



Voice of Trinity

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World

Trinity Lutheran Church, E.L.C.A.
1415 South McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

DECEMBER
2017

Church Office: (904) 389-5341
FAX: (904) 381-1381
tlcjax@trinity4jax.org
Website: trinity4jax.org

December Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

December 3: reSource Worship 10:00 a.m.
December 10: Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.
December 17: reSource Worship 10:00 a.m.
December 24: Traditional Worship 10:00 a.m.
December 31: reSource Worship 10:00 a.m.



*children's Christmas Program
and potluck Dinner
Wednesday, December 20th
6:30 p.m.*



*Christmas Eve Worship
at Trinity
Sunday, December 24th*

Family Worship **5:00 p.m.**
Joyful music by the Trinity Praise Team
plus traditional hymns and candlelight carols

Traditional Worship **10:00 p.m.**
Featuring guest musicians from the
Jacksonville Symphony
Pre-service music begins at **9:30 p.m.**



From the Pastor

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

These are the words we hear Christ the King saying to the people from all nations who have been separated at the Last Judgement that are on his right hand. These are words we hear Jesus Christ saying to us to show us what is important in the kingdom living of God the Father.

I love the short stories of Leo Tolstoy of “Martin the Cobbler” and of “Panov’s Special Christmas” and of O’Henry’s “The Fourth Magi.” They are stories of expectation and unexpected twists of men who sought after or would have the opportunity to see and meet Christ, the Messiah in their home. (Maybe it is that I love these stories so much because they touched my heart in my younger years as I saw them at Christmas time in wonderful play adaptations in churches.) In each of these stories what had been hoped for in seeking the Messiah or in having Jesus visit turned out to be a different kind of encounter with Jesus as each of these men would come to encounter through the care of others and in the acts of kindness with everyday people in their needs, “the least of these.” How do we seek to encounter Jesus Christ during this holiday season?

There is a contemporary Christian song by the group Audio Adrenaline titled “Kings & Queens” (2013) that has a line in its chorus that goes, “If not us, who will be like Jesus to the least of these.” “How do we love the “least of these” in our everyday world?

Do we become so wrapped up and too busy “doing Christmas” that we fail to see and recognize Jesus Christ in “the least of these”? Jesus was born as one of the “least of these” in a stable because there was no room in the inn. He became a refugee because of the attention received when wise men came looking for a new born king and Herod, the worldly king of the region, wanted to have the child killed because Herod feared the child as a threat. But in Jesus, God had a plan in giving the world a savior for all the nations, for us in our lives, and especially for ‘the least of these.’

As we go about our Christmas preparations, as we gather with family and friends in celebrations and parties, as we exchange gifts in gratitude and out of love for one another may we remember in acts of kindness and in love ‘the least of these’. Blessings and peace through Christ Jesus our savior and king this Christmas!

In Christ’s service,

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Robert Kinley
Office Administrator	Kathy Stimmel
Organist/Choir Director	Kim Bloomer
Director of reSource Ministry	Jerry Johnson
Hostess	Rae Eitmyer
Nursery Attendants	Karen Brown Colleen Koehler

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Sarah Knight
Vice President	Dwane Tyson
Secretary	
Treasurer	Rosemarie Tyson

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Culverwell	Mary Bollingberg
Ruth Johnson	Sarah Knight
Joanne Martin	Joe Molenda
Casey Steel	Dwane Tyson

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for January VOT Friday, December 22nd
Editor’s Note:

Please provide the church office with your articles by the 20th of the month unless another date is specified. Please meet the deadline so that the VOT can be distributed on time. Bring your items to the office or email to:

kathy@trinity4jax.org
or
tlcjax@trinity4jax.org



Church Office Hours

M-Th 8:30AM - 2:30PM
F 8:30AM - Noon



Children's Christmas Program and Pot Luck

This year's Children's Christmas program will be presented on Wednesday, December 20th in the Hall of Memories following a pot luck dinner which begins at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish and dessert to share with the community and enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship and Christmas cheer. Rolls and drinks will be provided.

Worship Schedule

Trinity will continue to have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. through the remainder of the year. The format will alternate each week between the Traditional and reSource format.

As we continue to bring the people of Trinity together as a worship body of Christ, take the opportunity to get to know one another and to participate in a Sunday School class. The VOT calendar will list the worship format for each Sunday.



The annual December Congregational Meeting to approve the 2018 budget and to elect new Church Council members and a member to the Permanent Endowment Team will be held on Sunday, December 17th following 10:00 a.m. worship in the sanctuary. All Trinity members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting.



