

Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

Leesburg, Virginia

TIDINGS

Lent/Easter 2026



Join us in Lent

Ash Wednesday,

February 18

Imposition of Ashes & Holy
Communion

- ❖ 12:00 pm Worship,
Followed by a soup and
salad lunch
- ❖ 5:30 pm Soup and Salad
Supper
- ❖ 6:30 pm Worship

Sundays

- ❖ 8:45 am Sunday School
- ❖ 10:00 am Worship

Wednesdays

- ❖ 12:00 pm Soup/Salad
Lunch with Discussion:
Journey to the Cross
(In Song!)

A Message from Our Pastor

Matthew 17:1-9

It is more than you can imagine. Jesus has taken his disciples Peter, James and John up the mountain by themselves. 3 of them – is it the three best? The three worst? The ones who need to know for themselves? Or the favorites?

Jesus takes them up the mountaintop and when they are up there everything changes – everything is transformed into this beautiful bright light and there is Jesus in bright lights like the Vegas strip – and along with Jesus, Moses and Elijah appear with him.

Here they are – this amazing moment and Peter says it is good for us to stay here. Why don't we make some tents – why don't we stay here? This is the good stuff. Right? When it is the moment you feel like you've got it together. The moment you know God is real in your life. That your faith is strong – that God is with you. You want to stay right there in the bright lights of Jesus in your midst. I know I do. Those times where you can just feel God's presence around you.

On that mountain they hear a voice from heaven **“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”** – think back to his baptism – **Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”** The same words – but with LISTEN.

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

A Message From Pastor Kristin Hoyer (cont.)

Peter wants to stay in that moment – in that place –but when they hear that voice – they are scared. Jesus says “Get up and do not be afraid.” We’ve got to go back down the mountain – we can’t stay here – for down the mountain we begin a journey to what? To the cross. Jesus is about to lead them back down the mountain where there is pain and suffering, people in need of healing – and people oppressed – occupied – people longing to be loved and belonging – and Jesus takes the disciples back down the mountain and we hear that voice

Listen to him...

And in just 6 ½ weeks we will find Jesus on another mountain with people shouting “crucify him.” Yet that cross full of pain and sin and suffering and death will not have the last word – that cross used to torture will become a symbol of Jesus’ life and forgiveness and new life in our life.

How do we listen for God – Jesus’ voice in the midst of all the clamoring around us?

How do we do this when we have things coming at us from every direction? For just as soon as I say I’d like to throw my phone out the window I need it for my calendar and then I get alerts about something else – and just as soon as we take some time to go without our devices for a few minutes – we hear of another disaster – catastrophe another noisy thing to us so how do we keep focused and listening to Jesus?

How will you listen to Jesus during this season of Lent? How do we block out the clatter the noise? And focus on the one who brings life, hope, forgiveness? Focus on the one who tirelessly has us working for peace and justice in the world?

We are called to Listen -to listen to Jesus who teaches us to love and serve God and our neighbors. Who teaches us that our neighbors are more than just the people down the street or across the street – our neighbors are the people in our own home – down the street – across the county – the country and the world.

We are connected. We are loved by a God who created us in God’s image and on this transfiguration day we remember we are about to enter this time of Lent – 40 days leading us to another mountain – a mountain where we will hear people shout Crucify him – a mountain where people will scatter in fear – a mountain where people will be found weeping – and on that mountain – when it seems all hope is lost – when Jesus our Lord, our Savior, our friend is hanging dead on the cross and is then put in the grave – death and pain and suffering will not have the last word. They will not have the last word. For 3 days later our God will be raised from the dead that we might experience hope and new life and forgiveness in a world that is hurting. So let us be bold to walk down the mountain with Jesus to listen to God’s voice in our lives – and to go out loving and serving God and our neighbors in the world.

God’s Peace –

Pastor Kristin Hoyer



Youth Sunday

Feb 1, 2026





Lent at Holy Trinity

Journey to the Cross (In Song!)

