

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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9:30AM

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OCTOBER 27, 2024 REFORMATION

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**PRELUDE** *Intro to A Mighty Fortress* S. Busarow Darren Johnson, Trumpet

**GATHERING SONG** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* ELW 504

*vs. 1 choir & Congregation vs. 2 choir, vs. 3 choir & congregation*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 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.**

Ky - ri - e! God, Fa - ther in heav'n a - bove, you a - bound in  
 gra - cious love, of all things the mak - er and pre - serv - er.  
 E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! Ky - ri - e! O Christ, our king,  
 sal - va - tion for all you came to bring. O Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 our me - di - a - tor at the heav'n - ly throne: hear our cry and grant our sup -  
 pli - ca - tion. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! Ky - ri - e!  
 O God the Ho - ly Ghost, guard our faith, the gift we need the most,  
 and bless our life's last hour, that we leave this sin - ful world with glad - ness.  
 E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son! A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1100; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.  
 Music: KYRIE, GOTT VATER, "Kyrie fons bonitatis," c. 800, adapt.  
 Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

## GLORY TO GOD



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -  
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and  
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the  
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we  
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and  
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to  
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,  
source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O  
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank  
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your  
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and  
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!  
lord - ship is our bless - ing.  
on us all have mer - cy.  
lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550; tr. composite  
Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius  
Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2-4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Pam Reichert

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

## PSALM 46 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who

believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray*

ELW 743

1 Now to the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray  
 2 O sweet - est Love, your grace on us be - stow;  
 3 Tran - scen - dent com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,  
 4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light,

for true faith, most need - ed on our way:  
 set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow,  
 help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed,  
 that we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,

Guide us and de - fend us when life is end - ing  
 that with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er,  
 that we may not fal - ter, nor cour - age fail us  
 cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,

and our jour - ney home - ward is tend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 ev - 'ry strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 when the foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 who to our true home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: Medieval German *Leise*, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–4; tr. composite  
 Music: NUN BITTEN WIR, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
 Text sts. 1, 4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2, 3 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

## GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we  
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

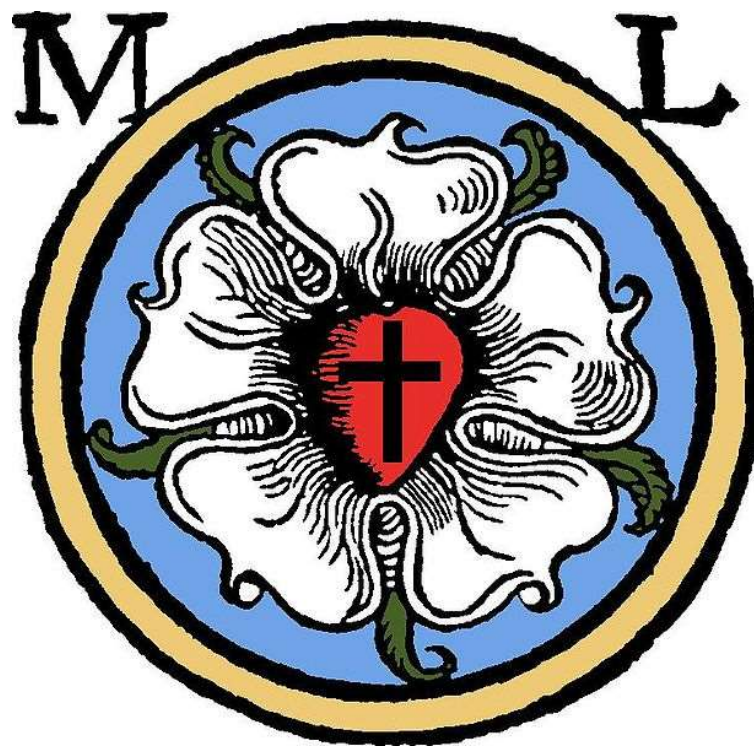


and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden



1 We all be - lieve in one true God,  
 2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ,  
 3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost

who cre - at - ed earth and heav - en, the Fa - ther,  
 his own Son, our Lord, pos - sess - ing an e - qual  
 who, in high - est heav - en dwell - ing with God the

who to us in love has the right of chil - dren giv - en.  
 God-head, throne, and might, source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing;  
 Fa - ther and the Son, com-forts us be - yond all tell - ing;

