

TRINITY TIDINGS

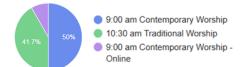
Monthly Newsletter of <u>Trinity Lutheran Church</u> October 2025 Stonewall, Texas

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How Are We Doing?

"How Are We Doing?" it's the question at the heart of our recent survey on Sunday Morning opportunities. I do not ask this in a way to receive a grade, although the council and I are open to listening and receiving feedback. Rather I ask the question to you as Trinity Family, "How Are We Doing?", in growing in our faith, how are we caring for one another, how are we doing at sharing our thoughts and questions, reaching our community?

Here is the results of our Survey – we had 37 responses, roughly 1/3 of those attending / watching our worship services.



How do you feel about our current Sunday morning options?



Are our worship opportunities honoring to God and allowing worshipers to grow through Word and Sacraments?



Agree

Our ultimate goal with all the things we are doing is to share the Love of Christ with each other and our community. It is much like what Paul was writing to the church of Philippi in the midst of their life together ...

Philippians 3:12-15 - I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.

May we continue to press on to take hold of that which Christ has set before us. But may we do it in such a way that we are caring for one another through the Gospel and reaching out to our community to show them the Love and Grace of God!

In Christ's Service with You,

September Council Meeting highlights

- Internal audit has taken place
- Reviewed and approved amendments to proposed constitution and By-laws and to allow additional minor changes as advised
- Final Rally Day report will be given at next meeting
- Reviewed current organ tuning contract and approved change to have Rodney Smith of Fredericksburg to tune our organ

Thank you to all who helped get the church grounds cleaned up and ready for our Rally Day ministry year kick off! Thanks also to all the hands that prepared or served food, set-up/ clean up, provided door prizes, or supported the efforts to make the day successful.

We also celebrated adding 16 new members which includes past members, transfers, and new to the area families. Please welcome Sally, Will, Andrea & family, Carter & Claire, Joel, Natalie & family, Lisa, George & Kay to the family of Trinity!

<u>Trinity</u>'s **Services** are streamed each Sunday, so that people who cannot attend in person can participate with us. You can also view past services. No Facebook account needed to watch the live stream. When following the link, if you do not have an account, just skip the instructions for signing in. When you get to the Facebook video page you should be able to scroll down and click on the video that has the word "LIVE" in red.

Secure online option for those who want to give their offering in this manner. Available through the website: www.stonewalltrinitylutheran.com You can now set up a one-time or recurring gift to Trinity. We will ask those giving in this way, to cover the expense of the transaction fee of 1.2% for ACH and 3.2% for Credit Cards. All donations will be then kept in our database and included in the year-end giving statements.

TRINITY MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

Windcrest: Josephine Schaeferkoeter Rm 451 Connie Dittmar, 1400 Hilltop Rd. Kerrville TX 78028 Gary & Greta Frantzen, 181 Frantzen Ln, Fredericksburg Janice Hartmann, 781 Chester Rd., Johnson City Mike & Elsie Kuykendall, 408 Redbird Ln, Fredericksburg Mary Lindig, PO Box 186, Hye 78636 Doris Schaeferkoeter 501 FM 3237, Rm 404, Wimberley

LaVerne Zoeller, 1352 CR 350 Concan, TX 78838



Faith and Miracles

Recently, my intern, Kyle McGinnis, and I had the privilege of sitting down with Greg Garcia. Greg and I have been friends for nearly a decade. We connected as fellow Texans and members of Church Planting Leadership Fellowship, a peer learning community of denomination and network leaders with church planting responsibilities. Greg is pastor of Creekside Christian Fellowship in Needville, Texas, a church plant that he and a team of folks began about 20 years ago. He continues to invest in planting churches by coaching church planters. Since Kyle is discerning a call to be a church planter, Greg made time for a conversation when we were in the Needville area.

Greg blessed us by telling us the story of Creekside. To see all the ways that God has moved through this ministry was inspiring. When we expressed our amazement, Greg responded with something profound that has impacted both me and Kyle. He said that at Creekside they like to operate in the realm of faith and miracles.

Greg explained that when it comes to making decisions about what they are going to do or pursue in the future, there are typically three categories of response. The first is "We can do this." This is how you respond when you have confidence that you have all that you need to pursue the new project: people, money, time, participation, etc. The second response category requires "Faith and miracles." These are ideas that stretch you beyond your confidence in your own resources and require you to have faith that God will provide that which you need. The third category of response is what Greg called "Ain't never gonna happen!" This is when the idea crosses over into foolishness and is clearly beyond the scope of what God is calling the ministry to pursue.

Reflecting on this, I wonder how many of our ministry decisions are made in the realm of "We can do this." I sense that many of our churches primarily operate with this mindset. Yet it is clear to me that when we make our decisions in the realm of "We can do this," there are two pitfalls. First, we are guilty of self-reliance, which is a sin. Secondly, we miss out on the bigger opportunities that God is inviting us to pursue.

When Jesus multiplied two small fish and five loaves of bread to feed the 5,000, he first instructed the disciples to begin feeding the crowd. The disciples began distributing food with a very limited supply. Only when the disciples were obedient to the Lord's call to distribute the food did they experience the miracle of the Lord's provision.

If we only operate out of our own confidence of what we can do, we miss out on what the Lord is calling us to pursue. While all church leaders have a calling to be responsible stewards, we are also called to have faith and trust that God will provide and make a way for that which he wills. So how is the Lord calling you and your church to trust him more deeply? What miracles might he have in store for you?

