# Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 May 25, 2025



**Zoom to Worship**, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681

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 Weeks; Greeters: David & Pam Reichert. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Pam Reichert.

Communion Assistant: David Reichert.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Sue Teal. Communion

Assistant: Hilda Painter.

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Please stand

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.



Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

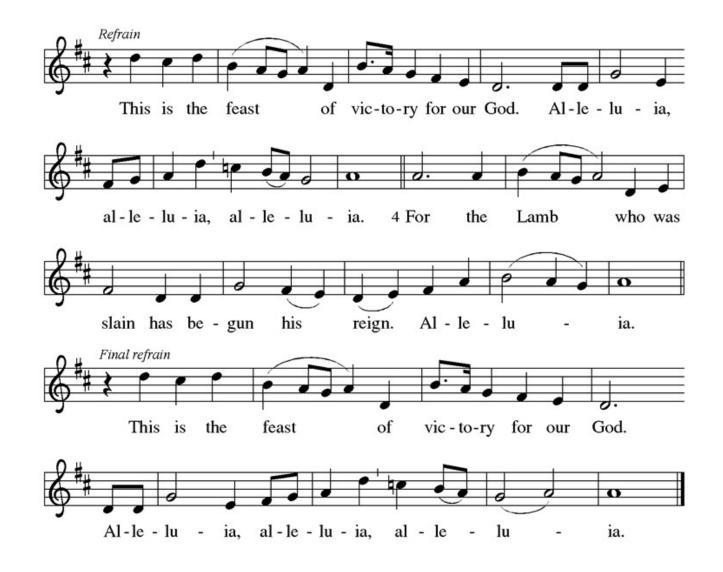
#### **GREETING**

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.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

#### FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A reading from Acts.

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>12</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 67**





- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to <sup>|</sup> us and bless us; may the light of God's face <sup>|</sup> shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup> Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise <sup>1</sup> you, O God; let all the <sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and <sup>1</sup> sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- <sup>1</sup> tions on earth. R
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples <sup>1</sup> praise you, O God; let all the <sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- <sup>7</sup> May God <sup>|</sup> give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth <sup>|</sup> stand in awe. **R**

#### SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### Please stand



GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

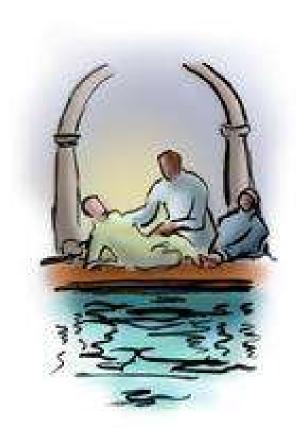
<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

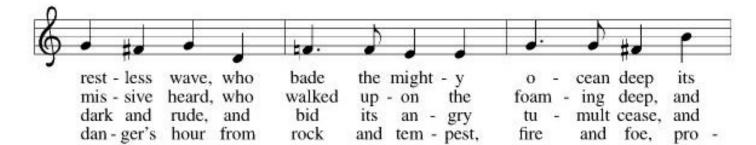
SERMON Rev. Larry Closter



(ELW 756)



- 1 E ter nal Fa ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the 2 O Sav ior, whose al might y word the winds and waves sub
- 3 O Ho ly Spir it, who didst brood up on the cha os
- 4 O Trin i ty of love and pow'r, all trav-'lers guard in





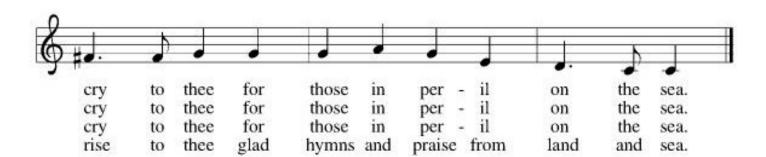
go;

thus

ev -

er - more shall

e'er they



Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt. Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

tect them where - so

#### **CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.



Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors (*specific partners may be named here*), that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.

# Your mercy is great.

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Monica, (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ (*especially*). Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

#### Amen.

#### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you.

#### Please be seated

#### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

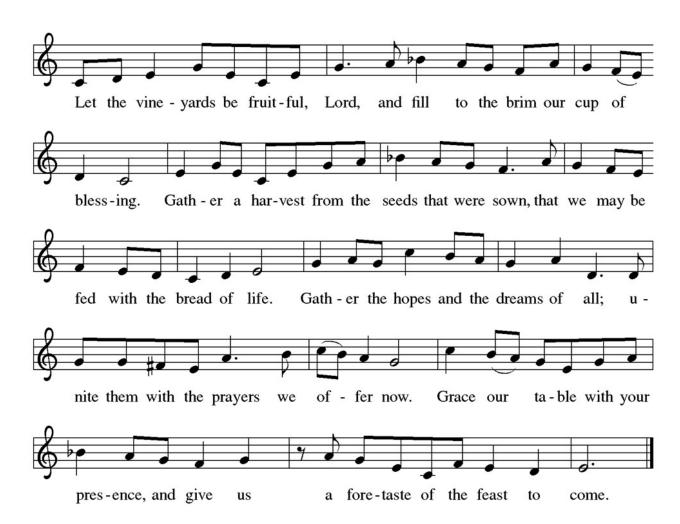
OFFERING Hymn of Promise Natalie Sleeth, Arr. J. Ferguson Trinity Choir

