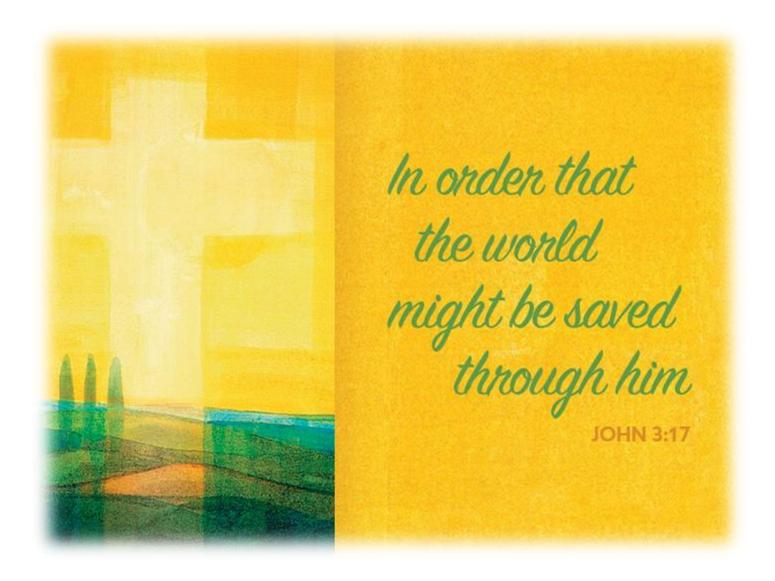
Holy Cross Day



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 September 14, 2025



The Chancel Flowers are given today by Stephan Aker in loving memory of his mother, Sandy, in honor of her birthday.

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: Sue Teal.

Communion Assistant: David Reichert.

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 © 2001 Concordia Pub. House. Offertory © 1984 Meadowgreen Music. 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: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833

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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done [|] marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have [|] won the victory.
 - ² O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations. R
 - ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.
 - ⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124) Al le lu ia, al le ia, lu al - le lu ia, al - le - lu ia. Repeat alleluia

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

O

GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who

believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

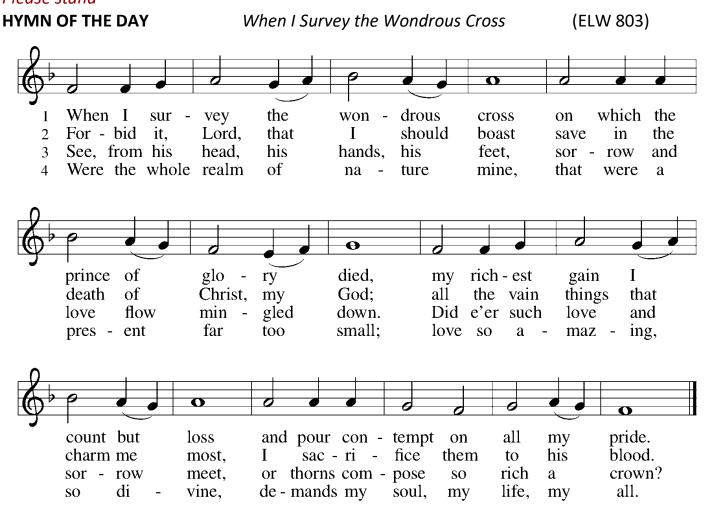
 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand





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.

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren, Kim, The Wolf Family (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, this past week we remembered the act of violence that happened on 9/11 twenty-four years ago. We've also had another school shooting at a high school in Colorado, and the politically motivated assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah. Lord it is clear to us that we have work to do, Strengthen us to be a compelling witness of your love for all people. Comfort those who morn, heal our wounds, and guide us and our nation on the pathway to peace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. 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 Thy Word Grant/Smith 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.

Please stand



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.

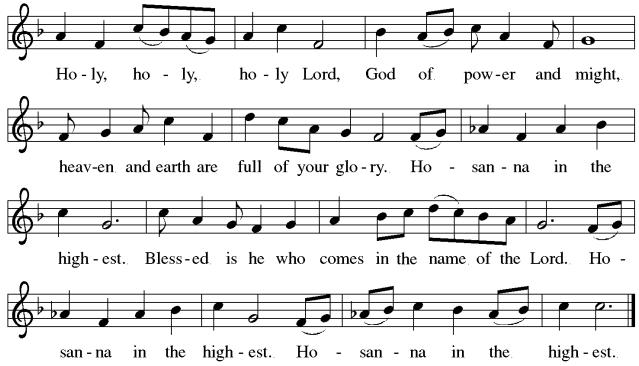
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

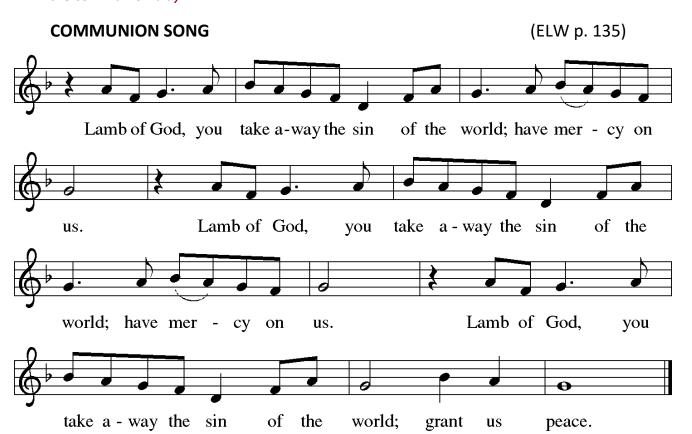
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

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.



SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW 608)



- 1 Soft ly and ten der ly Je sus is call ing, call ing for
- 2 Why should we tar ry when Je sus is plead ing, plead ing for
- 3 Oh, for the won-der ful love he has prom-ised, prom-ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait-ing and watch-ing, you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer-cies, you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer-cy and par-don,



watch-ing for you and for me. mer - cies for you and for me? par - don for you and for me.

"Come home, come home!



You who are wea-ry, come home."

Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson



(ELW 789)



- 1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us;
- 2 We are yours; in love be friend us,
- 3 You have prom-ised to re ceive us,
- 4 Ear ly let us seek your fa vor,

much we need your ten - der care. be the guard-ian of our way; poor and sin - ful though we be;

ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior,

for our use your fold pre-pare. seek us when we go a - stray. grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours. hear us chil - dren when we ear - ly let us turn to you. you have loved us, love us still.



Je - sus,

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus,

bless-ed

Je - sus,

you have bought us; we are yours. hear us chil - dren when we pray. ear - ly let us turn to you. you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Please stand

Bless-ed

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.



Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

~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 – "...Pray for one another, so that you may be healed" (James 5:16)

If someone you know needs prayer fill out a slip and place it in the prayer box as you leave the sanctuary or call **Laurie Closter at (540)840-8401**. **The Prayer& Fellowship Ministry team** also invites you for a time of **"Together in Prayer"** in the sanctuary after the community meal each month.

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

- m 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
- m Tuesday, September 16 –
- **Wednesday, September 17**
- m 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**

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Happy Birthday to: 🞉

16th -Holly Landes

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

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:

- Sunday, September 28 Outdoor Service & Lunch-in Sunday Service @ 10:30AM | Newtown Commons Pavilion.
- Saturday, October 4th Pancake Breakfast @7:30AM-10:30AM
- Saturday, October 18th Octoberfest dinner RSVP | Parish Hall @5:00PM

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.

SPECIAL Thanks

Thank you to all who joined in to help with Gods work in our hands service projects:

- Supporting Mount Carmel Baptist's Shower Ministry, a ton oh hygiene products were delivered this week!
- **20 Back Packs** were filled for foster kids in need and will be distributed this week as well.
- **Sharing God's Love Locally,** the door hanger bags will have a few additions made and added, like a kid's activity bulletin, and a save the date card. Marianne Watson and Dorothée St. Germain have volunteered to go out to the new neighbor's locally to share these after service on the 21st. If you would like to join them, please reach out. **∼Social Outreach**

Thank you to Diann Dailey who will serve as Trustee for Trinity. ~Congregational Council

Thank you to all who donated, helped, and shopped the Annual LCW Yard Sale! You all helped make this year a great success! ~ **LCW**

Personal Thanks

Trinity Family, Brando & I want to extend want to extend our heartfelt thank you for your prayers, messages, phone calls, and visits during my recovery. We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving & supportive congregation. ~ Kimmie

Ongoing Announcements

- 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
- 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

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

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Welcome back Melinda Russell!
- No Chime Choir Practice
- **Thursday, September 25** Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director

 Sherando High School Homecoming Parade & Bonfire @ 6:00PM | followed by a Bonfire Rally at the Newtown Commons

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 – Sunday Service @ 10:30 | Newtown Commons Pavilion

Monday, September 29 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203



06-Susan Deaver
07-Phyllis Wilson
10-Linda Rudy
13-Chuck Stern
15- Joe Hollis
16-Holly Landes
22-Chris Landes, Bonnie Wann
24- David Reichert
28- Rachel Hollis Silsbee (Nathan)
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:

