



1415 McDuff Ave. S  
Jacksonville, FL 32205  
(904)389-5341  
[trinity4jax.org](http://trinity4jax.org)

### Church Staff:

#### **Pastor:**

Reverend Carol S. Gates  
[pastorcarol@trinity4jax.org](mailto:pastorcarol@trinity4jax.org)

#### **Office Administrator:**

Karlimar (Kali) Agosto  
[k.agosto@trinity4jax.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**

### **If This Room Could Speak...**

Last Sunday, during worship, my daughter-in-law Julie sent me an email. I didn't see it at the time—thankfully. Because if I had read it in that moment, I know exactly what would have happened—the floodgates would have opened.

Later, when I read her words, they did anyway.

She wrote:

*"I wanted to tell you before Jonathan sent the picture, but we thought a long time about whether I should restore the table. We love the history. Recently it got to the point that it needed to be restored to preserve it. As I have been working on it for numerous hours this weekend, I have thought of your dad so much. The time he took to make it—him likely in a similar garage situation creating a table for your family. I'm grateful it will continue to see many meals to come."*

And just like that, I was undone.

Not with sorrow—but with the kind of tears that come when love runs deep and memory rises to the surface. Because that table... if it could speak... it wouldn't just tell a story. It would tell a life.

It wasn't just a table where we ate—though we did, especially on special occasions. It was where games were played and homework was done. Where sewing patterns were spread out and dresses were cut—my grandmother saving me by making my dress for a huge college sorority event! It held wrapping paper and tape at Christmas, late-night studying, and laughter that spilled over the edges. It hosted first dates and nervous introductions of "the boyfriend coming to dinner."

That table came into being at a particular moment in our family's life—the addition of a sixth child. A big deal. Big enough that a new room had to be added onto the house to hold us all. The room was ready by the time she arrived—but the table wasn't. That came later. A labor of love during her first year of life. Built by my father, in a garage, from scraps of solid oak flooring—piece by piece, shaped into something that would hold us together.

And then there were the chairs.

## From Our Pastor (continued)

Sunday afternoons after church, we would head out to antique stores—those musty, dusty places filled with cast-offs and forgotten things. We searched forever, it seemed, until finally we found them. Eight chairs. Six without arms, two with. They were a mess. But my father saw what they could be. He stripped them down, sanded them smooth, and with the help of his best friend, Bert—a gifted tradesman—they were reupholstered and made beautiful again.

The room was complete.  
And the stories began.

Years passed. Life changed. My parents moved, and the question came: *Where does the table go? Who has room for it now?* Everyone was busy raising families. There was no room at the inn.

My brother took it. Covered it. Stored it in a basement beneath boxes and forgotten things. And for a long time... the stories stopped. It sat quietly, holding its memories, waiting.

My parents were gone. And at one point, my brother announced to the siblings: “It’s time to sell the table. I’m going to sell it in a garage sale. Unless you want it, it’s going.” We all responded with loud “no’s”, reaching out to our families to see who might want it.

And then my son and daughter-in-law stepped forward.  
“Mom, the memories it holds...”

They claimed it.

One by one, the scattered chairs—spread across different homes—found their way back together. As their family grew, the table came alive again. It began to gather new stories: babies born, laughter shared, hard days endured, love shaped over time.

They didn’t want to refinish it—not at first. Because every scratch, every crumb caught in the cracks, every marker mark told a story. The table bore witness to life as it really is—beautiful and messy and full.

But eventually, restoration became necessary—not to erase the story, but to preserve it.

And now, as Julie carefully works on it, sanding, restoring, honoring the hands that first made it—my father’s hands—the story continues.

If that table could speak, it would tell of rooms.  
Rooms where love lived.  
Rooms where families were formed.  
Rooms where life unfolded in all its joy and sorrow.

And that’s when it strikes me...

## From Our Pastor (continued)

The same is true here at Trinity.

If these rooms could speak—what would they say?

The classrooms downstairs and upstairs would tell of children learning the stories of faith, of questions asked and answered, of laughter echoing through the halls. The kitchen would speak of meals prepared and shared, of feeding neighbors and friends alike. The Hall of Memories would almost burst with stories—celebrations, coffee hours, tears and laughter mingled together as strangers became family.

