

NINETEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 2026

My beloved
had a
vineyard

ISAIAH 5:1

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655



(540) 869-4019

Worship, 9:30 AM



office@trinitychurchvirginia.org



www.trinitychurchvirginia.org

WORSHIP | GROW | SERVE

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PRELUDE

CONFESSION OF SINS

Please stand. (All may make the sign of the cross)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting and whose love never fails.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions.

We have been selfish when we should have been generous,

silent when we should have spoken up,

quick to judge when we should have shown mercy.

We have overlooked those who are hurting

and taken for granted the blessings you have given us.

We have caused harm to your creation

and denied dignity to others by being carelessness and self-centered.

Strengthen us to live as people who have been forgiven—

freely offering to others the grace we have received from you.

Hear the good news: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor does he repay us according to our iniquities. In Jesus Christ, God has taken our sin upon himself, died for us, and risen again to give us new life. Therefore, by the authority of Christ and in obedience to his command, I proclaim to you that all your sins have been forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (W&P 95)



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple

Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple

Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (UMH 99)

To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry,
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.
With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me;
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.

WORDS: Andraé Crouch, 1971
MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1971

© 1971 Communiqué Music, Inc.

MY TRIBUTE
Irr.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

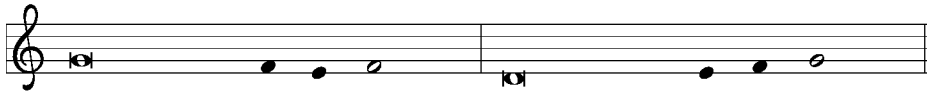
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15



- ⁷ Restore us, O [|] God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.
- ⁸ **You have brought a vine [|] out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and [|] planted it.
- ⁹ You cleared the [|] ground for it;
it took root and [|] filled the land.
- ¹⁰ **The mountains were covered [|] by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees [|] by its boughs. R
- ¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils [|] to the sea
and its branches [|] to the river.
- ¹² **Why have you broken [|] down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck [|] off its grapes?
- ¹³ The wild boar of the forest has [|] ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have [|] grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴ **Turn now, O [|] God of hosts,**
look [|] down from heaven;
- ¹⁵ behold and [|] tend this vine;
preserve what your right [|] hand has planted. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

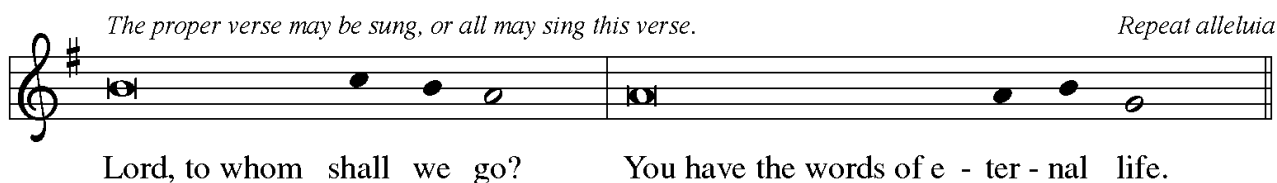
¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a

people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

REV. TERRY HANNON

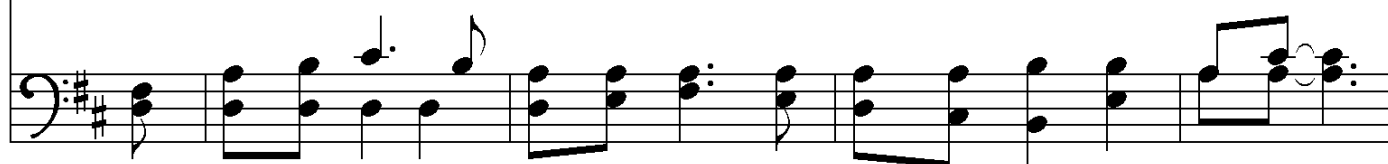
Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Lord of Light (ELW 832)



1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing:
3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed:
4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.
for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.
your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.
all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.



Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925

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Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones (*regions in crisis may be named*), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering especially for Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Jeff, Adam, Anthony, Dan, Bonnie, Bernie, and Ashante. (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 PRESENTATION (ELW 182)

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **[Amen.]**
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **[Amen.]**
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **[Amen.]**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, 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.

COMMUNION SONG

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
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SONGS DURING COMMUNION

In the Singing (ELW 466)

1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,

in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
 in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

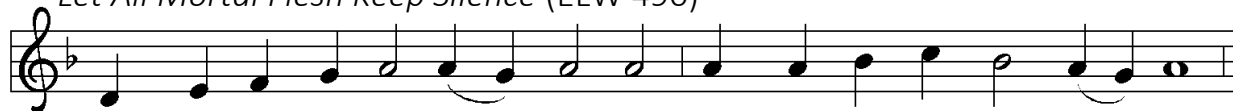
Refrain

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
 Music: *BREAD OF PEACE*, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
 Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (ELW 490)



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through this holy meal, you have renewed us in your love, strengthened our faith, and united us with Christ and with one another. Shape our lives by the love we have received at this table, and make us instruments of your peace, justice, and compassion.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Thine the Amen* (ELW 826)



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Ministers of Service:

- ❖ Officiant: The Reverend Terry Hannon
- ❖ Musician: Melinda Russell
- ❖ This Service: Greeters: Marti Martin Lessons & Prayers Reader: Ken Martin. Communion Assistant: Barry Hockenberry. Acolyte: Joey Patterson.
- ❖ Next Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Christine Cornwell. Communion Assistant: Carole Pfisterer. Acolyte: Wayne Wright

Worship live streaming Sundays @ 9:30AM, scan code or visit:

<https://trinityevangelical-8vs9.subspla.sh/hphnbh5>

Services will also stream on the churches Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephscityva/live/>

and on the churches YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchsteph7103/videos>



Please welcome back this morning, **The Reverend Terry Hannon**. Pastor Hannon is retired and lives at The Village at Orchard Ridge, where she is a neighbor to Trinity's Nancy Huffman.

Rostered in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod of the ELCA, she has served congregations in Reston and Alexandria and as interim Lutheran campus minister at George Mason University in Fairfax. She spent 20½ years in the U.S. Air Force before attending and graduating from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 2001.

Thank you, Reverend Hannon, for sharing your time, wisdom, and message with us this morning. We are grateful to have you with us and look forward to hearing the word you have prepared for us today.

We are thankful that **Melinda Russell** is again sharing her musical gifts with us this morning. We are grateful for her presence and the joy she brings to our worship through music.

Melinda was a public-school music teacher for more than 30 years before retiring and has taught private piano for more than 50 years. She is an accomplished musician who holds both a Bachelor of Music (1976) and a master's in music education (1994) from Shenandoah Conservatory.

Thank you, Melinda, for the music you bring. It is a vital part of our worship life!

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

~ Here's
what's
happening...

Welcome, scan the QR code—we'd love to connect with you.



In The Know

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY *Here's what's happening...*

September 28–30

*Pastor Closter attending the
Virginia Synod Gathering of the Ministerium
(Vacation follows October 1–7.)*

Monday, October 5

Tuesday, October 6

Wednesday, October 7

Thursday, October 8

- Choir Rehearsal @5:45 PM

Friday, October 9

- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson @5PM

Saturday, October 10

- Town of Stephens City- community meet-and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM
- CMSP – Fall Music Together
9:00–10:00 AM | Room 202

Sunday, October 11

- Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost,
Worship @ 9:30 AM, following service;
Fellowship Coffee Hour, Chime Choir,
Bible Study

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	OFFERING
9/06/2026	?	10	\$2,359
9/13/2026	26	OUTDOOR SERVICE	\$6,932.10
9/20/2026	39	10	\$2,228.75
9/27/2026	36	10	\$1999.00
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS \$ 4,649.00			

This Saturday (3 Oct.) and next Saturday (10 Oct.)

The Town of Stephen City will be hosting a meet-and-greet in the fellowship hall from 10:00am-12:30pm. This will allow local residents an opportunity to speak with Town Council and Mayoral candidates. There are no political party affiliations associated with these positions and Trinity Lutheran Church does not endorse any candidate. This event provides a safe place for you and others to talk with local candidates prior to voting.



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, there's a place for you! Reach out to **Christine Cornwell** or sign up through **SignUpGenius** in the newsletter.

🙏 Prayer Team Table

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Laurie Closter 540-840-8401**, to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession. Or simply scan and submit



🏥 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**.

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.

