

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET  
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019  
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 PENTECOST 17

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the ✝ triune God, who loves us into being, calls us to community, and inspires us to love. **Amen.**

Confronted by the law and called to life in the gospel, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of love and community, we confess that we have not loved as God has loved us. We look to ourselves to fulfill your law. We seek to satisfy our own desires. We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone. Teach us again your statutes and help us to love your will, that in and through us your beloved community is made known.**

Beloved of God, love is the fulfillment of the law, and in ✝ Jesus, God's love for you is made known. Through Jesus your sins are forgiven, and you are drawn into God's love and life. Live fully, knowing that God loves you. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *1 all, 2 women, 3 all, 4 men, 5 all* Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

## 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

*Glory to God: Gloria a Dios*

Glo - ria\_a to Dios, glo - ria\_a to Dios,  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria\_a to Dios en los cie los.  
glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,  
Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to da la tie rra.  
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite  
Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966  
Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 116:1-9 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the LORD has dealt well with you.

<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

### PSALM RESPONSE

*Unison*  
♩ = 78-100

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to the Son, glo-ry  
be to the Ho-ly Ghost, Three in One; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and shall be, world with-out end. A - men.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (Gloria Patri) c. 4th cent.  
MUSIC: John Erickson, 1969

ERICKSON

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## SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

A reading from James.

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But

turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

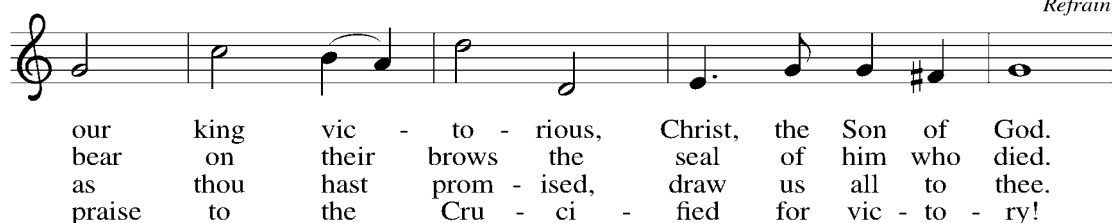
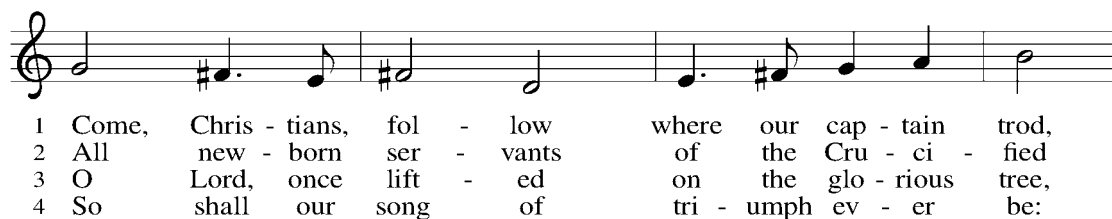
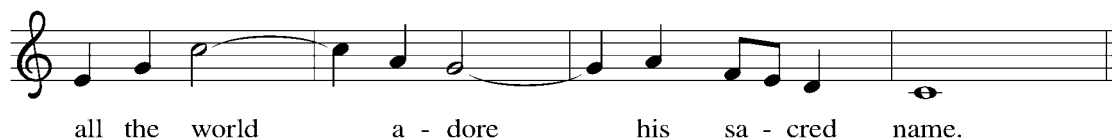
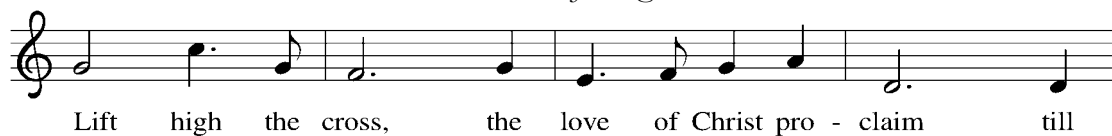
## SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Odie, Juanita, Nikki, Dan, Michael and those we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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



### OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING *(benefits Godfrey Miller Center)*

*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.*

## OFFERTORY PRESENTATION *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com  
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## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving 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 life 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 bonds 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:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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 SONGS

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.  
 Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.  
 Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com  
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## *This is Christ's Body*

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with  
 mer - cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,  
 bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960  
 Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ  
 Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## *In this Feast of Love*

*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* *täs - sä*  
 1 In this feast of love, in this  
 2 In this bread and wine, in this  
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us  
*pöy - däs - sä* *syn - ti - sil - le*  
 feast of love, Lord, you share your  
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the  
*it - se - si an - nat,* *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*  
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . of God div - ine.  
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio  
 Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,  
2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er  
3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:  
4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;  
5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,

took our sin a - way for - ev - er,  
here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.  
Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken  
all your bur - dens I will car - ry.  
bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.

bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,  
Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.  
by all those with hearts dis - tressed,  
There is noth - ing you can do  
Those you serve can taste from you

free - dom from death for us to gain.  
My blood I give for you in wine."  
by all who yearn for peace and rest.  
to earn this mer - cy; take it new."  
what won - ders God in love will do.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940  
Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524  
Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

### 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.**

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

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

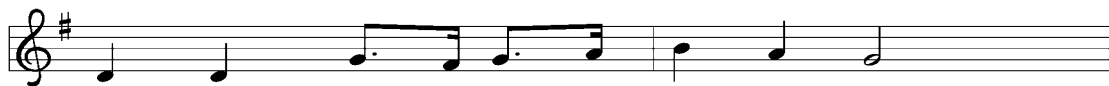
## SENDING SONG *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* ELW 774



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929  
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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**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/>

This week: Greeter: Nan Righter; Reader: Stephan Aker; Comm. Asst.: Barry Hockenberry

Next week: Greeters: Diann Dailey, Deb Wickboldt; Reader & Comm. Asst.: Susan Scheulen

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Stephan Aker in memory of his wife Sandy at the time of her birthday.

# TRENDING @ TRINITY

Warm thanks to our musician this morning. Please welcome back Melinda Russell.

This morning's Noisy Offering will benefit the Godfrey Miller Center in Winchester. The Godfrey Miller Center is dedicated to serving adults of the community by providing benevolent services, fellowship programs and community events in the historic home and the Woltz Pavilion.

Saturday, Sept. 28 at 10AM Pastor is having a new member brunch and class. Anyone considering joining Trinity is encouraged to attend. Find out about the ministries at Trinity more in depth, meet council members and learn a little about being an ELCA Lutheran.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN IN A CRUCIAL ELECTION YEAR?**

This six-week adult study begins today.

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that "faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society. We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder some timely social teachings of the ELCA.

The Community Meal will be Sept. 25. Menu is Manwich, applesauce, coleslaw, corn and dessert. There is a sign-up list in the parish hall for those willing to donate food or time. Monetary donations may be clearly marked and placed in the offering plate, or cash given to Vickie Hollis.

A word of thanks to everyone from Bernetta Jenkins for all the wonderful cards and birthday greetings!

Food pantry donation request for September is peanut butter. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away, also no personal hygiene or other products unless specifically asked for; no opened products of any kind (this includes unopened items that are in an opened multipack).