



Building His Body
By
Reflecting the Son

December 2017

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

**Christmas Eve Service With
Communion, Sunday, December
24th at 6:00 pm
Christmas Day Service with
Communion, Monday, December
25th at 9:00 am**

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

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TRINITY TIDBITS

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



A Strange Birthday Celebration

I ran across this true Christmas story attributed to J. E. Greenlee. I hope it makes you think. Enjoy:

There was once a great king. His love for his people knew no limits. Although the kingdom was very large, the king knew every person by name. Everything the people of the kingdom had was a gift freely given by the loving king.

So, to show their love and appreciation to the king for all he had done for them, the people decided to have a great celebration to honor his birthday. Everyone agreed it was a marvelous idea. Preparations for the celebration were very elaborate. No expense was spared by the people. They adorned their homes with lights, decorations, and expensive ornaments. There were parties, dinners, and celebrations throughout the kingdom.

All the people brought gifts for their friends and family. Many of the gifts which the people gave each other were quite expensive, involving considerable indebtedness. In fact, the people spent more on the birthday celebration than they spent at any other time of the year.

Many who were not citizens of the kingdom, and who did not even know the king, joined in the celebration. Their celebration of the king's birth was marked by excessive drinking. Since they did not know the king, they invented a good-natured, fat fellow in a red suit. He laughed a lot, but never said anything. But that didn't matter because they were too busy celebrating to listen anyhow.

The day set for the birthday celebration drew near. The gifts which the people had brought for each other were piled high. The decorations were beautiful. Huge amounts of food were prepared in all the homes and banquet halls.

The king watched eagerly during all the preparation. A number of people mentioned him and spoke of what a great king he was. The king waited each day expecting at any time to hear from the people about his role in the celebration. Weeks in advance, he prepared his house to receive the many people who would be coming with their presents for him.

The great day of celebrating his birth finally arrived, and some of his people did come bringing gifts and thanking him for his goodness to them. But to his dismay, most of the citizens never came to his house at all on this day of celebration. And the gifts brought to the king by those few who came were meager when compared with the gifts they had given themselves.

For the most part the people said they had been so busy with all the celebrations and personal plans that they had forgotten about the king. Several said they had thought of him, but really could not work it into their schedules or budgets to come to see him or bring a gift. A few were known to be quite put out when it was suggested that going to the king's house or remembering him with a gift was important.

Those people who did come to his house and who brought their loving gifts were welcomed and blessed by the king. He told them again of his great love for each of them. And each received from the king a priceless gift. But when they had gone and he was alone again, the king fell to thinking of the vast numbers of his people who had forgotten and forsaken him. How could they have forgotten? How could so many of his beloved people who had found the time and money for shopping and feasting and partying and decorating and all sorts of celebrations – how could they possibly be so thoughtless, so ungrateful, or so selfish? Did they not know that he too, had feelings? Was not the purpose of the birthday celebration originally planned to honor him?

When the king was alone, pondering these questions, he felt the tears well up in his eyes. And in his loneliness, he wept.

One thought brought some hope and consolation. Even though they had forgotten him, he had not forgotten them.

In Christ, *Pastor Ken*



For the Month! Greetings to you on this Special Day



12/01 Charles Ekarius	12/15 Cy Vojtek	12/25 Bill Blume
12/02 Adolph Leschper	12/16 Linda Blume	12/26 Clifton Langton
12/04 Klarissa Smith	12/16 Brittany Luttrall	12/27 Austin Keeton
12/05 BRADLEY PICARD	12/16 Debora Waldrop	12/28 Reed Langton
12/09 Bobby Barrett	12/17 Laura Kutra	12/28 Kylie Wolf
12/09 Brooke Munoz	12/17 George Wied	12/28 AUTUMN MARTINEZ
12/11 Travis Pavelka	12/20 Doris Holtkamp	12/29 Clayton Fritsch
12/12 DAWSON VILLALOVOZ	12/22 Monica Kent	12/30 Hilda Allison
12/14 Ruth Szymanski		12/31 Barry Wolf



