

TRINITY TIDBITS

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



Building His
Body By Reflecting the Son

March 2026

Lent

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Sunday School
For All Ages

Worship Service

10:00 am Sunday

Church Phone

979-885-2211

Preschool Phone

979-627-7846

Fax

979-885-7003

Website

www.tlcsealy.org

Pastor

Kenneth Bersche
pastorken@tlcsealy.org

Church Secretary

Maggie Kent
secmaggie@tlcsealy.org

ELDERS

James Gilliam
Joel Grigar
Doyle Kornegay
Mark Romano
Tracy Schiller
Stephen Stuessel
George Wied

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 29th



Traditions? Helpful or Hurtful

Did you notice? Did you notice on Ash Wednesday, we, at Trinity, already on the first day of Lent broke tradition? Lenten tradition says that you don't sing, "Alleluia" for the forty days of Lent. But on Ash Wednesday, for our Distribution Hymn we sang, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence!" The final verse of that hymn, which we sang in its entirety is the following:

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

So, what does that mean? (A good Lutheran question!) Does it mean we were all damned because of the use of that four syllable word? Does it mean that we are disrespectful of tradition? Let me remind you, we are NOT saved by "tradition"! So why do we continue to keep traditions during Lent?

We need to keep in mind that the season of Lent is also merely a tradition. With my limited knowledge, the season of Lent began right after the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Jesus and His disciples never observed Lent nor did the first two centuries of the early Christian Church. But we observe and celebrate Lent for one reason and one reason only: to contemplate the great sacrificial gift of God in His Son Jesus' death and suffering for the forgiveness of our sins! Traditions in this light are good but sometimes they can be detrimental. If our focus of Lent is about us, then we have truly missed the point.

In Matthew 15, the Pharisees and scribes have a bone to pick with Jesus over the issue of "tradition". They say to Jesus, "Why do your disciples break the traditions of the elders by not washing before they eat bread?" Now, in one sense, it is always good to wash before eating but what they are referring to is a ceremonial washing. Jesus then points out to them the greater importance of keeping God's law over the traditions of men.

In other words, traditions can be helpful and good. Yet on the other hand, they can be damaging and hurtful to the soul. One must always remember when continuing a tradition, who does this point to and glorify? If it puts the spotlight on me or us then it's not a good thing. But if it gives glory to God and His Son Jesus, then praise be to God!

So, let us commemorate the season of Lent. Let us always shine the light on Jesus whose suffering and death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins gives us eternal life.

Have a Blessed Lent,

Pastor Ken

Happy Birthday!

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
(Ephesians 2:10)

3/01 Gerald Nixon
3/01 Lynlee Nixon
3/02 Deanna Cash
3/02 Joyce Meyer
3/03 Mary Buechmann
3/03 Jacie Kainer
3/03 Carolyn Rash
3/04 Jolie Kainer
3/06 Kasey Picard

3/07 Stacey Picard
3/09 Jade Barton
3/09 Joanne Dixon
3/11 Rhonda Browne
3/14 BRYNN BLUME
3/14 Suzanne Bozeman
3/15 David Vrablec
3/16 Sylvia Forester

3/16 Ellie Ford
3/17 Trey Schmidt
3/19 Brittany Carter
3/22 Susie Hartmann
3/24 Marie Herridge
3/26 Brandon Blume
3/26 Loyce Orsak
3/27 Johnny Griffin

3/27 Faye Hintz
3/28 Charles Havemann
3/29 Joanie Griffin
3/29 Alivia Ramon
3/30 Phoebe Browne
3/30 Case Carter
3/30 Nichol Fullen
3/31 Gerad Nixon

Happy Anniversary!

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."
(1 Thessalonians 3:12)

3/12/2016 Hannah and Matthew Mueller
3/14/1993 Patrick and Tara Johnston
3/17/2012 Rich and Farrah Drury

3/18/1999 Joel and Katy Grigar
3/24/2007 Christopher and Valerie Bryant

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Thank you for your Tithes and Offerings! Offerings may be dropped off or mailed to 402 Atchison, Sealy, TX 77474. Please use your church offering envelopes requested by Stewardship to ensure that you will be given credit for your contributions.

