

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com
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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Debbie Winkler

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 – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch
The Altar Guild – Vanessa Clifford, Mickey Milburn, Jacki Lay, Margie Zak
The Flowers – To the glory of God in loving memory of Ferman Iselt Sr. by his family.

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Jesus Overpowers and Defeats Satan God's Prophet Jeremiah was falsely charged – by the faithless priests and prophets of Judah – with speaking evil against God, His people and His temple when in fact Jeremiah spoke the Word of the Lord to them. (*Jeremiah 26:1-15*) The Lord Jesus is likewise accused of being evil and doing the devil's work when in fact He is God, doing His good work. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak. (*Luke 11:14-28*) His bitter opponents falsely allege that He is driving evil spirits out of people by the power of Beelzebub, the devil. They callously refuse to recognize the finger of God – the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man Who overcomes the strong man, Satan. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us from sin, unbelief and judgment by the water and the Word of Holy Baptism. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord. (*Ephesians 5:1-9*) As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him Who saved us. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:28) The heart of faith is kept full of Christ and occupied with the things of the Spirit so that, swept clean of sin, His baptized believers do not return to the evil from which He has saved them.

All those who have been converted to God, who believe in Jesus, have been freed and exempted from the curse and coercion of the Law. Nevertheless, they still need the Law. They have been redeemed by God in order that they may exercise themselves in the Law day and night.

We believe, teach, and confess that the preaching of the Law is to be encouraged diligently. This applies not only for the unbelieving and impenitent, but also for true believers, who are truly converted, regenerate, and justified by faith. Although believers are renewed in the spirit of their minds, in the present life this regeneration and renewal is only begun, not completed. Believers are, by the spirit of their minds, in a constant struggle against the corruption of their flesh all their lives.

God's Law is also necessary so that the old Adam may not use his own will, but may be subdued against his will. This happens by the warning and threatening of the Law, but also by punishments, so that a person may follow and surrender himself as a captive to the Holy Spirit.

The works of the Law are forced upon unbelievers. The works of the Holy Spirit are done by the Spirit at work in believers. They act as though they know of no command, threat or reward. In this way, God's children live in and walk according to God's Law. St. Paul calls this the "Law of Christ." (*Formula of Concord: Epitome, Article 6, The Third Use of the Law*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 151, 1-4

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

CONGREGATION: Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

P: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be put to shame; Do not let my enemies exult over me.

P: The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.

C: Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

P: Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!

C: Do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in You. (*Psalm 25:1-2, 15-18, 20*)

♪ 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, Who sent Your Son into the world to destroy the works of the devil, we implore You to keep us from false security, curb the tyranny of the wicked foe, protect us from him and graciously preserve us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations, that being daily defended from the evil one, we may fear, love and trust in You according to Your Word and finally obtain everlasting salvation at the end of our lives; 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 – JEREMIAH 26:1-15

P: ^{26:1} In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord: ²“Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. ³It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. ⁴You shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My Law that I have set before you, ⁵and to listen to the words of My servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.””

⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the Name of the Lord, saying, “This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?”” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that He has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

HYMN: ♪ 179

EPISTLE LESSON – EPHESIANS 5:1-9

P: ^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 11:14-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{11:14} Now Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶ while others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it

is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”

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): ♪ 151, 5-7

SERMON: NO SERVANT OF SATAN BUT THE SON OF GOD SENT TO CRUSH THE DEVIL’S HEAD FOR YOU – LK. 11:14-23

“When one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor...and divides his spoil.” (Lk. 11:22) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. My father’s favorite type of sermon is what’s known as an expository sermon. In it, the Scripture lesson at-hand is explained or expounded upon in a detailed, thorough way, usually verse-by-verse. So let’s exposit our Gospel reading for today, especially as my dad has encouraged me to preach this way.

“Now Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.” (Lk. 11:14) After Satan seduced Adam to eat fruit of the forbidden tree, plunging him and us all into sin and death, God comforted a sin-wrecked Adam that His Son would crush the head of the snake for all mankind. (See Gen. 3:15)

The beginning of Jesus’ crushing the devil’s head is His driving Satan’s demonic underlings out of people horribly possessed by them. God the Son does this not only to rescue the demon-controlled from Satan’s cruel, iron grip and to bring them to God His Father, but also to fulfill Holy Scripture as God’s promised Messiah and Deliverer of His people. Saving people from the devil’s clenched fist is our Lord Jesus’ specialty.

