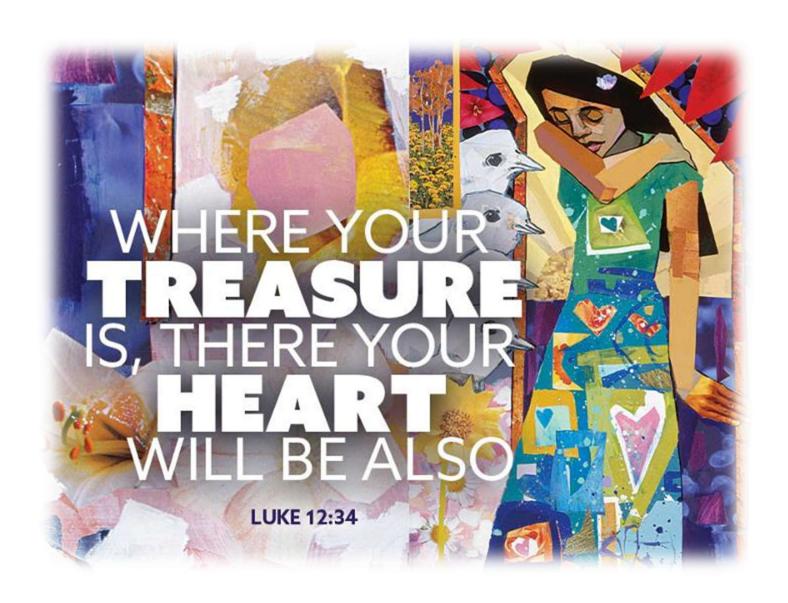
9th Sunday after Pentecost



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 August 10, 2025



~ The Chancel flowers are given this week by Tom & Nan Righter in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

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; Greeter: Deb Wickboldt. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Susan Scheulen.

Communion Assistant: Mary Anderson.

Next Weeks; Greeters: Marianne Watson & Martha Cooley. Lessons & Prayers

Reader: Marcie Stern. Communion Assistant: Carole Pfisterer.

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PRELUDE

Please stand

<u>Summer Celebration</u> ~ ELW (Red Hymnal) 798,

"Onward Christian Soldiers" (words provided for sing along)

- 1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle see His banners go! **R**
- 2. Like a mighty army moves the church of God; Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod. We are not divided, all one body we, One in hope and doctrine, one in charity. **R**
- 3. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, But the church of Jesus constant will remain. Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail; We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. **R**
- 4. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song. Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King, This through countless ages men and angels sing. **R**

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before.



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.

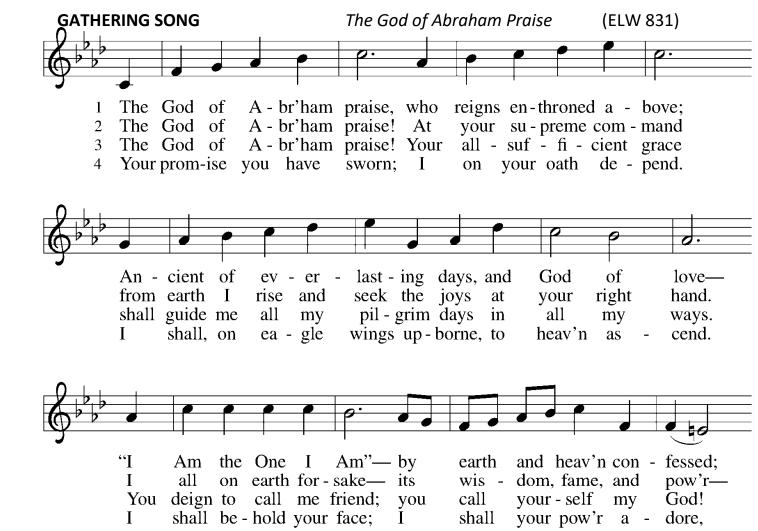
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place upon others and you 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.



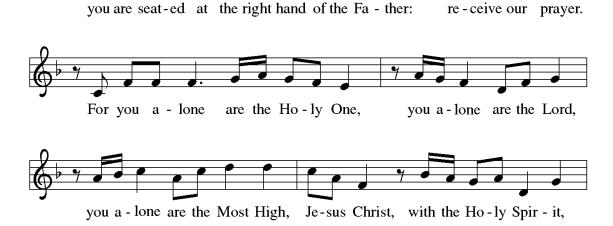


sa - cred name for - ev - er por - tion make, my shield and and you my on - ly tow'r. end through Je - sus' And you will save me blood. to the your grace for sing the won - ders of ev - er more. -

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 0 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;





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

God our father, accept and bless these backpacks and those who carry them. May they be a sign of your and our love, support, and presence. All this we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

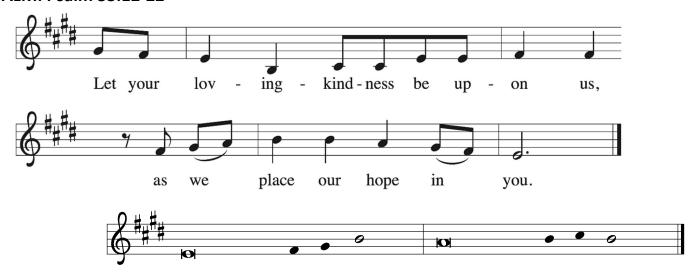
A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22



- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God ^I is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to ^I be God's heritage!
 - ¹³ The LORD looks | down from heaven, and sees all | humankind.
 - ¹⁴ God sits firmly en- [|] throned and watches all who dwell [|] on the earth.
 - ¹⁵ God fashions | all their hearts and observes | all their deeds. R
 - A king is not saved by the size | of the army, nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.
 - ¹⁷ The horse gives vain | hope for victory; despite its great strength it | cannot save.
 - ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear [|] you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your [|] steadfast love,
 - ¹⁹ to deliver their | lives from death, and to keep them alive in | time of famine. R
 - ²⁰ Our innermost being waits for ¹ you, O LORD, our helper ¹ and our shield.
 - ²¹ Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you, for in your holy name we | put our trust.
 - ²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, ¹ be upon us, even as we place our ¹ hope in you. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142)





² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

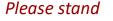
³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

REV. LARRY CLOSTER



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on

ly



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broad - 'ning

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.



Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened (*places may be named*). Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren, Nancy (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence*, *deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

BLESSING FOR TOM & NAN RIGHTER

Eternal God, look with favor upon Tom and Nan as they celebrate 60 years of married life together. Strengthen Tom and Nan with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit as they continue to live out the vows of their marriage together. Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that their home may always be a place of peace and welcome. Help us all, O God, to do your will in each of our homes and lives. Enrich us with your grace so that, supporting one another, we may serve those in need and bear witness to the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

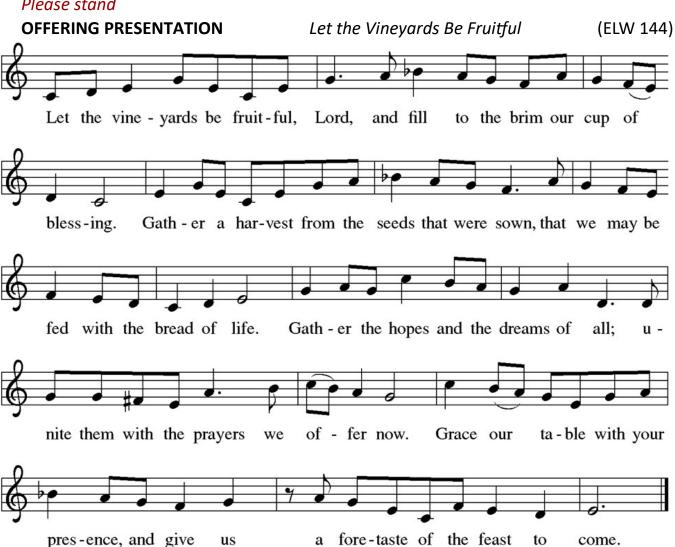
African American Spiritual

Trinity Choir

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that Yan 🗖 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.

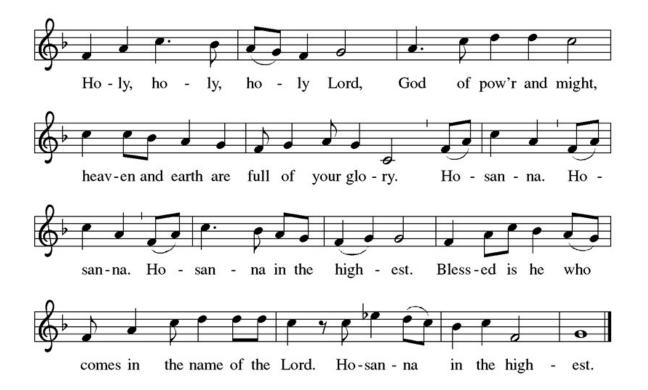
We lift them to the Lord.

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

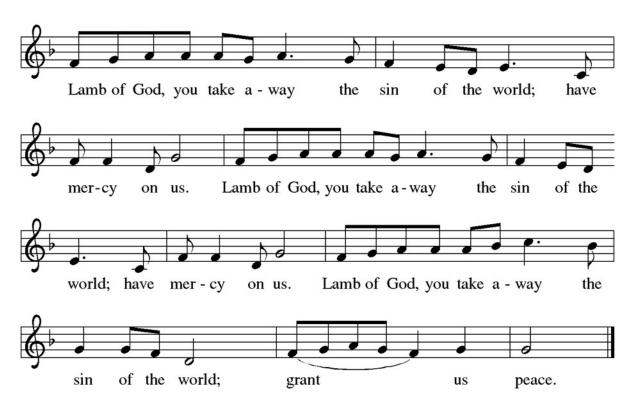
The body of Christ, given for you.

