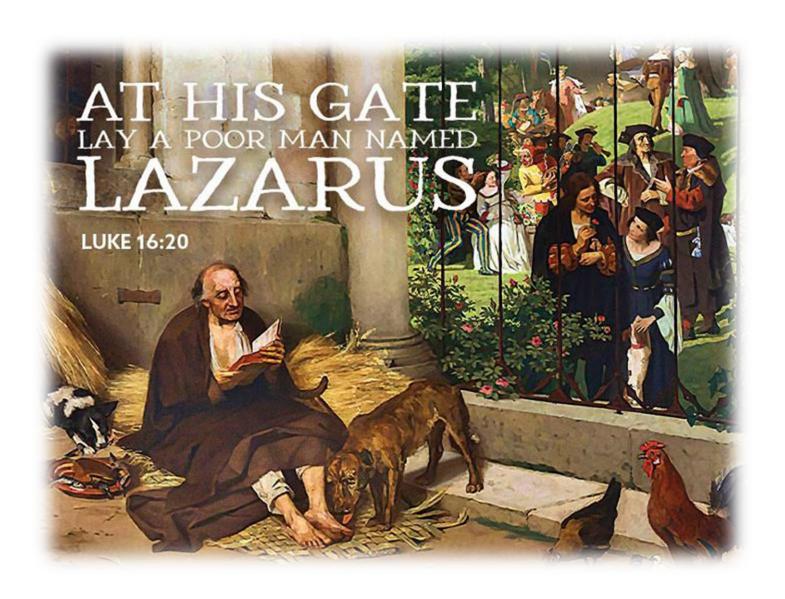
16th Sunday after Pentecost



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 September 28, 2025



Please Consider Donating Chancel Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Consider donating **chancel flowers** for a Sunday service.

Flower donations are a beautiful way to:

- Honor or remember someone special
- Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Add beauty to our worship space

If you'd like to donate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the **flower** calendar in the church Narthex or contact Martha Cooley.

You're welcome to take the flowers home after the service, or they can be delivered to someone in need of encouragement.

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: Diann Daily. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Marcie Stern.

Communion Assistant: Christine Cornwell.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Mistie McPadalin. Lessons & Prayers Reader: William McPadalin & Mistie McPadalin. Communion Assistant: Susan Scheulen.

From Sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From sundaysandseasons.com license #SAS024465. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # A-720634. All rights reserved. CCLI, copyright Lic. 11381030, Streaming Lic. 20167089 Psalmody refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2008 Augsburg Fortress, tone from Psalter for Worship Year C ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. Prelude ©Public Domain. Offertory © Hillsong Music Publishing. Postlude © Public Domain.

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together this morning in the name of the Father, and of the ⅓ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. Silence is kept for reflection

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from Amos.

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
- ⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,
- ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,
- ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

- ¹ Hal- [|] lelujah! Praise the LORD, [|] O my soul!
- ² I will praise the LORD as long | as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.
- ³ Put not your ¹ trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there ¹ is no help.
- ⁴ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth, and in that day | their thoughts perish. R
- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹ for their help, whose hope is in the ¹ LORD their God;
- ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them; who keeps promis- [|] es forever;

- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ¹ those who hunger. The LORD sets the ¹ captive free.
- ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down;

the LORD | loves the righteous.

- ⁹ The LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
- the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way I of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ The Lord shall [|] reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

A reading from 1 Timothy.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

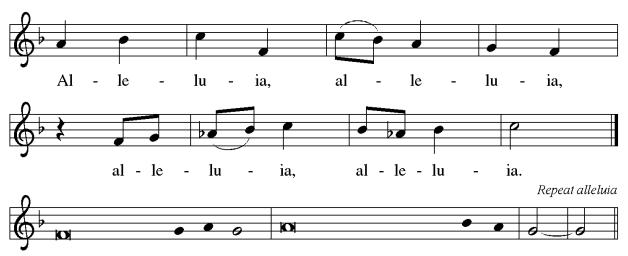
¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

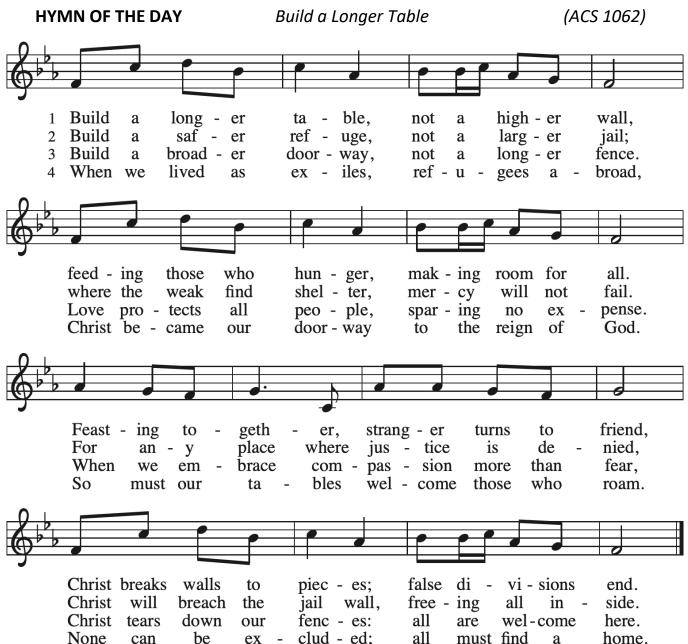
[Jesus said:] 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' 27 He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house 28 for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30 He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for people in any need especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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 What a Beautiful Name By Hillsong Worship

Solo- Marcie Stern Guitar- Jason Strosnider

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

OFFERING PRESENTATION

For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)



5 For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;





Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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.

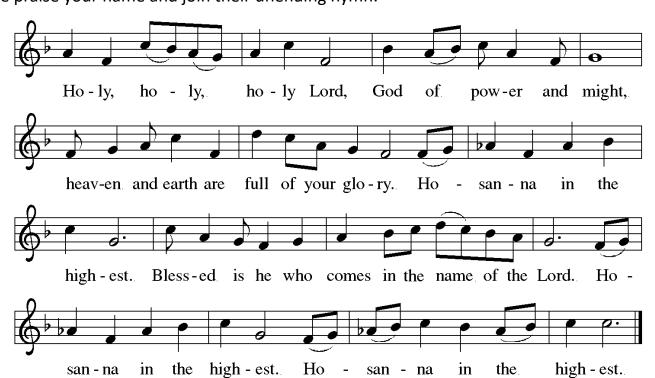
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

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.

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.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

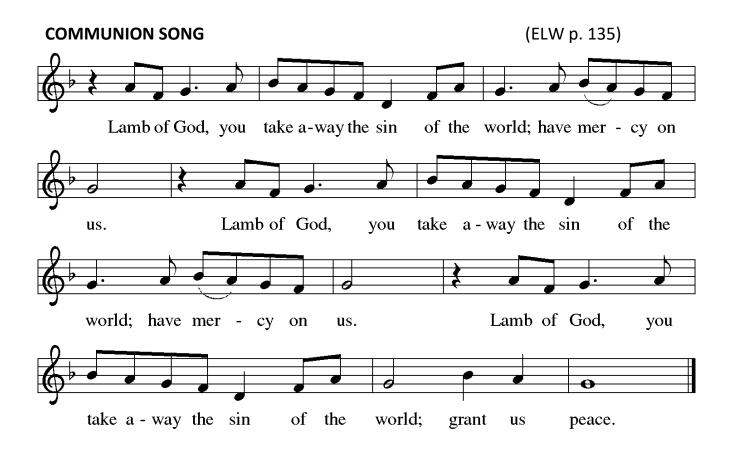
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

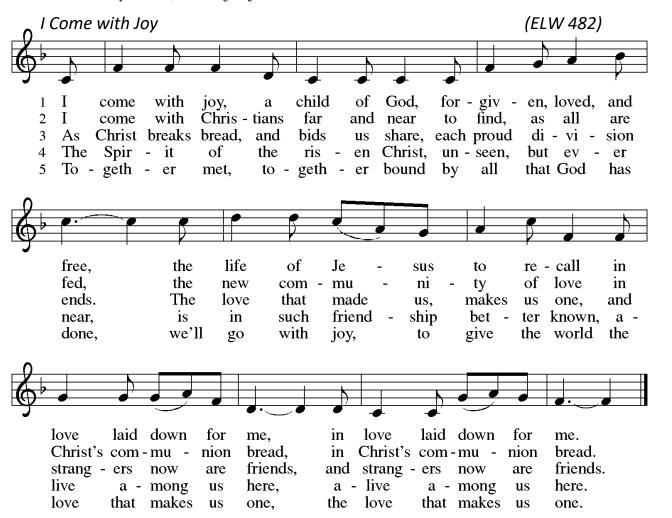
Amen.

