

August 3, 2025

7th 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 – Jeff Winkler

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

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

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Acolyte – Boone Brockenbush

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 by The Dolores Sullivan Family in honor of the birthdays of Jeffrey Brade on Wednesday (6) and Randall Sullivan on Thursday (7).

The Organist – Daniel Krause

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 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jesus Restores Paradise and Feeds Us Freely In the Garden of Eden, our first parents received food freely from the gracious hand of God, apart from any burdensome work. (*See Genesis 2:7-17*) But after the fall, food would be received only through toil and labor. The curse declared, “*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground.*” (*Genesis 3:19*) In other words, “*The wages of sin is death.*” (*Romans 6:23a*) But into this wilderness world came Jesus the Messiah to restore creation. Having compassion on the weary multitudes, He renewed the bounty of Eden on the third day, freely granting an abundance of bread to the 4,000. (*See Mark 8:1-9*) So also our Lord, having endured the burden of our sin, was raised on the third day to bring us back to Paradise. He now miraculously turns the bread of death into the Bread of Life in the Sacrament, giving you His very body and blood for your forgiveness. For “*the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (*Romans 6:23b*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: The daily bread we receive in our lives today is no less a miraculous and gracious provision of God than was the feeding of the great crowd from so little.

The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: Give us this day our daily bread.

Small Catechism Explanation: What does this mean? God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked people; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Everything that belongs to the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, etc.

Large Catechism Explanation: Here we consider the necessities of our body and of the temporal life. For in praying for daily bread, you pray for everything that is necessary in order to have and enjoy daily bread. You also pray against everything that interferes with it. Therefore, you must extend your thoughts not only to the flour bin, but also to the distant field and entire land, which brings to us daily bread and every sort of nourishment. For if God did not cause food to grow and did not bless and preserve it in the field, we could never take bread from the oven or have any to set upon the table. (*Small Catechism; 4th Petition, Lord's Prayer/Large Catechism; Part 3, Lord's Prayer*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: 🎵 12

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: Clap your hands, all peoples!

CONGREGATION: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

C: a great king over all the earth.

P: He subdued peoples under us,

C: and nations under our feet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P: For God is the King of all the earth;

C: sing praises with a Psalm!

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on His holy throne. (*Psalm 47:1-3; 6-8*)

♪ **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, by Your Son You fed four-thousand men, besides women and children, with seven loaves and a few small fish. Graciously abide among us also with Your blessing. Keep us from covetousness and the cares of this life, that we may seek first Your Kingdom and righteousness and mercifully be made to know Your generous, fatherly goodness in all our needs of body and soul; through 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 – GENESIS 2:7-17

P: ^{2,7}Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145

P: I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your Name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless You and praise Your Name forever and ever.

P: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

C: One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

P: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

P: The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

C: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

P: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.

C: You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.

P: The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

C: The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

P: He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He also hears their cry and saves them.

C: My mouth will speak the Lord's praise, and let all flesh bless His Holy Name forever and ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON – ROMANS 6:19-23

P: ^{6,19}I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MARK 8:1-9

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{8:1} In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, ² “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with Me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴ And His disciples answered Him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵ And He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶ And He directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, He broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, He said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹ And there were about four thousand people. And He sent them away.

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: ♪ 19

SERMON: DEAD TO SIN AND DEATH; ALIVE, RIGHTEOUS AND ABIDING IN JESUS – ROMANS 6:1-11; 19-23

“Present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.” (Rom. 6:19) Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. What in the world could be worse than the fact that “*sin... brings forth death;*” (James 1:15) “*the soul that sins shall die;*” (Ez. 18:20) “*the wages of sin is death;*” (Rom. 6:23a) Death happens because of our will, our decision, our treachery and rebellion against almighty God. In the *Garden of Eden* God said to the first man, Adam – a representative of us all: “*You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.*” (Gen. 2:17) Adam wasn’t fated to disobey God; he didn’t have to do so, nor should he have ever done so! Yet our first father let the lying tongue of Satan and the desire of Eve prevail over God’s Word and will for them both and for us, so that something the Lord God never desired or chose for Adam, for Eve and for us came upon every one of us: death. You may not have eaten of the forbidden fruit in Genesis 3, but you’ve consumed it in a myriad of other God-dissing, your fellow man-trashing ways.

Death, as Holy Scripture describes it – as it really, truly is, isn’t what the unbelieving world thinks it is. It’s not simply the end of life on earth, and that’s it. It’s also being cast by God into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels (see Rev. 20:14; Mt. 25:41) – endless judgment, torment in the prison-house of hell. All who suffer there will have it worse-than-bad as they face ceaseless “*weeping and gnashing of teeth.*” (See Mt. 13:42) So death is the end of one thing and the beginning of something else entirely.

In Last Sunday’s epistle lesson, St. Paul took a chainsaw to the belief that it’s a-okay for us to commit all kinds of sins with fearless abandon; to do whatever we want or what’s right in our own eyes – since God in His love will then forgive us anyway, and later let us who’re “rinsed” go on to repeat. A good look through the clear lens of Scripture lets us see all the problems that arise from this horrible mindset.

For one thing, what do you think the chances are that God will pardon someone who doesn’t show a shred of remorse, who sorrows over his misdeeds not a tad? If his eyes even bother to moisten, it’s from the crocodile tears of fake repentance. Sin is always to be despised, opposed, repented of, wished to be forever rid of, forgiven by God, sunk into the depths of the sea! (See Micah 7:19)

For another thing, wallowing on-and-on in our sins – like a pig in its filth – with the false assurance that God’s grace will abound all-the-more for us, won’t only cut us off from His grace, but will also make us more callous, hardened, determined sinners. Our situation will only get worse, deteriorating to an inevitable end - if nothing changes.

The person who lives in open, unrepented-of sin – with a continual lust for more, also doesn’t really care to be forgiven by God in Christ for the transgressions he wants to persist in. This is the run-of-the-mill, normal course of things for the unbeliever, but never for the Christian. The proverb for the believer in Jesus is always: *“Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”* (Rom. 12:9) Also, *“turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.”* (Ps. 34:14)

When St. Paul asks us pointedly, *“Are we to continue in sin [so] that grace may abound?”* (Rom. 6:1) he’s asking us if we really think that it’s okay for us to let our sin overcome us, control and define our lives, and then to expect God’s grace to “pay the fine” for our trespasses so that we can go on merrily trespassing. Paul’s firm answer to this question is also to be our reply and firm belief: *“By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”* (Rom. 6:1) With these words the Apostle introduces another death done to us by the Lord – this time a very good death!

God has put sin to death in you! In-so-doing, He has also slayed death itself in you. St. Paul goes on to vividly describe how your heavenly Father joined you to Jesus in His sacrificial death for you. Since you died with Christ, or were united with Him in His holy, precious death for you in Baptism, you died to unbelief, all sin and every evil. So you’re dead to all worldly wickedness, all transgressions and godlessness. You’re *“alive to God in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 6:11) since He also joined you to Jesus in His resurrection. So it’s like this: Christ died for your sin; you died with Him to sin, the devil and all evil. Christ is risen for you; you’re risen in Him to faith and new life in His Name!

This doesn’t mean that you’re now free from sin or can reduce you’re sinning to near 0 or 0 itself. What it does mean is that *“sin shall no longer be your master”* (Rom. 6:14) since, in Jesus, God has killed sin living in you forever! *“For one who has died has been set free from sin.”* (Rom. 6:7) You can resist sin just as you can and are to resist the devil. (See James 4:7) You’re to detest sin; you’re never to be fine with it or set your heart on it. You’re to oppose it tooth-and-nail, setting yourself squarely against it, as against its Siamese, conjoined twin: death. And as your sinful nature and temptation lead you into transgressions that spite God, offend and wound others and hurt you too, you’re to grieve over your wrongdoings and cry out to God in remorse, saying: *“What have I done?”* (See Jer. 8:6) You’re to lay your sins on Jesus just like you seek to be rid of a terrible infection, a cancerous lesion or tumor, crying, *“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”* (Lk. 18:13) Then He always forgives the iniquity of your sin! (See Ps. 32:5) He says to you as well: *“Go and sin no more,”* (Jn. 8:11) meaning, resist your sinful inclinations with God’s help and all your Christian might!

Which brings us to today’s epistle. Paul writes: *“Just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.”* (Rom. 6:19) Before God in His Gospel declared us righteous by faith alone in Jesus, we all were formerly slaves to impurity and lawlessness multiplied. Despising God is all we could do and did do – never fearing, loving and trusting in Him. Never loving our neighbor as ourselves. We were *“dead in [our] sins”* (Eph. 2:1) – true spiritual corpses.

But since Christ’s death at Calvary put unbelief and sin to death in you, now you’re a believer in Jesus – alive unto God to *“present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.”* (Rom. 6:19) Once you had a shackled heart to do only evil all the time. Now you have a heart freed in Jesus and a living faith in Him to do what honors God. *“Sin shall no longer be your master!”* (Rom. 6:14) Your true-and-only Master is Jesus Christ the *Pantocrator*, Greek for all-powerful Lord of the cosmos, Ruler over all! For we all must be slaves to something as God’s creatures: either to Christ and His righteousness or to sin and all evil, the devil and his hell. There’s no third option – no imagined, fantasy “neutral ground.” So keep on being a loyal, devoted servant to your loving Lord!

What does it mean to *“present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification?”* (Rom. 6:19) Our *Lutheran Book of Concord* calls this *“repentance in its entirety or the...newness of life [in Christ] and its fruits.”* (Defense of the A.C., Confession and Satisfaction, 35) This not only means being decisively, 180° turned by God from Satan to God, from sin and death to the righteousness of Christ and life, but also living a *“faith active in love”* (Gal. 5:6) and good works. It’s living a Christ-centered, cross-focused life in which our Savior’s red, shed blood has washed away all our guilt and condemnation. It’s our Lord making complete satisfaction for all our sins, and us never having to make satisfaction for a single one of them by our conduct, since this never works. It’s Jesus purifying us before the Father, so that we don’t ever need to fear sin, God’s wrath for it, death and hell! So that we may be busy doing a lot of good which we’re meant to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10 nicely explains our “*righteousness leadings to sanctification.*” (Rom. 6:19) This is where God’s saving work for us in Jesus – and never our own work – wins eternal salvation for us, and equips and leads us to do good works pleasing to God and beneficial to our neighbor. “*By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not by [your] works, so that no one can boast. For [you] are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as [your] way of life.*” Sanctification is God at work in you “*to strengthen and mature [your] faith and [the] life that [you] live in Christ’s righteousness,*” (Good News, Issue 5, Sanctification, 17) so that you love, “*serve and help [your] neighbor*” (TLH 429:2) again-and-again! So keep at it!

Death never supposed that it would be interrupted and ended by Jesus’ holy, precious death. But death itself has been stopped, killed in you by your Savior. So don’t fear sin and death! “*For [your] sin is slain through [Christ’s] death – taken away, in order that it may no longer live in [you] but die and be dead forever.*” (Luther’s Sermon for Trinity 6, 1535, WA 22:9)

Hell never supposed that it wouldn’t receive you from death’s cold grip, but it can’t and it won’t ever claim you since Christ Jesus already suffered hell’s anguish in your place!

Praise the Lord that “*you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, [so that] the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life!*” (Rom. 6:22) You no longer have to be obedient to sin, as if it rules over you and forces your hand still, because it doesn’t anymore! So don’t enslave yourself to it any further! “*You are now released from [sin’s] power*” (Luther’s Sermon for Trinity 7, 1534, WA 22:106) in order to live under the glorious reign of Christ the Lord. You are His, and so you “*live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.*” (Small Catechism, Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Creed) 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 the faithful gathered here, that our almighty Maker would give us hearts to receive His gifts with thanksgiving; that He would free us from the cares of this world and fix our eyes on the saving work of Christ; and that He would root us in His Word, so that we look to Him for every need and remain faithful until death, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the conversion of unbelievers, that the closed ears of unbelief of many would be opened to God by His Mighty Word. And for our missionaries in this country and around the world, that all people would receive the bread of everlasting life given in the Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from the assaults of the devil, and our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation, that our leaders would govern wisely; and for all in our armed forces, that they might serve honorably under God’s protecting hand, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all mankind, made in God’s image and given this dignity and worth in His sight, that His gift of earthly life would be defended at every age, from natural conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who labor to produce food and shelter, safety and peace, especially for those in need, that their work would be blessed and we would be led to recognize God’s gracious hand in all things, receiving our daily bread with thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, those who suffer and grieve, and those for whom our prayers have been desired, especially _____, that the healing hand of Christ might rest on them, with His comfort, joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those gathered here to receive the Lord’s Supper, that they would be given the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of Christ, our Savior, and share, even now, in the eternal life of paradise, 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.**

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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, fulfilling Your will and gaining a holy people for You. 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: ♪ 307, 372 & 658

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 47

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	45	--	13	\$1,585.00
St. James	110	--	3 12	\$2,493.00

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	44,670.00				
Actual	67,668.75		4,265.00		30
Last Week	1,585.00				

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	81,690.00			81,690.00	
Actual	55,589.81	695.00	1,645.00	57,929.81	30
Last Week	2,153.00		340.00	2,493.00	

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THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

+1st Day of the 2025-26 Lexington ISD School year

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.

*****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-Clayton Faske, 6;...St. James-Jeffery Jatzlau, today; Colby Bexley, 4; Jeffrey Brade, 6; Kamryn Johnson, 6; Heather Exner, 7; Robert Pelham, 7; Randall Sullivan, 7; Maggie Jo Rudd, 8.

+++ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...Holy Trinity-William & Heather Cain, 4; Kenneth & Karen Patschke, 9;...St. James-William & Kim Dowdy, 5; Robert & Stephannie Pelham, 5; Taylor & Rachel Brown, 6; Pastor & Ruth Meyer, 6; Wes & Kayla Stanley, 7; Jacob & Trish Ammon, 8.