

April 19, 2026

3rd Sunday after Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday
Rev. Jonathan Meyer, Pastor
Pastor's cell – (979) 540-7973

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert, Linda Patschke

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd
The Acolyte – Michael Norment
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay Curtis Yurk,
Victor Yurk
The Altar Guild – Connie Boriack, Sandra Cass

The Organist – Daniel Krause

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.

*****HOLY TRINITY**...Kristen Winkler will be received into Communicant membership this morning by Affirmation of Faith. We happy to have her in our midst and welcome her as a new member.

**SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS –
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER/GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (*John 10:11-16*) He is not like the hireling, who cares nothing for the sheep and only for himself, who flees when he sees the wolf coming. Rather, Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who seeks out His scattered sheep to deliver them. (*Ezekiel 34:11-16*) He gathers them and feeds them in the rich pasture of His Church. He binds up the broken and strengthens the sick. He lays down His life for wandering and wayward sheep. On the cross, Christ bore in His body the attacks of the predators sin, death and the devil for you in order to save you forevermore. He now lives to restore your soul in the still waters of Holy Baptism, to lead you in the paths of righteousness by the voice of His Gospel and to prepare the table of His Holy Supper before you, that you may dwell in the House of the Lord forever. (*Psalms 23*) “*For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*” (*1 Peter 2:25*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: The Church is composed of all the faithful of God's sheepfold who hear and believe the voice of their Good Shepherd, Jesus. The true doctrine or teaching of Scripture is to be separated from false doctrine, which is to be steadfastly rejected.

“For, thank God, today a seven-year-old child knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd. For the children pray this way: ‘I believe in one holy Christian Church.’ This holiness of God consists of the Word of God and true faith.” (*Smalcald Articles, Article 12, The Church*)

“It is not only necessary that the pure, wholesome doctrine of our faith be rightly presented for the preservation of pure doctrine and for thorough, permanent, godly unity in the Church, but it is also necessary that the opponents who teach otherwise [according to false doctrine] be reproved [told that they are wrong; corrected.] Faithful shepherds, as Dr. Luther says, should do two things: 1) Feed or nourish the lambs, and 2) resist the wolves. Then the sheep may flee from strange voices and may separate the precious from the worthless.

All false, opposite doctrine must be reproved for the defense of the truth. All sound doctrine should be regarded and received as right and true according to God's Word of the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. We must reject, shun, and avoid all false and perverse doctrines. The truth must be preserved distinctly and clearly and distinguished from all errors.” (*Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, False Doctrine or Opposite Doctrine [to the True Doctrine] in the Disputed Articles*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 195

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

INTROIT

PASTOR: I Am the Good Shepherd. Alleluia.

CONGREGATION: I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep. Alleluia.

P: The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

C: He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

P: He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His Name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever. (*John 10:14-15; Psalm 23*)

♪ **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: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that, when we hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, we may know Him Who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; 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 – EZEKIEL 34:11-16

P: ^{34:11} “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I Myself will be the Shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

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 PETER 2:21-25

P: ^{2:21} For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. ²³ When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him Who judges justly. ²⁴ He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 10:11-18

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

P: ^{10:11} [Jesus said:] “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one Shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father.”

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: ♪ 436

SERMON: WHAT A TRUE AND WONDERFUL GOOD SHEPHERD YOU HAVE! – JOHN 10:11-16

Jesus said: "I Am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (Jn. 10:11) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. How good it is to have Jesus as our Good Shepherd! He Who cares for us as a shepherd would, leading and guiding, providing for, defending, even dying for us, His beloved sheep! Why do we need Christ our Shepherd so? We were straying as sheep do, but Jesus – the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls – sought us out, found us and brought us back safe-and-sound to our Father. (See 1 Pet. 2:25)

Praise God for calling you and making you to be the *"people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand!"* (See Ps. 95:7) We sing to God of His wondrous pastureland: *"Thy people's pasture is Thy Word, [our] souls to feed and nourish, in righteous paths to keep [us]."* (TLH 550:2) Where are we led into the green pasture of God's Word but in His holy Church! So as sheep graze and live upon fertile land, so do you live *"on every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Mt. 4:4) In this way, God's living Word goes into you, roots out sin and death in you, and gives life to you – Christ's life! On top of this, your Savior also feeds you of Himself – His own body and blood – which goes into you, lives in you, enlivens your whole being and gives you life forever! *"Christ alone our souls will feed, He is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other."* (TLH 195:5)

What a joy it is for you to confess of your Lord and Savior: *"The Lord is my Shepherd!"* (Ps. 23:1) He's the true Shepherd and Overseer of every soul in this Church – and of all Christian congregations the world over! In order to be your Good Shepherd, Jesus had to lay down His life for you, His sheep. Your lone Shepherd did lay down His life for you, sacrificing Himself for you unto death and the grave.

