

February 2, 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor  
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973  
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**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban  
The Altar Guild – Lynn Cain, Debbie Hopkins

The Organist – Daniel Krause

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Organist – Daniel Krause

The Acolyte – Rhyder Clifford

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay Curtis Yurk, Victor Yurk

The Altar Guild – Ruth Meyer, Lynetta Latimer, Miriam Meyer

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of birthdays of Lillie Clifford (today), Courtney Jenke (15), and Travis Faske (16) and in honor of Christopher & Mackenzie Clifford’s 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next Sunday (9) by their family.

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**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.

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**SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS –  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Jesus is Lord of All Creation** In Jonah we see ourselves. For Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord (*Jonah 1:1-17*) even as we sinners turn our backs on God and go our own way. This brings the storm of God's judgment. But in Jonah we also see Christ our Lord. For even as he was in the great fish for three days and three nights, so also Jesus was buried in the depths of death for us and raised to life again on the third day. The Lord of creation, Who rules over the wind and the wave (*Matthew 8:23-27*), saved us from the fury of divine wrath by taking the judgment in His own body. His love is the fulfillment of the Law of God. Though our faith be weak in the face of peril, yet we are kept in safety on the ship of the Church since the Son of God is with us. Though the whole creation groans with us under the curse, yet by Jesus' speaking, there is a great calm. For we know that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us, and that, since we are justified by faith alone in Christ, no one can condemn us. (*Romans 8:18-23; 31-34*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

**READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

*Summary: "What sort of a man is this [Jesus]?" (Matthew 8:27) He is the sort of a man Who is also truly and fully God. Therefore, in addition to His miracles like calming the sea, Jesus the ascended God-man works a miracle for us in His Holy Supper where He gives us His very body and blood to eat and to drink.*

Christ's human nature alone would not have been able to do these miracles if it had not been personally united and had communion with His divine nature. The human nature, after the resurrection from the dead, is exalted above all creatures in heaven and on earth. This is nothing other than that He entirely laid aside the form of a servant. [*Philippians 2:7-11*] He did not lay aside His human nature, but retains it to eternity. He has the full possession and use of the divine majesty according to His received human nature. However, He had this majesty immediately at His conception, even in His mother's womb. As the apostle testifies [*Philippians 2:7*], He laid it aside. As Dr. Luther explains, He kept it concealed in the state of His humiliation and did not always use it, but only when He wanted to use it.

Now He has ascended to heaven, not merely as any other saint, but as the apostle testifies [*Ephesians 4:10*], above all heavens. He also truly fills all things, being present everywhere, not only as God, but also as man. He rules from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth, as the prophets predict [*Psalms 8:1, 6; 93:1-4; Zechariah 9:10*] and the apostles testify. [*Mark 16:20*] He did this everywhere with them and confirmed their word with signs. This did not happen in an earthly way. As Dr. Luther explains, this happened according to the way things are done at God's right hand. "God's right hand" is no set place in heaven, as the Sacramentarians assert without any ground in the Holy Scriptures. It is nothing other than God's almighty power, which fills heaven and earth. Christ is installed according to His humanity (in deed and truth), without confusing or equalizing the two natures in their essence and essential properties. By this communicated divine power, according to the words of His testament, He can be and is truly present with His body and blood in the Holy Supper. (*Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, Article 8, the Person of Christ*)

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† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN: ♪ 546**

**PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD  
[PAGE 15 TO 23/FRONT OF HYMNAL]**

**INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)**

**PASTOR:** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

**CONGREGATION:** and His steadfast love endures forever.

**P:** Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
**C: whom He has redeemed from trouble.**

**P:** Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,  
**C: for His wondrous works to the children of men.**

**P:** Some went down to the sea in ships. They saw the deeds of the Lord,  
**C: His wondrous works in the deep.**

**P:** [Then the Lord] commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted the waves of the sea.  
**C: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.**

**P:** He made the storm be still,  
**C: and the waves of the sea were hushed.**

**P:** Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven.  
**C: Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people.** (*Psalm 107:1-2; 23-25; 28-32*)

♪ **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, in Your divine wisdom and fatherly goodness You cause Your children to bear the cross and send us many afflictions both to subdue our sinful flesh and to enliven our hearts to faith, hope and unceasing prayer. Have mercy on us, we pray, and graciously deliver us from these trials and afflictions, so that we may acknowledge Your grace and fatherly assistance, and with all the saints forever praise and bless You, Who with the Son and the Holy Spirit are the only everlasting and almighty God Who lives and reigns now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – JONAH 1:1-17; 2:10**

**P:** <sup>1</sup>Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach against it, for their evil has come up before Me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

<sup>7</sup>And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, Who made the sea and the dry land.” <sup>10</sup>Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not lay innocent blood on us, for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.” <sup>15</sup>So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

<sup>17</sup>And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>2:10</sup> And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

**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 8:18-23; 31-34**

**P:** <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him Who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God Who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One Who died – more than that, Who was raised – Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 8:23-27**

**C:** ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**P:** <sup>8:23</sup> And when Jesus got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. <sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." <sup>26</sup> And He said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?"

**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: ♪ JESUS, WHEN A STORM WAS RAGING [SUNG TO 367]**

1. Jesus, when a storm was raging, Thou didst hear Thy servants cry; Hear me also, poor and helpless, grace in time of need supply! "Master, save us, lest we perish!" Was their earnest, anxious plea, and Thy hand was raised to save them from the perils of the sea.

2. True, Thou didst rebuke their weakness and their lack of faith in Thee; One storm robbed them of their courage and their former constancy. Yet the reed must not be broken nor the smoking flax put out, lest their faith die altogether and their hope turn into doubt.

3. Roaring winds and stormy weather heard Thee saying, "Peace! Be still!" And at once the angry billows were obedient to Thy will. Winds that threatened now subsided; Stormy clouds made haste to flee, mirroring the peace of heaven in the calm and quiet sea.

4. Thy disciples bowed before Thee, wondering with holy awe, and their faith in Thee was strengthened by the things they heard and saw, asking, "Who is this that orders storm and tempest to subside? Can He be the Christ Who chose us and has been our constant Guide?"

5. Yes, 'tis He in Whom I trusted ever since my early youth, when the Holy Spirit led me to believe the saving truth – that the Christ is my Redeemer, God's dear Son, Who died for me, Lord of lords, Who reigns forever in His royal majesty.

6. To this faith I cling unswerving, even in the hour of woe, though all things be rent asunder, tossed like flotsam to and fro; Though my sails be torn and tattered and my masts be swept away, Thou alone art still my Refuge and my Help from day to day.

7. Should the stormy waves engulf me and my course of life be run, be it so, dear Lord and Savior, let Thy will, not mine, be done. Only with Thee life has meaning, with Thee even death is gain, and with Thee in heav'nly glory all Thy faithful people reign. Amen.

*(Written by Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther, first President of the LCMS, on March 16, 1860, in the Gulf of Mexico off Key West, Florida, aboard the Oder while traveling to Europe for his health; translated by Rev. W.M. Czamanske; Tune: O Durchbrecher)*

## **SERMON: JESUS QUELLS OUR STORMS OF SIN AND DEATH – MT. 8:23-27**

*“Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” (Mt. 8:25) Amen.*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has appeared to us in the flesh. Amen.* It’s very important to know and believe that God is in complete control of all things in heaven and on earth – including the movement of the stars and other heavenly bodies above us, the changing of the seasons and the weather in the sky as well. I’ve heard some people – Christians like you and me – insist that while God is indeed all-powerful, He lets such natural events as storms and famines and other earthly phenomena, like solar storms bombarding our atmosphere, play out all by themselves – like a wind-up toy let go. Yet if this were true, then God wouldn’t really be all-powerful, no longer in control of all things. But in fact, God is always in control of everything as *“He has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all.” (Ps. 103:19)*

