



TRINITY TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of [Trinity Lutheran Church](#)

January 2026 Stonewall, Texas



Welcome to 2026!

What will this New Year hold for all of us? Celebrations? Happiness? Loss? Sadness? More of the Same? The answer to all these questions is probably, Yes. As we begin this new year, it would be rather easy to preoccupy our minds and hearts with what might happen, whether good or bad. What we need to rest in, is that God has a plan for us.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

This year will be a year to "Call upon the name of the Lord, to pray, and to Listen". I invite you to commit to a year of leading by the Holy Spirit, through God's Word, Worship, Fellowship, and Mission. I pray that in each of us we will grow in our relationship with God, with one another, and in our mission to sharing God's Love.

Happy New Year and God Bless,

Pastor Ryan

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Council decorated the church on November 30th
- Congregational meeting is set on January 25th @ 10:30 am. We will have one blended service @ 9 am
- Worship Assistants for January are Elliot Jacoby & Debi Schumann
- Blessing Bowl for January is for Lutheran World Relief
- Trailer was removed & groundwork done near the old choir hall for more parking

Trinity'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
Mike Kuykendall, 408 Redbird Ln, Fredericksburg
Mary Lindig, PO Box 186, Hye 78636
Doris Schaeferkoeter 4701 Ratcliffe Dr #219 Kyle, TX 78676
LaVerne Zoeller, 1352 CR 350 Concan, TX 78838



A Heart Felt Thanks ...

My family and I would like to thank all of you for the warm Christmas greetings, goodies, and gifts. We are very blessed to be part of this family here at Trinity.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Ryan and Family

Worship Assistants for January - 9 am - Elliot Jacoby & 10:30 am - Debi Schumann

Altar Guild – Joni Biesenbach

January Blessing Bowl - Lutheran World Relief

Flowers & Worship Volunteers: Please click this link or copy and put into your web browser to be directed to the signup: volunteersignup.org/AQKPM

On Sunday, December 14th we had the joy of our children & youth lead worship as they shared a special message with the congregation about the Jesse tree. Here are a few photos of some of the children who participated on that Sunday morning.



will resume its regular schedule on **Jan 11th**

Confirmation 2026

Classes continue for our middle school - 9th grade students on select Sundays from noon – 1:30 pm. Bring a lunch and your Bible.

Upcoming dates: 1/4, 1/25, 2/1, 2/22, 3/1, 3/29, 4/26

Confirmation is May 3rd

Trinity received a thank you notes from Young Life & from Laura & Arin on behalf of the Stonewall Chamber Clothing/ Food Drive & the Angel Giving Tree. These notes are posted on the bulletin board.

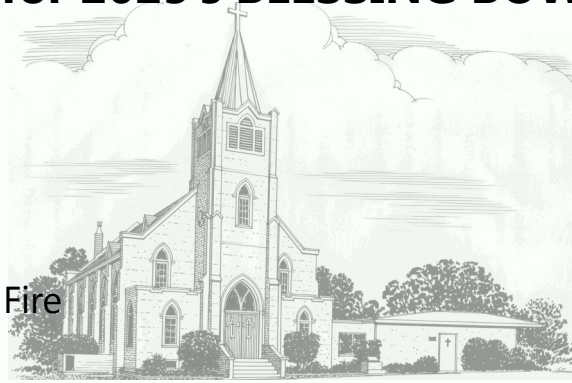
Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25th @ 10:30 am following our one blended worship @ 9 am

All who are interested in learning more about Trinity - Mark your calendar!

A new member class will be offered on Sunday, January 18th following the late service & lunch will be provided. Sign up on the ramp with number attending the event or email the office: stonewalltlcoffice@gmail.com

Final donation amounts for 2025's BLESSING BOWL

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	\$1022.16
October - Samaritan's Purse	\$1323.25
November - Stonewall Chamber Toy & Clothing Drive	\$2096.25
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	417	157	156	402	218	184	552	342	210	433	343	90
Avg	105	53	52	101	55	46	111	69	42	109	86	45



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Celebrate Jesus

Amid the twinkling lights and festive cheer, it's easy to forget why we celebrate Christmas. We can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all: parties and programs, gift buying and cookie baking, travel planning and family gatherings. All the activity of the season can crowd out the real meaning and purpose for the holiday itself. While we may say "Jesus is the reason for the season," what does that really mean for us today? What if an often overlooked Bible story can help us reconnect our celebrations to the true gift of Christmas?

