



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1415 McDuff Avenue, South  
904-389-5341 phone

Jacksonville, Florida 32205  
[trinity4jax.org](http://trinity4jax.org)

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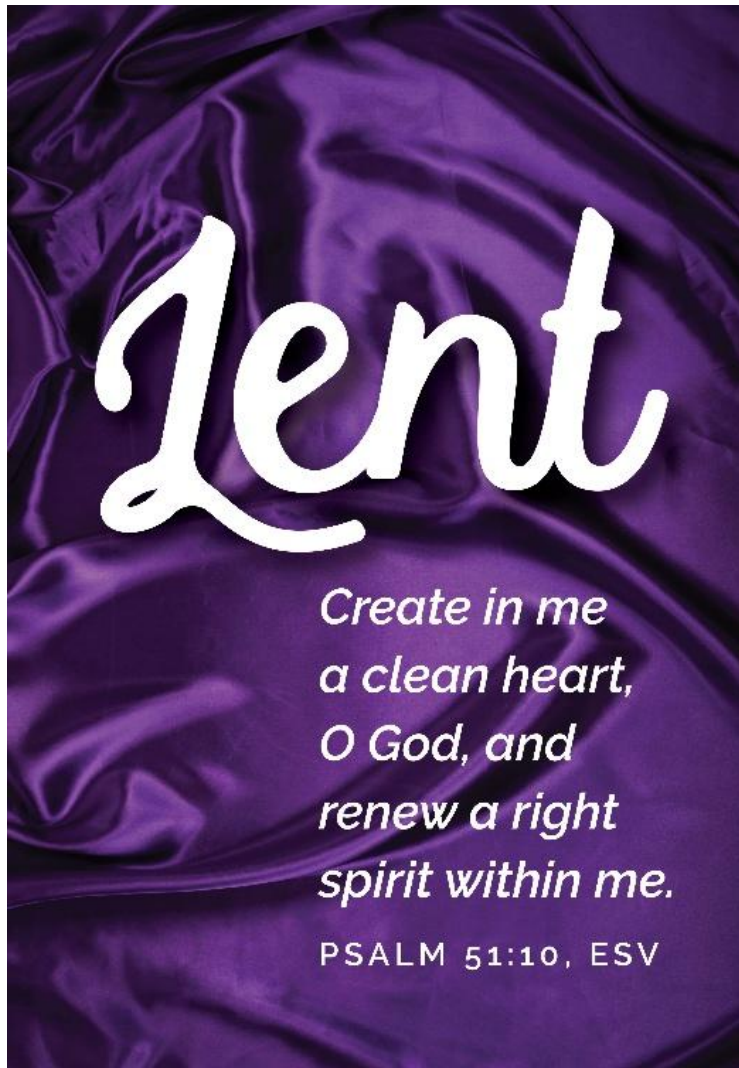
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Set your clocks  
forward  
On March 9

## VOICE OF TRINITY

### *Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World*



## From Our Pastor

I am absolutely blessed to be your interim pastor here at Trinity. As a pastor, I am here to walk with you in faith on this journey through the interim time. As a writer, I love weaving words that inspire and uplift; and as a wife, mother, and grandmother, I know that life is a beautiful, sometimes messy, always meaningful adventure.

My husband Bob and I have been married for 48 years. Before retirement Bob served as Exec. Dir. of Global Security for AT&T. We are the very proud parents of three adult children: Bob is an attorney in Peoria, IL; Amy a Marine Corps veteran, currently a Financial Management Specialist for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Jonathan a Special Education Advisor for the public high schools in Belvidere, IL. Along with their spouses, they have blessed us with seven grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 21.

I have been ordained for 24 years. The communities I served vary from a small congregation in the Northern Illinois Synod to the largest congregation in Northern Illinois. In addition, I served as the Exec. Director of Rockford Lutheran Schools in Illinois. Also, as an Assistant to the Bishop in Northern Illinois Synod, as well as a law enforcement Chaplain for a mid-sized police department. In my retirement years here in Florida, I served as an interim pastor at Lamb of God Lutheran-Episcopal Church in Fort Myers for 6 years.

I firmly believe church is more than just a place we go. Where two or more are gathered there is church. To me this means that church happens within and beyond where we worship. Whether through worship, music, sermons, stories, potluck, missional opportunities serving others, or simple moments of connection, I know church happens. Why? Because God is present in the sacred moments we share and the quiet prayers we lift together.

I look forward to sharing these moments with you.

**Pastor Carol**

***Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."***

**The Trinity Family** would like to extend a very warm welcome to Pastor Carol Gates. She became our Interim Pastor on March 1, 2025. We are so blessed to have Pastor Carol join us at this time of transition. She comes to us with many years of experience working with other churches through their pastor transition processes. We have much work to do in the coming months, but we will be well guided with Pastor Carol's experience, wisdom and guidance!

### *Thank You!*

We would like to send out our thanks and gratitude to Judy Hassler, Karen Kuebler and all who helped out with the food service and clean up at Pastor Robert's Farewell Luncheon! We couldn't have done it without you!

### Trinity Lunch Bunch

**MARCH'S DESTINATION:  
Silver Star Restaurant  
5016 Blanding Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
904-778-8500**

**Thursday March 20th, 2025  
11:30 am**

\*Sign up in the Hall of Memories.  
\*Call Kim with any changes: 904-635-9104

### Thrivent Choice

It's that time again when Thrivent members can direct last year's undirected choice dollars. Thrivent members have until 3/31 to direct last year's dollars. To direct your dollars, you can log into your Thrivent account, call 1-800-847-4836, or contact your representative. Great way for our church to collect those dollars!

### Riverside High Chorus Spaghetti Dinner Concert:

Thursday, March 27 - \$10.00 per person. Come hear the chorus students from Riverside High showcase their talents and be served delicious spaghetti. Doors open at 6:00pm, concert at 6:30. Proceeds support the chorus activities. (Sorry, no take-outs).

# MAR2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01 Contra Dance 6-11pm
02 reSource 9:00am Sunday School 10:05 Traditional Service 11:00am	03 Quilters 9am	04 Choir 10:30am	05 Ash Wed Soup & Salad 5:30pm; Service 6:45pm	06 Food Pantry 4-6pm	07 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	08
09 reSource 9:00am Sunday School 10:05 Traditional Service 11:00am	10 Quilters 9am	11 Choir 10:30am Hannah Circle 12:00pm Council 6:30pm	12	13 Food Pantry 4-6pm	14 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	15
16 reSource 9:00am Sunday School 10:05 Traditional Service 11:00am	17 Quilters 9am	18 Choir 10:30am	19	20 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Food Pantry 4-6pm	21 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	22 Contra Dance 6-11pm
23 reSource 9:00am Sunday School 10:05 Traditional Service 11:00am	24 Quilters 9am	25 Choir 10:30am	26	27 Food Pantry 4-6pm	28 Food Pantry 10am-12pm NFAN 11am-2pm	29
30 reSource 9:00am Sunday School 10:05 Traditional Service 11:00am	31 Quilters 9am					

## Pastor Robert is Retiring... What Happens Next?

For the past few weeks since Pastor Robert announced his retirement that will take place in February, there have been many questions and concerns about the upcoming process of calling a new pastor. In order to answer some of those questions and calm some of the concerns, the following is information that was provided to the Congregation Council from the Synod outlining the "Steps in the Calling of a New Pastor." It will give you the general idea of what steps will be taken and the order in which we are to follow.

**Step 1:**

~~Current pastor resigns or retires...~~  
~~A celebration of his service is planned.~~

**Step 2:**

~~Congregation receives a transition or interim pastor.~~

**Step 3:**

Ministry assessment & discernment process occurs.

**Step 4:**

The call process begins...  
Call committee is formed.

**Step 5:**

Congregational Ministry Site Profile is created.

**Step 6:**

Call List is formed.

**Step 7:**

Interview of candidates.

**Step 8:**

Primary candidate identified & interviewed by congregation council.

**Step 9:**

Congregation meets primary candidate.

**Step 10:**

Congregation votes to extend a call; pastor accepts or declines call.

**Step 11:**

Installation

**Step 12:**

Evaluation Process

As you can see, there are many multiphase steps involved in this process and it will take time to complete each step with precision, patience and prayer. There is no way to rush these steps. Taking our time and allowing the Lord to lead us through with faith is the only way for us to move forward on this journey. We are all very excited to learn who it is that the Lord will reveal to us who will lead us into our next century!

*With Many Thanks...*

Pastor Janis and I were deeply touched and moved by the outpouring of love and well-wishes with which you embraced us on our last Sunday at Trinity. The day was truly a celebration of the nearly twenty-four years of our being at Trinity as its pastors. There were many tears of love, and lots of hugs to go around.

Our worship together was beautiful and inspiring. We are grateful to all who were present with us to give thanks to God for the conclusion of our ministry and for the ongoing ministry of Trinity. We are especially thankful to those who served in worship leadership: Musicians Kim and the choir, Dean Winter and Taylor Cook, Jerry and Ruth Johnson, and DJ Rich; Communion Assistants Dwane Tyson and Pam Piersall; Ushers the Guzman family and Lisa Montalchi and Jose Gonzalez.

Following the worship service, we enjoyed fellowship at a very festive Celebration Luncheon. Many thanks to Karen Kuebler, who planned, designed, and organized a party to be remembered (from the "Carolina Blue" color scheme to individual place cards). Thank you so much to all the Women of Trinity, especially Judy Hassler, for decorating and coordinating the service of the luncheon. Special thanks to Maddie Kuebler for entertaining us during the luncheon service with games, jokes and biblical trivia questions. As always, we are grateful to Tom Stimmel for taking pictures, and to Linda Culverwell for recording the worship service and posting it online.

We are blessed by the memory books presented to us from the congregation and from the Riverside High School Chorus. Many thanks to Maria Retter for creating and designing the Trinity Memory Book, and thanks to everyone who contributed to its contents. We will cherish it always and will be reminded of your love, of sharing in your life's journeys, and of working together in ministry.

We greatly appreciate the many cards and gifts given to us by individuals and from the congregation. I am looking forward to soon making good use of the golf package given by the congregation in my retirement!

This day will always be remembered and cherished. I can go on and on with the many precious moments and thanksgivings! We pray and hope for many wonderful blessings in your lives and for Trinity as God's people in the Riverside-Avondale community and in the world.

God's peace be with you!

*In Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Robert*

*Choir News*

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

*The Love Offering*

The March Love Offering will go to support the Community Health Outreach (Baby Luv).

**Treasurer’s Report  
January 2025**

1/1/2025 to 1/31/2025

**Receipts**

Actual	\$26,450
Budgeted	\$21,649
Actual-Budget	\$4,801

**Expenses**

Actual	\$17,077
Budgeted	\$22,520
Actual-Budget	(\$5,443)

**Year-To-Date**

Total Income	\$26,450
Total Expense	\$17,077
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$9,373

**Trinity Food Pantry Highlights**

Here’s a recap of activity for February 2025:

	<b>Patrons</b>	<b>Family Members</b>	<b># of Zip Codes</b>
Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	277	836	26
Feb.13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	256	818	25
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	276	876	28
Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> est.	285	900	28
Total est.	1,094	3,430	28

51 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Panty during February.

**Current Schedule for March 2025:**

March 6 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	March 7 <sup>th</sup> – 10AM-12PM
March 13 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	March 14 <sup>th</sup> - 10AM-12PM
March 20 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	March 21 <sup>st</sup> – 10AM-12PM
March 27 <sup>th</sup> - 4PM-6PM	March 28 <sup>th</sup> – 10AM-12PM

Thank you to all the Trinity Members who have volunteered their time and voluntarily donated food and money to the food pantry. There has been a 20% increase in the number of families receiving food so far in 2025 compared to the first two months in 2024.

**CHURCH STAFF:**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Reverend Carol Gates
<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>	Karen Kuebler
<b>Vice President:</b>	Rusty White
<b>Secretary:</b>	Rebecca Kruck
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Hollar

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Pam Piersall	Bekah Alenduff	Geri Buchanan
Rusty White	Sandra Bryant	Gene Harvey
Karen Kuebler	Kyle Lind	Rebecca Kruck
	Dan Retter	

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1415 McDuff Ave., South Jacksonville, FL 32205

**Phone** 904-389-5341  
**Email** [tlcjax@trinity4jax.org](mailto:tlcjax@trinity4jax.org)

**Our Mission:**  
*To Proclaim Jesus Christ to the World!*

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