Happy Anniversary

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

12/07/1963 Paul & Loyce Orsak	12/10/1988 Doug & Rhonda Browne
12/07/1958 Gene and Betty Remmert	12/12/2009 Gaylan & Deborah Christiansen
12/08/1973 Johnny & Susie Busse	12/22/1973 David & Patsy Novosad



Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins

<u>Ethel Donnelly</u> Colonial Belle- Sealy	<u>Rae Marie Kveton</u> Colonial Belle - Sealy	<u>Joyce Meyer</u> Colonial Belle Sealy
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Christmas Day Service with Communion, Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

Church Office Closed Friday December 22nd

Church Office Closed Monday, December 25th

Church Office Closed Friday, December 29th

Church Office Closed Monday, January 1st



Preschool-Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanks to ALL who helped support the 19th 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 Johanna Buechmann helping with the preparation of the dressing. Thank you Linda Blume and Jamie Manak for all your help in the preparations during the week. Thank you to 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! Thank you to my church family for being there when I needed you!! Ms. Maggie



ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES 7:00 PM

And SOUP SUPPERS 6:00 PM:

December 6th 6:00 pm Soup Supper by

ALTAR GUILD/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

December 13th Soup Supper by

CHURCH COUNCIL/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

December 20th Soup Supper by

CHOIR/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM



Christmas Celebration Sunday December 10th! Parents please have your children and youth here at 9:00 am for Sunday School to practice their parts and songs for the program. Trinity Lutheran Church Adult Choir, Bells, Youth and Children will perform a Christmas Celebration during the December 10th Worship Service.



Trinity Lutheran Preschool and Christian Food

Pantry – please help by donating non-perishable food items to the Sealy Christian Food Pantry. Please place the food items in the box in the narthex or by the glass room. The preschool four year old classes will take a walking field trip to deliver the food on Friday December 15th at 10:30 am. The Food pantry will talk to the children about why we give to the ones that are less fortunate than us. Thank you for supporting the preschool program. (God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:5-15)



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA! – Free pictures of children

with Santa! Saturday, December 2, 2017, 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!!



Sign-Up for Christmas Caroling: Mark your calendars and come caroling on Tuesday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to get organized and then depart to go caroling. After caroling, the Fellowship

Committee will provide coffee, hot chocolate, dessert social! The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



Narthex Mailbox Christmas Cards! For all members - if you wish to send a Christmas card to a member, you may place them in the appropriate slot in the mail boxes located as you enter the glass doors. Members please check your slots every Sunday as they tend to get very full!



Thanks to ALL who helped support the 19th 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 dedicated, hardworking and supportive, Mary and Pat Buechmann for all the help from beginning to end. Thanks to 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 helping 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!

Preschool purchased four new roasters so we would not have to borrow from anyone. 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 wished we would have had more help in the kitchen but thanks to Pat and Mary Buechmann, Linda Blume Jamie Manak for cutting, chopping and cooking and Grace Holtkamp with the desserts we accomplished the task. Next year make plans to help in the kitchen where each day there is a job for everyone.

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

Next year please be sure to purchase your tickets quickly due to only 300 tickets will be sold. We struggled selling 500 tickets and a lot of work goes into the preparation.

A lot of time and work goes into the preparation of this fundraiser. God has blessed this preschool in so many ways with an awesome pastor, 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:

Dec. 4th-8th "Daniel and the Prisoner" Pastor Bersche "Daniel and the Lion"	Dec. 18th-Dec 22nd "The First Christmas" Pastor Bersche "The Miracles of Jesus"
Dec. 11^h – Dec. 15th "Queen Esther Saves the People" Pastor Bersche "Mary and Joseph"	



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 each child's classroom is a box labeled Christian Food Pantry and we would like each child to bring items to be placed in the box for families that would not be able to have a Christmas Dinner. We would like to fill up the box and if needed start a second box.

