



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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VOICE OF TRINITY

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Work of the Lord	1
From Our Pastor	2
Fall Schedule	2
Trinity Lunch Bunch	2
Choir News	2
Thank You	2
Discipleship Training	3
CEW	3
Finance Committee Update	3
Food Pantry News	4
September Calendar	5
September Birthdays	5
Congratulations	5
Thank You	5
Sympathy	5
September Love Offering	6
Word-in-Season	6
Treasurer's Report	6
From this Foundation	6
Back Page	6



Always
give
yourselves
fully to
the work
of the
Lord ...

1 Corinthians 15:58



From Our Pastor

The front cover of this month's Voice of Trinity quotes a portion of a passage from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15:58 that says, "...always give of yourself fully to the work of the Lord..." As the month of September begins with Labor Day weekend here in the US, we also hear a passage with a similar theme from Matthew's gospel account where Jesus says,

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (*Matthew 16:24-25*)

The fall has arrived (though we are still having summertime temperatures!). Summer vacation time is over and now the school year has begun. With fall comes a new program year in the life of the church as we will be going back to having two worship services with the Sunday morning educational time in between them. Serving in worship as ushers/greeters, readers, worship assistants or with the children's Sunday school and adult takeaway are some of the ways that you can give of

yourself. Volunteering with the Food Pantry or with the Children's Enrichment Workshops (CEW) after-school programs during the week are certainly ways of giving oneself for others. Quilting or weeding the courtyard beds are other opportunities to serve. There are communication needs, such as the development of a new address and telephone directory that would be helpful. Are you good at organizing? There are many files in the office that need going through to condense and clean-out.

Look around and ask yourself how you can give of yourself in the work of the Lord at Trinity!

Note: I write this article the day after another shooting in Jacksonville. This time where three people were killed as a result of a racially motivated shooting. These kinds of actions are opposite of what it means to give of oneself. WE are to be building up our community and not tearing it down!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Robert

Fall Sunday Morning Schedule – Beginning Sunday, September 10th

- **Worship Services:**
 - reSource Contemporary worship – 9:00am
 - Traditional worship – 11:00am
- **Sunday School Educational time – 10:05am:**
 - Children's Sunday School – Children's worship center
 - Adult Takeaway – Cecil Poole Room
 - Discipleship Training – Upstairs Sunday School area (begins Sunday, September 17th)

**Join Us For
TRINITY LUNCH
BUNCH!
SEPTEMBER'S
DESTINATION:**

**Orange Buffet
475 Blanding Blvd
Orange Park, FL 32073
(904) 276-7886**

**Thursday September 28,
2023**

Sign up in the Hall of
Memories

Choir News

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 6. Practice will again be every Wednesday at 10:30 am. The Choir needs YOU! See you there!

Many thanks to everyone for the wonderful support and love shown to me during this long recuperation period. Such thoughtfulness and generosity is a blessing beyond words.

Love you all.
-Kim Bloomer

Discipleship Training

The Discipleship Training program is for middle school students, 6th grade through 8th grade that explores the Bible and teaches students about living life as a Christian, specifically in the Lutheran Church. It is in preparation for the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of students in becoming adult members in the church. The program is taught over a two-year rotation period on Sunday mornings from 10:05am – 10:50am. Please speak to Pastor Robert or Pam Piersall if you have a student who is age appropriate to be in Discipleship Training. Special provisions can be made for instruction by speaking to Pastor Robert.

Children's Enrichment Workshops (CEW)

The fall CEW after-school program will begin on Tuesday, September 12th and Thursday, September 14th from 3:00pm -5:30pm most weeks.

- Tuesdays – Yoga – 2nd through 5th grade students (twelve students)
- Thursdays – Boy's Basketball – 4th and 5th grade students (Fifteen students)

Help is needed to serve a snack on each of these days and to be on-site with the children. Please speak to Pastor Robert if you would like to help.