PAWS OF LOVE

A Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi

Throughout the month of October, we invite you to celebrate the special animals who have touched our lives—and to help animals in need.



ADD YOUR PET TO OUR TREE



Fill out a paw with your dog or cat's name.



Add it to our Paws of Love Tree.



Your pet may be:



Still by your side



Forever in your heart



A cherished companion you will always remember

Take a paw home if you'd like, and return it to be added to the tree. A list is also available on the table.



HELP PETS IN NEED

Throughout the entire month of October, we will be collecting:



Pet Food



Monetary
Donations

All donations will be shared between:

Dakota's
Dream



Shirley's Angels
Animal Rescue



You may also make a donation in memory of a beloved pet who has passed away.



Every paw has a story.
Every pet deserves to be remembered.
Every act of kindness can make a difference.



Let's fill our tree with paws, memories, love—and plenty of purrs and wagging tails!

Thank you for helping us celebrate the spirit of St. Francis and share our love for God's creatures with animals in need.

— Social Outreach Team

LCW Bedding Drive

Coming in October • Benefiting Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Mark your calendars! Trinity's LCW (Lutheran Church Women) will be collecting **NEW bedding throughout the month of October** to benefit **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, a nonprofit that provides beds and bedding to children ages 3–17 in Winchester and the surrounding counties.

No donations are needed yet — this is a heads-up so you can plan ahead! Collection will begin **October 1.**

Needed items include:

- Twin-size sheet sets with pillowcase (**NOT Twin long, or XL**)
- Twin-size blankets (**must fit a Twin bed; no small blankets or throws**)
- Twin-size comforters
- Twin-size mattress covers
- Pillows for Twin-size beds

“Bed in a Bag” sets are an easy way to provide several needed items at once and can be found at Walmart, Target, and other stores.

Please bring donations to the church Nursery anytime during October. Monetary donations are also welcome; LCW members will be happy to shop for needed items on your behalf.

Thank you for helping provide a warm, comfortable place to sleep for a child in our community!

Questions? Please speak with a



10/1 Thursday - Reminder no choir rehearsal

10/2 Friday - Reminder no Bible Study

10/3 Saturday - Town of Stephens City- 1st community meet-and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM

10/4 Sunday - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost w/ Rev. Terry Hannon, Service @ 9:30 AM, Coffee Hour | Parish Hall, All are welcome! Monthly Birthday Celebration!

10/8 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/9 Friday- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

10/10 Saturday Town of Stephens City- 2nd community meet-and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM

10/11 Sunday – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/12 Monday – Columbus Day. No Senior Connections Lunch.

10/13 Tuesday - Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204
- LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30 AM | Room 205
- Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall

10/15 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/16 Friday- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

- **Gordan Wedding** (decorate 4pm, rehearsal 6pm)

10/17 Saturday- Sustainability Sewing Class – 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

- **Gordan Wedding** (arrival hour or two prior, ceremony @ 5pm)

10/18 Sunday – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

– Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!

– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study Acts @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/19 Monday- Senior Connections Lunch 10AM – 1pm | Parish Hall

10/22 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/23 Friday - Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

10/25 Sunday – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

– Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!

– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/27 Tuesday - Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

10/28 Wednesday - Community Meal @ 5:30PM | Menu:

- Meatloaf • Mashed Potatoes • Peas • Dessert

10/29 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/30 Friday - Bible Study @ 10:00 AM |





TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA

Growing in God's Grace

TRINITY LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Growing in God's Grace

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Larry Closter

Interim Pastor

Cell: (540) 848-5325

Ricky Gearhart

Organist & Music Director

Jodie Broccolo

Administrative Assistant

Mark Greene

Treasurer

Vacant

Bookkeeper

Mike Pyne

Financial Secretary

TRUSTEES

- Diann Daily
- Barry Hockenberry
- Tom Righter

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL • 2026

Carole Pfisterer

President

Marianne Watson

Vice President

Patty Stringer

Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bruce Everly • Jim Hall • David Reichert

Tom Righter • Dorothée St. Germain

CHURCHWIDE LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton

Bishop

Virginia Synod, ELCA



VISIT US

810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655



CONTACT US

(540) 869-4019
office@trinitychurchvirginia.org
trinitychurchvirginia.com



OFFICE HOURS

Church Office:
Monday–Thursday • 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 AM–1:00 PM



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM