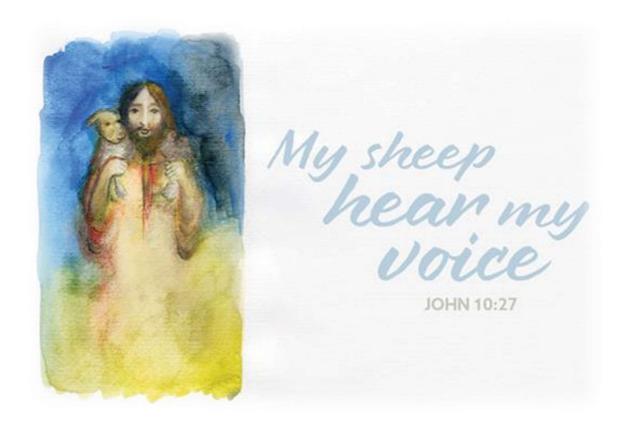


810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 May 11, 2025

# Fourth Sunday of Easter



**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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/">https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/</a>

This Weeks; Greeters: Carole Pfisterer & Loretta Koontz. Lessons & Prayers Reader:

Emily Heartman. Communion Assistant: Susan Scheulen.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Martha Cooley. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Marcie Stern.

Communion Assistant: Rev. Deanna Boynton.

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Amen.

Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ⅓ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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,

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.

and show us the path of life.



Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

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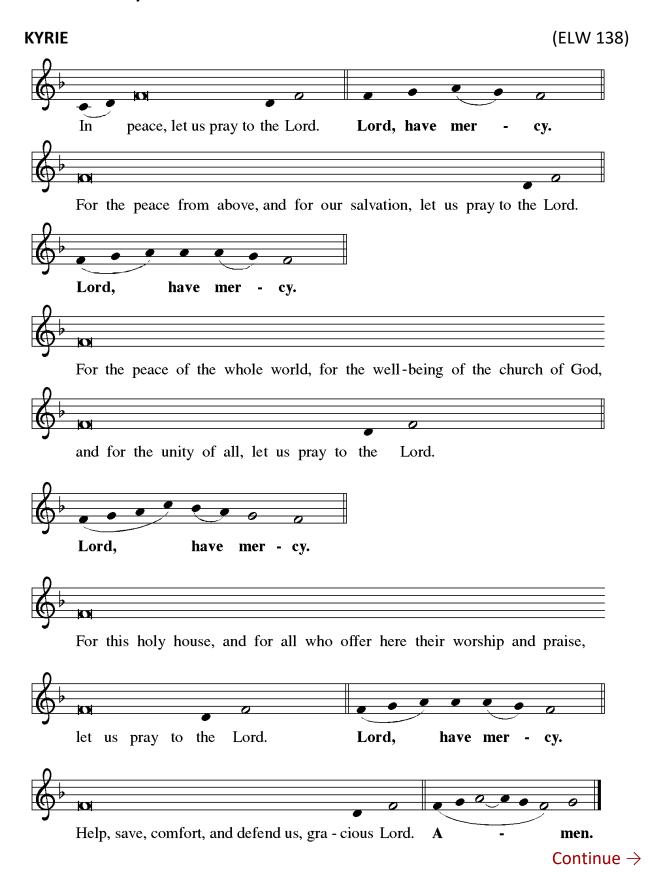
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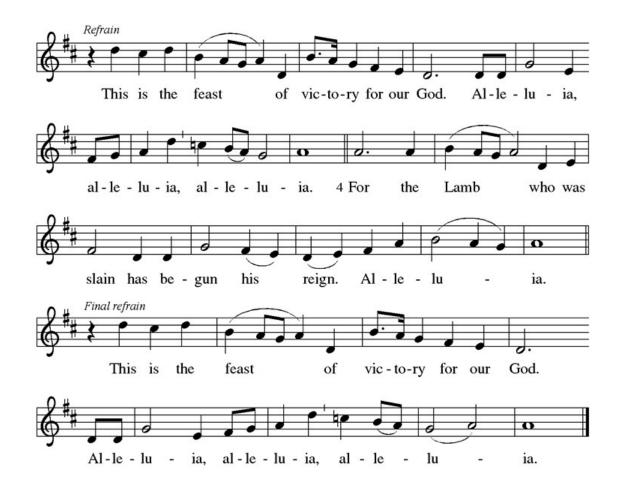
#### **GREETING**

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.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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: Acts 9:36-43

A reading from Acts.

