



Voice of Trinity

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World

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

December
2018

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

Children's Christmas Program and Potluck Dinner



Wednesday, December 19th
5:30pm Potluck Dinner with Program at 6:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
FAMILY WORSHIP 5:00PM
JOYFUL MUSIC BY THE TRINITY PRAISE
TEAM PLUS TRADITIONAL HYMNS AND
CANDLELIGHT CAROLS.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00PM
FEATURING GUEST MUSICIANS FROM
THE JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC BEGINS AT 9:30PM



***"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God all my life long..." (Psalm 146:1-2)***

Wow! Another blessing for which we are to give thanks and praise to God and God's Spirit as we have been directed on our venture to make restorations, repairs, and improvements to God's house of worship and ministry that we know as Trinity Lutheran Church. On our Commitment Sunday and now following, the people and friends of Trinity have committed over \$335,000 to the capital campaign **"From this Foundation, Our Ministry Grows"**. For this I give thanks to God for you who have made the commitment either on a one-time basis or to be over the three year period of the capital campaign. **Not to be lost in these commitments is the \$145 in change and small bills that the children gave through there "piggy banks"**! I give thanks to the capital campaign team (see the additional article on page for a listing of team members) for their hard and diligent work through campaign event period that began with pre-planning back in the summer. Special thanks go to Council President and General Chairperson for the campaign, Sarah Knight in leading Trinity on this journey, and to Gini Strasser, Trinity's Office Administrator, who has been responsible for the bulk of the communication efforts for the campaign. Special thanks also go to Paula Kitt, Consultant with the Mission Investment Fund who guided us in the campaign process giving us inspiration and direction. (I firmly believe that without the contracting of the Mission Investment Fund consultant to lead us in the campaign that we would have only been half as successful in the campaign results.)

"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;..." (Psalm 146:5-6)

May we continue to trust in the Lord as we move forward with the discernment of which parts of the project work we are to prioritize given the funds that have been committed and are available. The coming year will hopefully see work beginning on the needed restorations to the roof systems.

As we move into the Advent and Christmas season we looking forward in again celebrating the gift of life that has been born unto the world in the Son, Jesus Christ and to Christ's coming again.

"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:4-5)

Blessings and peace to you this Christmas as Jesus Christ the light of life and in this world dwells in our hearts leading us forward in mission and witness of God's saving grace for the world.

In Christ's love,

CHURCH STAFF

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

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Sarah Knight
Vice President	Dwane Tyson
Secretary	Mary Bollingberg
Treasurer	Jerry Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Deadline for
January VOT
is Thursday,
December 20, 2018**

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:

g.strasser@trinity4jax.org

or

tlcjax@trinity4jax.org



Church Office Hours

**M-Th 8:00AM - 2:30PM
F 8:00AM - Noon**



**"FROM THIS FOUNDATION OUR
MINISTRY GROWS"**

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND 2019 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. -1 Corinthians 3:10

Commitment Sunday was November 18, 2018 when Trinity's congregation gathered for 1 service to praise God and to make their Capital Campaign and 2019 Annual Giving commitments. 60 initial pledges were made to the "From This Foundation Our Ministry Grows" capital campaign. Since then additional pledges have been received. Trinity's children alone contributed \$145.00 through their "piggy banks". As of November 28th, the current contribution total is \$339,263.00 which puts us at 85% of our goal reached. Isn't that great?!

For anyone who was unable to attend Commitment Sunday, and would like to be part of this great venture for the future of our church, it isn't too late to participate. There are pledge cards in the narthex and in each Friendship Register in the pews, as well as through the church office. Working together through commitment and prayer we will meet our goal.

Prayer Labyrinth

December 1st from 10:00am-2:00pm



Prayer Walkers Needed!

The prayer labyrinth will be available December 1st, 10 a.m. - 2:00 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 in 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

Food Pantry News



During October 2018 we served the following numbers of people in the food pantry:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u># PERSONS</u>	<u># HOUSEHOLDS</u>
OCTOBER	4,115	1,139

We distributed 35,667 lbs of food during the month, and we spent \$658.80 on food. Our average cost per pound of food was just under 2 cents. So far in 2018 we have served 22,518 households, consisting of 41,439 people. Also, so far in 2018 we have distributed 394,984 pounds of food, at a cost of \$10,670.58, an average of just under 4 cents per pound.