Wednesdays in Lent
Noon

Join Pastor Kristin in the Commons for a soup and salad lunch and discussion of "cross" songs: "The Old Rugged Cross," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," and more. We'll learn a little about the hymn's history and explore how the text illuminates our understanding of the cross.



All are welcome!

Making Sense of the Cross

Sunday Mornings Starting February 22, from 8:45 - 9:45 am

We see the cross everywhere: In our church, as a piece of jewelry, in tattoos, and in many other places, both sacred and secular. However, the heart of the cross is an element of mystery that can't be resolved either easily or entirely. Join us on Sunday mornings from 8:45 -9:45 as we listen in on a conversation between two people having an open and candid discussion about the cross and explore together the following questions: So, what's with the cross? What does the cross say about God? What's the big deal? Did Jesus have to die?

Participants are invited to read the book: *Making Sense of the Cross*, by David Lose, and available through Holy Trinity or Amazon. If reading is not your thing, no worries, just join us on Sunday mornings.



Holy Week



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday

March 29

10:00 am Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2

7:00 pm Worship

Good Friday

April 3

12:00 pm Worship

7:00 pm Worship



Easter Sunday

6:45 am Sunrise Service (outside)

7:15 am Easter Breakfast starts

8:45 am Festival Worship

10:30 Egg Hunt

10:30 am Easter Breakfast ends

11:00 Festival Worship



You are invited to join us for Holy Week & Easter Services.

Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Leesburg, Virginia,
invites you to participate in our 2026 Vacation Bible School



“At the Table”

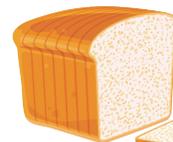
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 6-10, 2026 ~ 9:00 AM - Noon

The week will culminate with a

Sunday Worship Celebration on July 12 at 10:00 AM!

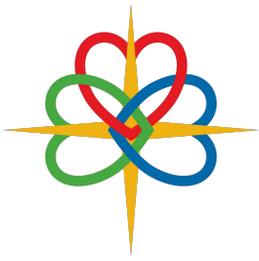
- WeeBS track: for preschool children who will turn 3 by September 1, 2026.
- Campers: Students turning 4 by September 30, 2026 through rising fifth graders.
- Junior Crew: Students who are rising Sixth Graders. Junior Crew is a wonderful place to have fun and learn some leadership skills to prepare for volunteer opportunities in the future.
- Volunteer Team: Rising Seventh Graders through adults



Space is limited! Registration is open until we reach capacity.

To register visit our website: <https://holytrinityleesburg.org/vacation-bible-school/>

Payment Portal: A registration fee of \$35 per child (\$45 after June 1) will be collected to cover the purchasing of materials and can be sent via mail or electronically through our online giving portal: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP7Y/home>



Music Schedules

Children & Youth

Joyful Noise & Descant Singers

Ash Wednesday, February 18
6:30 PM Sing & Ring in Worship



Dress Rehearsal
A Technicolor Promise
Saturday, March 21
3:30-5:30 pm

A Technicolor Promise
Sunday, March 22
10:00 am

Sing for Easter Worship
Sunday, April 5
8:45 am (Report time 8:15 am)



Youth Singers & Youth Group

Sunday, February 22
Light at the Laundromat
11:15 am -2:00 pm

Sunday, March 1
Youth Singers Sing
10:00 am service (Report 9:40 am)

Sunday, March 15
Youth Singers Rehearsal & Youth Group
5:00-6:00 pm Youth Singers
6:00-6:30 pm Dinner
6:30-7:30 p, Youth Group

Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 21
Confirmation Retreat
Mar-Lu Ridge Retreat
Watch for emails
regarding details



Sunday, April 5
Youth Singers sing for Easter Worship
8:45 am (Report Time 8:15 am)



Raise the Roof!



