

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOICE OF TRINITY



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## Church Staff:

### Pastor:

Reverend Carol S. Gates  
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### Office Administrator:

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### Organist/Choir Director:

Kim Bartlett-Bloomer

### Director of resource

#### Ministry:

Dean Winter

### Church Hostess:

Rae Ettmyer

### Custodian:

Scott Piersall

## Congregational Officers:

### President:

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### Vice-President:

Rusty White

### Treasurer:

Geri Buchanan

### Secretary:

Rebecca Kruck

## Council Members:

Bekah Alenduff  
Sandra Bryant  
Kyle Lind  
Lisa Montalchi  
Pam Piersall  
Dan Retter

## *Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World!*

### From Our Pastor

## This is My Story: Men in Black

By Pastor Carol Gates

On **Reformation Sunday**, I preached *my own story* — a story about grace, courage, and the way God sometimes sends help dressed in unexpected ways. It wasn't about Martin Luther nailing his theses to the door (though grace was his favorite topic); it was about learning to trust that same grace when things get complicated.

Four years ago, while serving as an interim pastor in Southwest Florida, I faced one of those complicated moments. A beloved member of the congregation — an Episcopal priest — had died. As a federated Lutheran/Episcopal church, her funeral would be held in our sanctuary, with the Episcopal bishop presiding and me assisting. On paper, that sounded simple enough. But this bishop had an issue, let's leave it at that....

So I prayed. I prayed for grace enough to lead wisely and humility enough to step aside if needed. I didn't ask for a miracle — just strength and peace.

And that's when several of my council members came forward and said, "*Don't worry, Pastor — we've got your back. We'll be your Men in Black!*"

Now, if you remember the 1997 movie with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones, those "Men in Black" were the calm, steady protectors who kept chaos at bay — quietly saving the world without anyone noticing. That's exactly what my council did. On the day of the funeral, each one had a silent assignment: greeting the bishop, escorting him where he needed to be, keeping order, diffusing tension, and making sure the focus stayed where it belonged — on proclaiming the gospel and honoring the beloved child of God we had gathered to remember.

My "Men in Black" didn't wear dark suits or sunglasses, but they showed up with **grace, grit, and faith**. They reminded me what the **Shema** teaches in Deuteronomy 6: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.*" They used their strength, calm, and love to serve — and that, dear friends, is **stewardship**.

Here at **Trinity**, that's who we are, too. We show up. We serve. We give. We are *God's agents* — protectors of the mission, guardians of grace, stewards of the story.

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## From Our Pastor (continued)

We are now in our **stewardship season**, telling our story through the theme “*This Is Our Story.*” Over these weeks, I invite you to reflect on how God’s grace has been at work in your life — and how you can respond by increasing your generosity so that God’s story continues to flourish through Trinity’s ministry.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 23 — Christ the King Sunday, our Pledge and Commitment Sunday.** On that day, we’ll come forward to offer our pledges for the coming year — not just to keep the lights on, but to keep the *mission alive*: feeding the hungry, supporting our ministries, and proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world.



So as you pray about your giving, remember: We are all called to be *Men and Women in Black* — protectors of the mission, guardians of grace, stewards of the story.

Let’s love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might — and give generously, so the next chapter of **our story** shines even brighter.

## Trinity Lunch Bunch

NOVEMBER’S DESTINATION



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

November 20, 2025 – 11:30am

\*Sign up in the Hall of Memories.

\*Call Kim with any changes:  
(904)635-9104



### A Message from Kim Bloomer



*What an uplifting and joyous day it was on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Celebration of my 25<sup>th</sup> year as Organist/Choir Director here at Trinity Lutheran Church. Many surprises were a well-kept and successful secret! Never have I felt so much love from the ones that I serve. It is such a precious gift to have a congregation that has always shown me their graciousness, kindness, and appreciation for all my efforts throughout the years. It is hopeful that our partnership will continue to be one of strength in guiding one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Monetary gifts were very much appreciated along with the expression of love and gratitude through lovely and humorous cards. A beautiful reception adorned with gorgeous flowers from the choir, including my favorite cake, strawberry, enhanced the celebration as well. Blessings and many thanks for all you do and have done in giving of yourselves throughout the year. It is such an honor to call you my Church home.*

*Peace and Always Love,*

*Kim*



HELP SERVE  
**COLORS  
RESOURCES**  
*Thanksgiving Dinner*  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 2025

THIS THANKSGIVING, TRINITY IS PARTNERING WITH COLORS RESOURCES, A LOCAL NONPROFIT THAT PREPARES AND SERVES MEALS FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS. KATRINA WILLIAMS, COLORS RESOURCES SPONSOR, IS INVITING TRINITY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO JOIN A HANDS-ON TEAM TO COOK, PLATE, AND SERVE A FULL THANKSGIVING MEAL HERE AT TRINITY ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025.

