

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA
15

[540] 869-4019

9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 PENTECOST

PRELUDE *Summer Celebration #25, #75*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* ELW 452



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress


GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Yours, Lord, Is the Glory: Tuya es la gloria

ELW 849



Tu - ya es la glo - ria, la hon - ra tam - bién;
1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;
2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;
3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;
4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.

tu - ya pa - ra siem - pre. A - mén, a - mén.
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.
all, Lord, I sur - ren - der. A - men, a - men.
Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Traditional; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: TUYA ES LA GLORIA, traditional
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

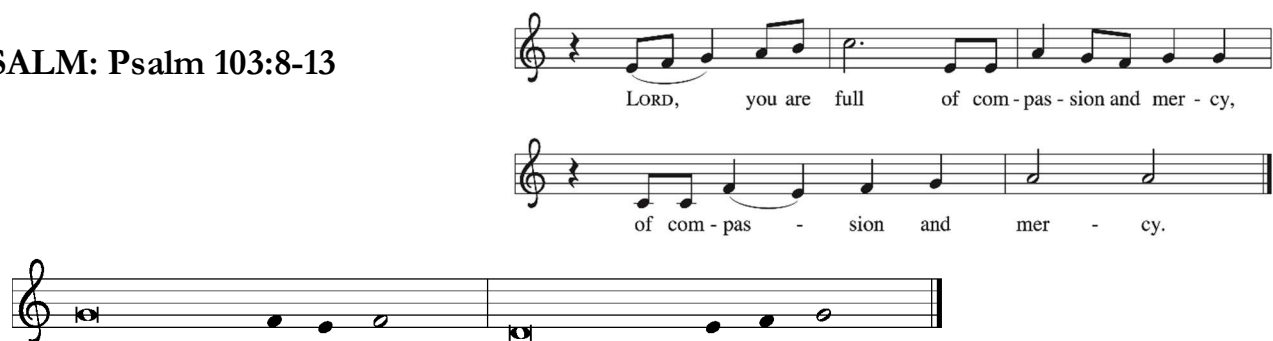
FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

Dorrie Greene

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13



- ⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
⁹**you will not al- | ways accuse us,**
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹**For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³**As a father has compassion | for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. R

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

- ¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.
⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sing twice*



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

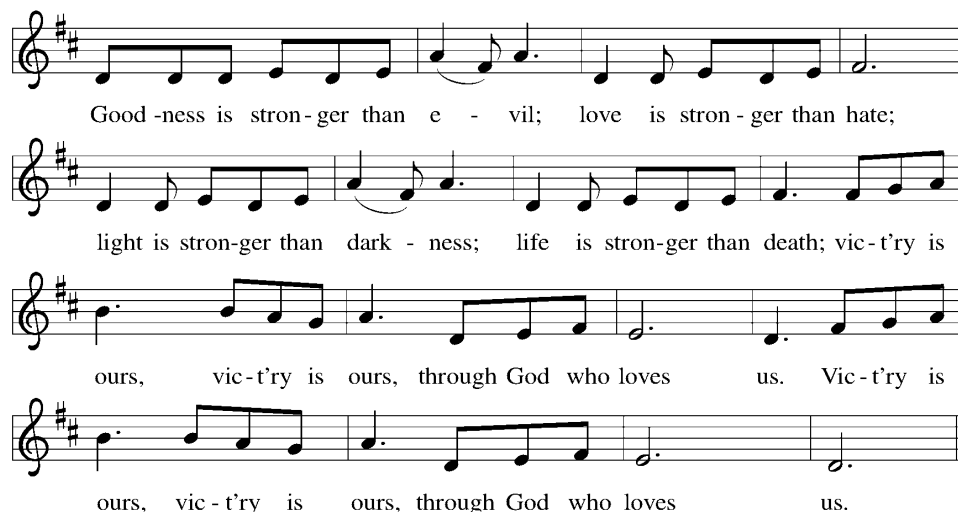
²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

HYMN OF THE DAY *sing twice, 1st time men; 2nd women* Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil ELW 721



Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949
Text © 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.
Music © 1996 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially, for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Pat, Earl, Jay, Nancy, Roberta and others we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

Offertoire

A. Marty (1865-1942)

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

Refrain

Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-'ry-bod-y, praise the Lord.

4 Praise God on top of the moun-tains;

praise God both day and night;

praise God down in the low val-leys;

Refrain

praise God be-cause it's all right.

Text: J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937–1986, based on Psalm 150
 Music: CLEVELAND, J. Jefferson Cleveland
 Text and music © J. Jefferson Cleveland. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to live with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bounds of love, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it; and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those

who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

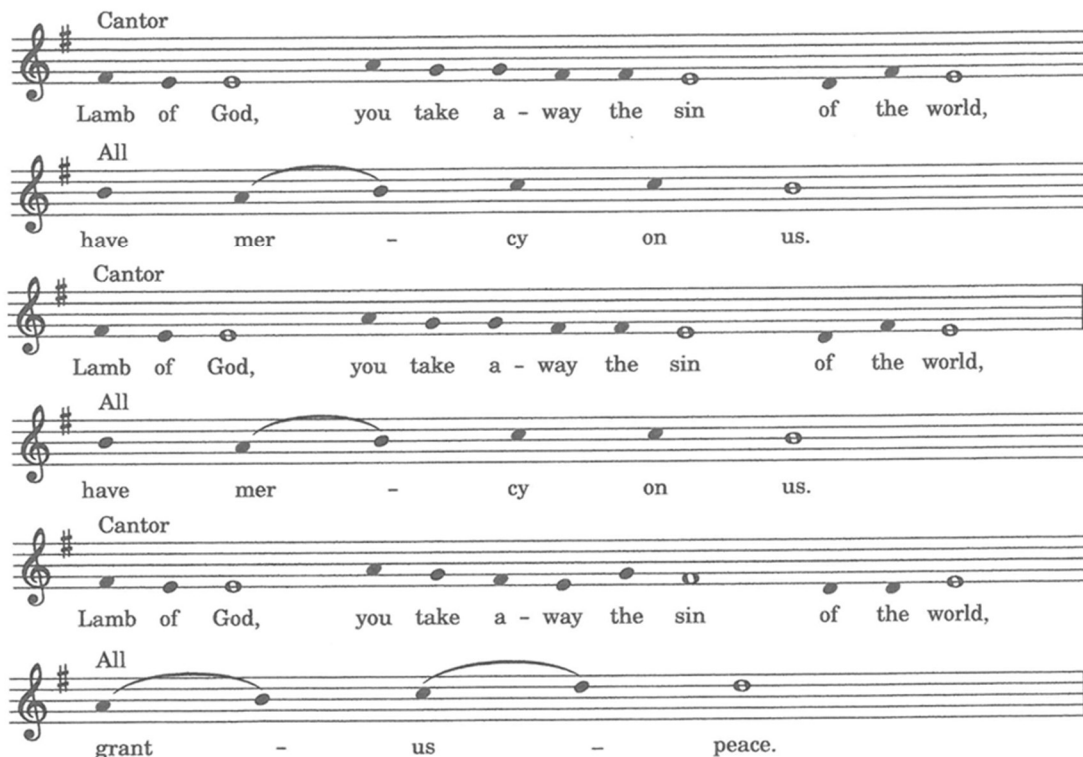
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Take and eat. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you." Then you may partake.

COMMUNION SONG





Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942
 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946

Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional

Spanish text, sts. 2-3 © 1983 Abingdon Press and tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
 Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
 for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
 Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Grand Jen

G. Lasceaux (1740-1831)

From sundaysandseasons.com license #SAS024465. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-720634. All rights reserved. CCLI, copyright Lic. 11381030, Streaming lic. 20167089 Lamb of God, Gospel & Memorial Acclamations by Ricky Gearhart; Psalmody refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress, tone from Psalter for Worship Year C ©2006 Augsburg Fortress; Offertory ©1994 Belwin Mills; Postlude Public Domain

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

TRENDING @ TRINITY

Congregational Picnic. After worship today all are welcome to gather at the Abex Shelter at Sherando Park for food, fun and fellowship. This is a potluck so everyone is asked to bring a couple dishes to share, keep in mind chicken, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Feel free to run home after worship to pick up your dishes and change clothes, though casual attire is welcome at church. If you have outdoor games you'd like to bring, feel free, *bring lawn chairs as well*. The games and fun will get rolling around 11-11:30.

For the foreseeable future, everyone attending in person worship is requested to make a name tag and wear it during worship and coffee time. This is a good way for everyone to get to know one another more easily. Stick-on name tags and colorful markers will be provided so you can individualize your tag.

This morning's Noisy Offering will benefit The Godfrey Miller Center. The Godfrey Miller Center is dedicated to serving adults of the community by providing benevolent services, fellowship programs and community events. A few of their established goals are: Creating an Inclusive and Joyful Community by welcoming all, including underserved seniors, community partners, and all active adults in the greater Winchester area; focusing on needs of surrounding community; and creating greater accessibility to programming, meals, and services. Telling their story by expanding ministry reach to entire Winchester community of adults, with special emphasis on underserved older adults; becoming a vital community informational resource for adults.

Wednesday is the Community Meal! Menu is Manwich™ on buns, corn, applesauce, coleslaw and dessert. The sign up list is in the parish hall for those willing to help provide a portion of the meal or help. Monetary donations are always welcome, see Martha Cooley or Vickie Hollis.

The new quarter of Christ in Our Home devotional booklets are in the rack in the Narthex.

Looking ahead, Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The staff came up with the plan of:

9:30AM worship - 4th Sunday in Advent

11PM Worship - Christmas Eve.

The 9:30AM worship is not going to change. But if you have strong feelings about the 11PM service, one way or the other, speak to a council member asap.

This week: Greeters: Maxine Rogers, Tom & Nan Righter; Reader: Dorrie Greene; Comm. Asst. Carol Pfisterer

Next week: Greeter: Deb Wickboldt, Reader: Marcie Stern; Comm. Asst. Mary Anderson