Capital Campaign

February 2026 Update

15 Pledges submitted for a total of: \$143,890

Donations made to the
“Raise the Roof”
Capital Fund
 (as of 2/11/2026, including donations above and beyond those pledged):

\$113,772.91

Thank you for your generosity.

Phase I: 10/2026	Item	Cost
Flat Roof & A/C Units	Underlay	\$60,000
	Overlay	\$60,000
	HVAC	\$50,000
	30% buffer	\$51,000
Phase I Estimated Cost		\$221,000
Phase II: 3/2027	Item	Cost
Windows	Sanctuary	\$30,000
Phase II Estimated Cost		\$30,000
Phase III: 10/2027	Item	Cost
Remaining Roof	Asphalt Roof	\$72,000
	30% buffer	\$21,600
Phase III Estimated Cost		\$93,600
Subtotal of all phases		\$344,600
10% Tithe	Habitat for Humanity	\$34,460
Total Project Cost		\$379,060

Once we have \$125,000 on hand, the Raise the Roof & Property Committees will work on getting updated estimates for Phase I.

“Raise the Roof” Capital Fund

Statement to the Congregation on

Changing Building Maintenance Fund to “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund



February 12, 2026

The Congregation Council and the Finance Team have received questions and feedback regarding how funds donated to the "Building Maintenance Fund" are being used. At the Finance team and Church Council meetings on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, those questions and feedback were discussed. The Church Council, Finance Committee, and Property Team are committed to ensuring all donations are used as they were intended. A plan of action was determined to ensure clarification for Designated Funds for the “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign.

Donations made to “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign have been, and will continue to be, placed in a designated fund. The dollars in that fund must be used towards expenditures outlined in the October 1, 2025 “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign trifold brochure. The budget for the campaign includes:

- Flat Roof & underlay replacement
- HVAC Unit replacements
- Five Large Sanctuary window replacements
- Asphalt Roof replacement
- 10% tithe to Habitat for Humanity

To clarify and ensure understanding of how “Raise the Roof” donations are handled, the following steps will be taken by the Finance Committee and Church Council. (Please note that although some of these wording changes may take some time, your donations have been, and will continue to be placed in the “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund.)

1. General Ledger: change 10103.1 description to “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund
2. Vanco: the “Property Needs / Building Improvements” tile will be replaced with “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund tile.
3. Church 360: giving statements for 2026 and later will replace “Building Improvements / Projects” with "Raise the Roof" Capital Fund. (Updated Giving Statements for 2025 will not be issued.)
4. Teller Sheets: 10103.1 Bldg. Maintenance will be replaced with 10103.1 “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund.
5. Weekly Giving Envelopes: Property Fund will be replaced with “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund. Until you receive updated offering envelopes, feel free to write “Raise the Roof” Capital Fund on your envelope or check.
6. A business interest bearing money market account will be opened at Truist Bank. All designated “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign fund donations will be transferred into that account, to be withdrawn only to cover expenses directly supporting the “Raise the Roof” Campaign Budget and Goals line items.

If funds are raised in excess of the amounts needed for the items in the “Raise the Roof” Capital Campaign trifold brochure, the Church Council will, with input from the Finance and Property Committees, determine how best to use the remaining funds.

For further questions or concerns, please contact Leesa Unger Bell (Council President) and/or Karla McGovern (Finance Committee Chair).



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Council Highlights

January 21, 2026 Meeting held in the conference room

Staff Guest: Terry Sisk

- Joy: Working at HTLC
- Concern: Future of organist profession
- Dream: All four parts in the choir (need bass voices)

Pastor's Report:

- Christmas Eve numbers: 2pm – 52, 4pm – 144, 7:30pm 192, 9:30 Fire Pit – 18 - 406 total
- In addition to regular actions, attended Mar-Lu-Ridge Epiphany Service, Metro DC Dean's meeting, & Tuesday Sermon zoom text study

Finance Report:

- Balance Sheet & Income Statement reviewed
- Bills reviewed
- Discussed snow plowing contract

