

June 29, 2025

2nd Sunday after Trinity

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973

Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]

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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 – Guy Latimer

The Acolyte – Tate Fritsch

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 Organist – Ruth Meyer

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

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

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

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

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

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

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

The Gospel Call Goes Out to All Wisdom has issued an invitation to the divine feast: *“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”* (Proverbs 9:5-6) This is the call of the Spirit of Christ to believe the Gospel and to receive His saving gifts in the Holy Supper. Many make excuses and reject this invitation, even as the Jews did in the days of Jesus, yet the Master’s house will be filled. The Gospel call therefore goes out to the lowly and despised, into the highways, even to all the Gentiles. (Luke 14:15-24) For *“you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* (Ephesians 2:13-22) In Christ, believing Jews and Gentiles are no longer strangers but fellow members of the household of God. The enmity of class and race is put to death through the cross. Having been reconciled in the one Body of Christ, we are enabled to love one another as we await the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom which will have no end. (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Why doesn't everybody go to heaven? As Jesus illustrates in the story He tells in today's Gospel lesson, people feel they have better, more important and urgent things to do with their lives than spend their time with the heavenly things to which our Lord invites them. Such is the way of sin – to follow one's heart.

Our Churches teach that although God creates and preserves nature, the cause of sin is located in the will of the wicked, that is, the devil and ungodly people. Without God's help, this will turns itself away from God, as Christ says, *“When he lies, he [the devil] speaks out of his own character.”* (John 8:44) But *“with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.”* (Psalm 130:7) (Augsburg Confession, Article 19: Of the Cause of Sin)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 306:1-4

PREPARATORY 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: The Lord was my support

CONGREGATION: in the day of my calamity.

P: He brought me into a broad place;

C: He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

P: I love You, O Lord, my Strength.

C: The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer.

P: For you save a humble people,

C: but the haughty eyes You bring down.

P: This God – His way is perfect;

C: the Word of the Lord proves true.

P: For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations,

C: and sing to Your Name. (Psalm 18:1-2a, 18b-19, 27, 30a, 49)

♪ 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 and everlasting God, the Source of all life and joy, Who by the glad sound of the Gospel has called us to be part of Your Kingdom and glory, shine into our hearts, we implore You, by Your Word and Spirit, and draw

us always to Yourself in Your steadfast love for us, that we may heartily choose that good part which will not be taken away from us, and give us all diligence to make our calling and election sure; 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 – PROVERBS 9:1-10

P: ^{9:1} Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ² She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴ “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵ “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” ⁷ Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:12-22

P: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

C: What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

P: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

C: Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

P: The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears toward their cry.

C: The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

P: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

C: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

P: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

C: The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

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 – EPHESIANS 2:13-22

P: ^{2:13} But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our Peace, Who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the Law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who wear near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 14:15-24

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 14th chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{14:15} When one of those who reclined at table with Jesus heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the Kingdom of God!” ¹⁶ But He said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a

field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

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 (CONT'D): ♪ 306:5-8

SERMON: COME, FOR THE BANQUET FEAST IS NOW READY – LUKE 14:15-24

“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.” (Lk. 14:21) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. The 25th chapter of *Genesis* describes how the patriarch Jacob took advantage of his brother, Esau, and how Esau cared precious little for his birthright from God. As Jacob was cooking a pot of lentil soup, Esau returned home after hunting, and was famished! He asked Jacob for some of the stew. Jacob told him he'd give him some, but only if Esau gave him his birthright – or his favored status as the firstborn son – in exchange. Esau was starving, and so, as he didn't care much for his birthright anyway, he gave it to Jacob, got a bowl of soup for it and went his way in glib disdain for his inheritance.

That Esau would exchange his birthright for a bowl of stew is clearly the sign of a coarse, arrogant and godless nature. In the Old Testament, the birthright was no small thing. It wasn't merely a physical blessing, but a very powerful spiritual blessing that pointed to the coming of God's Messiah. Esau faithlessly abandoned and cast to the wind the excellence of his birthright.

This is an example for us. For the sake of earthly goods, many “kick to the curb” that which is everlasting. For Christ – by His death and resurrection – has obtained a great and magnificent inheritance for all people, so that we may be princes and priests of God the Father and heirs of eternal life. But this great kindness is forfeited by all those who, like Esau, care for worldly blessings over-and-above heavenly ones. In this way, they exchange their spiritual birthright for a worthless bowl of porridge. They deny that anything bad will happen to them because of this – like God's final judgment. Yet it will catch them like a trap! (*See Luke 21:34*) God save us from such a fate!

In today's parable, Jesus shows us that many people prefer land, oxen, even family to the great heavenly feast. He tells us that God will punish all those who treat Him with ingratitude and who despise His Kingdom.

The banquet of God includes His Kingdom of Grace here on earth, where we receive forgiveness and life through the Gospel of Christ. We receive Christ the Lord, in His body and blood, as our Possession! The banquet feast also includes God's Kingdom of Glory where we'll receive immortality and enjoy incorruptible blessings of food and drink unspoiled by any tears or pain. The endless wedding banquet will be only joy and godly pleasure forevermore.

What fool would throw this away for a few pitiful earthly blessings in this veil of tears? Yet that's just what human nature wants to do.

At the time He spoke it, Jesus primarily meant this parable for His own fellow Jews. Not only had they been invited to God's Kingdom through the Old Testament prophets, but God also sent John the Baptist and His own Son to say that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. The time had finally come, the Bridegroom had arrived, the feast was now!

But so many of them despised God's invitation. As shown in the parable, a great number of Jews placed more importance on earthly things and worldly good. Instead of repentance and faith, they preferred the honor of men to the honor of God. So many rejected the Gospel preached by Christ. They preferred instead their earthly blessings, and so they rejected the Messiah.

Now there's nothing wrong with earthly goods – with cattle, land or marriage. But when these things get in the way of hearing God's Word and believing the Gospel, then they've become idols and impediments to faith in the

Lord. What God gave as a blessing became a terrible weight dragging people down into destruction. Why would this be so seductive, especially for the Jews who knew God's Word? They should've seen how much better God's Kingdom is than bowls of soup, etc. It's because there's an attitude that seduces us to prefer earthly things to spiritual blessings. The attitude is spiritual pride. So many Jews had it, as shown by the Pharisees. They believed that they were very rich in God. They were fit, healthy and strong. They were discerning and wise. Or so they thought about themselves. They thought that with all their spiritual blessings, they could surely never fall away. No stumbling block could compromise their faith. Yet that's exactly what happened. Many a prideful heart preceded a terrible fall.

But the Lord Jesus sought the poor, lame, crippled and blind. Among His own people, He invited many who felt weak and unworthy. He called many who had no faith in themselves. He found the despairing and the downtrodden, and to these He preached salvation. "*Come, for [the banquet feast] is now ready,*" (Lk. 14:17) He cried, and many joyfully answered the cry. Since they were so crushed by their own inadequacy, they could do nothing but gladly accept the Master's undeserved invitation. These are the guests that He loves at His banquet.

So let us also be poor, lame, crippled and blind, meaning meek in spirit. We must recognize that we have nothing of ourselves, neither heart, nor hands nor feet to achieve what's good and God-pleasing. By our very nature we're unable to acquire the blessed knowledge of God.

This knowledge can only come to us through the Holy Spirit. We pray that He may continue to show us the truth – that we're spiritually weak and in need. As He grants us to recognize our infirmity, what then would keep us from God's Kingdom? We would gladly give up a thousand earthly kingdoms for the one that God gives! We would throw away the richest earthly feast for one taste of the heavenly feast-to-come: the everlasting wedding feast of the Lamb! (See Rev.19:6-10)

When the Jews who thought they were something rejected Christ's invitation, He went first to the lowly and repentant. But then later He'd also send His Gospel, through His apostles, to the Gentiles – those outside the city. They'd received no earlier invitation through the prophets of Israel. Now they'd be powerfully moved by God to come in, driven by the Holy Spirit and His Word into a Kingdom that wasn't originally theirs. But God's generosity could do no-less-than go looking for more wedding guests, even among those who weren't His people.

Now we're His people. We Gentiles are in the Kingdom, and we celebrate with joy that God has brought us in. But we shouldn't get all puffed up, full of ourselves spiritually-speaking, as if now we're the true and right spiritual people, and the Church has been Gentile all along. Then we're beginning to sound like the prideful Jews. We should be humble, recognizing our spiritual poverty. We're guests who should never have been invited! Yet we're here. Only God's overwhelming grace has gotten us here.

As soon as we're puffed up in our spiritual identity, we begin to be lured away by other things. We begin to value the bowls of lentils out there. They appear much more than lentils to us, of course, or they couldn't lure us. They seem so important, as Esau thought that he'd die without a bowl of soup. We're easily distracted from the Gospel, from the Divine Service and from faith.

"But worldly blessings are important," we may insist. "If I can work Sundays and get better pay, yeah, I won't be able to make it to Church, but I'll be better off financially," we may think. But this is to choose what's lesser and to deny ourselves what's greater. If we must work less and make less for the sake of the Gospel, then God will preserve us nonetheless. "But what about my family?" we may ask. "I must take care of them and spend time with them." Yes, but not by sacrificing what is eternal in the process. You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength. Nothing should get in the way of hearing God's voice and believing it.

"If I miss a bunch of Sundays; it won't compromise my faith," we may insist. That's the voice of self-pride. That's the voice of someone endangering his or her faith-life, running the serious risk of falling away from the faith over time. A few Sundays turns into many Sundays, and soon faith's roots are so shallow that they can withstand almost no trouble or temptation without a fall.

Guard yourselves. You're vulnerable. We all are. Let nothing divide you from God's Gospel. Permit nothing to come between Jesus and you. Let nothing take priority over Him!

God keep us steadfast in His Word and work. He alone can keep our eyes glued to the great treasure which is Christ and Him crucified. Only the Holy Spirit's kindly preservation can prevent us from picking literally anything else instead of the Kingdom of God.

So we, the humble, the poor, the foolish, the weak, the beggars; we as God's little flock will enjoy the feast of grace that never ends! It has begun, and will only get better, forever and ever. Then we'll rise above those who thought they were wise, holy, rich and powerful – those whom God rejects. Then we who're simple, insignificant, little will enter the presence of Christ, the Bridegroom, Who throws the best wedding banquet ever – to sit next to the holy saints and patriarchs of old. Then we'll bask in the holy grace of the Lord God's majestic face, gazing upon us with favor and approval, for all eternity. 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.**

For hearts opened wide by God's love in Christ, that seeing a brother in need, we would joyfully help him with the goods of this world, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the holy Church of God, that He would send forth His servants to all corners of the earth, filling His eternal banquet hall; that He would keep His ministers steadfast to preach the blessed invitation of the Gospel; and that all hungry, weary sinners may find righteousness in Jesus Christ, Who has made everything ready by His death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our congregation, that God would grant us faithfulness through the Promise of Christ which He has given us, so that we trust Him alone and worship Him as the Giver of all good that we need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all Christians, that none of us would be surprised or dismayed when the world hates us for Christ's sake, nor turn from His love to embrace another way, but that we would love not only in word or talk but also in deed and truth, according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For tongues free from evil and lips devoid of deceit, that we may be turned in repentance from evil to do good and to seek and pursue peace, as He grants us many good days according to His promise, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those outside the Christian faith, that God would remain patient with them and delay Judgment Day so that the Holy Spirit may have opportunity to bring them into God's family of believers, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation, its leaders and our military, especially President Trump and Governor Abbott, that God would uphold us in peace and enable our leaders, lawmakers, judges and serving men and women in uniform to govern and protect us according to His will and the order of creation, knowing that all authority under heaven comes from Him, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick, the lonely and all who are in need, especially:

Holy Trinity: Allan, Frank, Tim, Eldor, Monroe and Carolyn,

St. James: Clarence, Curtis, Charles, Della, Bernice, Darwin, Tom, Ronnie, Egor, Genell, Ernest, Charles, Ginger, Walter, Lorine, Gloria, Diane, Zachary, JoAnne and Carole,

that the Lord would turn us to Himself in faith to find every need satisfied in His gracious favor, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the unborn, the widowed, and the aged, that the Lord of life and love would preserve and sustain them always in His loving care, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For all who commune with Christ and with one another today, that brought near through His blood and released from hostility in His own flesh, His peace would be upon us and between us, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the family of Joan Schumpe, as well as for all who knew and loved her, that they and we would be comforted in our sorrow at her passing, that we would rejoice in her salvation in Christ and also be made to know the consolation of God's love, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For constancy in the hope of eternal life, that we may acknowledge how God has multiplied our days and added eternal years to our lives in Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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)

