

August 10, 2025

8th 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 – Jeff Winkler

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Katrinia Ender, Michelle Holmes, Meloney Tucker

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Kenneth & Karen Patschke's 50th wedding anniversary yesterday (9) by their family.

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass

The Acolyte – Korban Brown

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

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

The Altar Guild – Kim Dowdy, Kathy Dube, Debbie Johnson

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of the August birthdays of Ginger Clifford (1), Clayton Faske (6), Joshua Lay (11), Christopher Clifford (13), Eli Jenke (17), Casey Faske (31); in honor of Randall & Tammy Boehme's wedding anniversary (21); and in loving memory of Elmer Faske and Alda Bess Schubert by their Family.

The Organist – Daniel Krause

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.

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

Beware of False Prophets *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)* Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own

hearts, not from the mouth of the Lord. (*See Jeremiah 23:16-29*) They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. “*You will recognize them by their fruits.*” (*Matthew 7:20*) The “fruits” of a true prophet are faithfulness in proclaiming God’s Word. This is the will of God the Father, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones, warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding God’s Church which He purchased with His own blood. (*See Acts 20:27-38*) For the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit – namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Why does Jesus tell us to “Beware of false prophets?” These “ravenous wolves,” though pious-sounding, are destructive to souls and enemies of salvation.

In addition to the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed, we pledge ourselves to our confession of faith. We reject all heresies and teachings that have been introduced into God’s Church against it. We regard as the unanimous consensus and declaration of our Christian faith and confession – especially against the papacy and its false worship, idolatry, superstition, and against other sects – the Augsburg Confession (1530). We hold to this confession along with its Apology [Defense] (1531) and the Smalcald Articles of 1537. Such matters concern the salvation of souls. We also confess Dr. Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms (1529). They are “the layman’s Bible” because everything necessary for a Christian to know for salvation is included in them.

All teachings are to be conformed in this way. What is contrary to these confessions is to be rejected and condemned, as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith. In this way the distinction between Holy Scripture and all other writings is preserved. Scripture alone remain the judge, rule and norm. According to it, all teachings shall and must be discerned and judged to see whether they are good or evil. The other writings mentioned above are not judges like the Holy Scriptures. They are only a testimony and declaration of the Scriptures and the faith. (*lcmssermons.com; Epitome FC, The Summary Content, Rule and Norm*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 260

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

P: We have thought of Your steadfast love, O God,

C: in the midst of Your temple.

P: As Your Name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

C: Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

C: in the city of our God, His holy mountain.

P: Within her citadels

C: God has made Himself known as a fortress.

P: Let Mount Zion be glad!

C: Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments!

P: This is God, our God forever and ever.

C: He will guide us forever. (Psalm 48:1, 3, 9-11, 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: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You with our whole heart that You have caused us to come to the knowledge of Your precious Word, and we implore You to graciously preserve us in that Word and to grant us a blessed death according to it. Mercifully defend from every evil all godly preachers who faithfully proclaim Your Word, and sustain their lives. But if any handle Your Word unfaithfully and, having the appearance of godly sheep, are ravenous wolves, punish them as they deserve, graciously restrain them and keep Your dear Christendom from them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: FIRST LESSON – JEREMIAH 23:16-29

P: ^{23:16} Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷ They say continually to those who despise the Word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸ For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear His Word, or who has paid attention to His Word and listened? ¹⁹ Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹ “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in My council, then they would have proclaimed My words to My people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My Name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make My people forget My Name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot My Name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has My Word speak My Word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. ²⁹ Is not My Word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26

P: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

C: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

P: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

C: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

P: I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

C: I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O Lord.

P: I proclaim thanksgiving aloud, and tell of all Your wondrous deeds.

C: O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men.

C: In their hands are evil devices, and their right hands are full of bribes.

P: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

C: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

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.

SECOND LESSON – ACTS 20:27-38

P: ^{20:27} I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON LUKE – MATTHEW 7:15-23

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 7th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said] ^{7:15} "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and do many mighty works in Your Name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.'

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 526

SERMON: AVOID FALSE TEACHERS AND THEIR BOGUS TEACHINGS; TRUST IN CHRIST AND HIS TRUE DOCTRINE ALONE – MATTHEW 7:15-23

"You will recognize them by their fruits." (Mt. 7:20) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. "Beware of false prophets," (Mt. 7:15) your Lord Jesus says to you. In doing so, He calls upon you to be on your guard against false religious teachers. How can you tell true teachers of God and His Word from false ones? It's not as easy as you might think. Say someone quotes a verse or two from Scripture, and then goes on to say something about the texts that doesn't agree with their true, God-intended meaning. People may hear God's Word and say, "He quoted the Bible; what he said it means must be true." Yet they're at the same time being led astray because the text means one thing, while the false teacher insists it means another thing entirely.

Take John 3:3, where our Lord speaks in private with the Pharisee *Nicodemus*, who has secretly come to Jesus to find out Who He really is; what His teachings really are. Jesus tells *Nicodemus* and us: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a person is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God."* You've no doubt heard the term "born-again Christian." It's a popular description in American Evangelicalism of a person who's given his or her life over to Jesus. So if someone says, "You must be a born-again Christian in order to be a saved child of God," what this person means as-far-as Evangelicalism is concerned is that you must repent of your sins and turn to Christ for your salvation. That is, you must give your heart, your life, your all to Him. But is this what Jesus is actually saying in John 3:3 – what the text really means? Not in the least!

The term Jesus uses here refers to being born anew to God by being born from above, from heaven – and so being “reborn” of God by His doing alone! So nobody’s ever committing his or her life to Christ one bit in being born again – at least not as far as He’s concerned. God is committing Himself to us, taking our salvation into His own hands by “rebirthing” us to Himself in Jesus! How so? Jesus explains: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a person is born of water and the [Holy] Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”* (Jn. 3:5) In saying this, Christ teaches Nicodemus and us that we must be born of God, born anew to Him by way of “water and Spirit” or water joined with God’s Word, which the Holy Spirit always works through. This language always-and-only refers to Holy Baptism in Scripture. St. Peter’s divinely-inspired declaration in 1 Peter 3:21 agrees with this perfectly: *“Baptism...now saves you,”* as do St. Paul’s words in Titus 3:5: *“[God] saved us, not by the righteous deeds we [have] done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”*

The language of being renewed or given new birth, new life in the Spirit through washing screams Baptism! Bottom line: A true, living, saving faith in Jesus Christ absolutely, positively comes to you by God’s act of baptizing you! Being born again is never something you do for God – you offering yourself to Him, to be His. It’s Him baptizing you into Christ, in Whom you’re reborn forever! Since *“by [God’s] doing you are in Christ.”* (1 Cor. 1:30)

So as you can see, there’s a right and a wrong way to understand John 3:3. It’s not like you can accept both ways and say they’re both right-teaching – not any more than you should orally receive medication tablets with motor oil. The wrong way is like GPS directing you into oncoming traffic since it lies to you about how you’re to come to God as a believer and always remain in Him as a Christian. Only the true teaching of Jesus in John 3:3 and 5 comforts and assures you that He and His Spirit – through Baptism – bring you and all your fellow saints to God and make you His godly Christians forever.

Anyone who insists that you have to be born again by your own religious doing is lying to you, doing their darndest to deceive you spiritually. That person is a false teacher. Beware of him! *“Mark him”* (Rom. 16:17) or make careful note of him, and avoid him, as St. Paul advises you to do.

True, godly doctrine isn’t as easy to sift from the false teaching of man and the devil as wheat is from chaff since false prophets, in all their cunning, stop-at-nothing to make sure their religious lies sound like Divine Truth. Using one of His excellent word-pictures, Jesus compares this to a wolf cleverly dressing himself up in the hide-and-wool of a sheep – so that to all the sheepfold, he’s one of them. Just think of all the harm that he can do to them if they all think he’s just another lamb! In the same way, false religious teachers are crafty and conniving, doing everything they can to fool you into believing their word as if it’s God’s Word, even though it’s anything but. Oh, they usually won’t flat-out lie to you religiously-speaking – not any more than fish will jump out of the water and into your pail if you just throw bait at them. What they’ll so often do is sneakily mix religious falsehood in with Divine Truth – like drops of poison in one’s favorite drink.

Several years ago, I talked with a woman going door-to-door down our street one afternoon. It was during the Lenten Season, right before Holy Week. She rang our doorbell and informed me that she and her religious group were going to observe a somber remembrance of Jesus’ death in the coming days, but also a celebration of His life, and that my family and I were invited to attend the event. Her words seemed more-than-a-little-bit off to me. You see, she was describing how some people mourn and remember their recently-deceased loved ones – with a funeral and/or family get-together or what-have-you. And also how they celebrate the person’s life. Yet this isn’t what we’re ever to do to our Lord Jesus! This woman was treating Jesus as a great man – the greatest of them all! A man deserving of love, honor and tribute. But a mere man all-the-same.

It didn’t take me long to discover that this woman was a Jehovah’s Witness. The thing to know about JW’s is that they deny the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the eternal deity of the Son of God. They falsely believe that Jesus is God’s highest, greatest creation. No way is He *“God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,”* (Nicene Creed) eternally-begotten of the Father. Normally JW’s only want to “sell you” on their god, which in their case isn’t God the Father or the Holy Triune God but their fake version of Him, Who isn’t God at all since the JW god doesn’t exist. They usually don’t want to talk about Jesus since He’s not God – together with the Father – to them. And yet this woman slyly sought to convince me that she and her ilk cared very much about Jesus also. But she wouldn’t dare talk about Christ dying for our sins as God and man, nor about Him bodily rising from the dead since she couldn’t do so. She believed neither of these wondrous truths. She didn’t believe in Jesus as God and man one bit! So all she could talk about was a Jesus greater than all of us, but still only human like the rest of us. That’s not Jesus at all!

The key to recognizing and avoiding false religious teachers and their lying tongues is to run their words by our Lord Jesus. Does what they say agree with what Holy Scripture declares Him to be; what Christ says about Himself? Do their words agree with what our Savior has done for us upon the cross? Being told that you must be a “born-again Christian” in the sense that it’s up to you to come to saving faith in Jesus – that you have to choose God, flies-in-the-face of Sacred Scripture. *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you,”* (Jn. 15:16) Jesus said to His disciples and says to you, telling you how sinners come to a true, living faith in Him. *“[God] Who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the Day of Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 1:6) God Himself began His good work of faith and salvation in Jesus Christ in you – quite apart from you, your will, or any “supposed” power you have to ever come to faith in Him. And He, the Author and Finisher of your faith (see Hebrews 12:2), will see you through to His heaven by His grace and mercy in Jesus!

What does God's grace and mercy look like, sound like? You touching your forehead and saying, "I am a baptized – washed pure and saved unto God by the water and the Word of my Lord Jesus!" You hearing Jesus say to you, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My Word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*" (Jn. 5:24) And you saying back to your beloved Lord: "Amen! It is so!" You eating and drinking Christ's true body and blood and trusting with all your heart that He goes into you to give you forgiveness of sins, life and salvation!

If what you hear about Jesus out there doesn't agree with what the Bible says, it ain't any good. If it disagrees with any of the following words which we Lutheran Christians confess about our Lord straight from His Word, then it's from a false prophet who only means to hurt and destroy you. For we firmly believe that "*the Son of God assumed the human nature in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary...[s]o there are two natures – the divine and the human – inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, Who was born of the virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind. He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles' Creed.*" (Augsburg Confession, Article 3: Son of God)

If you hear anyone say that God rewards those with eternal life who choose Him, who invite Jesus into their hearts, this doesn't square at all with Biblical Truth, which is that we "*are justified by [God's] grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*" (Rom. 3:24) So neither committing one's life to Christ nor working with God for one's salvation have any Biblical support, but are both to be rejected as false and deadly to the soul.

Just as grapes never grow from thorn-bushes or figs from thistle-weeds, so the Truth of Jesus Christ's Person and Work can never originate from false, man-made teaching about our Lord. Only Christ the True Vine produces Christly fruit through His Sacred Word. Just like Jesus is the Grape-vine of His dear Church, and you're His dear vine-branches attached to Him – receiving all your sap and life from Him. (See Jn. 15:1) Jesus Himself is the healthy Tree of Life which bears only good fruit – the "fruit of faith" for you, with which you're fed and nourished. The diseased tree is Satan and all his kind – demons and people – who can't bear good fruit with all their religious lies, but only rotten, nasty, poisonous fruit meant to kill. You'll know them by their fruit – whether it glorifies Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior...or not. For "*no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.*" (1 Cor. 12:3)

Finally, just because someone calls Jesus "Lord" doesn't automatically make the person a true Christian. Believers in Jesus always look to their heavenly Father's will for them. And what is the will of God? Jesus answers: "*That you believe in Him Whom [the Father] has sent.*" (Jn. 6:29) People may very well prophesy in Jesus' Name, cast out demons and do mighty works in His Name – all without actually believing in the Name of Christ. So in the *Final Judgment*, they'll be exposed for their mere use of Jesus' Name rather than their having living faith in It. Then their fate will be sealed.

But to you and to everyone who believes in the Father and the Son.... To you and to all who are overjoyed that Jesus is Who He says He is; that He alone has done for you what He promised He'd do, this is what you'll hear from Him on the *Last Day*: "*Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!*" (Mt. 35:24) 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: Let us rejoice in God's judgments and promises, coming before Him boldly with our petitions through the merits and mediation of Christ our righteousness, Who sits at God's right hand.

For the Holy Spirit, that we may receive with thanksgiving the Word of the Lord, which daily calls us to repentance and faith; and that our hearts would be enlivened so that we hear the Word with eager hearts and prepare ourselves rightly for God's heavenly Kingdom, unhindered by any worldly teaching or vice, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the spread of sound Lutheran Christian teaching in our Church body and all over the world, and for the defeat of false teaching in the Church and everywhere, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the conversion of the unbeliever to the Christian faith, that the Lord would remove all false beliefs from the hearts of those who do not confess Him as Lord, and graciously grant them the only, true confession of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all the baptized children of God, adopted in the Son by the Spirit, that we would be kept in our Baptism, remember it every day and always be comforted by it in times of suffering with hope for the eternal inheritance prepared for us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation, that God would direct and defend all who make, administer and judge our laws; for our soldiers, police and all those who work to keep our communities safe; that God would keep us from violence, discord and confusion, pride and arrogance, and every evil course of action; and that He would teach us to grow in virtue, living at peace with everyone, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who need healing, strength or comfort, especially _____, that they would be defended from the attacks of the evil one and able to join us in God’s praise, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all the faithful who have gone before us, in whom the Word of the Lord grew until they departed this vale of tears in faith, let us give thanks to the Lord. Asking Him to bring us to share in the joys of the unending feast with them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

HYMN: ♪ 355

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Grant to us, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we heartily thank You that by Your Word You have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of Your grace. Mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false doctrine and grant that we may not become ungrateful so that we disregard and despise Your Word, but receive it with our whole heart, govern our lives according to it and put all our trust in Your grace through the merit of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 50

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY! †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	63	48	15	\$3,427.00
St. James	53	43	2 12	\$2,392.00

	Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor				
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	46,159.00				
Actual	70,030.75		4,980.00		31
Last Week	2,362.00	350.00	715.00		

	Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington				
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	84,413.00			84,413.00	
Actual	57,881.81	795.00	1,645.00	60,321.81	31
Last Week	2,292.00	100.00		2,392.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY

*Elders (Holy Trinity) and (St. James) following their service
+RESTORATION COMMITTEE (Holy Trinity) meeting

TUESDAY

following the service
9:00AM: Circuit Pastor's Conference
6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)
*Pastor's Day Off

FRIDAY

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*.

***Our joint Week Day School will begin on Wednesday, September 3. In the next week or so, information will be sent out!

+++HOLY TRINITY...**TODAY**...following the service there will be a **RESTORATION MEETING!**

***We express our sympathy to The Nathanael Schumpe Family whom our Lord Jesus called out of this vale of tears unto Himself on Sunday (7-27-25). His funeral will be held Monday (8-18-25) at Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Clarksville, Tennessee, with burial at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery in Hopkinsville. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

+++**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**...St. James-Joshua Lay, 11; Hilton Nittsche, 11; Debra Phillips, 12; Christopher Clifford, 13; Lynetta Latimer, 14; Brittany Shelly, 14.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Russell & Courtney Schimank, 14;...St. James-Jerald & Sharon Meuth, 14.