

November 24, 2024

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

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 – Jerry Falke

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Vera Farrack, Debbie Schubert

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Acolyte – Michael Norment

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay

The Altar Guild – Elaine Boettcher, Kellye Boettcher, Janet Frosch

The Flowers – To the glory of God in remembrance of Elmer and their wedding anniversary this Wednesday (27) by Irene Faske.

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.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return *"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)* The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise maidens. *"For you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:1-13)* when the Son of Man is to return. The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, Who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ in us. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, preaching, and the Holy Supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people. *(Isaiah 65:17-25)* (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Christ defeated death by His resurrection from the dead and brings victory over death to us in Holy Baptism.

Baptism promises and brings victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts. Think about it. Imagine there was a doctor somewhere who understood the art of saving people from death or, even though they died, could restore them quickly to life so that they would afterward live forever. The world would pour in money like snow and rain. No one could find access to him because of the throng of the rich! But here in Baptism there is freely brought to everyone's door such a treasure and medicine that it utterly destroys death and preserves all people alive.

We must think this way about Baptism and make it profitable for ourselves. So when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, "Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body." By Baptism we are made holy and are saved. No other kind of life, no work on earth, can do this. (*lcmssermons.com; The Large Catechism, Part 4, Baptism*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 611

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord! May the Lord bless you from Zion, He Who made heaven and earth! (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Psalm 33:8; Psalm 134*)

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

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and everlasting God, we implore You to grant us grace that we may wait with vigilance for the coming of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that, when He shall arise from Your right hand to visit the earth once more in righteousness, and visit Your people with salvation, He does not find us fast asleep in sin and unbelief, but diligent in His service and rejoicing in His praise, so that we enter in with Him into the wedding feast of Lamb, through His saving merits, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 65:17-25

P: ^{65:17} "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of My people be, and My chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze

together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain," says the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

P: ^{5:1} Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰Who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 25:1-13

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ^{25:1} "The Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 609

SERMON: BE TRUE TO JESUS, NEVER FALSE TO HIM, FOR HE'S EVER-FAITHFUL AND TRUE TO YOU – MATTHEW 25:1-13

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt. 25:13) Amen.

Grace and peace to you in the Lord Jesus Christ, the "Alpha and Omega...Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1:8) Amen. Jesus' Parable of the Five Wise and Five Foolish Maidens asks us, "What's the difference between the five who are wise and the five foolish ones?" To answer this, consider the challenge of finding the one person, animal or object in a drawing that differs from all the rest in just one, small way. Oftentimes, it's only after a painstaking visual search that we find the one aspect that distinguishes one person, animal or thing from all the rest.

If we apply this to the ten bridesmaids in the parable, intently studying each of them, what do we see that tells them apart? All ten virgins are awaiting the joyful hour of a wedding celebration, and all ten carry oil lamps. It's only after examining the picture further that our eyes catch oil flasks next to five of the women. That's the only difference; and it's a big one! It's why Jesus calls five of the maidens foolish and the other five wise. Those who are wise have oil for their lamps – as all of them should!

Knowing that the oil of the five wise maidens represents a living faith in Jesus – by the Holy Spirit, we see just how crucial it is for the bridal virgins to have oil and how bad it is for them to lack it.

So Matthew 25:1-13 sifts all true Christians on earth from the false ones – or those who merely appear to be Christians outwardly, but inwardly aren't.

The Lord Jesus speaks of such false Christians in Matthew 7:21-23: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and do many mighty works in Your Name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’”*

So these workers of lawlessness, who also have no oil for their lamps, are cast out of the Lord's presence forever – even though they're more-than-certain that they're “shoe-ins” for heaven. These fakes certainly used Jesus' Name to prophecy, cast out demons from people and do other mighty works – all the while not actually believing in the Lord Jesus or honoring His Name one bit. So that all who've heard them prophecy and who've had demons cast out of them by these phonies have benefited greatly, while these workers of lawlessness themselves don't benefit at all from this.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 also speaks of pretend followers of Jesus, describing how, in the last days, they'll be *“lovers of self, lovers of money.”* They'll be *“proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, haters of discipline, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”* They'll *“have the appearance of godliness, but will deny its power.”* So to all eyes they'll be as Christian as St. Peter. But to God they'll be as rotten and loathsome as Herod, Pilate and Judas.

The five foolish virgins will almost always “fool” others with their “fake faithfulness” to Christ; they'll even fool themselves, but they'll never fool God as He alone sees and knows the heart, (*see Lk. 16:15*) and He can't be mocked. (*See Gal. 6:7*)

Those who try to pass themselves off as Christians *“in their [false] security think that, by themselves and their works, they are worthy of God, and that for this reason they are accounted righteous by Him.”* (*Apology of the A.C., Art. 3, Par. 200*) Like all true Christians must, they ought to *“return to [the Lord] with all [their] heart, with fasting, with weeping and mourning”* (*Joel 2:12*) over their sin and wretchedness. But they don't. What sin; what wretchedness? they ask. They need to seek the forgiveness of their trespasses in the precious wounds of Christ the Savior every day. But they won't make any appeal to Him to have mercy on them, to blot out their transgressions, to cleans them thoroughly of their iniquity. (*See Ps. 51:1-2*)

How imposter Christians need to hear the Word of Christ like faithful Mary, sitting as she does at Jesus' feet so as to take in and *“live...by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* (*Deut. 8:3*) Yet they scorn the teaching of the Lord like Mary's sister, Martha, does, dismissing it as background noise; not treasuring it as the Word of Life. (*See Lk. 10:38-42*)

How great is their need to faithfully eat and drink of the Lord's Supper! Yet they spurn His altar, so that they're rarely-to-never found here. Or they come to the Lord's table like feral hogs eating among the cow herd – not caring about the presence of Jesus' body and blood in His Holy Meal. They refuse to acknowledge their sin-guilt, thinking they have no need for Christ to cleanse them with His own flesh and blood. So that the blessing of the Sacrament is lost to them.

The five wise maidens – representing the righteous people of God – are regarded as holy by Him not because of they themselves – their own goodness or fulfilling the Law, but rather for Christ's sake alone, through faith in Him alone. For Jesus has reconciled God the Father to us by His innocent suffering and death as the spotless, innocent Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. (*See Jn. 1:29*)

What a true, priceless, eternal treasure we have in godly faith in Jesus Christ, worked in us by the Holy Spirit! What is this but faith in the certain forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name. As it's written: *“Blessed is the person whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”* (*Ps. 32:1*) And also, *“Blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.”* (*Jer. 17:17*)

No one should use the *Parable of the Ten Maidens* as a “faithful-or-faithless” meter, or as a means to try to determine whether a person is really a Christian or not. Only God sees and knows the heart; only He can-and-will separate the wheat from the weeds on the day of judgment. Until then, the wheat and the weeds grow together and look alike.

And who can say, really, which is which? We'll only know for sure when the weeds are pulled up and cast into the fire in judgment, while the wheat is harvested unto eternal life. Or when the five wise maidens enter into the marriage feast with Christ the Bridegroom – their lamps ablaze, while the rest are locked out in utter darkness forever.

What this parable does do is warn all of us who call ourselves Christians to never just “put on a religious show” before God and to each other – to never draw near to God with our lips while our hearts are far from Him. (*See Is. 29:13*) But to be absolutely sure of what we're to believe – that “*Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is [our] Lord.*” (*S.C., 2nd Art. Expl.*) And to trust in Him and worship Him with all our heart!

The Rev. C.F.W. Walther, first president of our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, was approached one day by a member of his congregation – a woman in despair. She told Pastor Walther what a lousy person she was, how she made a regular mess of her life, how she hurt other people, how her Church attendance stank, and so how she feared that she was no longer a Christian. Pastor Walther heard her out. Where she saw herself being a waste to God, Rev. Walther saw her as a Christian woman whose sins had deeply hurt her and others; whose guilt was unbearable. This even made her ashamed to come to Church. Walther reminded the woman of her Baptism, comforted her from God's Word and absolved her of her sins in Jesus's Name, for she was repentant, contrite. He comforted her that she was, and would always be, a beloved, blood-bought daughter of God – and so a Christian through-and-through.

Rev. Walther encouraged the woman to return to regular, faithful Divine Worship, for there she'd certainly receive all of Jesus' saving gifts and would be in the good company of fellow sinners redeemed by Christ the crucified. No one should ever deprive himself or herself of Jesus, His Word and Sacraments, and the fellowship of his or her fellow saints in God's sanctuary! For this is bad – very harmful for the soul! “*Blessed are they [blessed are you] who dwell in the House of the Lord, ever singing His praises!*” (*Ps. 84:4*)

Pastor Walther went on to comment that his real concern wasn't for those like the woman who come with troubles, hurting hearts or with fears, dreading that God is against them – needing His tender mercy. Such people seek what they really need: Christ, His love and forgiveness; His restoration and salvation. And the assurance that they haven't lost their faith, but are still believers in Jesus. What troubled Walther was those who are unconcerned about their sin-guilt, who think they're as-good-as in heaven already, who have no real struggle with their sins, with the world and with the devil, and who don't think they need to hear and heed God's Word all-that-often, or to be fed by Him at His altar much or at all.

The Parable of the Ten Maidens is finally a call for us to be faithful to the Lord unto death as it prepares us to finally depart this world with trusting hearts. By it we see that we are to properly prepare for our own death “*because we do not want to be like those who do not have oil in their lamps when the Bridegroom comes and calls us.*” (*See Mt. 25:3*) *We [pray to God] that in the last hour of this life we may have true repentance, the Word, the Sacraments, faith, hope, and the spirit of grace and prayer. We ask for these things so that when we are to die, we may be found in Christ.... In this we rightly commend our souls into the hands of our Father. We ask that our death may be a deliverance from all evil and a passage out of this vale of misery to eternal life.*” (*Treasury of Daily Prayer: Rev. Martin Chemnitz, 11/9*) 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: Dear heavenly Father, Who in wisdom has decreed that this sin-filled world will not stand forever, but that swift judgment and destruction shall overtake people when they least expect it, enable us to stand unashamed before You on that Day. Nothing we could do could possibly win Your favor. Yet Your love found the way, for You sent Your only Son to pay for our sins. We rest our faith on Your love, asking that You forgive us where we have transgressed and where our faith has wavered. Endless praise and thanks be to You, O Father, for making us sinners acceptable in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

O Savior Jesus Christ, by Whose blood we are declared righteous, accept our humble praise. We live in a world that is utterly sinful and hostile toward God. It is filled with temptations with alluring appeals to our base, sinful flesh. We are constantly beset by sin on every hand. Our comfort and hope is in Your glorious Return, when You will

bring to an end all things here and receive us into the joys of our eternal home. We pray that You would come quickly – according to Your words and promise – and that in the time remaining You would help us to apply our hearts and minds continually to heavenly wisdom – to a devout and diligent study of Your Word. Keep us from backsliding and turning from You as our lone Savior. Graciously preserve our first love for You; keep it from growing cold. Dwell in us through Your Holy Spirit, that by His grace we might prove the sincerity of our faith and love with the bountiful fruits of good works. We love you Jesus. **C: Amen.**

O Holy Spirit, create in us humble hearts and lead us daily to repent of all our sins. Turn our thoughts continually from worldly matters to our Father in Heaven and to His Son, our Savior, Who will come one day to take us to Himself. Give us strength to flee temptations and evil lusts. Lead our footsteps along the paths of righteousness, guided by Your Word. Fill our hearts with the love of Christ so that we, in turn, love each other. What great joy is ours as we look forward to the blessed day when our Lord and Savior will appear in glory to raise the dead and judge the world! On that day we shall finally be delivered from this vale of tears. May our joy never diminish and our faith never weaken. As the Spirit of Truth and Divine Counselor, Whom Christ promised to His Church, strengthen us during this time of watching and waiting. Praise and honor be to You, O Holy Spirit, for Jesus' sake. **C: Amen.**

O God of compassion, consider the affliction and trouble of Your people who cry out to You in their hour of need: _____. Give them patience in their suffering, strengthen their faith, heal them according to Your good and gracious will, and keep their eyes fixed on Your Son, their Savior, in Whose Name we pray. **C: Amen.**

O Father of mercies, we bring unto You this day our sacrifice of praise for the innumerable and incalculable spiritual blessings You have heaped on us in Christ Jesus during this past Church Year, which now draws to a close. You have graciously caused Your divine Word to be preached to us which makes us wise unto salvation. You have permitted us to enjoy the Holy Sacraments for our comfort and sanctification, and You have accompanied Your Means of Grace with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit in our hearts. We bless You for Your goodness to us and praise Your Holy Name. And we ask You in Your mercy to forgive us all the sins of the past year for Jesus' sake and graciously preserve the blessed light of Your Gospel unto us and all Christendom. Govern us by Your Holy Spirit, that, receiving Your Word with gladness and trusting in it into the new Church Year and to the end of our lives here on earth, we may be sanctified in Your truth and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 🎵 574

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as Judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the Day of His return with our eyes fixed on the Kingdom prepared for Your own beloved people from the foundation of the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: 🎵 **Amen.**

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by Whose Word the heavens and the earth were made, and by Whose Word the same heavens and earth will disappear in a fiery roar on the Last Day, along with all the ungodly, we implore You, make us walk in all holy conversation and godliness as befits those awaiting Your Son's return and a new heaven and earth where righteousness dwells, that, when the frame of nature shall be dissolved, we may be found and counted worthy to behold and enjoy, according to Your promise, our blessed eternal home with You; through the merits and mediation of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 72

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	53	45	14	\$1,581.00

St. James 49 36 5 10 \$1,659.00

	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor				
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	68,494.00				
Actual	88,691.72		7,080.00		46
Last Week	1,561.00		20.00		

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	121,210.00			121,210.00	
Actual	93,253.77	705.00	645.00	94,603.77	46
Last Week	1,459.00	200.00		1,659.00	

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THIS WEEK

THURSDAY

THANKSGIVING DAY

9:30AM: Joint Thanksgiving Service (at St. James)

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY

2:00PM: Decorating of the Christmas tree (Holy Trinity)

3:00PM: Children's Christmas Eve practice (St. James) followed by decorating of the Christmas trees/party

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., Zoey Rudd, 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, Zachary Hartfiel* [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], *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*.

***THE FLOWERS last Sunday at Holy Trinity were placed to the Glory of God in honor of **T. G. Moerbe's 85th birthday** which was on Saturday, November 16!!! We hope you had a very Happy and Blessed Birthday!

+++Holy Trinity...all **HELP** would be greatly appreciated to help decorate the Christmas tree and church next Sunday, December 1, beginning at 2pm. For more information, see Paul Tucker!

*****Invitation to go Christmas caroling**...Kristy Kaufmann of St. John, Lincoln, has invited anyone who may be interested in going Christmas caroling next Sunday, December 1, meeting at the church parking lot at 1pm. For more information, please contact her at 979-540-8405!

+++**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**...we are asking for Christmas poinsettias to grace our chancel area for the upcoming Christmas services!!! **At Holy Trinity**, please mark your poinsettia and place them around the tree, etc. **At St. James**, orders will be taken with each poinsettia being \$11.00. Please find the enclosed order form, fill it out, and return it to either Peggy Raines or Sandra Lay by Wednesday, December 11. If paying by check, please make the check payable to

Lexington Country Greenhouse! THANK YOU!!!

***St. James...newly elect officers for 2025...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...**Children's Christmas Eve Service**, practices will begin NEXT SUNDAY, December 1, at 3pm. Following this practice, we will get together to decorate the Christmas trees and have a Christmas party!

*****St. James**...we have a variety of cards (including Thanksgiving cards and Christmas 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 book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

+++**ST. JAMES**...how about **YOU!** We are looking for **Sunday School teachers** to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. **YOU** can do it..just contact the church office!!!

+++Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy. 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 may put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office.

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

+++**THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Janet Cones, 29; Jaimee Dodd, 30;...St. James-Nathanael Clifford, today; Charles Brockenbush Jr., 25; Karen Hoelscher, 25; Sandra Lay, 26; Douglas Boriack, 28; Emily Jatzlau, 30.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Gary & Marisa Clifford, 27.