

January 5, 2025

2nd Sunday after Christmas
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-WHITE [Holiness, innocence, and purity]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com
Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Jerry Falke
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Nancy Newkirk, Cindy Terrell
The Organist – Daniel Krause
The Flowers – To the glory of God with praise and thanks for the gift of His Son, Jesus, our Savior by individuals who have place poinsettias.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Boettcher
The Organist – Daniel Krause
The Acolyte – Jimmy Norment
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch
The Altar Guild – Kelsi Otte, Teresa Exner, Peggy Raines
The Flowers – To the glory of God by The Jatzlau Family in loving memory Kimberly Jatzlau and with praise and thanks for the gift of His Son, Jesus, our Savior by individuals who have place poinsettias.

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 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Jesus Is the Perfect Israel Israel (Jacob) and all his family went and dwelled in Egypt. (*Genesis 46:1-7*) God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-23*), that the prophecy might be fulfilled: “*Out of Egypt I called my Son.*” (*Hosea 11:1*) Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith. (*1 Peter 4:12-19*) Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Certainly our Father in heaven promises to deliver us, His baptized children of faith, from all evil and the evil one who seeks to devour us, just as He delivered His only begotten Son from Herod’s evil plan. Therefore this petition, and every prayer of faith, simply calls upon Lord to deliver us from evil and the evil one according to His Word.

“*But deliver us from evil,*” or from the evil one. The entire substance of our prayer is directed against our chief enemy. For he hinders among us everything that we pray for: God’s Name or honor, God’s Kingdom and will, our daily bread, a cheerful good conscience, etc.

We also pray to be delivered from whatever evil may happen to us under the devil’s kingdom: poverty, shame, death, and all the agonizing misery and heartache. Since the devil is a liar and a murderer, he constantly seeks our life. He wreaks his vengeance whenever he can afflict us. He breaks men’s necks or drives them to insanity, drowns some, and moves many to commit suicide and to many other terrible disasters. So we must pray against this archenemy without stopping. For unless God preserved us, we would not be safe from this enemy even for an hour.

So God has briefly placed before us all the distress that may ever come upon us, so that we might have no excuse whatever for not praying. But all depends upon this, that we learn also to say “*Amen.*” This is nothing else than the word of undoubting faith, which does not pray on a dare but knows that God does not lie to us. For He has promised to grant it. (*lcmssermons.com; Large Catechism, 7th Petition of the L.P. Paragraphs 112-120*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR NEWBORN KING †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP) & WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 104 [SUNG TO 85]

**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: When Israel was a child, I loved him,

CONGREGATION: and out of Egypt I called My son.

P: This is what the Lord says: “A voice is heard in Ramah,

C: lamentation and bitter weeping.

P: Rachel is weeping for her children;

C: she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

P: This is what the Lord says: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears,

C: for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

P: There is hope for your future, declares the Lord,

C: and your children shall come back to their own country.” (*Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15-17*)

♪ **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: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. Grant that He – our Life and Light eternal – may shine forth in our lives; 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Genesis 46:1-7

P: ^{46:1} So Israel (that is, Jacob) took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” ³ Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.”

⁵ Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷ his sons, and his sons’ sons with him, his daughters, and his sons’ daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 77:11-20

P: I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your wonders of old.

C: I will ponder all Your work, and meditate on Your mighty deeds.

P: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

C: You are the God Who works wonders; You have made known Your might among the peoples.

P: You with Your arm redeemed Your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.

C: When the waters saw You, O God...they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.

P: The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; Your arrows flashed on every side.

C: The crash of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; Your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

P: Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

C: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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.

HYMN: ♪ 98

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 PETER 4:12-19

P: ^{4:12} Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 2:13-23

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{2:13} Now when [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that He would be called a Nazarene.

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: THE SAVIOR, OF THE VIRGIN BORN [SUNG TO TLH 63]

1. The Savior, of the virgin born, was in a humble manger laid, He, Lord of all, our flesh assumed, by Whom the heav’ns and earth were made.

2. His life the tyrant Herod sought, and every subtle art did try; To worship Him he made pretense, that he the Infant might destroy.

3. But power divine His life preserved, and now He reigns above the sky; To Him Who once from Herod fled, now multitudes for safety fly.

4. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose coming sets Thy people free, Whom with the Father, we adore and Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen. *Hymnist: Beddome, Benjamin, 1717-1795, LM, text and tune: Public domain*

SERMON: GOD THE HEAVENLY FATHER: HIS SONS’ PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER – AND YOURS, MATTHEW 2:13-23

“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called My Son.’” (Mt. 2:15) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, born on earth to save us. Amen. Just like you as well as every one who’s ever lived or will yet live on earth, King Herod ought to “fear God” – that is, trust in and rely upon Him with all his heart, “and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” (Eccl. 12:13) Yet Herod’s hateful rejection of the true, eternal King of heaven and earth – born on earth to save him and all people – cuts the ruler off from God’s salvation and dooms his soul forever. Herod mistakes the magi’s Good News of the birth of the world’s Savior for the birth of a political rival, and Herod will suffer no rivals. Yet as the hymn sings it, “When Christ’s appearing was made known, King Herod trembled for his throne; But He Who offers heav’nly birth seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.” (When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known: 1) And as our Lord Himself tells Pontius Pilate right before His crucifixion: “My Kingdom is not of this world...but...is from another place.” (Jn. 18:36)

So let’s travel with the little Lord Jesus, Joseph and His mother Mary from Bethlehem to Egypt to their hometown of Nazareth, seeing just how almighty God the Father, in His providential care, protects His beloved Son from all harm and danger – until He can’t be protected any longer. For God’s guidance and protection of the holy family during their earliest days together points to the great care which He provides you and your loved ones too. Let’s look with tearful eyes upon the barbaric murders of the holy innocents in Bethlehem, understanding that we

who are joined with Jesus by faith must also expect affliction for our trust in Him to one degree or another. And let us take comfort in the knowledge that no matter what we've suffered or will yet suffer for being Christians... No matter what personal or family griefs we must endure, our Lord assures us victory over the very worst of this life – all anguish and sorrow. Even more so, He promises us victory over the devil and all evil, sin, death and hell itself! And that no matter when or how we or our loved ones in the Lord die, *"His Kingdom ours remaineth."* (TLH 262:4)

Nothing good can be said about Herod the Great, as he was called. Sure, he increased the size and grandeur of the second temple of God and helped build up Jerusalem and other places in his kingdom. But at heart Herod was a psychopath – a monster who clung to power at all costs. Always insecure in his rule over the Roman province of Judea, Herod had his wife as well as three of his sons murdered – all because he feared that they might dethrone him. So it should come as no surprise to us that when he learns from the wise men that One has been born true King of the Jews (*see Mt. 2:2*), immediately Herod's heart is set on destroying the infant Jesus.

While it's most certainly true that Jesus is the Son of God, even so, He definitely wouldn't have survived Herod's murderous wrath had His heavenly Father not shielded Him from death as an infant. He's as defenseless and vulnerable as any young child would be when Herod orders Jesus' killing.

So God protects His young Son and preserves Jesus' life by-way-of Joseph's prompt departure from Bethlehem. It isn't yet our Lord's time to die for us and for all people on earth. The all-seeing Father knows the evil mind of Herod better than the tyrant himself does – that he's intent upon slaughtering His only Son. The baby Lord Jesus is unaware of the danger He's in and can do nothing about it. The all-powerful God of heavenly armies knows just how to guard and defend Him – just where to move His Son to safety. His Holy Child is powerless to defend Himself from trouble; to get Himself out of harm's way. God must intervene for Jesus' welfare – just as He does for yours.

God the Father's consummate care for His Son gives us great comfort because we know for certain that, since we're united to our Lord Jesus by faith alone, we receive the very same care and protection from heaven that our Savior first did. Psalm 121:7 declares: *"The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life."* Also, *"He will command His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone,"* Psalm 91:11-12 assures you. *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous."* (1 Pet. 3:12) He *"helps [us] and delivers [us]...from evil and saves [us] because [we] take refuge in Him."* (Ps. 37:40) Just as baby Jesus' refuge was God His Father, so is He your *"Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in trouble."* (Ps. 46:1)

So we believe and confess – according to the *Small Catechism* – that God *"defends [us] against all danger and guards and protects [us] from all evil."* (Luther's Explanation of 1st Article of the Creed) Are we worthy of this? Not in the least as fallen, rebellious sinners against God. And yet God's own Son, Who was more-than-worthy of His Father's protection, renders us worthy of God's providential protection and care. How so? By being born a Child for us; by coming to serve us in great weakness; by bleeding, suffering and dying for us! The Christmas carol says it so beautifully and reassuringly: *"Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls one and all, 'You are safe from danger. Children, from the sins that grieve you you are freed; All you need I will surely give you.'"* (All My Heart Again Rejoices: 5) In these words we see that our heavenly Father protects us and provides for us – now and always – through His precious Son.

The absolutely heart-wrenching tragedy of the slaughter of the innocents reminds us that, even amidst the joy and mirth of the Christmas season, we still live in a very fallen, very sinful and evil world. Christ came for this exact reason: To eternally save us out of this dead world, and to justly punish all wicked people forever – such as Herod – in terrible torment. Herod doesn't do any head-fakes or fire any warning shots, but sends his soldiers to slay all male two-year-olds and younger in Bethlehem. Jesus would've been one of them had He not fled, so that it can be said that the holy innocents were His very first martyrs, not in will, but in deed. We call the murdered innocents holy not because they died for Jesus but because He was born for them and would go on to die for them too.

St. Matthew *"proclaimed in the infant blood spilled in Bethlehem a fulfillment of the words of Jeremiah 31. The prophet had foretold that Rachel would weep for her children, refusing consolation, because they were no more."* Rachel here is a mother-figure who sees her children – the people of Judah – put to death for their wayward hearts or carted off to captivity in Babylon. Just as the people are all gone in Jeremiah's day, so are the holy innocents no more in Jesus' day. *"In the face of such sad slaughter, and the rivers of blood mad men have spilled ever since"* – like the recent mass-killing of innocent revelers in New Orleans – *"[we] the Church find comfort in the words of [our] newborn King grown to manhood: 'The thief comes to steal,*

kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (Jn. 10:10) (Weedon: Celebrating the Saints, Holy Innocents, 241)

When we suffer for our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, St. Peter says to us: *“Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you.... But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the Name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer [for your misdeeds.] Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that Name.” (1 Pet. 4:12-16)* The Apostle Peter would have us abstain from doing what’s wrong in God’s sight. That way, we’re not at fault before Him, and don’t have to fear anything from Him. Yet every time we wrong God and others, He has us see our sin as our death and destruction, so that we implore Him to wash away all our transgression in the precious blood of our Savior. Then Christ becomes the death and Destroyer of all our sins and trespasses, our death and damnation. And we, who suffer for the Name of Jesus – Who suffered for our salvation, we rejoice since we’re counted worthy to suffer dishonor for our Redeemer. *(See Acts 5:41)*

Though Jesus faced the hellish wrath of a vile man determined to destroy Him at all costs; though Mary and Joseph endured the hardship of a hurried and long trip to Egypt, God brought the holy family all the way there and back home again, safe-and-sound. No matter what you and your loved ones will yet face in life – as with the ordeals, blows and griefs which you’ve already endured – *“the Lord will keep you from all evil. He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” (Ps. 121:7-8)* Yes, *“The Lord will rescue [you] from every evil work and will bring [you] safely into His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.” (2 Tim. 4:18)* *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

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2025

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the joy of Christ’s birth, through Whom the divine image is restored to mankind; for the joy of Holy Baptism, in which God bestows this image upon us; and for the joy of adoption as His sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For babies and nursing infants, out of whose mouths the Lord perfects His praise, that our Lord would silence their enemies, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain, that the Lord would turn their hearts, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who mourn the loss of infants and young persons, that they would fix their eyes on Christ Who, though spared for a time, shed His blood for the world’s salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the Church, that God would preserve us faithful; and for her ministers, that God would give them delight in this joyful season and restful reflection on the mystery of the incarnation that they preach, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all Christian homes, that the Word of God would dwell richly therein just as Christ Himself once dwelt in the home of Mary and Joseph, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our people and country, especially for Joseph, our outgoing president, and for Donald, who is to be inaugurated president, that all transitions of power here and around the world may be done according to the Lord’s will and all strife and war be brought to peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the lonely, the sick, the recovering and those near death, especially _____, that God, Who has visited and redeemed us by the birth of His Son, would visit them with His comforting presence and give them endurance until He grants His healing, relief, deliverance and peace at the proper time, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who commune today, that as recipients of new life and eternal treasures stored up in heaven, we might receive this feast for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith and love, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who suffer violence and evil in this world that God would provide safety, comfort and healing – especially to those mercilessly attacked during a NYE celebration in New Orleans. And for the families of the victims of that attack, that they would seek and find comfort in Christ Who suffered and died for all, let us pray to the Lord:
C: Lord, have mercy.