There's nothing more important to sheep than the constant presence of their shepherd. Wherever you are, wherever you go, the Lord your Shepherd is always with you. And He promises to always be present for you in His Church and Divine Service to you. He's here in His grace and favor for you, His sheep. He knows you very well, for as He proclaims to you in His Word: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine."* (Is. 43:1) *"I know My own,"* Jesus says to you. He knows you because God has chosen you as His very own beloved children. He's adopted you by His grace in Baptism into the saving faith in which you now stand. *"And My own know Me."* (Jn. 10:14) You know and believe in Jesus as your beloved Savior, and you call upon His Holy Name, as did the penitent thief upon the cross: *"Jesus, remember me, when You come into Your Kingdom."* (Lk. 23:42) As did blind Bartimaeus: *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me."* (Lk. 18:38) And as do the saints of God globally, singing, *"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us...[and] grant us Thy peace."* (TLH 28)

God the Father has known and has dearly loved His only Son from eternity; and vice versa. In fact, Jesus is eternally-begotten of the Father, or is eternal God together with the Father. So just as the Father knows the Son and the Son knows the Father, so do both of them as One know you and love you very much. How much? Well, as we've heard and believe, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for us, His sheep! He sacrifices Himself as the holy, perfect offering before the Father. Yes, Jesus is our Good Shepherd indeed. Yet He also became the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world – including all your sin – by taking it all upon Himself, bleeding, suffering and dying for your trespasses – for you!

How remarkable it is, then, that your Divine Shepherd assumed your humanity in order to become your sacrificial Lamb Who has brought you into the glorious Kingdom of your heavenly Father!

Though Christ Jesus' death was the end of your sin, death and damnation, it wasn't the end of Him. The slain, Holy Lamb and Shepherd couldn't stay dead *"because it was impossible for death to hold Him."* (Acts 2:24) So God wakened *"and brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep."* (Heb. 13:32) Since He's God together with the Father, Christ the Lord also raised Himself from the dead, as He Himself said He would: *"I lay My life down on My own. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."* (Jn. 10:18)

In light of the wondrous truth that *"the Shepherd [died] for sheep that loved to wonder,"* (TLH 143:4) and that He came alive again as the Lord of life, see Psalm 23 through the lens of your Savior. Since He's your everlasting Shepherd, you'll never lack any good in Him! After all, He makes you to lie down in green pastures, amidst the still waters of His glorious Kingdom – His Church! Here you have His peace always! Christ cures you soul of all sin, filth and trouble, making you pure and holy unto your Holy God, acceptable in His sight. He leads you in the way of His righteousness, and you follow, *"calm and fearless."* (TLH 410:1)

Even though you walk in danger so that *“death...pursue[s you] all the way,”* (TLH 413:1, 3) your Good Shepherd is with you! You needn't fear evil, even death itself. Your Shepherd has overcome both for you! He has destroyed each of them before they could destroy you!

Your Shepherd's rod and staff have disciplined you when you've gone astray. He's never used them to strike or hurt you, for what shepherd would do that? But to correct you; to bring you back upon the right way – the way of holiness.

None of us can escape our enemies, but must have them around us in this life. Even so, no matter how close and menacing they may be, your Good Shepherd honors you for your faithfulness to Him, anointing you, His chosen ones, with the oil of His gladness! His great love and mercy for you is overflowing – endlessly gushing out upon you! Jesus your Good Shepherd keeps on forgiving you for all your trespasses, and He'll never stop doing so. He saves you to the uttermost!

You're no doubt familiar with Jesus' words to you in John 14:19: *“Because I live, you also will live.”* Given this wondrous truth, you can firmly believe in Him and say: *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”* (Ps. 23:6) 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

HOLY TRINITY: KRISTEN WINKLER'S AFFIRMATION OF FAITH & RECEPTION AS NEW MEMBER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For the Israel of God, His redeemed in Christ Jesus, that we may always declare, proclaim and utter this great salvation in speech and song to the very ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all baptized Christians, that we whose sins have been crucified in Christ's body on the tree would bring forth the fruit of holy lives by His continual grace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For faith in the Lord Who saved us, and for His desire and power to sustain us through all trials and needs, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church's protection, for zeal for the House of God, and for peace through the promises of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who serve us in Christ's Name and deliver to us the fruits of His redeeming work; and for those who will hear and heed His call to service in this generation, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the erring, that the scattered may be found and restored; that God's holy people may be preserved; and that all may be gathered to Christ, the true Shepherd, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the gift of good government, that as Christ our Passover Lamb has wrought peace between God and man, so He would grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world; and that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment, 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 those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For the ill, the suffering and the dying, especially for _____, and for those we name in our hearts, that God's grace would sustain them in their hour of need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For continued favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who receive the Savior's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar today, that God would preserve them in repentance and saving faith, and that through this holy meal He would strengthen their witness to His love in their daily callings, let us pray to the Lord, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord our God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and have given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd – not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as our beloved Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice and obtain eternal 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.**