Not even a second of any meteorological event – flood or drought – happens without God’s say-so: His directing it, making it so. Jeremiah 10:13 says: *“When [God] utters His voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and He makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and He brings forth the wind from His storehouses.”*

This may trouble our hearts as we know how destructive and deadly weather events like tornadoes and hurricanes, wildfires and earthquakes can be. Why would God allow for these, send them? Some believers want to shield or absolve God from all responsibility for sending and controlling powerful, menacing storms and other phenomena, arguing that when they take peoples’ lives and demolish property, it’s the storm’s or the volcano’s fault – God had nothing to do with it. Yet it’s wrong to provide “cover” for God this way as He never gives His power or glory to anyone or anything else. He reigns supreme over His entire creation – even when we wonder why He permits and does what He does.

Take an EF-5 twister, a flash flood or a lightening strike; take everything you’ve seen on television or the internet about the awesome power of nature and the devastation it can cause, mix it all together and you’re still a far cry from the deadly effects of sin in your life. You know that lightening can kill, as can wind-blown debris and mudslides. But how often do you consider that sin kills as well? Even worse, it condemns to hell! God’s Word declares, *“The soul that sins shall die.” (Ez. 18:20)* Sin produces certain death in us. As St. James writes, *“Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” (James 1:14, 15)* The Apostle Paul admonishes all of us: *“If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die.” (Rom. 8:13)* That is, if you let sin rule your heart and mind, you’ll perish eternally. That’s far worse than just dying.

The storminess of sin in our lives never ceases. It’s like the stormy “eye” on Jupiter that rages on-and-on and has been there a very long time, according to astronomers. It persists without any sign of ever letting up in the madness of those who blind themselves to God in unbelief. The storm of our sin as believers – with us right in the eye of it – also goes on unabated in this life. Like unbelievers, we have nowhere to go to escape our sinful nature and its fury. All we can do; all anyone can ever do is run to Jesus for sanctuary – for divine mercy and forgiveness; for restoration to God and for His comfort and peace!

So do so: repent! Turn away, come away from your sins of jealousy, of envy and greed, of losing your temper, of bitterness, of doubt and distrust toward your Savior God. Cut yourself off from rage and selfishness and arrogance. Know that you are a sinner in desperate need of the Savior.

To those caught adrift in the storms of life who don’t know God, the Son of God always offers His saving hand to pluck them out of a churning life of godlessness into His calm, saving arms and into new life in Him. And to those of you who believe in the Lord Jesus unto salvation, yet still feel burdened by your sins; who are fearful because you’ve failed to always live a godly life, the same Lord Jesus is there to rescue and forgive you. A lack of faith and the many burdens of sin can both be forever obliterated by the power of the One Who stilled the stormy sea.

Being caught in the throes of sin isn’t a whole lot unlike being caught on a turbulent, punishing sea. At least one can take shelter and secure oneself on land against the threat of bad weather; at sea there’s no place to run-and-hide. There’s no way out; there’s only entrapment, fear and doom. Apart from a rescue or improved conditions, no hope remains.

No doubt Jesus' disciples figure their minutes are numbered as a furious squall breaks out all around them. As the waves crash over their boat, threatening to capsize it, the disciples lose all hope. They're done for. All that's left to do is plead with God for help.

Below deck God in the flesh sleeps, but they don't yet know this to the extent that they should. The disciples, caught as they are in this grim, hopeless situation, wake Jesus. Their Teacher and Master has already driven demons out of people and healed the sick and the lame, yet now all their lives are on the line.

It's certainly good and right of the Twelve to cry out to Jesus for deliverance – to say, “*Save us, Lord, we are perishing!*” (Mt. 8:25) Yet Jesus, hearing their desperate cry for help and seeing fear on their faces, asks them, “*Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?*” (Mt. 8:26) Meaning, they should have no fear in their hearts to begin with – even in such life-threatening weather – since Jesus is right there with them as the Lord their God. Despite their doubt and terror, Jesus rises, rebukes the wind and stills the sea! Since only God and no mere mortal can do this, this man must be the Son of God, or God in man revealed.