He in soul and bod - y feeds us; all we need his  
 born of Mar - y, vir - gin moth - er, by the pow - er  
 who the church, his own cre - a - tion, keeps in u - ni -

hand pro - vides us; through all snares and per - ils  
 of the Spir - it, Word made flesh, our el - der  
 ty of spir - it. Here for - give - ness and sal -

leads us, watch - ing that no harm be - tide us.  
 broth - er; that the lost might life in - her - it,  
 va - tion dai - ly come through Je - sus' mer - it.

He cares for us day and  
 was put to death on the  
 All flesh shall rise; we shall

night;  
 cross,  
 be all things are gov - erned by his might.  
 and raised by God vic - to - ri - ous.  
 in bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.

A - - - - - men.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. composite  
 Music: WIR GLAUBEN ALL, Latin *Credo*, c. 1300, adapt.  
 Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond especially Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Odie, Juanita, Nikki, Dan, Michael, Monica, the family of Charlotte Bailey and those we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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



**OFFERING** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word* Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)  
*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.*



## 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:

## HYMN

### *Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old*

ELW 868

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "I - sa - iah in a vi - sion did of old the Lord of hosts en - throned on high be - hold, whose splen - did train was wide out - spread un - til its stream - ing glo - ry did the tem - ple fill. A - bove God's throne the shin - ing ser - a - phim with six - fold wings did rev - erence un - to him. With two each ser - aph hid his glo - rious face, and two a - bout his feet did in - ter - lace, and with the oth - er two he soared on high, and one un - to an - oth - er thus did cry: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts! His glo - ry fill - eth all the earth!" The beams and lin - tels at their cry - ing shook, and all the house was filled with bil - lowing smoke.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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.

Again, 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 sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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

*Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*

ELW 357





1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, with ex-ul-ta-tion  
 2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay, death brood-ed fierce-ly  
 3 O God, you saw my deep dis-tress be-fore the world's foun-  
 4 You said to your be-lov-ed Son: "'Tis time to have com-



spring-ing, and, with u-nit-ed heart and voice and ho-ly  
 o'er me, sin was my tor-ment night and day; in sin my  
 da-tion, and, with your mer-cy mea-sure-less, you planned for  
 pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of my crown, and bring to



rap-ture sing-ing, pro-claim the won-ders God has done, pro-  
 moth-er bore me. My own good works all came to naught, free  
 my sal-va-tion. You turned to me a fa-ther's heart; you  
 all sal-va-tion; from sin and sor-row set them free; slay



claim the vic-t'ry God has won, how pre-cious was our ran-som!  
 will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, so firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
 did not choose the eas-y part, but gave your dear-est trea-sure.  
 bit-ter death for them that they may live with you for-ev-er."

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>5 The Son obeyed your gracious will,<br/>         was born of virgin mother;<br/>         and, your good pleasure to fulfill,<br/>         he came to be my brother.<br/>         His royal pow'r disguised he bore,<br/>         a servant's form, like mine, he wore,<br/>         to lead the devil captive.</p> | <p>7 "Now to my Father I depart,<br/>         from earth to heav'n ascending,<br/>         and, gracious wisdom to impart,<br/>         the Holy Spirit sending,<br/>         who will in trouble comfort you,<br/>         will teach you well, your faith renew,<br/>         and in all truth will guide you.</p>                  |
| <p>6 To me he said: "Stay close to me,<br/>         I am your rock and castle.<br/>         Your ransom I myself will be;<br/>         for you I strive and wrestle.<br/>         The foe will shed my precious blood;<br/>         all this I suffer for your good;<br/>         my life o'er death will triumph.</p> | <p>8 "What I on earth have done and taught<br/>         guide all your life and teaching;<br/>         so shall the glorious reign of God<br/>         increase, the whole world reaching.<br/>         Let none the gospel gift impede;<br/>         I make you free; be free indeed!<br/>         This final word I leave you."</p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: NUN FREUT EUCH, *Eitlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524  
 Text © 2006 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.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING SONG *v. 4*

