

July 27, 2025

6th 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
Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Jerry Falke
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Organist – Kevin Patschke
The Altar Guild – Casey Faske, Donna Faske, Nancy Urbanovsky
The Flowers – To the glory of God in loving memory of Horace Farrack by Vera and Family and in honor of the 63rd wedding anniversary this Tuesday (29th) of Wallace & Connie DeHart.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd
The Organist – Kevin Patschke
The Acolyte – Michael 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 by in loving memory of Wesley Hobbs by Helen and Family.

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.

*****THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** (at St. James)...Walker Willig Phillips, infant son of Kaitlyn and Jacob Phillips, born April 14, 2025. His sponsors are: Patrick Jatzlau, Dilyn Kieschnick (witness), Stephanie Kieschnick (witness), Emmalee Kohler (witness), Brandon Wolf (witness). God bless this child and keep him steadfast in the faith.

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

Our Only Hope is in Christ's Righteousness "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:20) God demands nothing less than perfection and holiness from you in regard to His Commandments. (See Exodus 20:1-17) Your only hope, then, is not in your own goodness but in the

goodness of Christ, Who did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them for you. In Christ, your righteousness does indeed exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. For you have been baptized into Christ's death and your sinful nature crucified. Therefore, he who has died has been freed from sin. (*See Romans 6:1-11*) You are now raised with Christ to walk in newness of life and to share in His resurrection on the Last Day. Christ has brought you through the Baptismal sea "out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (*Exodus 20:2*) Therefore, "consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (*Romans 6:11*) (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Christ was not sent by God the Father to deliver the Law; Moses already did this. Neither did He come to dismiss it, or reward us for keeping it. He came to fulfill the Law and be the righteousness by which we unrighteous sinners are saved.

All Scripture ought to be divided into these two principal topics: The Law and the promises. Of these two parts of Scripture the adversaries choose the Law, because in some way human reason naturally understands the Law. By the Law they seek the forgiveness of sins and justification. The Ten Commandments require outward civil works, which reason can in some way produce. But the Commandments also require other things placed far above reason: Truly to fear God, truly to love God, truly to call upon God, truly to be convinced that God hears us, and to expect God's aid in death and in all afflictions. Finally, the Law requires obedience to God, in death and all afflictions, so that we may not run from these Commandments or refuse them when God lays them upon us.

If we merit the forgiveness of sins by the Law, of what benefit is Christ? If we can be justified by reason and the works of reason, what need is there of Christ or regeneration? It is as though Christ had come to deliver certain laws through which we might merit the forgiveness of sins, as though we did not receive this freely because of His merits, as we indeed have! (lcmssermons.com; *Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article 4, Justification*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 287:1-6 – HOLY TRINITY; 301 – ST. JAMES

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: The Lord is the Strength of His people;

CONGREGATION: He is the saving Refuge of His anointed.

P: Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

C: Be their Shepherd and carry them forever.

P: To, You, O Lord, I call; my Rock, do not be deaf to me.

C: Otherwise, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

P: Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to You for help,

C: when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctuary.

P: The Lord is my Strength and my Shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

C: My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. (*Psalms 28:1-2, 7-9*)

♪ 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 Lord God, do not enter into judgment with us, Who have not kept Your Commandments from the heart, but regard the precious, saving merit of Your dear Son and let us always be partakers of His righteousness. Enable us also by Your Holy Spirit to walk in Your fear, true faith and holiness of living, and to beware of pride and

self-security, so that we are not cast into everlasting prison, but enter into Your eternal Kingdom; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – EXODUS 20:1-17

P: ^{20:1} And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷“You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His Name in vain. ⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119:7-14

P: The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

C: **The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

P: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

C: **They are to be desired more than gold, even much fine gold; they are also sweeter than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

P: Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

C: **Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

P: Restrain Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

C: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

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.

HYMN: ♪ 287:1-6 [ST. JAMES ONLY]

EPISTLE LESSON – ROMANS 6:1-11

P: ^{6:1} What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 5:17-24; 27-28

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ^{5:17} “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

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

HYMN (CONT’D.): ♪ 287:7-12

SERMON: TRUST, PRAY TO, WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD; YOU’VE BEEN SAVED TO DO SO – EXODUS 20:1-17

Jesus said: “I have not come to abolish [the Law or the Prophets] but to fulfill them.” (Mt. 5:17b) Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. What came first, the chicken or the egg? The question is actually set up to be head-scratching, ultimately un-answerable one, as in, who really knows for sure? We know. The Genesis record speaks of God creating land-dwelling animals on the 6th day of creation. (See Gen. 1:24-25; 31) So we can conclude that full-grown chickens came first from His all-powerful voice.