Please Read this important information from the Finance Committee

(Finance Committee Members include: Janice Billy, Kyle Billy, Bill Keels, and Jim Vearil)

On August 1st, representatives from the Church Council, the Permanent Endowment Committee, and the Finance Committee met to discuss the debt for the Capital Campaign renovations. We had an excellent exchange of ideas and agreed to a path forward that will result in significant interest savings. The existing loan will be refinanced at a lower interest rate using funds from the Permanent Endowment Fund. It is still an obligation that must be paid, but this refinancing will result in interest savings from the moment of refinancing throughout the life of the loan.

The other matter that was discussed was the poor financial condition of our general fund, which is the main church operating fund, the one used to pay salaries, utility bills, insurance, etc. The general fund lost money in 2021 and 2022, meaning that expenses exceeded revenues. In plain English, the offerings were not enough to cover the church's basic operating expenses. If you look at the 2023 revenues and expenses at June 30 (See the Treasurer's Report on page 4 of the August Voice of Trinity), you will see that expenses paid of \$144,322 exceeded revenues received of \$119,288, which is a loss of \$25,034. The expenses include the full year's payment for insurance (which was approximately \$5,600 more than budgeted) so you cannot just double the \$25,000 loss to predict a \$50,000 loss for the year. However, if the church does not receive an increase in offerings, then we are looking at a significant loss for the year. How did we get here? Church attendance has been declining and continues to decline not just in the United States, but around the world. In addition, we had the Covid shutdown and now inflation. For some years now, the church has had additional funds at its disposal as a beneficiary of the estates of Bud and Helen Harms, Bob and Elenore Kripps, and Woody and Olive Woods. These bequests have been used for funding church ministries, replacing air conditioning units, and towards the capital campaign renovations. It is the remaining funds from these bequests that are allowing the church to pay its bills because the general fund currently has a negative balance. The Finance Committee believes that these remaining funds need to be permanently retained as a buffer against periods such as we are currently experiencing where expenses exceed revenues. That said, these funds are being depleted. **Please consider increasing your offerings now to help reduce the projected shortfall.**

Trinity Food Pantry Highlights

With the weekly End of Route Truckload deliveries each Wednesday afternoon the Trinity Food Pantry is now open every Thursday and Friday. We received 10,217 #s of food during August (3 times previous monthly amount) and shared the excess food with four food pantries in need.

Here's a recap of activity for the 3 weeks open during August:

Date	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Aug. 10-11	91	255	17
Aug. 17-18	94	298	18
Aug. 24-25	165	511	20
Total	346	1,064	21

43 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Panty.

Current Schedule for September 2023:

Aug. 31st - 4PM-6PM Sept. 1st - 10AM-12PM
 Sept. 7th - 4PM-6PM Sept. 8th - 10AM-12PM
 Sept. 14th - 4PM-6PM Sept. 15th - 10AM-12PM
 Sept. 21st - 4PM-6PM Sept. 22nd - 10AM-12PM
 Sept. 28th - 4PM-6PM Sept. 29th - 10AM-12PM

Donations of food are still needed. Such donations can be used when needy people contact the church requesting food when the pantry isn't open. Also, please recommend to your family, friends, and neighbors the rewarding opportunity to volunteer. Volunteer recruits can contact Mark Baker at mark.foodpantry@gmail.com.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Created to Be is the theme for the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** to be held in New Orleans, LA, July 16 – 20, 2024.

Youth currently in the 8th grade through senior in high school are eligible to attend. Registration will be opening this September 15. Youth eligible will be receiving a letter with more details concerning registration, travel, hotel arrangements and planning. We may be registering with several other groups in the area. We would like to register in October. A deposit of \$150 is required along with the registration. We hope to raise funds for the remainder of the total cost of the trip. Financial assistance may also be available. Parents and youth, please speak to Pastor Robert about attending this life enriching event!

On the Calendar...

September 3...One Service 10:00am

Aug 31, Sept 1 Food Pantry

September 4 – Labor Day..... Office Closed

September.....Circle Meeting 12:00 pm

September 7 & 8.....Food Pantry

September 11.....WELCA Board Meeting 11 am

September 12.....RAP Program 6-8 pm

September 12.....Council Meeting 6:30 pm

September 12 & 14CEW 3:00 pm

September 14 & 15.....Food Pantry

September 19 & 21.....CEW 3:00 pm

September 20 & 21.....AARP Driving Class 9 am-12 pm

September 26 & 28.....CEW 3:00 pm

September 28 & 29Food Pantry

September 29.....NFAN 11 am - 1:30 pm

September 30.....Square Dancers 1 – 5 pm



Congratulations to...

William and Danielle Smedberg’s daughter Aspen Saige Smedberg was born on July 24, 2023.

JonCarl Allen Smedberg Jr. was born on August 15, 2023 to Veronica and JonCarl Smedberg.

Proud grandparents of both babies are Roger and Robin Smeberg.

Sympathy

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Karoline Kohler Puzio who passed into the Church Triumphant on August 10, 2023. Karoline was baptized and confirmed at Trinity, and she at one time served as the church custodian. She had been living with her mother Martha Kohler (who died in January 2023) and her brother Christopher Kohler.

Thank you from Inspire to Rise

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We would like to thank you for your thoughtful financial donation on 5/2/2023 in the amount of \$340.00. Our mission is to inspire and empower children, families, and individuals to rise, overcome, and shine through their most challenging moments in life to become their best self.

With Supporters like you we will continue the vision of building a comprehensive, wraparound, and full-service community center that helps to inspire children, families, and individuals address their individual trauma and family needs, and become their best self for themselves and for their families.

Truthfully, we could not do this without you. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sary Batista Jimenez
Lead Program Assistant
Inspire to Rise, Inc

September Love Offering

The September Love Offering is designated to benefit Trinity’s Food Pantry.

**Treasurer’s Report
July 2023**

1/1/2023 to 7/31/2023

Receipts

Actual	\$142,028
Budgeted	\$146,376
Actual-Budget	(\$4,348)

Expenses

Actual	\$163,931
Budgeted	\$160,010
Actual-Budget	\$3,921

Year-To-Date

Total Income	\$142,028
Total Expense	\$163,931

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**
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Jacksonville, FL 32205

Phone 904-389-5341
Email tlcjax@trinity4jax.org

Our Mission:

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

We’re on the Web!
trinity4jax.org

The **Word-In-Season** for
Quarter 3

July – August – September

is available. Pick yours up in the
narthex at the back of the
church.

"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL
BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR
HARVEST AND IN ALL THE WORK
OF YOUR HANDS, AND YOUR
JOY WILL BE COMPLETE."



FROM THIS FOUNDATION, OUR MINISTRY GROWS

Through July 2023, \$461,933 has been given and earned toward the campaign. The campaign formally ended at the end of 2022. However, a number of families and individuals are continuing to contribute to the campaign.

As of August 24, 2023, the loan to the Mission Investment Fund was paid in full. This was accomplished by using available debt service funds and with a loan from the Permanent Endowment Fund of \$290,000. The loan from the PE Fund is an interest only loan at 3.25%. Contributions to the Capital Campaign will be applied first to interest and then to the principal of the loan. Questions concerning the restructure of the Capital Campaign loan may be addressed to members of the Finance Team, Permanent Endowment Team, or of Council. Thank you to the everyone who has contributed to help make this project and campaign a success!

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:	Reverend Robert Kinley
Office Administrator:	Lise York
Organist/Choir Director:	Kim Bloomer
Director of reSource Ministry:	Dean Winter
Hostess:	Rae Ettmyer
Custodian:	Scott Piersall

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President:	Rusty White
Vice President:	Karen Kuebler
Secretary:	Judy Hassler
Treasurer:	Burney Pfaff

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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