

September 11, 2022

13th 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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Diane Walch, Ida Mae Mosley
The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Boettcher
The Acolyte – Holt Brockenbush
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 honor of Lillie Mae Boettcher's birthday today by her family.
The Organist –Dorothy Wachsmann

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.

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 411

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Have regard for the covenant, O Lord; do not let the downtrodden turn back in shame. Arise, O God, defend Your cause; do not forget the clamor of Your foes. O God, why do You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture? Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased from of old, which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your heritage! Remember Mt. Zion, where You have dwelt. Do not forget the life of Your poor forever. Let the poor and needy praise Your Name. (*Psalms 74*)

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

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Samaritan and our Mediator, Who, seeing us in our bloodguilt and despair, had pity on us and, of Your infinite mercy, shed Your innocent blood to pay for all of our sins so that we may live with You forever, we humbly thank and praise You for saving us from destruction. We worship You for bringing us to the saving knowledge of Your Name by Your Holy Word. We implore You to enable us by Your Holy Spirit to love You as our true God with our whole heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves, so that we may show mercy to all people in their need, bind up their wounds with tender care and continue to follow Your example of love and service, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 CHRONICLES 28:8-15

⁸The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria. ⁹But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, “Behold, because the Lord, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, He gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. ¹⁰And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the Lord your God? ¹¹Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you.”

¹²Certain chiefs also of the men of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who were coming from the war ¹³and said to them, “You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the Lord in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.” ¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. ¹⁵And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE INSERT)

EPISTLE LESSON – GALATIANS 3:15-22

¹⁵To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” Who is Christ. ¹⁷This is what I mean: The Law, which came four-hundred and thirty years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the Law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹Why then the Law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the Law. ²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

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 10th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

LUKE 10:25-37

²⁵ A lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³² But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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: ♪ 349

SERMON: A GOOD SAMARITAN FOR YOU, LUKE 10:23-37

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Lk. 10:27) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. A lawyer – an expert of the holy Law of God, asks Jesus, “*What must I do to be saved?*” (Lk. 10:25) He answers him with the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*. Neither this man nor any of us can do anything to be saved. Only Christ the Son of God saves us from sin, death and hell by His sacrificial death upon the cross for us. He’s our Good Samaritan, taking good care of us in this life unto eternal life. With the Lord as our example, justified by faith alone in Him and not the Law, each of us is blessed and equipped to love and care for others, being good Samaritans to them in the mold of Christ our Savior.

By telling this parable, our Lord teaches us both the Law and the Gospel. Concerning the Law, He teaches us that it wasn’t given to us so that we may use it to benefit ourselves. It was given to us so that we may learn how to help and benefit our neighbor.

The lawyer wants to justify himself. He assumes that the Law has been given to teach him how to do this. He appears to know the Law inside-and-out. When Jesus asks him what God’s Law says, the lawyer answers correctly. But in fact, he doesn’t know the Law at all.

He doesn’t know the Mosaic Law because he doesn’t know its purpose. He indicates this to Jesus when he says, “*Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*” (Lk. 10:25) An inheritance is a gift given, not something earned. A father gives gifts to his children. You never had to ask what you needed to do to become a child of your parents. You being their child began before you could do anything to affect it. You were born into your family, becoming an heir of whatever your family has.

Those who think that they must do something to inherit eternal life don’t think of themselves as members of God’s family. The Apostle St. Paul, in asking the Galatians if they received the Holy Spirit by obedience to the Law or by faith in God’s Word (*see Gal. 3:2*), points out that we’re all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One Who reveals God the Father to us. Only when we believe in and know Jesus as our Savior do we know God as His dear children.

This is what Jesus means when He says to His disciples, “*Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.*” (Lk. 10:23-24)

From the first time God spoke to Adam and Eve after they fell into sin, He promised that one day the world would see their God standing before them in the flesh. Many prophets prophesied about the promised Savior. God revealed to them all the essential facts about His Son. He would be born of a virgin and be true God and true man. He would be born in Bethlehem and would be a descendent of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse and David. He'd suffer rejection and be killed. He'd rise from the dead. He'd rule over a Kingdom that will have no end. He would be the Savior of sinners.

The Prophet Jeremiah called Him *"The Lord our righteousness."* (Jer. 23:6) The Old Testament Scriptures teach that a sinner is justified by God freely by His grace, through faith in the Savior, and not on the basis of obeying the Law. The prophets and kings desired to see this Savior, but they never did. They desired to hear His gracious voice, but they never did. They lived believing that God would keep His promise to come into this world as a man to deliver man from sin and death. Through this faith they lived as saints. In this faith they died. By this faith they were saved.

And now the center of all human history has arrived. The time and place of God's revelation of grace, truth and righteousness is present in the person and work of the Lord Jesus. Blessed are the eyes that see Him and blessed are the ears that hear Him! But the lawyer, so infatuated with his own good deeds, can't see in Jesus the only righteousness by which he can be saved before God.

Jesus meets the lawyer on his own terms. He's not ready to hear the Gospel at all. He hasn't yet heard the Law; that is, the condemning aspect of the Law calling him out for not really lovingly his neighbor as himself. The Gospel binds up the brokenhearted. And so it's to be given only to those who've been convicted by God's Law, whose hearts are hurting over their sin, who despair of themselves and seek God's mercy in His Son. This man is self-righteous. He hasn't been convicted in his own conscience of his utter guilt. He needs to hear the Law from Jesus, so that's what he hears.

Look at how Jesus teaches the Law. He portrays the holiest models the lawyer could imagine and shows them to be utter hypocrites. They do nothing to help the victim who's been assaulted by thieves and left for dead. The priest sees the man in his need, but leaves him for dead. He passes by on the other side. The Levite also sees the man lying helpless, in great need, but does nothing and walks on by. Why? The reason is simple: they don't love the man.

The lawyer wants to justify himself. But God never gave His holy Law for this purpose. It is as St. Paul says in today's Epistle Lesson: *"For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the Law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe."* (Gal. 3:21-22)

We can't gain eternal life by keeping the Law since it must be obeyed perfectly, and none of us can do this. What the Law does very well is it teaches us what we must do, how we must live. But it doesn't enable or empower us to do what it commands. The Law tells us what is God-pleasing and beneficial to our neighbor, but it doesn't always find us doing what's God-pleasing and good for others since we're self-centered sinners.

When Jesus says to the lawyer who has correctly summarized the Law, *"Do this and you will live,"* (Lk. 10:28) He's telling the man that he must keep every last word of the Law of the Lord flawlessly if he's to enter everlasting life with Him. It's like the Apostle Paul says to the Galatians, quoting the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy: *"All who rely on works of the Law are under a curse. For it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'"* (Gal. 3:10; ref. Deut. 27:26) St. James says further: *"Whoever keeps the whole Law but stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."* (James 2:10) It's only when you've obeyed the Law fully, perfectly that you can claim the promise which the Law gives. For it promises life only to those who obey it all the time, in every way. To those who don't obey it to this extent, the Law instead promises God's curse now and forever.

So the promises that the Law makes are conditional promises. If the Law could speak to you as a person, it'd tell you, "Obey all my precepts or rules all the time – or else." If you actually could keep the commandments with God-like perfection, as our Lord Jesus really did because He's sinless God and man, then you'd definitely get the promise of life everlasting. But all we habitual, routine lawbreakers get from it is the "or else."

Jesus confronts the lawyer with the full force of the Law by having him see himself in two religious figures of Israel. Both the priest and the Levite would claim for all they're worth that they're perfect keepers of sacred Law. When they literally walk around an injured, dying man in need of their help – as if he's in their way – they think

nothing of that part of the Law which reads: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Lk. 10:27) To them, this man isn’t a person they know and love, so they leave him be. Jesus gets the lawyer – who’d also leave the hurting man in his dust – to see that he too is a lawbreaker who doesn’t care about others as much as he cares about himself. No way does the lawyer *“do this and...live.”* (Lk. 10:28) Instead, he’s actually condemned by the Law he claims to keep so very well because he just doesn’t do so.

Thanks be to Jesus and His Word, we know better than to seek eternal life by obedience to the divine Law. We’ve been “warned away” from being like the Levite, the priest and the lawyer – claiming to be keepers of God’s Law inside and out when they’re not. The Law isn’t our friend or our hope because we’re such deeply fallen sinners. It stands opposed to us. It accuses us of such things as not loving the Lord God with our whole heart and failing to love others as we love ourselves. It judges us for being sinners and condemns us in our sin-guilt. It’s never wrong about us.

If anything, we’re the person lying helpless, beaten, half-dead on the side of the road. We’ve been mugged and left by the devil, the world and our sinful flesh to die eternally. We’re helpless in our sins. The Law sees us in our helplessness and walks by on the other side of the road. We haven’t loved God or neighbor with a perfect love and heart. The Law condemns us as it walks on by us without helping us in any way.

Then Christ our Good Samaritan sees us. He, Who’s despised as a Samaritan, knows our need and in love has compassion on us. What the Law can’t do for us, He does. He bandages our wounds and pours in oil and wine. He forgives us our sins and heals our hurt over not loving Him as He loves us, not caring for our neighbor the way He does. He puts us on His donkey, a beast of burden, even as He bears the burden of our sins upon Himself as He goes to the cross. By His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death He brings us into the safety and care of His holy Church. Here He ministers to us in our need, applying the treasures of His salvation – the Gospel and the Sacraments – to us who are in great need of them. We’ve been brought into Christ’s Church where God daily and richly forgives us all our sins.

The Samaritan, not the priest or the Levite, helps the victim of highway robbery. It’s only Jesus who stoops down to help because He alone can help. Jesus has done what the Law requires, keeping its every precept holy and pure – without fail – for our lifelong and eternal salvation!

As we hear Jesus say to us, *“You are already clean [or justified, purified forever] because of the Word I have spoken to you...”* (Jn. 15:3) As we hear His servant St. Peter declare to us, *“Baptism now saves you...”* (1 Pet. 3:21) As we hear our Lord’s words about His own body and blood being *“Given and shed for you, for the remission of sins,”* (Lk. 22:20) we see heaven open and eternal life given to us. All our sins are forgiven; all our regrets are forgotten. God has seen us at our very worst and he hasn’t judged us and looked the other way. He hasn’t walked by on the other side of the road. He’s saved us in our helpless condition and has entrusted us to the tender care of his holy Christian Church. As He’s borne the burden of our sins, He teaches us to bear one another’s burdens as we share with one another the same forgiveness we’ve received from God. Meanwhile, Jesus keeps us by His Holy Spirit united with his holy Church where we’ll remain safe and secure until He returns to take us home. 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.

Heavenly Father, Your Son has triumphed by His cross. Give grace to Your Church to proclaim His victory throughout the world – the victory of that love which hate could not destroy and that life which death could not overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we praise You for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ’s name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout all the world. Prepare all Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lover of mankind, bind our families together in perfect harmony and rule our hearts with the peace of Christ. Cause His Word to dwell richly among us, and let fathers and heads of the household teach and admonish their

families in all wisdom. Let our songs, words and deeds be done in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, help us to show compassion to the most vulnerable of our neighbors: the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the elderly and the unborn. Strengthen us, through Your Spirit, to bring the comfort and hope of the Good News of Jesus to burdened consciences. Equip us to serve whoever is in need around us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Good Lord, accept our bodies and souls, our hearts and minds, our talents and powers, together with the offerings we bring before You as our humble service. Fill us, Your children, with hearts moved toward generosity in supporting Your ministry among us and with compassion to help all in need, as we are able. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O Lord God, You have shown us Your mercy in Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who became our Good Samaritan to save us from all evil and death. Open our eyes to the needs of others, moving us especially to pray for our brethren with healing needs: _____. Bind up our wound and heal the brokenhearted. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, grant to those who mourn comfort in their grief and grace to rejoice in the reunion to come with those who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: 🎵 375

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us an increase of faith, hope and charity, and that we may obtain what You have promised, make us love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 🎵 Amen.

P: O Lord God, heavenly Father, Whose faithfulness reaches to the heavens and Whose mercy endures forever, we humbly implore You to confirm and fulfill in us the covenant of Your grace, made certain from the beginning of the world in Christ Jesus, that we may be found in Him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the Law, but Your righteousness, which is ours by faith in Jesus; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 409

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	36	33	12	\$4,929.31
St. James	68	48	6 11	\$2,475.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	53,604.00				
Actual	55,175.62		4,612.00		36
Last Week	4,459.31		470.00		

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
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Goal	87,840.00		87,840.00	
Actual	74,520.62	440.00	74,960.62	36
Last Week	2,475.00		2,475.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY *Elders (St. James) following the service
TUESDAY 9:00AM: Circuit Pastor’s Conference
6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)
7:30PM: Elders (Holy Trinity)
WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: Quilting (St. James)
3:30PM: Joint Week Day School
THURSDAY 10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James) begins
FRIDAY +Pastor’s Day Off

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* (residing at Bec’s Blessing in Giddings), *Genell Boettcher* (residing at Lost Pines Rehab in Bastrop), *Joey Johnson, 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*.

+++**Help Wanted:** The LWML will be **making noodles** on Tuesday, September 27, in preparation for our Roast Beef Dinner. If you are able to help, please join us in the Parish Hall at 8:30AM. We also need donations of Gold Medal Flour in order to keep costs down. If you can donate flour, please bring it to church or the parish Hall before we start making noodles on the 27th. Thank you for your help!!!

*****LWML FALL RALLY:** Ladies, you are invited to attend the LWML fall rally on Sunday, October 2, at 2:00PM at Holy Cross, Warda. The theme is “Here am I; Send Me.” Guest speakers are Nikki Kueck of Faith Lutheran High School in Warda and Barbara Hoffmann of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Bastrop. Proceeds from the ingathering will be split between Faith and Epiphany. GEMS (Girls Embracing Mission Service) are invited to come as well! Girls in grades 5-12 will have the opportunity to work on a service project during the business meeting portion of the rally. A light dinner will be provided afterward. Please see Ruth Meyer if you have any questions or need a ride. Hope to see you there!

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

*****Roast Beef Dinner:** Mark your calendars for the annual LWML Roast Beef Dinner, which will be held on Sunday, October 9. Plates are \$12 each and to-go only. This is the main fundraiser for the LWML, and all profits from the dinner go to mission work. Thank you for supporting the

spread of the Gospel!

+++**Fedor VFD:** Donations of the follow items would be greatly appreciated: Children Games-2 liter bottles of soda; leave in the room at Trinity's entrance or take to game stand and also, Country Store items such as baked items, noodles, pickles, arts and crafts; take to stand. Thank you!

*****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_. 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 theses 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-Jimmy Terrell, 14; Linda Urban, 17;...St. James- Lillie Mae Boettcher, today; Hattie Shelly, 13; Dennis Boettcher, 14; April Ortiz, 17.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Ned & Tana Renfroe, today; Chance & Amber Dube, 14.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jesus Is Our Good Samaritan The Law cannot give us life. Rather, it confines everyone under sin as wounded and naked before God. (*Galatians 3:15-22*) Jesus Christ is the Good Samaritan, Who with divine compassion saves us from all evil. He takes our sin and death upon Himself and bears these in His body to the cross. He binds up our wounds with the healing balm of His Gospel, and He brings us into His Church, where He takes care of us at His own expense. (*Luke 10:34-35*) By such mercy, He proves “*to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers.*” (*Luke 10:36*) Therefore, “*you go, and do likewise.*” (*Luke 10:37*) We, who were torn up and stricken by the Law, are healed and revived by the Gospel of Christ and raised up with Him on the third day in order to live in God’s sight forever. He now feeds and clothes us – who were His enemies – in love. (*2 Chronicles 28:8-15*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: We are like the priest and the Levite who pass by the man dying on the road. It is not until we have our own wounds of guilt for our sin bound up by the forgiveness of Christ and soothed by the oil of the Holy Spirit that we are truly able to be a Good Samaritan to our neighbor.

Christ was given for this purpose, that forgiveness of sins might be bestowed on us for His sake. He was also given so that the Holy Spirit would bring forth in us new and eternal life and righteousness. Therefore, the Law cannot be truly kept unless the Holy Spirit is received through faith. So St. Paul says that the Law is established by faith, and not made useless, because the Law can only be kept when the Spirit is given.

The veil that covered the face of Moses (the Law) cannot be removed except by faith in Christ, by which the Holy Spirit is received. For Paul says, “*To this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*” (*2 Corinthians 3:15-17*)

This veil is removed from us (that is, we are freed from bondage to the Law) when God shows to our hearts our uncleanness and the hatefulness of sin in us. When we hear about the Gospel and the forgiveness of sins, we are consoled through faith. We receive the Holy Spirit so that now we are able to think correctly about God, fear and believe Him and do what He requires. (*lcmssermons.com; Apology, Article 5, Love/Fulfillment of the Law*)