

September 1, 2024

14th 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 – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Ida Mae Mosley, Diane Walch

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass
The Acolyte – Korban Brown
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay
The Altar Guild – Ginger Clifford, Juanita Clifford, Paulette Schulze
The Flowers – To the glory of God in loving memory of Herman and Lorine Jatzlau on their anniversary (2) by their family.

The Organist – Daniel Krause

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless 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 14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

The Cry of Faith: “Lord, Have Mercy” The ten lepers cried out from a distance, “*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*” (Luke 17:11-19) Their condition cut them off from God and others. So do the works of the flesh cut us off from God and others. “*Those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*” (Galatians 5:16-24) Therefore we cry out with the lepers, “*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy,*” (Kyrie: See Luke 18:38) eagerly seeking His good gifts. Jesus said to the lepers, “*Go and show yourselves to the priests.*” (Luke 17:14) And as they went, they were cleansed. We also walk by faith and not by sight, being confident of Jesus’ help before we see any evidence of it, trusting that Jesus’ cleansing words of forgiveness will restore us to wholeness in the resurrection. Imitate the leper who returned to Christ the true High Priest to give Him thanks and glory. Jesus bore our infirmities in His sacrifice at Calvary. His words are life to those who find them, and health to their flesh. (Proverbs 4:10-23) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Christ’s Church is the fellowship of those who, like the Samaritan leper, are saved by faith. Thus, each member of Christ’s Church is cleansed from all sin by the Word proclaimed and the Sacraments received to stand holy with Him at the right hand of the Father now and forevermore.

But the Church is not only the fellowship of outward objects and rites, as other governments, but it is originally a fellowship of faith and of the Holy Ghost in hearts. The Christian Church consists not alone in fellowship of outward signs, but it consists especially in inward communion of eternal blessings in the heart, as of the Holy Ghost, of faith, of the fear and love of God; which fellowship nevertheless has outward marks so that it can be recognized; namely, the pure doctrine of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments in accordance with the Gospel of Christ. Namely, where God’s Word is pure, and the Sacraments are administered in conformity with the same, there certainly is the Church, and there are Christians. And this Church alone is called the Body of Christ, which Christ renews as its Head, and sanctifies and governs by His Spirit, as Paul testifies in Ephesians 1:22, when he says: “*And [God] gave [Christ] to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all.*” (*lcmssermons.com; The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Articles VII & VIII*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: 🎵 36

**PREPATORY 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 our Shield, O God; Look on the face of Your Anointed! For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord. Blessed are those who dwell in Your House, ever singing Your praise! I would rather be a doorkeeper in the House of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. The Lord bestows favor and honor. He does not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly. (*Psalms 84:1-2a, 4, 9-10, 11b*)

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Son, Jesus Christ, through Your Word and Holy Baptism, You have graciously saved us from the terrible leprosy of our sin. In Your great love for us, You have dealt very kindly with us, helping us in our every need. We ask You to waken our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, so that we never forget all the blessings You have freely given us, but live continually in Your fear, being confident of Your mercy and giving

thanks and praise to You forevermore with a joyful heart; 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 – PROVERBS 4:10-23

P: ^{4:10} Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. ²² For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. ²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:9-16

P: How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word.

C: With my whole heart I seek You; do not let me wander from Your commandments!

P: I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

C: Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes!

P: With my lips I declare all the rules of Your mouth.

C: I rejoice in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches.

P: I will meditate on Your precepts and fix my eyes on Your ways.

C: I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.

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 – GALATIANS 5:16-24

P: ^{5:16} But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 17:11-19

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{17:11} Now it happened as Jesus went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, ten men who were lepers met Him there, who stood far off. ¹³ And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

¹⁴ So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

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: ♪ 417

SERMON: TEN LEPERS, A GIFT FROM JESUS AND MORE GIFTS STILL – LK. 17:11-19

“Your faith has made you well.” (Lk. 17:19) Amen.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Amen. How much do you need the Lord Jesus, really? In our Gospel lesson, two answers to this question are given: the right one and the wrong one. Ten lepers cry out to the Lord for His healing mercy, which He gladly gives to them all. All ten are instantly healed of their leprosy – as if they were never afflicted with it to begin with. Yet only one of the ten returns to the Lord in gratitude and worshipful praise. The other nine certainly get what they desire, and are content with that. Only the Samaritan returns to the Lord to receive the fullness of His goodness and blessings.

The Lord Jesus is making His way to Jerusalem and the cross. He’s passing along the border between Galilee and Samaria. As He journeys south, ten lepers, who’ve banded together in a fellowship of the excluded, cry out to the Lord for mercy – for the healing and restoration of their diseased bodies. They have an incurable disease that is slowly disintegrating them. It’s a slow, agonizing, flesh-eating death, but that’s only part of their agony.

Since the illness is so contagious, God’s Law requires them to leave their families and communities behind and live in isolation, far from everyone else. The Law even requires lepers to shout a warning to passersby, saying that they’re unclean and not to get too close so as to risk catching leprosy themselves. Between the hideous course of the disease and the ostracizing that it brings, leprosy is a horrible analogy of death and hell.

When Jesus draws near, the shouting starts, but it’s not a warning to stay away. Instead, the lepers cry: *“Jesus, Master, have mercy upon us!” (Lk. 17:13)* Though isolated, they’ve still heard the Word about the Savior, and, having heard the Word, they believe He can cure them. And now, Immanuel is God-with-them. The Lord is present with these lepers, and He can heal them with a Word.

Jesus has mercy upon all of them and tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. This is required by the Law of Moses before any of them can return to their homes. The ten begin to do as Jesus says, yet one of them first returns to his Healer and falls at His feet to worship Him in grateful devotion. The priests can pronounce them clean anytime. The One Who really matters is the Holy Son of God in their midst now. He’s the Great High Priest to whom all people may come. This is Christian worship – the presence of God for mercy.

Marvel at the generosity of Jesus in our Gospel today and everywhere in Holy Scripture! Christ heals all ten of the lepers – no strings attached. In fact, when the nine don’t even express gratitude, Jesus doesn’t take the gift of healing back. He doesn’t demand their worship and appreciation; He only seeks to give them all good.

So it is today. The Lord Jesus desires to give all good gifts to all people. He gives us *“clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, [spouse] and children, land, animals, and all [we] have.” (Small Catechism: Explanation of the 3rd Article of the Creed)* Who refuses these First-Article-of-the-Creed gifts from on high? No one. Yet most people fail to thank God for His goodness to them. Many pat their own backs for the good things in their lives. Or they give thanks to false gods for their daily benefits. Even so, the Lord keeps on giving.

More important than all other blessings in the world is God’s grace and salvation, which He offers to all people. Yet while everyone snatches up the temporary gifts for this life, so many want nothing to do with His gifts for eternal life. The difference between the believer in Christ and the unbeliever is that the unbeliever leaves Jesus before He’s done giving.

Jesus doesn’t heal the ten lepers because of their thankfulness; because of who they are. He heals them because of His mercy; because of Who He is. He’s their Creator and Savior, and He has come to give them life. The nine lepers trust that the Lord will heal them, and He does. For this, they should be commended. The issue, though,

is that they leave too soon! They're so delighted with Jesus' gift of healing that they depart from Him while He still has more to give.

As for the Samaritan leper – grateful as He is for being renewed in his body, he stays with the Lord a while longer. To him, Jesus says, *“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”* (Lk. 17:19) Jesus hasn't just given him physical healing. He's strengthened his faith, too. The man doesn't just depart healed for this life; he also departs a forgiven child of God with eternal life.

God gives, providing for our every need. Yet we don't always express our gratefulness. We don't always thank the Lord and sing His praise as we become preoccupied with our lives – all that goes on in them and all that we have. Our attention is drawn to our earthly blessings rather than to the Giver of them and all that's good. We also so often take the credit for what He's done for us. This can and does lead us to go from Jesus while He still had more gifts to give.

But you should know better, O saints of God; you do know better! Your Lord is always present, here for you as He was present to heal, pardon, forgive, save all the lepers. He was there upon the cross to die and so pay for the sins of the world. He's here with you, for you, now – in His Means of Grace – to have mercy on you, today, tomorrow, forever!

We're all self-infected with the leprosy of sin, and so we all face death. That's why you don't want to run away from Jesus with just His gifts for this life since He has more to give for the life to come. He has everlasting life to give you! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became man for you. He lived a holy, perfect life without sin on your behalf. So He never had to die for Himself. He died for you. He suffered anguish and slaughter upon the cross in order to suffer God's judgment for the sins of the world – to endure the punishment of hell for your sins, so that you won't ever have to.

And now, risen again, the Lord Jesus declares that He has far more to give you than blessings for this life. He has forgiveness and faith and salvation to give you so that you're delivered from death to eternal life. And He won't stop giving you these gifts until you finally don't need them anymore – when He calls your soul to Himself in a blessed, Christian death.

So we rejoice today not to depart from Jesus early – to never, really, depart from Him at all! By faith in your Savior, give thanks to the Lord for all of His gifts to you for this life. Thank Him especially for His eternal gifts of grace, faith and salvation. For by His Word today, your crucified and risen Lord Jesus declares to you: “I have given you faith, and your faith has made you well – saved you! Eternal life with Me is yours, for you are forgiven all of your sins.” 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.**

P: For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving Name, that we and all God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His Kingdom extended, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the Name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For all the baptized in Christ, that our lives may evidence the working of the Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of God's only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise to do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For hearts that always long for the dwelling place of the Lord's glory, that we would find our healing and eternal peace in the lovely courts of Christ's Church, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who have wondered from the Church and the faith, that the Holy Spirit would call them home to the Father, using our hearts and voices in the process, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For the educational institutions of our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, for our preschools, our area-day schools and high schools, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God’s great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For all the faithful, that the Holy Spirit would lead us to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty which the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For those who are sick or in any kind of need, especially _____, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: For those who partake this day of Christ’s holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking we may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: Gracious God, Your Son once healed ten lepers, only one of whom returned to give thanks. As we continue to always receive Your blessings to us, forgive our shallow gratitude and our lack of humility before Your generosity, and create right hearts within us to give You all glory, honor and praise. In the Name and for the sake of 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 for You a holy people. 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: 🎵 311, 401 & 355

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 26

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	49	--	10	\$2,050.00
St. James	50	--	3 10	\$1,390.00

Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	50,626.00				
Actual	63,317.34		5,240.00		34
Last Week	2,050.00				

Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	89,590.00			89,590.00	
Actual	69,316.77	35.00	140.00	69,491.77	34
Last Week	1,385.00	5.00		1,390.00	

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THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

9:00AM: LWML Meeting (St. James)

3:30PM: Week Day School begins its 2024-25 school year!

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Tim Faske, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*...at St. James...*Ferman "Tooter" Iselt, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Tim Faske* [relative and friend of St. James members], *Ruth Siegmund* [friend of St. James members], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], *Amber Brockenbush* [friend and relative of St. James members], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

+++**St. James...TODAY**...Sunday School promotion takes place...We especially express our **THANKS** to our faithful and devoted teachers!!!

*****HOLY TRINITY**...Special Voters Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact Paul Tucker!!!

+++Our joint **WEEK DAY SCHOOL**... will begin the 2024-2025 school year on Wednesday, September 4. **PARENTS**...don't forget bus permission forms for elementary-part to the school and part comes to the church office!!! Just as important ...we hope and pray that our children "*grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" [2 Peter 3:18] as we obey Jesus' command to "*teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*" [Matthew 28:20]

+++**St. James**...we have a variety of cards...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

*****SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**...St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the subject of our Sunday morning Bible Class (Holy Trinity: 8-8:24AM; St. James:10-10:24AM). All are welcome to attend.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's new book, "**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!

*****QUILTING**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Madison Iselt, 4; Judy Brade, 6;...St. James-Bryson Hicks, 4; Ryan Brockenbush, 6; Brayden Drosche, 6; Trish Ammon, 7.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Phillip & Lynette Brown, 3; Craig & Elizabeth Boettcher, 4.