

January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
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Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]
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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

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford
The Acolyte – Korban Brown
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch
The Altar Guild – Kelsi Otte, Teresa Exner, Peggy Raines

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of the birthdays of Leslie Schubert (19), Clyde Lay (28), and Vanessa Clifford (29) and in loving remembrance of Elmer Faske on his birthday (31) by their family.

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless your, and our, hearing of the Word of God. *** Would you please sign the GUEST REGISTER [please also include your address] in the NARTHEX before leaving the church?

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE - PAGE 5 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Jesus Came for Gentiles, Too The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. (*Romans 1:8-17*) Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God's saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, the Syrian military commander Naaman is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel. (*2 Kings 5:1-15a*) So also in the New Testament, a Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord. (*Matthew 8:1-13*) All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus' Word of healing has

authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion's faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation – not even for a Jew – but only weeping and gnashing of teeth. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Just as a leper needed to be cleansed and to be declared clean of his leprosy by the priest in order to be restored to the community, so does the sinner need to be cleansed and declared clean of his sins to be made a part of the community called the Church.

Original sin is like a spiritual poison and leprosy. It has poisoned and corrupted the whole human nature. It dwells in a person and also corrupts the nature and essence of the entire person. The body and the leprosy (sin) are not one and the same thing. A distinction must also be maintained between our nature as created and preserved by God (in which sin is indwelling) and original sin (which dwells in the nature).

In the article of creation, Scripture testifies that God has created human nature not only before the fall, but that it is God's creature and work also since the fall. Nevertheless, this same creature and work of God is sadly corrupted by sin. For the material from which God now forms and makes man was corrupted and perverted in Adam and is thus passed along by inheritance to us. Here pious Christian hearts justly ought to consider God's unspeakable goodness. God does not immediately cast from Himself this corrupt, perverted, sinful material into hellfire. No, He forms and makes the present human nature from it (which is sadly corrupted by sin) in order that He may cleanse it from all sin, sanctify, and save it by His dear Son. (*Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration; Article 1 – Original Sin*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 343, 1-3

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGES 5 TO 14, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: The heavens proclaim [God's] righteousness,

CONGREGATION: and all the peoples see His glory.

P: For You, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;

C: You are exalted far above all gods.

P: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;

C: let the many coastlands be glad!

P: O you who love the Lord, hate evil!

C: He preserves the lives of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

P: Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

C: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His Holy Name! (*Psalm 97:6, 9, 10-12*)

♪ 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, Who of great love and mercy gave us Your Son to be made man and to die on the cross for us: put Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may confide wholly in Your Son alone, and by Him believe as firmly in the forgiveness of sins and eternal life as the centurion believed that Christ would save his paralyzed servant with a word. We have His Word that whoever believes in Him will never perish. Therefore, beloved Father, grant that we may believe it with a resolute heart and thereby remain steadfast in the faith until the

end; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 KINGS 5:1-15

P: ¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the Name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper."

¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to him,

"My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "See, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel."

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 – ROMANS 1:8-17

P: ¹⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the Gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – ¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵So I am eager to preach the Gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

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P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 8:1-13

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 8th chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{8:1} When [Jesus] came down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.” ³ And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched Him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

^{8:5} When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a [Roman] centurion came to Him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” ⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those following Him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the Kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ ♪ 343, 4-7

SERMON: ALWAYS LOOK TO YOUR TRUSTWORTHY SAVIOR IN HIS TRUSTWORTHY WORD – 2 KINGS 5 & MATTHEW 8

“I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel.” (2 Kings 5:15) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. One of the features of our *Divine Service* lectionary is that the Sunday Old Testament lesson and the Gospel lesson very often “rhyme” or sound alike as they have similar accounts and themes. Take our Old Testament reading today from 2 Kings 5 and our Gospel account from Matthew 8. In both narratives, God heals a leprous person of his terrible skin disease, and in the Gospel He also heals a paralyzed man of his infirmity through His own dear Son. To-be-sure, just as God created the heavens and the earth – and us in them – through Christ Jesus (*see Col. 1:16*); just as God reconciled the world to Himself in our blessed Lord Jesus (*see 2 Cor. 5:19*), so did the heavenly Father heal Naaman the Syrian, the leper in Matthew 8, the centurion’s servant in the same chapter as well as all others He healed in the Bible through His only-begotten Son.

This morning, let’s look at the parallels and contrasts in our Gospel and Old Testament readings. Both Bible narratives speak of a leper. Also a military officer and his servant. In both cases, God heals the leper. In 2 Kings 5 the leper is Naaman, the general of the Syrian army. In Matthew 8, our Lord Jesus heals a leprous man as well as the servant of a Roman officer.

What are the contrasts? Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, is a great man – highly regarded by his sovereign. By him the Lord God of heaven and earth has given victory to Syria over its enemies – including Israel to the south. This doesn’t mean that Naaman is a godly, God-fearing man. He’s a pagan polytheist who believes in and worships the false gods of Syria. Yet God still uses the man and his military skill to defeat His own people Israel who have, of late, been unfaithful to Him. The Lord does this to judge them for their evils.

Naaman is a valiant warrior, but is also a leper and so an outcast due to his skin disease. Leader of his soldiers, but always from a distance. Nothing will improve for him health-wise until some of his fighting men capture a young Hebrew girl in a military raid on the land of Israel. She becomes a slave of Naaman’s wife, and tells him – through his wife: *“If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” (2 Kings 5:3)*

Naaman regards the God of Israel as one god among many – no greater or better than his own gods and idols. Even so, as any man would be in his situation, the general’s desperate to be healed of a disease that’s eating away at his body, and will kill him sooner-or-later. So Naaman goes to his king and informs him that he desires to be healed by the God of Israel. The king sends him to Israel – this time not to make war but on a mercy-mission.

The Syrian departs from his land carrying with him ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothing. He also takes a letter for the king of Israel, saying, *“When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” (2 Kings 5:6)*

Naaman has little evidence of God’s power to heal him of his terminal disease; he only hopes he can be healed. When the king of Israel reads the letter, he tears his clothes and says, *“Am I God, that I should slay and give life, that he should send me to heal a*

man of his leprosy? Consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.” (2 Kings 5:7) He’s Jehoram, a wicked ruler in Israel who’s led his people into idolatrous worship and rebellion against God their Father. He’s really far worse off than Naaman himself is in this account. You might say that Jehoram’s going more-and-more away from God while Naaman is actually coming nearer to Him – finally to be brought into His eternal Kingdom!

Elisha the Prophet arrives to silence the fretting, faithless king of Israel. He asks his ruler, “*Why have you torn your clothes? Come now to me, and you will know that there is a prophet in Israel.*” (2 Kings 5:8) So Naaman comes with his horses and his chariot and his servants and waits at the gates of the house of Elisha. What happens next? Elisha sends a messenger to him, saying, “*Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.*” (2 Kings 5:10)

Naaman’s enraged because Elisha doesn’t come himself, bow down before him and pay the general proper respect. Also, Naaman knows that the Jordan River is a silty, dirty river – not as clear and nice as the rivers of his own country. He’d rather be sent back there to be cleansed in one of them. All this frustrates him; he’s ready to give the whole thing up and return home. And who can blame him? Nothing’s going the way he thinks it should. Yet his servants appeal to their master to do what Elisha says: “*My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’*” (2 Kings 5:13) So Naaman enters the Jordan and bathes himself in its waters seven times – according to the Word of the Lord – and his flesh is cleansed and restored to that of a child.

In our Gospel, the Lord Jesus heals a leper who comes to Him and says, “*Lord, if you are willing to do so, please cleanse me of my leprosy.*” (Mt. 8:2) Unlike Naaman, this man trusts in the Lord Jesus with all his heart, believes that He can cleanse him of his leprosy and begs Him to do so. Note that his wording mirrors our own in the *Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer*: “*Thy will be done....*” (Mt. 6:10) Rev. Luther teaches that God’s will is done as He breaks and hinders the will and evil work of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, and “*strengths and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.*” (S.C.: *Explanation of the 3rd Petition of the L.P.*) So is it God the Son’s will to release this man from his deadly disease and despair, restore him to full health and bring him into His heavenly Kingdom, which He does!

Then a centurion – an officer of the Roman army – comes and says to the Jesus, “*Lord, my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.*” (Mt. 8:6) Jesus agrees to go with him to heal his servant, yet the centurion says: “*Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.*” (Mt. 8:8-9) The Roman openly acknowledges his complete unworthiness for the Lord God to do anything good for him at all. We must do the same! He further asks Jesus Christ to heal his servant with the mere speaking of His Word. Just as the centurion can order soldiers under his command to do whatever he needs them to do, so can the Lord command his servant’s severed spinal cord to come together again – completely healed, restored like new. “*Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.’ And the servant was healed at that very moment.*” (Mt. 8:13)

Notice the difference between the officers. Both are important and respected men, but the centurion has humility and faith in the Lord. Naaman isn’t humble and has no faith in God. He does at least accept the testimony of a girl that a prophet and his God could heal him.

This girl from Israel is an example to us because she gives testimony of her faith as a captive slave. We, freed by Jesus’ sacrificial death for us from our slavery to sin and the devil, can also testify to our faith in Jesus and His great love for us and for all people. We are to do so whenever and wherever possible.

The centurion believes – by the Word of Jesus alone – that his servant can be healed. The Lord doesn’t need to travel to his house to heal the servant in person. Therefore, Jesus says: “*Truly I tell you, that I have not found such great faith in Israel.*” (Mt. 8:10)

In both narratives, the diseased and infirm are healed. But they’re healed by the power of God, not by the power of their own faith or that of their masters. Today many people think that the answer to their prayers depends on the strength of their faith. This isn’t true. It doesn’t matter if our faith is weak or strong; God answers our prayers according to His good and gracious will. Naaman the Syrian didn’t even have true faith in God until He gave it to him in the waters of the Jordan. God is all-powerful, yet He doesn’t answer all prayers in the same way. Let us always continue in our prayers because we trust in God’s goodwill for us. We don’t always understand the will of God, but we trust in His Word.

Many people want to see miracles or signs in their lives to trust in God. But this is dangerous as it’s a conditional faith – not one based on God the Father’s promises to us in His Son, our Savior. Like Naaman had the Word of the Lord, directing him to bathe in the Jordan River to be forever rid of his leprosy, we have the Book of books which is the written will of the Lord our God. In Holy Scripture we find all the assurances of God – above all, the absolute guarantee of eternal life in Jesus Christ. None of us has seen our Savior face-to-face. But do we ever know the will of God for us! We know and trust in our Redeemer by-way-of His Word written by the prophets and apostles, and preached by His called-and-ordained ministers in His Church. For it’s to us, His Church, that our Lord has given His Word and His Means of Grace: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These should be enough for us – more than enough! If we trust God’s Word, He’ll bless us. We can’t control the way God answers our prayers. All things in this world, good or bad, will pass away, but His Word will never pass away.

What's really comforting for us is that Naaman, another leper and a centurion and his servant all find their Help and Salvation in God, Who very blatantly reveals Himself to them as their healing Lord Jesus! What can be our reaction to this but to cry out with joy: *"The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation!"* (Is. 12:2) Amen. *The peace of God, which passes understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 12-13]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The heavens proclaim Your righteousness, O Most High, and in Your beloved Son all peoples see Your glory. Let the many coastlands be glad, let false gods be abandoned and let Jesus Christ alone be worshipped and sought. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, You saw fit to cleanse the Syrian Naaman from his leprosy in the waters of the Jordan River. We thank You as well for healing the corruption of our sinful nature and saving us from judgment by Christ's power in the sacred bath of Holy Baptism. With Your great Word and Name, plain water becomes a life-giving stream. Do not let us forget our Baptism, nor withhold it from our children, but treasure it as Christ's trustworthy promise that, by it, we arise daily to newborn life, cleansed by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, strengthen this congregation by the preaching of the Gospel and the faithful administration of the Holy Sacraments. Bless all those who hear the Word and confirm us in Your holy faith and fear all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God, You have actually spoken Your great Word by Your holy prophets and apostles. Do not let us despise it but, in spite of all appearances, gladly receive its wisdom and promises, doing as Christ commands. Help us never to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, but to boldly believe and confess it and always cling to it as Your power for salvation to everyone who believes. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O Lord, enable every Christian to learn Your Word and teach the faith to family and children. Give us boldness to speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all those within our acquaintance and care. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord of all, You order the nations of the world to the end that everyone might seek You. Call the rulers and authorities – especially our newly-inaugurated President, Donald Trump, to receive Your salvation with humility and to dedicate every earthly endeavor to You. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, look with compassion on the sick and suffering, especially _____, that they would receive healing and relief according to Your will. Comfort them by the sure and certain knowledge that nothing can separate them from the love You have for them in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, when Your Son came, His own people did not receive Him but turned away from Your salvation. Call those who have forsaken Your Church to turn from their dark ways, behold Your light and recline at Your table with us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, do not throw us into the outer darkness of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Strengthen and preserve our faith in Christ Jesus, our only Mediator, by whom we also are welcomed to recline at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as true Israelites. When our last hour comes, welcome us as brothers and sisters of Christ, baptized into His name, and therefore as sons of Your kingdom by grace; 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 126

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Almighty God and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, the Giver of all good gifts, our thanksgiving overflows for the life You created in us and the new life we now have in You through Holy Baptism. Continue to shower us with Your gifts as we offer thanksgiving for our ongoing communion with You in Your body and blood; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:  129

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	37	33	13	\$2,705.00
St. James	43	36	4 12	\$2,023.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	4,467.00				
Actual	9,032.00		610.00		3
Last Week	2,530.00		175.00		

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	8,169.00			8,169.00	
Actual	4,969.00	5.00	20.00	4,994.00	3
Last Week	2,023.00			2,023.00	

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THIS WEEK

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*.

***Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up: You're invited to the 6th annual Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up at Faith Lutheran High School **this Friday**, January 31, from 9:00-2:00. Joining us this year are authors Sarah Baughman, Christina Hergenrader, Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Ruth Meyer,

Texas Distric 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 **next 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!

*****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!

+++**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 book, “**Truth Notes**”, as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. 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!

*****ST. JAMES**...how about **YOU!** We are looking for **Sunday School teachers** to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. **YOU** can do it..just contact the church office!!!

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

*****THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or “just because”.

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Jason Winkler, today; Tyler Iselt, 27; Kaden Schimank, 31; Jason Handrick, 1;...St. James-Meadow Stanley, 27; Elizabeth Boettcher, 28; Clyde Lay, 28; Vanessa Clifford, 29; Wesley Boriack, 30; Paul Kleinschmidt, 30; Jacob Phillips, 31;Curtis Roensch, 1.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Louis & Sarah Castell, 27.