

January 19, 2025

The Baptism of Our Lord
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-WHITE [Holiness, innocence, and purity]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com
Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Jerry Falke
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Nancy Newkirk, Cindy Terrell
The Organist – Kevin Patschke
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Leslie Schubert's birthday today by his family.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass
The Acolyte – Boone Brockenbush
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch
The Altar Guild – Kelsi Otte, Teresa Exner, Peggy Raines
The Organist – Kevin Patschke
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Johnnie Zak's birthday this Tuesday (21) by his family.

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless you, together with us, as we give our attention to the Word of God this morning. *** Please sign the GUEST REGISTER [*please also include your address*] in the NARTHEX as you leave the church.

HOLY COMMUNION STATEMENT AND POLICY: It is our expressed belief, confidence and joy that the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, present under the bread and wine, are distributed in the Lord's Supper. All who commune at His altar are to be in complete confessional agreement with the other communicants. This practice of Closed Communion is an evangelical expression of our love for the communicant and for Christ's Holy Supper. In accordance with the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:27-29, we only permit members of this congregation, as well as members of fellow Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregations, to commune today. If your membership is with a different faith group, so that you have a belief which differs from our belief and confession on Holy Communion, then we kindly ask you in love to refrain from communing today and first speak with Pastor or an Elder. Members of our congregation who wish to commune are asked to sign the communion registration sheet in the Narthex.

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION - PAGE 15 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

(Our visitors are asked to please read and honor our communion statement above.)

SILENT PRAYER upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In His Baptism, Jesus Takes His Place with Sinners Our Lord Jesus is baptized “*to fulfill all righteousness.*” (*Matthew 3:13-17*) He partakes of a Baptism for sinners in order that He might be our substitute and bear the judgment we deserve. In the water, Jesus trades places with us. Our sin becomes His sin. His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Our glory, therefore, is in “*Christ Jesus, Who became to us righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*” (*1 Corinthians 1:26-31*) Jesus is the Chosen One sent from the Father to release us from the prison house of sin and death. (*Isaiah 42:1-7*) Baptized into Christ, we also become the chosen ones, beloved of the Father. We cross the Jordan with Jesus through death into the promised land of new life with God. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Holy Baptism is not of human origin or invention. Neither is it merely suggested by God in Holy Scripture or optional for the Christian faith. Through Baptism, God does nothing less than deliver the baptized from sin, death and the power of the devil, bestowing forgiveness of sin, faith and eternal life upon us.

In the first place, here stand God's commandment and institution, lest we doubt that Baptism is Divine, not devised nor invented by men. For as truly as I can say, no man has spun the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer out of his head, but they are revealed and given by God Himself, so also I can boast that Baptism is no human trifle, but instituted by God Himself. It is most solemnly and strictly commanded that we must be baptized or we cannot be saved, lest anyone regard it as a trifling matter. We must esteem Baptism excellent, glorious, and exalted, for which we contend and fight chiefly, because the world is now so full of sects clamoring that Baptism is an external thing, and that external things are of no benefit. But God's Word and command institute, establish, and confirm Baptism. What God institutes and commands cannot be a vain, but must be a most precious thing, though in appearance it were of less value than a straw. If until now people could consider it a great thing when the Pope with his letters and bulls dispensed indulgences and confirmed altars and Churches, solely because of the letters and seals, we ought to esteem Baptism much more highly and more precious, because God has commanded it, and, besides, it is performed in His Name. For these are the words, “*Go therefore and baptize.*” (*Mt. 28:19*) However, not in your name, but in the Name of God. (*bookofconcord.org: Large Catechism, Baptism, Paragraph 6*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD WHO WAS BAPTIZED FOR US †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 134

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM & CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 18:20; 28:19b*)

CONGREGATION: Amen.

P: Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (*Matthew 28:18-19*) In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (*Mark 16:16*) And the Apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.” (*1 Peter 3:21*)

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, Who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

P: Saints of God, do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts – the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil and eternal salvation – that He has given you in your Baptism?

