

December 2025

The Herald

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Little Mountain, SC 29075

Office 345-2841 or 945-7336

Email: office @holyltc.org

Website: www.holyltc.org

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Little Mountain, SC
Christmas
EVE WORSHIP
Holy Communion & Candlelight
Wednesday, December 24th
4:00 p.m.

Come Worship With Us Each Sunday

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.



From the Pastor

“Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”- Matthew 11:2-6

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

I think all of us can relate to John’s question above. It is a question all of us have probably voiced at some point: “Jesus, are you really the guy? Or should I start looking for someone else?”

It’s usually a question we ask when, like John, we are facing a tough time in life, when things aren’t going like we expect, and so we ask God, why? Why is life so hard? Why do I feel so unfulfilled? Why can’t I seem to get ahead? Why do people get sick? Why do people die?

And mostly I want to know: where were you, God, in the midst of all that stuff? Why didn’t you fix it? I expected more.

Well, Jesus answers us - just as He answered John - in the account from Matthew 11. He tells us that He didn’t come to give us a few good days; He came to give us life abundant. He didn’t come to fix a bone or kill a cancer cell; He came to make us brand new...a new life, a new body, so that we can live eternally with Him. He didn’t come to fix a few flaws in you so that you could get along with other people better. He came to change your heart, so that you might love other people despite their flaws.

You see, our problem is the same problem that John had. It’s not that Jesus doesn’t meet our expectations; it’s that our expectations are way too low.

Something for you to think about as we enter the season of Advent.

In Christ,

P. Randy



All Saints Sunday



We remember with love and thanksgiving members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church who loved the Lord. They served in the ministry of our church and have passed onto life eternal in Christ Jesus since All Saints Day 2024.

George Marion Stoudemire - November 28, 2024

George Andrew Bickley - December 12, 2024

Gerald Lamar Shealy - January 10, 2025

Fred Litzsey Cumalander - February 16, 2025

Danny Lee Wessinger - April 7, 2025

Sarah Sheely Paysinger - July 11, 2025

Marilyn Bickley Plampin - August 3, 2025

Sylvia Catherine Bush Taylor - September 6, 2025

Shirby Adams Chapman - September 28, 2025



DIRECTORY & YEARBOOK TIME

Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons

Please be courteous and have all end of the year reports by Ministry Committees completed and turned into the office by December 21, 2025.

Upcoming Events



Come As You Are
Community Meal

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Life Center

Wednesday, December 10
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

**Please join us for a
Christmas Breakfast for dinner!**

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship and
get to know your neighbors.

*If you feel led, please bring a small toy or gift for a child to be
distributed by GAAP. Place your gifts under the Christmas tree.
Please do not wrap*

*No charge for meal.
No reservations needed.
Stop in on your way home
from work.*

*Bring your family and
friends.*



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21st

5:00 p.m.

Refreshments following

Upcoming Events

Angel TREE



Angel Tree - You can help make Christmas a little brighter for 27 children in need who are right here in our community!

The Angel Tree is located in the narthex near the hallway going toward the elevator. Each child will have at least four angels bundled together on the Angel Tree – one for clothing, one for shoes, and at least two for toys or other requested items. Unlike years past, I did not include pajamas and/or a blanket for each child because that has not been a specific request. Therefore, if you choose an angel that is requesting clothing, you are welcome to get pajamas in addition to regular clothing, but you don't have to. On the Angel Tree, some bundles will have pink Post-It notes attached which describe the unique reason for those bundles. Most likely, there are multiple children in the family requesting the same item. (For example, 3 siblings all requested "fishing stuff".) In other situations, one child requested only one item, so I listed it on two angels. For those of you who choose angels from the pink Post-It note bundles, I thought that with some communication and cooperation, we could ensure that gifts were duplicated only when it was appropriate and balanced out among siblings as parents like to try to do. If that doesn't work out, it will still be fine!

When you select an angel, please "sign it out" in the red binder located at the Angel Tree. You can purchase just the item that is listed on the angel, or if you'd like, you can add some additional surprises to your package that you think the child would like. FYI...Another organization will be providing stockings to all children on the Angel Tree. Gifts should be wrapped with the angel securely attached to the outside of the package and returned to the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary.

All Angel Tree gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 7th. We are on a tight schedule with Little Mountain Elementary School, so it is very important that all gifts are brought in by the deadline! If any angels are not chosen, monetary donations would be appreciated to help purchase those gifts and we would need volunteers to shop for those items with the donated funds. If you can be a "volunteer shopper" or if have any questions, please contact Julie Haltiwanger (803-321-2356).

Please put the angel you choose in a safe place so it doesn't get lost. If you choose an angel and see you can't sponsor that child, please put the angel back on the tree or let us know. We want to make sure every child is sponsored on our Angel Tree this year.

Thank you for helping to spread Christmas joy!

*Offering envelopes are ready to be picked up. They are located outside of the Nursery.
Please pick up yours and your families. Thanks.*

Upcoming Events



Blood Drive Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

**Monday, December 15, 2025
2:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Trinity Life Center
531 Church Street Little Mountain, SC 29075



Give a gift, get a gift! Give blood &
get a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by
email! rcblood.org/gifts



SCAN ME

For an appointment, please scan or visit RedCrossBlood.org
Sponsor Code: LittleMtn Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



Directory Update

Directory Update

One Per Family

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Husband Cell Phone: _____

Wife Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Anniversary Date: _____

Husband Birthday: _____

Wife Birthday: _____

We would like birth year for everyone for church records.

Please!! No one will see these.

Children Living At Home:

1. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

2. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

3. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

4. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Are you a Thrivent member? _____

Please "PRINT" clearly and turn in to church office or
place in the offering plate.

*If your child is not living in the home but at college or has their own apartment
etc.; please let us know and have them fill out a separate form for themselves.*



From the Youth Director

The season is here, and I am once again waiting to get into the Christmas spirit. Every year, I'm taunted by its lights and carols, its TV specials and movies, the food. I immerse myself in all of them, trying to catch, like some Christmas flu, that holiday cheer that everyone is supposed to be spreading. I love Christmas, at least the thought of it. But when the end comes, as it always does, I feel I missed something. Where did it go? There should have been more. Is there a reason why I think this way? Maybe.

Whose idea was this anyway?

Well, if history is correct, the earliest known use of Merry Christmas was in a letter from a man named John Fisher. From prison, he wrote to Thomas Cromwell asking him for comforts such as a

pillow and a blanket. In the letter was the line, "And this our Lord God send you a mery Christmas, and a comfortable, to your heart's desire." Later, both of them would be executed under the same King. In 1543, the time when the letter was written, the word merry was used to describe the rowdiness and drunkenness of the lower class. It was a strange way to describe Christmas; a word originated from the old English term "Cristes mæsse," meaning Christ's Mass; the Eucharistic service commemorating Jesus's birth. Queen Elizabeth would always wish her people a "Happy" Christmas.

It would be three hundred years later when author Charles Dickens would write about an old miser who was visited by three ghosts in time to change his fate before Christmas Day. The idea of families gathering for games, music, and then feasting is credited to this short story. It would be nearly impossible to imagine Christmas any other way. Tradition has to start somewhere.

So, what of us, who have every element of Christmas we need except for the merry? Is there something wrong with us? Nah, I don't think so. Christmas is, foremost, a birth "day" celebration of the birth of our Savior. Few birthdays are celebrated for an entire month. Can anyone in this life stay merry for a whole month? Not likely. So I propose this. Just enjoy as much as possible. Hang the lights, sing the songs, see your family, and go to church. Do it because it's tradition. Do it because we can. Christmas is stressful for many of us, mainly because of consumerism. Trying to attend every event can be exhausting, and for some, Christmas can be a reminder of those who are no longer here. These are all reasons to pray. In 1843, Dickens gave the world his version of Christmas. I may seem unreachable, but I don't want to think of a world where it isn't there to reach for.

Merry Christmas!

Chris



Happy Mountaineers

Happy Mountaineers met Thursday, October 23 @ 10 a.m., in the TLC.

Janet Fulmer, vice president, welcomed members as Mary Spires, president, was unable to attend.

Annette Shealy had devotions and led us in prayer for our meal.

We sang “Happy Birthday” to our October birthdays:

Jerry Shealy

Shelby Shealy

Travis Spires

Under New Business:

It was suggested that we give a donation to the “Screaming Eagles”. They bought a house, “The Perch”, for parents as an outlet to get away for the weekend. It was discussed and decided to donate \$200.00 to this very important organization.

