12th Gunday after Pentecost



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 August 31, 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: Nan Righter. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Roger Wickboldt.

Communion Assistant: Barry Hockenberry.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Martha Cooley. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Loretta Koontz.

Communion Assistant: Carole Pfisterer.

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PRELUDE

Please stand

Summer Celebration ~ Purple Book, Worship & Praise pg. 95

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who gives us life, I Jesus the one who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another. Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence
and suffering.
Yet we are afraid to risk what we
have for the sake of others.

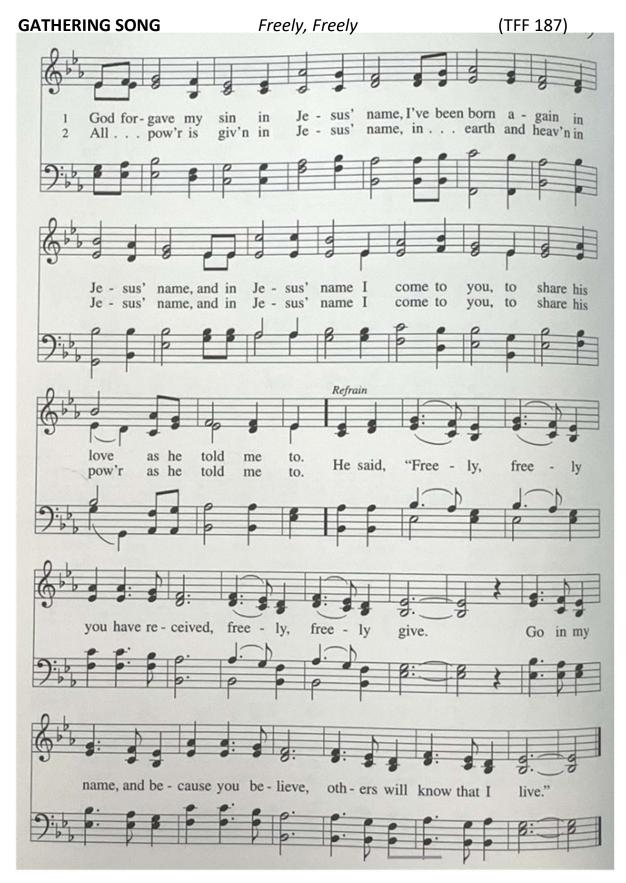
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place upon others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

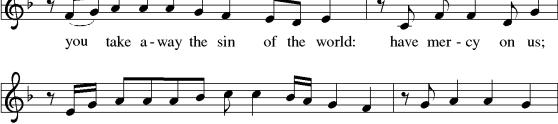
Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding,
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God has made for us a new way.
In + Christ, your sins are forgiven. Smile and rejoice
Amen.



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.**

(ELW p. 139) **CANTICLE OF PRAISE** Assisting minister Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa -Lord God, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. we wor-ship you, Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



re-ceive our prayer.

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:







PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

A reading from Proverbs.

- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,
- ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112





- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who [|] fear the LORD and have great delight in [|] God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty | in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R
- ³ Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house, and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness | for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- [|] ous in lending and to manage their af- [|] fairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will nev- [|] er be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlast- [|] ing remembrance. R
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

- ⁸ Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink, until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands ¹ fast forever; they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away; the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142)





GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated



Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music LIVING RREAD, St. Vincent traditional adapt: arr Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

CREED

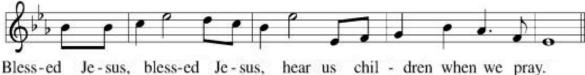
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose 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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.



For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence

especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren, Kim (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us especially those who run our Community Meal. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, our hearts are broken with pain at the loss of life from an act of gun violence at a Catholic school Mass in Minneapolis. We pray for the healing of those who have been injured, for the parents and families who are grieving, and for our communities that are suffering from this horrific tragedy. We ask that you touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Transform our hearts to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences and connect with those who feel a need to express their isolation and loneliness through violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor. For those seeking work, provide jobs — both citizens and immigrants alike. For those who cannot work, provide sustenance. Make those who lead the work forces of this country responsive to your perfect will. Build up in the elected leaders a respect for all labors. Deliver us, Lord Jesus, from the evils of greed, sloth, and gluttony that we may lead lives of holiness in service to you and our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

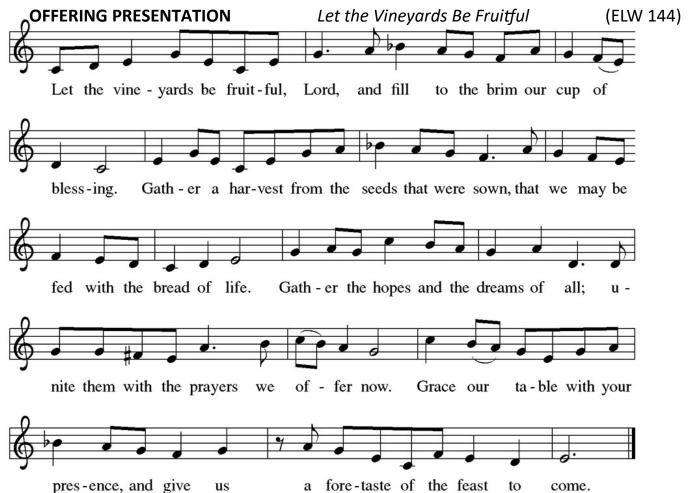
Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering 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.

Please stand



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

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

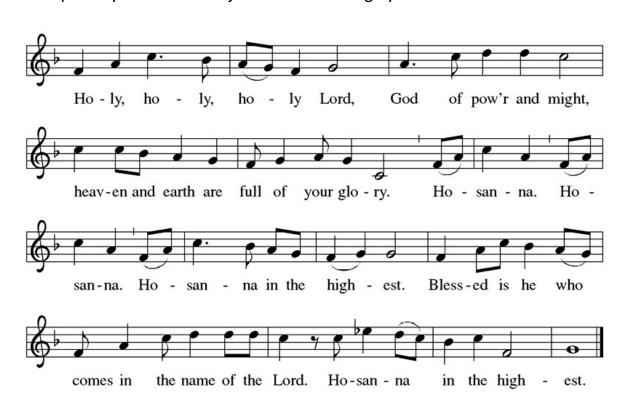
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ who through the cross cleansed us from all sin. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready

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

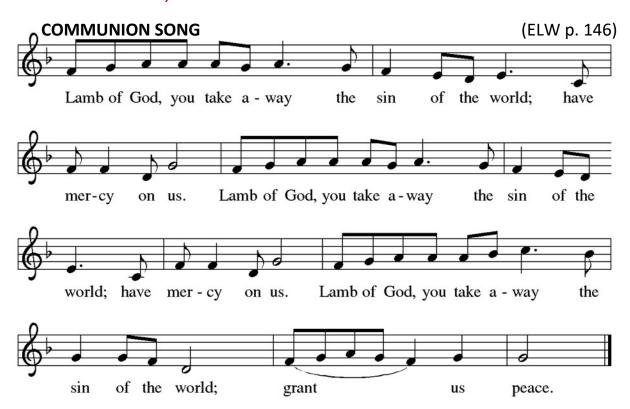
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

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.





us and

make

us

one.

Heal

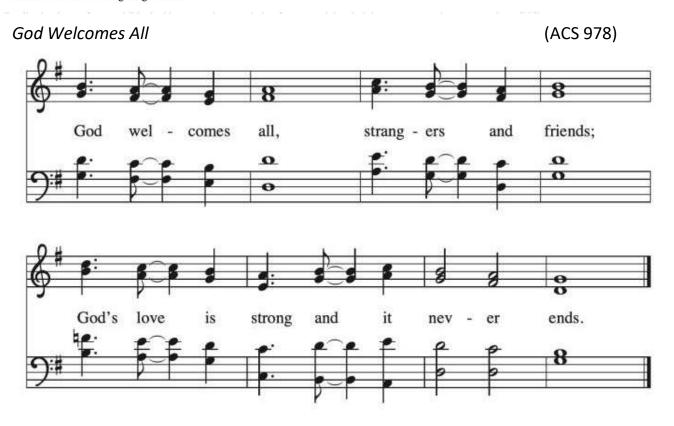
Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

bro-ken and

Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ

blest.

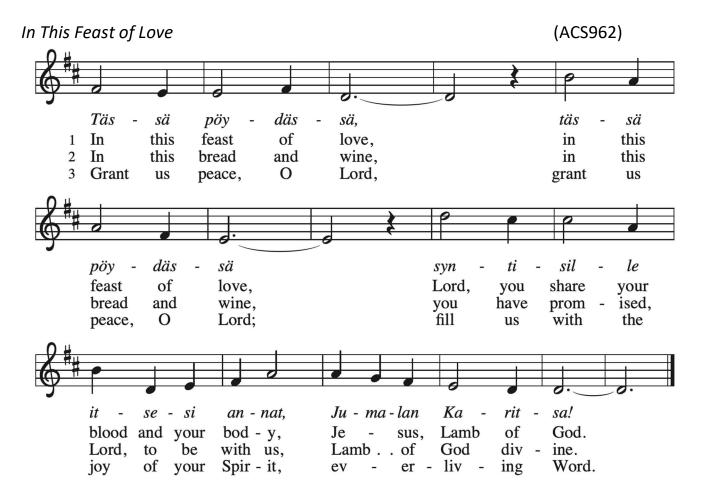
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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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

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

lean - ing on Je - sus,

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Aria detto Balletto

lean - ing on Je - sus,

Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community 11eWS

IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

Sunday Servants – Jump in and serve this September — be a greeter, reader, or holy usher! Sign-up sheets are calling your name! contact Christine Cornwell or Sign up via newsletter link.

Prayer & Friendship Ministry – A Small Way to Make a Big Impact!
We're looking for someone to update the prayer list twice a month. This simple act supports our prayer team as they faithfully lift up the needs of our church and community. If you can help, please let Pastor Closter know!

Property Team Ministry Update — Our elevator repair is scheduled for **Friday, September 5 at 8:00 AM**, with a third-party load test on **Tuesday, September 23 at 8:00 AM**. A big thank you to Jerry for making sure the needs of our church are being met—from the roof to the grounds. Many long-standing projects and ongoing needs were successfully wrapped up this summer because of his dedication!

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

- 📰 Sunday, August 31Sunday Service -Labor Day Observation @ 9:30 AM
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall
- Monday, September 1 Office Closed- *Labor Day* –
- 🚃 Tuesday, September 2
- m Wednesday, September 3
- **Thursday, September 4** Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Friday, September 5
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | room 203
- **Saturday, September 6** CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Happy Birthday to: 🞉

6th – 🞉 Susan Deaver

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Special Congregational Meeting & "God's Work. Our Hands"

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Dear Trinity Family,

Next Sunday, September 7, will be a very special day in the life of our church.

Following worship, we will gather for two important events:

1. A Special Congregational Meeting

Immediately after worship, there will be a brief congregational meeting where we will be voting to:

- Nominate Diann Dailey to serve as a church Trustee
- Approve recipients of a partial disbursement of our Fund 10 (Mission Fund)

2. "God's Work. Our Hands." Service Projects

This Sunday (Sept. 7th) the ELCA encourages every congregation to live our calling to love and serve our neighbors in Christ. This year, Trinity will be making a difference in two ways:

- Supporting Mount Carmel Baptist's Shower Ministry: Please bring donations of bar soap and shampoo to support their ministry of providing a shower for homeless individuals and families. A collection box for these products is in the narthex.
- Sharing God's Love Locally: After the congregational meeting we'll meet in the fellowship hall to assemble door hangers with information about Trinity and upcoming community events that we will be hosting. These will later be distributed in our neighborhood as an outreach effort.

Every act of service, large or small, helps us share God's love. Please join us in worship, stay for the congregational meeting, and take part in these meaningful projects.

Together, we are the hands of Christ at work in our community!

Yard Sale Donations Wanted!

Donations for the **Annual LCW Yard Sale** may be brought to the Parish Hall **Monday**, **September 8 – Friday**, **September 12**, **from 9 AM to noon**.

- ✓ Clothing must be clean and in good condition
- No electronics (TVs, stereos, computers)
- No large furniture

Please **do not bring items before September 8.** LCW members will be on hand to receive and sort donations. Extra hangers are always welcome!

Questions? Contact Martha Cooley, Hilda Painter, or any LCW member.

Ongoing Announcements

- A Prayer Team Table
 - Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Pastor Closter** 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 **Pastor Closter** or **Martha Cooley**.
- Choir Rehearsals Normal Thursday Rehearsals will resume September 4th
 5:45 PM
- Chime Choir Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director – music@trinitychurchvirginia.org
- hic sector

Food Pantry Item of the Month: Canned Fruit | Contact: Kim Begnaud-Hampton – kbegnaud0101@yahoo.com

Save the Date

Sunday, September 7 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- -Notice of Special Congregational Meeting: Immediately after worship on Sept. 7, members will vote on the nomination of Diann Dailey as Trustee (replacing Ralph Gregory) and on recipients of a partial disbursement from Fund 10 (Mission Fund). These decisions help equip Trinity for ministry as we also join together in "God's Work. Our Hands." service projects that day.
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

Monday, September 8 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

Tuesday, September 9 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

- LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30AM | Room 205
- Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall

Wednesday, September 10

Thursday, September 11 – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director

Patriot Day

Friday, September 12 – Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

– CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, September 13 – CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203

LCW (Lutheran Church Women) YARD SALE!!! 8AM - 1PM | Parish Hall

Sunday, September 14 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

Monday, September 15 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

Thursday, September 18 – No Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 19 – Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, September 20 – CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203

Dementia Matters: Care Givers Meeting | Parish Hall TBD

Sunday, September 21 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Welcome back Melinda Russell
- No Chime Choir Practice
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

Monday, September 22 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

Tuesday, September 23 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

Wednesday, September 24 – Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall

(Menu: **Manwich** on buns, **Applesauce**, **Corn**, **Coleslaw**, **Sweet Treats for Dessert**) Come hungry, bring a friend, and enjoy a meal with your neighbors!

- Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

Thursday, September 25 – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director

Friday, September 26 – Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

– CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, September 27 – CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203 Sunday, September 28 Outdoor Service & Lunch-in TBD– Sunday Service @ 9:30 Monday, September 29 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203



Sept 6 – Susan Deaver

Sept 7 – Phyllis Wilson

Sept 10 – Linda Rudy

Sept 13 – Chuck Stern

Sept 15 – Joe Hollis

Sept 16 – Holly Landes

Sept 22 – Chris Landes

Sept 30 – Will Wolf, Jeff Shifflett, Kathy Carroll

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 | ① Tuesday—Friday, 8 AM—1 PM