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Thrivent Choice Dollars February 10, 2026
Amount of Deposit \$149.00 Please call 1-800-847-4836 and designate your funds to Trinity Lutheran General Fund.

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding."
(Proverbs 2:6)

Joyce Meyer, Colonial Living, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 7747
Ellie Niemann, Colonia Living, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 77474
Larry Schulke – Shut-In and Hilda Allison – Shut-In



SPRING FORWARD!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed so you'll be prepared for church in the morning.



Order Your Easter Lillies Now for 2026!

Easter Lilies will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, March 15th. Purchasing a lily provides an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one while enhancing the beauty of our sanctuary during Easter services. Each lily is priced at \$15.00, with payment required in advance.

Make checks payable to: Trinity Lutheran Altar Guild. Only 24 Easter Lilies are available. To confirm availability or ask questions, contact Mary Buechmann at 281-728-0973 and give the payment directly to her.

The CIRCLE of FRIENDS

Join us for Circle of Friends on Wednesday, March 4th at 12:15 pm with lunch and fellowship. Please contact Mary Buechmann or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are planning to attend. And remember that desserts are always welcome!

BLOOD DRIVE is MARCH 15TH

From 10:30 am - 2:30 pm in the GYM (Sign up Online! Go to giveblood.org and search for mobile drives, the date 3/15/2026 and sponsor code: 1881.



THE BLESSING BOX

THE BLE SSING BOX will meet second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. See you on Wednesday, March 11th at 1:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues from 10-11 am. We meet in the glass room by the church office depending on how many attending. Come join us each Wednesday!



Lent
A Season of Renewal

LENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

10:00 am Sunday

11:00 am Wednesday

March 8
Third Sunday in Lent

March 11
Fourth Wednesday in Lent

March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18
Fifth Wednesday in Lent

March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25
Sixth Wednesday in Lent



March 29th is Palm Sunday

Any parent who would like their child to participate in the palm procession, please bring your child into the gym about ten minutes before worship begins.



March 29th is Palm Sunday

Kids, Bring Your Easter Baskets! We are having an Easter Egg Hunt after the Church Service!



Sunday, April 5th EASTER

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Children may bring flowers to be placed upon the cross for the Early and Late Easter Services.

8:00 am

Early Worship/Holy Communion

9:00 am – 9:50 am

Easter Breakfast

We invite you to attend Easter Breakfast following the early worship service or before the late worship service begins.

10:00 am

Worship/Holy Communion



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

News from the Board of Education

YOUTH - Youth are selling Easter Crosses after church for \$10.00 for the next few Sundays. These signs are a great way to show your neighbors your belief in Jesus!

CANDY FOR EASTER EGG HUNT- We need candy donations for our upcoming Easter egg hunt. We need individually wrapped candy or people can donate cash and I will go purchase the candy.

TRINITY'S EASTER EGG HUNT! – Easter egg hunt will be held on Sunday, March 29th immediately following church.

VOLUNTEERS - We are looking for volunteers for our Tropical Trek VBS in May. Please see any Board of Education members to help make VBS a fun experience!

Thanks, Nikki Vrabec



2026-2027 Fall Registration Begins

Fall Pre-Registration for the 2026-2027 school year at Trinity Lutheran Preschool runs from March 1st to March 31st. Current preschool families and new community students may pre-register on a first come, first served basis. The non-refundable fee is \$90 for current students and \$100 for new students during March; on April 1st, the fee for all students increases to \$125. Registration packets are available in the preschool office. To enroll, pick up a packet, complete the forms, and return them with the fee by Tuesday, March 31st.

TUITION DUE *Tuition For March Must Be Paid By Thursday, March 5th, Before Spring Break!*



Preschool will be closed from Friday, March 6 to Monday, March 16 for spring break.



Drop Off! We kindly ask all parents to drop off their child promptly and depart so the teacher can begin the class without delay.

Extended presence in the classroom disrupts the routine and consistency vital to students. Maintaining consistency between home and school is essential for a child's development.

Themes! The March themes are Spring, Garden, and Growing. Children will have fun planting something unique in the classroom this month. They'll water and nurture their plants, watching them grow and understanding that everything is created for us to enjoy.

Children will also participate in a special project where they plant seeds. Each child will bring home their starter garden, and both parents and children can care for it together, transplanting their garden and observing its growth.



The Bible stories for the month of March are:

March 2nd– March 5th

A Short Man Pg. 413

Chapel with Pastor Bersche

March 9th– March 13th

Spring Break

March 16th – March 20th

A Gift for Jesus Pg. 423

Chapel with Pastor Bersche

The True King Pg. 427

A Poor Widow's Gift Pg. 433

March 23rd–March 27th

Washing the Disciples' Feet Pg. 437

Chapel with Pastor Bersche

The Last Supper Pg. 442

Jesus Is Arrested and Crucified Pg. 446

Jesus is Risen! Pg. 453

Throughout the month, the children will continue learning the letters B, V, W, E, and K. The focus shape and color are crescent and orange.

The Bible verse of the month is: "He is Risen." (Mark 16:6). The children will also study the Ninth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house." This means we should respect and love God, avoid scheming to acquire our neighbor's inheritance or house unfairly, and instead, help them retain what is theirs.

Additionally, the children will learn the Tenth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, worker, or animals." This teaches us to honor God by not enticing or taking away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turning them against him, but rather encourage them to remain loyal and fulfill their responsibilities.



Family of the Week! Family of the Week lets children introduce their family to preschool and church. Each week, one family is selected.

Please send about ten family photos with your child for the bulletin board in the gym. Check the event calendar to know when it's your turn. Families of the Week for March are:

<u>March 2nd– March 6th</u> Boston Lake	<u>March 23rd –March 27th</u> Dayna Perez
<u>March 9th– March 13th</u> Spring Break	<u>March 30th – April 3rd</u> Evelyn Nino
<u>March 16th– March 20th</u> Kirby Larsen Hazel Maldonado	

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



Reading about Easter with Mrs. Beth Franke, a retired librarian, will help preschoolers learn that Easter is not just about the Bunny, candy, or egg hunts. Mrs. Franke will explain the true origins and meaning of Easter.



Dr. Seuss! In recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday, Mrs. Beth Franke—a retired librarian and member of the church—will visit on Wednesday, March 4th to read several Dr. Seuss books to the children. The preschool students especially appreciate it when she enhances the reading experience by wearing her Dr. Seuss hat.

Behavior Choices

Good and Sad Choices!

Retired Trooper Gary Pflughaupt will visit the preschool on Thursday, March 26th to talk about making choices. We all make many decisions each day, and each leads to consequences. Pausing to think before acting helps us make better choices.

Appropriate Behavior Choices are safe, helpful, and respectful choices include cleaning up, sharing, raising your hand, taking turns, helping others, using gentle hands, walking indoors, calming yourself, being patient, doing your best, listening, and following safety rules.

Inappropriate Behavior Choices compromise safety, disrupt the environment, or demonstrate disrespect. Examples include behaviors such as pushing, hitting, biting, or throwing objects; interrupting, yelling, running indoors, or disregarding established rules; causing damage to property or drawing on walls; taking toys from others, neglecting clean-up responsibilities, or refusing to share.



Wear Orange Day! On Friday, March 20th the children can wear orange to reinforce the color for the month.



Thank You! A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the preschool families who joined in singing at church. I'm also grateful to Pastor Ken Bersche for his dedication every Wednesday, sharing lessons about Jesus with our preschoolers. Appreciation is extended to the congregational members supporting the preschool and to my wonderful staff, who daily teach our children about the love of Jesus. All praise and glory belong to our Lord and Savior, whose blessings make this preschool possible through everyone's involvement. May God continue to bless each of you.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Trinity Lutheran Preschool Scholarship Fund. Your generosity and support for the preschool program mean so much. Donations have reached \$3,877.00, allowing us to fund two half scholarships of \$1,575 each, which collectively provide half scholarships for two children.

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power." (1 Corinthians 6:14)

In Christ, Ms. Maggie

CHURCH COUNCIL

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 9, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Jason Carr. Janice Wied presented the devotion.

Council members present:

- Jason Carr – President
- James Gilliam - Elder Chairman
- Pastor Ken Bersche
- Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer
- Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman
- Nikki Vrablec – Board of Education Chairman
- Karina Carr – Fellowship Outreach Chairman
- David Novosad – Usher Chairman
- Kimberly Kornegay – Secretary
- Maggie Kent - Preschool

Absent:

- Terry Hankins – Vice President
- John Vrablec – Trustee Chairman

The Minutes from the meeting held on January 12, 2026, were presented. Janice Wied made a motion to accept the minutes. Nikki Vrablec seconded the motion. All Council members approved and the motion passed.

Old Business:

- No old business.

Chairmen Reports:

Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer

- January Report - As of January 31, 2026, the cash balance in the General Fund was \$62,319.47. The Building Fund balance was \$45,716.70 and the Designated Fund balance was \$97,072.10. The Total of All Funds was \$198,789.86. The total contributions for January were \$15,017.00 and total expenses for January were \$28,155.27. The total contributions for the year 2026 were \$15,017.00 while the total expenses for the year were \$28,155.27.

Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman

- Special contributions for the month included:
 - \$200.00 for preschool.
 - \$150.00 for gym rental.
 - \$21.00 for missions.

Elders - James Gilliam

- Elders approved Pastor's mileage.
- Elder Membership Assignment Lists were distributed.

Terry Hankins – Vice President

- No report.

Pastor Bersche –

- Monthly shut-in visits continue.
- Bible Classes:
 - Sunday Mornings - Studying the Apostle Paul.
 - Wednesday Mornings - Studying the beliefs of other Christian denominations.
 - Confirmation - Studying the Lord's Supper. There will be a review session for the year held in March.
- The Elders, with my recommendation, cancelled January 25th Sunday worship due to bad weather conditions.

Nikki Vrabec - Board of Education Chairman

- Video projector in the gym - The Bluetooth connection from the projector to the laptop is not working. The projector is needed for VBS.
- Vacation Bible School "Tropical Trek" will be May 26 through May 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each evening. Please reach out to Nikki Vrabec or Kimberly Kornegay if you are interested in helping with VBS.
- Easter candy donations are needed. Please donate only candy (no eggs) this year as we have plenty of eggs left over from last year.

Karina Carr – Fellowship Outreach Chairman

- Purchased organization items for the pantry.
- Added a variety of breakfast items to Sunday morning fellowship. (muffins, breakfast bars/cookies)
- Everyone enjoyed the added decorations for Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's.

John Vrabec – Trustee Chairman

- Myself, along with Bill Blume and Stephen Stuessel, have attempted to fix the bell system, but have been unsuccessful.

David Novosad – Usher Chairman

- Everything is going well.

Karina Carr - Preschool

- Treasurer's report -
 - Checking Account balance - \$76,259.03
 - Savings Account balance - \$50,720.26.
- Fall registration for the 2026-2027 school year begins in March. The following registration rates will apply.
 - \$90.00 pre-registration for those already enrolled. Pre-registration runs through the end of March.
 - \$100.00 pre-registration for new students enrolling through the end of March.
 - \$125.00 registration after March.
 - Raising scholarship funds will be during the month of February.
 - Tuition is \$300.00 for three days and \$350.00 for 5 days a week.

There being no further reports, James Gilliam made the motion to accept all reports presented. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All Council members agreed and the motion passed.

New Business

- After a short discussion on how to properly clean the griddle on the new stove, all council members agreed on the correct instructions which will be posted by the stove.
- Nikki Vrabec made a motion to approve the Memorial Service for Robert Horn to be held at Trinity. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. All Council members agreed and the motion passed.

There being no further business, James Gilliam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ruth Szymanski seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned, and Pastor Bersche led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. and Karina Carr will have the devotion.

***John Vrabec – President
Kimberly Kornegay - Secretary***