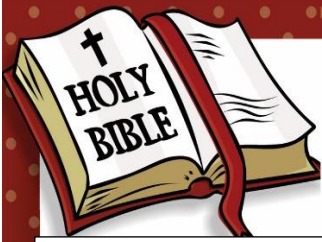




Building His Body By
Reflecting the Son

JANUARY 2021

Epiphany



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Church Phone:
979.885.2211

Preschool Phone
979-627-7846

Fax 979-885-7003
Website

www.tlcsealy.org

Pastor:

Kenneth Bersche
Pastorken@tlcsealy.org
979-885-2211

Maggie Kent, Office
Secretary

ELDERS:

Bobby Barrett
Lowell Coody
Joel Grigar
Mark Romano
Doyle Kornegay
Tracy Schiller
Johnnie Sodalak
Stephen Stuessel
Barry Wolf

TRINITY TIDBITS

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

To the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran:

Trinity Lutheran Preschool has been a ministry outreach to the children of the Sealy community, offering early childhood education for over 30 years. Due to the restrictions placed on schools in reaction to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Preschool Board made the decision to suspend classes beginning in March 2020, leaving the Preschool with no income. During this time, the Preschool has remained in compliance with the regulations required by the Federal Government Licensing Agency.

The Preschool obtained a Payroll Protection Plan Loan from the Government, which requires no repayment. The school also applied for and received, an additional \$7,000.00, which goes into repayment this month. This loan was through the EIDL Program (Economic Injury Disaster Loan). Other than these loans, the Preschool has been operating on funds that had been collected prior to March. These funds will be depleted before the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, before tuition will begin to be collected. The Preschool will need an estimated amount of \$30,000.00 in order to reopen again in the fall of 2021. Furthermore it will take months for the Preschool to have a positive cash flow. The loan is primarily needed for payroll and the Preschool is asking the Church to consider options to help.

Other Actions taken by the Preschool

- Tuition that had been paid for March, April and May of 2020, was refunded, if the parents requested to be reimbursed.
- Teacher salaries were paid to the end of the year, and through the summer for those teachers who have their pay set up in that way.
- The Preschool Director has been receiving half salary, but will go back to full salary in March of 2021.
- Currently, the Preschool has monthly expenses, including salary, of approximately \$1,500.00, plus any annual inspections or licensing fees that may be due.
- In March of 2021, registration fees will begin to be collected and tuition will begin to be collected in September.
- The Preschool Board voted to increase the cost of tuition for the next school year.
- Prior to the Pandemic, the Preschool had made improvements to the playground, which was a large expense to the school.

Options for the Church to help

- The Church could borrow the funds from a bank for the Preschool. The school was not able to obtain a loan on its own, since there is no income. Therefore, the Church would be required to make the payments.
- The Church could loan the Preschool money from funds that the Church has available. This loan could be in advances, only funded when there is a deficit in the Preschool's funds.
- Both of these options will require a repayment plan from the Preschool.

Important Points to Consider

- The Church recently paid \$59,000.00 from the General Fund for the new Heating/AC system.
- The Church also has an outstanding \$50,000.00 loan for the Heating/AC system that has just begun repayment. The payment for this loan is \$1,499.04 a month. An additional \$30,000.00 loan will increase the amount that the Church will owe on a monthly basis.

- There is still so much unknown about what the requirements will be by the State for the next school year...such as how many students will be allowed per classroom. Fewer students will mean less tuition, which equates to less cash flow for the Preschool. This would mean that it will take the Preschool longer to repay the loan.
- It is also unknown if parents will be willing to send their children to Preschool next fall, as well as be able to pay the higher tuition costs.
- If nothing is done for the Preschool, it will most likely have to close for at least the next school year and begin the process of getting re-licensed in order to re-open.

Trinity Preschool is part of Trinity Lutheran Church and has been a wonderful outreach for the Church, being the **only** Christian Preschool in Sealy. The Congregation has an important decision that has to be made. Please pray as you consider what the best option is.

There will be a special Congregational meeting in January for the congregation to vote on this matter. We will have to consider what is best for the Preschool and the Congregation. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.

God's Blessings to all of you!
 Trinity Lutheran Church Council
 Trinity Lutheran Preschool Board



Please Pray for Trinity
 Lutheran Preschool
 Program

Stewardship isn't about "giving back" to God. It's about using what he's given us to accomplish something that matters. (1 Timothy 5:8).

