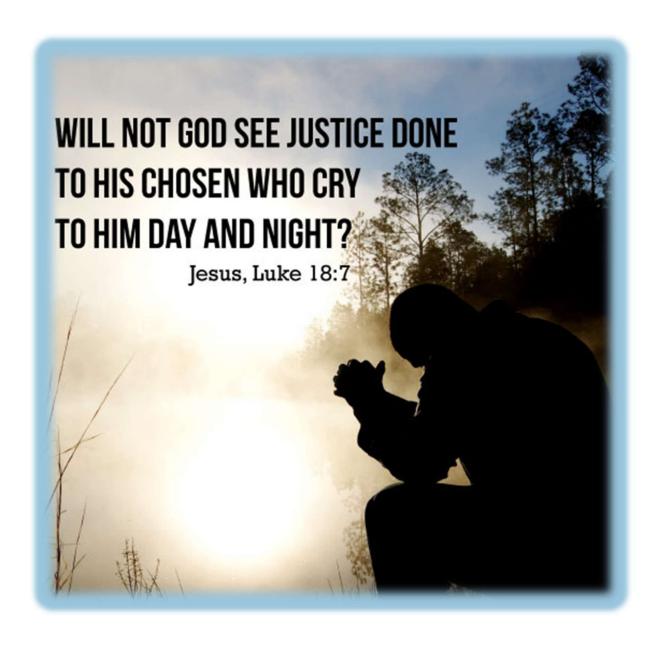
# 19th Sunday after Pentecost



810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 October 19, 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: Deb Wickboldt & Mistie McPadalin. Lessons & Prayers

Reader: Patty Stringer. Communion Assistant: Barry Hockenberry.

Next Weeks; Greeter: Deb Wickboldt. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Sue Teal.

Communion Assistant: David Reichert.

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#### Please stand

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. one God, who journeys with us in this life and sustains us with his mercy and his gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our sin, our need to repent, and our desire to receive God's mercy.

# Silence is kept for reflection.

Father, forgive our sins.

Forgive the sins that we remember,

and the sins we have forgotten.

Forgive our many failures in the face of temptation,

and those times when we have been stubborn in the face of correction.

Forgive the times we have been proud of our own achievements and those when we have failed to boast in your works.

Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others, and the leniency we have shown to ourselves.

Forgive the lies we have told to others, and the truths we have avoided.

Forgive us the pain we have caused others and the indulgence we have shown ourselves.

Lord God, have mercy on us and make us whole.

All mighty and compassionate God hears our prayers and comes to our aid.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of his son, Jesus, your sins are forgiven  $\frac{1}{4}$ . By his grace you are made whole. Released from sin's destructive power you are free to embrace the cross and love one another.

Amen.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

#### **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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

Please be seated

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>22</sup> The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM: Psalm 121**



<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes <sup>|</sup> to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

- <sup>2</sup> My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your <sup>1</sup> foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you <sup>1</sup> fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD watches <sup>|</sup> over you; the LORD is your shade at <sup>|</sup> your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup> the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you <sup>1</sup> from all evil and will <sup>1</sup> keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will watch over your going out and your <sup>|</sup> coming in, from this time forth for- <sup>|</sup> evermore. R

# SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

A reading from 2 Timothy.

- <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
- <sup>4:1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, be sober in

everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

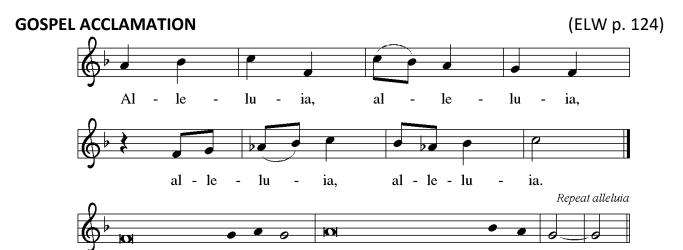
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** 

He Leadith Me / This is My Fathers World Emily Hartman

#### Please stand



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

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

**SERMON** 

**REV. LARRY CLOSTER** 



#### **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

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.