Also, we discussed and signed up to prepare dressing for the Hub on Thanksgiving Day. The dressing may be delivered Wednesday, November 26th or Thursday, November 27th before 8 a.m. We are to prepare 5 boxes of cornbread dressing in a 13x9x2 in. pan. Dressing may be delivered cold or hot.

After discussing our business, we drove over to “The Perch” and “The Nest” located in downtown Little Mountain. Patrick and Jenny Bowers greeted us at “The Perch”. We toured the home and discussed the history of what it used to be and the updates made to the home. Next, we drove down to “The Nest”. Patrick Bowers showed us the ball field and the additions they are making to the property. It was an inspiring tour. Thank you so much to Patrick and Jenny and for the ministry they are bringing to our community. We are so very fortunate to have the “Screaming Eagles” here in Little Mountain.

A thank you card was sent to: Patrick and Jenny Bowers

Get well cards were sent to: Travis Spires, Earle Weathersbee, and Boyd Fulmer

Sympathy card was sent to: Shirby Chapman family c/o Debra Wieters

Soup and sandwiches were served after our tour of the “Screaming Eagles” complex. Thank you to Janet Fulmer and all those who helped to prepare our lunch.

December Serving Assistants



Sunday	Acolyte	Crucifer	Bulletin Folder	Lectors	Flowers
07	Eva Kednocker	Blair Cromer	Joanie Billingsley	Karter Crumpton	Robbie & Sheri Wicker
14	Eva Kednocker	Blair Cromer	Kaylee Hentz	Mary Spires	Dana Dorroh
21	Brayden Lambert	Hudson Long	Natalie Winn	Sheri Wicker	William & Debra Dupuis
24	Brayden Lambert (4pm)	Hudson Long (4pm)		Philip Armstrong	William & Debra Dupuis
28	Kaylee Hentz	Zack Henson	Roman Long	Daniel Boland	Pat Collins

	Communion
24	Lin & Frank Lake Sheri Wicker, Danny Newton

Altar / Parament
Sheri & Robbie Wicker

Sunday	Greeters	Nursery
07	Tony & Wendy Shell	Christie Allison, Karen Winn
14	Rod & Kim Steffy	Jennifer Shealy, Erica Carter, Joanie Billingsley
21	Robbie & Sheri Wicker	Crystal Crouch, Jenna & Taylor Lake
28	Rodger & Karen Winn	Karen Winn, Jessica, Keaton, & Knowlton Lindler

Sunday	Golf Cart Drivers
07	Curtis Boland
14	Bobby Chapman
21	Benjamin Corley
28	Ritchie Koon

Ushers -	Chairman:	Carter Lake	* elevator operator
7, 14	Jeremy Lindler	Greg Murray	Thomas Frick*
16, 23	Bob Peters	Chad Weaver	Chris Crouch*



December Birthdays

*December 1 Billy Caldwell
Austin Fulmer*

December 2 Renae Grooms

December 6 Rodney Chapman

December 7 Bill Loadholdt

*December 9 Philip Spotts
Boyd Fulmer*

December 10 Andrew Frick

December 11 Susan Crawford

December 12 Kenneth Chapman

*December 13 Greg Wicker
Curtis Boland*

December 14 Barbara Kinard

*December 15 Annie Ruth Farr
Travis Haltiwanger
Tony Shell
Kadence Derrick*

*December 16 Jean Caldwell Barnes
Liam Kaihara*

*December 17 Chris Crouch
Carmen Boland*

December 18 Raelyn Livingston

*December 20 Sylvia Taylor
Kim Stiver*

December 21 Brian Howland

*December 23 Rachel Hardy
Greyson Kaihara*

*December 24 Phil Martinez
Blake Wicker
Christie Allison*

December 25 Ashley Boland

December 26 Joyce McCall

*December 28 Alaina Shealy
Devon Shealy
Harper Morales*

December 29 Debra Arnold

December 30 Beckett Lambert

December 31 Allen Williams

Happy
Birthday

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Prayer Shawl 9am	2 Faith Circle 11am TLC - 7pm	3 Bible Study 10am Choir Practice 7pm	4	5	6
7 Advent 2 9:15am-Sunday School/Program Prac. 10:30am-Worship	8 Prayer Shawl 9am	9 Preschool Christmas Program 6:00 p.m. GLASS-6:30pm	10 Bible Study 10am Choir Practice 7pm	11 Bible Study 7pm	12	13
14 Advent 3 7:30am - Council Mtg 9:15am-Sunday School/Program Prac. 10:30am-Worship 3pm- TFC Christmas Party 4:30pm-Confirmation	15 Prayer Shawl 9am	16	17 Bible Study 10am Choir Practice 7pm	18	19	20
21 Advent 4 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship 5pm-Children's Christmas Program & Reception	22 Prayer Shawl 9am	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4pm	25 <i>Merry Christmas!!</i>	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	29 Prayer Shawl 9am	30	31			

Bible Verse of the Month

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon[a] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6

Memorials & Honorariums

Building Fund

In Memory of Pauline Loadholdt given by Maxton & Bobbie King, Jim & Ann Sanders, Eleanor Bush.

In Memory of Sylvia Taylor given by David & Pam Bush.

In Memory of Bennie A. Bush given by David & Pam Bush.

In Memory of Marilyn Plampin given by Robbie & Sheri Wicker.

In Memory of Carl & Ollie Bowers & Donnie Bowers given by Brenda Bodie & Evelyn Rister.

In Memory of Pete Bodie given by Brenda Bodie.

In Memory of John Wheeler given by Charles & Cindy Frick.

In Honor of Brenda Bodie given by Edwin & Wanda Havird.

Parking Lot Fund

In Memory of our friends on All Saints Sunday given by Audrey Caldwell.

Bazaar Gifts

In Memory of members of our church family who went to their heavenly home in 2025, Ann's parent, Bo & Mary Nell Bowers, and our son, Brad Sanders on All Saints Sunday given by Ann & Jim Sanders.

In Memory of Mary Nell Bowers given by Audrey Caldwell.

Cemetery Fund

In Memory of Danny Wessinger given by Cheryl Cregger & Family.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

In Memory of Shirby Chapman given by Cheryl Cregger & Family, Franklin Summer Insurance, Mary Joyce & Francis Shealy

GAAP Fund Drive for Clemson

In Honor of Pastor Randy on his birthday given by Randell & Amanda Drafts.



Thank You!

To our Holy Trinity Church family & to Pastor Randy, Charles & I would like to thank each of you for your love, support, & many prayers & encouragement throughout 2025. As we approach 2026, we pray for God's continued healing & strength for us & for each one of you as well. Much peace, love, & good health to all.

Love, Charles & Kaye



Holy Trinity Prayer Concerns

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known to God. (Phil. 4:6)

Kenny Chapman, Family of John Wheeler (Step-father of Allen Williams), Boyd Fulmer, Travis Spires, Jimmy Sanders, Libby Williamson (Aunt of Jillian Long), Becky Boland, David McCall, Eddie Stevenson (Brother-in-law of Maxton King), Kaye Shealy, Hannah Drafts, Jake Bearden (Grandson of Dot Abrams), Scott & Cheri Bell, Molly Kednocker, Jean Miller (Mother of Pam Bush), Jean Alewine, Bobbie Bickley. Note: Out of respect for individual wishes and privacy, if you wish to have someone placed on the prayer list, please obtain their permission prior to submitting it for publication in the newsletter. Thanks for your understanding.

We remember those in nursing care centers and the shut-ins of our congregation:

*White Oak of Newberry
Jean Alewine*

*Wellmore of Lexington
Carolyn Shealy*

*Going in the hospital? Having surgery? Recovering from an illness?
Are you in need of spiritual guidance or maybe in need of prayer?*

Pastor Randy and the pastoral care volunteers of our congregation will be happy to visit with you at the hospital, at home or just pray for your healing and well-being.

Please call Pastor Randy Drafts at (803)537-2303 or the church office and let us know of your need and we will be glad to visit and pray with you anytime.

Remember, the Pastor and pastoral care volunteers cannot respond to or meet your needs if they are not aware of them.

Holy Trinity Staff

Disciples of Christ

Pastor

Parish Office Administrator

Director of Youth & Education Ministries

Director of Music Ministries

Organists

Sexton

People of Holy Trinity

Rev. Randy Drafts

Mrs. Marie Shealy

Mr. Chris Crouch

Mr. Brett Lindler

Mrs. Lib Boland

Mrs. Donna Fulmer

Mr. Brett Lindler

Mr. Ted Arnold

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

How to contact us:

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Pastor Randy Drafts 803-537-2303