

THE BEACON

November 15, 2023

SERVANT OUTREACH PROJECT

Our November outreach project is a canned food drive for the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry. Grocery bags, complete with an attached suggested shopping list, are available in the narthex. We are asked to please fill and return the bags during the month of November. Monetary contributions are also encouraged. Special envelopes are available on the narthex desk.

YOUTH TO ATTEND SYNOD EVENT

Lost & Found, the Virginia Synod retreat for youth in grades seven and eight, will be held at Eagle Eyrie this weekend. Holy Trinity youth attending are **Charlie Barrick, Aryn Hutchison, Synnove Johnson, Madi Kluender, Caroline Shoemaker, Paige Sittason, Adalyn Tuggle, Eleri Turille, and Rowan Wiebe.** **Barb Garman** and **Susan Williams** are serving as chaperones for the weekend. The theme of the retreat is "Are You There, God?" Please pray for our team as they open their hearts and spirits to God's presence, meet new people, and have a safe and fun time!

THOMAS MASS

Our next *Thomas Mass* will be Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m. This service of Holy Communion is in the context of a meditative liturgy which has its roots in the Finnish Lutheran tradition. Included in this worship experience is the opportunity for informal movement between various stations for meditation and prayer. Join us for this service, especially if work, sports, or travel schedules prevent your participation on Sunday morning.



THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM

November 19, at 6:00 p.m.

THE MONACAN INDIAN NATION: A Story of Perseverance

Guest Speaker: Bradley Branham
Center for Creative Leadership
and member of the Monacan Nation

University of Lynchburg alumnus Bradley Branham '15 is a member of the Monacan Nation. The Monacans have inhabited the greater Piedmont region of Virginia for more than 10,000 years. The tribe today still counts more than 2,000 members despite centuries of oppression, disease, attack, and educational inequities. Join us for an overview of the Monacan oral history and an exhibit of tribal regalia.

We will begin with a light supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program at 6:30 p.m.

Please make reservations in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.

CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN

Construction is underway on our columbarium improvements and new scatter garden. Stone and other construction materials are staged temporarily in a few of our parking lot spaces, and sidewalk access through the columbarium may be interrupted on weekdays. Our contractors are committed to minimizing any disruptions as much as possible. Please be alert as we look forward to the completion of these projects.

THANKSGIVING DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE OF UNITY AND REFLECTION

Thursday, November 23, at 9:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
3109 Rivermont Avenue

*We look forward to worshiping with our neighbors from
Agudath Sholom Synagogue, Centenary United Methodist Church,
Church of the Covenant, First Christian Church,
the Muslim Community, Peakland Baptist Church,
and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg.*

Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman from Agudath Sholom Synagogue will deliver the sermon.

Monetary offerings will be received at the service
for The Free Clinic of Central Virginia.





TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

The Lessons: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
The liturgical color for the Season of Pentecost is green.

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

ADULT EDUCATION
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
(Parlor)

I Can Do No Other: The Church's New Here We Stand Moment
Here He Stood

10:30 A.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION with LIVESTREAM
12:00 P.M. - YOUTH RETURN FROM LOST & FOUND SYNOD YOUTH RETREAT
2:00 P.M. - FINANCE COMMITTEE
5:00 P.M. - THOMAS MASS
6:00 P.M. - THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM

THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19 - 25

<u>MONDAY,</u>	9:15 A.M. - STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS
	9:50 A.M. - CHAIR YOGA CLASS
	6:00 P.M. - YOUTH BIBLE STUDY & DINNER - <i>Searching for Answers</i> (Youth House)
<u>TUESDAY,</u>	1:00 P.M. - BIBLE STUDY - <i>God's Extraordinary Church</i>
	7:00 P.M. - ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL
<u>WEDNESDAY,</u>	12:10 P.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
<u>THURSDAY,</u>	9:30 A.M. - THANKSGIVING DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE OF UNITY AND REFLECTION at First Christian Church

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Hospitalized at Lynchburg General is **Doris Gallagher** (Fred's wife). . . .
Congratulations to **Mary Lightle** on the celebration of her ninety-eighth birthday.

THANK YOU

- Thanks to **Edie Leamon**, coordinator; **Susan Barney**, **Don Carter**, **Bob Hornbeck**, **Susan Manion**, **Mary McCarthy**, **Karen Pollok**, **Christine Rooney**, **Mike Rooney**, and **Anne Royer** for serving in the Food Pantry last week.
- Thanks to **Ann Mitchell** for delivering outreach items to local agencies.
- Thanks to **ALL** who assist with memorial service receptions. This ministry is much appreciated by the families.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR ANIMAL CLINIC

The Lynchburg Humane Society Spay/Neuter Clinic is in need of old newspapers and old top sheets and towels. Items may be placed in the "Animal Clinic" basket in the narthex. Please speak with **Mary Beth Thompson** (993-2596) for additional information.

2024 TIME and TALENT and FINANCIAL NEEDS

It takes the time and talents of hundreds of people to carry out Holy Trinity's mission and ministry each year. As we prayerfully consider our commitments for the coming year, may we keep in mind these specific needs:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Adult Choir members | ■ greeters |
| ■ Altar Guild members | ■ lectors |
| ■ Beacon folders | ■ home communion ministers |
| ■ coffee hour servers | ■ office assistants |
| ■ communion assistants | ■ ushers |



Growing
in
Faith
&
Giving

ROOTED in LOVE

Our mission and ministry is also dependent on our financial contributions as we strive "to care actively in the name of Jesus Christ." **MAKE A PLEDGE** to our growing mission and ministry as we increase our outreach in the Lynchburg area and through the Virginia Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Please prayerfully consider the following for 2024:

- ❖ an increase in giving by \$10.00 per week; or,
- ❖ an increase in giving by 1% of income as a step toward the biblical tithe of 10%; or,
- ❖ move beyond 10% for those already tithing; or,
- ❖ make an extraordinary and/or legacy gift to support current and future ministries.

CHILDREN’S and YOUTH MINISTRIES
NOVEMBER 19 - 25



- Sunday, November 19** 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Church School (age three - grade five)
 12:00 p.m. - Youth return from *Lost & Found* Synod Event
- Monday, November 20** 6:00 p.m. - Youth Bible Study & Dinner (Youth House)

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating relief work in the Middle East through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation. In addition to prayers, our support helps make possible medical supplies and accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to their homes in Gaza, emergency education support for families who have lost income due to the war and are unable to pay school fees, psycho social support, shelter, household items, public health centers, and direct cash assistance, focusing on the Palestinian communities in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries to provide interfaith emotional and spiritual care support for communities in the United States. All contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response are used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted by the current acts of terror and warfare. Please make checks payable to *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* and indicate “Middle East Crisis.”

THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS

Our special Thanksgiving offerings are designated for the broader mission and ministry of Holy Trinity Church through our partnership with the Virginia Synod.

- **DID YOU KNOW** that grounded in the ancient message of Scripture and in the historic confessions of the Church, our Lutheran seminaries in this country have prepared men and women for ordained and lay ministry for over 195 years?
- **DID YOU KNOW** that enCircle (formerly Lutheran Family Services of Virginia) ministers to thousands of persons each year, many of whom are emotionally, physically, and sexually abused and in need of a helping hand?
- **DID YOU KNOW** that the GraceInside Virginia prison ministry provides chaplains who provide weekly worship services and pastoral care for thousands of prisoners in our state prisons and juvenile institutions?
- **DID YOU KNOW** that the mission of Virginia Lutheran Homes is to serve the needs of the aging by providing low cost housing in New Market and a continuing care retirement community and rehabilitation center in Roanoke?
- **DID YOU KNOW** that in the past year over 100,000 lives were touched with the Gospel in word and deed through the agencies and institutions supported by our Virginia Synod?
- **DID YOU KNOW** that we at Holy Trinity participate in these extended ministries through our benevolence offerings?

We are encouraged to be generous in our support of the far-reaching ministries of our church. Please use the special Thanksgiving offering envelope included in our envelope packets or go to the online giving portal available on our website or through the My Vanco app on your smart phone and select Seasonal Special Offerings Fund.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING



All are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, November 26, at 9:30 a.m., as we make Advent wreaths for our homes. Families are asked to attend together so that older hands may assist those who are younger. Wreath-making materials will be provided and a free will offering is requested. Those who have straw wreath forms from previous years are asked to bring them for reuse.

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

each Wednesday from 12:10 - 12:30 p.m.

*Join us for a time of spiritual nourishment as we gather for
quiet reflection, prayer, the Word,
and the Meal.*



2024 ALTAR FLOWERS and CANDLE DEDICATIONS



The **2024 Altar Flower Calendar** is available on the hallway bulletin board next to the church office. Please note that no dates are reserved from previous years. The cost of altar flowers is \$90 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.

The **2024 Candle Calendar** is also available on the hallway bulletin board next to the church office. All are reminded of the opportunity to dedicate the candles used in worship each week to the glory of God in memory or in honor of loved ones or in celebration of special events (birthdays, baptismal anniversaries, wedding anniversaries, etc.). The tribute dedication is printed in the Sunday worship bulletins along with the altar flower dedication. Included are the altar candles, the sanctuary lamp, and candles for the *Globusleuchter*. 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.

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

The next Sermon Discussion Group will meet Thursday, November 30, at 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor. We will discuss several previous Sunday sermons, copies of which will be provided in advance. Please contact the church office to request the reading materials.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 3

in-person meeting following both worship services

Our presence is extremely important as we elect five members of Church Council, adopt a 2024 Spending Plan, and vote on the new constitution and incorporation.

- The annual meeting will be called to order at the conclusion of an abbreviated 8:30 a.m. worship service. After balloting for Church Council, and voting on the Spending Plan, constitution, and incorporation, the meeting will be recessed.
- The meeting will be reconvened at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service. After balloting for Church Council, and voting on the Spending Plan, constitution, and incorporation, the meeting will be adjourned. The ballots will then be counted and nominees notified of the results that afternoon. The election results will be published in the December 6 issue of *The Beacon*.

All confirmed members are eligible to vote. Please make every effort to be present.



GERMAN LANGUAGE
ADVENT SERVICE

The Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Join us for lessons, hymns, and special music.
Pastor Roberts will lead the service.
A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

REVISED HOLY TRINITY CONSTITUTION and INCORPORATION

It has been twenty-five years since Holy Trinity last updated its constitution and bylaws. During that time, our world has become more complex and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has approved a number of changes that also impact synodical and congregational constitutions. Most of the ELCA changes are mandatory and must be included verbatim. In addition, since 2005, the Commonwealth of Virginia has allowed congregations to incorporate.

Our Church Council appointed a Constitution Task Group to work on this revision and incorporation process. We thank **Nancy Hall, Wade Neiman, and Deb Serio** for their efforts on this project. The Task Group has worked in tandem with a local attorney for the incorporation provisions, and with the Virginia Synod for overall review and ELCA compliance. Now that the attorney and the Virginia Synod have given their approval, the revised constitution, bylaws, and provisions for incorporation have been shared with the congregation via email. There are several printed copies available in the church office for review as well. The proposed revisions and incorporation were discussed at our Gifts Festival Breakfast and will be voted on at our Annual Congregational Meeting on December 3. Please speak with Pastor Roberts about any questions you may have.

RESERVATIONS FOR CHURCH EVENTS

We are reminded that it is very important to make reservations for church events at which food will be served. In addition to helping with food purchasing and preparation, it also helps us have sufficient seating pre-set and ready in the Fellowship Hall for luncheons, suppers, etc. Reservation forms for events are available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall, or one may call or email the church office. It is also helpful to make reservations in advance rather than wait until the day of the event.

YEAR-END GIFTS

We are encouraged to meet in full our planned offerings for this year and make additional contributions according to our many blessings as we strive to meet our challenge level of giving (an extra dollar per week or fifty-two dollars per year). Our church financial records remain open through Sunday, January 14, 2024, for contributions toward 2023 pledges. Please keep in mind that contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 for 2023 tax purposes. We continue to meet new opportunities for mission and ministry and each person's gifts are very important.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will again decorate our chancel and sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas. Poinsettias may be given in memory or honor of individuals. The cost is \$16.00 per plant. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



Please return no later than **Sunday, December 10.**

Given by _____ Number of plants _____

In Honor/Memory of _____
(please circle)

Payment of _____ is enclosed. (\$16.00 per plant)

Ministers: *The People of Holy Trinity*

Organist-Choirmaster: *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*

Church Office: *434-384-8441*

email: *office@holytrinitylynchburg.org*

www.holytrinitylynchburg.org