

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday in Advent
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com
Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert, Linda Patschke

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd
The Acolyte – Rhyder Clifford
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay
The Altar Guild – Candy Brown, Becky Exner, Karen Hoelscher, Sandra Lay
The Flowers – To the glory of God in loving memory of Franklin Boettcher by Lillie Mae and Family.

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord The voice of the John the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord.*” (*Isaiah 40:1*) John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass.*” (*Isaiah 40:6*) Now He asks of Jesus from prison, “*Are You the One Who is to come?*” (*Matthew 11:2*) Jesus’ works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord’s hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The “*peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,*” (*Philippians 4:7*) delivers Christ’s overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting us as God’s people with the Word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among us and all those who believe. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: St. John the Baptist’s entire ministry was to point people to Jesus as the Messiah and Savior. While in prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask Him if He was the Messiah. There is forgiveness of sins and salvation in none other.

We do not receive forgiveness of sins because of love for God, even though this must follow forgiveness. In Luke 7:47, Christ says, “*Her sins, which are many, are forgiven – for she loved much.*” Christ Himself interprets this when He adds, “*Your faith has saved you.*” (7:50) Christ did not mean that the woman had merited forgiveness of sins by that work of love. Faith freely obtains God’s mercy because of God’s Word. The fact that the woman came to seek forgiveness of sins from Him was truly to acknowledge Him as the Messiah. To think of Christ this way, to worship Him this way, to embrace Him this way, is truly to believe.

Christ contrasted the worship of the Pharisee with the worship offered by the woman. He rebuked the Pharisee because he did not acknowledge that He was the Messiah. Christ points to the woman and praises her worship, ointment, tears, and so forth. These were all signs of faith and a true confession – since she sought the forgiveness of sins from Christ. It is a great example.

In this way, Christ shows that it is disgraceful for the Pharisee. While an unlearned woman believes God, he, a doctor of the Law, does not believe. He does not acknowledge the Messiah and does not seek from Him forgiveness of sins and salvation. (*lcmssermons.com; The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article 5, Love and Fulfilling the Law*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 61

**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: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

CONGREGATION: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

P: Seek the Lord and His strength;

C: seek His presence continually!

P: Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

C: His miracles, and the judgments He uttered, O offspring of Abraham, His servant; children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

P: He is the Lord our God; His judgments carry through all the earth;

C: He remembers His covenant forever, and the Word that He ordained for a thousand generations.

(*Isaiah 40:3b; Psalm 105:4-8*)

CONGREGATION: 🎵 **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 (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, heavenly Father, Who caused Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become man and to come into the world to break Satan's tyranny and to deliver us from sin and death, we implore You to sustain us in our confidence in Your grace and mercy in Christ, so that we do not doubt and disbelieve, but in various tribulations take comfort in Your Son. Also, grant that, by Your Holy Spirit, we may avoid sin and remain in the innocence which we receive in Holy Baptism. And whenever we fall, and, in our human weakness are unable to rise again, do not permit us to remain wallowing in sin, but by true repentance turn us away from it and take comfort again in Your Promise, and so by Your grace obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 40:1-11

P: ^{40:1} Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. ¹¹ He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

HYMN: 🎵 63

EPISTLE LESSON – PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

P: ^{4:4} Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 11:2-11

C: 🎵 **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: 🎵 **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

P: ² Now when John [the Baptist] heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the One Who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold,

those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'"

¹¹ "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he."

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: ♪ 272

SERMON: BEGONE DOUBT, DESPAIR AND DEATH IN CHRIST OUR COMFORT – MATTHEW 11:2-11

"Blessed is the one who is not offended by Me." (Mt. 11:6) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead live and the poor hear and believe the Gospel of salvation. Amen. Until Christ calls us home, our Christian life will be one of faith as well as doubt – trust in the Lord as well as distrust...questioning Him. So Rev. Luther counsels us when we doubt God: *"When you feel yourself doubting, practice faith, fight against doubt...say: I know that I am accepted by God and have the Holy Spirit, not for the sake of my worthiness or merit, but for the sake of Christ, Who subjected Himself to the Law for us and bore the sins of the world. In Him I believe. If I am a sinner and am erring, He is just and cannot err."* (*What Luther Says: 428*) Let your Savior Jesus and His Word squash all your doubts, fears and despondency as John the Baptist did.

St. John the Baptizer's birth was foretold by an angel of God just like Jesus' blessed birth was. (*See Lk. 1:13*) John received the Holy Spirit already within the womb of his mother, Elizabeth, so that he leapt for joy when he first encountered Jesus his Savior – when pregnant Mary visited her expecting relative, Elizabeth. (*See Lk. 1:15; 41*) The Lord God had called the Baptizer to ready the world for His Son: to *"prepare the way of the Lord; to make a straight way in the desert for our God."* (*Is. 40:3*) John was given the godly task of *"baptizing [many] in the wilderness and proclaiming a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."* (*Mk. 1:4*) And he had the honor of testifying about the Lord Jesus, saying, *"I have seen and I bear witness that this is the Son of God,"* (*Jn. 1:34*) and *"Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!"* (*Jn. 1:29*) And yet John's in a dungeon at the opening of our Gospel lesson. What happened!

The wicked desiring to destroy the righteous (*see Ps. 37:32*) is what happened. St. Matthew writes: *"[King] Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, since John had been saying to [Herod,] 'It is not lawful for you to have her [as your wife.]'"* (*Mt. 14:3-4*) Philip had divorced Herodias, you see. And then Herod took her as his wife in defiance of God's will, committing adultery with Herodias in the process. For the Lord Jesus declares: *"Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."* (*Mt. 5:32*) John, being a faithful prophet of God, was compelled to "call out" King Herod for his sexual immorality, which angered Herodias especially, so that both adulterers wanted the Baptizer dead. Know that God – through John – hadn't told Herod that he was already doomed, hell-bound where he stood. Instead, He'd called the king to repent of his perverse behavior – for him to end it for good. Yet Herod and Herodias had no problem dooming John to a grim fate: decapitation.

John's question to his Lord and ours needs to be seen through the lens of the Baptist's calling from God. John sends some of his followers to Jesus, asking of Him, *"Are You the One Who is to come, or shall we look for another?"* (*Mt. 11:3*) John shouldn't be shocked out of his sandals that he's been seized and thrown in jail by evil Herod for doing his job as a servant of God – doing what's right. He's hardly God's first prophet to be jailed, persecuted and dealt a cruel hand for faithfully speaking the Word of the Lord! John's aware – just like we need to be aware – that evildoers can come down real hard on the people of God, crushing them like a jaw of steel. It's what happens next, or really doesn't happen in the days, weeks and months following John's confinement that really weighs on his body and spirit, and causes doubt to form in his heart as to whether Jesus is really the long-promised Messiah after all.

John the Baptist sure has expectations while being wrongfully locked up. He no doubt looks to God's Word in Isaiah 61:1 where the Lord assures *"liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."* John also expects vile Herod to get his comeuppance for unjustly imprisoning him and for his other godless deeds. John has said of such people as Herod that they will *"burn with unquenchable fire"* (*Mt. 3:12*) in divine judgment. Yet nothing

has happened to Herod; he hasn't been reduced to ash as punishment for his vileness. And John continues to languish in prison. What gives!

More than anything else, today's Gospel tells us that John needs Jesus! As his doubts grow and he becomes dispirited, John needs the Savior of the world to buoy his spirits and deliver him from despair. He's like the father who's doing fine in his walk with the Lord until his son is possessed by a demon. Dreading the power of the evil spirit, the man doubts whether the Lord Jesus can help his son. So Jesus gently calls the father out for doubting His power as the Son of God, so that the man says to his Savior: *"I do believe [in You,] help my unbelief!"* (Mk. 9:24) Jesus helps his unbelief or takes it away from him, driving the demon from his boy – saving them both!