What came first, the Law or the Gospel of God? The Apostle Paul answers this question in Galatians 3:17-18: *“The [giving of the Law to Moses,] which came 430 years [after the Gospel Promise,] does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the Promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the Law, it no longer comes by Promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a Promise. Why then [did God give] the Law? It was added because of transgressions, until the Offspring should come to whom the Promise had been made.”*

So nearly 500 years before almighty God gave His Holy Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, this interaction between God and our father-in-the-faith, Abraham, occurred: *“And [God] brought [Abraham] 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.’ And [Abraham] believed the Lord, and [God] counted it to him as righteousness.” (Gen. 15:5-6)* Here God promised to make of Abraham a people holy unto Himself through one of his Offspring to come: the Lord Jesus Christ. Abraham believed God’s Word about His countless descendants-to-come – especially the Savior of the world to be born from his loins. God, by His sheer grace alone, reckoned Abraham righteous in His sight, declaring His very holiness – and that of Christ His only-begotten Son – to be Abraham’s holiness forever.

The fact that God declared His Gospel promise of salvation through faith alone in Jesus to us – well before He gave us His Law – is crucial for us. This doesn’t make God’s saving Gospel more important than His Holy Law. It means that God saves first, so that only His dear Gospel, which is *“the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16)* in Jesus, *“justifies the ungodly.” (Rom. 4:5)* *“No one will be declared righteous in [God’s] sight by works of the Law.” (Rom. 3:20)* Rather, we’re *“justified by faith [in Christ] apart from works of the Law.” (Rom. 3:28)*

In light of God's Gospel Promise coming before His Holy Law.... In view of the Father's act of redeeming us sinners back to Himself in Christ Jesus prior to laying His commands and judgments upon us, let's take a good look at the *Ten Commandments* which He's given us to keep.

What are the first words out of God's mouth regarding His *Holy Ten Commands* in Exodus 20? Not the *First Commandment*, but these words: "*I Am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*" (Ex. 20:2) So before ever laying the yoke of faithful obedience on our shoulders; before ever commanding us to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (see Lk.10:27), God points us to His glorious power to deliver His people! He has you see Him, believe in Him as "*the Lord your God [Who] is among you; [Who] is mighty to save,*" (Zep. 3:17) and then only after this as He Who instructs you in the way you should go. Faith is first as only God-given trust in Christ saves us from sin, death and hell. "Thou shalt" always follows afterward.

So you should view the *Commandments* as God's just decrees that you're to obey since He has already saved your soul in Jesus. "*He has rescued [you] from the dominion of darkness and has brought [you] into the Kingdom of His beloved Son*" (Co. 1:13) so that you may do what He says. So always keep His Law since Christ has already kept it for your salvation.

This brings us to *Commandments 1-3* which we'll focus on this morning. By them, God has us "*fear, love and trust in [Him] above all things.*" (*Small Catechism, Expl. of the 1st Command.*) Our Father in heaven prohibits us from doing the opposite of what He commands us, warning of dire consequences if we blow off His good and holy will for us and only do what our sinful hearts desire. As it is, we regularly disobey God's *Commandments* and greatly offended Him in the process. What can we do then but repent of our misdeeds and cry out to Him for mercy! Boy, does He ever then show us how He's "*compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness!*" (Ex. 34:6)

The first three *Commandments* are all about a right relationship with God. He alone is Holy God; we're not – nor is anyone or anything else. So we depend upon Him entirely as His creatures. Before you were told by God: "*You shall have no other gods before Me,*" (Ex. 20:3) He created faith in you by His Word and Spirit to believe in Him and know Him aright. Since the one true God is your God by His pure grace and favor, always hold onto Him as your Lord almighty! If you should ever fall away from believing in the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit as your God alone, forgetting Him or replacing Him with false gods and idols of this world, then you'll be doomed. Thank God that as-often-as you do break the *First Commandment* – letting this person or that one, this thing or that come between you and your God, He moves you to be remorseful over dethroning Him in your life. Then He forgives your terrible sin of not having Him as your First Love. He loves you anew and has you cherish Him above all else, as before.

If we believe in and love God; if we say He's our greatest good, then we'll profess His Holy Name with our mouths; we'll pray to Him, praise and thank Him a lot! God put His Triune Name upon you in Holy Baptism, making you His own dear child, saving you by His grace through faith in Him alone. So cherish His Name and use it the best way you can – in a reverent, holy way. Acknowledge and confess Christ the Lord before men, so that He'll acknowledge you before His Father in heaven. (See Mt. 10:32) Call upon God's Name in the good and the bad day, and He'll answer you in His great love for you! (See Ps. 50:15) If you refuse or fail to pray to God; if you don't bring your needs and earnest requests before Him, then He won't hear and answer your silence. And if you ever stop confessing Him before men, denying Jesus Christ as Lord, then He'll also deny you before His Father in heaven. (See Mt. 10:33)

When you profane God's Name by keeping it from your lips – by not confessing Him, by not calling upon Him, let the *Second Commandment* show you that you've wronged God. Then quickly repent and plead for His mercy, which He'll surely give you! And seek to honor His Name all-the-more-so!

"*Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.*" (Luke 4:8) Frequent, faithful Divine Worship is essential to us Christians. The main part of God's Divine Service to us is His doing to us all that we need for our soul's well-being. First-and-foremost, the 3rd *Commandment* – "*Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy*" (Ex. 20:8) – has to do with God being present with us and for us in Jesus. In this way He calls us to account for our many, condemning sins, but He all-the-more-so acquits us of all our guilt through the "*holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son.*" (TLH 16) The *Defense of the Augsburg Confession* declares: "*The highest worship of Christ is the remission of sins.*" (Article 3, Paragraph 33) So we worship God best as we gladly receive the forgiveness of sins in Jesus – through the ear as we hear His Word of pardon and peace to us, and through the mouth as we eat His body and drink His blood.

Divine Worship is also adoring and praising the Lord our God as we express our deep appreciation to Him for His un-surpassing goodness to us. This is found especially in a well-worn Psalm verse: “*O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!*” (Ps. 136:1) What we give to God – after He’s given us everything of Himself! – is also necessary: our love for His love; our gratitude for all He is and has done for us; our reverence for His divine majesty; our heart-felt appreciation for Christ humbling Himself as a man to save our fallen race; our first-fruit tithes to Him and His Church and our devoted service to our fellow saints, etc.

To deprive yourself of God’s Divine Service to you is to pass on God’s precious gifts meant for you. It’s to return the Lord’s gifts to Him, to say that you don’t need or care for His *Means of Grace* all that much or at all. It’s to bring upon yourself a famine of God’s Word and His Sacrament, which will surely lead to divine judgment – your eternal separation from God – if nothing changes.

There’s no greater tragedy in life than a Christian turning away from the Lord and no longer walking with Him by refusing Him, His tender mercy given in His sanctuary, and fellowship with fellow Christians! (See Jn. 6:66) It’s not easy to go to Church as the devil, the world and your sinful nature don’t want you to be here at all. They’ll do everything in their power to turn you from the House of God to wherever else you want to be – even though it’s always a house of straw that’ll eventually be consumed with fire.

So make no house but God’s House your address! Even attending less occasionally or here-and-there is bad for your spiritual health. No, we’re not God, but if we were, would we accept it if we were worshiped and called upon rarely-to-never, as if we were pretty unimportant to those whom we’ve loved with all our heart, bled and died for, saved from death and hell with all our power? You owe God everything. So cry out to Him for His mercy in Jesus when your Divine Worship stagnates or evaporates because you let it. Run to Christ Who shed His blood to wash away the deadly sin of meager worship. Bury your apathy to worship God and your acts of ditching His Divine Service to you in the wounds of Jesus! Then have a renewed, bound-and-determined will to “*worship God in the splendor of His holiness.*” (Ps. 96:9)

We’ve all miserably broken the first three *Commandments*. Which is why God the Son became man for us – to keep Commandments 1-3, as well as 4-10 blamelessly on our behalf before the Father! Without Christ, the Commandments would crush us to powder. But not only did Jesus trust in His Father alone as His God, call upon His Name as faithfully as all-get-out, and worship Him as well as He can be worshiped, Christ did this all for you! As far as God is concerned, since He has counted Christ’s righteousness as your very own righteousness through Baptism and faith, in Jesus your trust in God, your prayers and your worship of Him are flawless, acceptable in His sight!

So trust in God alone as your only true God. Honor His Name as holy and worship Him in spirit and in truth. (See Jn. 4:24) For He told you first, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love.*” (Jer. 31:3) He said to you: “*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine*” (Is. 43:1b) before ever telling you anything else. 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 12-13]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have commanded us to have no other gods before You. Keep us faithful to You alone, dethrone all idols in our life, and give us Your grace to fear, love and trust in You above all things.

Gracious God, Your Name is holy. Stop us from using it in unholy ways. Let Your Name, which You have put upon us in Holy Baptism, keep us holy, and may we always trust in the Holy Name of Jesus our Savior, and use His Name in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Almighty God, You created six days in which to work and the seventh day You made a day of rest. Grant that we may use the Lord’s Day for rest, hearing Your Holy Word and receiving Your blessed Sacrament.

Governing Father, in Your goodness You have given us fathers and mothers whom You want us to honor, serve and obey, love and cherish. Grant that by the help of Your Holy Spirit all Christian parents may bring their children up to fear and love You, and that children may not provoke their parents to anger but love, respect and obey them. Keep the families of Your Church united, and strengthen them through Your living Word.

Lord of life, You have created the world and You give life to all people. Grant that by Your grace all may respect the sanctity of life, including the life of the unborn. Let us do nothing to hurt or harm our neighbor in any way, but rather to be of help, especially in times of need.

Loving Father, You have established the estate of marriage and You continue to bless it. Give us grace to lead a chaste and pure life. Bless all who are married; enable them to remain faithful to their wedding vows, and to be patient and forgiving.

Blessed Lord, You are the Giver and Preserver of all good things. Help us to value honest work as Your gift and the means by which You bless our community and country. Give us joy as we serve others with unselfish hearts. Grant work to the unemployed and help them to use their extra time constructively and for the good of their fellow man.

Merciful Father, in Jesus Christ You have shown Yourself to be for us and not against us. Help us to be loyal to our neighbors and do nothing to damage their reputation. Show us the log in our own eye when we find a speck in their eye. Make us more ready to forgive than to judge, and to always view the actions of others in the most favorable light.

Gracious God and Father, You are the Owner and Provider of all things. Enable us to be good stewards of all Your gifts, content with what You have given us, and eager to advance the cause of others even if it is to our disadvantage. Give us a generous heart and joy in serving our neighbor, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Good Lord, bestow Your rich mercies upon the sick and the homebound, the hospitalized, the chronically ill and the lonely, including: _____. Grant that the hope they have in Your Son may grant them relief from their burdens and deliverance from their ailments. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER [PAGE 14]

HYMN: ♪ 295

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we were held captive under the Law and condemned by our sin until Your Son set us free by His blessed birth, death and resurrection for us. We give You thanks that we are heirs of Your heavenly Kingdom by Your grace through faith alone, and we pray that this gift of salvation might kindle in us a gratitude and desire to fulfill Your Law and obey Your commandments in service to You and in love for one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the Kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 297

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	57	51	11	\$1,792.00
St. James	49	36	3 12	\$1,568.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor					
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	43,181.00				

Actual	66,083.75	4,265.00	29
Last Week	1,792.00		

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	78,967.00			78,967.00	
Actual	53,436.81	695.00	1,305.00	55,436.81	29
Last Week	1,563.00	5.00		1,568.00	

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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...*Ginger Clifford, Paulette Schulze, 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.*

*****MARRIAGE**...last Saturday (7.19.25), *Sam Perry* and *Kayla Boettcher* (St. James) were united in holy matrimony in Belize. We pray that our Lord Jesus would graciously bless this marriage.

+++**St. James...**from the Voter's meeting...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.

*****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 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-Renee Dodd, today; Russell Schimank, 29; Cort Bownds, 30; Christine Wachsmuth, 30;...St. James-Harper Clifford, 28; Melissa Brown, 28; Bryan Zak, 28; Patsy Hall, 29; Taylor Brown, 1; Ginger Clifford, 1; Elizabeth Shelly, 1; Allyson Biehle, 2; Charles Hartfiel, 2; Homer Phillips, 2.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Mickey & Connie DeHart, 29;...St. James-Randall & Whitney Sullivan, 28; Leonard & Nina Seifert, 30; Ed & Shirley Drosche, 1.