

June 22, 2025

1st Sunday after Trinity
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com
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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Mary Ann Blair, Lynn Cain

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Acolyte – Korban Brown

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

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

The Altar Guild – Debra Phillips, Gloria Brockenbush

The Flowers – To the glory of God by Eugene & Eleanor Jenke in honor of their 70th wedding
anniversary on Wednesday (25).

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.

*****AT ST. JAMES**...we are happy to welcome into our midst this morning ~~Irønz Faskø~~ as a communicant member.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

Faith Trusts in Christ for Eternal Life When the beggar Lazarus died, he was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. For he was truly Abraham's seed. Like Abraham, he believed in the Lord, and the Lord "*counted it to him as righteousness.*" (Genesis 15:6) The name Lazarus means "*God is my help.*" The unnamed rich man, on the other hand, did not love and trust in God. He also cared next-to-nothing for the beggar at his gate. And "*he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.*" (1 John 4:20) He who loved and trusted in possessions and prestige died and was in torments in Hades (hell). (Luke 16:19-31) Repentance and faith are worked only through

Moses and the prophets – that is, the Word of God, for it points us to Christ. Only through His death and resurrection are we brought the comfort of everlasting life. (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: In the parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus, Jesus shows us that heaven is locked tight to those who have not had it unlocked by the Keys that He has given to His Church on earth. Those who do not hear and believe the Word God proclaims to all the world through His Church for repentance and the forgiveness of sins in this life cannot expect to enter the Kingdom of Heaven when they die.

The Keys are an office and power given by Christ to the Church for binding and loosing sin. [Matthew 16:19] This applies not only to gross and well-known sins, but also the subtle, hidden sins that are known only to God. As it is written, “Who can discern his errors?” (Psalm 19:12) And St. Paul himself complains that “with my flesh I serve the law of sin.” (Romans 7:25) It is not in our power to judge which, how great, and how many the sins are. This belongs to God alone. As it is written, “Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.” (Psalm 143:2) Paul says, “I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted.” (1 Corinthians 4:4) (lcmssermons.com; *Smalcald Articles, Article 7, Of the Keys*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

TOLLING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 226

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: O Lord, I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

CONGREGATION: my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

P: I will sing to the Lord,

C: because He has dealt bountifully with me.

P: How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?

C: How long will You hide Your face from me?

P: How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

C: How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

P: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;

C: light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

P: lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”

C: lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. (Psalm 13:1-6)

♪ 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, we implore You to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit so that we may not, like the rich man, hear Your precious Word in vain and become so devoted to earthly things that we forget eternal blessings; but that we may instead readily and freely serve those who are in need according to our ability, and not defile ourselves with arrogance and excess. In trial and misfortune, keep us from despair, and let us trust in Your fatherly help and grace, that in faith and Christian patience we may overcome all things; through 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 – GENESIS 15:1-6

P: ^{15:1} After these things the Word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, for I continue childless,

and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, You have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the Word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22

P: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,

C: the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

P: The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man;

C: from where He sits enthroned He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth.

P: He fashions the hearts of them all

C: and observes all their deeds.

P: The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

C: The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

P: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love,

C: that He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

P: Our soul waits for the Lord;

C: He is our Help and our shield.

P: For our heart is glad in Him,

C: because we trust in His Holy Name.

P: Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

C: even as we hope in You.

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.

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 JOHN 4:16-21

P: ^{4:16} So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God Whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 16:19-31

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this,

between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house – ²⁸ for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLE’S CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 425

SERMON: FAITH, GOD’S LOVE, SALVATION COME TO LAZARUS AND TO YOU IN JESUS – LK. 16:19-31; 1 JN. 4:16-21

“God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 Jn. 4:16) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. The Rev. Luther teaches about the *First Commandment* – “*You shall have no other gods before Me*” (Ex. 20:3) – writing, “*A God means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. So, to have a God is nothing other than trusting and believing Him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust is right, then your God is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God. (See Hebrews 11:6) Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your God.*” (*Large Catechism, The Commandments: First Commandment, 1-3*)

Based on these words of the Church Reformer, it isn’t difficult for us to determine the god of the rich man in Jesus’ *parable* for us this morning. Nor is it a challenge to discern which God Lazarus – the impoverished man in the text – believes in and worships while alive on earth.

So let’s dig into the *Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus* and look at three aspects of it. First, let’s see how it is that the rich man winds up in eternal torment, while Lazarus is brought to God by His holy angels. Second, let’s see Who loved Lazarus and Who Lazarus loved in return while he lived. And let’s see Who loved the rich man and who or what he loved in return while on earth. From this we can determine just Who loves us so much, and Who we’re to love right back! And third, let’s see what role God’s Word plays in this parable and in our lives.

The rich man in our parable gets a bad rap. A lot of the criticism he receives is well-deserved. But not all of it. There’s no indication from Jesus that he’s an overly wicked man. He doesn’t steal from others as he has everything he needs. He’s no slanderer or murderer – at least not openly. Almost certainly he loves his family, friends – you know, “*those who love [him.]*” (Mt. 5:46) But does he love Lazarus? Obviously not, since he lets him starve and rot outside his gates. Yet we can still say that he’s a “pretty good” man with some faults – the kind of guy a lot of people today think should still be allowed to enter heaven as a person who’s done more good than bad in life.

In the end, the rich man is cast into hellfire. So obviously he wasn’t good enough to enter eternal life. Our Lord speaks, in part, to his problem in Mark 10:23 and 25, saying, “*How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God.*” How come? The rich tend to flaunt and worship their wealth as their god. Now, if you were able to ask the rich man who his god was while he was still alive, he’d probably surprise you with his answer. As a Hebrew, he’d no doubt say God almighty. And he’d really think that this is so, but he’d be wrong.

We know that Holy Spirit-given faith in Jesus Christ saves the sinner from damnation – regardless of how rich or poor, good or bad he is. He who repents of his sins, who turns decisively from them to his Savior for divine forgiveness, for peace with God and with others, for life and everlasting salvation receives all of these! The rich man doesn’t have God as his Father and Jesus as His Savior since he’s too busy reveling in and worshiping his immense wealth – really, loving and adoring himself! He actually agrees with the words of Jesus: “*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*” (Mt. 6:24) He only serves one master: money, while pretending to be godly.

Furthermore, the rich man has no love for the one true God and therefore no love for a needy man like Lazarus. He may claim to love God, but his lack of love for Lazarus proves that he’s a liar. The one whom the rich man loves the most; the one whom we all love the most will be the one whom we’ll spend eternity with. Jesus describes

the rich man's feasts as extravagant. He eats like a king, likely spending hundreds or thousands of dollars in our money on exquisite food each day! Point being, he could easily share even a little with Lazarus right outside his property. So a lack of faith in God, no trust in His Word; a lack of love for the Lord and his neighbor dooms the rich man.

Lazarus isn't eternally delivered unto God because he's poor, but because his true wealth is saving faith in God and His Son – according to His Word! He has nothing on this earth – no wealth to worship; only God. Nobody would envy his “outward” life at all. Yet Lazarus’ “inner life” in which he trusted in the Lord, cried out to Him for mercy and help in time-of-need, and in despair.... Lazarus’ true life in which he laid all his sins on Jesus, sought Him, His forgiveness and salvation fervently, and was comforted by Him – that's the only life worth living!

Lazarus loved the Lord his God since true love for God and for people always flows forth from devout faith in Christ. The rich man cared nothing for Lazarus, but Lazarus didn't disregard him as a nobody in return.

God's love for Lazarus is evident in that He doesn't cast the man into judgment at the end of his life, but carries Him to “*Abraham's side.*” (*Lk. 16:22*) He Who provided for His servant Lazarus all his life, even in his poverty, provides for him abundantly in heaven, so that Lazarus is richer-than-ever there in his God! As we see in our Epistle reading, Lazarus loved God because He first loved Lazarus. “*We love [God and our neighbor] because [God] first loved us.*” (*1 Jn. 4:19*) Lazarus didn't enter into heaven because he loved God and others. Neither will we go to heaven because of our love for the Lord and for others. We, together with Lazarus, inherit everlasting life because God loves us and has chosen us and saved us in His Son! So we sure do love Him and one another!

God also loved the rich man. Yet as we've seen, the rich man never returned the Lord's love to Him since he had no faith in Him. He also ignored the needs of Lazarus – thinking little of him. While he didn't murder Lazarus per se, he let him be in want and suffer when he could've helped him! Disregarding those in need, when you can help them, when you can show them love, breaks the 5th Commandment: “*You shall not kill.*” We all break this Commandment in this way. So we must all cry out to God for His mercy and help to love our neighbor as ourselves. (*See Mk. 12:31*)

Lazarus and the rich man respond to the Word of God very differently. While the text doesn't say anything about how Lazarus regards Holy Scripture, we can safely infer that he believes its words and believes in the Giver of them: God the Father, through His Son, in the Spirit.

The rich man's attitude toward God's Word isn't good. He's dismissive of the Bible, thinking little of it. When Abraham informs him that his brothers have Moses and the Prophets to warn them of the judgment of hell, the rich man responds that this just won't do. Lazarus will have to be sent back to his brothers to warn them of the wrath-to-come. Abraham shuts this possibility down, replying, “*If [your brothers] do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.*” (*Lk. 16:31*) Those who reject the Word of God won't be helped by someone rising from the dead. Jesus is making more-than-a-subtle-reference here to His own upcoming resurrection from the dead.

So always believe, daily hold fast to, hear, read, take in God's True and Living Word to you! Do so here in God's Divine Service to you, in Bible study and also in frequent family, couples or personal devotions between Sundays. Don't be found away from God's Word which He freely gives you, lest you suffer the same fate as the rich man! “*If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples,*” your Savior says to you. “*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,*” (*Jn. 8:31-32*) or save you unto God forever. So abide in Jesus and His Word all your days! Be His true followers forever!

It's only through the Word of the Lord that we have “*come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.*” (*1 Jn. 4:16*) You really don't know of God's love for you in a sunrise or because you feel it in your heart or anything like that. You're sure of it, convinced of it because Jesus has convinced you, saying: “*I have loved you with an everlasting love;*” (*Jer. 31:3*) “*as I have loved you, you also are to love one another;*” (*Jn. 13:34*) and “*no one has greater love than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*” (*Jn. 15:13*) Hasn't Jesus laid down His life for you, His friends? Then there you go!

St. John the Apostle writes that God's love is perfected with us in that He's revealed His perfect love for us in the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus! You can therefore be confident on the day of judgment that you have a loving, reconciled Father since Jesus paid for all your sin and woe in His suffering and demise! God's love for you in Jesus casts out all fear that you may have that He still holds terrible things against you. If you fear God's anger still, then you must think that Christ hasn't done enough on the cross to pay for all your sin, death

and hell – and so extinguish God’s wrath against you. So don’t fear that you still may wind up in hell with the rich man because you’re not lovable enough to God, or that He still has “dirt” on you. None of us is lovable enough to God – not even close! Yet God still loves us for Jesus’ sake! And God will always have “dirt” on us. Which is why Christ suffered and died with all our dirt, grime and evil covering Him, so that it’s all gone from us forever!

So believe and be comforted that *“God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, since we have now been justified by [Jesus’] blood, how much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God!” (Romans 5:8-9)* 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: Loving Father, You have kept Your promise to Abraham and brought forth the Offspring in Whom all nations are blessed and counted righteous, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to all people saving faith in this promised Savior, and work in them the love that flows from Your love alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, Whose Spirit calls us by the Gospel to the new life of faith, we praise You and acknowledge You to be our Lord. Bless us and all people with the continued spread of sound Lutheran Christian teaching and preaching, the defeat of false teaching and deliverance from the devil’s assaults and temptations, so that we may live under You and serve You in innocence, righteousness, and blessedness. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we humbly pray to You for the good of Your holy Christian Church. Fill it with all truth, all love, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided and torn, heal its breaches. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O Lord God, since we cannot love You Whom we have not seen while we hate our brother whom we have seen, drive all prejudice and hatred from our hearts with Your abiding love in Christ, that we may truly show our love for You by loving one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

God of love, perfect us in Your love, that we may not fear Your condemnation but have confidence in Christ for the Day of Judgment. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Grant, O God, Your care to all children, teachers and helpers at our vacation Bible school this week, that children would be blessed to learn of God’s great love for them in Jesus’ Name under the theme “Hero Hotline,” that the teachers would be blessed to teach the faith to the little ones, and that everyone may grow in the knowledge of God’s Word and their understanding of His love for them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Protecting Father, be the defender and shield of all in need: the poor, the hungry and those without homes or proper employment. Provide for their needs, and give them hope in the face of their trials. Stir up in us fervent love for one another, that we would be charitable to bring care and comfort to those around us in need, since You have shown us perfect charity in Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, remember in kindness all who bear public office in our land and all who serve in our armed forces. Preserve them from danger, and grant that our public life might be conformed to Your will. Protect and shield our country and our allies like Israel from Iranian aggression, prevent the Iranian regime from ever acquiring nuclear weapons and bring lasting peace and stability to the Middle East. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to You for _____ and for all others who suffer in body or mind. Lead them to trust in You as their Help and Shield, that they would rejoice in the great reward He has prepared for them in Christ, and would receive health and healing according to His perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy: **C: hear our prayer.**

O God of the living, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – together with all the saints who have died in saving faith – who still live in You: Receive our thanks and praise for all who have departed this life in Your faith and friendship. Bring us to share with them in the feast You have prepared for those who love You. Lord, in Your mercy: **C: hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, with Your Son, Jesus Christ, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word to rule and govern us according to Your will, comfort us in every temptation and misfortune, and defend us against every religious error, that we may continue steadfast in the faith, increase in love and good works, and – trusting firmly in

Your grace for us by Christ’s death – 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.**

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: 🎵 40

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Dear heavenly Father, help us so that we do not despair in the day of want and trouble. Grant us Your aid so that we do not abuse Your gifts or set our hearts on earthly riches, but in true faith and love wait patiently for another life, which, when all earthly griefs are past, You will give to all who believe in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: 🎵 Amen.**

P: O gracious Father, God of love, Who, loving us from eternity, gave Your Son into death for us when we were still enemies, and Who desires for us to know the love with which You love us, so that we may love You and our neighbor, we implore You, remove from our hearts tormenting fear, and fill them with childlike faith and trust in You. Cleanse us also from hatred and ill will. Incline us to treat one another with kindness and love. And grant us boldness in the faith on the Day of Judgment; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 🎵 Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 429

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	66	44	18	\$2,939.00
St. James	56	41	3 14	\$1,281.00

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor			Week
		Building	Missions	Cemetery	
Goal	35,736.00				
Actual	55,805.75		3,705.00		24
Last Week	2,764.00	100.00	75.00		

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington			Week
		Mission	Future Development	Total	
Goal	65,652.00			65,352.00	
Actual	44,616.56	640.00	905.00	46,161.56	24
Last Week	1,281.00			1,281.00	

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THIS WEEK

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM: Joint Vacation Bible School (held at St. James)..until 11:30AM
FRIDAY 11:30AM: Closing VBS Service (at St. James)
 *Pastor’s Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...at Holy Trinity...Allan Urban, Frank Newkirk, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;...at St. James...Clarence Symmank, Curtis**

Yurk, 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, 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**...would like to **THANK** the Ladies Aid for their generous donation from their recent Turkey Dinner to the congregation's restoration/building fund!!! Many thanks!

***Shelving needed: We are looking for a couple shelving units to use for craft supplies in the classrooms at St. James. If anyone has some available and in good condition, please contact Ruth Meyer or Brittney Brockenbush. Thank you!

+++**From Dorothy Wachsmann**...a very special **THANKS** to Pastor Meyer [and his beautiful words he spoke/addressed to me], the congregation [and the beautiful gift], and everyone for the most lovely retirement reception hosted on my behalf!!! Many thanks for the delicious meal along with the cards and gifts given to me! I will cherish the congregation and each of you..words just can't be expressed for how much I appreciate it and that so much was done for me. God bless you, Dorothy.

*****Baby Bottle Campaign**: The baby bottle campaign for Place of Hope Pregnancy Center in Rockdale is wrapping up! Please return your bottles to the church office with any money you have collected. Thank you for supporting life!

+++**Sunday Morning Bible Class Study on the Divine Worship Service**...Our current Bible study is a unique one as it covers the divine, holy liturgy by which we worship the Lord our God on Sundays and all other holy days. Come learn about and grow in the rich Biblical theology of our Divine Worship as Lutheran Christians. As this study is concerned with how we, the Church of God, have worshiped Him faithfully for many centuries, copies of it will also be made available for all who wish to become better acquainted with our Lutheran worship, but who cannot attend the study.

*****St. James Cleaning Day**: The LWML expresses their **THANKS** to everyone who helped with our cleaning day!

+++**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**...our joint VBS will be held this week June 23 thru 27 starting tomorrow beginning at 9am-11:30am!!! We encourage our children from 3 years through the 8th grade to come join in! Our theme this year will be "Hero Hotline...Called Together to Serve God"! See you there!!!

*****Disciples of the Way handmade items available**: Please see the display in the narthex of St. James that features handmade zipper pouches sewn by the women in the program "Sewing Seeds of Faith." This program is hosted by Disciples of the Way, the ministry of Pastor Karim Baidaoui, who has been our mission speaker before. Your gift of \$10 per purse will support the refugee women who make them. These pouches make great gifts and are helping support the ministry of Disciples of the Way as they reach out to Muslim immigrants with the Word of Christ!

+++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-Grace Castell, 26;...St. James-David Boettcher, today; Candy Brown, today; Charlee Johnson, 27; Connor Johnson, 27; Egor Raines, 27; Gloria Brockenbush, 26; Archer Clifford, 29; Walter Dube, 31.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Kevin & Sarah Patschke, 24;...St. James-Brandon & Heather Exner, today; Zachary & Jacki Lay, 23; Eugene & Eleanor Jenke, 25; Dennis & Elaine Boettcher, 26; Edward & Karen Hoelscher, 27; Walter & Sherry Dube, 28.