The demon preventing the poor fellow from speaking will never budge or leave him be. No one but Jesus can compel it to stop tormenting the man and to scam. As you hear of Jesus casting the demon out of the mute man so that He’s saved by the Lord and can talk again, rejoice in Jesus with him! See Genesis 3:15 fulfilled as our Savior starts to step on the proud head of Satan! For *“the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 Jn. 3:8)* See yourself in this text, O Christian, since Christ your true Exorcist drove Satan clean out of you in your Holy Baptism! And He keeps the devil from owning you again, devouring you like a ravenous lion – by-way-of your Baptism in God’s Triune Name and by His Word which saves and shields you from the devil’s lies and rage.

The onlookers marvel at Jesus’ ability to drive demons from people. He shouldn’t be able to do this – not unless He’s God’s Chosen One, sent by Him to redeem His people. They’re no doubt asking one another, “Could this be long-awaited Messiah of God?” They don’t know, but they’re open to the possibility.

“But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons.’ (Lk. 11:15) Others are not at all open to the possibility that Jesus is, in fact, God’s anointed Redeemer of Israel and the world. Jesus’ enemies and detractors – like the Pharisees, chief priests and teachers of the Law – accuse Him of being a servant of Satan. They see peoples’ pleased reaction to Christ casting an evil spirit out of a man and, hating Jesus and refusing to believe in Him themselves, they come up with their own alternate explanation on how He’s able to do this. Jesus’ opponents want people to believe – as they believe – that He’s really an agent of the devil, and that he’s casting demons out of people by the devil’s power. In other words, He’s only pretending to be sent from God, but is actually under Satan’s control – on his “payroll.”

They think this in their evil hearts because they refuse to believe that Jesus is the Anointed One Who’ll restore unto them and unto us the joy of God’s salvation. (See Ps. 51:12) How come? Because they reject and deny Holy Scripture where it’s written that God’s Son and Messiah will crush Satan’s head and defeat him for us once-and-for-ever. Because they don’t believe that they and all people need the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of God through faith alone in His only-begotten Son, and eternal life in His Name. They believe that they have all this in-and-of themselves; all by themselves. Who needs the righteousness of Christ when they’ve got their own?

You know that you’ve been firmly and forever joined to Jesus, your Savior God! Unless you should turn away from Jesus and no longer follow Him, think very little of Him, even call Him evil yourself. May this never be! Don’t ever

do so! Since Jesus Christ has staked everything, His “all” on you by becoming incarnate, by faithfully serving God, by suffering, dying and rising again for you, you must stake yourself, your life, all that you are – here and in the Age-to-Come – on this man Who’s God, Who has driven out and defeated the devil decisively for you and for all people on the holy cross, and has tread him into the dirt in endless shame and contempt. Which means you’re identified with your Lord Who is branded a “son of Satan” by so many in the world today – just as He was in His time on earth. Our Lord reminds us, as He reminded His disciples: *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ... [B]ecause you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”* (Jn. 15:18-20)

As long as you’re joined to Jesus in this fleeting life, you’ll suffer shame and contempt for being one with Him and with all His elect saints. You’ll be branded an ally of the devil too. If not from those close to you, it’ll be from others who despise Jesus and all those associated with Him. Don’t despair over this! Bear the shame and contempt heaped upon you as a “badge of honor.” Rejoice, as Jesus’ apostles did after being persecuted for proclaiming Him; rejoice that you *“are counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name”* (Acts 5:21) of Christ. Stand with your Savior; believe in Him and profess Him all-the-more resolutely! Be assured that He first bore all shame and contempt for you in His body on the tree. And He’ll remove the spite and shame you receive in this life when He brings you home. Only Satan’s well-deserved shame and contempt will hang on him eternally.

“But [Jesus], knowing their thoughts, said to them, ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.’” (Lk. 11:17-19) Jesus uses His all-knowing power as God to determine the evil thoughts of His enemies. Rather than simply deny that He’s a secret servant of Satan, the Lord points out the total absurdity of their blasphemous allegation. As our midweek Lenten sermon this past Wednesday put it, *“It is ludicrous to say that Satan would cast out his own demonic forces. As a principle, ‘a house divided against itself cannot stand.’”* (The Hand of the Lord, Lenten Series: Midweek 2, CPH, 2025)

The Truth of Who our Lord Jesus Christ really is – the only Son of the Father come for us in the flesh, the Second Person of the Blessed Holy Trinity, our crucified, risen and ascended Lord of glory, the eternal King and Lord of the cosmos, (see Col. 1:16) always prevails over what He’s falsely accused of being: a servant of Beelzebul, a Samaritan, demon-possessed, (see Jn. 8:48) an illegitimate child sired out of wedlock, (See Jn. 8:39; 41) etc.

