



1415 McDuff Ave. S
Jacksonville, FL 32205
(904)389-5341
trinity4jax.org

Church Staff:

Pastor:

Reverend Carol S. Gates
pastorcarol@trinity4jax.org

Office Administrator:

Karlimar (Kali) Agosto
k.agosto@trinity4jax.org

Organist/Choir Director:

Kim Bartlett-Bloomer

Church Cook:

Rae Ettmyer

Custodian:

Scott Piersall

Congregational Officers:

President:

Rusty White

Vice-President:

Lisa Montalchi

Secretary:

Rebecca Kruck

Treasurer:

Karen Kuebler
k.kuebler@trinity4jax.org

Council Members:

Bekah Alenduff
Sandra Bryant
Kyle Lind
Dan Retter
Juan Guzman
Michelle Hoyle

Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World!

From Our Pastor

Ashes to Ashes

Reflecting on Ash Wednesday

It's here again—right around the corner—and I can already feel the anxiety building as the day gets closer. Ash Wednesday. To be honest, it's a time of year I could quite easily skip...instead jumping right past the ashes and straight to the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox.

I carry the memories of many Ash Wednesday services. So much of it is visual...The statues throughout the church covered in black cloth. The dimness of the sanctuary. The smell of incense filling the air. The Stations of the Cross—silent, steady reminders of Christ's final days.

While those memories are tied to my upbringing in the Catholic church, each detail draws me into the weight of the season. These are not empty symbols. They are holy reminders of the price Christ was willing to pay—so that we might be forgiven. Forgiven for sins we regret from long ago, for the brokenness we carry today, and even for the failures we have not yet lived into. Past... present... and future.

There is though, more to Ash Wednesday, it brings us face to face with the cross, not to overwhelm us, but to remind us again where grace begins. Not with our strength, not with our perfection, not with our ability to hold everything together.

Ash Wednesday tells the truth about us—that we are dust, that we are fragile, that we are finite. And then, in the very same breath, it tells the truth about God—that even in our dust, we are claimed. Even in our weakness, we are not abandoned. Even in repentance, we are met with compassion. The ashes we receive are not a mark of failure. They are the sign which points beyond itself to something else—the love of God in Christ. They are a reminder that the story of Lent is not ultimately about what we do for God, but about what God has already done for us in Jesus Christ.

And that is why we approach Ash Wednesday in a slightly different way. Not with dramatic darkness or overwhelming imagery, but with the quiet tenderness of Taizé prayer. Taizé worship meets us in the same holy truth Ash Wednesday proclaims—but it does so with simplicity. Rather than many words, Taizé offers short, repeated sung prayers—music that gently settles into the heart: *“Jesus, remember me...”* *“O Lord, hear my prayer...”* *“Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies...”*

From Our Pastor (continued)

These simple refrains become a kind of whispered repentance, a communal sigh, a shared longing for mercy. In the quiet, we are invited to bring our whole selves: our regrets, our grief, our anxiety, our weariness, our longing for renewal.

In the silence between the notes, we remember that God does not meet us with judgment, but with compassion and grace. Grace often comes softly. Like ashes placed gently on the forehead. Like a candle flickering in the darkness. Like a prayer sung again until we finally believe it.

So, as we begin this Lenten journey together at Trinity, we do not rush toward Easter. We begin where the gospel begins: With honesty. With humility. With dust and mercy. And we trust that even here—in the quiet, in the ashes, in the fragile space between what has been and what will be—Christ is already among us.

Please plan on joining us at Trinity for a **Taizé Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18th at 12:00 noon**. Come for a quiet prayer, music, and the marking of ashes as we begin the Lenten journey together.

Serving together in Christ,

Pastor Carol S. Gates

Taizé Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 18th, 2026

Service begins at 12:00 pm



An Invitation to Lunch

Following our Taizé Ash Wednesday service, all are warmly invited to remain for a simple soup and salad luncheon in the Hall of Memories.

