

August 17, 2025

9th Sunday after Trinity

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973

Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]

Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Jeff Winkler

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

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

The Flowers – To the glory of God by Maisie and Callum Patschke in honor of their mommy, Sarah's birthday this week Tuesday (19).

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass

The Acolyte – Rhyder Clifford

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

To Flowers – To the glory of God with praise and thanksgiving for all our blessings He gives to us.

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

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 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Steward's Shrewdness Sanctified *"The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness." (Luke 16:1-9)*
The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. Though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward Who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of His holy cross. Second, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do we have the blessed use of the earthly elements of the Sacraments – water joined with God's Word in Baptism; bread and wine in the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood. We who have and use the Sacraments will have an eternal home when this earthly home fails. These provide us aid in times of temptation. (See 1 Corinthians 10:6-13) For the Lord is our Strength and a Shield to all who trust in Him. (See 2 Samuel 22:26-34) (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: We believers are no better of ourselves than unbelievers are. So we best not take pride in our piety since that is unbelief.

First, Christians should regard and recognize the actual transgression of God's commandments as sin. Sin is also that horrible, dreadful hereditary sickness by which the entire human nature is corrupted. Yes, it is the chief sin, which is a root and fountainhead of all actual sins. Dr. Luther called it "nature sin" or "person sin." He said this to show that, even if a person would not think, speak or do anything evil (as impossible as this is), his nature and person are nevertheless sinful. Before God they are thoroughly infected and corrupted by original sin. Because of this corruption and because of the fall of the first man, the human nature or person is accused or condemned by God's Law. So we are by nature the children of wrath, death, and damnation, unless we are delivered by Christ's merit.

Second, God is not a creator or cause of sin. By the instigation of the devil through one man sin has entered the world. Original sin is multiplied from sinful seed, through fleshly conception and birth from father and mother. God at the present day still creates and makes the human nature in people.

Third, reason does not understand what this hereditary evil is. As the Smalcald Articles say, it must be learned and believed from Scripture. (lcmssermons.com; FC SD, Article 1, Original Sin)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 33

**PREPARATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD
[PAGE 15 TO 23, FRONT OF HYMNAL]**

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Behold, God is my Helper;

CONGREGATION: the Lord is the Upholder of my life.

P: He will return the evil of my enemies;

C: in Your faithfulness put an end to them.

P: O God, save me by Your Name,

C: and vindicate me by Your might.

P: O God, hear my prayer;

C: give ear to the words of my mouth.

P: For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;

C: they do not set God before themselves.

P: For He has delivered me from every trouble,

C: and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. (*Psalm 54:1-5, 7*)

♪ **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, You have blessed us bountifully and given us daily bread. We implore You, preserve us from all covetousness and enliven our hearts to share Your gifts willingly with our brothers in need, that we may be found faithful stewards of Your gifts and abide in Your grace when we are removed from our stewardship and come before Your Judgment; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 SAMUEL 22:26-34

P: ^{22:26} “With the merciful You show Yourself merciful; with the blameless man You show Yourself blameless; ²⁷ with the purified You deal purely, and with the crooked You make Yourself seem tortuous. ²⁸ You save a humble people, but Your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. ²⁹ For You are my Lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. ³⁰ For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.” ³¹ This God – His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord proves true; He is a Shield for all those who take refuge in Him. ³² “For Who is God, but the Lord? And Who is a Rock, except our God? ³³ This God is my strong Refuge and has made my way blameless. ³⁴ He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1-12

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C: **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

P: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C: **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

P: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

C: **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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 OF THE DAY: ♪ 430:1-4

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 CORINTHIANS 10:6-13

P: ^{10:6} Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is

faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 16:1-13

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{16:1} [Jesus...] said to [His] disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

NICENE CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 22]

HYMN OF THE DAY (CONT'D.): ♪ 430:5-8

SERMON: FAITHFUL IN CHRIST, SHREWD IN LOVE AND KINDNESS – LUKE 16:1-9

“The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.” (16:8a) Amen.

Dear baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. In our Gospel lesson, we're treated to Jesus' *Parable of the Unjust or Shrewd Manger* in which the business manager of a wealthy land owner manages to carelessly squander a fair bit of his master's wealth, gets fired for it as a result, and still manages to ingratiate himself to his offended boss at the end of the day. Let's take a careful look at the text to see what, exactly, is going on.

Whatever the business manager has been up to, it hasn't been good. Has he secretly been lining his pockets with his master's wealth – embezzling from him? Possibly, yet we just don't know as Jesus doesn't say. More-than-likely, he's simply been mismanaging the boss-man's goods so that he's lost a bunch of his master's wealth in the process. The manager's sole responsibility is to enrich his master by striking good, profitable business deals on his behalf. The manager is no doubt well-compensated for this, and is able to make a good name for himself and for his master. But the unjust manager has been doing the opposite, with the opposite result.

It can't be overstressed that this manager isn't a good and just man. Teaching us about the 7th *Commandment* – “*You shall not steal*” (Ex. 20:15) – the Rev. Luther wrote in the *Small Catechism*: “*We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.*” Now again, we don't know if the manager is actually stealing from his master or not. Yet even if he hasn't taken so much as a penny from him, the manager has definitely failed “*to help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.*” He has broken the 7th *Commandment*. Out of a lack of love for His master he's failed to improve and protect his property and income. Utterly failing at his job, he has done this. His sudden unemployment is well-deserved.

We know from Jesus' description of him that the manager is an unscrupulous man who deals crookedly with others left-and-right. So our Lord can't possibly commend the manager and his conduct in any way – any way, that is, except one: His shrewdness. The title of this parable is either the *Unjust or Dishonest Manager*, or the *Shrewd Manager*, so that we may wonder which title fits him better. They both do. He's unjust as-all-get-out, squandering his master's wealth with not a pang to his conscience, and then quickly reducing what customers owe the landowner – without the man's authorization. This only hurts his master's bottom line even more, making his losses even greater.

So a twice-gutted master commends his ex-business manager for his shrewdness. How in the world does this happen? The manager deals very cleverly with his master's customers who owe him revenue. Yes, the manager's been dismissed for his maleficence, yet this has only just happened, and word of it hasn't yet spread to the community. He knows that if he just takes his dismissal like a man and lives with it, does nothing, then word will soon get out as to what he did to get canned. His reputation will then be ruined, and he won't get any decent work ever again. All he'll be able to do is dig ditches or beg for money, both of which are unthinkable to him. That's when he hatches his scheme to reduce the bills of his master's customers – men who think that he still works for his boss.

The business manager's plan and execution of it is, admittedly, genius. What can the master do in the end but commend "*the dishonest manager for his shrewdness?*" (Lk. 16:8a) He's all-too-aware that his former business manager has bilked him twice-over, and yet he has done so in such a way that to everyone, to all his master's customers, the manager has come off smelling like roses. Can the landowner now tell all his customers that his business manager has hurt him financially, and is a bad man? No, not when the manager has helped them all out financially – in the land-owner's name, at his expense. All he can do is praise his ex-business manager before everyone in town, so that they'll all receive him and treat him well.

Our Lord then pivots from the parable to a truism that nobody can deny: "*For the sons of this world are shrewder in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.*" (Luke 16:8b) He's referring of course to the business manager. Like him, children of the world have no Biblical, moral compass, and therefore have nothing to stop them from doing whatever they want to do; from craftily getting away with whatever they can get away with. The sons of light, of God, by contrast, aren't nearly as "successful" in this life in a worldly-sense, since they refuse to do whatever it takes – to lie, cheat and steal – to survive and thrive. In no way, shape or form is Jesus saying that we should copy the worldly-minded in order to do especially well in this life. There's little doubt it would work out very well for us if we did as the world does in this all-too-brief life. But it would then end very badly for us!

And that's the point. The business manager is only living and acting within a here-and-now framework. For him it's all about prestige, looking good before others. When he faces a crisis of his own foolish, careless making – one that will ruin him in the eyes of others, he does whatever he can to "save face" and keep the good times rolling. If he has any thought of life after death, it's that he'll get to heaven since he escaped the failure of having to dig or beg.

Speaking of the unjust business manager and all who're like him, Proverbs 14:12 says, "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*" And by death Solomon means endless judgment in hell. Jesus likewise rebukes the Pharisees as well as all people who look to this life, who care all about their "wheeling and their dealing," their self-enrichment, their living for themselves and for this world. He says, "*They have received their reward in full.*" (Mt. 6:2) Meaning, now is as good as it's ever going to get for them. They have their "heaven" now, but not in the *Age-to-Come*.

This is obviously not the way you should go in life; how you should ever live. No way do you want to live with your heart, soul and mind centered upon you yourself, this life and what you can get out of it! Because the sure-fire end of such a life, if it can even be called a life, is a trap-door to Hades!

Bad news. While you're thankfully not a carbon copy of the business manager – a godless, unbelieving person who really only cares about number 1, you unfortunately do share some characteristics with him. We all do as sinners. We all care about ourselves more than we ought to – more than we care about others. We struggle mightily to love our neighbor as ourselves since we fail to do this to the extent that we must – that God's Law requires of us.

Rev. Luther observed that we're all self-centered people who're curved in on ourselves – with our eyes and hearts more focused inward than outward to God and to those around us. This is never good, since, even though we're not "lost, condemned souls" like the business manager is in our Gospel account, we're all guilty of many wrongs

that, by-all-rights, should still cast us – yes, even us – into hell at-the-last! The dishonest manager neither cares about nor fears his “real” plight – his end. You should; you need to! Acknowledge to God your sinful similarities to the business manager. Plead guilty before God’s throne as one who casts himself or herself down before His holy presence – not groveling, but crying out to Him for His mercy in Jesus! Imploring your Father to forgive the iniquity of your sin – your tendency to put you yourself before Him and your fellowman.

Good News. The landowner could’ve had his unjust manager imprisoned – in addition to bull-horning his misdeeds for all to hear, destroying his reputation. Instead, he absorbs the financial blow done to him by the man. He further forgives and buries the manager’s wrongdoings so that he doesn’t have to beg, dig or rot in jail. This is a perfect picture of the great-and-tender mercy that your heavenly Father shows you! All your deadly, condemning sins which you’ve penitently cast upon your Lord Jesus, God has buried every one of them deep in His precious wounds! *“Christ died for sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15)* – of which you, me, Paul and everyone else are the worst! So you’re *“justified by [Jesus’] blood,” (Rom. 5:9)* fully-acquitted by God of all sin, guilt and damnation – for the sake of Christ’s suffering, death and burial for you.

Because of this; since Christ has kept the commandment, the Law of love for you sinlessly, flawlessly, you can and are to borrow only one shrewd move from the business manager. *“Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous [or worldly] wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.” (Lk. 16:9)* Love God and your neighbor from your purified-by-Christ heart, striving to care for and serve them as best you can. Use what you have – your wealth and goods – to benefit others, providing and caring for them in their need; sharing the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them through the financial support of your Church and mission work.

I’ll close with some words from Dr. Luther: *“Through the Gospel we have been given a treasure that is not goods and gold, power and honor, joy and happiness of this world, and not even life on this earth, but it is hope – a living and blessed hope that will awaken us to life and blessedness in body and soul, perfectly and eternally. To this treasure the Gospel calls us, and in this treasure we are baptized. Therefore let us live this earthly life bearing in mind that we shall leave it behind, and let us stretch out after that blessed hope as ‘toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ’ (Philippians 3:14) and seek it and await it at all times.” (WA 34/2:117)* Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For faith, that God would deliver us from false trust in wealth and the things of this world and fix our hearts fully on Him and His goodness to us, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For mercy, that in turn we would be quick to show mercy to others, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that through the Holy Spirit’s work we may be good and faithful stewards of God’s gracious provisions, especially proclaiming the salvation He provides for all, and that we would not be captivated by worldly wealth, but instead use it for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For pastors, that they would be righteous stewards who dispense the Lord’s gifts in wisdom and abundance; and for all of God’s people, that we would make proper use of His Means of Grace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the home, that God would soften obdurate hearts, turning parents and children toward each other in love and patience; and that He would banish the spirit of impudence, stubbornness and rebellion from all, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the people of our nation and all those who govern, that ours would be a humble people, enlightened in faith and in every deed by the lamp of the true God’s perfect Word, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For integrity and uprightness, that we may be delivered from all cheating, swindling and robbery – not seeking our own advantage but the good of others, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who are sick among us, for our homebound members and all those who suffer from bodily and spiritual ailments, especially _____, that God would relieve them according to His good will and time, and that He would send rain upon the land, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who commune, that they would come to the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the grieving and sorrowful, that they might have patience in tribulation and the joy of God's salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You have forgiven our debt of sin for the sake of Jesus. Preserve us in His grace and life until that day when You gather us with Your saints in glory around Your throne; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]

PROPER PREFACE (LORD'S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER)

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: 🎵 308 [SUNG TO 314], 659 & 437

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 356

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	46	--	12	\$7,044.85
St. James	58	--	3 15	\$1,836.00

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor			Week
		Building	Missions	Cemetery	
Goal	47,648.00				
Actual	71,400.75		4,980.00		32
Last Week	1,370.00	5,374.85		300.00	

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	87,136.00			87,136.00	
Actual	59,712.81	800.00	1,645.00	62,157.81	32
Last Week	1,831.00	5.00		1,836.00	

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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*.

+++**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.

***Our joint Week Day School will begin on Wednesday, September 3. Please be looking for bus permission forms that were sent out this past week so you can return to the church and school! Thanks!

+++**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-Johnnie Cain, 21;...St. James-Carl Iselt, today; Ruth Meyer, 20; Cadence Hentschel, 21; Katie Johnson, 21; Jewell Glover, 23.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...**St. James-Donnie & Mickey Milburn, 22.