Team Reports

Worship & Faith Formation

- Light at the Laundromat youth led outreach to occur last Sunday of each month
- Preparing for Youth Sunday 2/1/26
- Preparing for Pre-Lenten Faire 2/15/26

Property

- Cleaning Contract with Clean Method unanimously approved. To begin 3/1/2026

Raise the Roof

- Update on pledge numbers & total giving

Social Justice & Outreach

- Angel tree was huge success. Douglass expressed their thanks.
- WELCA gift cards being collected for F. Douglass families.
- Second WELCA group exploration - meeting on Wednesday nights

Congregational Life

- Cookie event was a success
- Chili Cook Off will be 2/8/26
- Easter Breakfast planning will begin after the Chili Cook Off
- Potential Booth at Leesburg Flower & Garden Show

Stewardship in April

- Spring stewardship activities to support summer giving
- Thank you letters written to those who pledged to the capital campaign

New Business

- Girl Scout Cookie booths in parking lot approved
- New trustee needed

Old Business

- Council retreat team presented plan for retreat focus
- Executive & Council Meeting dates changed in February to support Ash Wednesday

Council retreat: January 31, 2026

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026



Chili Fest

Feb 8, 2026





Property Committee Update

Caring for Our Church Home

At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, caring for our building and grounds is an important part of supporting our ministry. The spaces we share make worship, fellowship, learning, and outreach possible every day.



Safety and Stewardship

Several important safety inspections were completed, including the commercial kitchen hood system and building fire extinguishers. Nine extinguishers are now scheduled for hydrostatic testing to ensure continued reliability. Two fire alarm panel batteries will also be replaced later this year as part of routine preventive maintenance.

We are refreshing first aid supplies throughout the building as several consumable items have expired. We are currently working to secure a donated replenishment order, possibly arriving in April.

Building Care and Maintenance

Winter weather continues to keep us attentive. Snow removal services have been needed several times already this season, and efforts continue to manage ice on the access ramp near the glass doors. As temperatures rise and snow melts, please help us monitor potential roof leak areas, especially in the conference room, staff hallway, pastor's office, commons, Wee Worship area, and narthex.

Repairs were completed to the choir room HVAC system following mouse damage, and we are evaluating a protective cable upgrade to help prevent similar issues in the future. Quarterly pest control service was completed, with follow-up scheduled to inspect the building exterior for possible entry points once snow has cleared.

Additional improvements continue throughout the building, including LED lighting conversions and various electrical upgrades. Two toilets in the women's restroom were also repaired.



Facilities and Operations

We are transitioning cleaning services, with Perfect Services continuing through February and Clean Method beginning March 1. We appreciate the work of both teams in caring for our shared spaces.

Property

(continued)



Celebrating Our Grounds Committee

We are grateful to celebrate the Grounds Committee as they begin their **16th season of mowing operations**. Their faithful, donated time and effort save the church approximately **\$5,000 each year**, a tremendous gift of stewardship and service.

We are always looking for additional volunteers interested in donating an afternoon to mow or trim. All equipment is provided, and we are happy to show you the ropes to help you get started. This spring we will also be mulching the beds and trimming the bushes and will need extra helping hands — so **keep an eye out for more information on upcoming workdays**.



How You Can Help the Property Committee

Caring for our facilities and grounds is a shared ministry, and there are many ways to participate:

- Volunteer for seasonal projects, light maintenance, or grounds care
- Donate toward repairs and equipment replacement
- Contribute supplies, equipment, or professional expertise

If you would like more information about volunteering, donating, or upcoming projects, please contact the Property Committee at

property@holyltrinityleesburg.org.

Thank you for partnering in the care of this place where worship, service, and community life happen every day. Together, we celebrate what has been accomplished and look forward to what God will continue to do through HTLC.