One cold December Sunday when I was in the first grade, I got to read my very first verse with my own eyes out of a real Bible. I still remember it to this day. In Sunday School, we studied a part of the Christmas story that is rarely talked about. The lesson came from Luke 2 and was about Simeon meeting the baby Jesus in the temple. Simeon was a righteous and faithful man who had been waiting for God to send the Messiah to bring salvation to Israel and hope for the world. In fact, the Lord had promised Simeon that he would not die before seeing the Messiah.

We read aloud Luke 2:29-32: *"Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, 'Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.'"* And just like that, my eyes were opened to see Jesus as the true gift of Christmas. Here Simeon sees and responds joyously and faithfully to God's grace in giving Jesus to the world. Can't you just picture the joy Simeon must have experienced as he lifted baby Jesus, praising God and delighting in his goodness and mercy?!?

Then as Luke 2 continues, we are introduced to Anna, an elderly widow who had dedicated her life to serving the Lord in the temple, to prayer and to fasting. She, too, met baby Jesus that day and began praising God and telling everyone that he was the Messiah, the long-awaited anointed one who had come into this world to bring salvation.

I love the story of Simeon and Anna as it reminds us what Christmas is really about. The world is in desperate need of Jesus, the Messiah. Like Simeon and Anna, we are invited to recognize and rejoice with a deeper appreciation for the gift that Jesus is to the whole world. We rejoice and celebrate this season full of hope and gratitude. Our faithful response in celebrating Jesus' birth should be like theirs: gleefully praising God and telling others what this means not only for us, but for everyone who calls on His name.

This Christmas, pause and ask: How can my celebrations better reflect the joy of meeting Jesus, the promised Messiah and savior of the world? May our response give glory, honor and thanks to God. And let us share the Good News with a lost and broken world desperately in need of all that Jesus came to give. JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. So let's celebrate Jesus!

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.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Office closed	3
4 Communion 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study NO Children's Church 10:30 am Traditional 10:30a small group study 12-1:30 pm Confirmation	5 5:30pm praise rehearsal	6 10am Happy Quilters	7	8 9am Stitch & Tie Quilting	9 Office closed	10
11 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's Church 10:30 am Traditional Council Meeting	12 5:30pm praise rehearsal	13 10am Happy Quilters	14 9:30am Women's Bible Study	15	16 Office closed 2 pm - '42'	17
18 Communion 9 am Contemporary 9 am small group study Children's Church 10:30 am Traditional 10:30a small group study New member Class & lunch	19 5:30pm praise rehearsal	20 10am Happy Quilters	21	22 9 am TLC Quilters	23 Office closed	24
25 9 am One blended service Children's Church 10:30 am Congregational meeting 12-1:30 pm Confirmation	26 5:30pm praise rehearsal	27 10am Happy Quilters	28	29 9 am TLC Quilters	30 Office closed	31



Birthdays

Jan 2 Emilia Hahne

Jan 6 Liz Lindig

Jan 7 William Wardwell

Jan 7 Emily Duecker

Jan 10 Jessica Surma

Jan 10 Joni Biesenbach

Jan 10 Nathan Meyer

Jan 14 Kyle Hardison

Jan 18 Gary Frantzen

Jan 18 Vickie Ahrens



Jan 19 Joel Handley

Jan 28 Mindy Eckert

Jan 28 Eileen Ottmers

Jan 31 Vivian Wagner

Anniversaries



Jan 5 Steven & Anissa Meier 35 yrs

Jan 8 Leland & Eileen Ottmers 54 yrs

Jan 17 Nelson & Nancy Maenius 22 yrs

Jan 18 Gary & Greta Frantzen 68 yrs

Jan 18 Dennis & Dana Smith 23 yrs

