



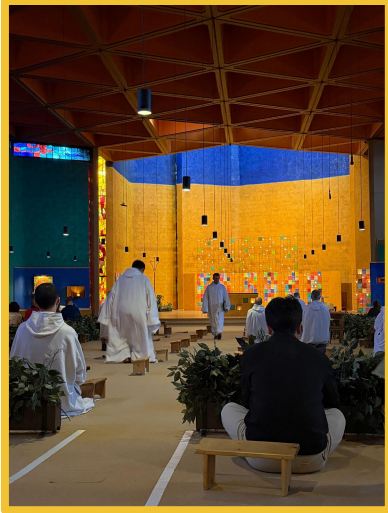
Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

Leesburg, Virginia

TIDINGS

August September 2026



A Message from Our Pastor

In June I had the opportunity to spend a week in Taizé, France. It is an ecumenical monastic community. The Humble Walk which is the name of The Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland, College Park travels to Europe every other summer for the students to experience church in different settings. They invite others to join the group while they are in Taizé. Almost at the last minute, I decided to go to experience this community my son raved about from being there two summers ago. I knew I loved singing the simple, beautiful music, I wanted to spend time with Joseph before his next adventure in Cambodia for the upcoming year and I've heard good things about the community.

When you think of a trip to France you probably think of amazing food and wine – well this is not where you find either of those. Breakfast each day is bread, chocolate and butter (which is actually delicious), the other meals of the day were also very simple, easy to feed lots of people quickly. Taizé is not a five-star resort, not even close, but one step up from camping (and some people do camp).

The food and lodging are not ideal, but the beautiful part of Taizé is the worship and community.

(continued on next page)

Sunday, August 30, 10:00 AM

We will mix up our worship a bit and be immersed in

The Taizé Experience

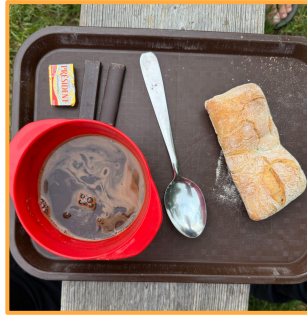
Pastor Kristin will lead us in a special worship experience which she explored during June, firsthand in France. Our own pew hymnals contain over a dozen hymns from the Taizé community.

In a noisy and busy world, come and experience quiet reflection and peace. This type of worship provides a gentle space to rest in God's presence!



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

A Message From Pastor Kristin Hoyer (cont)



The community gathers together 3 times a day for worship. Most people are sitting on the hard floor – some using prayer benches. The Brothers from the community sit in the middle. Most of the time no one is up front leading, no bulletins, but simply a song book and sometimes an extra paper with the Psalm of the day on it. It is primarily songs – lots of them (and sung in many languages – representing groups of people currently there for the week). The week I was there we sang in English, Latin, French, German, Swedish, and Chinese. Simple beautiful repetitive melodies and harmonies that echo throughout the space.

Worship also includes a long period of silence (probably 7-10 minutes.) At first, I just prayed my stomach didn't make a lot of noise digesting my meal, but then as the week went on, I found the time to go by quickly – I prayed for my family and friends. I prayed for the world. I prayed for Holy Trinity. I prayed for all who were in the community that week and so much more. I also meditated on a line from one of the songs or the reading. I felt God's presence with me throughout the week in the people I met and in worship. Many of you know I'm not a quiet person, but I enjoyed the silence and the space to reflect and meditate.

When I left for this trip to France, I thought it would be a once in a lifetime experience – but as the week went on it was such a meaningful and different experience of God's love that I hope to go again sometime and to bring others with me. I met wonderful people of faith from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and The United States.

Want to learn more about Taizé? Check out their website taize.fr and join us on Sunday, August 30 for a Taizé style worship service.

