St. Thomas LifeLines

Volume 33, No. 11 November 2026

Dear St. Thomas Family,

November offers two holy days that help shape our lives as Christians: **All Saints' Day** and **Thanksgiving**. Together, they invite us to look both backward and forward, remembering God's faithfulness and responding with grateful hearts.

On **All Saints' Day**, we give thanks for the faithful men and women who have gone before us. We remember not only the great saints of the Church but also the saints who have touched our own lives: parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, and friends whose faith helped form our own. Through their prayers, witness, and example, they showed us what it means to follow Christ.

All Saints' Day reminds us that the Church is larger than any one congregation or generation. We are part of a communion of saints that stretches across time and eternity. As we honor those who have gone before us, we are also reminded of our own calling to live faithfully and leave a legacy of faith for those who follow.

Later in the month, we celebrate **Thanksgiving**, a holiday that resonates deeply with our Christian faith. Gratitude is more than a seasonal feeling; it is a way of life. Every blessing we enjoy comes from the generous hand of God. Each week, as we gather around the Lord's Table, we participate in the Eucharist, a word that literally means "thanksgiving."

In a world that often focuses on what is missing, Thanksgiving calls us to recognize what God has already provided. Gratitude helps us see God's abundance rather than our scarcity, and it opens our hearts to generosity and trust.

These two observances naturally lead us into our annual reflection on **stewardship**. The saints we remember on All Saints' Day dedicated their lives, gifts, and resources to God's work. Thanksgiving reminds us that all we have and all we are, ultimately belong to God.

Stewardship, therefore, is not simply about supporting the church's budget. It is about responding faithfully to God's blessings. We give because we have received. We serve because we have been loved. We share because we have been entrusted with gifts meant to bless others.

Throughout this month, we will be exploring what faithful stewardship means for the people of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. More information about stewardship will be coming in the weeks ahead. May our remembrance of the saints and our gratitude for God's blessings inspire us to live generously, serve joyfully, and follow Christ more faithfully.

Yours in Christ,
Mark

Birthdays!

11/2-John Marshall in Green Cottage at Boys Home
11/5-Jane Carper
11/5-Crisstian Perez in Green Cottage at Boys Home
11/8-Karen Bronaugh
11/15-Shirley Hallock
11/17-Walt Fowler, Jacquie Graham
11/19-Ruth Ashworth
11/23-Elise Greene
11/24-Victor De Oliveira

Anniversaries!

11/9-Paul & Jenny Stalvey
11/10-Jeff & Emily Pasciak
11/19-Joe & Barb Straub

RATT.... Room at The Table



On Tuesday October 20, folks from St. Thomas gathered at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church to prepare 110 meals. 23 meals were delivered to homebound folks and 87 meals were distributed in the CPC parking lot. Thanks to Ruth & Harold Ashworth, Kathleen & Walt Fowler, and Tom Bland! What an AWESOME TEAM! The meal included a chili dog, baked beans, coleslaw and a homemade chocolate chip cookie. We welcome any and all to join us once a month (third Tuesday of the month).

Backpack Program

On October 7, folks gathered at Foursquare Church and assembled 500 meal bags that are distributed through Christiansburg Primary and Christiansburg Elementary Schools. They contain a variety of goods that will provide 3 meals. St. Thomas is the ONLY participating church that donates granola bars. Last month we ran out of granola bars before we had reached 500 bags. (One granola bar goes into each bag.)

Please help to support this ministry and bring your boxes of granola bars to the parish hall (look for pink container). According to the 2026 Virginia Hunger Study, 70% of households with children experienced food insecurity between May 2025 and May 2026.

The next Backpack Party is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at 5:45. Come on out and help us pack 500 bags. The more, the merrier! For more information, please see Danielle Bland.

In October we collected 134 granola bars!

Opportunities to Participate in Advent

This year, Advent begins on November 29, which is the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Here at St Thomas, we have several opportunities to acknowledge, prepare for, and celebrate Christ's incarnation—God with us.

1) **Make an Advent Wreath for personal use.** Lighting the candles and saying the associated prayers can be a meaningful way to slow down and honor the 'reason for the season'. Let me know (sign-ups online or in the parish hall) by **November 15** if you'd like a kit (pan, floral foam, greenery, candles, and prayers)—or any of the component parts—to make a wreath for home use. Kits will be available for collection on **November 22.**

2) **Sunday Candle Lighting Prayers.** This Advent, we'll continue the St. Thomas tradition of starting Sunday worship by lighting the candles on our parish wreath. The liturgy chosen for this year's Advent Candle Lighting involves **2 readers each week**. You don't have to be an 'official' lay reader to sign up for one of the reader slots. In fact, hearing different voices embodies the different voices of both Scripture and the St. Thomas family and helps mark Advent as special. I encourage you to add your name to the sign-up sheets; Jenny will email the brief readings about a week in advance.

3) Another beloved tradition of Anglican and Episcopal communities is the Lessons and Carols service. Rather than telling the Christmas story itself (the focus of the Christmas version), Advent Lessons and Carols centers on the promises that precede it: God's covenant, humanity's yearning, and the call to ready our hearts. However, both services incorporate several sections of scripture, each read by a different representative of the congregation. **St Thomas's Service of Advent Lessons and Carols** will take place on **December 6 at 10 am.** Again, I invite you to add your name to the reader sign-up sheet—no experience needed!

Questions? Let's connect!
(amy.frazierdvm@gmail.com; 276.791.3179)

Thanks, everyone, for helping to make Advent at St Thomas rich, meaningful, and holy.

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 November 1st.

Montgomery County Christmas Store

Thank you for all of your donations of peanut butter and cans of fruit!



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 October we collected 30 items and $25!

St. Thomas Parish Retreat

On October 25th we held our parish retreat at Alta Mons in Shawsville. Here are some snapshots shared by Gail Leist and Chris Witt.





















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

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Food Bank & Hospitality Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist	**2**	**3** 6:30-7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA 	**4** 5:45pm Backpack Program Packing Party 8 pm NA	**5** 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	**6** 8 pm NA	**7** DIOSWVA Fall Mission Day
8 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Holy Eucharist	**9**	**10** 6:30-7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	**11** 8 pm NA 	**12** 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	**13** 8 pm NA	**14**
15 25th Sunday after Pentecost Loose Plate Offering ~ Rector's Discretionary Fund 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Vestry Meeting	**16**	**17** 6:30-7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	**18** 8 pm NA	**19** 10:15am Daughters of the King 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	**20** 8 pm NA	**21**
22 Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King 10 am Holy Eucharist	**23**	**24** 6:30-7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	**25** 8 pm NA	**26** 	**27** 8 pm NA	**28**
29 1st Sunday of Advent 10 am Holy Eucharist	**30**	**31** 6:30-7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA				

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