Church Council meets on Monday, January 11, 2021 to discuss the date of the congregational church meeting to decide what is best for the Trinity Lutheran Preschool and Trinity Lutheran Church. This will be posted two weeks before the actual meeting.

God's Blessings,
 Ms. Maggie



1/02 Debbie Ashorn	1/11 LILA MEYER	1/27 Shari Cleveland
1/03 Kyle Johnston	1/12 Johnny Busse	1/27 Patsy Novosad
1/03 David Kainer	1/14 John Schier	1/29 Dani Bersche
1/06 Aletha Jeske	1/15 Theresa Terrell	1/29 Al Konesheck
1/06 Peggy Jurek	1/16 Fred Paben	1/29 Stephanie Meyer
1/06 Kimberly Kornegay	1/18 Lisa H. Barrett	1/29 Nickolas Pavelka
1/07 ISAAC BRYANT	1/19 Rachel Hilson	1/29 Marty Schiller
1/07 Bunmi Hintz	1/19 Preston Villalovoz	1/30 Bradley Bozeman
1/08 Melody Anderson	1/23 Brian Nedd	1/30 Beverly Ekarius
1/08 Royce Sebesta	1/24 BOWEN BLUME	1/30 Dorothy Hein
1/09 Meagan Keeton	1/25 Doug Browne	
1/09 Stephanie Sneed	1/25 Wayne Grigar	



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

1/02/1993 George & Janice Wied	1/15/1956 Royce and Viola Sebesta ♥
1/04/1992 Jerry & Julie Ebers	1/22/1993 Beverly and Kenny Fritsch
1/11/1958 Melvin & Pat Schmidt ♥	1/31/2015 Brandi and Aaron Pizana



Altar Guild thanks you for your purchase of the poinsettias giving the church extra beauty during the Christmas season.

Confirmation Seminar

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Prayers for Nursing Home and Shut Ins



Lillie Foehner Vibralife, Katy
 Dorothy Hein Veranda House
 Joyce Meyer Colonial Belle
 Fred & Ruth Paben Orchard Park @ Southfork
 George Baade Caydance Assisted Living, Katy
 Jo-Anne Gilliam - Home
 Carrie Steinbach - Home
 Evangeline Coody - Home
 Betty Herridge - Home



OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEAR!
December 30, 2020 Office Closes @ NOON
December 31, 2020 Office Closed (New Year's Eve)
January 1, 2021 Office Closed (New Year's Day)



Church office hours are 8-3 FRIDAY until noon. Offerings may be dropped off 8 am - 2:45 pm, Monday-Thursday (Friday's until Noon) or mailed to 402 Atchison, Sealy, TX 77474



Please come by the church office for your 2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES. Please begin using your new envelopes beginning the first Sunday in January. If you have any questions please contact Janice Wied or any member of the Stewardship Committee.



Thrivent Choice Dollars December 9, 2020 Amount of deposit: \$336.00. Don't forget to direct your choice dollars. To do this call 1/800-847-4836 and when prompted say "CHOICE DOLLARS". If you have any questions please call Grace Holtkamp.



I have had the joy of five years sending out birthday, get well and sympathy cards to members and guests of Trinity. It is time for me to pass this on to someone else. If you are interested in volunteering with this Card Ministry, please call me (Betty Remmert) at 979-627-5171. I would like to pass on the joy!



Congratulations to our new 2021-2022 Church Officers who were installed Sunday, December 27, 2020. Here is a list of all the Officers:

Terry Hankins - President
 Casey Picard - Vice President
 Kimberly Kornegay - Secretary
 Linda Blume - Treasurer
 Barry Wolf - Elder Chairman
 Valerie Bryant - Board of Christian Growth
 Noah Hankins - Congregational Fellowship Outreach
 Pastor Bersche
 Janice Wied - Stewardship Chairman
 VACANT - Trustee Chairman
 George Wied - Usher Chairman
 Cheryl Steinhauser- Preschool Liaison
 Rachel Villalovoz - Preschool Liaison



FLOWER CHART 2021 - Please sign up in the narthex on the new Flower Chart for 2021 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 2021 - Please sign up if you would like to be a Lay Reader on Saturday or Sunday. The new sign-up sheet is ready for 2021.



DOCTOR TAXI Many church members are in need of a ride to a doctor's appointment. You can meet a tremendous need in their lives by volunteering to help transport a member who is not able to go due to someone in the family had a change of plans and really cannot take them. If you would like to volunteer to share in this ministry, please contact Maggie in the church office.



CHURCH PLANNING MEETING - is set for Monday January 11th 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 2021) should attend.



A 7-year old boy proudly tells his father: "I finally know what the Bible means!" Surprised the father replied: "What do you mean, you "know" what the Bible means? What does it mean?" "That's easy, dad.....It stands for Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth."



**MINUTES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 2020**

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by President Terry Hankins. Dorothy Coody presented the Devotion and she followed the Devotion with Prayer.

Council members present:

- Terry Hankins – President
- Linda Blume – Treasurer
- Ruth Szymanski – Secretary
- Casey Picard – Vice President
- Pastor Bersche
- Noah Hankins – Evangelism Chairman
- Dorothy Coody – Fellowship Chairman
- Bill Blume – Trustee Chairman
- Johanna Buechmann – Usher Chairman
- Maggie Kent – Preschool – Becky Tipton from the Preschool Board

Absent:

- Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman
- Janice Wied – Stewardship Chairman
- Valerie Bryant – Youth Chairman
- Education Chairman - Vacant

The Minutes from the meeting held on November 16, 2020 were presented for review and approval. Dorothy Coody made a motion to accept the minutes. Linda Blume seconded the motion. All Council members approved and the motion passed.

Unfinished/Old Business:

- The Council members were given the revised Trinity Preschool By-Laws at the November meeting for their review. Since there was not enough voting members at the meeting for a quorum, this business was tabled until the January meeting.

Chairmen Reports:

Linda Blume – Treasurer

- Linda presented the November 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report. As of November 30, 2020, the cash balance in the General Fund was \$50,959.09. The Building Fund balance was \$57,010.77 and the Designated Fund balance was \$98,003.45. The Total of All Funds was \$205,973.31. This balance reflects a payment made for the Heat/AC system in the amount of \$59,738.00.

Terry Hankins for Barry Wolf – Elder Chairman

- There will be no worship service on Saturday, December 19, due to a wedding.
- Due to low attendance at Advent services, the Elders have begun discussion about how to conduct Lenten services.
- There will be two Christmas Eve services on December 24, 2020....at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

- There will not be a worship service on Christmas Day, December 25, 2020.
- The Elders expressed their appreciation to Bobby Barrett for his years of service as an Elder. He has stepped down from his position.

Casey Picard – Vice President

- Nothing to report

Pastor Bersche

- Adult Bible Class is continuing.
- The Advent services have had low attendance.
- There are currently 12 members that are shut-ins. Pastor is able to visit with 7 of these. He visits on the phone with the over 5 members.
- There was a very good response to the Youth Service.
- Pastor officiated at one official act, the funeral service of Gene Rimmert.

Noah Hankins – Evangelism Chairman

- Noah reported that the gifts from the Angel Tree have been delivered and are much appreciated.
- Noah also reported that we currently have enough volunteers for the HOA Meals on Wheels program.

Dorothy Coody – Fellowship Chairman

- Nothing to report

Bill Blume – Trustee Chairman

- Bill reported that he is still waiting to hear about the projector screen in the gym.
- The new heating/AC system is completely installed and is functional.
- The air handler room has been repaired and painted.
- Bill reported that he has received a bid to replace all outside light fixtures. The cost would be approximately \$2,788.00 for the lights, plus \$1,700.00 for the installation.
- One of the stairwells needs to be repaired and painted.

Johanna Buechmann – Usher Chairman

- Nothing to report

Becky Tipton – Preschool

- It was decided at the last Preschool Board meeting, that a letter should be sent to all of the Congregation members explaining the current situation with the Preschool. The letter explains what has happened since the school closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need that the school has for funding. After much discussion, it was determined that a representative from Council would work with the Preschool board to write this letter. The letter will be mailed out around December 21, 2020. A decision will need to be made quickly in order for the Preschool to continue.

New Business

- None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Janice Wied will have the devotion for the January meeting. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.