John's like St. Peter after he asks the Lord if he can step out of the boat and walk to Jesus just like He's walking to His disciples on the water. Jesus bids him come to Him. So Peter leaves the boat and walks on the water to Jesus. But when he sees the wind, fear seizes Peter so that he begins to sink into the sea. He must cry out, *"Lord, save me!"* Immediately Jesus [reaches] out His hand and [catches Peter.] *'You of little faith,' [He says to him,] 'why did you doubt?'"* (Mt. 14:30-31)

John the Baptist's heart aches under the weight of his forced solitude and suffering. But rather than completely despairing, this servant of God cries out to Him just like His servants of old in their afflictions did: *"Why, O Lord, do You stand far off? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?"* (Ps. 10:1) He's been expecting the Lord Whose way he's prepared, Whose Name he's been proclaiming, to take down Herod and spring him from prison. So in sending his disciples to Jesus, John's asking the Lord why He isn't doing what John and others expect their Messiah to do.

Whenever our faith falters, like John we need it to be revived and strengthened by the One in Whom we believe. Jesus' disciples once asked of Him: *"Lord, increase our faith!"* (Lk. 17:5) That needs to be our plea to our Lord too, as it was John's.

In His reply to the Baptist's question, the compassionate Christ doesn't bash the Baptist for his weak faith or ignore John's question, but encourages and comforts the man, galvanizing his trust in God. Jesus consoles and reassures struggling, suffering John, saying, *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them."* (Mt. 11:5) This is a bit of a rebuke of John since he shouldn't doubt whether Jesus is, in fact, the One John's been professing Him to be.

But even more, Jesus' words confirm to John – beyond all doubt – that He is surely the Christ, the Son of the living God! Let Jesus' words also confirm and strengthen your faith and confidence in Him since He truly did give sight to the blind, made the paralyzed to walk, healed lepers of their leprosy, opened the ears of the deaf to hear, raised the dead to life and preached the Gospel of salvation to the poor in spirit.

John goes to his death neither despairing that he's prepared the way for a false messiah, nor embittered about the gruesome way his life is to end. He faces the axe comforted in Christ – as a man who knows and believes for certain that he has faithfully born witness to the one, true Messiah, the eternal Son of the living God! And that God the Son is his, ours and everyone's mighty Redeemer!

Like John the Baptist, you must be certain; you must believe that Jesus Christ is your only, true Savior. And like John, you also know what it is to suffer affliction and heartache in this life as a follower of and believer in the Lord Jesus.

When adversity and affliction buffet and batter us, we easily become troubled and forlorn and wonder where God is in the pain and hardness of it all. We imagine that He's against us or doesn't care for us in our plight, so deep and dark is our doubt of Him. Luther calls doubt *"the most grievous of all sins"* (WLS: 427) since by it we alienate ourselves from God. Because of this we must openly, ashamedly confess to our Father in heaven: *"I have sinned against You...and done what is evil in Your sight."* (Ps. 51:4)

More so, we must cry to Him: *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!"* (Ps. 51:1-3) Then, as we firmly believe and confidently sing to God in the *holy liturgy*: *"And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."* (Ps. 32:5) For Christ the Son of God was born of a virgin to reconcile us to our heavenly Father by His shed, precious blood – and so He has!

The death of doubt – Christ Jesus – is your Life and the Life of the world! God doesn't free John from prison, but He does free him from hateful Herod and this wicked world in his martyrdom. John dies in Christ – a most pitiful

way to die in Herod's and the world's eyes, but really a glorious way to go to God! Herod dies in sin and unbelief – joined to his master, the devil. He gets what's coming to him and to all who love self, this life and its fake glory.

All that you suffer, groan and grieve over; your darkest moments, your deepest afflictions and feelings of hopelessness and despair are taken from you and absorbed by One Who suffered most of all. It's in a lowly manger that God the Son – as a baby boy – became the Bearer of all John's and all your ills, hurts, fears, troubles, weaknesses and woes – your wondering how you can go on. Nailed to a wooden cross, your incarnate Savior suffered grievously, bled and died for you so that you are now and forever with God, and He with you. Not even your darkest day on earth, your very worst afflictions can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus your Lord! (*See Rom. 8:37-39*)

So bask in the love of Christ your incarnate Savior beside His lowly manger. Believe, live and finally die under the beaming light of His cross. It's as if He says to you from now-until-then, "*I have given you Baptism as a gift for the forgiveness of sins, and preach to you unceasingly by word-of-mouth concerning this treasure, sealing it with the Sacrament of My body and blood, so that you need never doubt.*" (*Luther*) Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in the Kingdom of Heaven! *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

P: For joy at all times and reasonableness of word and deed, that all may recognize our Christian confidence in Christ's advent, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the Church, that God would give us faithful stewards of His mysteries and servants of Christ who are trustworthy to proclaim Him alone as Lord and Judge; and that the Lord would tend His flock by His Word and Spirit, that Christ's lambs may be gathered into God's arms and gently led to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the Church, the Bride of Christ, that proclaiming the Good News of forgiveness in her Savior may always be our joy and delight, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the people of God, that He Who cleanses and gathers us would cause our love to abound more and more, give us knowledge and discernment of what is excellent, and preserve us blameless for the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our pastors, that they would regard themselves as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God; and that they may be found trustworthy as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For parents and their children, for those married and those single, that every darkness in our homes would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve us from dangers to body and soul, guide us by His Word in wise paths, and keep us firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For Congress and the justices of our nation; for our president, governor and for all others who serve in positions of civil authority, that they may diligently administer their duties in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the sick and suffering, and especially for _____, that the One who gives sight to the blind, heals the lame, cleanses the lepers, gives hearing to the deaf, raises the dead and preaches Good News to the poor may sustain them in their trials and grant healing in accord with His perfect will, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all those who come to Zion's feast today, that we would rejoice in the gracious visitation of our Savior, receiving His blessed Sacrament for our forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation. Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which You came to visit us in great humility, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

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

PROPER PREFACE (LORD’S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER)

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance, that we might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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: 🎵 73 [2nd TUNE], 75 & 330

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 66

† **TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY** †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	26	--	6	\$1,125.00
St. James	55	--	3 11	\$1,089.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	72,961.00				
Actual	93,352.72		7,685.00		49
Last Week	1,125.00				

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	129,115.00			129,115.00	
Actual	98,749.77	755.00	645.00	100,149.77	49
Last Week	1,089.00			1,089.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY 3:00PM: Children’s Christmas Eve practice (St. James)
WEDNESDAY 3:40PM: **NO** Week Day School...Christmas break
 7:00PM: German/English Advent and Christmas Service (Ebenezer, Manheim)
FRIDAY +Pastor’s Day Off
NEXT SUNDAY 3:00PM: Children’s Christmas Eve practice (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, 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], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

*****Advent Daily Devotional Setting & Devotions Available**...Please help yourself to one or more copies of our Advent devotions for the season. The title and theme is: "Isaiah Twas Foretold It." An Advent Devotional on the Messianic Prophecies of Isaiah.

+++Holy Trinity...newly elect officers for 2025...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. 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!

+++All are invited to attend the **German/English Advent and Christmas Service and Hymn sing** at Ebenezer, Manheim this coming Wednesday, December 18, at 7 PM.

*****CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**...we are asking for Christmas poinsettias to grace our chancel area for the upcoming Christmas services!!!

+++ST. JAMES...**Children's Christmas Eve Service** practice **TODAY** at 3pm.

*****St. James**...we have a variety of cards (including 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 "**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-Christopher Urban, today; Chester Jatzlau, 20;... St. James-Bernice Lerche, today; Curtis Patschke, today; Casey Hentschel, 17; Ben Pelham, 19; Allyson Abshire, 20; Wade Roitsch, 20.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-David & Morgan Urban, 19.