



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lent	1
From Joe Molenda	2
Sympathy	2
New staff Members	2
From the Finance Team	3
Food Pantry	3
Thank You	3
Choir	3
March Love Offering	3
Ladies Day	3
March Lunch Bunch	3
March Birthdays	3
CEW Basketball	4
Riverside High Concert	4
Bold City Brass Concert	4
Treasurer's Report	4
From This Foundation	4
Back Page	4

It's



Time to



Remember – Daylight Saving time begins on March 12. Move your clocks FORWARD one hour!

## VOICE OF TRINITY

### *Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World*



*“Return to the LORD your God,*

*for God is gracious and merciful,*

*slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, . . .”*

Joel 2:13

## A Message from Joe Molenda

Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent (February 26) are already past. So, I hope you and your loved ones are hopeful about the joys of Lent; I can already hear you laughing. Please remember that JOY includes both negative and positive elements, e.g. a woman's childbirth. And Lent contains both also.

Our practice of disciplined sacrifice helps us control our negative impulses AND builds both positive "character" strength and the personal satisfaction of knowing we are "doing the right things". So, let us begin an examination of conscience.

Such an exam can often be helped by Biblical scriptures. Let's examine 4 specific scriptural passages: Micah 6:8; Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 6:19-24; and Luke 12:15-21. All four passages focus towards God and our neighbors. This is one of the central mysteries of love: by reaching out to God and other people, we automatically receive happiness in return.

Look at the 6 key words in Micah's single verse: ACT JUSTLY (or do justice), LOVE MERCY and WALK HUMBLY. One question for each of you: in what SPECIFIC ways could I put 1 of these 3 phrases into action in my church or neighborhood?

In the next text from Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus confounds a Pharisaical lawyer who asks, "Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He is talking about an earthly calculation of rules while Jesus is directing their conversation to the spiritual foundation on which ALL human laws should be based.

In general, what foundation for moral and spiritual decisions do you use? Why? How satisfied are you?

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> scriptures focus specifically on materialism and our level of involvement in it. On earth, I believe everyone possesses at least a few humble objects. The central problem in our relationship with money and possessions we hold close to our hearts is the deep emotional ties we develop with such things. In Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus emphasizes the danger of such emotional attachments in verse 21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In reflecting on your relationship with anything, why is this thing so close and thus so important to you? If a thing is more important than a person in your life, couldn't that thing also be more important than God? What is becoming first in your life – the physical or the spiritual? What about Jesus' severe warning in verse 24?

Our 4<sup>th</sup> scripture (Luke 12:15-21) reflects on a farmer whose life is one of self-absorption. Jesus makes no reference to a family, so this man could be alone. Of course saving is always important (see the book of Proverbs for reflections), but this farmer has turned saving and thrift into what we currently call an OCD (an obsessive compulsive disorder).

I, myself, must be cautious with the books and paper files I accumulate in my one-room apartment; for what reasons am I saving so much? If I die soon, what problems am I leaving behind for the suffering of others? Why are even small amounts of material possessions so important to me? Look at my last word: ME. Why? Godspeed, everyone!

- Joe

*Thank you to Joseph Molenda for his thoughts and inspiration for this month. – Pastor Robert*

### We extend our **Sympathy**:

- To the family of Mark Ronan Jr. who passed away on February 10, 2023. A Memorial Service was held at Trinity on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mark was the husband of Joan Ronan, the father of Mark Ronan III and Alana Ronan Perez, and the stepfather of Kristina Rowe and of Emily Guzman.
- To the family of Paul Brian Finley who passed away on October 1, 2022. A Memorial Service was held at Trinity on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Paul was a former member of Trinity, husband of Donna Finley (deceased), and the father of Eve Finley Moad and of Christopher Finley.
- To the family of Martha Kohler who passed away on January 28, 2023. A funeral service was held at Trinity on February 3, 2023.

### We are pleased to announce

the addition of two new staff members to the Trinity Team...

**Dean Winter** is our new Director of reSource Ministry. Dean comes to us with an abundance of experience in music and in Christian ministry and leadership. We are enjoying the great music already!

Following the retirement of our custodian, James White, we welcome our newest member **Scott Piersall**. Scott is the husband of Pam Piersall,

## 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 Reduction:

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.

