



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1415 McDuff Avenue, South
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trinity4jax.org

VOICE OF TRINITY

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World

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Oh Come Let Us Adore Him...

Christ the Lord!

From Our Pastor

One of the first things I do most mornings as part of my morning routine is to check my blood sugar level to give me an idea of how I am doing in controlling its level. After giving me the sugar level number, the meter I use asks me when am I taking the test, such as, "Before Breakfast", "Before Dinner" etc. It also asks me how am I feeling. I usually answer with one of two of the half dozen choices, "I Feel Fine" or "Stressed Out". Since the onset of COVID-19, I have seen a definite rise in my blood sugar level to which "stress" plays a large part.

I typically get "stressed out" when there are a lot of things that I want or need to accomplish or that are happening at one time, whether they are enjoyable or challenging. I have a natural tendency to become anxious in accomplishing them and to do them well. It is at these moments when I find that stepping back and taking a deep breath, trusting that God's strength and guidance are with me to help me prioritize and to address and work on the things that are in front of me.

For Reconnection Sunday, I had chosen the gospel text from Matthew 6 that says:

"And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these...But strive first for the

kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:28-29, 33 NRSV)

The message for me and that I shared on Reconnection Sunday is that in living in a frame of mind of Thanksgiving and Trust in God, regardless of the situation and challenges in life at the moment helps to keep the worry and anxiety at bay and from overcoming and paralyzing me. This message is true for us all anytime, but especially here at the holiday time of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Another passage that is also helpful for me is from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians where he says, "I can do all things in him (Christ) who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 NRSV)

Advent and Christmas season can be a very busy time with all the activities and holiday gatherings. But let us remember to set our hearts and minds on the One who came to dwell in us as Emmanuel, "God with us", whose birth we celebrate, Jesus, Christ the King!

Merry Christmas!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Robert

One Service and Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 12 there will be only one worship service at 10:00 am. The service will be followed by a Congregational meeting to approve the budget for 2022 and to elect Council members and representatives to the Permanent Endowment Fund Team.

Note: If you would like to have your name considered for a Council position or for the Permanent Endowment Team please speak to Casey Steel (904-514-4484), to one of the current Council members, or to one of the Permanent Endowment Fund Team Members.

Dear Church,

Thank you for supporting Prisoners of Christ. Your gift makes an eternal difference, providing tangible, real life help to those returning from prison. Because of you, housing, employment and many life skills are provided while the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared. This also reduces crime in Jacksonville, because where the heart changes the person changes.

Jeff Witt

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tim Zapata and Jeannetta Eisiliones who were united in marriage on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at The Hilltop Club in Orange Park.

Advent and Christmas at Trinity

Advent:

Sunday, November 28th is the First Sunday of the Advent season. Advent is the beginning of a new church year and a time of waiting and preparation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and of His expected coming again. This Advent season our Sunday morning worship and the Wednesday takeaway bible study will center around the theme of "Wait Upon the Lord". We will look to and wait upon the Lord with:

Faith, Hope, Rejoicing and Gratitude

May God's Spirit bless us in our Waiting Upon the Lord!

Christmas:

There will be two opportunities in celebration of Christ's birth at Trinity for Christmas Eve:

- A Traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols will again be pre-recorded and made available for the world to view featuring the Trinity Choir and Kim Bloomer, Organist and Choir Director along with music provided by the Jorge Pena family and players from the Jacksonville Symphony.
- An in-person Christmas Eve celebration of the Nativity at 5:30 pm led by the Trinity Praise team and Aaron Giddens. The service will include communion and candlelight carols. (COVID-19 protocols to be determined).

Changes

Good news and welcome changes – our church Council has made the decision that it is time to make masks optional in our church building and services. While we are not quite ready to go back to FULL singing as of yet, we may hum or sing softly as we would like.

Poinsettias

We will again have poinsettias to adorn the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve and the Christmas season. If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in memory or honor of a loved one you may do so by completing a form that is in the church narthex or by contacting the church office. The donation for each poinsettia is \$9.00. Please return forms and payment to the church by Sunday, December 19th.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alex and Marie Bogh on the birth of their daughter, Theadora Curry Bogh on November 2, 2021.

Love Offering

The Love Offering for December has been designated to support the Lutheran Social Services in their refugee relief efforts.

Congratulations...

Congratulations to John and Kayleigh Speth on the birth of their son, Callan Leif Speth, on November 10, 2021. Callan's big brothers are Bronson and Torin Speth.





Treasurer's Report

October 2021

1/1/2021 to 10/31/2021

Receipts

Actual	\$200,491
Budgeted	\$197,110
Actual-Budget	\$3,381

Expenses

Actual	\$212,365
Budgeted	\$215,420
Actual-Budget	(\$3,055)

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Our mission:

*To Proclaim Jesus Christ to the
World!*

We're on the Web!
trinity4jax.org

Congratulations

Congratulations to three of our young people – Leila Hassler, Elijah Parody and Mia Guzman – who received their First Communion on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

FROM THIS FOUNDATION, OUR MINISTRY GROWS

Going into the home stretch of year three of the “From This Foundation, Our Ministry Grows” capital campaign, here is where we are at:

- Through October, 2021, \$385,128 has been given and earned toward the \$401,387 pledged for the three year campaign. Due to the pandemic, the contribution period will be extended for an additional year through 2022. Members and friends who have not participated in the campaign are encouraged to join in support of the project financially as the work is nearly completed.
- The interior renovations of the Sunday School area, Gathering Room, and Main Hallway is 95% complete. Special thanks to Karen Kuebler for her design work.
- As of October 31, the Mission Investment Loan balance is \$392,734. Council has applied \$200,000 (\$100,000 from each of the Kripps and Wood Estate bequests) to reduce the loan from \$648,069.
- Plans to purchase and install audio/visual equipment for recording and live streaming worship services are being implemented.

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:
Office Administrator:
Organist/Choir Director:
Director of reSource Ministry:
Hostess:
Custodian:

Reverend Robert Kinley
Lise York
Kim Bloomer
Aaron Giddens
Rae Ettmyer
James White

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President:
Vice President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:

Casey Steel
Rusty White
Mary Bollingberg
Jerry Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Pam Piersall
Ruth Johnson
Joe Molenda

Mary Bollingberg Casey Steel
Judy Hassler Gene Harvey
Geri Buchanan Rusty White
Aaron Giddens