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

# PSALM: Psalm 23 (ELW778)



- 1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
- 2 My soul he doth re store a gain, and me to walk doth make
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
- 5 Good-ness and mer cy all my life shall sure ly fol low me,



pas - tures green; he lead - eth the me qui - et wa - ters by. righ-teous-ness, e'en with - in the paths of for his own name's sake; thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still: for head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my my cup o - ver flows. and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall



lead - eth he lead - eth me the He me, qui - et wa - ters with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake. for with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort thou art My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver flows. in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall and

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

- <sup>1</sup>The Lord <sup>|</sup> is my shepherd; I shall not <sup>|</sup> be in want.
- <sup>2</sup> The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters.
- <sup>3</sup> You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R
- <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is I running over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. R

#### **SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17**

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- <sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- <sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
- <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



**GOSPEL: John 10:22-30** 

The holy gospel according to John.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Larry Closter





(ELW 502)

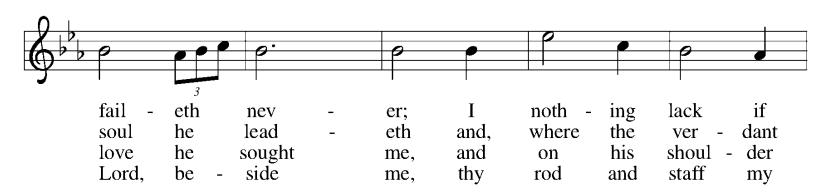


**HYMN OF THE DAY** 

The King of love shep - herd whose good - ness is, 1 my Where streams of liv ing wa ter flow, somed my ran -

strayed, but and fool ish oft yet Per - verse I in

death's dark vale In I fear no ill. with thee, dear





his he mine for am and is ev er. pas - tures grow, with food ce - les tial feed eth. re - joic gent - ly laid, and home, ing, brought me. com - fort be - fore still; thy guide cross to me.



#### **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.



You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Monica, the Carcamo Family (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints (*especially*), we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. 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.

#### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERING**

For These Blessings

Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

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

#### **OFFERING PRESENTATION**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

(ELW 182)



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### **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.** 

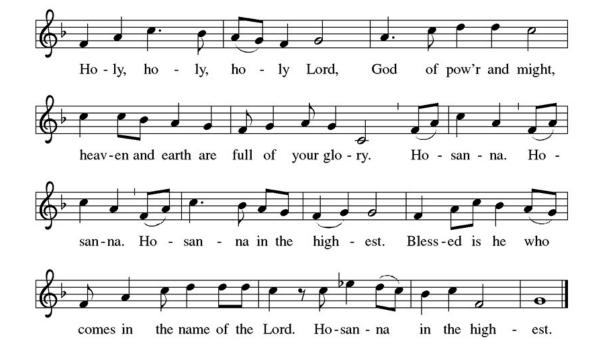
Lift up your hearts.

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.

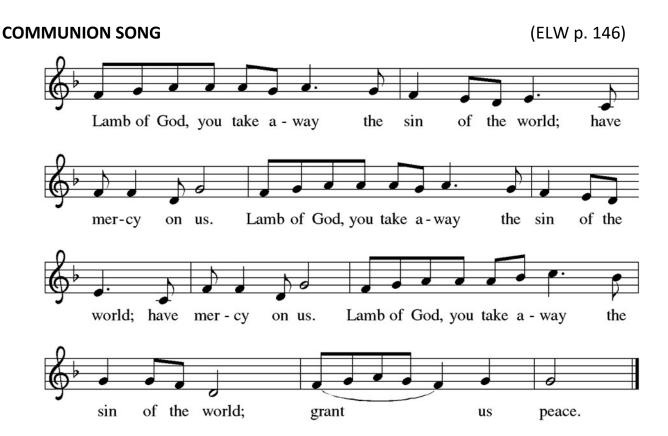
#### **COMMUNION**

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.



