

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Paul Jenkins: revpauljenkins@yahoo.com, (309) 433-5807

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Women's Bible Study - January 11

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll be discussing chapter four of "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – January 16

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Trinity's Book Club – January 18

Trinity's Book club will meet at 9:30am on Saturday, January 18, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. Please join us to discuss *An Hour Unspent* by Roseanna M. White and to choose our next read! New members are always welcome.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Meet the Newborn Jesus, Your Savior

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20240105/>

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

There was also a prophet, Anna... She was very old... Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:22,25-28,36,38

When babies are born, we love to show them off. We're so happy to be blessed with a child that we want everyone to see it. Maybe we post pictures online. We have friends and families over to visit. We take the child out to meet people.

When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him out, too. They took him to the temple to show him to God. There was a law in the Old Testament that when a baby was born, his parents needed to offer a "sacrifice of purification." It was a way of saying "thank you" to God for the baby, and a way of showing that God's love washed away that baby's sin and made him part of God's family. Since we're all born in sin, God commanded that every parent do this for their child. Maybe it seems like a "little detail" that Mary and Joseph did this for Jesus, but it's not. Jesus came to save us from our sins by obeying God's laws perfectly (since you and I haven't!), and by suffering the punishment that sins earn by suffering hell in our place (so that you and I don't need to). From the very beginning of his life as his parents brought him to the temple, Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly. How God must have rejoiced to see that!

While Mary and Joseph were at the temple, God made sure to show Jesus to other people. This wasn't just showing off a beautiful new baby. This was showing the world its savior. Two people at the temple—a believer named Simeon and an old prophet named Anna—were so happy to see Jesus, too. The Holy Spirit let them know that this was the Savior at the very beginning of his work. They praised God for the peace he brought to them, and they told other people about the wonderful gift God had given the world.

At Christmas, we got to "meet baby Jesus" and be amazed all over again. We are so happy to see our Savior who came to bring us peace. Now let's take our happiness and share this Savior with others!

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