Prayer Walkers! Labyrinth Available

The prayer labyrinth will be available December 2nd, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Hall of Memories at Trinity.

The labyrinth walk will assist you in Christian meditation and prayer. It was used in the Middle Ages as a way for people to participate in a pilgrimage without the expense or time required in actually going to another place. The labyrinth represents a journey to our center and back again out into the world. Walking takes 30 - 45 minutes.

We have scheduled the labyrinth in early December to acknowledge World Aids Day. Come walk and pray with us!
Trinity Prayer Ministry Team

Riverside-Avondale Luminaria Night

Each year the Riverside-Avondale community celebrates the Christmas/Holiday season by displaying luminarias around the homes, parks, businesses, and churches of the community. This year's festive evening will be on Sunday, December 17th. Trinity has always participated in the Luminaria Night by displaying and lighting luminarias around the church property. Help is needed in putting together the luminarias after worship service on Sunday, December 17th and in setting them out and lighting them about 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. The luminaria kits to make the luminarias are provided through the Riverside Preservation Society.

Women

WELCA Board Meeting

WELCA Board will not meet in December. Board will meet at 12 noon on Monday, January 8, 2018 in the Cecil Poole room.

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Martha Circle: Thursday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. - place to be determined
Kitty Howell 387-0152

Hannah Circle: Saturday, December 30, 6 p.m.

All circles are invited to a Christmas party at the home of Kyle and Janice Billy, 1757 Glendale St. hosted by Hannah Circle.
Mary Bollingberg 403-1557

Young Women's Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will not meet in December. Questions? Call or text Pastor Janis.

Sunday Morning Takeaway Takes a Holiday Break

The last Sunday Morning Takeaway for 2017 will be on December 10th and will then take a break beginning December 17th. A new season will begin on Sunday morning, January 14th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Hall of Memories. See you then!

Food Pantry News



During October 2017 we served the following numbers of people in the food pantry:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u># PERSONS</u>	<u># HOUSEHOLDS</u>
OCT	3,195	866

We distributed 31,431 lbs. of food during the month and we spent \$909.48. Our average cost per pound of food was five cents. In 2017 so far we have served 10,626 households, consisting of 39,030 persons. We have distributed 382,368 pounds of food so far. We're always looking for volunteers to sort out boxes of food and put it on the shelves. If you can help, please contact Tom Culverwell.

Thank you for the donations of paper and plastic bags. We continue to have to purchase paper and plastic bags. Your donations of paper and plastic bags will help us by lessening the number of bags we will have to purchase.

At present the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of food at little to no cost, and has provided a great group of volunteers to carry on in His food pantry. We are truly blessed by this ministry.

We appreciate any food donations, but we can stretch a dollar a lot farther than you can by buying food from a supermarket. By partnering with Feeding Northeast Florida Food Bank and Waste Not Want Not, we are able to get approximately **over \$20.00 worth of food for every \$1.00 donated.**

In addition to your financial support, a total of 723 man-hours were donated to the food pantry this month. Each volunteer hour has a value of \$18.85 on each volunteer hour performed, so the 723 volunteer hours donated in October is equal to a donation of \$13,628.55.

Since every pound of food received has to be carried into the food pantry, the receipt of food is a very labor intensive activity. If you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. Even if it is only sorting out boxes of food, your participation would be greatly appreciated. Monday: retail pickup and bread pickup. Also the first and third Monday of each month we receive our USDA food, once again a very labor intensive event. Wednesdays we receive a "route end" delivery from Feeding Northeast Florida. The truck seldom arrives before 11 a.m. and much help is needed on these days as well. Lastly, on Thursdays we receive another retail pickup. If you can help on any of these days, it would be greatly appreciated.

This is God's ministry and He wants it to be successful. You are all God's angels for making this happen. God bless you all. To show how much He loves His food pantry -- we are on track to distribute almost 460,000 pounds of food in 2017. This would not be possible without your fantastic support.

Tom Culverwell
Director

Gary Hautau
Operations Manager



Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Beginning on Sunday, December 3rd, you may request that a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services. Forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins through Sunday, December 17th. Cost of each poinsettia is \$8.00 payable at the time of the request.

Did you know....?

Did you know that 'nozomi' means 'hope' in Japanese? After the 2011 tsunami, which took nearly 19,000 lives and destroyed 230,000 homes in the region northeast of Tokyo, there wasn't much 'nozomi' left until a group of women there decided to put their trust in the God who provides, and formed the 'Nozomi Project' to help provide sustainable income, dignity, and hope.

Nozomi women sift through the rubble of homes and furnishings to discover broken china shards that they sand and insert into fittings to form jewelry. The jewelry is sold around the world, providing a livelihood for the women while sharing symbols of their faith in Christ. The Nozomi Project can be reached online.

--Joanne Martin



Christmas Eve Special Music

We will be blessed again this year on Christmas Eve to have special music featuring musicians from the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra who will offer **pre-service music at 9:30 p.m.** before our **10:00 p.m. candlelight worship.**

CHRISTMAS EVE

AT TRINITY

Family worship

5:00 PM

Traditional Worship

10:00 PM

Pre-service music

9:30 PM



THE TRINITY LUNCH BUNCH

Trinity's "Lunch Bunch" will meet on **Thursday, December 14th** at 11:30 a.m. at Kaika, 1012-1 Margaret St. (corner of Margaret & Post Sts.) Please sign up on the list in the Hall of Memories or cross your name off the permanent list if you do not plan to attend. Let Kim Bloomer (766-9858) know by Wednesday, December 13th, if you need a ride.



December Love Offering

Our December "Love Offering" being received Sunday, December 3rd, will be given to the American Lung Association. Love Offering envelopes will be available on December 3rd. Make any checks payable to Trinity with a notation "Love Offering."



Trinity Blood Drive

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers will be having a blood drive at Trinity on Sunday, December 17th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All blood donors will receive a recognition item and cholesterol screening.

**Share the love.
Share life.
Give blood.**



We extend our Christian sympathy to:

- the family of **Shirley McGrath** upon her passing on Friday, November 10, 2017.
- the family of **Chuck Rudeen** upon his passing on Friday, November 24, 2017.



Communion Elements

3 Kelly/	3
10 Martin/Davis	10 Davis
17 Ettmyer/Martin	17
24	24 Grogg
31	31

Traditional Worship Service



Lectors

3 none needed
10 Joe Molenda
17 none needed
24 Don Howard
31 none needed

Sunday Morning "Takeaway" Leaders

3 Kethy Koob & Judy Hassler
10 Ken & Beverly Davis

Councilperson of the Month
shared responsibility

Communion Assistants

Earl Delbaugh

Assisting Minister

Mary Bollingberg



Date 10:00 AM Coffee Servers

3	Karen Hiers/Pastor Janis Kinley
10	Linda Culverwell
17	Kitty Howell & Sandy McLaughlin
24	no coffee hour
31	Men of Trinity

Sunday Visitor

3	Joanne Matin
10	Kitty Howell
17	Pastor Janis Kinley
24	
31	Bloomer/Valentine

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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Children's Enrichment Workshops (CEW)

The CEW after-school programs need you! Yoga meets on Tuesdays from 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. and Boy's Basketball meets on Thursdays from 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. If you would like to help with the serving of snacks on either of these days, please speak to Beverly Davis who coordinates the weekly CEW program at Trinity. Also, special donations to support CEW with its costs for instructors and bus transportation are welcomed.



2018 SIGNUP SHEETS

Would you like to participate in 10:00 a.m. traditional worship by being a lector or communion assistant? If so, see the bulletin board in the Hall of Memories for the new sign-up sheets for 2018 which are now posted.

2018 sign-up sheets for dedications of Altar Flowers or Communion Elements are also posted. There are two dedications available for flowers and one for communion elements each Sunday. Dedication for flowers is \$25 per vase, and the cost for dedication of Communion Elements is \$10. Your donation for flowers and communion elements dedications helps us stay within our budget. **If you wish to keep the flowers on your Sunday, please check the box following your name on the sign-up sheet.**



DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING STUDENTS

Discipleship Training students meet every Sunday morning in the upstairs Sunday School/Youth area beginning at 9:00 a.m.



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to **Abigail Colene Schnauss Naugle, Gloria Gladys Valley and Lydia Rose Valley Payne**, who were instructed in the meaning of Holy Communion and received their First Holy Communion on Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2017.



We rejoice with all the Saints of heaven at the baptism of **Gloria Gladys Valley and Lydia Rose Valley Payne**, daughters of Robert Payne and granddaughters of Linda Tomancik, on November 26, 2017.

May God's blessings be on this family now and always.

Did you know....?

