

We, the baptized ministers,

declare Christ's Mission for us:

to grow as a Church

in the spiritual strength

of community,

and to care, reach out,

and include all people in Christ's love.

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost and The Baptisms of

Mahsa Meshkin, Mahnaz Haghnegahdar, and Maryam Masjediesfahani



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM August 24, 2025 Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest.

We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### **Welcome**

#### The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

#### **Prelude**



2

#### The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

# The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### The Lessons

#### The First Lesson

Jeremiah 1:4-10

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 71:1-6** (We will pray a portion of Psalm 71 responsively by half verse)

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; \*

let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*

incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*

you are my crag and my stronghold.

- 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \* from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.
- 5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, \*

# my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \* my praise shall be always of you.

# Sequence Hymn Heal Me Hands of Jesus 1,2 / 3,4 #773 Wonder, Love, and Praise



Words: Michael Perry. Music: Sharpe, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from Tunes for Grace.

# **The Gospel**

Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

# Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately

she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

<u>The Sermon</u> Fr. Will Drosos

# The Baptism of Mahsa Meshkin, Mahnaz Haghnegahdar, and Maryam Masjediesfahani

#### **Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**

The Celebrant says:

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsor I present Mahsa Meshkin to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Sponsor I present Mahnaz Haghnegahdar to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Sponsor I present Maryam Masjediesfahani to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented:

Celebrant Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel

against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the

creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these

persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our

own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of

the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and

return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity

of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

# **Prayers for the Candidates**

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth. Deliver Mahsa, Mahnaz, and Maryam, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

# Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

#### Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray also for those who have asked for our prayers: Ethan, Vincent, Yusuf, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Jan, Cathy, Erin, Andy, Diane, Alison, Sean, Bill, Katie and Scott, Bill, Frank, Bridgid, Roger, Christian, Chuck, Dani, Doris, Dave, Anne, Betsy, John, Skeets, Mariah, Colin, and those whom you would name[pause]. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all the blessing of this life. We pray for David Chapin, Alison Pruitt, Rev. David Smith, and all those celebrating birthdays this week; for Chuck and Jan Grimes, and all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week; and those blessings you would name [pause]. Lord, in your mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.** 

# **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying:

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

# The Baptism

Mahsa, Mahnaz, and Maryam are presented by name to the Celebrant saying:

*Priest:* Please name the candidates.

Sponsor: Mahsa Meshkin

Sponsor: Mahnaz Haghnegahdar
Sponsor: Maryam Masjediesfahani

Mahsa / Mahnaz / Maryam, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Then the Priest places a hand on her head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying:

Mahsa / Mahnaz / Maryam, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.** 

Mahsa / Mahnaz / Maryam, Receive the light of Christ.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants, Mahsa, Mahnaz, and Maryam, the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.** 

When Mahsa, Mahnaz, and Maryam have been baptized, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

# The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

# The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.



# It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website: https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate.





Words: Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929). By permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited. Music: *Morning song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826); harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

# The Doxology (to the tune of Old 100<sup>th</sup>)

#380 Hymnal 1982

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise Him all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

# **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Gluten free wafers are available on request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

# The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

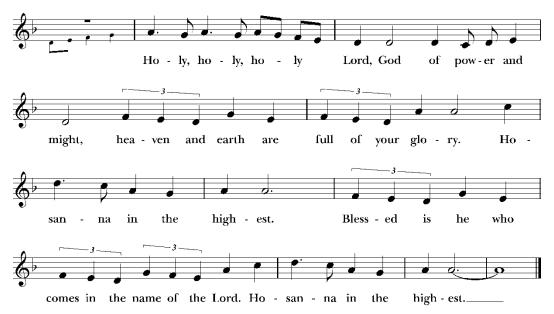
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### <u>Sanctus: #S129 Hymnal 1982</u>



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

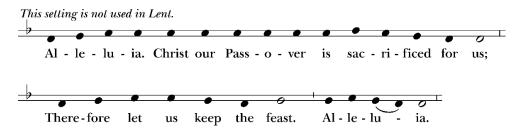
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.** 

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Fraction: #S152 Hymnal 1982



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

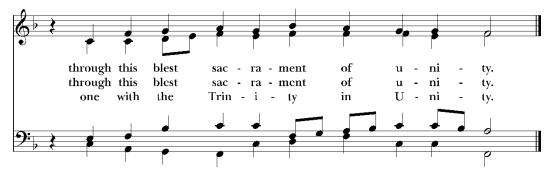
# A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

# **Communion Hymn** Thou, Who at Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray

# #315 Hymnal 1982





Words: William Harry Turton (1856-1938). Copyright © by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

# <u>Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom</u>

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshiping on Zoom say the following prayer: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

# <u>Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation</u>

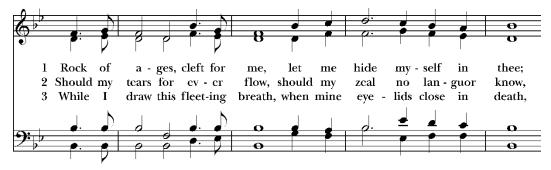
Let us pray. God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen. Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos

#### **The Blessing**

May God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

#### <u>Announcements</u>







#### **The Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

# **Postlude**

# **Worship Participants**

| Presider              | Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith        |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Preacher              | Fr. Will Drosos                |  |  |  |
| Acolytes              | Louise Armitage & Joseph Cuomo |  |  |  |
| Altar Guild           | Louise Armitage                |  |  |  |
| Flower Guild          | Jane Frierson                  |  |  |  |
| Digital Usher         | Mary Lee Montfort              |  |  |  |
| Digital Verger        | Chuck Grimes                   |  |  |  |
| Lector & Intercessor  | Pat Smith                      |  |  |  |
| Healing Minister      | Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith        |  |  |  |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Debby Reed & Steve Wickman     |  |  |  |
| Usher                 | Becky Ventorini                |  |  |  |
| Fellowship Hour Host  | Jane Frierson                  |  |  |  |
| Counters              | Jim Ventorini                  |  |  |  |

# AUGUST VESTRY PERSON Alan Thode

afthode@hotmail.com

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.

#### PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **MINISTERS**

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, *Rector* 540-532-5665 – <u>fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org</u>

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| Jim Ventorini     |               | jventorini@cox.net               | 703-288-3166 |
| Alan Thode        |               | afthode@hotmail.com              |              |

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|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
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| Steve Wickman     | Diocesan Delegate  | wickmansb@msn.com        | 571-393-8544 |
| Becky Ventorini   | Alternate Delegate | beckyventorini@gmail.com | 202-390-4412 |

#### **STAFF**

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|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mary Cyrus      | Accountant           | accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org      | 703-442-0330 |
| Nicole Warga    | Cribbery Caregiver   | ncwarga00@hotmail.com                | 703-476-9476 |

# The Skinny at St. Thomas August 24th, 2025



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

# St. Thomas Walkway of Love

We are now collecting orders for engraved Walkway of Love bricks to remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings in your life. **Deadline for** 2025 orders is Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will bless the new bricks on All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Scan the QR code below to learn more and for an order form. If you have any questions, please contact Toby Bush at tobygbush@hotmail.com



# St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Sterling's **Annual Benefit Concert & BBQ for Haiti** Sunday, August 24th at 6:00 pm

Our own Walter Lazear will be performing with his band Chasing Magic at 6pm so come out and enjoy some good food and good music to support a good cause! Last year they had a goal of \$27k and actually raised \$55k! For more information, go to https://www.stmtts.org/haiticoncert

# SHARE Garden Weekly Harvest and Delivery

The Share Garden has been yielding harvests with produce like lettuce, kale and spinach, cucumbers, egaplant, okra, beans, and tomatoes. Now that more crops are ready for harvest, we are asking for volunteers who would be willing to harvest and deliver to Share. Please sign up by scanning the QR code below. Or you can reach out to Jon Spear by email at <a href="mailto:jon.spear1@verizon.net">jon.spear1@verizon.net</a> or by phone at 571-251-6547.



#### **Pints with Doubting Thomas**

There will be no Pints with Doubting Thomas on August 27th and in the future, we will meet at the church. Please stay tuned for dates and topics! 

#### Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers Thursday, September 4th at 10am

Join us for the next monthly repackaging meeting at Fairfax diapers. The task is simply repackaging diapers from bulk quantities to household-size bundles to be distributed to needy families. If you are interested, please access the sign up by scanning the QR code below. Questions? Please contact Anne Spear by phone at (703) 915-4300.



#### Ladies Lunch Bunch

We are taking a break in August. Join us next month. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am

Patio at Kalypso's Sports Tavern 1617 Washington Plaza N, Lake Anne, Reston https://www.kalypsossportstavern.com For more information,

email Audrey at <u>audreyjadair@gmail.com</u> or text her at (813) 956-7550

#### **ECW Movie Screening**

Sunday, September 14th at noon in the sanctuary ECW will share a light lunch and view the movie Women Talking, which tells the story of a religious colony devastated by sexual violence. Women Talking explores survival, solidarity and spirituality after sexual assault. What distinguishes this survival story from so many others is that, even as it acknowledges the abusive, patriarchal power structure in this religious colony, it still takes seriously the question of spiritual belief: It's the women's faith in God that ultimately empowers them to imagine a better, fairer way of life. Please join us for lunch and a movie. We will have an opportunity to discuss the film at its conclusion.

# Joy's Ordination to the Priesthood Saturday, September 20th at 10:30 am

God willing, the Rt. Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia, will ordain Kara Louise Laughlin, Anne Kristine Rose, and Joy Yvonne Warburton to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, VA. The Bishop and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence. The festal color is red.

# September ECW Meeting

The next meeting of the ECW will be on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 11:30 am in the ELC and on Zoom. As the agenda for the meeting is being developed, you are invited to submit requests for funding of charitable organizations.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757077133?pwd=u9bu odQRyrHjcKyJB9SfrfXolOjrld.1

Meeting ID: 867 5707 7133 Passcode: 036084

#### St. Thomas Pumpkin Patch Coming Soon!

Great Pumpkins for Good Causes: Our 18th annual Pumpkin Patch is coming soon to St Thomas! Pumpkins sales support the Northwestern New Mexico Navajo Indian Reservation, and we donate all proceeds to ministry partners.

Sign up to sell: <a href="http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025">http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025</a> We are also looking for volunteers for

PALLET LAYDOWN - Sunday Sept 28th at 4PM. PUMPKIN UNLOADING - Saturday October 4th at 3:30PM (AFTERNOON!). RAIN or SHINE. Reach out to Toby at tobygbush@hotmail.com if you can help. If you would like to assist with decorating the patch, please email Becky Ventorini at

beckyventorini@gmail.com.

#### **SHARE Needs**

Scan the QR code below to see the list of most needed items for our ministry partners at Share



# This Week

# Monday August 25th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday August 26th

12 pm – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday August 27th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

Thursday August 28th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

Friday August 29th

11 am to 3 pm - McLean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday August 31st

9:15 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship