

August 28, 2022

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity  
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor  
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973  
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@ gmail.com

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]  
Church-(979) 773-2634  
Our website – [www.trinity-stjames.org](http://www.trinity-stjames.org)

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban  
The Altar Guild – Mary Ann Blair, Janet Cones  
The Organist – Kevin Patschke  
The Flower – To the glory of God by Clarence & Jane Schimank in honor of their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary tomorrow (29).

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd  
The Organist –Dorothy Wachsmann  
The Acolyte – Timothy Meyer  
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack  
The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Eugene Jenke, Victor Yurk  
The Altar Guild – Kim Dowdy, Kathy Dube, Eleanor Jenke, Debbie Johnson  
The Flower – To the glory of God in loving memory of Shelby Stence by his family.

**TO OUR VISITORS** - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless your, and our, hearing of the Word of God. \*\*\* Would you please sign the GUEST REGISTER [please also include your address] in the NARTHEX before leaving the church?

**OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

**THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE - PAGE 5 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.**

**SILENT PRAYER** upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear your holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

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† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN: ♪ 321**

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

**INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)**

**PASTOR:** God is in His holy habitation; He settles the solitary in a home. The God of Israel – He is the One Who gives power and strength to His people. God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him. But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy. O God, when You went out before Your people, In Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy. Blessed be the Lord, Who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Psalm 68)

**CONGREGATION: ♪ Glory be to the Father....**

## COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

**P:** O Lord God, heavenly Father, we implore You to rule and govern us by Your Holy Spirit in such a way that we do not ignore or deny our sins nor grow complacent, but live in continual repentance and take comfort only in this, that for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You will be gracious to us, forgive us all our sins, and give us salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**  Amen.

**HYMN:**  158

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – GENESIS 4:1-15

4:<sup>1</sup> Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.” <sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” <sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 50

**P:** “Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, Your God.

**C:** I do not rebuke you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are continually before Me.”

**P:** “I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

**C:** For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.”

**P:** “I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine.

**C:** If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine.”

**P:** “Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

**C:** and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

**P:** But to the wicked God says: “What right do you have to recite My statutes or take My covenant on your lips?

**C:** For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you.”

**P:** “If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.

**C:** You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.”

**P:** “You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son.

**C:** These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was like you.”

**P:** “But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you. Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!

**C:** The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

**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 – EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

2:<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**C:** ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**LUKE 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed this way: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**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: ♪ 384**

**SERMON: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH IN CHRIST VERSUS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF DOING – LK. 18:9-14**

*Let your words be those of the penitent tax collector: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Lk. 18:13) Amen.*

*Dear baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.* The Pharisee and the tax collector both pray to the same God. Each one tells God about himself. The Pharisee thanks God that he’s not like others – especially the rotten, good-for-nothing tax collector. The tax collector confesses to God that he’s a sinner. Each says something about himself. What do you say about yourself?

Frankly, there’s a secret part of us that wants God to be beholden to us – to kindly regard us because of who we are and what we do. That same somewhat well-hidden part of us also wants the Church to be about us, life to center on us. We want our families to revolve around us. We want the freeway to part like the Red Sea once we enter the onramp. We want others to see just how good and important we are.

And so we all secretly want the Church service to revolve around us; to focus on who we are; what we want. Preachers want to use the pulpit to show their congregations just how good they are at preaching. More than a few of us preachers seek affirmation and praise, desiring to endear ourselves to our hearers by way of flattery, humor or going light on preaching the Law. Sermon-hearers in turn want to receive praise from the pulpit. Even now there’s a part of you that would like me to praise your general wonderfulness before God. But what’s really true about us; what can we honestly say about ourselves? Should we speak like the Pharisee, or the tax collector?

The Pharisee speaks of his gifts and good works. There's no reason to think that his claims are lies or exaggerations. He's truly done the things of which he boasts before God. They really are good works in the sense that they conform to God's will. This man is upstanding. It's good not to be like open sinners who have no concern for God and His holy commandments. Our Lord Himself teaches us about fasting, giving an offering, adultery, injustice, etc. Jesus doesn't want to condemn good works and pious living. But He does want to show that they are not the righteousness by which we can stand before a just and holy God. In short, Jesus depicts for us in these two men the righteousness of works and the righteousness of faith – the righteousness of doing and the righteousness of passively receiving godly, saving gifts. The righteousness of doing exalts itself before God. The righteousness of faith confesses one's sinfulness and seeks Christ's righteousness given as a redeeming gift through His blood.

The righteousness of doing is the highest, most holy thing in the eyes of the world, and yet before God it is condemned. Two chapters before Jesus' *Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*, He tells the Pharisees: "*You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*" (Lk. 16:15) St. Paul speaks the same Word of the Lord in Galatians 2:16: "*A person is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law, because by works of the Law no one will be justified.*" The righteousness of faith, however, goes unseen by men, and yet before God it is called perfect and pleases Him. For "*without faith it is impossible to please God.*" (Heb. 11:6)

How then should we speak of ourselves today? Should we extol our virtues as the Pharisee did his? I think that would be most unwise and wrong-headed of us. It's been said that the Church of God is a hospital for sinners. Maybe, like me, you're not particularly fond of hospitals – especially having to be admitted to one yourself. We make it our goal to stay out of and far away from the ER and the hospital bed. But what about when we need the emergency room or to be admitted to fight a severe infection with antibiotics or when heart troubles threaten us? Then there's really no other, better place for us, is there? Then we're only too glad to be under the care of physicians and nurses.

When some Pharisees were bitter at Jesus for eating with sinners and tax collectors – people whom they considered to be the scum of the earth – Jesus answered them, "*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick [do.] I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.*" (Lk. 5:31-32) We have no need of our Good Physician's skillful care for us in the hospital of His holy Church if our sins are slight or basically non-existent. If our good works and good name profit us before God, raise us up to Him, then we've bypassed Jesus and really have no need for a sin-forgiving Savior. Then we might as well already be in heaven. But it's really nothing like that, is it? Not even close!

You're not here today because you're great people before God, holier than others and closer to Jesus than most. You're here because you're a sinner, joining a group of sinners, who flee to the righteousness of Christ so that we don't die and face certain condemnation, but stand before God in hope and joy. And when I say that you – just like me – are a sinner, I don't mean that lightly, as in, you're far from perfect, but that you're still a pretty good person, far less guilty and unclean than your average Joe. I mean it in a profound, sad sense. Our sins result in death, which is no small thing. You won't suffer a slight case of death or die just a little. Even before that, the offense we cause others by our unkind words and deeds, the repulsive things which we think are not moderately bad. They give us only suffering, death, hell! The world can be bought off and fooled by the righteousness of doing. But God, Who sees the heart, can't be.

Christian author and apologist C.S. Lewis once said: "*If you want a religion that will make you comfortable, I don't recommend Christianity.*" Very true! It comes to this: Do we go up to God's House so that we can say and hear how great we are, or do we come into the sanctuary of the Lord because of how great our need is? Probably no one is ever really comfortable in a hospital, and yet hospitals are always full because people know their need.

The Pharisee has no need. He wants to say and hear only good things about himself. Many people are like him, though they insist to the n<sup>th</sup> degree that they're not. They may even confess that they're sinners. But they don't want to hear about it and be rebuked and corrected. They don't want to be made uncomfortable. They don't want to have to bear with the sinner in the pew behind them or the sinner in the pulpit in front of them. They don't want to amend their lives and change. "Of course the preacher has to preach against sins," they say, "but his words are more for sinners worse off than us." We're all the worst off of all!

We're all fine with the preacher preaching against moral decay in society. But when he speaks God's Word to our faces – *"You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet"* (Rom. 13:9) – and says further that we're guilty of breaking these commandments and more, we chafe, we bristle, we push back. But we are, each one of us, guilty of transgressing God's holy Law unto death, and we can't deny it or say otherwise. We greedily desire what's not ours. We take it if we can. We treat others poorly – oftentimes those closest to us – when they disagree or quarrel with us, and when they don't act like we want them to. We stray with our eyes from the spouse of our youth. It's easy to say that we're sinners. But we don't want anyone – especially we ourselves, and God most of all – to think of us this way.

For decades now, Churches of the West – including us Lutherans – have been gradually abandoning the holy liturgy of the Church, which she has embraced for many centuries – in favor of a more emotional, man-centered way of worship. We – and all Churches, really – can't afford to abandon the divine liturgy because it makes us keep the Church service focused on the Holy Trinity and Christ Jesus in particular. The liturgy has us see how we've offended our Holy God, deserve nothing but death and His wrath forever, and yet receive nothing but the forgiveness of sins, saving grace and blessing-after-blessing from our gracious God! Where we'd like the service to be about us – as is the case with much of American Christianity, the historic liturgy keeps our eyes and hearts on Christ and His cross. Where we'd like to hear and say only good things about ourselves, it compels us to confess our sins and to flee to Christ – Who died for us – in order to receive His mercy and refuge. Where we'd like to do the talking, the liturgy has our Lord do the speaking. Where we'd focus on our goodness and works, it keeps us focused on Christ's gifts of Word and Water, His body and blood.