Some of Jesus’ bitter foes even have kin who’re casting out demons in His Name! So Jesus is saying, “Would you also call your very own sons servants of the devil?” No they sure wouldn’t! It’s just beautiful how Jesus obliterates their baseless, hateful opposition to Him!

“But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Lk. 11:20) As God’s Son sent from above, Jesus is definitely doing the work that only God can do. He’s fulfilling His Father’s holy will for us sinners. The “finger of God” is the divine power of almighty God, so that Christ is the finger of God. He sits at the Father’s right hand – the position of all power, glory, honor, wisdom, blessing and might! (See Rev. 4:11; 5:12) St. Paul says something similar in his letter to the Romans: *“[Jesus] Christ...is God over all, blessed forever.”* (9:5)

When the Lord Jesus came into the world, He brought with Him the Kingdom of heaven. So wherever our Savior is, there is God’s Kingdom! Moreover, He purchased and won you into His heavenly Kingdom, in which you’re now found in His blessed Church. And He forever loves you, abides with you and cares for you in His Churchly Kingdom through His Holy Word and Sacraments!

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.” (Lk. 11:21-23) *“We [were] all conceived and born sinful and [were] under the power of the devil until Christ claim[ed] us as His own”* (LSB 268) in Baptism, our Baptismal liturgy declares. As long as Satan held us captive in sin and unbelief in his vile kingdom, we couldn’t get out since we were dead in sin, powerless before the devil. We were hopelessly doomed slaves of Satan the strong man. Then Christ the stronger man defeated the devil for us on the cross, stormed his kingdom and plundered it, redeeming us from it for good! This is what Holy Scripture means when it says: *“[God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and has brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”* (Col. 1:13-14)

Jesus sternly warns that whoever despises the great salvation that He’s won for all people from His cross remains in the devil’s keep and will be scattered or condemned in endless torment with Satan. Whoever remains in Jesus by

God's gracious gift of faith alone is forever one with Him and all His blessed saints, and is gathered to Him forever. So "remain in [Jesus], and [He] in you!" (Jn. 15:4) "Be faithful unto death, and [He] will give you the crown of life!" (Rev. 2:10)

Jesus' enemies "were so deceived by Satan's power that they couldn't see liberation from his captivity when it was happening right before their eyes." (The Hand of the Lord, Lenten Series: Midweek 2, CPH, 2025) Thank God we see and believe in God's liberation from sin, the devil and hell as it happens right before our eyes: in Holy Baptism; in the declaration of the forgiveness of sins to the penitent; in wounded, hurting sinners hearing, believing, being saved by the Gospel of salvation!

Praise God that Christ Jesus "defeated the devil by crushing [his] head and crying out from the cross, 'It is finished!'" (Good News, It is Finished, Issue 2, 6) So that God is forever reconciled to you and to all believers in Jesus by His shed blood. And so that Satan no longer has any claim on you since you're God's dearly beloved sons and daughters in Christ! 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: Almighty God, guard the souls of Your people against the devil and his demonic cohort who afflict the world. Arm Your Christians with spiritual weapons, sharpen our tongues with the words of Christ, and overthrow all the power of the devil. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we thank You that Christ has disarmed the devil and liberated us by His blood, bringing us into His ranks together with all the saints. Preserve all Christians in the faith until life's end. Do not permit anyone to abandon or blaspheme Your Spirit's work and the forgiveness of sins. Turn us in brotherly love toward one another to live always according to God's holy will. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the false priests and prophets of Judah refused to heed the warnings of Your true prophet, Jeremiah, and repent of their evil. Give Your Church godly patience to hear Your words of rebuke in faith, to repent of all our sins and to seek the forgiveness You eagerly extend to us in Christ our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church, preserve and bless Your Church on earth, and do not let us fall into the sin of pride and self-confidence. Grant boldness to Your ministers as they preach Your Holy Word to all, that everyone who hears it would repent and believe the Good News of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Saving God, we pray for the conversion of unbelievers, that their closed ears would be opened by Your mighty Word, Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You call us to live in purity and holiness. Protect and guide Christian families to love and seek chastity and decency, learning to grow in virtue and all godly living. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Governing Lord, direct the hearts of our leaders and teach them to respond faithfully to the dangers and disasters that arise. Lead them to humble themselves under Your hand and serve us sacrificially. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Creator of all things, You govern our world for the good of Your people. Provide reasonable weather, refreshing rains, preserve us from plague and famine and enrich us by the fruitfulness of the earth according to Your gracious design. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, You have given us Your own Spirit in our Baptism into Christ. Defend us from all spiritual attacks. Guard us in body and soul. Help those afflicted by any adversity, especially _____, and lead them to renewed strength and peace. And comfort all who mourn with the consolation of the risen Christ [especially _____.] Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 144

