

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@ gmail.com

Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973

Church-(979) 773-2634

Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert

The Organist – Daniel Krause

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert, Linda Patschke

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Guy Latimer

The Organist – Dorothy Wachsmann

The Acolyte – Korban Brown

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

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 honor of the birthdays of Zachary Lay (2), Donna Faske (4), Alli Lay (7), Doris Tally (9) and in loving memory of Herbert Schubert by their family.

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

The Lord Comes on the Last Day The day on which our Lord returns will be a “*great and awesome day*” (*Malachi 4:5*) as He will come back for us in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of judgment that will “*set them ablaze.*” (*Malachi 4:1*) The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the Name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and to rejoice in: “*Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*” (*Luke 21:28*) Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us “*through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures*” (*Romans 15:4*) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus’ coming. Then, by God’s grace, we

shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man joyfully. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Your redemption is drawing near, and you know that the Kingdom of God itself is near, not only on the Last Day, but even in the Holy Supper of our Lord.

Christ's human nature, after the resurrection from the dead, is exalted above all creatures in heaven and on earth. He did not lay aside His human nature, but retains it to eternity. He has the full possession and use of the divine majesty according to His assumed human nature. However, He had this majesty immediately at His conception. As the apostle testifies (Philippians 2:7), He laid it aside. He kept it concealed in the state of His humiliation and did not always use it, but only when He wanted to use it.

Now Christ has ascended above all heavens. (Ephesians 4:10) He also truly fills all things, being present everywhere, as God and man. He rules from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth, as the prophets predicted. (Psalm 8:1, 6; Zechariah 9:10) This happened according to the way things are done at God's right hand, which is not a set place in heaven. It is nothing other than God's almighty power, which fills heaven and earth. Christ is installed according to His humanity, without confusion or equalizing His divine and human natures in their essence and essential properties. By this communicated divine power, according to the words of His testament, Christ can be and is truly present with His body and blood in the Holy Supper. (*lcmssermons.com; SD FC, Article 8, The Person of Christ*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 65 [SUNG TO 88]

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Say to the daughter of Zion,

CONGREGATION: "See, your salvation comes!"

P: The Lord will cause His majestic voice to be heard,

C: and you shall have gladness of heart.

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You Who lead Joseph like a flock!

C: You Who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: Turn again, O God of hosts!

C: Look down from heaven, and see.

P: Let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,

C: The son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself. (*Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; Isaiah 62:11; 30:29-30*)

♪ 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: P: Lord God, heavenly Father, Who by Your Son have revealed to us that heaven and earth shall pass away, our bodies shall rise again, and we all shall be brought before the judgment seat: We implore You that by Your Holy

Spirit You would keep us in Your Word and the true faith, graciously defend us from sin, and preserve us in all temptations, that we would not burden our hearts with gluttony and drunkenness and cares of this life, but watch and pray continually, and in the certain confidence of Your grace, await with joy the coming of Your Son, and through Him receive eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – MALACHI 4:1-6

P: ^{4:1} “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ “Remember the Law of My servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

HYMN: 🎵 56

EPISTLE LESSON – ROMANS 15:4-13

P: ^{15:4} For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your Name.” ¹⁰ And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” ¹¹ And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him.” ¹² And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even He Who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope.” ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 21:25-36

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{21:25} [Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ And He told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you

know that the Kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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: ♪ 62

SERMON: TAKE COURAGE IN YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST; LOOK FOR HIS COMING; NEVER FALL AWAY – LUKE 21:25-36

“Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Lk. 21:28) Amen.

Grace and peace to you in the Name of your coming King. Amen. “The end of the Church Year, culminating in the Last Sunday [after Trinity two weeks ago], focused our attention on the coming of the end of the world in judgment.” On this Second Sunday in Advent, “we shift our focus to the One Who is coming in that judgment, as well as remembering that He comes to us in a very special way in the Means of Grace and that He came to us in time in Bethlehem as a baby born of Mary.” (pericope.org; Seasonal Intro. to Advent)

Advent is a promise as well as a warning. It's a promise of redemption. It's a warning of judgment. *Judgment Day* is the day of the Christian's redemption and the day of the non-Christian's damnation. Just as surely as Christ Jesus redeemed us by His blood at his *First Coming*, He'll surely judge the living and the dead at His *Second Coming*. Those who have repented of their sins and have trusted in their Savior Jesus – Who bore away all their sin on the cross, washing it away by His blood – will welcome Christ's *Second Advent* as the day of their final redemption. Those who've continued in their sin and have rejected God's grace in Christ Jesus will be terrified at His *Second Advent*. Their hearts will fail for fear.

The powers of heaven will be shaken. The world that we know – that looks like it'll last forever – will be destroyed. The orderly universe will fall into disarray. This won't be a natural disaster or a man-made disaster – neither a global-killing meteor strike nor numerous nuclear weapon blasts. God alone will accomplish it with His almighty power. Just as He destroyed the world by a flood and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, so will He destroy the world in which we live.

Hearts whose affections are attached to the cares and pleasures of this life will fail from fear. They think this world will last forever. They think that if there's ever a reckoning they must face, they'll have time to prepare for it. Not so. They fail to face the fact that they owe their Creator devotion and obedience. They live as if He doesn't care about what they say or do, or as if He's disinterested in life on earth or is powerless here. Jesus describes these people when he warns us not to let our hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the cares of this life. For this is what the worldly are doing, and they think for all the world that all will end well for them.

It's not as if all those who'll be absolutely terrified at Jesus' return don't believe that God exists. The problem is that they live as if He's not true God since they lack godly faith in Him. They live to get pleasure and avoid pain. *“Carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life” (Lk. 21:34)* are a summary of those concerns that concern people who aren't concerned about God. They don't pay attention to what He says. They don't know or care about what really matters in life. They think that their bodily comfort, pleasures, pains and cares matter most. They look around and see what others have that they want to get and what others suffer that they want to avoid. What God says is all very good, but it goes in one ear and out the other. They scoff at God's call to genuine repentance and to true faith in His Son. They replace the one true God with a generic, one-size-fits-all god who can accommodate himself to anyone's religious sensibilities.

Jesus will return, confirming the truth of His identity, of Christianity. It will be shown then that *Judgment Day* isn't a scare tactic to get people to behave. It's a certainty. All Christian doctrine that seemed so distant and irrelevant will then be so vivid and real, staring everyone in the eyes. There won't be any doubt about it anymore. Jesus has said

so. That settles it. The *Second Coming of Christ* is as certain as His *First*. Just as surely as Jesus came into the world in humility to redeem us all, every bit as surely will He return in glory to gather us to Himself. The *First Advent* guarantees the *Second*. Those who receive Jesus as He comes in humility are ready to receive Him when He comes in glory. Those who do not are not.

The reason the hearts of unbelievers will faint from fear is because when they see the universe shaken down to its foundations and the end of all things at hand, they'll know for sure that they're facing their just Judge and they haven't got a leg to stand on. They'll be overcome by terror because they'll know the truth which they dismissed. They'll know that putting their confidence in worldly things which perish was not only foolish, but a terrible sin against God, Who alone is all that matters. The destruction of the world will catch them as a snare catches an animal in the woods. No warning. One moment it's running along entirely unconcerned. The next moment it's trapped. There'll be no escape.

And so our Lord's message to us today is to never fall in with those who – at His *Final Coming* – will be filled “*with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.*” (Lk. 21:26) For to join in with those who're unprepared for Christ's *Final Advent* and the earth's destruction is also to join with them in eternal judgment in the lake of fire. This calls for daily repentance, daily dying in Christ to sin and death on our part, and daily rising in Him to forgiveness, peace with God, and the guarantee of eternal life in-and-with the Lord Jesus. About this repentance, it can't be rare or occasional, or only when we think or feel we need it. Because if turning from sin; seeking forgiveness in Christ is infrequent, sporadic in our lives, then it's not really valued or considered all that important or necessary, is it?

Real repentance is being terrified by your sins and the just judgment you deserve for them all. But this is absolutely necessary as it leads you all-the-more so to trust Christ's Holy Absolution: His declaration that all your sins are taken away, eradicated from you by His innocent suffering and death as your Redeemer. The changed life always follows godly repentance and forgiveness. And since you'll remain a sinner 'til your dying breath, you'll need to repent many times over – all your days here on earth. So “*repent and turn from all your transgressions.*” Never stop doing so, “*so that your iniquity will not become your downfall.*” (Ez. 18:30) Always “*draw near to God, and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8) in mercy and peace.

That day of reckoning is coming, but for those who have their refuge in the wounds of Jesus, it'll be a day of joy, not one of retribution. *Judgment Day* will be our *Redemption Day*! As we sing to the Lord, the world's doomsday will be for us “*the day of earth's redemption, that brings us unto Thee!*” (TLH 72:4) The *Last Day* – *Christ's Day* we should call it, will be the day of our final deliverance from these dying bodies, our last deliverance from the sin that lies within us, our full and final deliverance from this fallen, cursed world; this veil of tears.

Saints of God, “*we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we are saved.*” (Romans 8:22-24)

The Rev. Luther writes of our Gospel lesson, comforting us with the words of Christ: “*Those who have believed in Me, suffered for My sake, and died in faith in Me need have no fear. Those who have not believed [should] be afraid, but you need not fear.... If the world is to crash in ruins, there must first be some cracking and bursting; otherwise such a great structure [as our world is] cannot collapse. Everything must shake and sway....*”

“*Therefore I tell you, don't fear, but lift up your heads, like people who rejoice to see it, for, see, your redemption is near. Be of good cheer; it will indeed be a terrible sight, but it is not against you but against the devil and unbelievers. To you salvation is come and the joy of redemption, for which you have so long been sighing and praying, that My Kingdom might come to you, cleansing you from all your sins and redeeming you from all evil. What you have so long been praying for with all your heart shall then be given to you.*” (Sermon on the 2nd Sunday in Advent, 1544; WA 52:19)

This, brothers and sisters in Christ, is why we will compromise anything else, let go of everything else, and concern ourselves with nothing else but holding on to God's precious Word, confessing it in its entirety as Divine Truth, compromising not one word of it, listening to it as if our lives depend on it, because they do. And resting our hope in Him Who came in great humility to redeem us, so that when He comes again in glory as the great and almighty Judge of all the earth, we may behold Him as our loving and merciful Redeemer, our all-compassionate Lord God and Savior. 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 12-13]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord of hosts, You have given all judgment over to the Son of Man, our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. Make us ever mindful of His coming, and keep us steadfast in the Word of Christ, that in accord with Him, we may live in harmony with one another and together glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Redeemer, Prince of Peace, You appeared here in lowliness to free us from our sins and to establish peace between us and the Father. We trust Your promise that You will come again in great power and glory to judge all hearts and to fill Your Church with eternal glory. We await Your final advent with eagerness and joy. Come soon to take us to the place in our Father's House which You have prepared for all who love You. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Blessed Savior, as we await Your return, keep our hearts filled with true faith. Overcome our doubts, and keep us from embracing the treasures and sinful pleasures offered by the world, so that we bow before You alone in adoration. Fill us with humility so that we may never trust our own works to merit heaven, but rely fully on You to save us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, with the bright hope of Your coming, cast the dark shadows of sorrows and cares from our hearts. As we await Your coming, help us in all our needs. Increase brotherly love and harmony among us. Hear our prayers as we faithfully cry to You night and day, and deliver us in all our afflictions. Ask the heavenly Father on our behalf not to count our sins against us, but grant us full pardon for Your sake. Make Your Word and Spirit dwell in us richly in all wisdom, and grant us continual growth in grace and in the knowledge of Your Holy Name, especially as we receive Your precious body and blood in the Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Precious Lord, since You are the Light of the Gentiles, enlighten the hearts of people everywhere with the Gospel, calling them to saving faith. Work faith also in the hearts of the people of Israel. Oh, convert all sinners to You, O Lord, that none be left in spiritual darkness to speak against Your sacred Name. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, preserve the schools of the Church and our baptized children, that our people may constantly be nurtured in the hope of our redemption at Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Everlasting God, guard us against preoccupation with the cares of this life; set tasks before us by which we may honor Your commandments, love You and serve our neighbor. Grant us joy and skill in our various vocations, so that we may faithfully serve You with cleansed minds, awaiting the day of Christ's arrival. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, look down with favor on this land, its government and all the nations of the world, that those entrusted with positions of public service might serve honorably and well for the protection of others. Preserve us from unjust war; sustain those who are in need, especially the homeless and the hungry; protect all pregnant mothers and their unborn children; and preserve in safety all those who serve in our armed forces, along with their families. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful Father, give ear to the cries of Your children. In Your gracious goodness, restore the ill, the lonely, the homebound, the depressed, those near death, those in any need, especially _____, and all those we name before You in our hearts. Shine Your face upon all those who call upon You. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, Your anger at our sin is just, and yet Your mercy abounds to us for redemption. Always grant us repentant hearts so that we would not live in sin and identify ourselves with it, or wander away from the faith, but rather recognize our sin, turn from it and receive Your forgiveness. Grant us a clear conscience for Jesus' sake, that we may live joyfully and without fear; 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 69

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: Cleanse our conscience, almighty God, by the daily visitation of Your grace, so that when Your Son comes again in the company of all His saints, He may find us ready to meet Him without spot or blemish; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: O God, Who gladdens us with the early anticipation of our redemption, grant that we who now joyfully receive Your beloved Son as our Redeemer may also behold Him without fear when He comes as our Judge; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 70

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	45	39	12	\$1,833.00
St. James	52	44	4 8	\$2,642.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	71,472.00				
Actual	92,227.72		7,685.00		48
Last Week	1,228.00		605.00		

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	126,480.00			126,480.00	
Actual	97,660.77	755.00	645.00	99,060.77	48
Last Week	2,592.00	50.00		2,642.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY

*Elders (Holy Trinity) following the service

+Elders (St. James) following the service

2:30PM: Voters (Holy Trinity)

3:00PM: Children’s Christmas Eve practice (St. James)

TUESDAY

9:00AM: Pastor’s Circuit Meeting

6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)

WEDNESDAY

3:40PM: Week Day School...last class until 2025

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.

+++**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 **this Wednesday**, December 11. If paying by check, please make the check payable to Lexington Country Greenhouse! THANK YOU!!!

+++**ST. JAMES...Children's Christmas Eve Service**, practice is 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 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-Larry Terrell, 9; Shelby Iselt, 10; Laine Bownds, 12; Krystalyn Patschke, 12;...St. James-Wayne Woelfel, today; Doris Tally, 9; Connie Boriack, 10; Diane Pelham-Kohlhaus, 10; Ronnie Iselt, 13; Stephannie Pelham, 13; Jessica Iselt, 14.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Wilbert & Linda Iselt, 11;...St. James-Matthew & Krystal Brade, 11; Kenneth & Patsy Hall, 12.