

THE BEACON

December 4, 2024

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members into our congregational family:

- **Martha and Christopher Sprouse** joined us by Affirmation of Faith. Martha and Christopher's son, **Arthur Edward Sprouse**, was received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Christopher is a food manufacturing supervisor. The Sprouse family mailing address is P.O. Box 49, Prospect, VA 23960.
- **Linda B. Wright** joined us by Affirmation of Faith. She is the daughter of late Holy Trinity members Jean and Arthur Berns and the mother of Martha Wright Sprouse. Linda is a retired professor at Longwood University. Her mailing address is P.O. Box 49, Prospect, VA 23960.



MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Wednesdays,
December 4, 11, and 18

12:10 p.m - Service of Holy Communion

Evening Devotions will be released on YouTube at 5:30 p.m.

SERVANT OUTREACH PROJECT

Our December outreach project supports the **YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention Center**. Needed are personal hygiene items including soap, shampoo, deodorant, and lotions for Center residents. The Center provides a safe haven for women and children who have been victims of domestic violence. Counseling, education, and support services are also provided for the entire family. Please place hygiene items in the outreach basket in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for our Children's Nativity, which will be a part of the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, will be held Sunday mornings, December 8, 15, and 22, at 9:30 a.m. All children are encouraged to participate.

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION TO BEGIN

Our Sunday Morning Book Discussion Group begins its exploration of *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg on December 8, at 9:30 a.m., in the Parlor. Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$14.00 each.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 8

in-person meeting following both worship services

(The inclement weather date is Sunday, December 15.)

Our presence is extremely important as we elect five members of Church Council and adopt a 2025 Spending Plan

- 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, 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, 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 11 issue of *The Beacon*.

Our new constitution provides for absentee voting. Please contact the church office to receive an absentee ballot.

All confirmed members are eligible to vote. Please make every effort to be present or cast an absentee ballot.

GERMAN LANGUAGE ADVENT SERVICE

The Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m.

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





SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2024

*The Lessons: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
The liturgical color for the season of Advent is blue.*

8:30 A.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION and ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and HOME COMMUNION

9:30 A.M. - CHILDREN'S NATIVITY REHEARSAL and SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

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

The Heart of Christianity

The Heart of Christianity in a Time of Change

10:30 A.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION with LIVESTREAM and ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and HOME COMMUNION

11:45 A.M. - JUNIOR YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT (grades six - eight; meet at Youth House)

3:00 P.M. - GERMAN ADVENT SERVICE

5:00 P.M. - SENIOR YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT (grades nine - twelve; meet at Target)

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8 - 14

<u>MONDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS
	9:30 A.M. - CHAIR YOGA CLASS
<u>TUESDAY,</u>	5:40 P.M. - HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:00 P.M. - CHURCH COUNCIL
<u>WEDNESDAY,</u>	12:10 P.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
	5:30 P.M. - EVENING DEVOTIONS (via YouTube)
	7:00 P.M. - ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL
<u>THURSDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - PARISH NURSE in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	6:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP (Fellowship Hall)
<u>FRIDAY,</u>	9:00 A.M. - STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISE CLASS
	9:30 A.M. - CHAIR YOGA CLASS

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY

Hospitalized and released to Lynchburg Health and Rehabilitation Center is **Paula Davis**.

Hospitalized and released to Forest Health and Rehabilitation Center is **Bill Belcher**.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP

Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun evening for everyone. All are invited!

To participate in the cookie swap, please bring three dozen cookies, a container for the swapped cookies, an appetizer of your choice, and a beverage. There will be other refreshments as well. To add some fun for those who want to participate, please bring a \$2.00 scratch lottery ticket of your choice. Please contact April Whalen for additional information.

Please make reservations in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall.



2025 COMMITMENTS DUE

Thanks for the positive response from those who have returned their 2025 time, talent, and financial pledges to date. Our gifts are tangible ways of thanking God for our many blessings. They support the Church's mission of carrying on Christ's work in the world as we seek "to care actively in the name of Jesus Christ." We are reminded that our 2025 Time and Talent forms and financial pledges are due. **Every pledge is extremely important!** May we give prayerful consideration to our response for God's many blessings and make our 2025 commitments as soon as possible. **NEW THIS YEAR:** You may make your pledge directly on our website, www.holytrinitylynchburg.org, by clicking the Pledge Now button at the bottom of the Home page. You are also able to set up recurring payments on the Home page of the website if you would like to make regular automatic payments from your checking account or credit card toward the fulfillment of your pledge. Anyone who has not received a 2025 packet is asked to contact the church office. Thanks to all who make our mission and ministry possible through their generosity and sacrificial giving.

**CHILDREN'S and YOUTH MINISTRIES
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8 - 14**

- Sunday, December 8**
- 9:30 a.m. - Children's Nativity Rehearsal & Sunday Church School (age three - grade five)
 - 11:45 a.m. - Junior Youth (grades six - eight; meet at Youth House)
Christmas Mission Project
We will head to Walmart to buy gifts for a family who needs our help. Afterwards, we will have lunch nearby. Please let Susan know you're coming!
 - 5:00 p.m. - Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve; meet at Target)
Christmas Mission Project
We will be buying gifts for children in need. Afterwards, we will enjoy dinner out together. Please let Susan know you're coming!



DOWNTOWN LYNCHBURG HISTORIC CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

Interfaith Outreach Association will host its Annual Walter M. Fore, Jr., Downtown Lynchburg Historic Church Open House Saturday, December 14. This year's event is free, with donations to Interfaith Outreach Association encouraged as a holiday gift. Each participating congregation will host a fifteen-minute concert and will be open fifteen minutes before concert time. The church will then remain open for one hour.

