



Proclaiming Jesus Christ to the World!

From Our Pastor

Celebrating the Past and Welcoming the Future

There is something beautiful happening in this picture.

After more than 50 years of sharing her love of music, Kim Bartlette Bloomer is surrounded by some of Trinity's youngest members. She is talking with them about working hard, loving music, and discovering the joy that music can bring to others. In many ways, this photograph captures what ministry is all about: receiving a gift, sharing it faithfully, and then passing it on to the next generation.

After 25 years of ministry at Trinity, we say farewell to Kim with tremendous gratitude. For a quarter of Trinity's 100-year story, her music has filled our sanctuary, but even more importantly, her love of music has touched generations of people. We give thanks for her faithful ministry and send her into this next chapter surrounded by our love and prayers.

Even as we celebrate the past, we joyfully welcome the future as Stefanie Batson-Martin joins Trinity as our new Director of Music. Stefanie is an experienced musician whose primary instruments are piano and flute. She has 12 years of experience in liturgical and praise music, as well as in directing both adults and youth choirs. She is also active in the Jacksonville theatre and music community. We look forward to the gifts, creativity, and love of music she will bring to Trinity.

How appropriate that this transition happens during our 100th Anniversary, because music itself reminds us that things change while the heart of the story remains.

Consider the beloved hymn "I Love to Tell the Story." Katherine Hankey wrote the words in 1866, and the familiar tune by William G. Fischer appeared in 1869—more than 50 years before Trinity began. Through the generations it has been sung with different arrangements, different instruments, different voices and styles. Yet the heart of the hymn remains: "I love to tell the story..."

Isn't that exactly what we are celebrating at Trinity? For 100 years, we have been telling the story. We certainly don't tell it exactly as we did in 1926. The people who first worshiped at Trinity would probably be surprised by

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Stefanie Batson-Martin

Church Hostess:

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Custodian:

Scott Piersall

Congregational Officers:

President:

Rusty White

Vice-President:

Lisa Montalchi

Secretary:

Rebecca Kruck

Treasurer:

Karen Kuebler
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Council Members:

Bekah Alenduff
Jose Gonzalez
Kyle Lind
Juan Guzman
Michelle Hoyle

From Our Pastor — Continuation

much of what they see today. Sunday mornings once meant suits and ties, dresses, hats and gloves. I very much doubt there were many shorts, sandals, or women arriving without hats and gloves!

The clothes changed. The music changed. The neighborhood changed. The language we use changed. Ministries changed. Generations changed. Trinity changed.

That isn't something to fear. It is something to celebrate. Trinity is here 100 years later because generations before us found ways to tell an ancient story to the people of their time.

Now, we are in the midst of that story. We are not simply the recipients of Trinity's first 100 years. We have been entrusted with its next chapter. We will use different words. We will sing different songs. We will wear different clothes. We will discover new ways of worshiping, serving, welcoming, and reaching our neighbors. But we must never lose sight of the story—the story of Jesus and Jesus' love. That is the legacy entrusted to us.

Our hope cannot simply be that Trinity survives another 100 years or avoids becoming another statistic of a congregation that closed its doors. Our hope is much greater: That Trinity will continue to be a vibrant, joyful, faithful community, where children gather around musicians, where new people find a place to belong, where neighbors are served, where generations worship together, and where the story of Jesus' love is told again and again. Perhaps, most importantly, where we allow the story of Jesus and his love to lead us, rather than asking Jesus to follow where we have already decided to go. That takes faith. It took faith in 1926, and it takes faith in 2026.

So as Kim passes along her love of music to the children gathered around her in this photograph, we see something much bigger than a music lesson. We see one generation placing something precious into the hands of another. Thank you, Kim, for the music and for 25 years of helping us tell the story. Welcome, Stefanie. We can't wait to hear how you will help us continue to sing it.

Trinity, this is your moment in the story. We have received an extraordinary legacy. Now it is ours to love, nurture, share—and faithfully pass on.

Celebrate the Past. Share the Present. Shape the Future.

Pastor Carol S. Gates



Celebrating Kim's Music Ministry



We recently celebrated Kim and her years of service as Trinity's Choir Director. We thank her for the time, talent, and dedication she has shared with our music ministry and look forward to continuing to have her as part of our Trinity family.

Meet Stefanie Batson-Martin!



“Hello, Trinity family! I am Stefanie Batson-Martin, and I come to you with nearly fifteen years of experience leading music at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Continued on page 5 ➔

Meet Stefanie Batson-Martin — Continuation

I am originally from Orlando, Florida. I moved to Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida after graduating high school. I received my Bachelor of Music in flute performance, but I simultaneously completed all required piano performance major courses and performed recitals on both instruments.

I began teaching music lessons while still in college. After graduating from UNF I took on many music performance jobs, including accompanist for local school choirs and band students, keyboardist and band leader for community music theatre productions, and lead musician/music minister at Lord of Life. I worked several years as a lifeguard at the YMCA, then expanded my duties to include swim instructor and CPR instructor.

I joke that I took a “gap decade” off before pursuing my master’s degree in piano performance, but I was diagnosed with a non-cancerous brain tumor known as an acoustic neuroma, within a year of graduating from UNF. I had brain surgery in August, 2019, followed by radiation in January, 2020. I then had surgery to install my hearing aid abutment for October, 2020. Although I am now half deaf, everything went well and I feel back to my old self.

I started my master’s degree in August 2025. I am now on my second and final year of my program. I anticipate graduating in Spring 2027. Per graduation requirement, I will perform a solo recital that you are all invited to attend once the date is set. This school year I was granted a graduate teaching assistantship, so I currently teach two sections of class piano for undergraduate music majors that are not majoring in piano performance.

Beyond graduate school, I teach about forty piano and flute students at the Music and Arts store in Mandarin. I still work for the First Coast YMCA, as a CPR instructor and a group fitness instructor. I volunteer for the Jacksonville Music Teacher’s Association. I am also a support group leader for musicians for the Acoustic Neuroma Association.

While I enjoy working, in my rare opportunities for leisure time I prefer being around water, particularly surfing. I met my husband, Damon, while we were both music students at UNF. He plays bass, guitar, and piano. He is a math tutor, a music teacher, and the pianist for Kirkwood Presbyterian in Argyle Forest. We have two spoiled cats.

I am very excited to be at Trinity because Lord of Life is also a part of the ELCA, so many aspects of the Sunday service are the same. I am also thrilled to work in an air-conditioned church and have the opportunity to learn to play organ. My absolute favorite thing is that the Lutheran Church is truly accepting of everyone no matter their background. I look forward to meeting everybody at Coffee Hour and working with the choir at Trinity!”

 **Riverside High CHORUS presents** 

Spaghetti DINNER

Salad, Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Bread, Drink & Dessert (Vegetarian option)

Children Under 12 FREE

EAT IN AND WATCH THE TALENT SHOW!!!

\$12

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1415 MCDUFF AVE S. 32205

WEDNESDAY
SEPT 16 2026
6:30PM

 @riversidesings 

 **CASH AT DOOR OR PAYPAL**
CAN'T MAKE IT?? DONATE WITH PAYPAL
MEMO: RHS SPAGHETTI



Florida Senior Enrichment Center

Community *in* Concert

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEM TO DONATE TO THE TRINITY
COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY AND SUPPORT
OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED

A benefit for seniors

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 6:30 PM

Hosted by
Katie Garner

An Unforgettable Evening

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy incredible music from talented local artists that will have you tapping your feet and singing along!

DELICIOUS FOOD



Savor light refreshments and beverages from local merchants in a warm setting.

WONDERFUL CONNECTION



Reconnect with friends, make new ones, and celebrate the strength and spirit of our community.

A MEANINGFUL CAUSE



Your support helps the Florida Senior Enrichment Center continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of local seniors every day.

Thank you



Come for the music. Stay for the memories. Leave knowing you made a difference.



PURCHASE TICKETS

<https://shorturl.at/LSFF3>

Event Location
1415 MCDUFF AVE. S. 32205

Tickets

\$25 **\$30** **\$35**
Senior /Child (12-under) Advance Ticket At the door
Includes light refreshments.

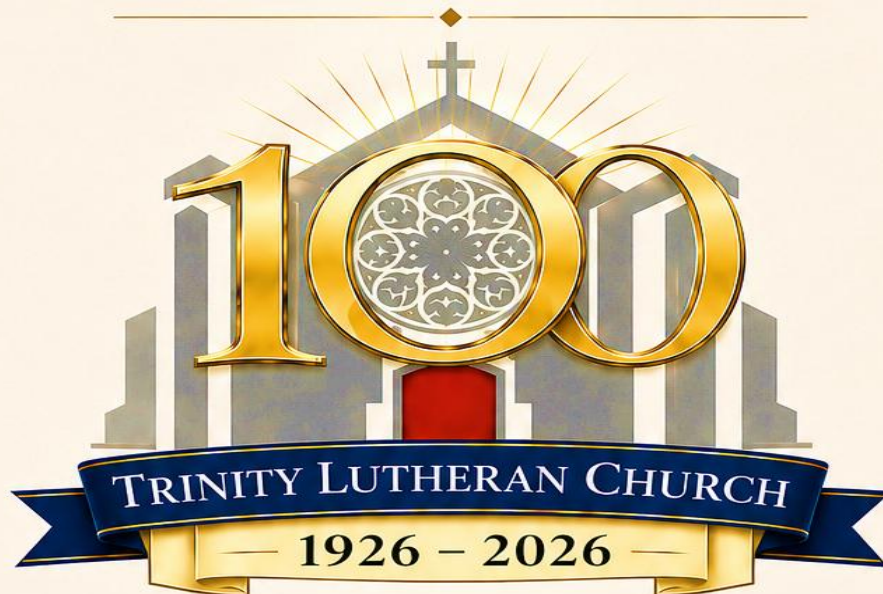
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1415 MCDUFF AVE. S. 32205

SUPPORTING SENIORS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY. ♥ TOGETHER.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

proudly celebrates its

100TH ANNIVERSARY



OCTOBER 11, 2026

WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM

ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
11:15 AM

1415 McDuff St. S, Jacksonville, FL

Join us following worship for an *Oktoberfest-themed reception* featuring German-inspired food, live Polka music, historic displays, and children's activities.

RECEPTION TICKETS

Adults \$20 | Children 12 and under \$10

Tickets available through September 30, or until sold out.

RSVP

Pick up an RSVP form in the Narthex,
or refer to the invitation email previously sent.

Groups, Gatherings, & Announcements



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 a.m.
in the Cecil Poole room!

If you're interested
in leading the lesson,
click the [link](#) to sign up
or Scan the QR Code!



(all you must do is show up)



Lend a Hand. Build Community. *All Are Welcome!*

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!



Trinity Lunch Bunch | Sept. Destination

1580 Wells Rd. Ste 7 Orange Park, FL 32073 | (904)592-1886

Sept. 17, 2026 – 11:30am

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



The August Love Offering will go towards recent A/C Repairs.

Stay CONNECTED

Check Trinity out at:

trinity4jax.org

You can find calendar events,
announcements, and more!

*Scan the QR Code
to donate!*





September 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 10:00 AM Call Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Takeaway 11:10 AM	7 Quilters 9:00 AM	8 WELCA Board Meeting 10:30 AM Circle Meeting 12:00 PM Council Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12 Via de Cristo Team Meeting 8:00 AM
13 Worship Service 10:00 AM Call Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Takeaway 11:10 AM	14 Men of Trinity 8:30 AM Quilters 9:00 AM	15	16 Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Spaghetti Dinner 6:30 PM	17 Health Symposium 3:00 PM	The Florida Senior Enrichment Center	
20 Worship Service 10:00 AM Call Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Takeaway 11:10 AM	21 Quilters 9:00 AM	22	23	24	25	26 Contra Dance 5:30 PM
27 Worship Service 10:00 AM Speaker – Holy Land Ministry 10:30 AM Call Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Takeaway 11:10 AM	28 Quilters 9:00 AM	29	30			

Trinity Food Pantry



August Recap

50 Different Volunteers Served at the Trinity
Community Food Panty during August 2026

Date	Patrons	Family Members	# of Zip Codes
Aug 6 th & 7 th	239	723	24
Aug 13 th & 14 th	250	760	25
Aug 20 th & 21 st	300	944	28
Aug 30 th & 31 st	271	864	26
Total	1,060	3,291	32

Thank you so much to the wondrous volunteers and donors that make the Food Pantry ministry such a huge success to our neighbors in the community that need food. Year-to-date, 8,536 families with 25,318 members have received 149,000 #s of food, an increase of 41% compared to #s of food distributed at the same time last year. We launched our weekly snack bag program for needy students at Riverside High School. Ms. Hawk, the counselor, estimates there are **150 students that are food insecure**. We provided 25 snack bags on Friday for the neediest students for nourishment over the weekend