#### **SONGS DURING COMMUNION**

For the Bread Which You Have Broken (ELW 494)



- For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- By this prom ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re stored,
- With the saints who now a dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly
- your ser vice, Lord, de fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



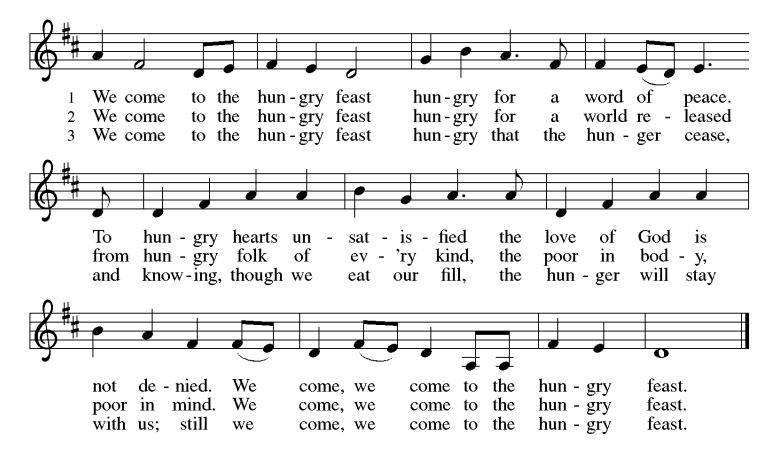
the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. our lives. by your call to heav'n a - bove us. hal - low all may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord. the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1631

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

# We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479)



Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### 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.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

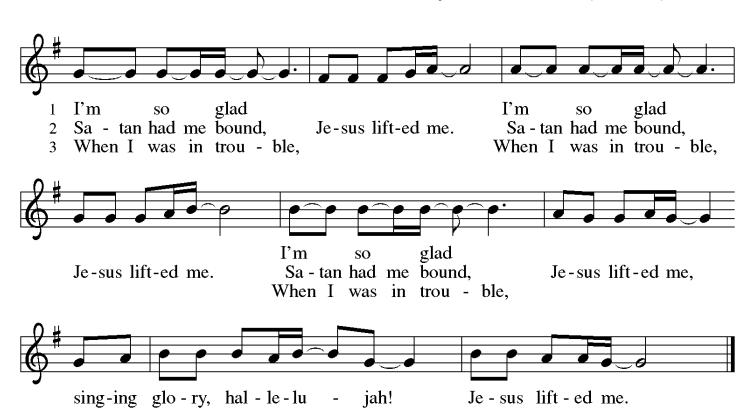
The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen.

**SENDING SONG** 

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

(ELW 860)



Text: African American spiritual

Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

#### **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 in C minor

Ewart West (1869?)

# ~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community 11eWS

# **Special Worship & Conversation** – Sunday, May 18

We are honored to welcome **Bishop Phyllis Milton of the Virginia Synod** as she leads worship next Sunday, May 18. She will be joined by **Guest Pastor Deanna Boynton**, who is graciously filling in for Pastor Closter during his time away.

Following the service, all are invited to stay for coffee and a few snacks in the parish hall. During this time Bishop Milton will speak with the congregation about the call process for a new pastor and the **next steps** for Trinity as we continue through this present interim period. Plan to attend. We don't want you to miss this informative conversation!

#### Reminders

◆ <u>Note from</u> Trinity Treasurer | Mark Greene <u>trinitylctreasurer@gmail.com</u> Donating Stock to the Church

Did you know you can support our church's mission by donating appreciated stocks?

The church has a brokerage account that accepts stock transactions. Giving stock directly to the church can offer significant tax benefits. You may avoid paying capital gains taxes and can also receive a charitable deduction for the full market

value of the stock. This means your gift can have a greater impact both for you and for our ministry. Ask your accountant about the tax benefits.