P: O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sake and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may one day soon be called home to our true fatherland, the Kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; 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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]

PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS (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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with a angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: ♪ 80 [SUNG TO 131 – HALLELUJAHS OMITTED], 106 & 93

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 87

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	33	28	10	\$4,985.00
St. James	53	38	2 10	\$1,012.00

Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	77,428.00				
Actual	102,749.72		7,785.00		52
Last Week	4,885.00		100.00		

Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	137,020.00			137,020.00	
Actual	104,151.77	815.00	645.00	105,611.77	52
Last Week	1,012.00			1,012.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY *Installation of newly elected congregational officers at both Holy Trinity and St. James

WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: LWML (St. James)
 3:40PM: Week Day School

FRIDAY +Pastor’s Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY *Elders (at Holy Trinity and at St. James) following the services
 11:00AM: Taking down of the Christmas tree, etc. ALL HELP is appreciated!

2:30PM: VOTERS (at Holy Trinity)

6:30PM: VOTERS (at St. James)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Dorothy Schimank, Tim Faske, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche*;...at St. James...*Charles Hartfiel, Guy Latimer, Ferman Iselt Jr., Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Lois Turner, Darwin 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, 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*.

+++**HOLY TRINITY**...next Sunday...we will be taking down our Christmas tree and decorations beginning at 11am. Your **HELP** would be greatly appreciated!!!

*****2025 Congregational Officers being Installed Today**...at Holy Trinity- President-Tim Falke; Elder-Charles Winkler; Secretary-Don Holmes; Finance Board-Jeff Winkler; Trustee-Johnnie Cain; Head Usher-Alan Urban; Assistant Head Usher-Frank Newkirk...at St. James- President-Gary Dube; Vice-President-Clyde Lay; Secretary-Dwayne Cass; Treasurer-Jeremy Brown; Elders-David Boettcher, Dwayne Cass; Finance Board-Jeremy Brown, Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt Jr., Patrick Jatzlau, Tom Kleinschmidt, Wade Roitsch, Curtis Yurk, Victor Yurk; Trustees-Gary Dube, Robert Patschke; Head Usher-Wesley Boriack; Assistant Ushers-Chris Clifford, David Clifford, Gary Clifford, Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt Jr., Joshua Lay, Zachary Lay. We thank **ALL** of our Officers [incoming and outgoing] for their love and dedication to our congregation!!!

+++**St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...(January, March, etc.) are: Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau, Wade Roitsch...(February, April, etc.) are: Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay, Curtis Yurk, Victor Yurk. Thanks!

*****THANK YOU**...*from Pastor and Ruth*-We would like to thank both congregations, St. James' LWML and Holy Trinity's Ladies Aid for their Christmas gifts as well as all members who gave us cards and presents this Christmas Season. We deeply appreciate you and thankful for your kindness and generous support, and we rejoice with you in the birth of our newborn King!...*from the janitor*-My sincere thanks to St. James congregation for the Christmas gift and appreciated the thoughtfulness in remembering me at this special time!...*from the organists*-We express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the Christmas gift from the congregation. Your generosity and thoughtfulness means so much!...*from the secretary*-I truly thank both congregations, the LWML, and the Ladies Aid for their kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity of the Christmas gifts that were given to me. It is a blessing and joy to work for you and be a part of our churches. May God bless each of you with His unending love always!-Sandy

+++**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**...we **THANK** everyone that placed poinsettia to grace our chancel area for our Christmas services!!! **Please be sure to pick up your poinsettia(s) following the service this morning!!!**

*****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**...Our current Bible Class covers the topics of original sin as well as free will-and so, the human nature. All older youth and adults are welcome and

encouraged to attend. 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 "**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-Rebecca Richter, 6; Tracy Iselt, 11;...St. James-Oscar Lay, today; Ella Yurk, today; Elaine Boettcher, 8; Kenneth Pelham, 8; Janet Spitzenberger, 9.