

July 20, 2025

5th 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 – Jerry Falke

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Casey Faske, Donna Faske, Nancy Urbanovsky

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Acolyte – Jimmy Norment

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch

The Altar Guild – Brittney Brockenbush, Raegan Fritsch, Erin Kirkpatrick, Karen Norment

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Judy Jane Brade's birthday yesterday by her family.

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jesus Makes Fishers of Men The Lord called fishermen to be fishers of men. (*See Luke 5:1-11*) The net they would use is the message of the cross, which is foolishness and a stumbling block to the world, but to us who are being saved it is the wisdom and power of God. The power of God to save is not in spectacular signs like wind and fire and earthquakes (*see 1 Kings 19:11-21*), nor is it to be found in human intelligence and wisdom. The power of God unto salvation comes in the still, small voice of the preaching of Christ crucified. In worldly darkness the disciples could catch nothing. But in the light of Christ, Whose Word was attached to the water, the boats were filled with fish. So it is that in Baptism you have been drawn in to the ship of the Church. Though the nets are breaking and some who hear the Word of God do not believe, the Church of God continues to cast the wide net of the Gospel and the Sacraments, so that Christians may abide in the boat of the Church, and so that we may be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks the reason for the hope that is in us. (*See 1 Peter 3:18-15*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Good works follow Jesus wherever He goes. Just as the disciples followed Jesus because they believed in Him, so do we follow Jesus because we believe in Him. All who follow Jesus follow Him in doing good works in His Name.

I do not know how to change in the least what I have previously and constantly taught about justification. Namely, that through faith, as St. Peter says, we have a new and clean heart (*see Acts 15:9-11*), and God will and does account us entirely righteous and holy for the sake of Christ, our Mediator. (*See 1 Timothy 2:5*) Although sin in the flesh has not yet been completely removed or become dead (*see Romans 7:18*), yet He will not punish or remember it.

Such faith, renewal, and forgiveness of sins are followed by good works. (*See Ephesians 2:8-10*) What is still sinful or imperfect in us will not be counted as sin or defect, for Christ's sake. (*See Psalm 32:1; Romans 4:7-8*) Our entire being, both our person and our works, is declared to be righteous and holy from pure grace and mercy, shed upon us in Christ.

Therefore, we cannot boast of many merits and works, if they are viewed apart from grace and mercy. As it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord;" (*1 Corinthians 1:31*) namely, that we have a gracious God. With that, all is well. We say, besides, that if good works do not follow, faith is false and not true. (*lcmssermons.com; Smalcald Articles, Part 3, Article 13*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 485

**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: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

CONGREGATION: be gracious to me and answer me!

P: O You Who have been my help,

C: do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

P: The Lord is my Light and my Salvation;

C: whom shall I fear?

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord,

C: and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

P: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries;

C: for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

P: Wait for the Lord;

C: be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (*Psalms 27:1; 7; 9; 11-12, 14*)

♪ **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: O Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who has given us Your precious Word and blessed us with every physical blessing: We acknowledge that we are unworthy of all these things and have certainly deserved much worse, and we implore You to forgive us our sins, as You did Peter's, and bestow success and health to our calling, that we, being supported and defended by You both now and forever, may praise and glorify You for all eternity; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♫ **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 KINGS 19:11-21

P: ^{19:11} And God said to [the Prophet] Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 33

P: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise is fitting for the upright.

C: **Give thanks to the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!**

P: For the Word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

C: **He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

P: By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

C: **Let the earth therefore fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!**

P: For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

C: **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!**

P: See, 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; He is our Help and our Shield.

C: **For our heart is glad in Him, 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 PETER 3:8-15

P: ^{3,8} Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 5:1-11

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 5th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{5:1} On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the Word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when He had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your Word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed 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: ♪ 421

SERMON: TRUST IN THE LORD ALWAYS, NO MATTER WHAT – LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus said: “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” (Lk. 5:4) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Christ our Savior. Amen. Our Gospel account opens with Jesus teaching the Word of God to a large crowd of people on the shore of *Lake Gennesaret* – more commonly known as the *Sea of Galilee*. So many are there to hear Him speak of the Kingdom of God that they’re pressing upon Him something fierce. Jesus has no room to move, to speak and to be well-heard. So, mostly because there’s more room for Him to speak in a boat offshore, and also because sound travels nicely over water, Jesus hops into a nearby fishing boat. Just like you use the environment around you to your advantage, the Creator used His own creation to His advantage whenever He could.

The boat Jesus enters happens to be steered by the fisherman Simon Peter. This is no accident or chance encounter on the part of these two men! Jesus is seeking Peter out – in addition to his boat. Jesus instructs Peter to put-out a little ways from the water’s edge. It appears that Peter knows Jesus to some degree, so he agrees to take Him out to

sea a bit. Then St. Luke tells us that Jesus sits “*down and [begins] to teach*” (Lk. 5:3) from the boat. We might imagine Jesus standing the whole time, and yet teaching in that day was done while being seated.

St. Luke wasn’t moved by the Holy Spirit to record the content of Jesus’ sermon on the lake, yet it’s a good bet we know what He proclaimed here from one of the other Gospel accounts. After He’s done preaching to the crowd, Jesus has Peter drop his nets into the sea for a catch-of-fish. His words no doubt sound crazy to Peter, who’s fished all night long with his companions without netting even so much as one fish! Yet the Son of God commands the sea to do His bidding (see Ps. 107:29; Mk. 4:39), and He has dominion or power over “*the fish of the sea.*” (Psalm 8:8) And who is Peter to question the Teacher of God? So this whole sequence of events is all part of Jesus’ plan to demonstrate His power as God in the flesh, to pardon and comfort a cut-to-the-heart, repentant Peter, and to call him and his companions to be “*fishers of men.*” (Lk. 5:10)

The miraculous catch of fish that follows is a testament to the greatness and glory of God in Jesus! You see, fishermen would normally only fish at night in those days because that’s when the fish would rise closer to the water’s surface and be easy prey for the nets. During the heat of the day, fish would swim into the depths and be near-impossible to catch. Peter must be saying to himself as Jesus commands them to fish: “What is this man thinking?” If not a single fish was caught the previous night, it’ll be twice as impossible to net any in daylight!”

But Peter honors the Lord’s word, which is always a good thing to do! Peter knows that Jesus is a “*Teacher sent from God, for no one [can say and do what Jesus has done and said] unless God is with Him.*” (Jn. 3:2) This fisherman also has heard Jesus preach the Truth of God, and, not long before, Christ instantly healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a deadly fever.

As you heard just now, Peter quickly encloses in his nets a great quantity of fish, so-much-so that the nets begin to break! He even has to call for his companions in the other boat to come over and help him. They haul in so many fish that it causes both their boats to nearly sink! It’s a very profitable morning for them all indeed! Peter recognizes at once that this catch is from the Lord, so that he’s standing in the presence of someone Who’s more than merely a man. He recognizes that something divine is here. He falls down before Jesus, which actually means that he begins to worship the Lord. He further begs Jesus to depart from him, a sinful man.

Peter gets it – that at some level he’s standing in the presence of Holy God. And the first reaction he has is to become suddenly aware of his sin. Peter’s beginning to learn about Jesus: Who He is and what He can do for sinners. Simon Peter pleads for Jesus to depart from him since he dreads God’s powerful judgment against all his wrongdoings. The man has a good point! And yet, “*God did not send [Jesus] His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*” (Jn. 3:16) Thank God Jesus isn’t there that day to unleash God’s punishing wrath upon Peter – not any more than He’s here today to do that to us!

Actually, God uses the fruitless nighttime fishing of Peter, etc., to accomplish His good and gracious will – to call Peter and his brethren to His Son Jesus as His believers and disciples. In the same way, our time spent with no visible results may trouble us. Our faithful worship and our confession of our Lord, our fervent prayers, and our inviting people to come to Church with us – who then ignore our invitation – plays an important part in the plans of God for us, and for those among whom we live and confess the faith.

It’s helpful to remember that our salvation rests on what sure appeared to be defeat and failure. Jesus’ enemies triumphed over Him. They arrested Him, humiliated Him, abused Him and then executed Him under false pretenses. On Good Friday, Jesus looked to be beaten. He appeared to be the One man in Israel Who had no friends, Who was powerless to do anything about His fate. He didn’t even have a tomb to call His own. Measured by any human standard, Jesus was a failure on Good Friday. None of us would ever plan or hope for our lives to go as badly as it sure looked like Jesus’ life was going in those moments.

And yet we know that Jesus won the day on Good Friday. His victory was an everlasting victory – for Him, for us – over death, the devil, hell and all evil. He accomplished precisely what He’d come to do. He died, although innocent and actually deserving eternal life. He carried our sins instead, because He had none of His own. He paid the penalty and set us free from sin, death, hell and the power of Satan by dying in a way that appeared so helpless and pointless. By His wounds you’re healed, and because He suffered for your sins, you’re forgiven! We all are!

We’re God’s holy people, and, as such, we can’t fail. Not if we trust in the Lord. He doesn’t ask us to understand every moment or every detail of His plan, or of our own lives. Like Peter, He calls us to be faithful. He challenges you to drop the nets, so-to-speak, even when you know there’s no catch waiting in the waters. He asks you to walk in faith, to celebrate the forgiveness of your sins, to rejoice in His love and salvation, and to do many good works of love and mercy for others. This is His will for you even when it appears like everything’s in vain. He invites us to

believe His promises, to trust in Him with all our hearts – even when it seems like we’ve spent our time fruitlessly working and we have nothing to show for it.

There’ll always be some people who despair and give up. When they do, only they have failed. Jesus hasn’t failed, nor has He broken His promises. He never promised us that our lives as Christians would be easy, or fun or impressive in the eyes of the world around us. He asks you to be faithful, and to give thanks for every blessing. He asks you to not allow life to get between you and Him, but to count Him first, and to live your life firmly believing all that you just confessed in the *Creed*. Jesus calls you to stand with Him in faith, and never to give up. *“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up,”* (Gal. 6:9) He says to us through His Apostle Paul.

And the promise of Jesus is: *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”* (Rev. 2:10)

God calls us to steadfastly live in Him by faith alone – without regard for how it looks or appears to us to be going. God alone gives the blessing and He alone determines the increase. *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.”* (Ps. 127:1-2)

This applies to the little things in our lives as well as the big things, the everyday things as well as the special, spiritual things.

Trust in the Lord. He can’t and He won’t fail you – ever! While we stand with Him, we can’t and won’t fail – ever. So come and refresh yourselves at the banquet of forgiveness and life set before you this morning, and hear the voice of Jesus inviting you to drop down those nets again for a catch. Be faithful, and do not give up hope. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6) 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

P: For the Church, especially those called to be fishers of men, that they would not be discouraged when they toil all night and take nothing, but continue to let down their nets at God’s Word, according to their calling, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our congregation and the holy Church of God at large, that God would grant us, His holy saints, faithfulness to always trust Him alone and worship Him as the Giver of all we have and need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our Church families, that God would help us to not despise the low whisper of His Word, but rather to hear it with reverent and holy awe, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For faith to let down the nets of the Lord’s Word in our daily vocations, trusting His Son will do His gracious work through poor sinners like us, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For endurance to live in a sinful world, that the hope of the life of the world to come may sustain all who are wearied by the constant groaning of a broken creation and the troubles of sin, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who suffer for righteousness’ sake, that the Lord would bless and keep them in Christ from fearing or being troubled by those who persecute them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our country as we celebrate Independence Day this week, that we would remain committed to the principles of liberty and justice for all, and that our government of the people, by the people, for the people would not perish from the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For the sick, those with chronic suffering, and those recovering from illness in our congregations, especially: _____, that God would restore them to health or give them grace and strength to accept their affliction, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who commune today, that Jesus’ body and blood would strengthen our faith so that we may bear all crosses, sickness, and trials with patience and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all the saints who have gone before us and now bask in the glory of the Lord, let us give thanks, that we would be numbered among them and kept in the faith until our time in this veil of tears draws to a close, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we would not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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: ♪ 306 & 307

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 406

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

	<u>OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY</u>				
	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings	
Trinity	60	--	14	\$4,493.00	
St. James	61	--	3 10	\$1,804.25	

	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor				
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	41,692.00				
Actual	64,291.75		4,265.00		28
Last Week	4,353.00	100.00		40.00	

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	76,244.00			76,244.00	
Actual	51,873.81	690.00	1,305.00	53,868.81	28
Last Week	1,704.25		100.00	1,804.25	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY 2:30PM: Voters (Holy Trinity)
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*.

+++We express our sympathy to The Frances Kalmbach Family (Holy Trinity) on the death of her brother-in-law, Henry Kalmbach, whom our Lord Jesus called out of the vale of tears unto Himself on Friday (7-11-25). His graveside service was held on Sunday (7-13-25) in Lexington. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

*****St. James...**from the Voter's meeting last Sunday...a new parish hall usage agreement [along with a list of a deposit return checklist] was passed. There is a copy of each posted on the bulletin board outside the church offices, as well as at the parish hall for anyone interested in reading them, as well as in booking the parish hall.

+++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!

+++**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.

*****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 THIS WEEK...**Holy Trinity-Sandra Falke, today; Bryan Iselt, today; Alleen Winkler, 22; Jeff Ender, 25;...St. James-Alex Johnson, today; Matthew Clifford, 21; Lauren Williams, 23; David Roensch, 24.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...**Holy Trinity-Chris & Janet Cones, today; Paul & Melody Tucker, 21; Dennis Sr. & Dorothy Iselt, 24; Frank & Nancy Newkirk, 24;...St. James-James & Karen Norment, 24.