



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1415 McDuff Avenue, South
904-389-5341 phone

Jacksonville, Florida 32205
trinity4jax.org

VOICE OF TRINITY

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World

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January 16

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. -

John 1:9

From Our Pastor

In the Christmas Day message, I spoke about the expectations that we have in life, whether they are of relationships, with Christmas and of gifts received and given and with family members, of what is happening in the world and of God and of God being in the world. Inevitably, with most all of our expectations there will be disappointments. Across the nation, this year's winter storm Elliot and sickness from the flu, RSV, and COVID, many travel plans and Christmas expectations were dashed. As we age in life even our expectations of God and with God will bring disappointments.

One point in the message was that the proclamation of the church each year at Christmas is that in the child of Jesus, born as a baby in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, and laid in a manger in a stable is and is to come the Savior of the world and our Savior. Jesus as is proclaimed in John's gospel is the Word, the Son, the Love of God becoming flesh. The proclamation has always and will always be the same since that first Christmas. The catch is in how the world and how we respond to this proclamation and message.

How we respond to the gift of God's grace, the word made flesh, is dependent upon what we are expecting. If we are disappointed in and have felt God and Jesus have not lived up to our expectations of who Jesus is and what God should be doing in this world or in our life, this is more about us than it is about God and Jesus! Our focus in life is to be with gratitude on what God has given us – Emmanuel, God with us.

I share what a pastor friend of ours (Rev. Delmer Chilton) shared this Christmas:

“The key is to realize that God in Christ comes to us not in the form of what we want, but rather in the form of what God knows we need.”

- *We want power over the things that frighten us; God gives us the strength to endure.*
- *We want the knowledge to control the world and all that is in it; God gives us the wisdom to know that things don't matter except as they are used to serve others.*
- *We want to be loved and admired; God gives us soft eyes and gentle hearts so that we may be able to see others as lovable, and care for them as God's beloved children.*
- *We want a mighty savior to take care of us; God gives us a tiny baby so that we will learn to look after one another.*

It is unlikely we will get from God all that we desire.

It is equally certain that we will receive from the divine hand all that we need and more.”

Going into the New Year of 2023, what are your expectations for the year and of God? May our expectations begin with gratitude in what God has given to us and the world as spoken in these two passages:

“Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you Good News of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city a David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2: 10-11)

“And the Word became flesh and lived (lives) among us, and we have seen his glory, ... full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

God's grace and peace be with you in the New Year 2023!

“In Christ's service”

Pastor Robert



From the Finance Team

Offerings:

The offering plate is in the narthex at the back of the church on Sunday mornings.

Contributions can also be made in the following ways:

- Mail a paper check to the church or bring to the office
- Use on-line banking
- Go to Trinity4jax.org and click on the donate button
-

From This Foundation, Our Ministry Grows (FTF,OMG) – Debt Redution:

Council has passed a motion, to begin in September 2022, to apply donations made to the FTF,OMG Campaign (unless otherwise designated) against the principal balance of Trinity’s mortgage. These donations will go 100% toward Debt Reduction in addition to the monthly mortgage payment.



Trinity Food Pantry Highlights

Thank you to the Trinity members and our neighbors for the many contributions of food and money for the Community Food Pantry. A special thanks to all who responded to the request for Canned Hams! Before Christmas we were able to give the patrons meat, including Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams and Pork Loins. We have approximately 40 Hams still in inventory.

Here’s a recap through October 14th:

Week Of	Patrons	Family Members	Zip Codes
Dec 8	121	370	17
Dec 22	105	334	15

30 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Panty during December 2022. Special thanks to 5yr old Micah who volunteered at 3 different shifts during December.

We continue to have discussions with partners regarding retail pickups or are pursuing grant opportunities in an effort to obtain either additional food or financial donations, as well as a source for new volunteers.

Schedule for January 2023:

- Thursday Jan 12, 4 – 6 pm
- Friday Jan 13, 10 – 12 noon
- Thursday Jan 26, 4 – 6 pm
- Friday Jan 27, 10 – 12 noon

All donations of food or money are greatly appreciated. If interested in volunteering, contact Mark Baker: 847-525-7419 or mark.foodpantry@gmail.com

Blood Drive

Watch for our next BLOOD DRIVE on January 22. Please consider giving the Gift of Life!

One Service

On Sunday, January 1 we will have ONE service at 10:00 am.

On February 5 there will be ONE service followed by a meeting of the congregation.



Lunch Bunch

The **Trinity Lunch Bunch** will resume again in February. Watch for an update soon!

Love Offering

The January Love Offering will go to the World Gospel Outreach – Honduras.

Choir

Don't forget - choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. See you there!

Trinity is seeking to hire a Praise Band Director for our reSource services. A brief list of qualifications includes:

- Be skilled in the leadership of all phases of music.
- Be highly skilled on the keyboard or guitar as a lead instrument.
- Be adept at directing vocals and instruments.
- Be well acquainted with 20th and 21st century Christian contemporary worship music.
- Be willing to collaborate with organist/choir director when Contemporary and Traditional services are combined.
- Have a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

For more information or for a copy of the complete job description please contact the church office at 904-389-5341.

**Treasurer's Report
November 2022**

1/1/2022 to 11/30/2022

Receipts

Actual	\$212,477
Budgeted	\$218,394
Actual-Budget	(\$5,917)

Expenses

Actual	\$235,743
Budgeted	\$237,486
Actual-Budget	(\$1,743)

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 November, 2022, \$434,124 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 and painting of the Gathering Room and upstairs Sunday School area are 99% complete.
- As of November 30, the Mission Investment Loan balance is \$373,334.
- Plans to purchase and install audio/visual equipment for recording and live streaming worship services are on hold at this time.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**
1415 McDuff Ave., South
Jacksonville, FL 32205

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Our mission:

**To Proclaim Jesus Christ to the
World!**

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:	Reverend Robert Kinley
Office Administrator:	Lise York
Organist/Choir Director:	Kim Bloomer
Director of reSource Ministry:	
Hostess:	Rae Ettmyer
Custodian:	James White

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President:	Rusty White
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Judy Hassler
Treasurer:	

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Pam Piersall	Judy Hassler	Don Howard
Geri Buchanan	Rusty White	Burney Pfaff
	Karen Kuebler	

We're on the Web!
trinity4jax.org