Every room has held something sacred—not because of the walls themselves, but because of the lives lived within them.

And then there is the sanctuary.

If this room could speak, it would tell of generations who have gathered here—bringing their whole lives with them. It has seen baptisms where water and promise met. It has heard vows spoken in love and faith. It has held grief at funerals and joy in song. It has carried prayers whispered and proclaimed, week after week, year after year.

And at the center of this room...  
is a table.

Not so different, really, from the one in my family.

A table where we gather.

A table that holds our stories—our joys, our sorrows, our questions, our hopes.

A table where Christ meets us, again and again.

If this table could speak, it would say:

*You belong here.*

*There is room for you.*

*Come, be fed. Come, be loved. Come, be made new.*

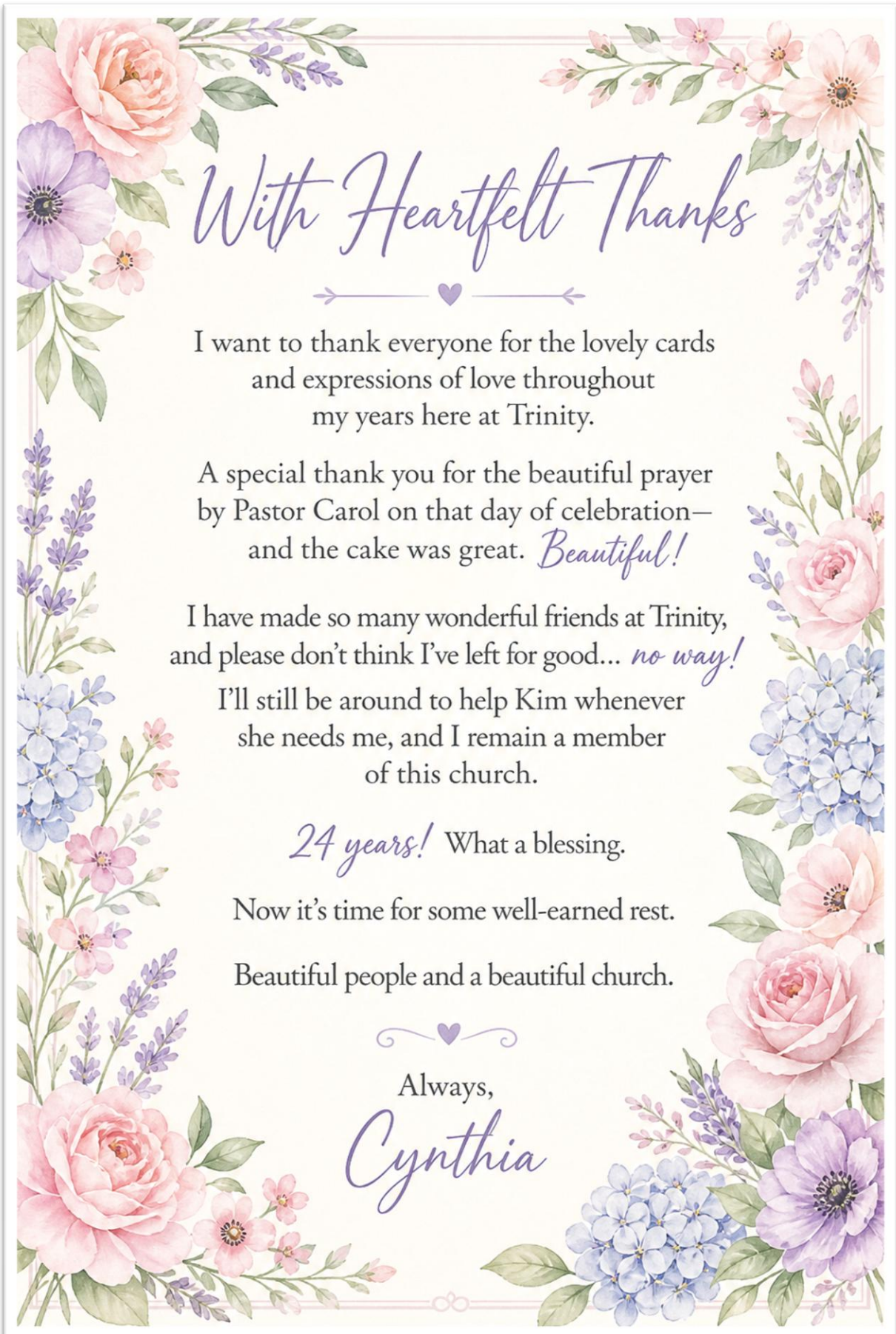
And like that old oak table—crafted with care, worn by time,

restored in love—this table, too, continues to gather stories.