Did you know, or perhaps, did you remember, that the ceremony of raising the flag is actually called, "Raising the Colors?" I just learned that phrase last week. We were on base, hoping to shop the commissary before the crowds appeared. We parked and began crossing the street when somewhere a loud-speaker crackled, hissed and then began to loudly play our National Anthem. I wasn't sure what was going on but my husband assured me that "the colors are being raised." Standing in place on the various sidewalks and in the parking lots, everyone I saw had stopped right where they were and had their hands over their hearts to honor the flag. It was a moment of pride that I really needed to witness, especially after all the controversy over "taking a knee" at ball games. I won't let myself be dismayed by all that nonsense ever again. Did you know that there are millions of people who are so proud to be an American? Me, for one. God bless the USA!

--Joanne Martin



On November 26, 2017 we received these new members from the former Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, into our Trinity fellowship:

Bud and Dianne German, Martha Guillebeau, and Linda Tomancik.

We are pleased to welcome them to Trinity!

Trinity Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report – October 2017

Here's a summary of our contributions and expenses against the budget. Let me know if you have any questions.

Housekeeping

1. Please remember to have your check request **approved** by Pastor Robert before you submit it.
2. My office hours are every Monday evening.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Rosemarie

1/1/17 to 10/31/17 - ACTUAL VERSUS BUDGET

Contributions

\$210,466.18	-	Actual General Fund Contributions
\$210,496.00	-	Budgeted General Fund Contributions
\$ (29.82)	-	Actual Contributions are <u>Less</u> than Budgeted Contributions

Expenses

\$211,638.74	-	Actual General Fund Expenses
\$208,438.00	-	Budgeted General Fund Expenses
\$ (3,200.74)	-	Actual Expenses are <u>Greater</u> than Budgeted Expenses

THE CHURCH BEHIND BARS

Many of you know of the ministry Donna and I have been involved in since May—"The Church Behind Bars," whose mission is TAKING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE IMPRISONED (people at Marion [men's] and Lowell [women's] correctional facilities) AND PERSECUTED (people and church in Cuba) THROUGH MUSIC EVANGELISM. We have been going to Ocala once a month for James to participate with other leaders, musicians, pastors, and teachers in ministering to those incarcerated. James's ministry of music and evangelism brings hope to many. Donna remains outside as an intercessor.

For too many years, the Church outside the prison walls has forgotten, but enabled the Church Behind Bars, instead of training them as the Body of Christ to assist the chaplaincy programs. The mission field is for the inmates, as there are many who are untouchable by the outside church, including gang members and Satanists. This past year has included extensive training and identity awareness for the inmates. The growth seen has been amazing in individuals, as they become leaders and take ownership of the CBB in both facilities. In December, we will be graduating close to 120 inmates.

In Scripture, we're reminded He is the vine and we are the branches. Without Him we can do nothing. We have seen the fruit of the vine unfold and produce strong witnesses and leaders.

Your support, in prayer, by encouragement, and financially, have helped us in this mission and we give all honor and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. God Bless You as you continue to pray for us and those involved... both outside and behind bars.

--James and Donna White



Dear Everyone,

Thank you, thank you, thank you -- in every way, for yourselves, your gifts and your love.

Joe Molenda

Dear Fellow Trinity Members,

We are truly grateful to each of you for your supportive friendship and generous material gifts which have helped rebuild our lives.

You have truly touched our hearts for the check given to us. Thank you very much.

Love and in God's name,
Carolyn Molenda

Thank you to Kathy Finn and the Lee Ladies of '73 for their donation of canned goods and other non-perishable foods to our Trinity food pantry. The Lee Ladies chose our pantry as their monthly project for November.

Thanks, Ladies!

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

During this month when we recount all the things we are thankful for, I would like to tell you how thankful we are for you. Your support of Prisoners of Christ enables us to be a blessing to many. Thank you for your generosity, and more importantly, thank you for reaching out to those returning to our community from prison.

May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and may God richly bless you and yours.

Blessings,

Dr. J. Stephen McCoy
President

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You

A big Thank You to **Rae Ettmyer** for preparing the hams and doing the kitchen work for the Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday evening, November 19th. Also thank you to the women of Trinity who helped with set-up for the dinner. \$ 253.00 was given as an offering at the Thanksgiving Service to go toward the Trinity Food Pantry ministry.



Many thanks to Joanne Martin and an anonymous person who donated much-needed bookends to the church library; however, we still need more. They don't have to be beautiful or even in sets -- as long as they can hold books up.

The library will open after Christmas. --Trudy Harvey

MISSION POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN

\$26,752 was raised by Trinity during the Mission Possible Campaign just completed. The land at Lutherrock has been purchased so the camp now owns the entire side of the mountain and also the land at the front of the camp. At Luther Springs the additional lodging facility has been completed and the foundation for the new chapel/multi-function space has been laid.

Thank you to all who contributed to this campaign. God is so good!



Honduras Mission Team 2018

For the 10th year, Trinity will participate in a medical/evangelistic mission trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We will again join with Christ the Rock Lutheran Church (Rockford, IL) and with Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church (Seneca, SC) to serve for a week in Honduras through World Gospel Outreach (WGO). The trip date is Saturday, February 24 - Saturday, March 4, 2018. This year's team members are Dwane Tyson, Barbara Wittwer, Pastor Robert Kinley, Ruth Johnson, Angelina Pagan, Ashley Guerra, and Sue Geiger.

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for the upcoming trip. We will again be having our major fundraisers for the trip of our "Helping Hands Gloves", Love Offering, and Chili Cookoff.



The Quilters meet each Monday in the Cecil Poole room at 9:30 a.m. and work until noon. No experience is needed. Both men and women are welcome. We would love to have you join us! *Sincerely, Trinity Quilters*

November 27, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Florida-Bahamas Synod,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus who blesses us with peace and whose Spirit reminds us of his words (John 14:23-29).

Near the end of his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor 15:58). I would like to discuss with Paul what he meant by ‘immovable,’ but I resonate with his care and concern that his community continue in confidence and faith in God’s abundance. As I near the end of my ministry in this synod as your interim bishop, I have, indeed, seen that “in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” My prayer for you is that you will know yourselves to be God’s beloved, and that in that reality you will remain steadfast.

What a joy and privilege it has been to walk with this community of faith as your Interim Bishop as you have discerned the work of the Spirit in your midst. I have been deeply impacted by the conversations we’ve shared. I’ve been nourished by the mutual uplifting of our spirits through worship. I’ve been inspired by your testimonies and ministries to your neighbors. My own life and faith have been enriched by the diversity of ministry and gifts that I have experienced during my time with you. Thank you for your prayers, your personal words of encouragement and the hospitality with which you have welcomed me during this time of interim ministry. I am deeply grateful and thank God for the opportunity to have served you in this way. More of the specific highlights of and appreciation for my time in this territory was lifted up at the Synod Assembly in my report. That report is available on the web site for your review and information.

In my first letter to you in March of this year, after only having spent 3 days in the office in Tampa and with many specifics of my time as interim bishop still unknown, I could already see that God is present and active in the ministries and lives of this synod. Now, in my last week as your interim bishop, I remain very hopeful for the future of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. God has blessed this synod with many opportunities for ministry and many gifted leaders including lay leaders, synod parish deacons, deacons, and pastors. **You have what you need to be Christ’s church in mission!**

Gathered with many of you in Assembly, I witnessed the work of the Spirit as you elected a new bishop. With prayers of thanksgiving for all who participated in this process, I give thanks for Bishop-elect Suarez and am grateful for his partnership in ministry. Pr. Suarez is a faithful follower of Christ with gifts and strengths that will serve the ministry of the Gospel in this synod well. A new bishop comes with his own strengths and gifts, and I pray that as you give him time to form his vision and leadership team, space to make mistakes, and encouragement to lead as the Spirit guides, you will discover in new ways the richness of the Gospel being made known to you and to the communities you serve.

As we anticipate additional transition in the days ahead, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us and that the Lord of the church will faithfully lead this synod. Thank you for your prayers and for your work to that end.

Living together with you in the hope of our crucified and risen Lord,

+Marcus

Trinity Lutheran Church
1415 South McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Worship

December 2017

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Children's Sunday School



Children will meet from 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. on Sundays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th to practice for their Wednesday, December 20th Christmas program.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Sunday School led by Joe Molenda meets in the Cecil Poole room from 8:30 - 9:50 a.m. We are currently studying the book of Revelation. Please join us.

Sunday Morning "Takeaway"

Adults and Senior Youth meet in the Hall of Memories from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. to study the day's Gospel text.



Worship Schedule **Through December 2017**

Adult Sunday School
8:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Adult/Senior Youth
"Takeaway"
9:00 a.m.

Discipleship Training
9:00 a.m.

Worship
10:00 a.m.
(see calendar on
page 7 for format)