Items that can be brought are;
Canned sweet potatoes, Green Beans, Can Corn, Stuffing Mix Cornbread Mix, Canned Fruit, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, Mac and Cheese, Can Ravioli, Can Spaghetti and Meatballs Variety of Can Soups, Peanut Butter, Boxes of Cereals, Rice a Roni, Saltine Crackers, Round Crackers, canned fruit, bags of rice, bag of beans, Vienna sausages, box drinks and juices, any kind of pasta, ramen noodles, pop tarts, variety of oatmeal, tuna, canned chili, sugar, salt and pepper, canned milk, powdered milk, spam, baby food, jellies etc.

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. Please let your child bring in the items to be placed in the boxes. Church members will have a box in the narthex to help the children collect food.





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 15th at 10:30 am, leaving here at 10:15 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 Friday December 15th the children will walk to the Veranda House for senior living, which is privately owned personal care home providing 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 6th 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. Do not get 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 Tuesday, December 19th the children may bring a flashlight to preschool labeled with their name. This is to recognize that December 21st this year is the longest night of the year. The teachers will have fun and exciting projects for the children to use their flashlights.


 **Pajama Day!!** All children! Wear your pajamas and bring your pillow and blanket to preschool and enjoy the morning with the movie Polar Express on Friday, December 22nd! Parents, please bring a **small snack** and **small drink** for your child to eat while watching Polar Express.

 **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. 5th – Dec. 4th -8th Braden and Kasen Koy	Dec.18– Dec. 22nd Miranda Lapham
Dec. 11th – 15th Finley and Sawyer Krampitz	

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 Thursday, December 7th. Children can wear white clothes, socks, shoes, hair bows, neckties or whatever you can think of to reinforce the color WHITE!

Dress as a Grinch Character – On Friday, December 8th the children will read and watch the movie “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” Your child may dress as one of the characters from the movie.


Candy Cane Story – the children will enjoy the story of the Candy Cane and watch a short video about it on Wednesday, December 13th.

Celebrating Jesus' Birthday – Mary Buechmann will make a cake for the children to celebrate Jesus' birthday on Thursday, December 21st. The cake will be white with white frosting. We will all sing happy birthday to our Lord and Savior.

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 Thursday, December 14th. 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 20th, 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. Only the parents that sign up to help with the party are the ones that can attend.


 **Fantasy of Lights Parade**

Thank you to Ron and Susie Hartmann for coordinating all the details in putting the float together for the preschoolers. Thank you 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 will be at the start up line by 4:30 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 parade 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.

 *(The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him and the world did not recognize him...John 1:9-10)*

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



MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING November 13, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Bersche. Lee Hobratschk presented the devotion which was based on Ephesians 2: 8-10. The devotion discussed the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, with emphasis on informative and interesting facts about Martin Luther.

Council members present:

- Ron Hartmann – Vice President
- Carol Jean Hauschild – Treasurer
- Ruth Szymanski – Secretary
- Lee Hobratschk – Elder Chairman
- Valerie Engelbrecht – Education Chairman
- Jerry Leiber – Stewardship Chairman
- Johanna Buechmann – Usher Chairman
- Bill Blume – Trustee Chairman
- Maggie Kent - Preschool
- Pastor Bersche

Absent:

- George Wied - President
- Becky Tipton – Evangelism Chairman
- Susie Hartmann – Fellowship Chairman

The Minutes from the meeting held on October 9, 2017, were presented for review and approval. A motion was made by Carol Jean Hauschild, seconded by Bill Blume, to accept the minutes as presented. All Council members approved and the motion passed.

