

St. Thomas LifeLines

Volume 33, No. 4

April 2026

Dear St. Thomas Family,

As April and the Easter season unfold, we at St. Thomas Church find ourselves holding both joy and heaviness in our hearts. Easter is, at its core, a proclamation of hope—the assurance that life, not death, has the final word. Yet this year, like many before it, we celebrate amid a world marked by conflict, uncertainty, and turmoil.

From distant wars that dominate headlines to the quieter struggles within our own communities, it can feel difficult to fully embrace the peace that Easter promises. We are reminded daily that the world is not yet as it should be. And still, the message of Easter meets us exactly here—not in a perfect world, but in a broken one yearning for restoration.

The resurrection story does not ignore suffering; it transforms it. The risen Christ appears not in power and spectacle, but gently, in the midst of fear and grief, speaking words of reassurance: “Peace be with you.” These words echo across time and space, reaching even us today in our present situation. They remind us that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of God’s reconciling love.

As a church community, we are called to embody that peace in tangible ways. In a world that often feels divided, we are invited to be people of connection—neighbors who listen, serve, and care for one another. Whether through outreach, shared meals, prayer, or simple acts of kindness, each small gesture becomes a reflection of Easter hope made real.

This April, let us renew our commitment to being a community rooted in compassion. Let us hold in prayer those affected by war and violence, remembering that every life is precious and beloved. Let us also look close to home, recognizing opportunities to bring comfort and encouragement to those around us. Peace begins not in grand gestures, but in faithful presence.

Easter reminds us that even in the darkest moments, new life is possible. The stone is rolled away not just once, but again and again in our lives—whenever despair gives way to hope, whenever fear is met with courage, whenever love overcomes division.

May this season awaken in us a deeper trust in God’s promise and a renewed sense of purpose. As we gather in worship and go forth into the world, may we carry the light of Easter into every corner of our community.

In the midst of turmoil, may we be people of peace. In the face of uncertainty, may we be grounded in hope. And in all things, may we bear witness to the living presence of Christ among us.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Yours in Christ,
Mark



Did you know?

The founding days of St. Thomas Parish in 1888/89 were blessed by the interest and support of a number of local and vacation residents. One significant donor was Mrs. Daniel T. Hoag of Christiansburg and New York City.

Historical accounts relate that when she found the church was to be called St Thomas, she, a member also of St. Thomas in New York City, gave substantial gifts of money, altar linens and silver, the baptismal font, and many other items. We still use some of the silver communion vessels at our services. Later in Eastertide, Altar Guild members will showcase several of these gifts during coffee hour. We will let you know which Sunday, in advance.

The History Group: Mary Stuart, Ann, Lora, Ruth and Jenny.

Guest Musicians

St. Thomas has welcomed back Gregory Driscoll as a guest musician. On March 8, we welcomed cellist Maggie Li, a student at Virginia Tech.



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.

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 May 3rd.

Birthdays!

- 4/1-Lora Beeken
- 4/15-Macaela Richmeier
- 4/18-Mike Piersol
- 4/19-Margaret Frazier
- 4/27-Danielle Bland
- 4/30-Susan Hagen, Jeff Pasciak



Anniversaries!

- 4/20-Bill & Betty Kennan

RATT

On March 17, the RATT (Room at The Table) team gathered at Christiansburg



Presbyterian Church to prepare the meal which consisted of grilled chicken, potato salad, roll, fruit cup, and cookie. Ann Alexander, Jane Ellis, Sue & Joel Hagan, Kathleen Fowler, Tom Bland, and Danielle Bland were the merry chefs. 110 meals were prepared. Always a great fellowship time is had by all. If you'd like to join us, please contact Danielle Bland.

Thank You Kroger Shoppers!

Through the Community Rewards program, we received \$77.51 from 23 households shopping at Kroger from Dec. 1, 2025 through Feb. 28, 2026.

If you would like to contribute to St. Thomas through this program, just link your Kroger rewards account to St. Thomas (EU541).

Trex Update

Beginning in January 2026, the Trex program revamped and is operating with a slightly different format. But the goal of keeping plastics out of our landfills and waters remains. Please see the flyer on the parish bulletin board which describes the "NEW" program as well as the plastics that are acceptable for recycling. Thanks to all who participate in this program!

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Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is operated out of The Bridge Foursquare Church. In 2025, the total number of food bags that got distributed was 3222.



Each food bag contains at least 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 dinner items, and 1 juice or milk. Extra food is provided during extended breaks from school for Easter and Christmas. Additionally, 34 families requested assistance for Thanksgiving and were given a box with food for a complete meal.

A BIG SHOUT OUT to Sue & Joel Hagan, Liz & Graham Swinfen, and Tom & Danielle Bland for helping out at the back packing party in March. The next packing party is Wednesday, April 22, at 5:45pm.

In March, we collected 32 boxes of granola bars!

Contact Us

Email: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com

Phone: 540-382-4365

Website: <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>

Email List Signup: <http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj>

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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 March we collected 26 items and \$15!

Blood Drive

St. Thomas will host a Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, May 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please sign up and encourage others to sign up, too! Reservations can be made using the Red Cross app or on the Red Cross website: www.redcrossblood.org. Contact Joel (joelbhagen@gmail.com) or Sue (smchagen@gmail.com) for more information.



Scenes from Koinonia!
Pictures submitted by Gail Leist.



April Server Schedule				
	5 Easter Day	12	20	26 Parish Retreat
Altar Guild	All Guild Members	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy
Announcements	Bill Kennan	Harvey Leist	Marie Painter	Crystal Priddy
Chalice Bearer	Val Tweedie	Anne Curry	Landon Cairns	Jane Ellis
Lay Reader	Jane Ellis	Val Tweedie	Bill Kennan	Jennifer Miller
Ushers	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Bill Kennan	Kathleen Fowler Joe Straub	Harold Ashworth Chris Witt
Zoom Operator	Mark Priest	Joel Hagen	Val Tweedie	Mark Priest

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>7pm Compline</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm Good Friday Service</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Easter Day</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>Reception and Easter egg hunt after the service.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am Spring Cleaning!</p>
<p>12</p> <p>The 2nd Sunday of Easter</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11 am Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>16</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>17</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>The 3rd Sunday of Easter</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>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>The 4th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Parish Retreat at SELU</p> <p>10 am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>11:20 am Adult Forum</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm NA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8 pm NA</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1 pm Watercolor Class</p> <p>7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom</p>		