TRINITY TIDBITS

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

December 2026

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

Thursday, December 24th
4:00 pm or 6:00 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
With Holy Communion

Our Pastor

Waiting…Waiting…Waiting…Waiting…Waiting….

As a child growing up, I recall sitting in my family's living room right before Christmas. The room lights being off but the room glowed from the lights of the Christmas tree. At the beginning of the month the floor was empty at the base of that tree. Yet as time went on (which seemed like an eternity) the floor filled up with bright colorful wrapped packages. As each day before Christmas came and went, the days seemed longer and longer and longer. Waiting in anticipation is something children are not known for and now as adults it hasn't changed much. But as a kid, when Christmas came, it was something worth waiting for with excitement and joy.

Then there is the anxious anticipation that sometimes we all experience that we don't want to look back on. Like the time when the child who couldn't wait to see what he got for Christmas. One night when his parents went out, he got the great idea to unwrap his gift from them. He was so excited, but the excitement turned to worry and anxiety when he couldn't get the present wrapped the same way. He knew he was in trouble and after all the short-term waiting, the gift he was getting that he now knew about could possibly be taken away as a punishment.

So, the question for us is, "How are you waiting?". Are you looking forward to Christmas with excitement and joy? Or are you looking toward Christmas with dread fear? It seems that when our focus is not upon the gift of the Christ-child, our waiting is more of anxiety and hardship. Instead of a time of joy, our season turns out to be a to-do-list of chores and activities that are only joyful when they are checked off our list.

Remember that what we are really waiting for has already come! The greatest gift of all: God's forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in Jesus. That's what the Christ-child brings. With forgiveness and life, He brings hope, love, joy, and peace. Although we still wait for His second return, in the meanwhile we wait not in fear and trembling but in joy and great expectation knowing that we stand before Him covered in Jesus' righteousness.

May God richly bless you and your family this Christmas season. We must realize what we wait for is God's gift of life in Jesus. Let us not wait in anxiety and doom but in joy and love. We need not concern ourselves with what we are to get done and not get done. Realize the true gift of God: Jesus, His Son.

In Jesus' name, *Pastor Ken*



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

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)

12/01	Charles Ekarius	12/12	Sherri Putt	12/17	George Wied	12/27	Austin Keeton
12/01	BANE WILLEVER	12/12	DAWSON VILLALOVOZ	12/19	Noah Bryant	12/28	Reed Langton
12/02	Adolph Leschper	12/14	Ruth Szymanski	12/20	Amber Nedd	12/28	Kylie Wolf
12/04	Avery Bozeman	12/16	Adam Carrion	12/22	Trine Hulstrand	12/29	Clayton Fritsch
12/04	Klarissa Smith	12/16	Brylie Nedd	12/23	CRUE CARTER	12/30	Hilda Allison
12/05	Bradley Picard	12/16	Debora Waldrop	12/22	Monica Kent	12/31	AVIANNA DARROW
12/09	Bobby Barrett	12/16	Carol Wied	12/25	Bill Blume	12/31	Barry Wolf
12/10	Garret Nedd			12/26	Clifton Langton		
12/11	Travis Pavelka						

Happy Anniversay!

"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)

12/07/1963	Stephen & Alice Franklin
12/07/1963	Paul & Loyce Orsak
12/08/1973	Johnny & Susie Busse
12/09/1972	Carl & Carol Wied
12/10/1988	Doug & Rhonda Browne
12/18/1999	Scott & Stephanie McElroy
12/19/2020	Audie & Lauren Jackson

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.

thrivent CHOICE DOLLARS

On November 13, 2026, the amount of deposit is $ $228.00. Please call 1-800-847-4836 and appoint your funds to Trinity Lutheran General Fund.

