

# ST. THOMAS LIFELINES

VOLUME 32, No. 4

APRIL 2025

Dear St. Thomas Family,

At this point, with just a bit of Lent and Holy Week before us, Easter is a steady beacon of light ahead. But first, we will spend some time together over the next week or so in the shadow of the cross. Palm Sunday and the liturgies of Holy Week are the most intense worship experiences of our Christian tradition, and they offer us a chance to deeply consider our Christian faith. Jesus, who is the deepest expression of God's love for humanity, offered his life to bring us the peace that only communion with God can give.

I think of Palm Sunday as the condensed form of Holy Week. We read enough of the Passion Narrative to understand and remember the "shape" of the story—the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper shared by Jesus with his disciples, his arrest afterward, his trial before the authorities, including Pontius Pilate, and finally his crucifixion.

In the week leading from Palm Sunday toward Easter, Holy Week, we will slow things down a bit. On Thursday, we gather to remember the night of Jesus's arrest, when he gathered with friends and shared bread and wine with them in a meal we remember and reenact each time we gather for the Eucharist. On Friday we focus on the day of Jesus's crucifixion in a stark and distinctive worship service that always brings me to barren state of spirit that I realize will pass only with the continuation of the vigil of the three days leading to Easter joy.

In this state of solemnity we gather for the Easter Vigil, in the descent of darkness on Saturday evening, we light the New Fire. In its light, we recount the stories of the Old Testament in which God came to the aid of his people with mighty acts and words of comfort and hope. And finally, when the vigil is ended, we banish the darkness from our sanctuary and greet the resurrected Christ with our shouts of "alleluia!" Although this worship service is the most distinctive and moving of the church year, we also gather on Sunday morning in broad daylight to celebrate Easter morning and the new life it brings.

In many ways the Holy Spirit has been moving us toward this Easter through all the turmoil that besets our world. The Church that was birthed by the experience of Jesus's resurrection is still a powerful witness to the abiding presence of God and the power of life over death, of love over hatred, and hope over despair. We are the messengers of God's grace shown in our ongoing proclamation of the life and ministry of Christ. I pray that your heart may be opened to show forth the power of God to make all things whole again and to bring the peace that the world cannot on its own achieve.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

**Birthdays**

1 Lora Beeken  
 15 Macaela Richmeier  
 18 Mike Piersol  
 19 Margaret Frazier  
 27 Danielle Bland  
 30 Sue Hagen  
 Greg Moulse  
 Jeff Pasciak

**Anniversaries**

17 Tom Bernard & Val Tweedie  
 20 Bill & Betty Kennan

**Easter Sunday**

Everyone is invited to bring cut flowers for the flowering of the cross, six inch stems work the best. If you are bringing an Easter egg hunter, remember to bring a basket, bag, etc. to collect the eggs. We are having a reception after the service and all are welcome to bring a dish to share.

**The Vigil Over the Elements**

A watch is kept over the elements after the Maundy Thursday service through the night until the Good Friday service. Volunteers can sign up for a watch in the parish hall or on our website. Please enter through the red doors.

**Holy Week**

**Sunday, 4/13: Palm Sunday, 10am**

The service starts in the parish hall.

**Thursday, 4/17: Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm**  
 Foot Washing, Communion, and Stripping of the Altar

*The vigil over the elements begins after the service in the sanctuary.*

**Friday, 4/18: Good Friday Service, 7pm**

**Saturday, 4/19: Easter Vigil Service, 8pm**  
 The service starts in the gardens. Bring bells to ring.

**Sunday, 4/20: Easter Day, 10am**  
 Flowering of the cross, Reception, and Easter egg hunt.

**Holy Week Volunteers**

There are several opportunities to serve during Holy Week. For Maundy Thursday, an acolyte, lay reader, and chalice bearer are open. Good Friday has a lay reader spot open. And Easter Vigil has the whole cast open—acolytes, ushers, lay reader, and chalice bearer. If you would like to serve, sign up on our website or contact the church office.

**SERVER SCHEDULE**

	<b>6</b>	<b>13 PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>20 EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken
<b>Announcements</b>	Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth	Danielle Bland	Karen Bronaugh
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Jennifer Miller			
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jane Ellis	Jennifer Miller	Bill Kennan	Mark Priest
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Bill Kennan	Harold Ashworth Tom Bernard	Kathleen Fowler Chris Witt
<b>Zoom Operators</b>	Val Tweedie	Mark Priest	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie



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### Koinonia

The last two gatherings were on April 2 and 9 at the Kennan's and the Leist's completing the discussion from the book "Invite Welcome Connect."

You can find out more at <https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com>.



### Red Cross Blood Drive

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Red Cross blood drive on March 29. We collected 19 units of blood, which exceeded the goal of 16 units set by the Red Cross. Our next blood drive will be on Saturday, July 19. Reservations can be made using the Red Cross app or on the Red Cross website: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). For more information, contact Joel ([joelbhagen@gmail.com](mailto:joelbhagen@gmail.com)) or Sue ([hagen@vt.edu](mailto:hagen@vt.edu)).

### Backpack Program

Last month we collected 23 boxes of granola bars for the Backpack Program!

In April there will be 4 deliveries to each school (CPS, CES). A total of 312 bags will be delivered. Each bag contains 6 meals, 2 snacks, and 1 juice. This comes to a total of: 1872 meals, 624 snacks, and 312 juices.

The next Backpack Party is Wednesday, May 7.

### Vestry Liaisons

Liaisons are committee and group connections to the vestry. They are your link for sharing your committee's updates, concerns, and questions for the vestry to consider. This year's liaisons are:

Christian Education—Karen Bronaugh

Finance/Stewardship—Chris Witt

Outreach—Danielle Bland

Parish Life—Marie Painter

Pastoral Care—Bill Kennan

Worship—Jane Ellis

Buildings & Grounds—Joe Richmeier & Harold Ashworth

### A Message from Dr. J.R. Farrington of Boys Home

*"I was calling to thank you for your recent contribution to Boys Home. We very much appreciate your support. Thank you for showing the love of Christ to the young men that we serve. You are making a difference in their lives. We are seeing lives transformed everyday."*

### **Bishop Mark Bourlakas**

The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas has accepted a call to the position of Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Virginia. He will start in June. The standing committee is accepting nominations for members of the Search and transition team through April 14th. You can learn more on the diocesan website or contact the church office for links to letters and applications.

### **A Collect for the Election of Our Bishop**

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities, we ask that you guide our work as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together through a transition of leadership.

We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment, that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown, will all be valued and heard.

We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop, for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese, so that the work of spreading God's love in southwestern Virginia and beyond will grow and flourish in the years to come. In the name of your incarnate son we pray, Amen.

### **DIOSWVA Convention Delegates**

Convention delegates and alternates attend 2-3 convocation meetings throughout the year and then attend Convention which is usually the last weekend in January.

St. Thomas' 2026 delegates are Lora Beeken and Janet Webster and alternates are Kathleen Fowler and Val Tweedie.

Our 2025 delegates were Harvey Leist and Joe Straub.

### **Zoom Information for Wednesdays**

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.

### **Zoom Information for Sundays**

Join from a computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81739544575>

pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdzog

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 646 931 3860 and

Enter Meeting ID 817 3954 4575 and Passcode 845478 .

### **Thank you Kroger Shoppers!**

From December 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025, 25 households contributed \$100.36 to St. Thomas through their community rewards program.

### **Easter Lilies**

You can order an Easter lily for Easter Sunday, April 20, in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone. Easter lilies are \$20 each. An order form will be in the Sunday bulletin or contact the church office with your order. You can also order through PayPal. Please be sure to note the memory or thanksgiving.

### **Forward Day by Day**

The latest issue of this daily devotional will be available at the end of April. Regular and large print copies will be in the tract rack in the church entrance and in the parish hall. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

### **Food bank**

Donations of non-perishable food items can be left in the baskets in the back of 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 35 items and \$15.**

### **& 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 food bank & hospitality Sunday is Apr. 6.**

**Giving!** *As well as 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.*

**Contact Us:** [mysttthomasoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mysttthomasoffice@yahoo.com), 540-382-4365

**Website:** <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>

**Volunteer:** <https://stthomas.ivolunteer.com>

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



# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you need to meet with Fr. Mark, please feel free to contact him at 276-791-3175 or <a href="mailto:frazimw9@gmail.com">frazimw9@gmail.com</a>.</p>		1 7pm NA	2 <b>6pm Koinonia</b> 8pm NA	3 1pm Watercolor Class 2:45pm Music on Main 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	4 8pm NA	5 <b>Spring Cleaning &amp; VT Big Event</b> 10am-3pm
<p><b>6 The 5th Sunday in Lent Hospitality &amp; Food Bank Sunday</b> 10am Holy Eucharist in person &amp; on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11:20am Choir Rehearsal</p>	7 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7pm NA	9 <b>6pm Koinonia</b> 8pm NA	10 1pm Watercolor Class 2:45pm Music on Main 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	11 8pm NA	12
<p><b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 10am Holy Eucharist in person &amp; on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11:20am Choir Rehearsal</p>	14	15 7pm NA	16 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	17 <b>10:15am DOK</b> 1pm Watercolor Class 2:45pm Music on Main <b>7pm Maundy Thursday Service</b> The Vigil over the elements begins.	18 <b>7pm Good Friday Service</b> 8pm NA	19 <b>8pm Easter Vigil Service</b>
<p><b>20 Easter Sunday</b> <b>Loose Plate Offering=Rector's Discretionary</b> 10am Holy Eucharist in person &amp; on Zoom <b>Flowering of the Cross, Reception, and Easter Egg Hunt</b></p>	21	22 7pm NA	23 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	24 1pm Watercolor Class 2:45pm Music on Main 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	25 8pm NA	26 Boys Home Open House
<p><b>27 The 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 10am Holy Eucharist in person &amp; on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum <b>11:30am Vestry</b></p>	28 6:30pm Safe Church Training on Zoom	29 7pm NA	30 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA			



**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**103 E. Main St.**  
**Christiansburg, VA 24073**