Unfinished/Old Business:

- None

Chairmen Reports:

Carol Jean Hauschild – Treasurer

- The October 31, 2017 Treasurer's report was presented. The cash balance in the General Fund is \$99,219.29. The Building Fund balance is \$51,609.55 and the Designated Funds balance is \$92,125.00. The Total of all Funds is \$242,953.84.
- The final profit that was made from the Barbecue is \$17,646.45. The distribution of these funds was tabled until next month.

- There is a \$500.00 balance in the Designated Funds that will be transferred to the Preschool.

Jerry Leiber – Stewardship Chairman

- Nothing to report

Lee Hobratschk - Elder Chairman

- Lee mentioned that the payment for the health insurance that was discussed at last month's meeting has been taken care of.
- Lee reported that the organist's salary is \$60.00 per event.

Ron Hartmann – Vice President

- Nothing to report.

Pastor Bersche

- Pastor reported the following official acts for October – (1) Funeral service for Mildred Pless (2) Three new members were welcomed into membership by Affirmation of Faith – Terry and Noah Hankins and Joanne Dixon.
- A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on November 22, 2017. The Lord's Supper will be served.
- Pastor will be on vacation from December 26 until January 3. He will not here for the service on December 31.
- Advent season begins on Sunday, December 3, with mid-week services on December 6, 13 and 20. The theme for the Advent season in "Jesus is the Light of the World."
- Bible Class continues to study the Augsburg Confession, while the Wednesday morning Bible Study continues to study Hebrews.
- The Confirmation class is currently studying the Ten Commandments.

Valerie Engelbrecht – Education Chairman

- The Youth are preparing for their Christmas Service on December 10.
- On Sunday, November 19, the Sunday school classes will be making wreaths to deliver to our shut-ins to hang on their doors.

Susie Hartmann – Fellowship Chairman (reported by Ron Hartmann)

- The Advent banners have been completed.
- Ron discussed the plans for the Preschool float for the Fantasy of Lights Parade, December 2. The theme for the Preschool float is "Jesus is the Light of the World."

Bill Blume – Trustee Chairman

- The Lion's Club will be renting the gym on December 2, 2017 for "Breakfast with Santa."
- The work on the lighting continues.

Johanna Buechmann – Usher Chairman

•Nothing to Report

Maggie Kent – Preschool

•Maggie reported that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services visited the Preschool on October 25, 2017 for their annual inspection.

•The Thanksgiving dinner went very well. Maggie expressed her appreciation to Pat and Mary Buechmann for all of their hard work. Next year, the number of tickets will be reduced from 500 to 300.

•As soon as all invoices have been paid, the Preschool will donate 20% of the proceeds from the Thanksgiving dinner to the Church.

A motion was made by Lee Hobratchk to accept the Chairmen Reports as presented. Bill Blume seconded the motion. All Council members approved the Reports and the motion passed.

New Business:

•The matter of security for the church premises during worship services was discussed. Bill Blume will research to determine how we can make the church more secure and he will bring his findings to the Council at the next meeting. There being no further business, Bill Blume made a motion to adjourn. Carol Jean Hauschild seconded the motion. All Council approved and the meeting adjourned. Susie Hartmann will have the devotion for next month's meeting.

Ron Hartmann-Vice President
Ruth Szymanski-Secretary



The Lutheran Hour celebrates 100 years of ministry with dedicated Ministry Sponsors. It coincides with an even larger event: 500th anniversary of the Reformation. These are milestones!



2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES – Please begin use of your new envelopes after the first of the year and continue to do so throughout 2017. This is located in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Jerry Leiber or Bobby and Geraldine Barrett or any member of the Stewardship Committee.



ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES 7:00 PM

And SOUP SUPPERS 6:00 PM:

December 6th 6:00 pm Soup Supper by ALTAR GUILD/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

December 13th Soup Supper by CHURCH COUNCIL/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

December 19th @ 5:00 PM

Christmas Caroling

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

December 20th Soup Supper by CHOIR/WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM



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Merry Christmas!