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

#### Please stand

**OFFERING PRESENTATION** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen.

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

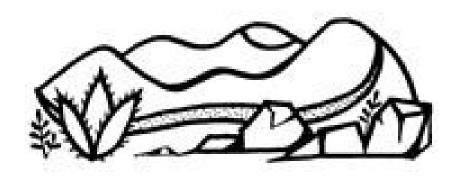
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

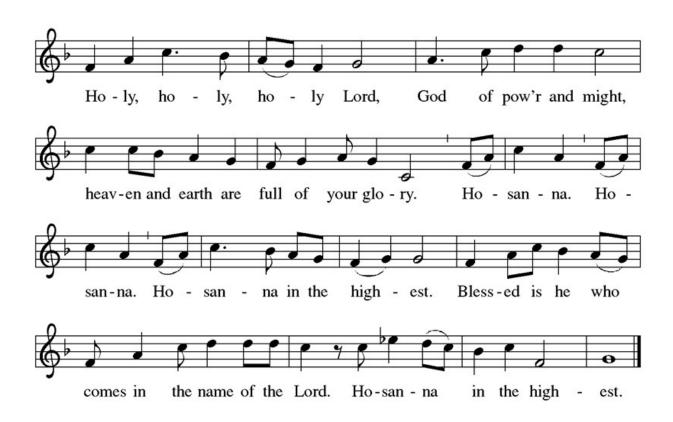
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

#### **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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

#### Please be seated

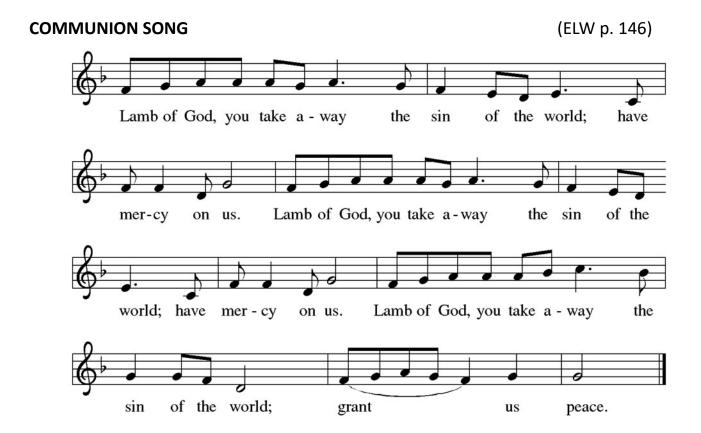
#### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.





- Je ru sa lem, my hap py home, when shall I come to thee?
- hap py har bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas-ant soil!
- gar-dens and thy gal-lant walks con tin ual-ly Thy green;
- 4 There trees for ev er more bear fruit and ev er more do spring;
- 5 Je ru sa lem, Je ru sa lem, God grant that I see



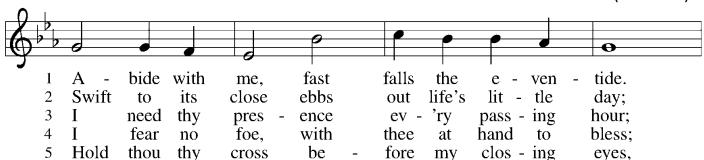
shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I When see? thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no In toil. grow such sweet and pleas-ant flow'rs as no-where else are there seen. ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do there sing. end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er thine be!

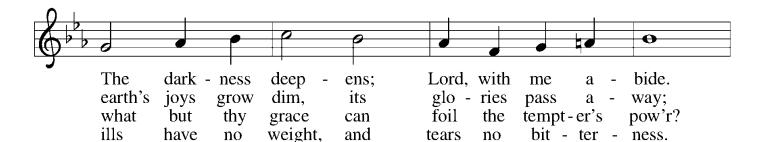
Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional



Abide with Me (ELW 629)





the

to

shine through the skies; gloom, point me O When oth - er help fail ers and com - forts flee, change

and

and de cay in all a round I see; thy self Who like my guide and stay can be? vic - to Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy ry? heav'n's morn-ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

## Please stand

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

#### Amen.

# Please be seated

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Please stand

#### **BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, & Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen.





Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen'kwen-khos'*. light of God.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. we are march-ing in the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. we are march-ing in the light of God.





si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. we are march - ing in the light of God.

Sing twice.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** Postlude Henry Smith (1848-?)

# In Flanders Fields: A Memorial Day Reflection

On this Memorial Day we acknowledge patriotism and the awful price of war. Pause for a moment of prayer to remember with me the families and loved ones of those who gave their lives for the freedoms we share.

Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D., wrote the following poem the day after he watched a close friend die in battle in 1915.

The poem captures the solemnity of this day:

In Flanders fields the poppies grow

Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Peace,
Pastor Larry



#### Reminders

# Note from Trinity Treasurer | Mark Greene

trinitylctreasurer@gmail.com

#### **Donating Stock to the Church**

Did you know you can support Trinity's mission by donating appreciated stock? The church has a brokerage account that accepts stock transactions. Giving stock directly to the church can offer **significant tax benefits**, including avoiding capital gains taxes and receiving a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock.

Interested? Contact Mark Greene by email or reach out through

the church office at 540-869-4019 (Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM - 1 PM).

We're happy to guide you through the process.

Thank you for your faithful support!

# > Summer Hymn Sing Returns in June!

Our joyful summer tradition begins again in June! Each Sunday service will begin with a **hymn** sing featuring your favorite selections.

Browse the **ELW**, **With One Voice**, and the **Worship & Praise Songbook**, then fill out a **suggestion slip** (located at the organ console) and drop it in the nearby basket.

Ricky will review all submissions and do his best to include every request.

Let's fill our summer mornings with the music that moves your spirit!

# New Monthly Gathering – Together in Prayer

Created by The Prayer & Friendship Ministry Team and Pastor Closter,

Together in Prayer is a new opportunity to pray for our congregation and community.

- First gathering: Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00 PM
- Recurring every last Wednesday of the month
- Coming Next Week: A special card box will be set up for anyone who would like to send 100th birthday wishes to Louise Poffenberger!
  Details about the celebration can be found in the Save the Date section.

Please place used bulletins in the recycling basket located under the table in the Narthex entryway, where you picked them up.

# ~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community NewS

# THIS WEEK AT TRINITY Here's what's happening at a glance:

- iii Sunday, May 25
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Join us for an ongoing Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts (alternative date Friday the 30th, see below) | Parish Hall @11:00am.
- **Monday, May 26**
- Memorial Day
- III Tuesday, May 27
- Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30AM in room 204. | Contact Martha Cooley
- **Wednesday, May 28**
- Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad & Dessert)
- Together in Prayer @ 7PM meet in the Sanctuary | Contact Pastor Closter
- iii Thursday, May 29
- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Friday, May 30
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Upstairs classroom
- iii Saturday, May 31
- CMSP Music Together (Spring Session Week 8) | Upstairs Classroom

# **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Happy Birthday to:

May 25th- Nan Righter May 26th- Marcie Stern May 29th- Barbara Hockenberry

(Did we miss your birthday? Contact the church office to update your info!)

# **Ongoing Announcements**

#### Prayer Team Table

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request, or contact **Mistie McPadalin** to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession.

#### Hospital Visitation

Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted.

To request a visit, contact the church office at **540-869-4019**, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at **540-848-5325**. You may also reach out to **Mistie McPadalin** or **Martha Cooley**.

May Food Pantry Donation Request: Canned green beans

#### Save the Date

#### **NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE**

<u>Mark your calendars – JUNE is here!</u> June Food Pantry Donation Request: Spaghetti Sauce

June 1 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

June 4th-10 - Pastor Closter will be on Vacation

June 5 – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 6 – D-Day

**June 7** – Ladies Luncheon @ 12 PM Paladin Restaurant | Contact Christine Cornwell: 540-869-2727 or Sue Scheulen: 540-247-4826

June 8 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM | Pentecost with Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth

June 10 - Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

- LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30AM | Contact Deb Wickboldt
- Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall

June 12 - Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 13th- 15 – 2025 Virginia Synod Assembly

**June 14** – Dementia Matters \ Dementia Friendly Blue Ridge (DFBR) information meeting @ 10AM-12PM Parish Hall | Contact Jayne Seymour ~ Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Dementia Trainer 540-535-9775

June 15 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM | Father's Day

- The Noisy offering will benefit the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Homeless Program
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

June 19 - Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 20 – Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

- Happy 100th Birthday to Louise Poffenberger! 🞉

June 22 - Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM- Celebration for Louise's 100th Birthday!

- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

June 24 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

-Young at Heart Dinner " A Taste of Tuscany" @5:30pm Parish Hall | RSVP by June 15th to Maxine Rogers 540-869-2012 or Christine Cornwell 540-869-2727

- 24th - 30th Pastor Closter will be on Vacation

June 25 – Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall

(Fried Chicken, Greens or Carrots, Baked Beans & Dessert)

- Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM

June 26 - Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 28 – Newtown History Center - Presentation on military uniforms of Frederick County VA soldiers of 1775 @ 10 AM- 12PM Parish Hall | Contact Byron C. Smith 540-869-7102

June 29 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM with Rev. Heidi David- Young

#### Stay in the Loop!

Want to receive our weekly Trinity Times Newsletter by email?

Fill out a welcome card (basket in the Narthex) with your name and email, and we'll add you to the list.

Prefer print? Pick up a copy **next to the name tag table in the Narthex**, or call the office to request a mailed version:

📞 **540-869-4019** | 🕒 Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM–1 PM