- 9:30 a.m. - Diamond Hill Baptist Church (1415 Grace Street)
- 10:15 a.m. - Jackson Street United Methodist Church (901 Jackson Street)
- 11:00 a.m. - Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church (710 Clay Street)
- 11:30 a.m. - St. Paul's Episcopal Church (605 Clay Street)
- 12:00 p.m. - Court Street Baptist Church (517 Court Street)
- 12:30 p.m. - Court Street United Methodist Church (621 Court Street)
with special guest Temple Agudath Sholom
- 1:00 p.m. - Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg (818 Court Street)

Interfaith Outreach Association is a non-profit located in Lynchburg that has been helping families in need in Central Virginia since 1982. IOA offers assistance through seven programs: Emergency Assistance, Emergency Heating Assistance for the Elderly, Furniture and Furnishings, Homeless Prevention, Progressive Release, Programs for People with Visual Impairments, and Interfaith Rebuilds.

CHRISMONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Sunday, December 15
10:30 a.m.



On Sunday, December 15, we will again experience Chrismons & Carols, where six of our handmade Advent Chrismons will each be associated with a lesson and a carol that offer insight into that particular Chrismon's imagery. For instance, the "Cross in Eternity" Chrismon will be associated with Isaiah 40: "Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength." The associated carol will be "Prepare the Way, O Zion," by Robert Lau. On Sunday, December 29, we will experience Chrismons & Carols with an emphasis on the Christmas story.

ADVENT OFFERINGS

Our special Advent offerings are used for the broader work of the Lutheran Church through the Virginia Synod. One of those ministries is **enCircle**, formerly known as Lutheran Family Services of Virginia. What was started by a Lutheran pastor as a small orphanage in Salem back in 1888 has evolved into an organization that provides a broad array of educational and social services for children, adults, and families. EnCircle's 550 staff and caregivers work with vulnerable citizens across Virginia to restore the promise that life offers. They offer children the comfort, love, and safety of foster or adoptive families; empower people with developmental disabilities through a variety of community-based services; provide trauma-informed counseling to children, adults, and families; and, their Minnick Schools help children thrive in school, family, and life. We are proud of the broad mission outreach of our Church and are challenged to give it our generous support. Offerings may be made using the special Advent envelopes included in our envelope packets or through the online giving portal available on our website by selecting the Seasonal Special Offerings fund.

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS and CANDLE DEDICATIONS

The **2025 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 **2025 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.

NEW SCHEDULES

The December - February schedules for acolytes/crucifers, lectors, greeters, assisting ministers, coffee hour servers, and communion assistants have been emailed. Please review the new schedules and notify the church office of any substitutions. Thanks to all for their faithful service in these various capacities.



YOUTH CAROLING

Our Holy Trinity Youth will be caroling Sunday, December 22, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. They will be visiting some of our homebound members and friends. Singers of all ages are invited to join the group as they make their rounds.

TRIBUTE FUND

Those who would like to make a holiday contribution in lieu of Christmas cards, presents, etc., are reminded of our TRIBUTE FUND. Those honored are sent a card announcing that a gift has been given in their name and proceeds support our social ministry outreach. Please contact the church office for additional information.

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 12, 2025, for contributions toward 2024 pledges. Please keep in mind that contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 for 2024 tax purposes. We continue to meet new opportunities for mission and ministry and each person's gifts are very important.

BRUNSWICK STEW FOR SALE

There is still Holy Trinity Brunswick Stew available. The cost is \$10 per quart. Proceeds support our Program Development Fund. Please pay in the church office.

THANK YOU

- *Thank you so much for the generous gift you gave me to honor my 17 years as Parish Nurse at Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity is a caring congregation and the parish nurse ministry is a result of that caring. It has been such a blessing to me to work with the congregation. The reception is also greatly appreciated. Thank you again.*
In Christ,
Gail Midkiff
- Thanks to **ALL** who participated in the Interfaith Service of Unity and Reflection on Thanksgiving Day. It is always great to see such robust attendance by Holy Trinity folks.

VANCO MOBILE GIVING APP

All are reminded that Vanco, our eGiving provider, has a mobile app called Vanco Mobile. With Vanco Mobile, you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts. To download the Vanco app head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

If you would like to begin making gifts through the mobile app, it's easy to get started. Once you have downloaded Vanco Mobile, follow these five easy steps:

1. Search for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
2. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency.
3. Enter your payment method. (You can save this information for future use!)
4. Choose whether you want to cover processing fees.
5. Click **Submit** to complete your donation.

Please note that you may give to any of the following funds through our online giving portal or the mobile app: General Operating, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Food Pantry, Special Seasonal Offerings (includes Advent and Christmas Offerings), Challenge Gifts, Flower Fund, World Hunger, Memorial Fund, and Personal Hygiene Bag Fund.

Gifts may also be made through our website, www.holytrinitylynchburg.org. Simply click GIVE on the Home page and choose GIVE ONLINE at the bottom of the page. You may designate a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts though your credit card or checking account.

Thanks to all for your continued generosity! Please contact **Parish Administrator Carol Dee Robertson** with any questions concerning online giving or the Vanco mobile app.

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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 \$18.00 per plant. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



Please return no later than **Sunday, December 8.**

Given by _____ Number of plants _____

In Honor/Memory of _____
(please circle)

Payment of _____ is enclosed. (\$18.00 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