Women of the ELCA



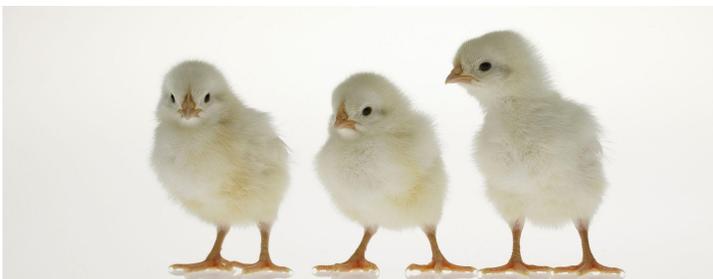
We extend a welcome to every woman at Holy Trinity to join us! Our meeting date is always the first Tuesday of each month @ 10 a.m. in the Commons area. Our next two meetings will be March 3rd and April 7th. A typical agenda for our meetings includes preparing and delivering lunches for the Loudoun homeless shelter, a short meeting to discuss outreach service projects, financial offerings, and personal fellowship, and a member-led book study. This year we are reading Joan Chittister's The Gift of Years.

Gift cards from Giant Food were a recent project of our group. With congregational support, WELCA was able to deliver 34 gift cards to Frederick Douglass Elementary in Leesburg for distribution to families in need of food assistance.

Our upcoming outreach project is the third annual 10 Chicks for \$10 fundraiser. As part of the ELCA Good Gifts program, WELCA is pleased to support their statement: "As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others."

During the past two Lenten seasons, we have collected \$2149 to purchase chicks for "God's Global Barnyard" project. This year the appeal will begin on Sunday, February 22, and end on Sunday, March 22. We hope that this year's congregational response will surpass previous years and that we can provide thousands of chicks to be used both as meals and/or a source of income for families throughout the world. Look for our CHICK display in the Commons area!

Blessings, Pat Bailey





Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Communications

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE SPRING CHALLENGE

🌱 **Growing God's Garden** 🌱

This spring, the Stewardship Committee invites you to help *Grow God's Garden* at HTLC! We are challenging our congregation to “plant the seeds” that help our church grow and thrive. Through consistent giving and increased participation in automatic giving, we can nurture a strong foundation that will bloom beautifully into summer and beyond. Our “garden” will take shape as a Vision Board, where we will visually track our growth in consistent and recurring giving. Watch as our garden fills with new life, representing the faithfulness and commitment of our church family.



Kickoff Date: March 22

Let's plant, grow, and bloom together!

The Classics

If you're retired, you are a Classic!

In March the Classics will be having lunch at Local Provisions, 46286 Cranston Street, Sterling. Watch the weekly inserts for the date.

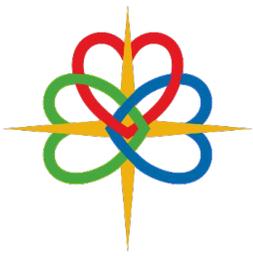
Plans are being made for a guided tour of the Frederick Douglass High School by Mr. Jim Roberts in April. We will follow up with lunch somewhere nearby. Watch for details.

There is discussion about attending a Frederick, MD Keyes Baseball game in May.

If you have not joined us in the past, we hope you can join us for one or more of these events.

Peggy Everhart
4Peverhart@gmail.com





Together in God's Love

We Care | We Grow | We Serve



Easter Breakfast – Potluck Style!

We're excited to once again share in a joyful Easter morning breakfast together after each of our Easter services on April 5th, 2026. This year's breakfast will again be potluck style, and we invite everyone to take part in this special time of fellowship.



In the coming weeks, a sign-up sheet will be circulated at each service. We would greatly appreciate anyone who feels called to bring a dish to share, or to lend a hand with set-up or clean-up. Your participation helps make this tradition meaningful and welcoming for all.



More details will be shared during services as Easter approaches, but for now, please keep this beloved breakfast in mind as we prepare to celebrate the hope and joy of the season together.

Thanks so much!

-The Congregational Life Team

Lent/Easter 2026

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
(ELCA)
605 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA

Sunday Schedule:

8:45 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org