The surprising joy is that the tax collector – a true and hurting sinner – goes home justified. He returns with a clean conscience that doesn't have to ask the question: "Have I done enough to please God?" For all our wanting life to be about us, how great we are and how unique our troubles are, when we finally put that aside and humble ourselves, we discover the good news that God has loved us all along. He has loved us before and apart from our works, worth and troubles – all for Jesus' sake since He saw our great need and had compassion.

So if that's you; if your need is great, then rejoice. Jesus is all things to you. If you are sick, He's your Physician. If you're empty, He's your Fullness. If you're burdened with sins, He's Your Righteousness, Forgiveness and Peace with God. If you're lonely, He's your Dwelling Place. If you're scared and need help, He's your Refuge and Strength, a very present Help. If you fear death, He's your Life. If you desire heaven, He's Your Way there. If you're lost in the darkness, He's your Light. If you're hungry, He's your Bread from heaven. (*St. Ambrose*)

Let's go up, needy sinners all, to the temple of God, humbly confessing our sins, saying, *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"* (Lk. 18:13) Let's together confess our one true Christian faith in the Triune God of our salvation, and glorify God with our mouths and hearts for all the great good He's done for us, does for us and will do for us. 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**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Be merciful to us, heavenly Father, for daily we are tempted by Satan, and daily we sin and transgress Your will. For the sake of Christ Jesus and His bitter suffering and death upon the cross, forgive us. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, as You marked Cain and gave him Your protection despite his sin, we thank You that You have marked us in Holy Baptism and still protect us from spiritual harm despite our sin. We praise You for washing away our sins. Deliver us when sin and Satan attack us, and renew us in faith and life. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, grant us Your His Holy Spirit and teach us to honor authority, protect life, cherish marriage, respect possessions, defend reputations and be content with the gifts which You have given us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Good Lord, You alone are our dwelling place and have given us order, peace and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the faith. Bless and guide our Missouri Synod, its leaders, organizations and congregations, that we may

honor and follow You above all else. Keep us faithful to the end, Lord, even as You have preserved and strengthened us to this day. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, because You have made us our brother's keeper, fill us with care for the members of our earthly families and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. By Your promises and by Your Son's body and blood, forgive our sins and strengthen us to live so that we owe no one anything except to love each other. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, be merciful to our land, that those with any authority would exercise it with wisdom and righteousness, and that we would have peaceful days. Be merciful to the nations of the world, that wars would cease and harmony be restored, particularly in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia military conflict. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, be merciful to the sick and the sorrowing, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that as they are burdened by the difficulties and hardships of life in this fallen world, they would receive not only temporal relief but know the forgiveness of their sins and have the constant hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Providing Father, we thank You for the refreshment of recent rains, and we ask that You shower still more upon us for the good of fields and lawns, cattle and produce. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN: ♪ 373**

**CONCLUDING COLLECTS**

**P:** Almighty God, Who has justified us by Your grace alone through faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ, and Who has made everlasting peace with us by the blood of His cross, guard us from ever turning from Your saving grace in Christ to our own works and ways as the means to earn Your salvation. Cause us always to believe that salvation by grace through faith is Your gift to us, so that we never boast in ourselves but in You alone; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**P:** Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 546**

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

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OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	37	30		8 \$1,375.00
St. James	50	34	3	10 \$1,579.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
	50,626.00				
Actual	49,231.31		4,122.00		34
Last Week	1,375.00				

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
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Goal	82,960.00		82,960.00	
Actual	68,290.81	440.00	68,290.81	34
Last Week	1,579.00		1,579.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY 2:00PM: GEMS (at Holy Cross, Warda)...see FOR YOUR INFO.  
WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: Quilting (St. James)  
FRIDAY Pastor's Day Off