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

BLESSING BOWL 2025

January - Lutheran World Relief	\$2539.57
February - Hill Country Needs Council	\$1135.93
March - Ministerial Alliance	\$964.00
March - Special offering for Crabapple Fire	\$7040.00
April - Johnson City Food Pantry	\$1095
May - Good Samaritan Center	\$888
June - Stonewall Food Pantry	\$2012.96
July - Special Flood Relief	\$9809

August - Golden Hub: Meals on Wheels \$1158.74

August - Young Life: \$430.50 Johnson City & \$430.50 Fredericksburg \$861

September - Hill Country School Partnership

October - Samaritan's Purse

November - Stonewall Chamber Toy & Food Drive

December - MOM Center



Attendance 2025												
	Jan	Jan 9 am	Jan 10:30 am	Feb	Feb 9 am	Feb 10:30 am	Mar ⁽⁵⁾	Mar ⁽⁵⁾ 9 am	Mar ⁽⁵⁾ 10:30 am	April	April 9 am	April 10:30 am
Total	387	211	176	446	263	183	529	284	245	554	252	302
Avg	97	53	44	112	66	46	106	57	49	139	63	76
	May	May 9 am	May 10:30 am	June ⁽⁵⁾	June ⁽⁵⁾ 9 am	June ⁽⁵⁾ 10:30 am	July	July 9 am	July 10:30 am	Aug ⁽⁵⁾	Aug ⁽⁵⁾ 9 am	Aug ⁽⁵⁾ 10:30 am
Total	427	195	233	475	269	206	386	217	169	487	248	239
Avg	107	49	59	95	54	42	97	55	43	98	50	48
	Sept	Sept 9 am	Sept 10:30 am	Oct	Oct 9 am	Oct 10:30 am	Nov ⁽⁵⁾	Nov ⁽⁵⁾ 9 am	Nov ⁽⁵⁾ 10:30 am	Dec	Dec 9 am	Dec 10:30 am
Total												
Avg												

Volunteers

Please click this link or copy and put into your web browser to be directed to the signup: <u>volunteersignup.org/AQKPM</u>

The Prayer Warriors of TLC are an active group that pray for anyone who requests prayers. When requesting a prayer for an individual other than yourself, please indicate that you have the person's permission who we are to pray for. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Warriors, please contact the church office and share your cell phone number as prayers are sent by the use of text messages.

Worship Assistants for October:

9 am - Jeanenne Maenius & 10:30 am - Debi Schumann <u>Altar Guild</u> – Gail Nielsen & Doris Kramer <u>Blessing Bowl</u> - Samaritans Purse



Birthdays

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4-Oct	Cynthia Wade	16-Oct	Jerry Biesenbach	21-Oct	Mary Uecker
5-Oct	Ruth Mayer	16-Oct	Katrina Mesch	24-Oct	Nelson Maenius
7-Oct	Steve Beach	17-Oct	Lillie Bible	26-Oct	Lisa Jacoby
8-Oct	Shirleen Sager	17-Oct	Georgia Wardwell	26-Oct	Jeanine Bell
12-Oct	John Lindig	18-Oct	Ellie Park	30-Oct	Marsha Wagner
13-Oct	Rvan Smith				

Anniversaries

10-7	64 yrs	Harvey & Judy Schumann	10-18	12 yrs	Ryan & Ashley Schumann
10-9	44 yrs	Rodney & Denise Eckert	10-23	16 yrs	Brandon & Alysha Behrends
10-12	7 yrs	Tim & Cypress Schumann	10-27	19 yrs	Keith & Cathy Lindig
10-14	59 yrs	Calvin & Sonja Hartmann	10-27	13 yrs	Justin & Laura Weinheimer
10-15	10 yrs	Dylan & Katrina Mesch	10-29	32 yrs	Howard & Melissa Fisher

October 2025								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
			1 9:30am Women's Bible Study	2	3 Office closed	4		
5 Communion 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's Church 10:30 am Traditional 10:30a small group study 12-1:30 pm Confirmation	5:30pm praise rehearsal	7 10am Happy Quilters	8	9 9am Stitch & Tie Quilting	10 Office closed	11		
12 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's church 10:30 am Traditional 10:30a small group study Council meeting Following worship	5:30pm praise rehearsal	14 10am Happy Quilters	15	16	17 Office closed 2 pm - '42'	18		
19 Communion 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's Church 10:30 am Traditional 10:30a small group study	5:30pm praise rehearsal	21 10am Happy Quilters	22	23 9am TLC Quilting	24 Office closed	25		
26 Reformation Sunday 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's church 10:30 am Traditional 9 am small group study 12-1:30 pm Confirmation	5:30pm praise rehearsal	28 10am Happy Quilters	5:30pm Trunk or Treat @ Stonewall Elementary	30 9am TLC Quilting	31 Office closed			



5th open

12th - Sonja & Calvin Hartmann - Celebration of Anniversary

19th open

26th - Karen Jenschke - For Family Birthdays

Click on our <u>open dates</u> or the link below to sign up to sign up to bring altar flowers:

volunteersignup.org/AQKPM

Confirmation 2025-2026

Classes will begin for our middle school - 9th grade students on September 28th from noon– 1:30 pm. Bring a lunch and a Bible. Contact pastor Ryan for more details.

Dates: 10/5, 10/26, 11/2, 11/30, 12/7, 1/25, 2/1, 2/22, 3/1, 3/29, 4/26

Confirmation Sunday is May 3rd