### *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## BLESSING

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

## POSTLUDE

*A Mighty Fortress* Busarow/Hopson Darren Johnson, Trumpet

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# TRENDING @ TRINITY

Our thanks to Darren Johnson, our trumpeter this morning. It is always a pleasure to have his talent accompany us.

The community meal will be Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Menu is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and dessert. Check the bulletin board in the parish hall for a sign-up list if you would like to provide a portion of the meal or your time. The next meal will be Dec. 4, the holiday meal.

Funeral service for Charlotte Bailey will be here at Trinity Monday, tomorrow at 11AM. Visitation precedes at 10AM. Following the interment at Green Hill Cemetery there will be a reception here in the parish hall. If you'd like to help with the reception, please speak to Hilda Painter or Martha Cooley this morning.

Food pantry donation request for October is jelly for November: Pancake Mix. 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).

## NOVEMBER

### Calendar

Choir meets every Thursday 5:30PM;

Community Music School 5pm Tues & 1:30 and 5PM Fri. Rm 203

3- 2AM Time change, fall back

9:30AM All Saints Sunday, blessing of quilts, dedication of railings

11-Parish hall in use all week for assembly of Thanksgiving boxes

12-9:30AM Sewing for the Savior, rm. 204

11:30AM Lutheran Church Women, rm. 205

6:30PM Council meeting

16-Thanksgiving food box distribution

17-Noisy Offering benefits Bright Futures

26-9:30AM, Sewing for the Savior, rm. 204

28-Happy Thanksgiving, church office closed



### Birthdays

5- Dan Painter

6- Mark Landes

10-Fadua Houser

11-Martha Cooley

22-Joey Patterson

**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: Pam Reichert: Comm. Asst.: David Reichert

Next week: Greeter: Diann Dailey; Reader: Hilda Painter; Comm. Asst.: Barry Hockenberry

## Down Where the Kudzu Grows

Down where the mountains meets the sky, the French Broad runs, and the waterfalls flow,  
Helene landed down where the Kudzu grows.

She brought the rain and wind.  
She came fast and hard down in Appalachia where the people are strong and well rooted like  
the Kudzu and where it grows.

Down where the Kudzu grows.

The water rose and kept on rising to 30 feet or more.  
The mountains slid down to meet the roads.  
The trees so strongly swayed to and fro.  
Swannanoa, Black Mountain, Boone, Chimney Rock...the devastation was the worst that  
anyone has ever seen.  
The land moved, rivers rerouted, and Helene wiped stuff clean down to the bone.

Down where the Kudzu grows.

Towns are no longer, having been carried far down the rivers where they flow.

But...Appalachia is strong in faith, proud and steadfast.  
So together we rise to support those so dear.  
People have come from near and far. They came by helicopter and mules. With power trucks,  
food, chainsaws, clothing and more.

But, they also came with love because in the end we are all in this together.  
Long after the roads are fixed and the water low, no one will ever forget the loss and love that  
came,

Down where the Kudzu grows.

I used to think that the Kudzu was just everywhere.  
But just maybe there is a bit of good in the Kudzu after all.  
It will cover and make bandaids of the days that Helene came to town.  
The wounds will heal, but the scars will remain forever.

Down where the Kudzu grows.

By Kimberly Begnaud-Hampton  
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