We are now receiving food deliveries/pickups every day of the week. All of this food has to be carried into the food pantry, weighed, and stored properly. In addition, many of the boxes are full of mixed product that must be sorted before we can put it on the shelf.

Some folks have stepped up to make the required runs to pick up food each week, but these same people are also working in the food pantry two or three days a week. It would be nice if some others could step up and relieve these very busy people of this requirement. Please pray about this and ask yourself if you can spare a couple of hours each week to support this important ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and Avondale United Methodist Church.

Thank you for the donations of paper and plastic bags. We continue to have to purchase paper & plastic bags. Your donations of paper and plastic bags will help us by lessening the number of bags we will have to purchase. The store from which we have been purchasing the paper bags no longer carries the bags we need, so I have been forced to look at other providers. The bags are available but at a much larger price.

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 \$20.00 worth of food for every \$1.00 donated. The donations to the food pantry have become much less of late, and we are having a difficult time paying for the amount of food we need. We had to close the pantry twice during October due to lack of food. We need around \$2,500 each month to pay for the food we receive from Feeding Northeast Florida, and to cover other expenses such as utilities, pest control, and security monitoring. We received a very generous donation at the end of October, which will carry us for a couple of months, but if donations to the pantry continue to be sparse we can expect closures due to lack of food in the future. Please pray about this and if you can only spare a few dollars a month to help out, please do.

In addition to your financial support a total of 999 man-hours were donated to the food pantry in October. Each volunteer hour has a value of \$24.14 for each volunteer hour performed; so the 9,321 volunteer hours donated so far in 2018 is equal to a donation of \$225,008.94!

God continues to provide everything needed to run his food pantry, but we need more funding and manpower help. Because of the layout of the food pantry we cannot just move a pallet of food from the parking lot into the pantry. Each box or case must be hand carried inside and then sorted out and stored. We do use hand trucks, but it is still very labor intensive, and most of the people doing the carrying are senior citizens! Please pray about this and if you can spare only a few hours per week, we can use your help.

Thank you and God bless all who help the food pantry in any way.

Tom Culverwell
Director

Women

CIRCLE

MEETINGS:

Martha Circle:

Thursday, December 6th at 11:00. Place to be announced

Hannah Circle:

Not meeting in December

Lydia Circle:.

No meeting in December

The Lydias next meeting will be Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00pm at the church. They will continue to study the gospel of Mark.

WELCA Board Meeting:

No meeting in December



Trinity Lunch Bunch

The Trinity Lunch Bunch usually meets 11:30am on the 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise announced. Here is the tentative schedule for the remainder of 2018:

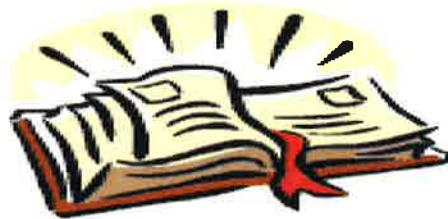
Thursday, Dec. 13

Kaika Japanese Restaurant

11:30am

Please sign up on the list in the Hall of Memories if you wish to join us. All are welcome! You can put your name on the permanent list or just sign up month to month.

Remember to call Kim Bloomer the Monday before the lunch if you need a ride.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

Hannah Circle Meetings:

- 1/17 - Laura Karabinis' home
- 2/21 - Karen Hires
- 3/21 - Janice Billy's home
- 4/18 - Berni Tomaszewski's home
- 5/16 - Karen Brown @ church
- 6/20 - Judy Hassler @ church
- 7/18 - Bollingberg home
(Back to School Celebration)
- 9/19 - Janice Billy's home
- 10/17 - Michelle Stephen's home
- 11/21 - Linda Culverwell's home

Adult and Teen Takeaway Meeting Updates

On Sundays, December 2nd and 9th, the Adult Takeaway Bible Study will meet in Pastor Janis' old office, and the Teen Takeaway will meet in the church office. These changes will accommodate practices for the children's Christmas program in the Hall of Memories. There will be no Takeaway on Sunday, December 16th as we will be having one worship service at 10:00am that Sunday, followed by the semi-annual Congregational Meeting. The Adult and Teen Takeaway Bible Study groups will resume meeting on Sunday, January 6, 2019 in the Hall of Memories.

Congregational Meeting -
December 16th - 1 service at
10:00am

On Sunday, December 16th Trinity will hold its Congregational Meeting to approve the budget for 2019 and to elect Council members and members of the Permanent Endowment Fund team. On this Sunday there will be only 1 service at 10:00am followed by the Congregational Meeting.

There are 3, 3-year term elected positions to the Church Council be voted upon and 2 positions to be filled on the Permanent Endowment Fund team. If you are interested, please see Sarah Knight (Council) and Kyle Billy (PE Fund) to have your name nominated.



We extend our Christian sympathy to:

Sharon and Jeff Donlan and family (former members of Faith Lutheran) upon the passing of Sharon's mother **Gladys Ninmann** who passed away on November 2, 2018.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers at this difficult time.

Trinity's Senior Youth are going to



4825 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32210
Saturday, December 8th 12:00 noon - 3:00pm

All this is FREE:

A gift from a Trinity family for each youth:

- *2 Hour "Unlimited Fun Pass" for laser tag, go karts, miniature golf
- *20 arcade tokens
- *Slice of pizza and soft drink

BE ON TIME AND BRING YOUR PERMISSION SLIP
P.S. It's also our Youth Leader, Sam Bridges' birthday



Trinity Senior Youth Schedule
December 2018
Sam Bridges, Leader

December 8th (Saturday) - 12:00-3-3:30pm @ Adventure Landing - Assisting: Pastor Robert and Young Adults **This is Sam's Birthday!**

December 11th (Tuesday) - 6-8pm @ Trinity - Meeting: Lesson Four on "Sin", Assisting: Marie Bogh

Still to be decided:

- * when and how youth can contribute to the capital campaign
- * planning for Community service after holidays (at end of "Sin" series)
- * scheduling dates of meetings and outings January-June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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9 9:00 AM -10:00 AM Children's Play practice 9:00 AM reSource worship 10:05 AM Adult & Teen Takeaway 3:00 PM Wedding 11:00 PM Traditional Worship	10 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball	11 3:15 PM CEW-yoga 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball 6:30 PM Church Council	12	13 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 3:15 PM CEW-Bsktball 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball	14 11:30 AM NFAN	15																																																																																				
16 9:00 AM -10:00 AM Blood Drive 9:00 AM -10:00 AM Children's Play practice 10:00 AM 1 Service Worship w/Congregational Meeting 10:05 AM No Takeaway	17 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball	18 1:00 PM Staff Luncheon 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball	19 5:30 PM Children's Christmas Program & Potluck	20 3:30 PM Club 55-use parking lot 5:10 PM RPC Bsktball VOT Deadline	21	22																																																																																				
23 9:00 AM reSource worship 10:05 AM No Takeaway 11:00 PM Traditional Worship	24 5:00 PM Family Worship 10:00 PM Traditional Worship w/Jorge Pena Quartet	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28	29																																																																																				
30 9:00 AM reSource worship 10:05 AM No Takeaway 11:00 PM Traditional Worship	31	Pastor Robert vacation																																																																																								



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Rosemarie Tyson
Mia Guzman
- 6 Wayne Rieley
- 8 Bethany Geiger
Joyce Walker
Samuel Bridges
Margaret Holden
- 11 Melissa Lickteig
- 12 Anne Rebman
Rusty Stern
- 14 Letha Koehler
Mark Lickteig
- 16 Lynn Liddicoat
- 17 Hunter Harrington
- 18 Linda Bardole
Kathy Koob
Fred Paulus
- 20 Kären Billy
Madison Bridges
- 22 William Billy, Jr.
Judy Hassler
John Speth
- 27 Leah Kelly
Mary Scroggins
- 28 Cheryl Hoke
- 29 Martha Wright
- 31 Jon Redman