**Thank you** on behalf of Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida to the people of Trinity for their support and their contribution of \$2,000 in 2022. With Sincere Gratitude,  
Bill Brim  
President and CEO

### Choir

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

### The March Love Offering

The March Love Offering has been designated for the ELCA International Disaster Relief in support of relief efforts from the earthquakes that devastated parts of Turkey and Syria on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The death toll from the earthquakes has topped 47,000.

We received a **Thank You** from the American Lung Association for our donation of \$285.00 from the November Love Offering.

**All Women are Invited – Save the Date!**

**May 13, 2023**

Enjoy a day of Fun, Food and Fellowship!  
More to come....

**JOIN US for the TRINITY LUNCH BUNCH!  
MARCH'S DESTINATION:**

### River and Post Restaurant

1000 Riverside Ave. Suite 100  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
904-575-2366

**Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:30 am**

Meet at 11:30 a.m. or call Kim Bloomer (635-9104)  
by noon Wednesday, March 29 if you need a ride.

## Trinity Food Pantry Highlights

Thanks to the Trinity members and Sandra Bryant's Garden club members for the financial donations and donations of canned goods during February to the Trinity Community Food Pantry.

Here's a recap of activity for February 2023:

Week Of	Patrons	Family Members	Zip Codes
Feb 9-10	139	458	21
Feb 23-24	131	420	18

31 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Pantry during February 2023.

Special thanks to the Avondale United Methodist members who twice donated fresh broccoli totaling 185 lbs.

Schedule for March 2023:

March 9th – 4PM-6PM  
March 10th – 10AM-12 noon  
March 23rd – 4PM-6PM  
March 24th – 10AM-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**



**Treasurer's Report  
January 2023**

1/1/2023 to 1/31/2023

**Receipts**

Actual	\$28,579
Budgeted	\$20,503
Actual-Budget	\$8,076

**Expenses**

Actual	\$14,398
Budgeted	\$19,992
Actual-Budget	(\$5,594)

**Year-To-Date**

Total Income	\$28,579
Total Expense	\$14,181

**CEW Basketball Concludes for the Spring**

The 2022-2023 year for the CEW Boys' Basketball concludes as of February 28<sup>th</sup>. The two boys' teams had a good season with one of them losing in the championship game of their division. The boys were treated to a year-end meal from Chick-Fil-A and a gift of a basketball to help them to continue to practice their skills. Many thanks to the coaches Nick Moore and Hassan El-Amin for their work with the boys this year. Also thanks to Mark Baker who helped facilitate the Thursday practices and snacks.

Notes:

- The Tuesday Yoga program will continue through April 2023.
- A Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to support the bus transportation is scheduled for Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Riverside High Chorus  
Spring Dinner Concert**

A Spring Dinner Concert provided by the Riverside High School Chorus and Trinity Lutheran will be held on Thursday evening March 30<sup>th</sup> at Trinity. You are invited to come and support the chorus in their endeavors!

**Bold City Brass Concert**

The Bold City Brass will be performing a Spring Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday evening April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. The concert is free (though a Love offering donation may be given). Trinity's own Lainey Witt plays with the Bold City Brass. More details to come!

**FROM THIS FOUNDATION, OUR MINISTRY GROWS**

Through January, 2023, \$447,686 has been given and earned toward the campaign. The campaign formally ended at the end of 2023. However, a number of families and individuals are continuing to contribute to the campaign. Contributions are accepted toward additional principal reduction.

- The interior renovations and painting of the Gathering Room and upstairs Sunday School area are 99% complete.
- As of January 31, the Mission Investment Loan balance is \$362,257.
- Plans to purchase and install audio/visual equipment for recording and live streaming worship services are being revived.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and helped to make this project and campaign a success!

**TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**  
1415 McDuff Ave., South  
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**Our mission:**

*To Proclaim Jesus Christ to the  
World!*

**CHURCH STAFF:**

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

Reverend Robert Kinley  
Lise York  
Kim Bloomer  
Dean Winter  
Rae Ettmyer  
Scott Piersall

**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:**

**President:**  
**Vice President:**  
**Secretary:**  
**Treasurer:**

Rusty White  
Karen Kuebler  
Judy Hassler  
Burney Pfaff

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Pam Piersall	Judy Hassler	Don Howard
Geri Buchanan	Rusty White	Burney Pfaff
Gene Harvey	Karen Kuebler	Kyle Lind

**We're on the Web!**  
[trinity4jax.org](http://trinity4jax.org)