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Alleen Winkler, Al Cain, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Donna Moerbe, Margaret Richter, Carolyn Nitsche, Andrew Richter, Michelle Holmes* [sister-in-law of Paul & Meloney Tucker (Holy Trinity)];...at St. James...*W. O. Exner* (currently residing at Bec's Blessing in Giddings), *Genell Boettcher* (residing at Lost Pines Rehab in Bastrop), *Joey Johnson, Eugene Jenke, Tom Kleinschmidt, David Roensch, Lucas Raines, Paulette Schulze, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Doug Wheeler, Charles Patschke, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)]; *Scott Husband* [son of Sherwood & Janet Frosch (St. James)], *Amber Brockenbush* [friend and relative of St. James members], *Elton "Sonkey" Walther* [father of Felicia Poston (St. James)], *Bethany Behrens Lara* [friend of St. James members], *Tim Kleinschmidt* [brother of Tom Kleinschmidt (St. James) and friend of members] and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

+++**WEEK DAY SCHOOL**...our 2022-2023 school year will begin on Wednesday, September 7! ...**PARENTS**...the information was sent out this past week so please be looking for it and don't forget bus permission forms for elementary students with 1 part needing to be turned into the school and 1 part needing to be turned into the church office!!!

\*\*\***GEMS**: The Post Oak Zone is excited to be starting a GEMS group! GEMS stands for Girls Embracing Mission Service, and will focus on serving others and supporting mission work. All girls 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> are welcome to join! We will meet the final Sunday of each month at 2:00 in the afternoon at Holy Cross Lutheran in Warda. Our first meeting will be **TODAY**, August 28, and we will be making baskets to take to nursing home residents. Moms are always welcome too! Plan to join us for fun, fellowship, and service AND if anyone would like a ride, please let Ruth Meyer know. She will leave from the church at 1:15 and can take up to four extra people! Thanks!

+++**HOLY TRINITY** ...we would like to express our sincere **THANKS** to Nolan Huston for the recent donation of a load of gravel...thanks Nolan!!!

\*\*\***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**...on the Book of Philippians...We are currently studying St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. No matter what we're going through of will endure in life, Philippians aids us greatly in being joyful in Jesus Christ throughout. A copy of the Bible study is also available for anyone who would desire it.

+++Community wide prayer initiative for 2022!!! If you are interested in praying for 5 to 10 of your neighbors on a regular basis this year, please contact Cindy Terrell at 979-540-7026 for more information. Let's cover our community in prayer and draw nearer to God while we do! Looking forward to hearing from you!!!

- \*\*\***Family/Personal Daily Devotional Settings:** It is good for us as Christians to be able to utilize devotional settings throughout the week for family or personal use. You're therefore encouraged to make use of several Lutheran devotional settings/devotions in printed form, available now at the entrance to Church, and online at: [trinity-stjames.org/devotions\\_updated\\_](http://trinity-stjames.org/devotions_updated_). The use of daily devotionals settings/devotions is a great way to receive and grow in God's Word in-between the weekly Sunday Divine Service. So by all means, do make faithful use of them!
- +++Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy in the Midwest and Alaska for 6 years now. They're all created from donated yarn, however, now they are very low on yarn skeins and colors. If anyone would have left over yarn that they would not need or would like to donate to this project, put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office whenever they are in Giddings. Each September these are shipped to the Lutheran Social Services in the Midwest and Alaska.
- \*\*\***Holy Trinity...A Note of Thanks from Head Usher Allan Urban...**on behalf of the our congregation, I would like to express my appreciation to the faithful and dedicated gentlemen willing to step up and help with ushering (many serving each month)! It is a wonderful thing to know that we have such dependable and willing help and support by their continued service ...many **THANKS!!!**
- +++**QUILTING**...St. James LWML invites you [we need participation] to come **HELP** quilt on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am.
- \*\*\***THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".
- +++Get your published novels *Grace Alone*, *Faith Alone*, *Hope Alone*, and *Stand Alone* by Ruth Meyer ...if you are interested in purchasing a copy (\$12.00), you can either contact the church office or see Ruth!
- \*\*\*St. James & Trinity...the LWML and Ladies Aid are collecting used postage stamps (regular and commemorative). At least a ¼ inch margin should be left around the stamp (or just drop in the whole envelope). A box has been placed in the Narthex that you may place your stamps in.
- +++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Debbie Winkler, 31;...St. James-Lane Herklotz, today; Kellye Boettcher, 30; Jerald Meuth, 30.
- \*\*\***ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Clarence & Jane Schimank, 29;...St. James-Phillip & Lynette Brown, 3.