Flowers

- 02 Kelly
- 09 Holden/Martin
- 16 Hiers/Ettmyer
- 23 Martin/Strasser
- 30 Palmer/Bieltz

Traditional Worship Service



Lectors

- 02 Don Howard
- 09 Michael Philips
- 16 Joe Molenda
- 23 Quinn Montuori
- 30 Carolyn Molenda

Communion Assistants

Assisting Minister

Berni Tomaszewski



Communion Elements

- 02 Molenda
- 09
- 16 Hiers
- 23
- 30 Kelly

Sunday Morning "Takeaway" Leaders

- 02 Dwane Tyson
- 09 Koob/Hassler
- 16 No Takeaway
- 23 No Takeaway
- 30 No Takeaway

Councilperson of the Month

Split up among
Council members



Date 11:00 AM Coffee Servers

- 02
- 09 Mary Bollingberg
- 16 P.Piersall/S.Knight
- 23 K.Hiers/Pastor J.Kinley
- 30 Men of Trinity



Sunday Visitor

- 02 Gini Strasser
- 09 Karen Brown
- 16 Kathy Stimmel
- 23 Lise York
- 30 Joanne Martin

Trinity Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report – October 2018

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.*

Thanks for your cooperation.

Gini

1/1/18 to 10/31/18 - ACTUAL VERSUS BUDGET

Contributions

\$210,415.00	-	Actual General Fund Income
\$219,625.00	-	Budgeted General Fund Income
\$ (9,210.00)	-	Actual Income are Less than Budgeted Income

Expenses

\$224,158.00	-	Actual General Fund Expenses
\$219,592.00	-	Budgeted General Fund Expenses
\$ 4,566.00	-	Actual Expenses are More than Budgeted Expenses



Children's Christmas Program

The Children of Trinity Lutheran Church will be performing "The Christmas Story" on Wednesday, December 19th during the potluck dinner. We will be meeting in the Hall of Memories on Sundays, December 2nd, December 9th and December 16th from 9:00 - 10:00AM to rehearse music, lines and blocking for the program. We encourage all children from the ages of 4 to 16 to participate. If your child/children would like to be a part of this tradition, please see Berni Tomaszewski, Gini Strassen, or Maureen Onstott to sign up.



Congratulations to Helene Smith and Rahul Sharma who were united in marriage on Saturday, October 27, 2019. Proud parents are Carolyn and Joe Molenda.



BLOOD DRIVE

Life South Community Blood Centers is holding a Blood Drive on December 16th from 9:00am - 2:00pm. They will be parked across the street from the church.

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening.



It's that time of year again!

You may request that a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services. Please complete the form in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate with your donation of \$9.00 per plant, or bring it to the church office.

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service - 10:00pm

Outstanding Opera Artists, Neal Harrelson and Paul Pitts will be joining Trinity for our traditional Christmas Eve 10:00pm service as well as Symphony players, the Jorge Pena Quartet. Trinity would like to invite you to experience this moving celebration of our Lord's birth.

Neal Harrelson

*Neal is a special guest to Trinity as he and our Choir Director have been close friends for many years.

*Neal has performed in opera companies including Opera Orchestra of New York, the New York City National Opera, Sarasota Opera, Virginia Opera, Mississippi Opera, San Antonio Opera, Sacramento Opera, Santa Barbara Opera, Mobile Opera, Tulsa Opera, Arizona Opera, Anchorage Opera, just to name a few throughout the U.S.

*Neal has extensive work in England, France, Italy, Holland, as well as in Australia

*Neal is professor for Integrated Vocal Training for singers in New York City. Neal works with stage screen and television actors.

Paul Pitts

*Paul has sung over 5,000 performances worldwide on 7 continents to over a billion people through television, radio, recordings and personal appearances.

*Paul has been featured soloist for the Concert of Peace in Belfast, Ireland for which he received praise from the President of the United States and the Queen of England.

