

St. Thomas LifeLines

Volume 33, No. 3

March 2026

Dear St. Thomas Family,

The Episcopal Church teaches that war is incompatible with the Gospel when it is used as a normal or preferred way of resolving conflict. Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people.” These promises shape how Episcopalians think about violence, national conflict, and the use of military force.

At the same time, the Church recognizes that we live in a complicated world marked by injustice, fear, and sin. Because of this reality, the Episcopal Church engages the Just War tradition, a long-standing Christian framework for moral reflection on war. This tradition does not promote war; instead, it places strict moral limits on when force might be considered and how it must be restrained.

At the heart of the Just War tradition is a strong presumption against the use of violence. Before war should even be considered, all peaceful alternatives—such as diplomacy, negotiation, international cooperation, and economic pressure—must have been genuinely tried and found ineffective. War can never be the first option. Even then, several demanding conditions must be met: the cause must be truly just, such as defense against grave harm; the decision must come from legitimate authority; the intention must be peace rather than revenge or domination; there must be a reasonable chance of success; and the harm caused by war must not outweigh the good it seeks to achieve.

The Episcopal Church also insists that moral responsibility does not end once a conflict begins. Even in war, the dignity of every human being remains sacred. Civilians must never be intentionally targeted, and every effort must be made to limit suffering and destruction. The ultimate goal must always be peace with justice, not victory for its own sake.

This teaching is deeply woven into our worship life. The *Book of Common Prayer* regularly calls us to pray for peace, for those who serve in the military, for civilians caught in violence, and for leaders to be guided by wisdom and compassion. In prayer, we hold together care for those in harm’s way with a clear hope for reconciliation and healing.

A faithful response to war is not about taking political sides. It is about a conscience and practice shaped by the life of Jesus. We are called to resist fear, reject hatred, care for those who suffer on all sides of conflict, and trust that God’s final purpose for the world is peace. In every generation, the Church invites us to be people who “wage peace” through prayer, compassion, courage, and faithful witness.

Yours in Christ,
Mark

Koinonia

Koinonia gatherings continue on Wednesdays in March from 6-8pm. After a simple supper, Fr. Mark will lead the discussion with the “Unlikely Lent” theme. Here is this month’s schedule:

- March 4, Lora Beeken and Joe Richmeier host at Lora’s home, 450 Canterbury St, Christiansburg. Unlikely Opposition is the theme.
- March 11, Christ Witt hosts at 760 Jefferson Cir, Christiansburg. Unlikely Freedom is the theme.
- March 18, Lora and Joe host again at Lora’s home. Unlikely Companionship is the theme.
- March 25, Harvey and Gail Leist host at 2005 Dunnington Ct, Christiansburg. Unlikely Allies is the theme.

You can sign up to bring appetizers, bread, soup, or dessert online or on the signup sheet in the parish hall.

RATT News

St. Thomas sous chefs were at it again testing out a new menu February 17. Hillbilly beans, garden salad, Hawaiian roll, fruit cup, and cookie rounded out the meal. 100 meals were prepared. A BIG shout out to Jane Ellis, Kathleen Fowler, Sue & Joel Hagan, and Tom Bland. Thanks to you, some folks received a hearty meal! St. Thomas prepares a meal once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church. If you’d like to volunteer, contact Danielle Bland. NO EXPERIENCE necessary, we have a fun time!



Birthdays!

- 3/6-Abigail Cairns, Jenny Stalvey, & Levi from Boys Home
- 3/13-Jim Chamberlain
- 3/16-Kathryn Pollard
- 3/19-Gail Givson
- 3/22-Shriley Sparrow, Amy Tomey, & Joe Straub
- 3/30-Sam Farmer



Levi with a card sent by Chris Witt

2026 Parish Directory

If you would like a print copy of the parish directory, please contact the church office. You can also download a copy from the link in the weekly emails.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, April 5**, please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin or contact the church office. Be sure to let the secretary know who the lily is in memory or thanksgiving for. The cost for each lily is \$20.00. Please note “Easter lily” on your check or envelope. Completed forms and payment may be put in the collection plate.

Bishop’s Dollar

The holy season of Lent invites each one of us to reflect on our discipleship in Jesus' name. As we walk the way of the cross through the forty days of Lent, I pray that you might consider a donation to Bishop's Dollar. Your faithful contribution to The Bishop’s Dollar Fund supports a variety of needs around the diocese that are not available through our annual budget. These funds can provide assistance to clergy, their families, and other individuals; additional mission support to parishes; honoraria and gifts to institutions connected to our diocesan ministry and mission. Your generosity will help our Bishop-Elect meet needs across the Diocese when she starts her ministry with us. You may send donations to the Diocesan Office made payable to The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "Bishop’s Dollar" in the memo line. Mail to: Attn: Bishop’s Dollar Fund, PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009. Or donate online.

Food Bank Sunday

On the first Sunday of the month we collect donations of non-perishable food for the food bank which are taken to MCEAP later in the week. Food donations can be put in the baskets at the entrance to the church. If you would like to make a monetary donation, be sure to mark “Food Bank” on your check or envelope.

In February we collected 15 items and \$15!

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Backpack Program

The Backpack Program provided 3,222 bags of food in 2025. Each bag of food contained at least 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 dinner items, 2 snacks, and 1 juice or milk. The program also provided extra food to all the children during extended breaks from school for Easter and Christmas. Also, 34 families requested assistance for Thanksgiving and were given a box with food for a complete Thanksgiving meal.

In February, we collected 43 boxes of granola bars!

Trex Update

February's plastic bag collection total was 51lbs! In January, we collected 73 lbs. of plastics towards our next bench. *Please remember pet food bags are not accepted.*

Hospitality Sunday

Join in fellowship and enjoy some refreshments after church on the first Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of finger food to share!

The next hospitality Sunday is March 1.

Spring Cleaning

The Big Event is Saturday, April 11. Student volunteers from Virginia Tech will be helping us around the church. We will also use this day for some spring cleaning. We will start at 10am with light cleaning from windows to cobwebs and some light gardening. For more information, see Harvey Leist.

Ways to give to St. Thomas

Along with the Sunday collection plate, donations and contributions can be mailed to the church, paid through online banking, or made through PayPal using the link on our website.

Zoom Information for Sundays

Join from a computer:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09>
Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 646 931 3860 and Enter Meeting ID 817 3954 4575 and Passcode 845478 .

Zoom Information for Thursdays

Join from a computer:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89544248014>
Meeting ID: 895 4424 8014
Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 309 205 3325 and Enter Meeting ID 895 4424 8014.

Contact Us

Email: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com
Phone: 540-382-4365
Website: <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>
Email List Signup: <http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj>

March Server Schedule					
	1	8	15	22	29
Altar Guild	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken
Announcements	Marie Painter	Crystal Priddy	Joe Richmeier	Kathleen Fowler	Joel Hagen
Chalice Bearer	Jane Ellis	Landon Cairns	Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan	Mark Priest
Lay Reader	Val Tweedie	Bill Kennan	Jane Ellis	Jennifer Miller	Mark Priest
Ushers	Bill Kennan Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Chris Witt	Joel Hagen Joe Straub	Harold Ashworth Kathleen Fowler	Harold Ashworth Chris Witt
Zoom Operator	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie	Joel Hagen

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>The 2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Food Bank & Hospitality Sunday</p> <p>10 am Morning Prayer in person & on Zoom</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:45 pm Packing Party</p> <p>6-8 pm Koinonia at Lora Beeken's</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>The 3rd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11 am Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins!</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6-8 pm Koinonia at Chris Witt's</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>The 4th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Loose Plate Offering ~ Rector's Discretionary Fund</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p> <p>11:30 am Vestry</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>6-8 pm Koinonia at Lora Beeken's</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:15 am Daughters of the King</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>The 5th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6-8 pm Koinonia at The Leist's</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>				