Stories that are not finished yet.

Pastor Carol





## With Heartfelt Thanks



I want to thank everyone for the lovely cards and expressions of love throughout my years here at Trinity.

A special thank you for the beautiful prayer by Pastor Carol on that day of celebration—and the cake was great. *Beautiful!*

I have made so many wonderful friends at Trinity, and please don't think I've left for good... *no way!*

I'll still be around to help Kim whenever she needs me, and I remain a member of this church.

*24 years!* What a blessing.

Now it's time for some well-earned rest.

Beautiful people and a beautiful church.



Always,

*Cynthia*

# Cereal-ously

Serving Our Community!

Celebrating **100 Years** of Serving —  
Let's Give Back Together

Donate any size or kind

Bring to Trinity

Help feed families in need

**GOAL:**  
1,926 Boxes of Cereal!

*Be part of the blessing.*  
Sharing God's love — one box at a time.

Begins April 19th through May 24th

**Make a Financial Donation:**  
Visit our website and mark your gift for cereal donations or scan the QR code to give instantly.



Scan to Give

# Annual YARD SALE

This year's Yard Sale will fall on  
**June 12 & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Donations are now being accepted.

Due to limited space, boxed items are preferred.  
(Please **do not** bring items in bags.)

Furniture can be brought in on the week of the Yard Sale.



SAVE THE DATE

VBS  
*Trail Blazers*  
*“following Jesus every day”*

JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

— AT 9:00 AM —

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

# SAVE THE DATE



Bring Your Family, Friends, and  
Neighbors as We Honor the Past and  
Embrace the Future.

OCT | 11 | 10 AM

1415 McDuff St. S, Jacksonville, FL

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
				Food Pantry 4-6pm	Food Pantry 10am-12pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cereal Series <b>Worship 10am</b> Take Away 11 am <b>Congrega- tional Meeting</b>	Quilters 9am	Choir 10:30am		Food Pantry 4-6pm	Food Pantry 10am-12pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Mother's Day!</b> Cereal Series <b>Worship 10am</b> Take Away 11 am	Quilters 9am  MOT 8:30 am	Choir 10:30am <b>WELCA Mtg. 10:30am</b> Circle Mtg. 12pm <b>Council Mtg. 6:30pm</b>	<b>AARP Driving Class 9 am</b>	<b>AARP Driving Class 9 am</b>  Food Pantry 4-6pm	Food Pantry 10am-12pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Cereal Series <b>Worship 10am</b> Take Away 11 am	Quilters 9am	Choir 10:30am		Food Pantry 4-6pm <b>Lunch Bunch 11:30am</b>	Food Pantry 10am-12pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cereal Series <b>Worship 10am</b> Take Away 11 am	Quilters 9am	Choir 10:30am			Food Pantry 10am-12pm <b>NFAN 12pm</b>	Square Dancers 10:00 am

## 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 11:10 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](http://trinity4jax.org)  
You can find calendar events, announcements, and more!

Scan QR Code to donate!



## Trinity Lunch Bunch

MAY DESTINATION



556 Kingsley Ave.  
Orange Park, FL 32073  
(904) 266 - 6935

May 21, 2026 – 11:30am

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



The May Love Offering will go to Rachel's Day - Hubbard House!

# Trinity Food Pantry



## April Recap

60 Volunteers Served at the Trinity  
Community Food Panty during April 2026

Date	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	234	755	25
Apr. 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	270	786	26
Apr. 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	265	829	23
Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	281	794	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>30</b>

During April the Trinity Community Food Pantry continued providing 6 bags of food for needy, at-risk students at Riverside High School each week. We also provided Ms. Hawk with 20 snack bags for needy students on the second and fourth Fridays.

Thank you so much to all our donors and volunteers that allow the Trinity Community Food Pantry to assist all those that need food.