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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: ♪ 304 & 349

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ LO, IN ZION A FOUNDATION [SUNG TO TLH 129]

1) Lo, in Zion a foundation
God the Father laid secure;
Grounded on it our salvation
By His Word of Promise sure.
Tho' the wrath of Satan rages
Now and ever, as of yore*,
Built upon this Rock of Ages,
Stands the Church forevermore.

2) God in Christ, with man united,
Died the death which justice sought;
Hell dismayed and heav'n delighted
Saw what sov'reign mercy *wrought.
God the Son wrought our salvation
By the ransom of His blood:
This is our secure foundation,
This our everlasting good.

3) O Thou theme of patriarchs' story,
Israel's Hope and David's Son,
Prophets' and apostles' glory,
God and Man, forever one!
Ev'ry knee shall bow before Thee,
Ev'ry tongue confess Thee Lord.
Rock of Ages, we adore Thee,
Mighty God, Incarnate Word! Amen.

(Isaiah 28:16; Romans 9:1; 22; American Lutheran Hymnal, E Cronenwett, 1880; 8787D)

** yore – of long ago, former times*

** wrought – accomplished, won for us*

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	44	--	6	\$1,561.00
St. James	48	--	3 6	\$2,046.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor					
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	37,225.00				
Actual	57,366.75		3,705.00		25
Last Week	2,370.00	125.00			
Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington					
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	68,075.00			68,075.00	
Actual	46,562.56	640.00	1,005.00	48,207.56	25
Last Week	1,946.00		100.00	2,046.00	

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

*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*.

*****DEATH**...on Thursday (6.26.25), our Lord Jesus Christ in His mercy called out of this vale of tears unto Himself, *Joan Schumpe* (St. James). Her funeral will be Tuesday at 2pm at Holy Trinity. We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ would be with and comfort the surviving family.

+++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 has wrapped 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.

+++**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**...our children once again had a great week at VBS last week (June 23-27) as we learned *Hero Hotline...Called Together to Serve God*...we had a total enrollment of 77 children...we would like to **THANK ALL** the many volunteers to help make our VBS happen...Level 1 (3-4 year olds-preschool)-Gloria Brockenbush, Teresa Exner, Cindy Clifford, Kinslee Hicks, Andrea Clifford; Level 2 (entering Kindergarten & 1st Grade) and Level 3 (entering 2nd & 3rd Grade)- Debbie Johnson, Courtney Jenke, Terri Brister, Juanita Clifford, Maggie Jo Rudd, Kaidyn Johnson, Katy Norment, Peggy Raines; Level 4 (entering 4th & 5th Grade) and Level 5 (entering 6th – 8th Grades)-Paul Tucker, Mackenzie Clifford, Juanita Clifford, Casey Faske, Teal Brockenbush; Music-Ruth Meyer; Kitchen Servers/Helpers-Lynetta Latimer, Elaine Boettcher, Nina Seifert, Peggy Raines, Kathy Dube, Judy Patschke, Linda Patschke, Mary Ann Blair, Nancy Urbanovsky, Sandy Woelfel; Recreation-Maggie Jo Rudd; James Roensch for bringing boxes for craft projects; and **ALL** who provided the yummy cookies, rice kispies, brownies, etc. for snack!!! Our Joint VBS was made successful because of YOU!!!

*****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 “**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 OMITTED LAST SUNDAY**...Holy Trinity-Kevin Patschke, 26; Norman Popelka, 26; Andrew Schubert, 28;...St. James-Vickie Iselt, 22; Christine Heller, 23; Debbie Johnson, 23; Juanita Clifford, 24; John Stacy, 25; Erin Patschke, 27. Hope you each had a wonderful birthday!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Hadley Lovell, today;...St. James-Sarah Meyer, today; Madelyn Williams, today; Mickey Milburn, 1.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Don & Michelle Holmes, 5.