



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Advent 1
- From Our Pastor 2
- December Calendar 3
- Devotionals 3
- Facility Usage 3
- Children's Program 4
- December Worship Schedule 4
- Congregational Meeting 4
- Choir News 4
- December Birthdays 5
- Trinity Lunch Bunch 5
- Congratulations 5
- Thank You 5
- Luminaria Night 5
- Poinsettias 5
- December Love Offering 6
- Food Pantry Highlights 6
- Back Page 6

## **VOICE OF TRINITY**

*Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World*



## From Our Pastor



### “Count Your Blessings”

As I write this message, we are going into another holiday season.

At Trinity we have just had our annual Thanksgiving worship service and luncheon. A highlight of our worship service is “The Blessing Tree.” Paper leaves in fall colors make a bare wooden cross “come alive” as each leaf declares our thanks to God for His blessings in our lives and in the church.

Having just had knee replacement surgery two weeks ago, I was not able to be at the service. However, as I write this, I am sitting on our sun porch looking at our house flag: a Thanksgiving cornucopia with the words “Count Your Blessings.”

I think of the many blessings I can count and for which I thank God this year. To begin with, I thank God for life itself and for my healing from open heart surgery in June and recent knee replacement. I am thankful and blessed by my wife, Pastor Janis, with whom in love we share this life with all of its joys and sorrows. These past two weeks I have been especially thankful for two of our older grandchildren, Madison and Riley, who came to help out at home during my recovery. I am thankful for the church family of Trinity who have shared God’s love and grace by providing support and care for us during both surgeries.

Soon I will be changing our “Count Your Blessings” flag to another flag: One that expresses the joy of Christmas and the greatest blessing we have to count: the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. He was born into this world as a helpless infant, and ultimately became, for our sake, the Power of Love for our healing, our hope, and our salvation through the forgiveness of our sins.

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”  
(Luke 2:11 KJV)*

What blessings we have to count!

May God’s Peace and Love be with you this holiday and Christmas season.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Robert



# December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 reSource 9:00am SSchool 10:05am Adult Takeaway 10:05am Trad Svc 11:00am	2 RPC Bball 5:00pm	3 Choir 10:30am CEW Yoga 3:00pm RPC Bball 5:00pm Writers Group 5:30pm	4 World Aids Day Event 2-9pm	5 CEW Bball 3:00pm Food Pantry 4-6pm RPC Bball 5:00pm	6 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	7
8 reSource 9:00am SSchool 10:05am Adult Takeaway 10:05am Trad Svc 11:00am Luminaria Night 6:00	9 RPC Bball 5:00pm	10 CEW Yoga 3:00pm RPC Bball 5:00pm Church Council 6:30pm	11	12 CEW Bball 3pm Food Pantry 4-6pm RPC Bball 5:00pm	13 Food Pantry 10am-12pm  NFAN Luncheon 11:00am – 2:00pm	14 Square Dancers 2-5pm
15 <b>One Service 10:00am</b> Congregational Meeting after service	16 RPC Bball 5:00pm	17 Choir 10:30am CEW Yoga 3:00pm RPC Bball 5:00pm Writers Group 5:30pm	18 Childrens Christmas Program 5:30pm Dinner to follow	19 CEW Bball 3pm Food Pantry 4-6pm RPC Bball 5:00pm	20 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	21
22 reSource 9:00am SSchool 10:05am Adult Takeaway 10:05am Trad Svc 11:00am	23	24 Christmas Eve Services: 5:30pm 9:00pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28 Contra Dancers 6-11pm
29 <b>One Service 10:00am</b> Lessons and Carols	30	31				

**The Daily Devotional - Word in Season**

for October through December are available in the Narthex.

**Facility Usage:**

The Riverside Presbyterian Basketball League are again using the Hall of Memories on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Practices for the youth teams will continue through January 2025.

## Please join us as the Trinity youth present **The Christmas Story!**

When: Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Hall of Memories

What: Dinner will follow the show, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



## Looking Ahead to December and Christmas at Trinity:

### Sunday December 1

First Sunday of Advent – Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

### Sunday December 8

Second Sunday in Advent – Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

### Sunday December 15

Third Sunday in Advent – One service at 10:00am followed by Congregational Meeting

### Sunday December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Services at 9:00am and 11:00am

### Christmas Eve:

**5:30pm** - Family Christmas Eve service. Music by the Praise Band

**9:00pm** – Traditional Christmas Eve service

Both services will have communion and candlelight carols.

**Note:** The Traditional Christmas Eve Worship this year will be an hour earlier at 9:00pm. It will again feature players from the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Pre-service music will begin at 8:30pm.

### Sunday, December 29

First Sunday of Christmas – One Worship Service at 10:00am, a service of Lessons and Carols of Jesus' Childhood.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

The semi-annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 15. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a Budget for 2025, to elect one Council member and one member to the Permanent Endowment Fund.

**Note: There will be one Service on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.**

## Choir News

The Choir practices on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. All are welcome!

### Trinity Lunch Bunch

There will be no Lunch Bunch in December. Watch for news for Lunch Bunch to resume after the New Year!

### A Great Big Congratulations

to Martha Guillebeau, who turned 100 years of age on November 25, 2024!

### Thanksgiving Thank Yous

Thank you to everyone who made the Thanksgiving worship service and luncheon a joyous blessing. Thanks to Kim Bloomer and Dean Winter for providing the music and to Deacon Dwane Tyson for leading the worship service. Many thanks to the women Trinity organizing the luncheon, to Judy Hassler for decorating, and to Rae Ettmyer for preparing the hams.

*Poinsettias* will be available again this year.

You may order as many as you like in honor or memory of a loved one. They will be a beautiful addition to our altar area for our Christmas Eve services. They will be available for pickup after the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service, and the cost this year is \$10.00.

### Luminaria Night

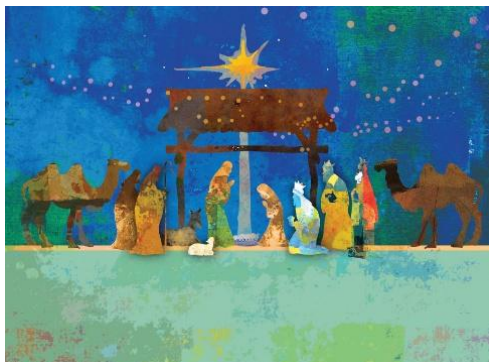
Luminaria Night of Riverside-Avondale is set for Sunday evening, December 8. On this evening the community is decorated with luminarias that shine forth the light of the Christmas season. Trinity has traditionally set out luminaries for the evening. Volunteers are needed to put together the luminaria bags, set them out along Park Street and on a portion of McDuff Avenue in front of the church. (The church will have the materials) If you would like to help, plan to come to the church around 5:00pm on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

### Personal Thank You

I give thanks to many people of Trinity who have kept me in prayer and who sent cards and well wishes during my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. This is one of the many blessings for which I have counted and giving thanks at this time!

### Congratulations

We rejoice in the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Leila Ann Montgomery, daughter of Devyn and William Montgomery. Leila is the great-granddaughter of Lela Zuzul.



### The Love Offering

for December will go to support Trinity's Food Pantry.

### Treasurer's Report October 2024

1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

#### Receipts

Actual	\$220,215
Budgeted	\$216,797
Actual-Budget	\$3,418

#### Expenses

Actual	\$213,693
Budgeted	\$220,107
Actual-Budget	(\$8,414)

#### Year-To-Date

Total Income	\$220,215
Total Expense	\$213,693
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$6,522

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#### Our Mission:

*To Proclaim Jesus Christ  
to the World!*

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

### Trinity Food Pantry Highlights

Here's a recap of activity for November 2024 through November 22<sup>nd</sup>:

	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	199	635	25
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	211	626	24
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	212	692	26
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	251	789	24
Total	873	2,742	29

49 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Party during November.

#### Current Schedule for December 2024:

Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup> - 10AM-12PM
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	Dec. 13 <sup>h</sup> - 10AM-12PM
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> - 10AM-12PM
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> Closed	Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup> Closed

Thank you to all the Trinity Members that have volunteered their time and voluntarily donated food and money to the food pantry. This holiday season we wish to distribute sweaters, coats, hats or blankets to those in need, especially the homeless. Going to put a collection box in the Cecil Poole room for such donations.

#### CHURCH STAFF:

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

#### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

<b>President:</b>	Rusty White
<b>Vice President:</b>	Karen Kuebler
<b>Secretary:</b>	Judy Hassler
<b>Treasurer:</b>	

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Pam Piersall	Judy Hassler	Bekah Alenduff
Geri Buchanan	Rusty White	Sandra Bryant
Gene Harvey	Karen Kuebler	Kyle Lind