Ash Wednesday calls us to remember who we are—dust, beloved, and dependent on God’s grace. Gathering around the table afterward becomes a quiet extension of that prayerful space: sharing simple food, presence, and conversation shaped by humility and care for one another.

Come as you are. Stay as long as you’re able.

Let this meal mark the beginning of our Lenten journey together—rooted in mercy, community, and the grace that meets us even in the dust.

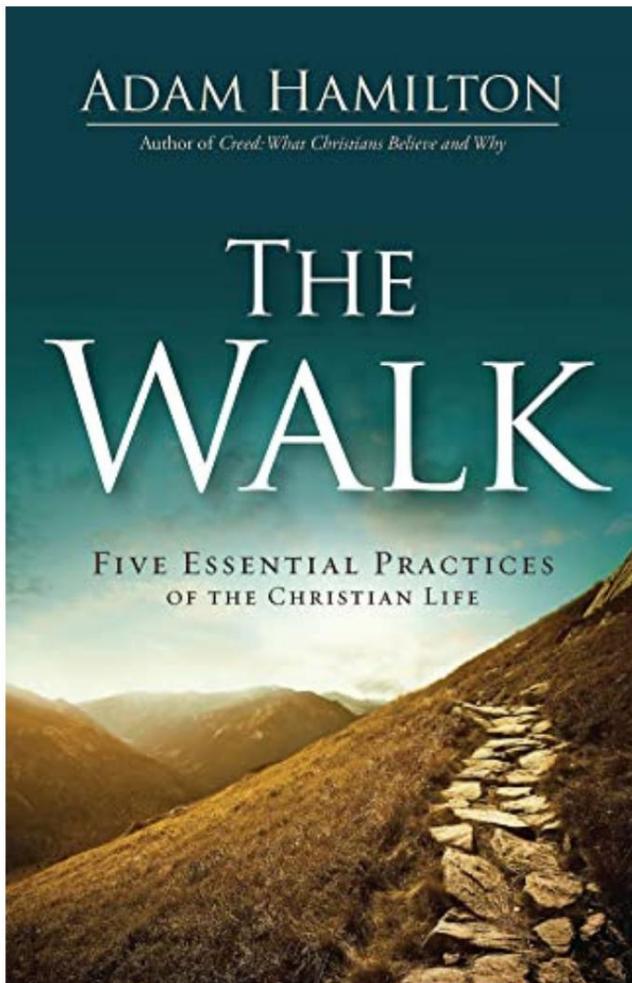
Blessings,
Pastor Carol

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Worship</u> 10am Bi Annual	2 Quilters 9am	3 Choir 10:30am	4 Executive Community Meeting 10 am	5 Food Pantry 4-6pm	6 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	7
8 <u>Worship</u> 10am	9 Quilters 9am MOT 8:30 am	10 Choir 10:30am WELCA Board Mtg. 10:30am Pastoral Deanery Conf. 11am Circle Meeting 12pm Council Mtg. 6:30pm	11	12 Food Pantry 4-6pm Worship Team Mtg. 12pm	13 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	14 Valentine's Day
15 <u>Worship</u> 10am	16 Quilters 9am MOT 8:30 am President's Day	17 Choir 10:30am	18 Executive Community Meeting 10 am Taizé Ash Wednesday Service 12pm	19 Food Pantry 4-6pm Lunch Bunch 11:30am	20 Food Pantry 10am-12pm	21
22 <u>Worship</u> 10am LSS Jax Speaker 11pm	23 Quilters 9am	24 Choir 10:30am	25 Lenten Bible Study w/Pr. Carol 9:30 am	26 Food Pantry 4-6pm	27 Food Pantry 10am-12pm NFAN 12pm	28 Contra Dance 5:30 pm

Lenten Bible Study: “The Walk”



Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life
by Adam Hamilton

Lent is a season of reflection, renewal, and deeper discipleship. It is a time when we intentionally turn our hearts toward Christ and ask again: What does it mean to truly walk with Jesus?

This year, we invite you to join our Lenten Bible Study featuring Adam Hamilton's inspiring book, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. In this study, Hamilton explores five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each practice becomes part of our daily walk with Christ and an important way we grow together in faith as individuals and as the church.

Hamilton examines each practice through its New Testament foundation and offers practical insight into what it looks like to live these disciplines out in everyday life and within the community of believers.

Pr. Carol will lead the study which will begin Wednesday, February 25th at 9:30 a.m. and will meet weekly on Wednesdays through March 25th.

In Addition, The Takeaway Group will meet on Sundays following the Worship service and will study the same book. All are welcome to participate in whichever session best fits their schedule.

Books may be ordered through the church office for \$14.50, or you may easily purchase a copy through Amazon. Contact Kali Agosto at: k.agosto@trinity4jax.org or stop in the church office to order. **Books must be paid for when order is placed.**

Come walk with us this Lent as we grow deeper in discipleship—one step at a time.

Any questions, please contact Pr. Carol at: pastorcarol@trinity4jax.org

2026 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHILI COOK-OFF

FUNDRAISER!

100 YEARS
1926-2026

Celebrating 100 Years at Trinity!

 **Date:** Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 5:30 PM

 **Time:** 5:30 PM

\$5 PER TICKET to taste and vote

Compete or Taste!

Drop off entry forms at the church office

The poster features a central illustration of a large orange pot of chili with steam rising from it, a wooden spoon, and several chili peppers, one of which is wearing sunglasses. The background is decorated with colorful confetti, stars, and bunting. A banner at the top reads '2026 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH'. The main title 'CHILI COOK-OFF' is in large, bold, orange letters, with 'FUNDRAISER!' in a yellow banner below it. To the right, a starburst graphic says '100 YEARS 1926-2026'. Below the illustration, the text 'Celebrating 100 Years at Trinity!' is written in a cursive font. Further down, event details are listed with icons: a spoon for the date and time, and a location pin for the time. The ticket price '\$5 PER TICKET to taste and vote' is highlighted in red. At the bottom, the phrase 'Compete or Taste!' is in a cursive font, followed by the instruction 'Drop off entry forms at the church office'. A smaller chili pot and pepper are illustrated at the bottom corners.

Groups, Gatherings, & Announcements



THE TAKEAWAY

Want a space to talk about life and faith in a real way? The Takeaway is a relaxed, community-led Bible study where we can share honest thoughts, ask questions, and explore how the week's Gospel connects to our everyday lives. There's no pressure—just real conversation, open hearts, and a chance to grow in faith together. Come as you are, bring your curiosity, and join the discussion.

Join us each Sunday at 10:10 in the Cecil Poole room!

**If you're interested in leading the lesson, there is a sign-up sheet in the Hall of Memories*



We meet on the second Monday of each month to handle general maintenance, minor repairs, and light clean-up around the church. We start at 8:30 with a light breakfast and good fellowship. All are welcome—no skills needed. Even if you're not handy, come help, hold tools, or just supervise!



The Choir practices on Tuesdays at 10:30 am.

All are welcome!

Check Trinity out at: trinity4jax.org
You can find calendar events, announcements, and more!

Scan QR Code to donate!



Trinity Lunch Bunch

FEBRUARY'S DESTINATION



1000 Riverside Ave. #100
Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 575 - 2366

February 19, 2025 – 11:30am

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



The February

Love Offering will go to Trinity Food Pantry.

Trinity Food Pantry Highlights



FOOD PANTRY

Here's a recap of activity for January 2026:

53 Different Volunteers Served at the Community Food Panty during January 2026:

Date	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Jan 8 th – 9 th	220	707	2
Jan 15 th -16 th	209	642	2
Jan 22 nd –23 rd	245	806	2
Jan 29 th – 30 th	253	789	21
Total	927	2,944	32

During January, the Trinity Community Food Pantry started regularly providing 6 bags of food for needy, at risk students at Riverside High School. Per Ms. Hawk, Counselor, there are ~150 at risk students who primarily attend school as a means to eat. We are also working with Ms. Hawk on regularly providing student snack kits as an additional means for food.