Out of His gracious love for the fearful, doubting men He's traveling with, Jesus rescues them from death. He saves them from their distress; He stills the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea He hushes. And the Savior of the world promises to do no less for you! Though you're daily mired in sin, even the sin of doubt, stuck on the high seas of life amidst all kinds of uncertainty, doubt and fear as the gale winds thrash you; the Lord your God is there to save you, to preserve you from ruin, and to bring you safely to harbor and haven.

Jesus' miraculous calming of the stormy Galilean Sea foreshadows a much greater deliverance – your deliverance and the deliverance of the whole world! His rebuke of the wind and His command to the sea in Mark 4:39 – “*Peace! Be still!*” anticipates Jesus' words from the cross: “*I thirst*” (Jn. 19:28) and “*It is finished!*” (Jn. 19:30) Just as Jesus sets the sea at ease to save lives, so does He thirst on the cross to save our lives from sin; to take away our wickedness and to replace it with His own righteousness. And in His words, “*It is finished,*” (Jn. 19:30) the Lord Jesus announces His victory over all the sin that will ever threaten you, over the power of death that menaces you, and over Satan himself! It is indeed finished! Your salvation has been won for you by Jesus at the cost of His life!

Let Jesus' mastery over the wind and the waves – over all powers and dominions in heaven and on earth – be a comfort to you in the storms of your life. God has all power over His creation; He's in complete control and guides you to trust in His power to save you. Believe always in Christ the Son of God, Who defeated the storms of sin in your life once-and-for-all by dying for you and rising to life again on the third day. Though you continue to face many trials and temptations; though sin is always crouching at your door (see Gen. 4:7), God's great and final work at Calvary was done to remove all sin and death from you – to cleanse you from all unrighteousness and to forgive you and make you holy in His sight.

God's Church is not a showcase for saints, it's a hospital for sinners. God, in His Holy House, revives the dying to new life with His life-giving Word. He cures your sin-sick hearts, promising that you're forgiven in the Name of Jesus unto everlasting life. You're rescued from the maelstrom of sin and death. You're saved by God's grace through faith in Him alone. Believe it! Rejoice in it!

Praise be to almighty God Who rescues you from all evil; Who strengthens you to weather every storm in your life! He steadies your course as you're tossed about by the waves of sin and doubt, and He removes those same towering waves from your path, lest they sink you. God is always faithful to deliver. Exalt Him in the assembly of the saints! Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

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

### **OFFERING**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

To Christ, the greater Jonah, Who was cast into the depths of our sin to bring us peace, and Who was raised to life again after three days asleep in the belly of the earth so that we may find care in every trouble and not perish, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the blessed course of the Gospel throughout this world, that it may refresh the saints and work faith in those who are lost in error and unbelief; and for all preachers, that God would sustain them and turn them from

reluctance, bitterness or discouragement to embrace their task and the cross it brings, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from the assaults of the devil, and our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For boldness and courage, that we would not flee like Jonah whenever we are duty-bound to speak against great evil in this land of exile, but stand to confess God’s goodness before a world that rejects Christ and His Church, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For love in homes and workplaces, that we may be turned toward our neighbors there to love them as ourselves and do them no wrong, as the good Law of God commands, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who struggle with various temptations, that God would grant them strength to endure the trials, confidence in His loving care, and the blessed comfort of His forgiveness in Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For God’s servants for whom we pray, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that their faith may be increased and their fears calmed by Christ’s presence and gracious, sure promises, for without Him we perish, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who feast upon the body and blood of Christ this day, that our faith might be strengthened and our sins forgiven, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and who now repose in Christ, let us give thanks and praise, asking that our Savior would also grant us a share in their heavenly fellowship and raise us with them to the unending Feast in His Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, You have anointed Your Son to be our Savior and have established His throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by His Name would see His reign spread among all nations; 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.**