*Paul has appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, TBN and CNN.

*Paul will appear on the big screen in a movie starring talk show host, Montel Williams and 2 time Oscar winner, Ben Kingsley.

*Paul has been extremely generous in sharing his beautiful voice with Trinity over the past several years.

It is such a joy to welcome both Neal, Paul and the Jorge Pena Quartet back to Trinity Monday, December 24th at 10:00pm.

YOU ARE INVITED!!

Come and try out the
New Adult Sunday
School class beginning
January 6, 2019.

New Hours are:
9:30-10:30am

Meeting in the Cecil
Poole room

Based upon ELCA blog
and revised Common
Lectionary, much like
the TakeAway!
Come, join the
discussion.

Your opinions are
needed.



December Love Offering

Our December "Love Offering" being received Sunday, December 2nd, will be divided evenly between Trinity's Food Pantry and Trinity's Relief and Needy Fund. Make checks payable to Trinity with a notation "Love Offering".



First Communion

On November 25th
Nevaeh Guzman received her
first communion. Nevaeh's
parents are Emily and Juan
Guzman.



Dear Church Members:

Thank you very much for your every generous donation received in very good condition recently. You donated AN ENTIRE CAR LOAD of very nice assorted clothing and accessories to our ministry and these items will be such a blessing to our clients by allowing us to give them more of the items that they need. Your giving from the heart will help many people and may God bless you also. Please tell others about our need for clothes. This ministry needs more people like you who reach out to help others. THANK YOU again for all that your congregation does to help this ministry! Please share our thanks with your entire congregation. We could not do what we do without your support! Let it be known that no good or services were given in exchange for this gift.

Sincerely yours,
Beth Wilson, Manager
DESC

Downtown Ecumenical Services Council



Riverside-Avondale Luminaria Night

Each year the Riverside Avondale community celebrates the Christmas/Holiday season by homes, parks, businesses, and churches of the community Sunday, December 23rd. Trinity has always participated in the lighting luminarias around the church property. Help is needed in putting together the luminarias after worship on Sunday, December 23rd and in setting them out and lighting them about 5:00pm. on Sunday evening.



Trinity members,

Thank you's do not begin to express the love and gratitude I share with the many people who helped make Art's Memorial Service so very special. I know how much time and effort it took in preparation for this function. As always, Trinity congregants are just simply the very best.

The outpouring of love is so very much felt and appreciated. I love you all so very much. Each and everyone of you. We may not get to speak on a regular basis, but, please know how deeply felt all of your condolences are accepted.

Family, friends and musicians marvelled at not only the beauty of our church, but the graciousness of the people of TRINITY!

Peace, Kim



November 19, 2018

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$699.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As the long green season of Pentecost brings images of seeds and bread, deep and abiding growth and abundance in Christ, so your generosity brings deep and abiding hope to communities dealing with a disaster, providing water, supplies, shelter and support. Your generosity makes possible both short- and long-term care, sustaining communities throughout the recovery process and into new life.

"O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord." - "Bread for the Day, 2018," p.190

Thank you for joining with the whole church, Lutheran Disaster Response and our local partners. Your gifts are bearing the love of Christ to many in need.

With gratefulness, The Rev. Daniel Rift,
Director ELCA World Hunger and
Disaster Appeal

Trinity Lutheran Church
1415 South McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Worship

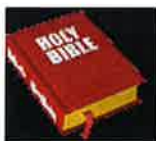
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Children's Sunday School and Discipleship Training



Children's Sunday School (downstairs in Sunday School Building) and Discipleship Training (upstairs in the Sunday School Building) are held at 10:05 a.m. every Sunday. Come join in!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School led by Joe Molenda meets in the Cecil Poole room from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Please join us!

Sunday Morning "Takeaways"

Adults and Senior Youth Sunday Morning "Takeaways" are held in the Hall of Memories at 10:10 a.m. We'd love for you to join us!



Sunday Morning

reSource Worship
9:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
10:05 a.m.

Teen Takeway & Takeaway
Bible Studies
10:10 a.m.

Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m.