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

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials and all those in authority humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. We give you thanks for using our president and the leaders of other nations as instruments to bring to an end the war in Gaza. Grant that this agreement will not become an excuse to grab power denying the vulnerable survivors of this war the opportunity to rebuild their lives and live in peace. God of grace,

## receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Lauren, Dakota (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for the Virginia Synod. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, receive our prayer.

For those in our federal workforce and their families who during this government shutdown are without income and are stressed by the uncertainty of their future employment, great them peace. Help us, who are not in their situation, to find ways to help them in their time of need. Bring those with the ability to end this crisis together to do so, ending the suffering and uncertainty of those most affected by this shutdown. God of grace,

## receive our prayer.

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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** We Thy People, Praise Thee Arr.by Martha Lynn Thompson Trinity Chime Choir

**NOSIY OFFERING** The Noisy offering this week will benefit **Shirley's Angels Animal Rescue**, for more info visit *https://shirleysanimals.org/* 



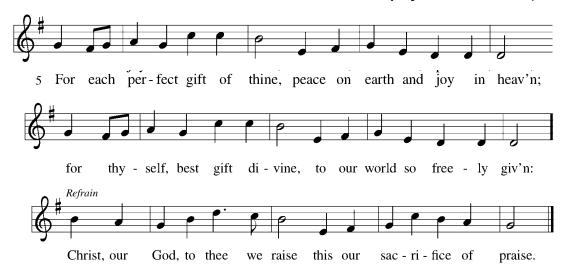
Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share

Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

#### **OFFERING PRESENTATION**

For the Beauty of the Earth

(ELW 879)



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.

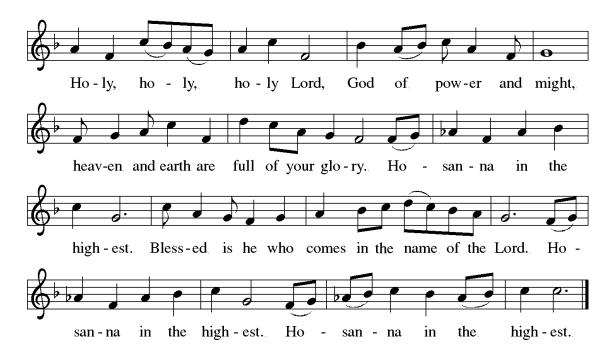
# We lift them to the Lord.

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.

# **BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS (for the sick and homebound)**

Let us pray. O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger bless these elements with your divine grace and those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **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**

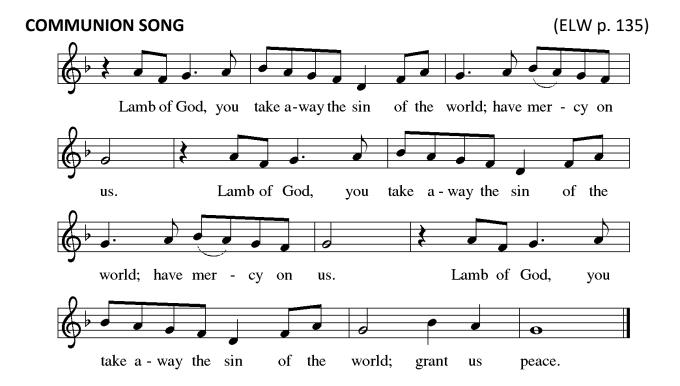
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

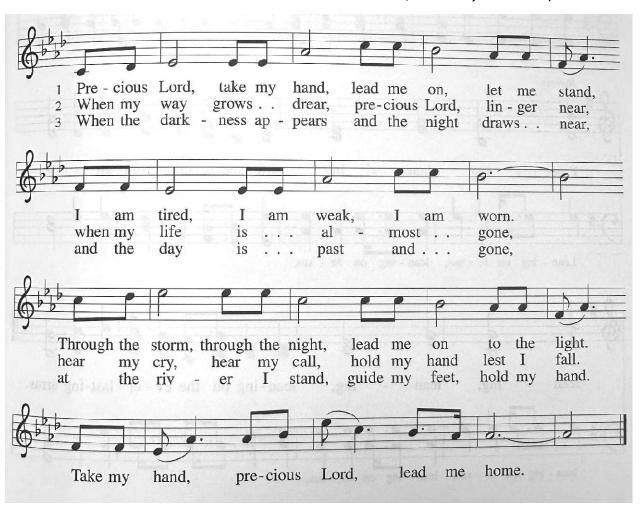
Amen.

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**

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 77



Day by Day (ELW 790)



## 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.** 





#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** Fugue G. Muffat (1690-1770)



# **IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders**

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

- m 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, 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

#### **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 540-840-8401**, 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**.

- Ghoir Rehearsals Normal Thursday Rehearsals will resume September 4th @ 5:45 PM J
- Chime Choir Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director music@trinitychurchvirginia.org
- Food Pantry Item of the Month: Jam or Jelly | Contact: Kim Begnaud-Hampton kbegnaud0101@yahoo.com



#### • Community Outreach Snapshot

- 15–21 families/week received food via Love in Action
- Medical aid provided to 2 seniors & 1 child with disabilities
- Employment wins for two local families
- Events:
  - o Blessing of the Animals 15 attended, 1 cat adopted
  - o Dementia Class held Oct 11
  - o Christmas Parade: Golf cart + canned good tree to raise pantry awareness
- Updates:
  - o Hunger Grant not received—seeking others
  - Planning 2026 Sustainability Classes
  - o Kim to give Red Cross testimony on emergency blood need

Thank you for your support!

# **REMINDERS**

# Note from Trinity Treasurer | Mark Greene

trinitylctreasurer@gmail.com

# **Donating Stock to the Church**

Did you know you can support Trinity's mission by donating appreciated stock? The church has a brokerage account that accepts stock transactions. Giving stock directly to the church can offer **significant tax benefits**, including avoiding capital gains taxes and receiving a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock.

Interested? Contact Mark Greene by email or reach out through the church office at 540-869-4019 (Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM - 1 PM).

We're happy to guide you through the process.

Thank you for your faithful support!

# **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **LCW Bedding Drive**

# <u>(</u>to benefit Gleep in Heavenly Peace Organization)

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a non-profit organization dedicated to building beds and supplying bedding to children ages 3-17 in Winchester and the counties of Frederick, Shenandoah and Warren.

**Trinity's LCW** is heading up a bedding drive during the **month of October** and all items brought in by members and friends of the congregation will be delivered to the organization in November. If you would like to donate NEW bedding, here is what they are looking for:

- Twin size sheet sets with pillowcase (NOT Twin long)
- Twin size blankets (NO small blankets or throws must fit Twin bed)
- Twin size comforters
- Twin size mattress covers
- Pillows for twin size beds

You can find "bed in a bag" options at Walmart, Target and other stores. Please bring your bedding donations to the church Nursery any time during the month of October. If you'd prefer making a monetary donation, please see Maxine Rogers and someone from LCW will do the shopping for you! If you have any questions about this organization or the bedding drive, please don't hesitate to speak to any member of the LCW.

# **All Saints Day Luncheon - Rescheduled Celebration!**

Thank you for your understanding as we had to cancel the Oktoberfest Dinner on October 18. But good news—we've rescheduled the celebration!

iii New Date: Sunday, November 2

(L) Time: After the church service

Where: Parish Hall

Enjoy Oktoberfest favorites like **bratwurst**, **sauerkraut**, **and soft pretzels**, provided by the Social Outreach Ministry Team.

Bring a **German side dish** to share as we celebrate community and heritage together!

Trinity's Social Outreach Ministry Team

# **SAVE THE DATE**

Monday, October 27 – CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | Room 203

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

Special Council meeting – Focus on

## 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 Director

# Friday, October 31 –

- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203

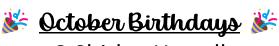
# Special Events to come ~

(Full November Calander rolls out next week, also can be viewed now on the website https://trinitychurchvirginia.com/)

**Sunday, November 2** – Special Service in recognition of All Saints Day.

- Sewing for the Savior Quilt Sale!
- All Saints Day Luncheon following service.
- No Bible study.

**Saturday, November 15** – Angel tree goes up.



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