TOGETHER, WE'LL TURN OUR KITCHEN AND FELLOWSHIP HALL INTO A WARM, WELCOMING TABLE—WHERE GRATITUDE IS SHARED, STORIES ARE HONORED, AND NO ONE EATS ALONE

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

#### EVENT SCHEDULE (COME FOR ONE BLOCK OR ALL)

##### WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

- **PREP:** 8:00AM – 4:00 PM

##### THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

- **SET-UP:** 6:00 AM –11:00 AM
- **COOKING & PLATING:** 11:00 AM–1:30 PM
- **SERVING:** 1:30–4:00 PM
- **CLEAN-UP:** 4:00–6:00 PM

#### “GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.”

ON THANKSGIVING WE GET TO BE THE ANSWER TO THAT PRAYER—FOR SOMEONE ELSE. SIGN UP / QUESTIONS: PLEASE CONTACT KATRINA WILLIAMS AT 904-554-2923 OR THE CHURCH OFFICE TO CLAIM A SHIFT OR DONATE ITEMS.

WALK-INS ARE WELCOME, BUT SIGN-UPS HELP US PLAN.

LET'S EMBODY TRINITY'S STORY OF GRACE AND GENEROSITY—PULL UP A CHAIR, TIE ON AN APRON, AND HELP MAKE THANKSGIVING A DAY OF ABUNDANCE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Square Dancers 11am
2 Worship – ReSource 9am & Traditional 11am	3 Quilters 9am	4 Choir 10:30am	5	6 Food Pantry 4-6pm	7 Food Pantry 10am- 12pm	8
9 Worship – ReSource 9am & Traditional 11am	10 Quilters 9am MOT 8:30 am	Veterans Day 11 Choir 10:30am 6:30 pm - Council Circle Meeting	12 AARP Driving 9am (H.O.M)	13 AARP Driving 9am (H.O.M) Food Pantry 4-6pm	14 Food Pantry 10am- 12pm W.A.D. 3pm (H.O.M)	15 Safety Team – First Aid Training 8am (H.O.M)
16 Worship – Combined 10am Service	17 Quilters 9am	18 Choir 10:30am	19	20 Lunch Bunch 11:30 Food Pantry 4-6pm	21 Food Pantry 10am- 12pm	22 Contra Dance 5:30pm
Worship 23/30 23 <sup>rd</sup> Comb. 10am T-giving Potluck to follow. 30 <sup>th</sup> ReSo 9am	24 Quilters 9am	25 Choir 10:30am	26 CCC T-giving Meal Prep. In Kitchen & H.O.M 8am-4pm	Thanksgiving Day 27 27 CCC Thanksgiving Meal (H.O.M) 6am – 6pm Food Pantry - Closed	28 Food Pantry 9am-12pm NFAN (H.O.M) 12-3pm	29



Support for Our Companion Partners in Cuba

Urgent appeal to support those suffering from Melissa in Cuba. Our siblings in Christ in Santiago de Cuba are helping to coordinate relief across the Eastern province for those who have suffered tremendous damage from Melissa. Widespread flooding, the collapse of homes and lost roofs, plus ongoing electrical outages have created tremendous hardship and suffering among the people. Please be aware that the transmission of support to our friends in Cuba requires special efforts and additional expense that none of our other companion partners face. Your gifts for relief include help with meeting the expense of getting the relief there. [You may make donations through online through the synod's giving portal.](#)

The Rev. Dr. Russell L. Meyer  
Cuba Accompaniment Team Coordinator



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

Under Construction!  
[trinity4jax.org](http://trinity4jax.org)  
Scan QR Code to donate!



The November Love offering will go to American Lung Association



We meet on the second Monday of the month.  
We perform general maintenance, minor repair and some clean-up around the church.  
We generally begin at 8:30 with a light breakfast and heavy fellowship.  
We would love to have you join us. Even if you are not good with tools, come help, even just to hold tools or supervise

Trinity Food Pantry Highlights



FOOD PANTRY

Here’s a recap of activity for October 2025:

There is uncertainty as to the upcoming demand for food as the uncertainty of funding SNAP benefits for November at the current time. We are proud that our Food Pantry is one of two sites in Jacksonville that has onsite Feeding Northeast Florida SNAP advisors each Friday.

48 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Panty during October 2025:

Date	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	157	511	14
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	220	664	23
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	217	724	21
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	217	716	24
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> (est.)	<u>235</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>28</u>
Total	1,046	3,375	31

Thank you to all the Trinity Members that have volunteered their time and voluntarily donated food and money to the food pantry. We have already exceeded the number of families receiving food Year to Date 2025 as compared to Calendar Year 2024. We are seeking other donation sources that would be used to purchase more produce.