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

PROPER PREFACE FOR OUR LORD’S RESURRECTION

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb Who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world; Who by His death has destroyed death and by His rising to life again has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: 🎵 312, 313 & 396

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 648

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	73	--	13	\$4,810.00
St. James	53	--	3 8	\$1,261.00

Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	22,335.00				
Actual	42,497.23		2,820.00		15
Last Week	4,710.00		100.00		

Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	40,596.75			40,596.75	
Actual	29,599.00	150.00	2,685.00	32,434.00	15
Last Week	1,261.00			1,261.00	

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THIS WEEK

- TODAY 10:30AM: Turkey and Dressing Dinner (Holy Trinity)
- WEDNESDAY 3:30 PM: Week Day School...our last classes for the 2025-26 school year!
- THURSDAY 10:00 AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)
- FRIDAY +Pastor’s Day Off
- NEXT SUNDAY *Joint farewell **Pot-luck Dinner** honoring Pastor Meyer and his family at St. James parish hall following the service

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...at Holy Trinity...Dorothy Schimank, Jerry Falke, Allan**

*Urban, Frank Newkirk, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;...at St. James ...Margie Zak, Nina Seifert, Becky Exner, Ginger Clifford, Clarence Symmank, Charles Hartfiel, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Darvin Drosche, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, R. D. Latimer [son of Margo Latimer and brother of Guy Latimer (St. James)], Diane Sommers [sister of Janet Frosch (St. James)], Gloria Evans [mother-in-law of Randall Sullivan (St. James)], Zachary Hartfiel [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], JoAnne Meyer [mother of Pastor Meyer], Carole Heller [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)] and *all of our sick and shut-ins.**

+++**HOLY TRINITY**...We are asking for men to volunteer to serve as ushers. If you are interested, please sign up on the usher sheet at the back of the church. If you have questions or want more information, please see either Jeff Winkler or Tim Falke. Thank you!

*****ST. JAMES**...the LWML would like to **THANK** everyone who helped and donated flour for our recent noodle making fundraiser! We have a few extra bags of noodles, so if you would be interested in some, please see either Lynetta Latimer or Sandra Lay! Thank you for your support!

+++Pastor Meyer has accepted at call to Grace Lutheran in Midland. We prayer for him and his family, as well as our congregations, for God's continued love, help, guidance, and blessings! His final Sunday will be this coming Sunday.

*****Holy Trinity**...will be sponsoring their **TURKEY DINNER** on **TODAY**, beginning at 10:30am. Each plate will be \$13 and is available by drive thru only. Proceeds will be used for the parish hall restoration.

+++**NEXT SUNDAY**...Holy Trinity and St. James will be having a **farewell Potluck Dinner** honoring Pastor Meyer and his family following the service at St. James at the parish hall. Bring your favorite dish/dessert(s) to join in fellowship and good food as we wish them farewell!!!

*****EASTER LILIES**...we would like to **THANK** all you provided and placed Easter lily(ies) for our Easter services! Please be sure to pick yours up following the service today! THANKS!!!

+++**HOLY TRINITY**...would like to express their **THANKS** to the Fedor Ladies Aid for the generous donation towards the parish hall bathroom restoration and for the kitchen sink restoration projects we received recently!

*****Holy Trinity**...will be sponsoring their **TURKEY DINNER** on **TODAY**, beginning at 10:30am. Each plate will be \$13 and is available by drive thru only. Proceeds will be used for the parish hall restoration.

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

*****Around the Word Devotions**...Daily devotions are a great way to be in the Word of God, to pray to Him, to confess His Holy Name, etc.. It can also be found online on our Church website, trinity-stjames.org/devotions, or at whatdoesthismean.org/devotions.

+++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!

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Hannah Castell, today; Ericka Iselt, today; Amy Corbitt, 21; Scott Iselt, 24;...St. James-Jeremy Brown, 19; Cindy Clifford, 20; Stassney Krueger, 20; Michael Johnson, 22; Jeanette Stence, 22.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Russell & Tina Biehle, today; Nick & Brittany Shelly, 21; David & Kelly Boettcher, 22; Kerry & Kim Bexley, 23.