God's Peace,
Pastor Kristin Hoyer





Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Confirmation Class of 2026

Affirmation of Baptism



Joseph George Burke
Lyla Morgan Diesk
Harper Benjamin Graham
Hope Dias Mattina
Adric Charles Richard Murgia
Luke Ryan Willeke
Thomas Albert Zickel

Have been instructed in the word of God and in the faith of the Christian Church, Have affirmed the promises of Baptism, And have made public confession of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit before the assembled congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Leesburg, Virginia.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome these children of God into greater participation in the mission of this congregation and the whole church.

May 31, 2026



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Council Highlights



June 17 Meeting Highlights

Thank you to the outgoing council

members: Susie Tinney, Sandy Yancy, Sandy Phillips, Alison Waters

Welcome to the new council

members: Bill Bishop, Steven Nelson, Jennifer Zickel

Pastor's Report: Celebrate 7 confirmands, Upcoming professional development in Taize France

Business discussions included:

Classified ads in Tidings, Exploratory committee for church directory, VBS week of 7/6, Update council team liaison responsibilities, Set dates for 2026-27 Council meetings,

Election of Officers:

Leesa Unger Bell: President
Tammy Brende: Vice President
Kristin Shultz: Treasurer
Jana Murgia: Secretary

July 15 Meeting Highlights

Finance Report: Expenses are running as expected. Regular cash flow has been tight, but we have been able to pay bills. Emphasized that when people give through Vanco, the church receives a steady (daily) inflow of cash, which is a big benefit.

Pastor's Report: VBS was a big hit this year, with 87 kids and 50 volunteers. Church staff retreat day for fall planning. Summer vacation and education days.

Business discussions included:

Fundraising ideas, Marketing campaign ideas, All Teams night starts up in September, Parking lot maintenance options, Church directory

Social Justice & Outreach: Reading program to expand to Douglass Elementary

Congregational Life: Exploration of Fall Flea Market

Connections: Team is looking to increase church presence on Facebook and Instagram

Next Council Meetings: Aug. 19, Sept. 16



If you are retired, you qualify to be a Classic!

We Lutherans like to eat, so food is always included with whatever we decide to do. We really hope you will join us and become part of our 'Classics Family' here at HTLC.



June 18th, 17 members of the Classics gathered together at Williams Gap Winery in Round Hill. Although the weather didn't cooperate for us to sit outdoors and enjoy the view, we enjoyed a nice leisurely afternoon with a light lunch and great fellowship.

The Classics continue to plan exciting outings for the months ahead:

Wednesday, August 19

The Classics are venturing to the new Julep Kentucky Tavern in Ashburn (43781 Central Station Drive) We will leave the church at 11:30. RSVP by Aug 15: 4peverhart@gmail.com

Friday, September 11

Visit the Museum of the Shenandoah in Winchester to experience the outdoor sculpture exhibit: Earth & Sky: Sculptures by Marguerite Elliot.

Tuesday, October 13

Experience the beauty of autumn on a scenic train ride departing from Gettysburg. We'll meet at First Watch in Leesburg, for some yummy breakfast before we head out. We will stop by church prior to leaving for the train for those who would rather meet there. Watch the bulletin for information on tickets and timing.

November

Join Terry Sisk for a guided tour of the historic Leesburg Episcopal Church.



Music

Choir Start Dates

Holy Trinity is blessed with music opportunities for ages 4-104! In addition to the established ensembles listed below, there are seasonal opportunities for instrumental musicians and opportunities to participate in special vocal ensembles.

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Rehearses weekly Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45 am

September 13, First Rehearsal

Terry Sisk, Choirmaster

Youth Singers (Youth Grades 6-12)

Rehearses monthly on Sunday evenings from 5:00-6:00 pm

(Generally, on the third Sunday of the month)

September 20, First Rehearsal

Nancy Fox, Director

Joyful Noise -Sing and Ring! (Children Grades K-5)

Rehearses Weekly from November through March

Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-6:50 pm *(There is an optional family friendly dinner served at 5:30 pm for singers and their families)*

November 4, First Rehearsal

Nancy Fox, Director

Descant Singers (Pre- K Children)

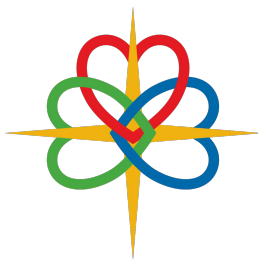
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Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-6:50 pm *(There is an optional family friendly dinner served at 5:30 pm for singers and their families)*

November 4, First Rehearsal

Stephanie Valentine, Director





Music

Handbell Huddles



Fall-Winter 2026

To allow more people to participate in the JOY of Handbell Ringing, we are once again offering "Handbell Huddles"! With this model, a commitment is made for a specific time period, rather than an entire year. Throughout the 2026-27 program year, we will have four "Huddles." Below you will see the dates and times along with sign-up links for the first two huddles. Beginners are welcome; however, we must limit participation to ringers middle school and above!

Fall Huddle

Wednesday Rehearsals **6:00-7:00 pm**

September 30, October 7 & 14

Play in Worship **10:00 am**

Sunday, October 18

Advent/Christmas Huddle

Sunday Rehearsals **11:15am-12:15pm**

November 8 & 15, December 6

Play in Worship **10:00 am**

November 22 & December 13

Play for Community Carol Sing **4:00 pm**

December 13

Sign up for one of our first two huddles by following the link or the QR code:

<https://forms.gle/8kZeQXKGE58bxHKC8>

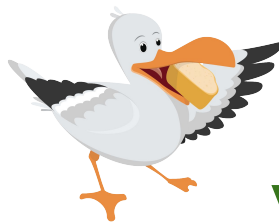
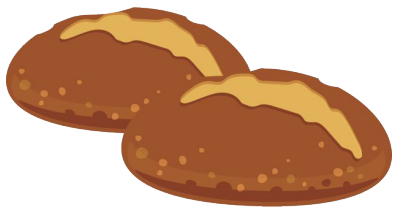




Vacation Bible School

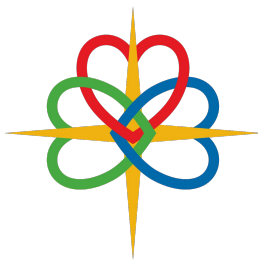
VBS was a big hit this year, with 87 kids and 50 volunteers.





VBS July 2026





Christian Education

Join us this Fall!

Sunday School starts for all ages on **Sunday, September 13, 8:45-9:45 AM**. Youth Faith, Fun & Fellowship will be held on the third Sunday every month. (An exact Schedule will be provided) and Confirmation Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm.

Sunday School Registration!

We ask parents to register all Children and Youth through the online registration link below or through a paper registration form (Available at Church under the cross in the COMMONS.) Children who are 3 years old through High School seniors are invited and encouraged to join us.

On the first day of classes everyone will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a welcome and some introductions and then everyone will proceed to their classrooms to work on some *God's Work, Our Hands* projects and get to know their teachers and fellow learners!

<https://forms.gle/8STpCNYtHG6qfm19A>



Our Faith Journey lasts a Lifetime and so do the possibilities to Grow in Faith!

We invite you to continue your journey through our **Adult Education** classes that will be held from 8:45-9:45 am on Sunday mornings!

Plan to come on September 13 to learn more about the exciting possibilities we have planned this year and lend your hand in a few outreach projects for ***God's Work, Our Hands!***





Christian Education

Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday, August 16, 10:00 AM Worship

As students and educators prepare to head back to the classroom, we invite everyone to bring their backpacks, supplies, and/or devices to worship for a special blessing and a tag for your backpack!

Fall Youth Kick-Off



Sunday, September 20

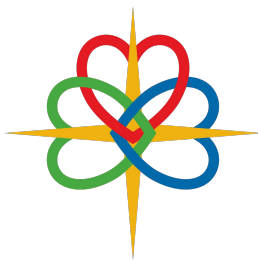
6:00-7:30 PM

Youth (Grades 6-12) and their parents are invited to join us as we kick-off another year of programming!

Watch for updates! This event may be expanded to include a lock-in for youth!

This is a great time for our Youth to reconnect and for parents to connect with other parents! We will grill Hot Dogs and Burgers and enjoy a meal together followed by fun and an introduction to the year. Topics will include: The ELCA Youth Gathering in the Summer of 2027, the ongoing Youth Outreach -Light at the Laundromat, Confirmation Class expectations, High School Sunday School, and our overall yearly plan! We hope you will be able to join us! Please watch for opportunities to RSVP!

(Youth Singers will hold their first rehearsal on the same day from 5:00-6:00 pm!)



Outreach

Light at the Laundromat



What if you had to choose between these things- Toilet Paper, Clean Clothes, Food?
What would you choose and why?

How would having dirty clothes affect – making friends at school, getting a job, your self-esteem?.

Please consider joining us in service!
You can sign up at our Youth Kick-off Event on September 20 or you may speak with Nancy Fox or Pastor Kirstin!

Our next service dates are :

Sunday, August 30

Sunday, September 27

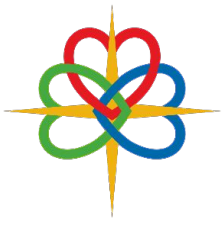


Petra Buzzell shares thoughts on Light at the Laundromat:

There's a simple comfort many of us don't think twice about—doing laundry at home. It's convenient, private, and always available. But for some families in our community, laundry isn't a daily routine—it's a weekly journey. They arrive with garbage bags, or huge baskets filled with dirty laundry. Some have the family show up with children of all ages, waiting, and having to entertain their children while they wait. This is where we as Holy Trinity can make an impact, and have started. In the past 3 months, we have seen our outreach grow. We have seen some families come in again, and now acknowledge us as we help. There have been many moments that have shown us this is making an impact. But one that stands out in my mind is of a dad reading to his child, eating snacks we provided. He had food and a comforting time at the laundromat that Sunday. The smiles and their appreciation have shown our youth that this is a great service project.

"Light at the Laundromat" reminds us that even in the most ordinary places, we can reflect compassion and care. The youth and their parents have been going to a laundry mat the last Sunday of the past 3 months, and we will continue to serve here. We have been able to provide laundry detergent, and snacks as well as books for the children to take home. Looking to help this youth project grow? There is a laundry basket by the front door, place laundry pods there, and the youth will bag them up. Coloring books are also needed. And if you would like to give money, please note it for "Light at the Laundromat".

"May we be mindful of the blessings we often take for granted, and may we look for ways—big or small—to bring light, hope, and dignity to those around us."



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Communications

Little Blessings Preschool

Help get the preschool ready!

When: Saturday, August 15, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

What: Help us prepare for the new school year! Whether you can stay for the morning or just 30 mins., every bit helps.

Tasks: Weeding, trimming, and washing toys & chairs

Bring: Gloves and Garden Tools

Please join us if you can! Questions?

Contact

preschooldirector@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



Property Updates

Summer has been a time of many projects for the property team!

- Hours spent waiting for contractors and obtaining estimates for roofing / HVAC for Raise the Roof
- Mower & String trimmer maintenance (Mowing teams going great!)
- Exploratory meetings w/vendors for damaged parking lot
- Vigilant tracking of leaks, potential leaks
- Annual Fire system maintenance, Fire alarm system panel replaced
- AED funding grant submitted
- New Lending Library installed
- Replaced roll towel dispensers with tri-fold towel dispensers throughout to minimize cost and maintenance
- LED bulb conversion ongoing
- Pest control
- New Admin Laptop and Peripherals (all from donations)

Help Wanted: If you see something property related that needs attention, please send an email to Property@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



Blessing of the Animals

**Mark your
Calendars!**

**Sunday, October 4, 10:00 AM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**



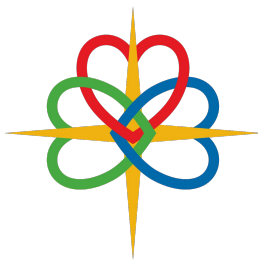
On Sunday, October 4, the Christian Church commemorates St. Francis of Assisi. Francis had a deep love of nature and animals. Although he was born into a wealthy family in Italy, he embraced a life of poverty, simplicity and service to God. He believed that all creation reflected God's goodness and that humans should take care of it with humility and gratitude. On this Sunday we will meet outside to celebrate the animals who bring joy to our lives. Pets are invited to attend worship which will include a special blessing of the animals!

(In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held inside, and the Blessing of Animals will take place outside following worship. Watch social media for weather updates!)



(Photos from 2024)





Raise the Roof

Capital Campaign

Current Status:

We believe we have enough funds for Phase I. Getting quotes has been a long and difficult process! The first two quotes for the roof were \$30K apart, so a third quote was needed. We had both an HVAC company and a roofing company onsite the first week of August, so are hopeful that we are near the end of the quote gathering process.

Next Steps: Council will vote on which companies to contract with for Phase I. Goal is to have Phase I work begin in September or early October..

Raise the Roof!



July 2026 Update

Donations received for the "Raise the Roof Capital Campaign" fund as of 7/15/2026:

\$156,306

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

The Mary/Martha circle started a new year of fellowship and service with a meeting on Tuesday, August 4th.

We welcome any woman at Holy Trinity to join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Our mornings include preparing and delivering lunches for the Loudoun homeless shelter, a meeting to discuss outreach service projects, an offering, as well as a time for personal fellowship. Our time together ends with a book study. This year we will be reading Joanna Weaver's "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" as well as an accompanying Bible study.

We were blessed to have had Linda Kimble, Director of Shelter House in Leesburg, at our August meeting. She shared with us the history, scope, and activities of the facility. We will be joining her later in the Fall at the shelter for a first hand look at what is provided for the homeless population in our area. **We do know that they are always in the need for inexpensive new pillows, twin sheet sets, small (travel-size) toiletries, boxes of cereal or snacks, and laundry detergent.** Please let any member of our circle know if you have any of these items to donate.

This month WELCA-Mary/Martha will be donating boxes of school needs to Frederick Douglass Elementary which will include headphones, lunchboxes, and dry erase boards, markers, and erasers. Future plans will include an October visit to Shelter House, and a November outreach, with the HTLC congregation, to Frederick Douglass of Thanksgiving food boxes and Giant gift cards.

Please include our group in your prayers for a successful year of activities and fellowship!

Blessings,
Pat Bailey





GLOW Circle (Grace Lights Our Way)

GLOW is planning for God's Work, Our Hands, which will take place on September 13, 2026. Some of the activities include: making 36 birthday boxes, placemats, and 15 blankets for the children at the homeless shelter. Our "helping hands" display is in the gathering area. Please consider donating one/some of the requested items to support our efforts. Please place the purchased "helping hands" items, no later than August 30, 2026, at the base of the "helping hands" bulletin board in the gathering area.

"God's work. Our hands." is the ELCA's annual day of service, taking place Sept. 13, 2026.



College Care Packages

GLOW is also collecting information for future distribution of **College Care Packages**. All parents of college students or college students please complete the following information and email it to awilliams0707@yahoo.com. Or fill out the form in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

Name: _____

School Address: _____

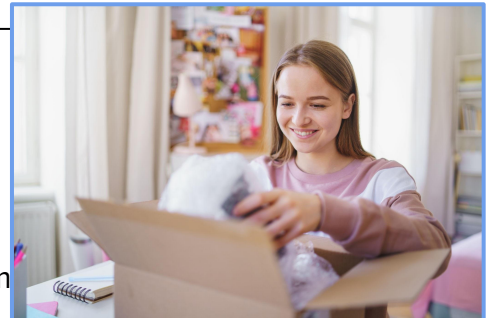
Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Allergies: _____

Birthday: _____

Thank you so much!



GLOW is our evening circle of the Women of the ELCA. GLOW meets the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

What do we do at GLOW?

- Fellowship
- Light study of different women from the Bible and how we can continue to learn from them
- Outreach projects



Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities!



Wanted: Worship Volunteers

When: During Worship, once every other month or so

Assisting Minister helps with communion and reads the prayers

Lector reads the lessons

To learn more or sign up,

Contact: Tammy Brende

Email: Tammy.Brende@gmail.com



Wanted: Coffee Hosts

When: During Worship, once every other month or so

What: Bring some light snacks to share, we'll teach you how to make the coffee! Don't have the time to host coffee, but would be happy to provide the snacks? Please reach out!

To learn more or sign up,

Contact: Bill Bishop or Ann Keiger

Email:

ChurchLife@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org

Wanted: Communications Team Volunteers

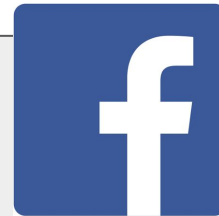
When: Project Based

What: Help spread the news about the great things happening at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church! We're looking for people who might be interested in helping out in any of the following ways:

- Create a social media marketing plan
- Write copy for Facebook / Instagram posts
- Identify and explore new marketing opportunities
- Take photographs at festivals / worship / events
- Write articles for the Tidings Newsletter

To learn more or sign up,

Contact: Leesa Unger Bell - Email: LeesaUngerBell@gmail.com



Classifieds



Volunteer Opportunities!

Wanted: Volunteers to help pre-K littles practice / learn to read

When: 1 time per week if you can, but they are willing to take all the help they can get. Starting in October.

What: Helping teachers and Children at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Leesburg practice reading skills

Contact: Stasia Whitacre
Stasia.whitacre@gmail.com

Note: *Volunteers going into schools must complete a short application form before volunteering.*



Wanted: Readers and people who like to chat a bit to older people living at Assisted Living Home

When: Once a month, Wed., 1:30pm

What: Read to residents at Meadow Glen Assisted Living in Leesburg for 45(ish) minutes. Bring light, short reading material to share with residents.

Contact: Stasia Whitacre
Stasia.whitacre@gmail.com

Wanted: Money Counters



When: 30 minutes - 1 hour after Worship, once or twice a month. Sign up for dates that work for you..

What: Tellers count all offerings, record each offering on a spreadsheet using a detailed template, prepare the bank deposit, and drop it off at the bank using the Night Deposit. Tellers always work with another person. On-the-job training provided!

To learn more and sign up,
Contact: Karla McGovern
(karlakmcgovern@gmail.com)

Wanted: Kitchen Team



When: Once a month

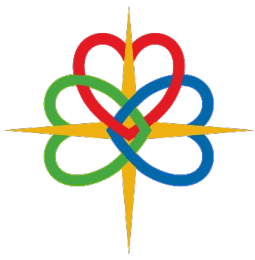
Where: 2 Kitchens at church

What:

- Refrigerators: remove expired and unclaimed food and liquids.
- Cupboards: check for food that is not in sealed packaging or is expired, and dispose properly.
- Ensure all remaining food is in mouse proof bins,

Thank you for considering being the lead or a team member for this valuable effort in keeping the mice away!

Contact: Leesa/Property Team Email: Property@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



Together in God's Love

We Care | We Grow | We Serve

Ever wonder what to wear when you're volunteering for a HTLC outreach activity? Look no further... Get an HTLC T-shirt today!

T-SHIRT ORDERS

FEATURING HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN'S NEW LOGO
ORDER ONLINE THROUGH
CUSTOM INK

<https://www.customink.com/g/uhy0-00d3-4qh4>



FRONT

TOP LEFT "POCKET"

MISSION STATEMENT



BACK

HTLC LOGO WITH
CHURCH NAME AND
TOWN

ONLINE ORDERING OPEN THROUGH AUG 19

CHOOSE TO DELIVERY TO HOME (FOR AN
ADDITIONAL FEE),
OR, SHIP FOR FREE TO THE CHURCH



Join us this Fall!
Worship
@ 10:00 am
each Sunday

Sunday School
& Chancel Choir
@ 8:45 am

Aug 16 - Blessing of the backpacks
Aug 30 - Taize Sunday
Sept 13 - God's Work. Our Hands.

Sunday School will resume on
September 13!

August / September 2026

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

Fall Sunday Schedule effective
September 13, 2026:
8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org