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

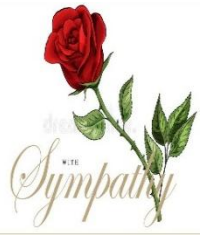
Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins

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

Joyce Meyer - Avir Nursing, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 77474
Lorrene Schiller - Avir Nursing, 1401 Eagle Lake Rd. Sealy, TX 7747
Joyce Amthor – Shut-In
Hilda Allison – Shut-In
Lee Allen Palm – Shut-In
Geraldine Stuessel – Shut-In

Good and loving God, be with our nursing home and shut-ins always, and most especially with those whose minds and bodies are in special need of care. Bless the caregivers who watch closely over them to be patient with them and love them. In Jesus Name. Amen





Sympathy for the family of Linda Blume who went to be with her Lord on Saturday, November 21, 2026. Please keep Bill, Sarah and Brandon and the rest of the family and friends in your prayers.



ADVENT WEDNESDAY'S CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 2nd
10:00 am
Morning Bible Study
11:00 am
Advent Worship
12:15 pm
CATERING ORDERS
Circle of Friends Catered Meal
Call Mary Buechmann
(Catered Meal $10 call Mary Buechmann if you are planning to attend)

Wednesday, December 9th
10:00 am
Morning Bible Study
11:00 am
Advent Worship
12:00 pm Lite Meal after Worship
1:00 pm
Blessing Box

Wednesday, December 16th
10:00 am
Morning Bible Study
11:00 am
Advent Worship
12:00 pm Lite Meal after Worship

Thursday, December 24th
Church Office Closed
4:00 pm or 6:00 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
With Holy Communion

Church Office Hours for Christmas & New Year
Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25th Christmas Day

Thursday, December 31st New Year's Eve
Friday, January 1st New Year's Day



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 mailboxes located as you enter the glass doors. Members, please check your slots every Sunday as they tend to get very full!

Circle of Friends December Catered Meal

Catered Meal for December Circle of Friends Luncheon on Wednesday, December 2nd! The cost of a plate is $10 and contact Mary Buechmann to purchase your plate and if you are planning to attend the catered meal. This includes if you are planning to attend the meal after the morning Advent service. Come and enjoy the fellowship! And remember that desserts are always welcome. Contact Mary Buechmann with questions 281-728-0973.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!



The Sealy Lions Club is hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 5th, from 9 AM to 11 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church. The event will feature pancakes and opportunities for children to visit with Santa.

COME CHRISTMAS CAROLING:



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and come caroling on Tuesday, December 22nd, at 4:45 p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to get organized and then depart to go caroling.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BRING DIAPERS FOR THE DIAPER BANK for the Sealy Pregnancy Center.



This is a need just like baby lotion, baby body wash, pacifiers, baby wipes, baby socks, etc.



The Blessing Box Group

will meet on December 9th at 1:00 pm.

THE SEALY CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY



Please help by collecting plastic bags that can be used to bag canned items. If you would, please save your re-usable shopping bags and bring them to the church to be used to bag canned goods. There is a container next to the elevator to place them into.

Lutheran Women in Mission
Texas District
2026-2028 Mission Grant
Description and Prayer

ASL Jesus Signs Workshops $15,000.00

The Deaf community is one of the largest unreached people groups in the world, with 98% having no knowledge of Jesus Christ. In Texas alone, an estimated 345,000 Deaf individuals remain

unreached. Because Deaf people often blend into the general population, they are frequently overlooked, even within churches, where language barriers prevent meaningful access to the Gospel. Interpreters, when present, may lack training on how to communicate Lutheran theology clearly. Deaf Outreach Texas will address this need through three-day American Sign Language (ASL) Jesus Signs workshops designed for Deaf participants who communicate in ASL and hearing persons who wish to communicate the Gospel to them. These workshops provide biblical instruction, worship, fellowship, and culturally appropriate teaching. This mission grant will cover faculty expenses, Bibles, printed materials, food, and technical support.

Lord of the Church, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of all people. We ask You to bless Deaf Outreach Texas as it proclaims Your Word to those who have not yet heard the Gospel in their own language. Guide and strengthen the pastors, deaconesses, and volunteers who serve, and provide the resources needed for this work. Open hearts to receive Your truth, and grant faith through Your Word and Spirit. Use these workshops to build Your Church and bring many to the saving knowledge of Christ crucified and risen. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

PRESCHOOL NEWS!

Christmas is tied to Jesus because the holiday originated as a Christian celebration of his birth, and the name "Christmas" comes from "Christ. The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.

The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (1 John 4:8). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshiping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

Again, the true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).



The themes for the month of December are: The Birth of Christ and Giving to Others. The celebration of Christmas is often accompanied by the giving and receiving of presents and cards. The birth of Christ is the gift of Jesus, the son of God, beginning his earthly life. Jesus is God's gift to us; He is our Savior!

The preschoolers will learn the story of Joseph, Mary and how Jesus came to be in our lives. Children will learn how great it feels to give to others who are less fortunate.

Preschoolers will 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." (Luke 2:11). The Bible stories for the month are:

Nov. 30th – December 4th	**Dec. 14th – 18th**
Chapel With Pastor Bersche	"Baby Jesus is Born"
Naaman is Healed	"Shepherds Visit"
Boy King Josiah	"Simon and Anna Meet Baby Jesus"
The Brave Queen	Chapel Time with Pastor Bersche
Dec. 7th – 11th	"The Bright Star and the Three Visitors"
"Fiery Furnace"	
"Daniel and the Lions"	
Chapel Time with Pastor Bersche	
"Jonah the Big Fish"	
"An Angel Visits Mary"	

Children are learning the Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder. What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way but help him in all his physical needs.



Fantasy of Lights! This year's theme for our Fantasy of Lights is "A Savoir is Born." Please make sure your permission forms are turned into the office or your child's teacher. Please arrive at the float around 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm. The parade will promptly begin at 6:00 pm. Thank you to all the parents who helped in decorating the float for preschool. A big thank you to Matthew and Andi Hernandez for driving their truck and trailer and using their truck, trailer and other items. A thank you to Juan and Dayna Perez for the generator. All we need now is about 15 bales of square hay bales.



Christmas Gift Ornament Gift Exchange! Your child's teacher gave you a name for the class ornament gift exchange. Please bring to class by Thursday, December 10th.



Wear White Day! Since we are learning the color WHITE for the month, we would like the preschoolers to wear something WHITE to preschool on Thursday, December 3rd. Children can wear white clothes,

socks, shoes, hair bows, neckties or whatever you can think of to reinforce the color WHITE!



Flashlight Day! On Friday, December 4th the preschoolers may bring a flashlight to school labeled with their name. The teachers will have fun and exciting projects for the children to use their flashlights. They will hear the story about the "Lost Sheep" and use their flashlights to find that one lost sheep.



Candy Cane Story – The children will enjoy the story of the Legend of the Candy Cane and watch a short video on Tuesday, December 8th. The Cane is like the staff used by the shepherds in caring for sheep. Jesus is our "Good Shepherd." Red is for God's love that sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross. The Stripes remind us of Jesus' suffering-his crown of thorns, the wounds in his hands and feet; and the cross on which he died.



Christmas Caroling! The entire preschool will go on a walking field trip to Austin County State Bank and sing on Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00 am. If you are able to make this and help chaperone the preschoolers, we would love you to come along. The bank employees will have a snack for them to enjoy.



Dress as a Grinch Character – On Thursday, December 10th the preschoolers will read and watch the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Your child may dress as one of the characters from the movie. Always enjoy seeing the preschoolers cute as one of the characters!



Mrs. Beth Franke Reads to the Preschoolers! Mrs. Franke a retired Librarian and a wife to Pastor Gil Franke**,** members of Trinity Lutheran Church, will read to the preschoolers on Thursday, December 10th at 10:00 am the story of The Birth of Jesus. Since the preschoolers are dressed as a Grinch character, she might throw in a story about the Grinch!



CUTE Ugly Sweater Day – The children can wear a CUTE UGLY SWEATER on Friday, December 11th. We can all get into the spirit of wearing a cute, ugly sweater given to you by someone for Christmas or a sweater you are embarrassed to wear in public. You can also make your own cute, ugly sweater to wear to preschool. The homemade decorated sweaters are always the best!



Celebrating Jesus' Birthday Mary Buechmann, a church member, will make a cake for the children to celebrate Jesus' birthday on Tuesday, December 15th. The cake will be white with white frosting. We will all sing happy birthday to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Please bring your child's snack for that day.



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 around $5.00. This way the children can have fun exchanging their wrapped gifts, but the gift will go straight into their bags after the exchanging of the wrapped to be opened at home.

All ornaments need to be wrapped from whom and to whom and brought to the preschool by **Thursday, December 10th.** Please do not forget to bring your wrapped gift ornament 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. Only the parents that sign up to help with the party are the ones that may attend.



Pajama Day & Christmas Movie!

All preschoolers **WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS**! Bring your pillow and blanket, popcorn, and a drink to preschool. We will enjoy the morning with a Christmas movie, Thursday, December 17th!



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 hallway. 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.	Dec. 14th – 18th
Margot Hernandez	Harlow Holt

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

Christmas and New Year Holidays are:
Monday, December 21, 2026, through
Tuesday, January 5, 2027.

PRESCHOOL WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2027

Have a Safe and Blessed
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Ms. Maggie and Preschool Teachers



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Jason Carr. Jason presented the Devotion," Light Candles with God" followed by the opening prayer.

Council members present:

- Jason Carr – President
- Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer
- Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman

- James Gilliam – Elder Chairman
- Pastor Ken Bersche
- Nikki Vrablec – Board of Education Chairman
- John Vrablec – Trustee Chairman
- David Novosad – Usher Chairman
- Maggie Kent - Visitor

Absent:

- Terry Hankins – Vice President
- Kimberly Kornegay – Secretary
- Karina Carr – Fellowship Outreach Chairman

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

Old Business:

- The landscaping of the flower beds has been completed.
- James Gilliam informed us that Phase 1 of the Media project is complete.

Chairmen Reports:

Ruth Szymanski – Treasurer

- October Report – As of October 31, 2026, the cash balance in the General Fund was $37,950.95. The Building Fund balance was $47,997.70 and the Designated Fund balance was $106,271.60. The Total of All Funds was $192,220.25. The total contributions for October were $23,374.82 and the total expenses for October were $28,225.71. The total contributions for the year of 2026 were $246,762.19 while the total expenses for the year were $271,205.96.

Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman

- Special contributions for the month were $2,070.00 for Missions.

James Gilliam – Elder Chairman

- Nothing to report

Pastor Bersche

- Official Acts: Funeral and burial of Larry Schulke on October 17, 2026. Baptism of Ellen Jean Hilson on October 20, 2026.
- Adult Bible Class continues the study of St. Paul. The new topic beginning in January will be “Know the Difference.”
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study is studying the Hymnal of the Old Testament – Psalms.
- Confirmation class is studying the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed.
- Pastor is currently visiting 13 shut-ins.

Nikki Vrablec – Board of Education Chairman

- Nothing to report

Jason Carr (for Karina Carr) – Fellowship Outreach Chairman

- Christmas Caroling will take place on December 22, 2026, at 4:45.

John Vrablec – Trustee Chairman

- He has completed a plumbing repair
- The A/C work for the Sanctuary has been completed by OGH.

David Novosad – Usher Chairman

- Nothing to report

Jason Carr (for Karina Carr) – Preschool

- Treasurer’s report
  - Checking Account balance - $65,459.20
  - Savings Account balance - $50,815.19
- Maggie Kent reported that everything is going well with the preschool.
- They are getting ready for their Friendsgiving Day, as well as the Fantasy of Lights parade.
- Maggie requested another scholarship for a child. The Preschool board approved.
- There will not be a meeting in December. The board will meet for their annual Christmas dinner on December 9, 2026.

There being no further reports, James Gilliam made the motion to accept all reports. The motion was seconded by John Vrablec. All Council members agreed and the motion passed.

New Business

- James Gilliam discussed Phase 2 of the media project which is replacing the projectors.

There being no further business, James Gilliam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nikki Vrablec seconded the motion. All Council members agreed and the meeting was adjourned. The next Council meeting will be held on December 14, 2026, and Kimberly Kornegay will have the devotion. The meeting closed with prayer.

Jason Carr – President
Kimberly Kornegay - Secretary