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.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)



"THIS IS MY FATHERS WORLD"

BY MALTBIE BABCOCK

ERIN HARTMAN



SONGS DURING COMMUNION

hoard - ed

geth - er

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet: Vamos todos al banquete (ELW 523) Refrain / Estribillo dos la Va - mos alban - que to te, aLet us go now the ban - quet, to the to me - sa de la crea - ción: ca - da cual con su ta - bu feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta-ble's set and a place te tie-ne un pues - to yu - nami - sión. wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts share. to Hoy me le van - to muy 1 tem pra no; ya me_es-1 I will rise the ear morn the com in ly ing; God in - vites all the poor and the hun to gry build where all 3 May we such a place a mong us su - bien - do a - le - gre co - mu - ni - dad; pe - ra la voy la mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm ban-quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be God has called us peo - ple are e - qual in love. to work to -Refrain / Estribillo cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tua - mis tad. walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i 1y.

that

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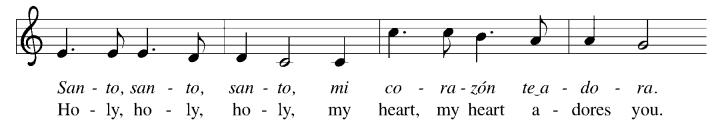
for

we

food.

have.

(ELW 473)





Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

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 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(ELW 632)



- 1 O God, our help in a ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un der the shad ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se cure;
- Be fore the hills in or der stood or earth re ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou-sand a ges in your sight are like an eve-ning gone,



e - ter - nal our shel-ter from the blast, and storm-y our home: suf - fi - cient is your a - lone, and de - fense is arm our sure. from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end-less years the same. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: St. Anne, William Croft, 1678-1727

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE CANZONA D.ZIPOLI (1688-1726)

~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community News

IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

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



New Books are here! Christ in Our Home - Free Devotional books for July, August, & September, are on the wall in the Narthex (next to the bulletin board)

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

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

- **Sunday, August 10** Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM Blessing of the Backpack's.
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Tom & Nan Righter's 60th Wedding Anniversary.
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall
- **Monday, August 11**
- Tuesday, August 12- Congregational Council Metting @6:30PM | Parish Hall
- <u>Digital Skills Training</u>, Hosted by VA Career Works-Winchester | Contact Amber Hall
 540-433-4864
- **Wednesday, August 13** <u>Digital Skills Training</u>, Hosted by VA Career Works-Winchester | Contact Amber Hall @ 540-433-4864
- 🏢 Thursday, August 14 ; First Day of School for Students 🥕
- Friday, August 15
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Upstairs class room
- **III** Saturday, August

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Happy Birthday to: 🎉 ~ 13th Sarah King

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating 60 Years of Marriage

During worship **Today**, we will offer a **special blessing in honor of Tom & Nan** Righter's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Join us as we give thanks for their enduring love and faithfulness—a beautiful witness to God's grace through the years. Let's celebrate this joyful milestone with them as a church family!

Blessing of the Backpack's – TODAY



Join us for a joyful and hope-filled worship as we offer a special Blessing of the **Backpack's** for all students, teachers, and school staff heading into a new school year! Whether you're starting kindergarten or heading back to teach, bring your backpack and receive a prayer of encouragement and protection.

Let's send them back to school with love and blessings!

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting – September 7, 2025

Dear Trinity Congregation,

You are warmly invited to attend a brief but important Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2025, immediately following worship.

The purpose of this meeting is to seek congregational approval for:

- 1. The nomination of **Diann Dailey** to serve as **Trustee**, replacing **Ralph Gregory**; and
- 2. Approval of the recipients of a partial disbursement from Fund 10 (Mission) Fund).

All **voting members** are encouraged to attend. Your presence and participation help shape the future of our church and our outreach.

Thank you for being part of this important process!

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 (Mini) Rehearsals Sunday mornings 8AM.
 Interested in singing with the choir this summer?
 This is the perfect opportunity to join in—no midweek commitment required.
 Just come on Sunday mornings and help us make a joyful noise together! We'd love to have your voice join ours.
- Chime Choir Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director – music@trinitychurchvirginia.org



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

Save the Date

August 17 – 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
- Noisy Offering will benefit Froggy's Closet
 N Braddock St, Winchester, VA. Learn more: frog-kids.org
 (Supporting families with clothing, diapers, and baby supplies)
- š Happy Birthday Pam Weinacht!

August 20– 🞉 Happy Birthday Juanita Ryan!

August 21– 🞉 Happy Birthday Brandon Hampton!

August 22 - Bible Study @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

– CMPS Private Lessons @ 5–6 PM | Upstairs Classroom

August 23– 🞉 Happy Birthday Holly Kowis!

August 24 – 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
- <u>Tavern Night</u>, Hosted by Newtown Historic Center & La Grange Family Farm
 [@6:30PM RSVP Contact: christa@lagrangefamilyfarm.com

August 25- 🞉 Happy Birthday Ashley Landes!

– (No scheduled events)

August 27 – Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Menu TBD)

- Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

August 28 – Bible Study @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

August 29 – CMPS Private Lessons @ 5–6 PM | Upstairs Classroom

August 30– 🞉 Happy Birthday Greg Rogers, & Carole Pfisterer!

August 31 – 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

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:

