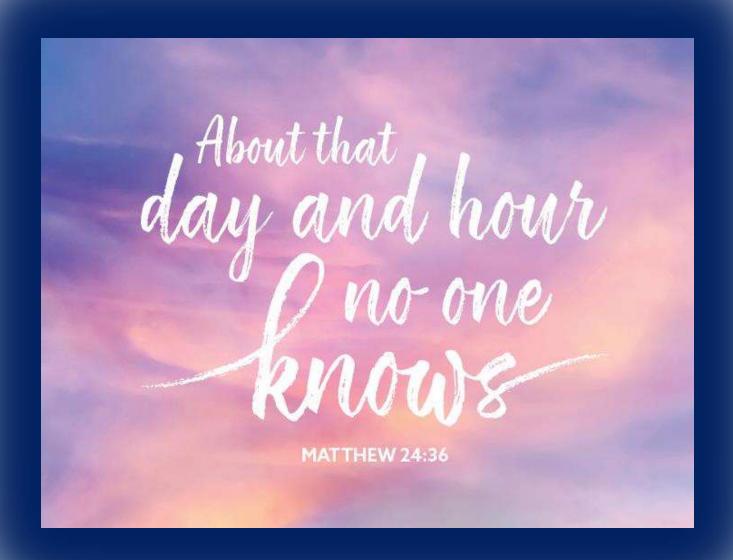
First Sunday of Advent



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

November 31, 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
- Celebrating 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; Greeter: Pam Reichert. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Christine Cornwell. Communion Assistant: Dave Reichert. Lighting & Reading of the Advent Wreath: Bill & Mistie McPadailn.

Next Weeks; Greeters: Martha Cooley. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Sue Teal.

Communion Assistant: Mary Anderson. Lighting & Reading of the Advent Wreath:

Roger & Deb Wickboldt

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please Stand

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

Gracious Lord,

we confess our willingness to be loved

but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love

but also our own refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love

but also our resistance to following you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure

to respond as we should.

Come to us anew by your Spirit, and by your grace help us to receive you

with humble trust, as Mary;

with joy, as John;

with submission to you, as Elizabeth;

with awe, as the shepherds;

with gratitude, as Simeon;

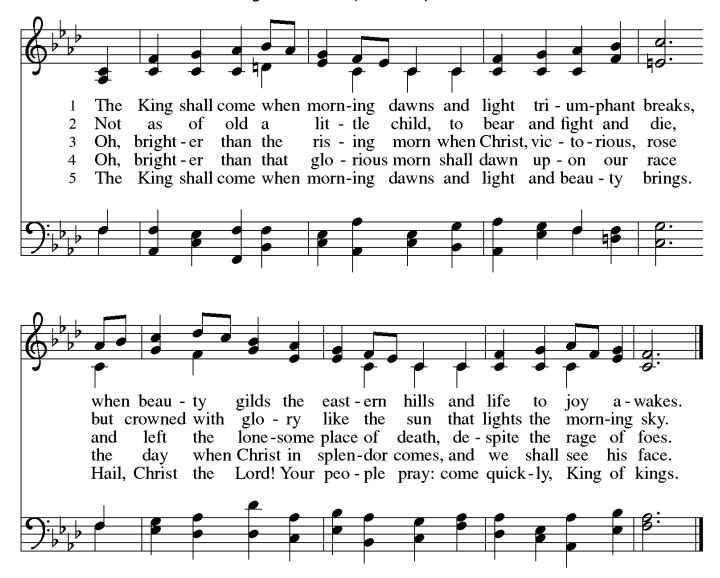
with love, as you have loved us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Our living and gracious God hears our cry, receives our confession, and grants us his forgiveness. As a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, through the self-giving sacrifice of our Lord on the cross, I 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.

GATHERING SONG The King Shall Come (ELW 260)



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One candle is lit, as prayer is spoken.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

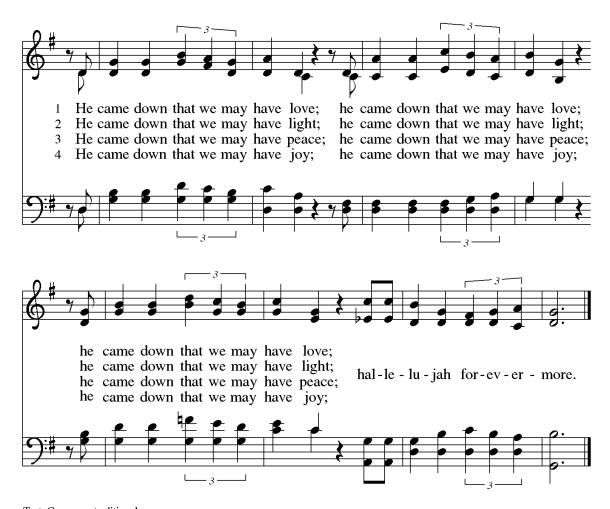
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

He Came Down

(ELW 253) V.2 only



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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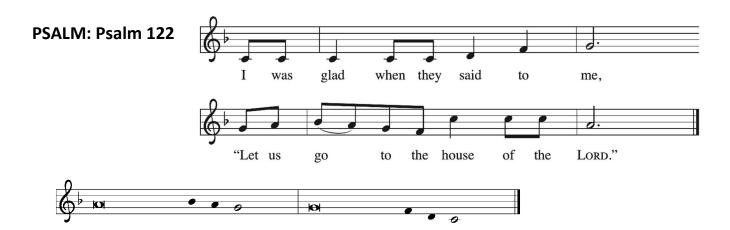
FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



- ¹I was glad when they ^I said to me,
 - "Let us go to the house I of the LORD."
 - ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
 - ³ Jerusalem is built [|] as a city that is at unity [|] with itself;
 - ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. R
 - ⁵ For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment, the thrones of the ¹ house of David.
 - ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you.
 - ⁷ Peace be with- [|] in your walls and quietness with- [|] in your towers.
 - ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
 - ⁹ Because of the house of the I LORD our God, I will seek to I do you good." R

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

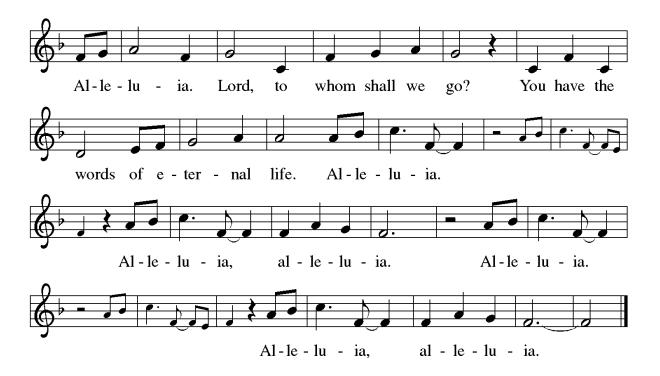
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p.188)



GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore 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





CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

For us and for our salvation

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

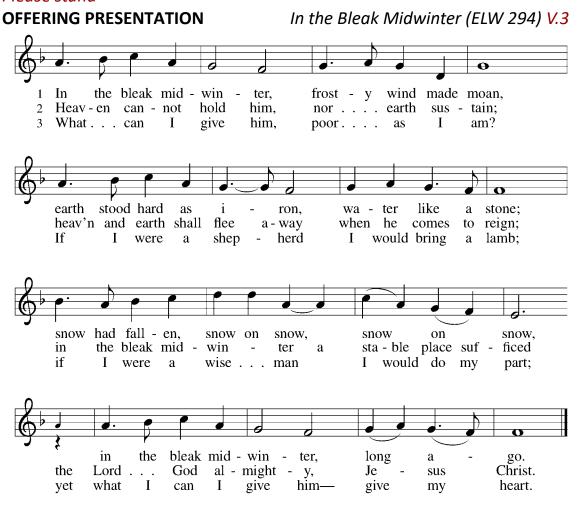
OFFERING



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 PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

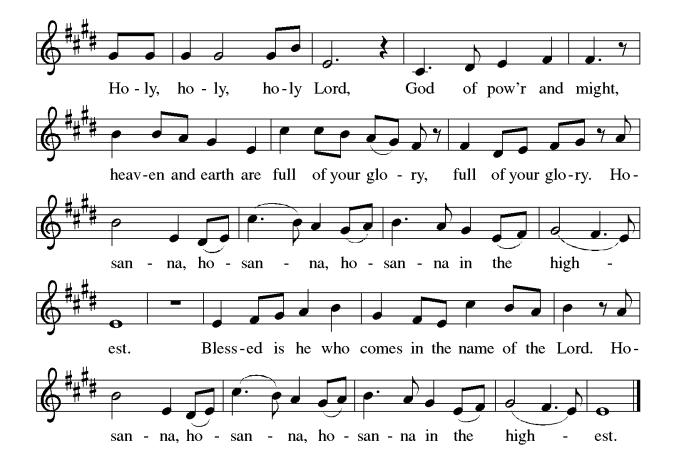
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets 'hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.

Dring the gift of peace of

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen**.

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

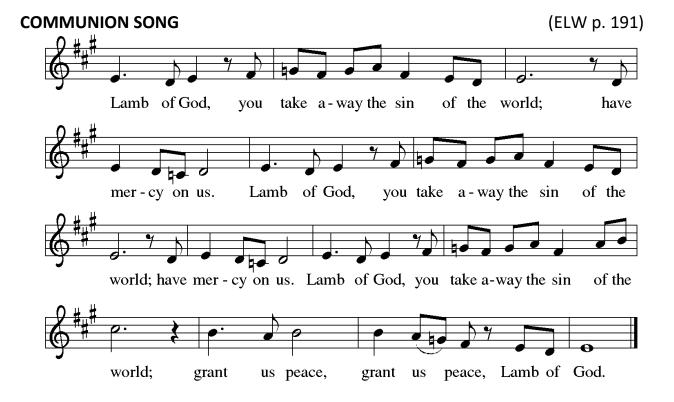
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

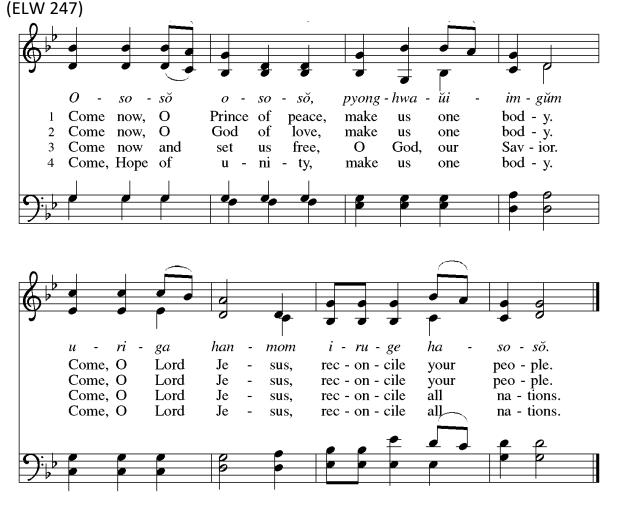
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace: Ososŏ, ososŏ*





Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt. Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.



SENDING SONG Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community 11eWS

Welcome Back & Thank You, Melinda Russell! 🕼

We are delighted to welcome Melinda Russell, who is sharing her musical gifts with us today while Ricky is away.

Melinda is a retired public school music teacher with over 30 years of experience. She holds both a Bachelor of Music (1976) and a master's in music education (1994) from Shenandoah Conservatory and has taught private piano for 53 years.

She and her husband live in Gore, Virginia, and are proud parents of three children and grandparents of four.

We are grateful for her presence and the joy she brings to our worship through music. Thank you, Melinda!

IN THE KNOW Upcoming Events & Reminders

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

- **Monday, December 1 CMSP Music private lesson @ 2:30 pm | piano,** Room 203 & violin, Sanctuary
- Tuesday, December 2 Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall (moved from the Dec. 9th due to concert)
- Wednesday, December 3 Community Meal- Holiday Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Menu: Foasted Turkey & Dressing, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Sweet Treats for Dessert) Come hungry, bring a friend, and enjoy a meal with your neighbors!
- Friday, December 5
- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm | Room 203
- Saturday, December 6
- Kringle Market 9 AM–3 PM | Parish Hall



- sunday, December 7 2st Advent 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

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Servants

We'd love your help in making each Sunday special. Whether you'd like to greet, read, assist with Communion, or take part in special services like lighting the Advent Wreath—there's a place for you!

Reach out to **Christine Cornwell** or sign up through **SignUpGenius** in the newsletter.

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 🎜
- Chime Choir Sundays after service | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director music@trinitychurchvirginia.org
- Food Pantry Item of the Month: Pancake syrup | Contact: Kim Begnaud-Hampton- kbegnaud0101@yahoo.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trom the Congregational Council:

From the Congregational Council:

Two positions are opening on the Church Council! Please prayerfully consider serving. The Council meets once a month to help guide the ministry and mission of our church. This is your chance to make a difference!

See **Pastor**, call the **church office**, or talk to a **current Council member** if you have questions or would like to express your interest.

Voting will take place at the Congregational Meeting on December 14, with new terms beginning in January. The agenda for the meeting will be sent out this coming Monday (Dec.1), via email, hard copies will be available for all next Sunday.

From the LCW (Lutheran Church Women):

Women of Trinity Christmas Lunch

Calling all women of Trinity! The LCW would like to extend an invitation to all the ladies of the church to come to a Christmas luncheon for a time of fellowship and delicious food! The date is Saturday, December 13th at 12:30 pm at Regions 117 located at 180 Bald Eagle Drive, Lake Frederick, VA. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Deb Wickboldt by calling 614-477-2430 or sending an email to debwickboldt@gmail.com by Saturday, December 6th. We're looking forward to seeing you there!!

From the Social Outreach Ministry Team:



🎄 Angel Tree – has now transformed!

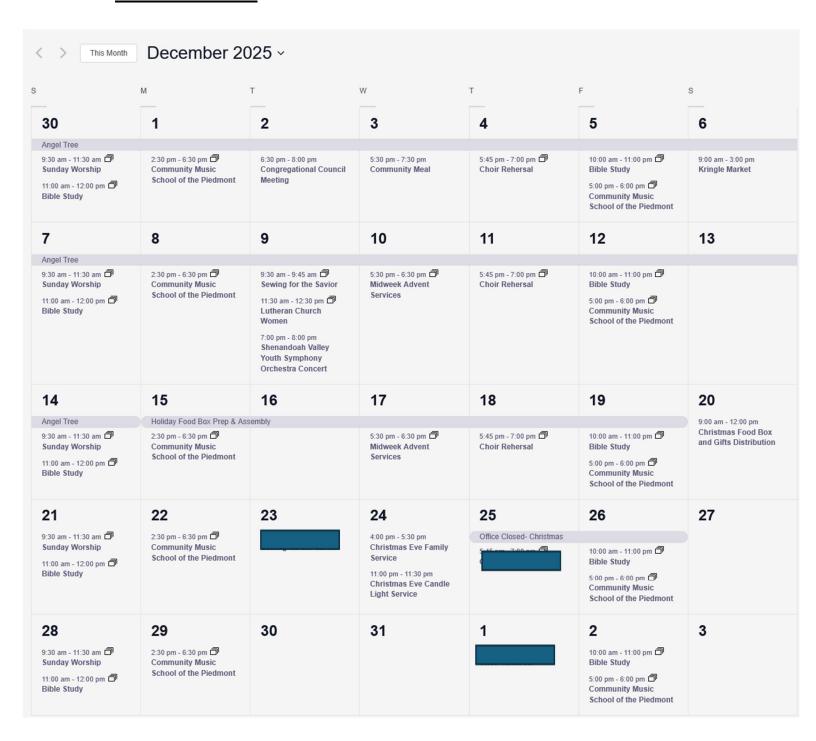
The Angel Tree is now The Tree of Warmth... Please consider helping us decorate our tree this year with warm fuzzy hats, gloves, hand warmers, socks, and scarves. These items will be donated to the **WATTS Program** after the New Year. For more information about WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter) visit https://watts-homelessshelter.org

Kringle Market – Saturday, December 6 | 9 AM-3 PM

Join us for Trinity's festive Kringle Market!

- LCW Bake Sale with homemade treats "better than Grandma's!"
- Artisan vendors with unique, one-of-a-kind gifts and crafts
- Food for sale: authentic German brats, warm crafted pretzels & Virginia ham sandwiches
- Historic church tours available upon request Bring family and friends to enjoy a wonderful day of shopping, food, and Christmas cheer!

SAVE THE DATE



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