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





Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

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



Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)



IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

<u>Reminders:</u> – No Bible Study today.

Pastor Closter will be out of town on Monday, September 29, Tuesday,
 September 30, and Wednesday, October 1, attending the VA Synod 2025
 Gathering of the Ministerium.

He will still be available via email at <u>pastor@trinitychurchvirginia.org</u> He will resume normal office hours on **Thursday and Friday**.

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

- Monday, September 29 CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30-6:30 pm | Room 203
- Thursday, October 2 Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Friday, October 3
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | room 203
- **III** Saturday, October 4
- -CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203
- Pancake Breakfast (supports Building Fund) @7:30AM-10:30AM | Parish Hall
- Blessing of the Animals @10am- 12 noon. | Backyard of the Newtown Hermitage Museum

(Just across from Trinity Lutheran Church – enter via Mulberry Street)

- sunday, October 5 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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up Lists will be up on the bulletin board on the Parish Hall (to the right of the Kitchen window) for the following upcoming events:

- Saturday, October 4th Pancake Breakfast @7:30AM-10:30AM
- Saturday, October 18th Octoberfest dinner RSVP | Parish Hall @5:00PM

Pancake Breakfast On Oct. 4th Trinity will host a Community Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, October 4, from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM in support of the Building Fund.

All are invited to join us for a delicious meal and warm fellowship. This is a free-will donation event — all proceeds will go toward preserving and enhancing our historic church home, which has stood as a symbol of faith in Stephens City since 1765.

Volunteer Reminder:

Food prep and setup volunteers are asked to arrive at 6:00 AM. Thank you for helping make this event a success!

Blessing of the Animals On Oct. 4th the church remembers and celebrates the witness of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis, who lived in the 12th century, saw the natural world as an extension of God's love for all of his creation. His love for animals is legendary. Trinity church will honor God's creation by hosting a "Blessing of the Animals" and petting zoo, on Saturday, 4 Oct, from 10am- 12 noon.

- 1. Share the news! Invite your neighbors, friends and family!
- 2. Bring your people friendly pet(s) to be blessed!
- 3. Or bring a picture of your pet(s), or their favorite toy, or their collar, or a photo of an endangered animal for a blessing.
- 4. Bring bags of dog or cat food to the church before **Oct. 5th**. (*This offering will be blessed during the Worship service on 5 Oct. and given to local animal shelters.*)
- 5. Email the church with a photo of you with your pet(s). (Include both your name and your pet's name) We'll make a collage of the photos and display it during the "Blessing of the Animals" and during the worship service on Oct. 5th.

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday Servants** October is here, please consider making fall services special! contact Christine Cornwell or Sign up via newsletter link.
- A Prayer Team Table
 Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer

request or contact **Lorrie 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
- Ghime 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

Monday, October 6 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203 *Pastor Closter away on vacation 10/6 to10/12

Thursday, October 9 –

- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Friday, October 10 –
- No Bible study.
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, October 11 — CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203

- -Demetia Matters Caregiver Training @10AM- 1PM | Parish Hall
- -The Changing Seasons Piano Recital (CMPS) @7PM | Trinity Sanctuary

Sunday, October 12 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Welcome back Reverand Deanna Boyton!
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- No Bible study.

Monday, October 13 – Office Closed – Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day

- CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

Tuesday, October 14 -

- 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

Thursday, October 16 –

- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
 Friday, October 17 –
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, October 18 — CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203

- -Stephens City Fire Department Boot Drive 10AM-1PM
- Octoberfest Dinner (please RSVP, sign-up in Parish Hall) | Parish Hall @5:00PM
 Sunday, October 19 -Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM
- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Noisy Offering to benefit Shirley's Animal Rescue.
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

Monday, October 20 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203 **Thursday, October 23** –

- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
 Friday, October 24 –
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

Saturday, October 25 — CMSP Music Together @ 9am | Room 203 **Sunday, October 26** –Sunday Service- *Reformation Sunday* @ 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, October 27 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

Tuesday, October 28 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204 **Wednesday, October 29** –

- Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes,

Peas, *Sweet Treats for Dessert*

Come hungry, bring a friend, and enjoy a meal with your neighbors!

– Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

Thursday, October 30 -

- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music DirectorFriday, October 31 –
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203



6-Shirley Herrell 9- Dorothée St. Germain 11-Patty Stringer **16-Jerry Rogers**

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