

December 29, 2024

1st 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 – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert, Linda Patschke
The Organist – Kevin Patschke
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 Acolyte – Pistol Lay
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Organist – Ruth Meyer
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 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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

The Lord Comes to His Temple A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (*Isaiah 11:1-5*) – the Seed of David – Whose Kingdom shall be established forever. Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.*” (*Luke 2:25-40*) God’s own Son took on our flesh and blood and died on the cross in order that we might receive the right to become the children of God through faith. Baptized into Christ’s body, we are made partakers of a new Genesis, “*the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*” (*Titus 3:4-7*) In Christ, the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man has truly appeared. Our Savior has enlightened us in Holy Baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons and daughters of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the Holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in His Son, our Savior. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem must have been overjoyed to hear Anna who spoke of the Child whom Simeon identified as the Savior.

The Gospel is a doctrine that teaches what a person should believe, so that he receives forgiveness of sins with God. In other words, it teaches that God’s Son, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself and borne the law’s curse and paid for all our sins. Through Him alone we again enter into favor with God, receive forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all the punishments of sins, and are saved.

Everything that comforts, that offers God’s favor and grace to transgressors of the law is called the Gospel. It is a joyful message that God will not punish sins, but will forgive them for Christ’s sake.

Every penitent sinner ought to believe – place his confidence – in the Lord Christ alone. Christ “*was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*” (*Romans 4:25*) “*He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*” (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) God made Him “*our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.*” (*1 Corinthians 1:30*) His obedience is credited to us for righteousness before God’s strict court. The Gospel “*is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.*” (*Romans 1:16*) Dr. Luther taught that the knowledge of God from the Gospel is far different from that which is learned from the law. (*lcmssermons.com; Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration; Article 5: Law and Gospel, Paragraphs 20-22*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR NEWBORN KING †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 76

**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: Your decrees are very trustworthy;

CONGREGATION: holiness befits Your House, O Lord, forevermore.

P: Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

C: The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty.

P: The Lord is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.

C: **Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.**

P: The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice;

C: **the floods lift up their roaring.**

P: Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea,

C: **the Lord on high is mighty!** (*Psalm 93:1-5*)

♪ **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: Lord God, heavenly Father, Who by St. Simeon prophesied that Christ, Your Son, was appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel: enlighten our hearts, we implore You, by Your Holy Spirit, that rightly knowing Your Son, Christ Jesus, we may cling to Him in every distress and danger, rise in Him, and not be offended at Him with the blind and complacent world, but be bold and confident in whatever suffering and tribulation we meet for the sake of Your Word and confession. For it is certain that those who persecute Your Word have no part in Your Kingdom, but those who believe and abide in it have 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 11:1-5

P: ^{1:1} There shall come forth a Shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ And His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89:1-8

P: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

C: **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

P: For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;

C: **in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”**

P: You have said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn to David My servant:

C: **‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”**

P: Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord,

C: **Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

P: **For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?**

C: **Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord?**

P: He is a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around Him.

C: **O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You?**

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: ♪ 94

EPISTLE (LETTER) LESSON – TITUS 3:4-7

P: ^{3:4} But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 2:6-16; 22; 25-35

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ²⁶ And while [Mary and Joseph] were [in Bethlehem], the time came for [Mary] to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger....

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Do not fear, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord....

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”

³³ And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

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: ♪ 138

SERMON: YOU HAVE EVERLASTING PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH YOUR INCARNATE LORD JESUS – LUKE 2:6-16; 22; 25-35

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace...for my eyes have seen Your salvation....” (Lk. 2:29-30) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, born on earth to save us. Amen. The blessed birth of Jesus our Savior in Bethlehem of Judea, the glorious announcement of it to the shepherds and to us by the angelic host, and Simeon’s declaration that he’s seen the world’s salvation in the Christ Child confirm for us that the Son of God has taken on our flesh and blood and has become man for our life-long and eternal good. And our Lord’s birth, the angels’ glorifying Him for it and Simeon confessing Him as his God following it comfort and support us in all our fears and troubles.

So let’s journey – from manger, to shepherds’ field, to temple – through the heart of St. Luke’s second chapter to see how God is at work through the Nativity of His Son for our life and salvation. Let’s look upon the Gospel made visible for us in our newborn King. And let us see how our heavenly Father has made Jesus our and everyone’s everlasting Peace.

Joseph had no reason or intention to go with his pregnant wife, Mary, to Bethlehem in the time leading up to Jesus' birth there. Such a trip would be grueling: about one-hundred miles south over rough terrain with a rise in elevation. Our Lord's stepfather no doubt figured that Mary would give birth where they both lived: in Nazareth to the north.

God had other plans. So that His Son's birth would fulfill the words of His prophet Micah, the Almighty set in motion Joseph's and Mary's trek to Bethlehem – a journey they had no choice but to make. For Micah 5:2 foretells: *“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah...., from you shall come forth for Me One Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”* In order for His Word, spoken through Micah, to come to pass, God moved the powerful Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, to do His will – in the same way you'd move the king on a chess board in the direction you wanted. Caesar mandated an empire-wide census and tax on all non-Romans, requiring Joseph and Mary to return to their ancestral home – the city of David, Bethlehem – to pay the tax and to be registered there. A growing empire needs as much revenue as it can get, and yet this census really occurred according to God's will. Just think of it: A godless emperor ordered the counting and taxation of tens of millions of people under his rule – all so that God's Son could be born in the appointed place!

Our salvation is begun in the incarnation and birth of the little Lord Jesus for us. Since He's born in the flesh as the eternal Son of God, His new life in His body gives life to us in our mortal bodies as well. How so? Jesus Christ, according to His Divine Nature, gives you His very life in His human nature. You joyfully receive the life of your Lord through faith – a devout and hearty belief in Him alone as your Savior. You confess: *“[I believe] in Jesus Christ, [God's] only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit [and] born of the virgin Mary....”* (*Apostles' Creed*) You say: “I believe in Christmas!” And so you're saved by your Redeemer Who took on a body and soul just like yours to deliver your body and soul forever! You weren't present to behold your newborn Savior lying in a manger, but you sure will encounter Him in His risen, glorified body when you see Him face-to-face in your own resurrected, glorified body. Then you'll know His perfect peace forever!

The angelic announcement of our God's holy birth is well-known to us all. *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord,”* (*Lk. 2:11*) the angel declares to the shepherds, to us and to all people. How clear and beautiful is this message! To you, yes you, a Savior is born: Christ the only Son of the Father! As with the shepherds, *“we, too, see heavenly glory and eternal salvation, for we see the Savior. Here all darkness must vanish. All fear is turned to gladness. Let us seek and see the Savior in His Word, that we may be sure of being His in faith. Let us tell others of Him. Let us keep His Word and ponder it in our hearts. Let us joyously glorify and praise God for His great mercy!”* (*“Crumbs,” C.M. Zorn, 12/26*)

The shepherds have reason to tremble with fear that night since they're sinners suddenly in God's holy presence as the *“glory of the Lord shone around them.”* (*Lk. 2:9*) They dread the nearness of the Lord of hosts and what He might do to them for their iniquities.

As we *“enter into [God's] presence”* (*Ps. 95:2*) in His holy House and gather around His altar, we too must be aware that our sinfulness and numerous wrongdoings are an offense to God and a defilement of His holiness. By all rights, we should dread this sanctuary since it isn't safe for us to be in God's holy presence as sinners.

Yet the shepherds really have no reason to fear since Jesus Christ has been born to cover all their sins and to atone for every one of them! The same goes for you! You enter God's House filthy-dirty with your sins, and you dare not stay this way! Which is why you quickly confess your transgressions to God and plead for Him to have mercy on you and to forgive you all your sins – to pardon you fully in Jesus' Name and for His sake. Impenitence; refusal to confess sin to God is harmful. It's even fatal if doesn't end in godly contrition. Repentance and forgiveness – turning from your sins to your Savior; running from death and hell to God and heaven is where it's at for you! This is where you have peace with God as you're reconciled to Him by His Son born of Mary – and are pleasing to God in Jesus.

Simeon is a faithful man of God who's awaiting the coming of Israel's Messiah and Savior – as many godly Hebrews have been doing for centuries. St. Luke remarks that Simeon is *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (*Lk. 2:25*) or the salvation of God's people. Imagine the man's astonishment and joy when God the Holy Spirit informs him that he won't die before he sees the Lord's long promised Messiah! Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* is one part words of thanks and praise to God on high for sending the Savior He promised – for keeping His Word. It's another part Simeon's expression of joy that his and everyone's true salvation is found in a small Child Whom He can see and hold. And it's a third part his giving glory to God for sending His Son to earth to save all people: both Jew and Gentile.

In seeing and holding his young Savior close to him, Simeon is more-than-assured that he'll depart this life in peace. Had God not chosen to reveal His Son to Simeon, the man would've died in the peace of the Lord all-the-same since he trusted in the Lord with all his heart that Christ the Savior was to come. Yet the point of this entire text from St. Luke is that Jesus actually comes to Simeon – as to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds – and will come also to many more people! Simeon literally holds his long-awaited Savior and salvation in his arms!

Your heavenly Father, through the Holy Spirit, has also given you the words of the *Nunc Dimittis* – “Now dismiss us [in peace,] O Lord” – to sing and to pray in *Divine Worship* as well as at other times. The words of this *canticle* have the very same meaning for you as they did for Simeon – although several aspects of the *Nunc Dimittis* have changed from Simeon's day to our own. Unlike Simeon, you can't see the Lord Jesus or hold Him close to yourself – at least not yet. Yet neither could Simeon partake of the body and blood of Christ as you can and do.

So while Simeon definitely had something to treasure in being able to see and embrace the Christ Child, and while we definitely have something to treasure too in partaking of His Holy Sacrament, we come out ahead of Simeon in being able to consume our Redeemer's body and blood. Simeon cradled his salvation in his arms. We hear our Savior's voice and eat and drink of Him so that He fills us with Himself: His joy and salvation!

Simeon was able to depart from the temple that day at peace with God – in His Son. And to depart from this life reconciled to God – at peace with Him – through Christ his Savior. You depart from God's holy altar and His Church today and always at peace with Him because of Jesus: His holy absolution purifying you of all your sins before the Father; His Gospel Word justifying you – declaring you righteous unto God; His body and blood going into you and giving you a redeemed life in this world and everlasting life to come. You see your salvation in the paten and in the chalice as Jesus' flesh and blood touch your lips, go into your body, and Scripture is fulfilled where it says to you: “[God] has reconciled [you] to Himself...having made peace [with you] through the blood of [Christ's] cross.” (Col. 1:20) Filled with the body and blood of your incarnate Savior, you'll definitely depart this life in peace like Simeon did. Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

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

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation; in thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as His sons and heirs; and to grant us a glad new year, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that all who have been baptized into Christ may embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our congregation, that we may boldly shine the Light of Christ into the dark lives of those we know who do not know or love Him, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian families, that the Father from Whom all fatherhood on earth is named would bless them with His promises; for parents, that they would be diligent and find delight in their work; for children, that by God's favor they would grow in strength and wisdom; for those who are single, that God would bless them in all they do, and with good and godly companions; and for widows, orphans and broken families, that God would comfort them with His mercy and give them joy in the redemption won for them in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may serve faithfully in their tasks, according to God's good pleasure, for the benefit of our people, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely, that they would be comforted with the sure and certain knowledge that God will never forsake them, and that within the household of faith they might find family, friends and loving companionship, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those threatened by persecution for the sake of God, that the Lord would preserve them and grant them courage, comfort and peace, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers, *including* _____, that according to God's gracious will, they would be healed; let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well-prepared to depart in peace according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, in the birth of Your Son You have called people from every time and place into His Body, the Church. We give You thanks for the believers who went before us, especially who were with us in Christmases past and who now live with You. Grant us sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us with them at last into Your presence; 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 (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: 🎵 136, 97 & 77 [sung to 523]

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 105

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	47	--	9	\$2,736.00
St. James	52	--	5 10	\$2,664.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	75,939.00				
Actual	97,864.72		7,685.00		51
Last Week	2,736.00				

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	134,385.00			134,385.00	
Actual	103,139.77	815.00	645.00	104,599.77	51
Last Week	2,614.00	50.00		2,664.00	

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THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00PM: Joint New Year's Eve Service (at Holy Trinity)

WEDNESDAY

NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30AM: Service (at Holy Trinity)

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY

*Installation of newly elected congregational officers at both Holy Trinity and 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*.
- *****2025 Congregational Officers being Installed Next Sunday**...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!!!
- *****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-Jonathan Iselt, today; Brian Ender, 31; Bryan Fails, 31;

Gloria Pillack, 3;...St. James-Michael Cass, today; David Drosche, today; Michael Glover, 30;
Miriam Meyer, 2; Karen Nittsche, 2; Lynette Brown, 4; Theresa Stence, 4.
+++ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...St. James-Stephen & Karen Nittsche, 31.