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

**PROPER PREFACE (LORD’S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER)**

It is truly, good, right, and salutary that we should at all time and places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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: ♪ 307, 308 [SUNG TO 314] & 447**

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 649**

**† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †**

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OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

|           | Worship | Comm. | S.S. & B.C. | Offerings  |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------------|------------|
| Trinity   | 45      | --    | 7           | \$1,784.00 |
| St. James | 57      | --    | 3 8         | \$1,710.00 |

**Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor**

|           | Operating | Building | Missions | Cemetery | Week |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| Goal      | 5,956.00  |          |          |          |      |
| Actual    | 10,791.00 |          | 635.00   |          | 4    |
| Last Week | 1,759.00  |          | 25.00    |          |      |

**Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington**

|           | Operating | Mission | Future Development | Total     | Week |
|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------------|-----------|------|
| Goal      | 10,892.00 |         |                    | 10,892.00 |      |
| Actual    | 6,679.00  | 5.00    | 20.00              | 6,704.00  | 4    |
| Last Week | 1,710.00  |         |                    | 1,710.00  |      |

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THIS WEEK

TODAY +Special Building Committee Meeting (at Holy Trinity) following the service to discuss foundation issues  
\*Voters Meeting (St. James) following the service

WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: LWML (St. James)  
3:40PM: Week Day School

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

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

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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, Oaklyn Clifford, 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*.

+++BIRTH...on Friday (1.24.25), our Lord Jesus blessed **Ashley and Matthew Clifford** (St. James) with the gift of a healthy baby girl, **Oaklyn Scout**. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be both mother and child and keep them in His continual care.

\*\*\***HOLY TRINITY...TODAY**...Special Building Committee meeting will follow the service this morning to discuss foundation issues.

+++**ST. JAMES...TODAY**...following the service there will be a brief voter's meeting to nominate a pastor for district president as well as one for area vice-president.

\*\*\***FLHS Spring Raffle:** It's time for the annual Faith Lutheran High School Spring Raffle! This is their biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's prizes include a Stihl Zero Turn mower, a \$1,500 travel voucher, a half cow with processing, a Savage Axis 7mm deer rifle with scope, a \$500 Visa gift card, a casserole of the month for a year, a dessert of the month for a year, and more! Tickets are \$20 each. Please see Miriam Meyer to purchase your tickets. Thank you for supporting FLHS !

+++PASTOR MEYER'S CALL CONSIDERATION...I recently received a Divine Call to consider alongside my present one to Holy Trinity and St. James. I am in the process of prayerfully and dutifully considering both Calls, and will continue to do so over the next several weeks, likely coming to a decision later this month. Ruth and I will travel to visit the congregation – Our Savior Lutheran, Zephyrhills, FL – this coming weekend. In my absence, the Rev. John Austin of Elgin (retired) will serve as the guest preacher. Please keep my family and me in your prayers. – Pastor Meyer

\*\*\***We received a letter to Holy Trinity & St. James this week**...Dear Brothers and Sisters in



Christ: On January 19, 2025, The Voters Assembly of Our Savior Lutheran Church met to elect a pastor. After calling upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and deliberating over the names on our call list, our congregation voted to extend a call to your pastor, the Rev. Jonathan Meyer....As Pastor Meyer considers his decision, we ask you to join us in praying that the Holy Spirit may guide him and that the will of God may be done. Should Pastor Meyer be led to accept our call, we ask you to grant him a peaceful release so that he may take up his new responsibilities here....May the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, guide and bless us all as we minister in His name. Call Committee of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Zephyrhills, FL

+++**St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...( 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. Paul Chili Supper and Auction:** St. Paul Lutheran School in Serbin is hosting a chili supper And auction **TODAY**, 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**...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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Frances Kalmbach, 3; Benjamin Castell, 4; Nancy Newkirk, 8;...St. James-Lillie Clifford, today; John Hester, today; Linda Patschke, 4; Jason Hall, 6; Chance Dube, 8.