, President

Johanna Buechmann – Secretary

Our only job

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

—Thomas Merton



Easter joy



Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa