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: O God, Whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: ♪ Amen.**

P: Lord Jesus, Son of the Most High God, You freed many from their bondage to demons, demonstrating Your power over the evil one. Show us Your mercy when we are overcome by the darkness of sin, death and the devil, and protect us by Your mighty Word that does what it says; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:  148

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	71	52	17	\$2,452.00
St. James	41	34	2 7	\$1,520.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	16,379.00				
Actual	26,294.00		1,850.00		11
Last Week	2,352.00		100.00		

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	29,953.00			24,507.00	
Actual	20,260.00	165.00	60.00	20,485.00	11
Last Week	1,520.00			1,520.00	

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THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

3:40PM: Week Day School
7:00PM: Joint Lenten Vespers (at St. James)

THURSDAY

10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY

2:00PM: LWML Spring Rally (at Holy Cross, Warda)...registration begins at 1:30pm

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++We remember in our prayers:...at Holy Trinity...*Frank Newkirk, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche*;...at St. James...*Charles Hartfiel, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Stefanie Raines* [wife of Lucas Raines (St. James)], *Diane Sommers* [sister of Janet Frosch (St. James)], *Zachary Hartfiel* [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], *Tim Faske* [relative and friend of St. James members], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

***We express our sympathy to **The Eldor and Monroe Brade Families** (Holy Trinity) on the death

of their nephew, Lester Melcher, whom our Lord Jesus in His grace and mercy called out of this vale of tears unto Himself on Tuesday (3-18-25). His visitation (1pm)/ funeral service (2pm) will be Tuesday (3-25-25) at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Chapel in Rockdale. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

+++**TURKEY AND DRESSING**...Holy Trinity will be sponsoring their annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner on Sunday, April 6th, beginning at 10:30am at their parish hall with drive thru serving only! Each dinner will be \$13.00. Proceeds will be used for Church and Parish Hall improvements.

*****Noodle Making and Fundraiser:** St. James LWML will be making noodles on Tuesday, April 1, beginning at 8:30AM. All volunteers are welcome to help!!! We are also in **need of Gold Medal flour donations**. Please drop them off at the church or parish hall before April 1. If anyone would like to pre-order noodles, we are selling them for \$10 a pound. Place your order(s) with Lynetta Latimer or Sandra Lay. Thank you for your support!

+++**LWML Spring Rally:** All ladies are invited to attend the LWML spring rally hosted by the Mt. Calvary ladies but held at Holy Cross, Warda, **next Sunday**, March 30. Registration begins at 1:30, and the rally begins at 2:00. The theme for the rally is "Invited," based on Psalm 66:16. The speaker is Rev. Ryan Neuhaus, CEO of Camp Lone Star. A light meal will be provided after the rally. Hope to see you there!

*****Sock and Underwear Drive:** St. James LWML is sponsoring a sock and underwear drive for Orphan Grain Train will be extended through **next Sunday**, March 30, to allow time for everyone to get their donations in. We are collecting new socks and underwear for kids ages infant through teen. Thanks for your help!

+++**St. James**...we have Confirmation and Easter cards on display on the table in the hallway, as well as a variety of cards available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

*****SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AND THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...Our Sunday morning Bible study prior to the Divine Service – for the season of Lent – will take a look at how our Lord Jesus' hands served us in His earthly ministry all the way to the cross. It is entitled "The Hand of the Lord." For our Thursday morning Bible study, we will be journeying through the Book of Acts.

+++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-Edwin Albrecht III, 25; Sarah Castell, 27; Wilbert Iselt, 27;...St. James-Kayla Stanley, today; Bernice Lay, 24; Zachary Brown, 27; Tate Fritsch, 28; Emily Pelham, 28.