

# THE BEACON

February 18, 2026

## **WELCOME**

We welcome **Ana and Mark Malkiewicz** who joined us last Sunday from Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in Lynchburg. Ana is a special education teacher at Sheffield Elementary and Mark is the retired owner of the Appomattox True Value store. They live at 237 Dianne Drive, Lynchburg, 24504.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 18**

*We begin the forty-day penitential season of Lent with the centuries-old traditions of Ash Wednesday.*

**12:10 p.m.**  
Spoken Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

**5:30 p.m.**  
Spoken Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

**7:00 p.m.**  
Sung Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes



### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

The word "Lent" is from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "springtime" and so is to be understood as the holy springtime of the soul, a time of preparation, planting, and growth. We enter the forty days of this penitential season on Ash Wednesday, on which the Imposition of Ashes is offered to all who desire to receive this sign of frailty, repentance, and renewal. The ashes are made from palms used in the previous year's Passion Sunday palm procession. A cross is drawn with the ashes on the forehead of each penitent, with the words of God to Adam, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient custom and practice. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin; frailty and our total dependence upon God for life; humiliation; and, repentance. We are reminded forcefully of the words of the committal in the burial liturgy, "... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," for one day those words will be said over us.

However, ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap; and, on Ash Wednesday, the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Holy Baptism. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive; so, the ashes also tell of both death and renewal, as is indicated by the ancient custom of burning the fields in the spring to destroy the old and to prepare for the new.

### **FRIDAY BREAKFAST SERIES**

Our Friday Breakfast Series on the theme ***The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*** with Amy-Jill Levine concludes this week. A light breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m., followed by the program from 7:15 - 7:45 a.m. The final session on February 20 is "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?". Matins (Morning Prayer) follows at 8:00 a.m.

### **PASTOR'S INFORMATION CLASS**

Sunday, February 22  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m., in the Parlor



This class is designed for those who would like to learn more about Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church. Join us for an overview of Lutheran Church history, theology, liturgy, the church year, ecclesiology, and life at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please speak with Pastor Roberts for additional information.

### **LENTEN OFFERINGS**

Our special Lenten offerings are used for the broader work of the Lutheran Church through the Virginia Synod. One aspect of this partnership is the Gracelinside Prison Ministry. Founded in 1920, Gracelinside now provides spiritual nurture to 30,000 incarcerated men and women across Virginia. Chaplains preach, teach, provide pastoral care as well as crisis counseling, and coordinate volunteers who assist with worship and musical programs. As prisoners prepare to return to society, chaplains provide counseling to help ease the transition. We are proud of the broad mission outreach of our Church and are challenged to give it our generous support. Offerings should be placed in Lenten envelopes, or marked clearly as special Lenten gifts, or made through the online giving portal available on our website by selecting the Seasonal Special Offerings fund.



# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 22, 2026

*The Lessons: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11  
The liturgical color for season of Lent is purple.*

8:30 A.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION  
9:30 A.M. - SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

**ADULT EDUCATION**  
**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
(Parlor)

**I've Got Questions**

But What If You're Wrong?  
How Does Your Garden Grow? / AFTERWORD: Where Do We Go from Here?

10:30 A.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION with LIVESTREAM  
2:00 P.M. - PASTOR'S INFORMATION CLASS  
4:00 P.M. - JUNIOR & SENIOR YOUTH  
6:00 P.M. - CONFIRMATION CLASS

**THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 - 28**

<u>MONDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS 9:30 A.M. - CHAIR YOGA CLASS 7:00 P.M. - CONNECTING WITH GOD - <i>Know God - Know Self</i> (via Zoom)
<u>TUESDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - PARISH NURSE in office (until 10:00 a.m.) 5:40 P.M. - HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
<u>WEDNESDAY,</u>	12:10 P.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 5:30 P.M. - WINTER SEMINAR - <i>The Bible Tells Me So</i> 7:00 P.M. - LENTEN VESPERS 7:30 P.M. - ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL
<u>THURSDAY,</u>	11:00 A.M. - DISCUSSION GROUP - <i>Awakening the Divine</i>
<u>FRIDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS 9:30 A.M. - CHAIR YOGA CLASS 11:00 A.M. - BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - <i>The Four Vision Quests of Jesus</i>
<u>SATURDAY,</u>	4:00 P.M. - HOLY TRINITY YOUTH - Coldest Night of the Year Walk

**IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY**

Hospitalized and released are **Paul Kluender**, **Corrinne Cohen**, and **Vicki Lazo**. Hospitalized and released to Wyndhurst Health & Rehabilitation Center is **Sandra Miller**. . . . Congratulations to **Hazel Francis** on the celebration of her ninety-seventh birthday.

**GERALD "Jerry" EDWARD MARTIN**

1926 - 2026

Our sympathy to his family.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**PARISH NURSE SCHEDULE**

Parish Nurse Gail Midkiff will have office hours Tuesday, February 24, instead of Thursday, February 26. She will be out of the office March 5. She returns to regular schedule Thursday, March 12.

**SERVANT OUTREACH PROJECT**

Our February outreach project is paper napkins, dish detergent, and laundry detergent for the food ministry to the homeless and poor at Daily Bread, located on Clay Street in downtown Lynchburg. Please place items in the outreach ministry basket in the narthex throughout the month.

**CHURCH MUSIC INTERN**

Eunice Choi, who sang so beautifully at our 10:30 service last Sunday, is doing an internship here at Holy Trinity this spring. She is a senior voice major at Liberty University and has been singing with our choir for about the last year and is very interested in church music. As part of her internship, she will continue singing in the choir, including solo work, playing handbells, and helping with "behind the scenes" tasks, as well as learning about the organ, choral music, and the liturgical year.

**NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED**

We will welcome new members into Holy Trinity in the coming weeks. Please speak with Pastor Roberts if you are interested in joining our church family.

## CHILDREN'S and YOUTH MINISTRIES – THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 - 28

**Sunday, February 22**



9:30 a.m. - Sunday Church School (grades one - five)

4:00 p.m. - Junior & Senior Youth (grades six - twelve)

Duct Tape Event

Sticky challenges, big laughs, and stronger faith!

We will meet at the Youth House.

Dinner will be provided.

6:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)

4:00 p.m. - Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Miriam's House

Meet at Miriam's House (409 Magnolia Street)

**Saturday, February 28**

### MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

12:10 p.m. - Service of Holy Communion      7:00 p.m. - Lenten Vespers

#### The Senses Incarnate: The Christ Dwells in Us

As human beings, we have five senses – sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. Our senses are, of course, always in dialogue with and processed by our intellect, but followers of the risen Christ have also long understood faith as that work of the Holy Spirit within us that integrates our senses and intellect to give us a deeper and more complete understanding of reality.

<b>February 25</b>	- "Sight: to see the world as Jesus does"
<b>March 4</b>	- "Sound: the Holy Spirit gives us ability"
<b>March 11</b>	- "Smell: filled with love's fragrance"
<b>March 18</b>	- "Touch: your faith has made you well"
<b>March 25</b>	- "Taste: taste and see that the Lord is good"

### WINTER SEMINAR

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

#### THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

What if the Bible doesn't need to be protected and defended, but understood – just as it is? What if the real problem isn't the Bible but the false expectations we sometimes bring to it? Perhaps, when we let the Bible be the Bible rather than what we expect it ought to be – or need it to be – we will find a deeper faith in the process. Biblical scholar Peter Enns stirs our imaginations in this video series, helping the Bible come alive in new ways to deepen our trust in God.

<b>February 25</b>	- <i>Why Doesn't God Make Up His Mind?</i>
<b>March 4</b>	- <i>Jesus Is Bigger Than The Bible</i>
<b>March 11</b>	- <i>No One Saw This Coming</i>
<b>March 18</b>	- <i>The Bible: Just As It Is</i>

A light supper will be served. Please make reservations in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.

### NEW THURSDAY DISCUSSION

Our Thursday Discussion Group will begin a four-week session on the theme ***Awakening the Divine: A Journey Into the Heart of God*** February 26, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., in the Parlor. The video series will explore profound spiritual insights and rediscover the divine presence within and around us. Through the wisdom of renowned spiritual leaders James Alison, Jacqui Lewis, Alexander J. Shaia, Barbara A. Holmes, and John Phillip Newell, this series collectively calls for a deeper understanding of God, encouraging us to embrace our divine essence, recognize our interconnectedness, and transform our world through love and compassion.

### COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

All are invited to join the Holy Trinity Youth for "The Coldest Night of the Year" Event on Saturday, February 28, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Miriam's House, 409 Magnolia Street. This awareness and fundraising event benefits Miriam's House financially and gives us a knowledge of the great need the homeless face in our community. All ages are welcome to join the youth in this important event. Please register for the walk (2 km or 5 km) and/or donate at <https://www.cnoy.com/location/lynchburg> under our team name, HTLC Youth.



### JEWISH-CHRISTIAN TEXT STUDY

Sunday, March 1  
from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

Join Rabbi Michael Gillette and Pastor Roberts for an exploration of texts from the Hebrew scriptures. How do Judaism and Christianity interpret these texts? What are the similarities and differences?

### NEW SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Our Sunday Morning Book Discussion Group will begin a three-week exploration of ***Hanging By A Thread*** by Samuel Wells Sunday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m., in the Parlor. Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$13.00.

## SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

The next Sermon Discussion Group will meet Thursday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor. We will discuss several recent sermons, copies of which will be provided in advance. Please make reservations in the narthex or contact the church office to receive the reading material.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is available on the hallway bulletin board next to the church office. Flowers are needed for **February 22, March 1, March 8, March 29, and May 3**. The cost of altar flowers is \$100 per week for two vases. Payment for altar flowers is requested before the selected date and should be made payable to *Holy Trinity*. There are no delivery fees or sales tax. Please contact the church office with any altar flower questions you may have.

## THANK YOU

- Thanks to **Cheryl and Bruce Gerlich**, coordinators; **Ann Kreft, Barry Lobb, Ann Mitchell, Wade Neiman, Mitch Overstreet, Maria Roberts, Anna-Lissa Rosner, and April Whalen** for preparing the Mardi Gras Jazz Brunch and/or assisting with cleanup afterwards.
- Thanks to **Spencer Pollok** for scraping and shoveling the Youth House walkway.
- Thanks to **Tamara Colagreco** and **Chris Pickle** for assisting in the church office.
- Thanks to **Eunice Choi, Cindy Kauppi, Nancy Overstreet, and Teresa Weinmeister** for polishing the handbells.
- Thanks to the **Holy Trinity Mission Trip Youth** and adults for preparing and serving our Third Sunday Program supper. \$255 was raised for their summer mission trip.

## CANDLE TRIBUTES

The 2026 Candle Calendar is available on the hallway bulletin board next to the church office. Candle sponsors are needed **March 8, March 15, March 22, April 19, and April 26**. The cost is \$20 per week, with checks made payable to *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*. Please note "Candle Fund" on the memo line. Please contact the church office with any questions.

### GOD IN FILM

Sunday, March 8, at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a light supper and theological discussion as we view  
*The Son*.

Please make reservations in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.



## UPDATED YEARBOOK INFORMATION NEEDED

We are currently working on the 2026 Holy Trinity Yearbook which will be mailed later in the spring. All members are asked to review their household's information as listed in the 2025 Yearbook. In particular, let us know if you have discontinued your land line telephone, what cell phone number(s) you would like published, and what email address(es), if any, you would like published. You may email or call the church office with updated information. Thanks for your cooperation.

## BRUNSWICK STEW FOR SALE

There is still Holy Trinity Brunswick Stew available. The cost is \$12.50 per quart. Proceeds support our Program Development Fund. Please pay in the church office.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

We are reminded of the following information in the event of inclement winter weather.

- ✿ Please call the church office for the latest schedule information. Any changes or cancellations will be available on the church voice mail system and at [www.holytrinitylynchburg.org](http://www.holytrinitylynchburg.org).
- ✿ Weekday education activities at Holy Trinity are canceled any day that Lynchburg City Schools are closed because of the weather. Music rehearsals may be held if road conditions improve later in the day. Participants in music groups will be notified if a rehearsal will be held.
- ✿ Sunday cancellations will be determined by 7:00 a.m. that morning. Wednesday cancellations will be determined by 9:00 a.m. that morning. The information will be shared by email, placed on the church voice mail system, at [www.holytrinitylynchburg.org](http://www.holytrinitylynchburg.org), and communicated to Lynchburg/Roanoke television stations. Please consult the "Closings" listings on the television station web sites.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

(in-town members and students)



1 - Jackie Kluender  
Jennifer Lampley  
2 - Deborah Naff  
3 - Patty Kauppi  
4 - Jeremy Mason  
Jay Stevens  
6 - Sarah Quarantotto  
Larry Roberts  
Patricia Sova  
Paul Ulmer

9 -	Alan Kauppi	23 -	Betty Camden
	Jeremiah Quarantotto		Casey Sink
10 -	Heather Royer	24 -	Emily Bobbitt
11 -	Katie Stevens		Sheila Gross
	Rudy Straub	25 -	Joe Fedeler
12 -	Erik Dahl	26 -	Barbara Garman
	Minor Harrington		Blaise Kluender
	Sandra Ploch		Lynn Pickle
14 -	Sheila Krull	27 -	Richard Gross
	Lucy Slagle	29 -	Mark Pretty
19 -	David Petty		Martin Schappeit
20 -	CJ Conner	30 -	Syndie Adams
21 -	James Tyler		Tara Almond
22 -	Bill Hetzel		Addison Elbrecht
	Andrea Neiman	31 -	Julie Taylor

Ministers: *The People of Holy Trinity*

Organist-Chairmaster: *J. William Greene*

Parish Nurse: *Gail Midkiff*

Parish Administrator: *Carol Dee Robertson*

Director of Youth and Campus Ministries: *Susan H. Williams*

Pastor: *Dennis S. Roberts*

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[www.holytrinitylynchburg.org](http://holytrinitylynchburg.org)