

MAY NEWSLETTER



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
405 West Main St.
Wytheville, Virginia 24382





May 2023

Grace and peace to you,

It is hard to believe we are swiftly approaching the 2-year mark of our mutual call to ministry. I have been serving as a pastor now for 22 ½ years. It is hard to believe how quickly time flies and how much things have changed in that time.

I often tell people, I was trained to be a pastor of a congregation or parish where things are stable, people of many generations work together, and we enjoy worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, Committees that work well, and pastoral visitation. People will come to church, the money will be there when needed, and though there may be struggles at times, not too much will change.

What a farce! Many of these things are gone nowadays. The idea of one pastor, one church, and always together in mission is pretty much in the past as well. If we were struggling in many of these areas before COVID-19, we have returned to ministry post-Covid with things even more up in the air.

Yet, the church finds ways to continue to move forward. We continue to piece together opportunities for mission and ministry. We continue to find ways to make the budget work. We continue to piece together committees. Diapers are distributed, lunch bags packed and delivered, the lawn is mowed, the bills are paid, and the new roof is good to go.

My point here, so I think, is it would be so very easy to get stuck in the woe-is-me thoughts about how things used to be. While it is always nice to reminisce, that is not where we are now. Things are different. Things are changing, and it will be okay. I will adapt. You will adapt. The church will adapt. Yes, it may look different in the future, but that is also okay.

We will always and forever continue to find ways to be the church together in this time and place, today. Thanks be to God!

Peace and Hope,
Pastor Jonathan

PS. We are looking for folks interested in serving on the 150th-anniversary committee. Please let Ted Johnson know if you are interested in serving on this (temporary) committee!

Council Meeting Highlights

The Church Council met on April 12th.

- † **Anniversary Committee:** Bob, Judy and Julia were added to the committee.
- † **Property:** Roof work is complete, steeple repair next. Ted and Barry visited suppliers in Roanoke, finally found compatible shingles at Carriage House. We have one steeple bid, rather high, and are awaiting two more. We will need to get approval at a congregational meeting for the expenditure, as it is exceeding what was authorized earlier.
- † **Council Nominating Committee:** Will be composed of outgoing council members, who are Julia Stephens, Buddy Johnstone, and Pat Larson. Bob Ballard was appointed for the first year of Judy Beaver's term after her death, so he will also be on the ballot to serve her remaining two years, along with three candidates to serve 3-year terms.

2024 Flower Chart

The new flower chart for the coming year is up in the Connector. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar for our Sunday services. If you choose to contact Theresa at Petals, it will only cost \$30.

Official Congregational Meeting Notice

The Congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will meet for it's annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, May 19th, 2024 immediately following worship. We will discuss the following:

1. Election of Council Members
(3) – 3 Year Position
(1) – 2 Year Position
2. Receive the 2023 Annual Report
3. Receive updates on the building projects & if we have bids, accept proposal for finishing Steeple.

Crab Cakes Supper

Unfortunately, Ascension is full of conflict this year so we will move the Crab Cak Supper to Friday, May 17th. This will be a fundraiser for the youth who are attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. The meal is being co-sponsored by Thrivent grant and a generous donation. The cost of the supper is \$25/Adult and \$15/Child. Please RSVP to Skyler by phone or email.



Luther's Lunch Bag

Luther's Lunch Bags are asking for 16oz of Peanut Butter. Monetary donations are always appreciated.

WELCA

Holy Trinity Women of the ELCA congratulate our upcoming high school graduates, Micah Hamman and Eden Miller. They will be recognized at our worship service on Sunday, May 19.

Handbell Concert

Holy Trinity will be hosting a handbell concert on Saturday, May 18, 7:00pm, performed by the New River Bell Ensemble from Independence. They are celebrating 10 years of community handbell ringing and their concert will include music by: ACDC, ABBA, Pachelbel and Queen! The concert is free, with donations gratefully accepted.

Save the Date

Basic CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training will be offered following our Congregational Meeting and Covered Dish luncheon on May 19th. You do not have to do any hands-on training unless you want to. It will be beneficial to your family and friends to be aware of the basics. Someone from the Wytheville Fire Department will be leading this session. Training will be held in the fellowship hall. Holy Trinity members are requested to bring covered dishes. No signup; just bring enough for you and someone else. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Bob Ballard. REMEMBER it may be YOU who may need CPR or use of a AED!!!

Power in the Spirit

The annual Synod event focusing on Biblical Story and with a keynote speaker will be happening in June this year instead of July. It looks to be a wonderful event this year. Pastor Jonathan plans to attend and he hopes a few of you may consider attending as well. June 13-15 at Roanoke College.

Register Today for Power in the Spirit!
June 13-15, 2024

"For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."
- Esther 4.14 NRSV

The story of Esther is one of God's faithful presence, deliverance from oppression, and bold service to the neighbor. God calls Esther - a Jewish queen in a foreign land - to join in God's plan to save God's people. God gifts Esther with leadership, strengthens her in those gifts, and calls her to take risks - all for the sake of her own safety and that of her people. Like Esther, we can be assured of God's holy presence and deliverance. Like Esther, we can choose to act for the deliverance of others.



Come and learn! Come for fellowship!
Come to serve your neighbor! Come to
Power in the Spirit 2024!

The Rev. Wes Smith, Edith Blake and Donna Gum

Hosted at beautiful Roanoke College in Salem Virginia, Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship.

The Rev. CeCee Mills will be the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Heidi Neumark will be the Bible Study Leader, and Michael Benschish will be our Musician.

Diaper Distribution

It is very exciting to share the results of the generosity of many through your work, time and gifts for the April 11 Diaper Drive Up at Holy Trinity with partner Salvation Army Wythe County Unit!

You made it possible for families to register, shopped for diapers, shampoo and wipes, provided baby clothes, donated in-kind gifts before and the day of the diaper drive, brought gifts given by others, provided car greeter forms, labels and flyers, posted flyers in the community, greeted cars and families; installed our sign, sorted and prepared packages before the 11th and gave tremendous time to help families in our area.

Families Served on April 11: 84

Children Served on April 11: 125

Based on the amount given for each diaper size, more than 7,120 diapers were distributed on April 11 plus 280 pull ups to other individual children. And all received shampoo/wash and wipes, and a few received donated baby clothes. Thank you for making it a wonderful day.

You are the reason we are able to share this much-needed gift with families and I know they appreciate your continued involvement in this special ministry. We are happy to report that 3 new volunteers joined us last Thursday and we are looking at opportunities for more contributions from the community.

May Altar Guild Members

Martha Ballard
Naomi King
Ann Laing

First Sunday Reception – May 5th

Judy Burkett, Chair
Regena Umberger
Kathy Rowe
Janet Johnson
Jane Festa
Norma Armbrister

May Worship Assistants

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Comm. Asst.</u>
May 5 th	Luke Hamman	Micah Hamman	Arlene Crockett	Jane Festa
May 12 th	Kyle Stephens	Etthan Miller	Karen Miller	Etthan Miller
May 19 th	James Crockett	Micah Hamman	Debbie Clark	Heidi Shupe
May 26 th	Micah Hamman	Kyle Stephens	Julia Stephens	Kathy Rowe

Sunday, May 5th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Introduction: This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 10:44-48
Psalm – Psalm 98
Second Reading – 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel – John 15:9-17

Hymns:

#384 - “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”
#359 - “Where Charity and Love Prevail”
#836 - “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Sunday, May 12th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Introduction: The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm – Psalm 1
Second Reading – 1 John 5:9-13
Gospel – John 17:6-19

Hymns:

#408 - “Come, Thou Almighty King”
#655 - “Son of God, Eternal Savior”
#575 - “In Christ Called to Baptize”

Sunday, May 19th – Day of Pentecost

Introduction: Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God’s mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate

that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm – Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Second Reading – Romans 8:22-27
 Gospel – John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Hymns:

#399 - "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"
 #396 - "Spirit of Gentleness"
 #400 - "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"

Sunday, May 26th – The Holy Trinity

Introduction: When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Readings:

First Reading – Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm – Psalm 29
 Second Reading – Romans 8:12-17
 Gospel – John 3:1-17

Hymns:

#413 - "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"
 #412 - "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"
 #673- "God, Whose Almighty Word "

FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND	March 2024	2024 Year Total
INCOME NEEDED	\$16,736	\$50,208
INCOME RECEIVED	\$23,804	\$58,043
EXPENDITURES	\$13,219	\$47,987



GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND ATTENDANCE

March 3 rd	\$3,689	50
March 10 th	\$5,924	59
March 17 th	\$4,892	51
March 24 th	\$6,830	76
March 28 th and 29 th	\$0	62
March 31 st	\$2,469	86
Total	\$23,804	379



Tithes and offerings

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Brenda Williams 05/05
Robert (Cassey) Ballard 05/06
Eleanor Brown 05/07
Elizabeth Ballard 05/08
David Sharitz 05/08
Charles Walters 05/09
Janie Shriver 05/10
Robin Fowlkes 05/16
Robert Ballard 05/21
Steven Ridenhour 05/21
Jonathan Hamman 05/22
Virginia Sharitz 05/22
Corey Miller 05/23
Lydia Schotelkorb 05/28
Marilyn Saarinen 05/31

Baptisms

Jessica Poole 05/06
Lindsay Alderman 05/10
Amy Butler 05/11
Janice Umberger 05/12
Amy Aussiker 05/16
Amy Wagner 05/18
Beth Cochran 05/21
Kelley Haga 05/22
Joan Dunn 05/26
Bryan Cochran 05/26
Nancy Jackson 05/29
Robert Suthers 05/31

Anniversaries

Art & Cindy Hedrick 05/04
Janet & Ted Johnson 05/08
Elizabeth & Casey Ballard 05/20
Kara & Jacob Ridenhour 05/20