C: Yes, I do.

P: Do you renounce the devil?

C: Yes, I renounce him.

P: Do you renounce all his works and ways?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you confess to almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner?

C: Yes.

P: Do you confess to our merciful Father that you have sinned against Him in thought, word and deed?

C: Yes.

P: Do you confess that you justly deserve His present and eternal punishment?

C: Yes.

P: Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

C: Yes.

P: Do you pray God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son, to be gracious and merciful to you?

C: Yes.

P: Finally, do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Peace † be with you.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGE 16 TO 23/FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

P: Behold My Servant, Whom I uphold,

C: My Chosen One, in Whom My soul delights.

P: I will tell of the decree: "The Lord said to Me: 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You.

C: Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

P: You shall break them with a rod of iron.

C: and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

P: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

C: Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

P: For His wrath is quickly kindled.

C: Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. (*Isaiab 42:1; Psalm 2:7-12*)

♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One Who has borne all our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 42:1-7

P: ^{1,2}Behold My Servant, Whom I uphold, My Chosen, in Whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry aloud or lift up His voice, or make it heard in the street; ³He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not quench a faintly burning wick; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for His law. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and what comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶“I am the Lord; I have called You in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and keep You; I will give You as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

P: ^{1,2,6}For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us Wisdom from God, Righteousness and Sanctification and Redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”


P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 3:13-17


C:  Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C:  Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{3,13}Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John [the Baptist], to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:  Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

NICENE CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 22]

HYMN OF THE DAY – AS THOU, LORD, DID’ST COME TO JORDAN [SUNG TO 226]

1. As Thou, Lord, did’st come to Jordan to fulfill all righteousness that Thy death might win our pardon and Thy life our lives might bless; grant that as we see Thee there we Thy righteousness may share.

2. There, Lord, Thou did’st come as sinners to receive the cleansing pour; and whilst we did find forgiveness Thou didst fill forgiveness’ store: taking on our duty there, that we righteousness may wear.

3. What the Father had commanded Thou, O Christ, did'st well fulfill – all against which we offended – that the Father's wrath be stilled. For Thou heard'st the prophet's cry and well-pleased our God on high.

4. Thus He did Himself then speak it of His true beloved Son; righteousness for all who seek it which His death for us hath won. Since the Son did'st take our place us the Father doth embrace!

5. Glory to th' almighty Father sing we with the heav'nly host; Glory to the great Redeemer, glory to the Holy Ghost; Three in One and One Three, Thro'-out all eternity. Amen. *(E.J. Stefanski, 1995, Matthew 3:13-17; verse 5 taken from TLH 257:3)*

SERMON (SEE FULL-PAGE INSERT)

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: O God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, one God in three Persons, blessed Holy Trinity, according to Your good grace and pleasure, we renew the covenant of our Holy Baptism this day and for all time, renouncing the devil, all his wicked works and ways – together with the wretched ways of the world and of our sinful flesh. We consecrate ourselves anew to You, O Father, O Son, O Holy Spirit – in body and in soul, and we commit to You our life-long and eternal spiritual welfare, and that of our loved ones in the faith.

O God, our Father, we fully entrust ourselves to Your care, grace, love and truth.

O Jesus, our Redeemer, we clothe ourselves with Your saving merits, with Your precious blood, holy wounds and blessed Communion.

O Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier and Comforter, we wholly entrust ourselves to Your guidance, power, light and comfort.

Holy Triune God, You are ours, we our Yours; You are our Father, we are Your children; You are our Shepherd, we are Your sheep; You are our Lord, we are Your own dear ones. O Lord our God, how can we sufficiently thank You that You have consented to raise us up as wretched sinners to be your blessed Christians by means of Holy Baptism – that gracious washing of regeneration! O keep and preserve us in this state of grace unto death. Grant, we pray, that the firm knowledge that we are Your children may always be our comfort against Satan, sin and death. May we always value our membership in Your family, the Church, more highly than all worldly honor; may we always be found faithful to our justifying faith in Your Word; may we always conform our lives to Your commandments and in the end die a Christian death. Grant this, O Lord God, by the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. All honor, glory and thanks be to You, O Triune God, forever and ever!

P: Amen.

P: Comfort, O God, with Your Holy Spirit all who are in trouble, want, sickness, physical or mental anguish, peril of death, or any other adversity: _____, that, among the many changes of this world, their hearts may be fixed where true joys are found. Grant healing, in accordance with Your good and gracious will, and strengthen them in faith, that they may persevere until You grant them healing and wholeness in heaven. In Jesus' Name we pray.

C: Amen.

P: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all of us who are baptized in His Name faithful to our calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]

PROPER PREFACE (LORD'S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER) FOR THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

P: It is truly, good, right and salutary that we should at all times and places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: ♪ 306 & 301

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 298

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	47	39	12	\$1,617.00
St. James	53	37	2 8	\$1,163.00

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	2,978.00				
Actual	6,502.00		435.00		2
Last Week	1,617.00				

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	5,446.00			5,446.00	
Actual	2,946.00	5.00	20.00	2,971.00	2
Last Week	1,143.00		20.00	1,163.00	

+++++ THIS WEEK +++++

TODAY *Special Called Voters Meeting (at Holy Trinity) following the service

WEDNESDAY 3:40PM: Week Day School

THURSDAY 10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

***** FOR YOUR INFORMATION *****

+++**We remember in our prayers:...** at Holy Trinity... *Gary Blair, Tim Faske, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*... at St. James... *Charles Hartfiel, Guy Latimer, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Stefanie Raines* [wife of Lucas Raines (St. James)], *Diane Sommers* [sister of Janet Frosch (St. James)] *Zachary Hartfiel* [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], *Tim Faske* [relative and friend of St. James members], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

*****HOLY TRINITY...TODAY**...Special Called Voters meeting will follow the service this morning.

+++**St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...(January, March, etc.) are: Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch...(February, April, etc.) are: Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay, Curtis

Yurk, Victor Yurk. Thanks!

***Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up: You're invited to the 6th annual Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up at Faith Lutheran High School on Friday, January 31, from 9:00-2:00. Joining us this year are authors Sarah Baughman, Christina Hergenrader, Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Ruth Meyer, Texas District President Rev. Michael Newman, Martha Van Buskirk, and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller. President Newman will start the day by leading an opening devotion at 9:00, and students will go from classroom to classroom for writing workshops with the authors, while the adults get one-on-one time with each of the authors as well. Sessions for the adults include "Time and Manure" by Christina Hergenrader, "Writing, Reading, Learning, and Repetition in Isaiah" by Rev. Kachelmeier, "Fitting Fiction Into History" by Sarah Baughman, a Bible study by President Newman on "Courage in the Cultural Furnace," and more. Lunch is provided for all who attend. This is an event you won't want to miss!

+++**St. Paul Chili Supper and Auction**: St. Paul Lutheran School in Serbin is hosting a chili supper and auction on Sunday, February 2. The silent auction runs from 7:00-5:30, while the live auction begins at 5:30. Meals are served from 5:00-7:00. Tickets are \$7 each, with the choice of chili or two hot dogs. Please contact Ruth Meyer if you'd like to purchase any meal tickets ahead of time!

*****CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**...we **THANK** everyone that placed poinsettia to grace our chancel area for our Christmas services!!! **Please be sure to pick up your poinsettia(s) following the service this morning!!!**

+++**St. James**...we have a variety of cards...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

*****SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AND THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...Our Sunday morning Bible study is on original sin as well as free will/the human nature. Our Thursday morning Bible study is concluding the Gospel according to St. Luke. All are welcome to attend.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's "**Truth Notes**." This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

*****QUILTING**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Leslie Schubert, today; Randall Bownds, 23;... St. James-Shirley Drosche, 20; Robert Patschke, 21; Johnnie Zak, 21; Guy Latimer, 24; Katelyn Nunez, 25.