If you're interested or would like more information, please see the email above, Mark Greene | Trinity Treasurer, or by phone, contact the church office 540-869-

4019 Business hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 am - 1 pm

We are happy to help guide you through the process!

Thank you for your generosity and faithful support!

# Following Today's service,

- Coffee Hour after service (All are welcome!) | Parish Hall Happy Mother's Day!
- Chime Choir, after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Tuesday, May 13
- Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30AM in room 204. | Contact Martha Cooley
- LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30AM | Contact Deb Wickboldt
- Thursday, May 15

Choir Rehearsal 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director

• Friday, May 16

CMSP Music private lesson 5-6 pm | Upstairs Classroom

- Saturday, May 17
- CMSP Music Together (Spring Session Week 6) | Upstairs Classroom
- LCW Tea Party @ 2 PM | Contact Sue Scheulen <u>susanscheulen@yahoo.com</u> or Mistie McPadalin wjmcp3@gmail.com

# **Summer Hymn Sing is Back!**

Beginning in June, our worship services will once again begin with a joyful hymn sing—and we want to sing *your* favorites! Just like last year, you're invited to flip through the **ELW**, **With One Voice**, and the **Worship & Praise Songbook** to find hymns that speak to your heart.

When you find a hymn (or a few!) you'd love to sing this summer, simply write them down on one of the suggestion slips located on the organ console. Drop your completed slip into the nearby basket, and Ricky will thoughtfully review all your requests.

We'll do our very best to include every suggestion and make our summer mornings filled with the songs you love most!

◆ The Prayer Team has a beautiful table located at the entrance to the Sanctuary (just inside the doorway to the right). Everyone is welcome to fill out a card and place prayer request in the box. Also, if you would like to add to the Prayers of Intersession please contact Mistie McPadalin.

- HOSPITAL VISITATION- Pastor Closter is registered clergy for Valley Heath he visits patients in the hospital when we are aware that someone has been admitted and sees this as important pastoral care. Because of HIPPA, the hospital does not contact the church to let us know when a parishioner is a patient. If you want him to visit, please contact the church office at 540-869-4019, or after hours, please call the pastor 540-848-5325 or send an email. You may also reach out to our prayer team contact, Mistie McPadalin or Matha Cooley.
- Food pantry donation request for May: canned Green Beans.
- ♦ Happy Birthday this week:

11th- Paul Anderson 16th - Robert Cornwell (Did we miss your birthday? Contact the church office to update your info!)

#### Save the Date

# Mark your calendars - MAY is here!

- May 12-18 Pastor Closter will be on Vacation
- May 13 Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30AM in room 204. | Contact Martha Cooley
   LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30AM | Contact Deb Wickboldt
- May 17 LCW Tea Party @ 2 PM | Contact Sue Scheulen <u>susanscheulen@yahoo.com</u> or Mistie McPadalin wjmcp3@gmail.com
- May 18 Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM | Bishop Phyllis Milton & Pastor Deanna Boynton, please stay after service for info on call process.
  - Noisy Offering will benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- May 23–24 33rd Annual Newtown Heritage Festival
  Join us at the Old Stephens City School Veterans Memorial site for the
  Veterans Memorial Service.

Pastor Closter will deliver the Invocation and Prayer at 8:00 AM.

- May 24 Stephens City Fire & Rescue Chicken BBQ Dinner @ 11AM 1 PM
- May 26 Memorial Day
- May 27 Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30AM in room 204. | Contact Martha Cooley
- May 28 Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad & Dessert)

#### For More Info

# Stay in the Loop!

If you'd like to receive our weekly Trinity Times Newsletter by email, please fill out a welcome card (small basket on the table to the left in the Narthex) with your name and email—we'll be happy to add you to the list!

No email? No problem! Feel free to take a printed copy of this week's newsletter (next to the name tag table, also in the Narthex).

If you would like a copy mailed to you prior to Sunday service. Please call the office:



540-869-4019

(L) Business hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 am - 1 pm