

July 21, 2024

8th Sunday after Trinity

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Casey Faske, Donna Faske, Nancy Urbanovsky

The Flowers – To God’s glory by Paul & Melody Tucker in honor of their 46th wedding anniversary

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Guy Latimer

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Acolyte – Tim Meyer

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

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

The Altar Guild – Brittney Brockenbush, Raegan Fritsch, Erin Kirkpatrick, Karen Norment

The Flowers – To the glory of God by The Doris Tally Family in honor of their July birthdays-Marisa Clifford (11), David Clifford (16), Gary Clifford (17), Rhyder Clifford (19), Matthew Clifford today, and Harper Clifford (28).

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Beware of False Prophets *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)* Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own hearts, not from the mouth of the Lord. *(See Jeremiah 23:16-29)* They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. *“You will recognize them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:20)* The “fruits” of a true prophet are faithfulness in proclaiming God’s Word. This is the will of God the Father, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones, warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding God’s Church which He purchased with His own blood. *(See Acts 20:27-38)* For the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit – namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. *(lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)*

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Why does Jesus tell us to “Beware of false prophets?” These “ravenous wolves,” though pious-sounding, are destructive to souls and enemies of salvation.

In addition to the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed, we pledge ourselves to our confession of faith. We reject all heresies and teachings that have been introduced into God’s Church against it. We regard as the unanimous consensus and declaration of our Christian faith and confession – especially against the papacy and its false worship, idolatry, superstition, and against other sects – the Augsburg Confession (1530). We hold to this confession along with its Apology [Defense] (1531) and the Smalcald Articles of 1537. Such matters concern the salvation of souls. We also confess Dr. Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms (1529). They are “the layman’s Bible” because everything necessary for a Christian to know for salvation is included in them.

All teachings are to be conformed in this way. What is contrary to these confessions is to be rejected and condemned, as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith. In this way the distinction between Holy Scripture and all other writings is preserved. Scripture alone remain the judge, rule and norm. According to it, all teachings shall and must be discerned and judged to see whether they are good or evil. The other writings mentioned above are not judges like the Holy Scriptures. They are only a testimony and declaration of the Scriptures and the faith. *(lcmssermons.com; Epitome FC, The Summary Content, Rule and Norm)*

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 260 [SUNG TO 301]

PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGE 15 TO 23, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: We have thought of Your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of Your temple. As Your Name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Within her citadels God has made Himself known as a fortress. Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments! This is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever. *(Psalm 48:1a, 3, 9-11, 14)*

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

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have brought us to the knowledge of Your Word. Graciously keep us steadfast in this knowledge unto death so that we obtain eternal life. Send us pious preachers who will faithfully preach Your Word without offense or falsehood, and grant them long life. Defend us from all

false teachings and frustrate those who pervert Your Word, who would come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves, that Your true Church may be established among us always and be defended and preserved from such false teachers; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – JEREMIAH 23:16-29

P: ^{23:16}Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the Word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear His Word, or who has paid attention to His Word and listened? ¹⁹Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²²But if they had stood in My council, then they would have proclaimed My words to My people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

²³“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My Name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make My people forget My Name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot My Name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has My Word speak My Word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. ²⁹Is not My Word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26

P: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

C: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

P: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

C: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

P: I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

C: I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O Lord.

P: I proclaim thanksgiving aloud, and tell of all Your wondrous deeds.

C: O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men.

C: In their hands are evil devices, and their right hands are full of bribes.

P: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

C: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

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.

SECOND LESSON – ACTS 20:27-38

P: ^{20:27}[St. Paul said:] I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able

to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 7:15-23

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 7th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ^{7:15} "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹ "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. ²² 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?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.'

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: ♪ 526

SERMON: FALSE TEACHING KILLS, DESTROYS; TRUE TEACHING SAVES, ENLIVENS FOREVER – JER. 23:16-29; MT. 17:15-20

"Let him who has My Word speak My Word faithfully." (Jer. 23:28) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with [false] hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord," (Jer. 23:16) the Prophet Jeremiah declares to the people of Judah in his day, and to us in our day. What is the prophet's concern? That the false prophets are preaching words which the people really want to hear and believe, but words which aren't from the Lord at all, and so are as false-as-can-be. Those who cast off God's Word as unimportant or useless – and so despise Him to His face, are told that all will be well with them. For them it's as if they trust in the Lord and honor His Word all-the-same. And for those who reject and deride God's holy commandments, and instead do whatever is right in their own eyes (see Judges 17:6), they're falsely comforted: "No disaster shall come upon you." (Jer. 23:17)

Our Lord likewise cautions us: *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Mt. 17:15)* He says this to warn us that the words of false teachers are oftentimes cleverly dressed up as the truth.

So let's dig into the divinely-inspired words of Jeremiah, and the words of the Holy Son of God which have us recognize, mark and avoid (see Romans 16:17-18) false teachings swirling around us – teachings which masquerade as God's truth.

False religious teachings – whether they're blatantly untrue or cunningly disguised as the truth – are lying words of death from the devil and from sinful man. Of all the prophets in Judah, only Jeremiah has his calling from God. He must tell the rebellious people of Judah things they don't want to hear – true things that the people don't want to be true. Things like they're guilty as can be of idolatry; guilty of making treaties with pagan nations rather than relying on God to save them; guilty of injustice, treating each other horribly. All the false prophets need to do is tell

the people what they want to hear – that all's well with them; that everything between God and them is "hunky-dory." Easiest, safest job ever! As for Jeremiah, He must speak God's truth, making his calling difficult, and dangerous.

What we need to take away from Jeremiah's words to us is that God always tells us what we need to hear in His Word – not always what we want to hear from Him. The people of Judah only, ever desire soothing words of comfort from heaven. That's really only what we wish to hear from God too. But what happens when the people of Judah out-and-out rebel against God and do what's wrong in His sight? Should they expect to only, ever be smiled upon from above nonetheless, since they're God's people? They sure think so, hope so.

God responds to their spiritually-naïve, wishful thinking through Jeremiah: "*See, the storm of the Lord*" is upon you! God's "*wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.*" (Jer. 23:19) What happens when the awful storm of God's righteous anger hits? His fury will not subside until the guilty are either rooted up – destroyed, or carted off into a foreign, pagan land in exile, in utter shame – in woeful divine judgment! Jeremiah then tells Judah, "*In the latter days you will understand it clearly.*" (Jer. 23:20) They sure will as they'll then look around themselves and no longer see Jerusalem and its temple – for they'll be no more – but only Babylon.

We too only want to hear God speak "*good tidings*" (Isaiah 61:1) to us – nothing ever against us. And while it's good and necessary for the Lord to speak words of comfort and joy to us, this can't be all that He ever says to us – and nothing else. Yet we stack sin-upon-sin by not only standing guilty before God, but also by insisting that He overlook, pay no heed to our sin-guilt, and just favor, bless, kindly-regard us anyway. Even though Christ has come to not call the righteous but sinners to repentance, we so want Him to tell us that we're righteous and aren't really in need of repentance. We only want to hear the Gospel part of God's Word to us. But before we can really hear the Gospel rightly, we must hear our Lord's call for us to turn from our warped, wretched ways and live. "*Turn back, turn back from your evil ways,*" God says. "*For why will you die*" (Ez. 33:11) in them? "*Even now, the Lord declares, return to Me with all your heart....*" (Joel 2:12)

As with Judah, so with you. You need the fierce, soul-scouring Law of God every bit as much as they did! Judah falsely views God as being distant from them, far removed from them in heaven, letting them do whatever they please, and blessing them at the end of the day anyway because they are, after all, His people. We also grow complacent before God, lulled into a sense of false security that things are good between Him and us just because they are; because we're His Christians. That He really isn't that opposed to our wretched deeds and guilt even though the Bible says He is.

Yet God is a God-at-hand, ever-present with us to call us out in our sin-guilt, but all-the-more-so to pardon, forgive, bless us as we repent in dust-and-ash according to His Word, and seek His merciful face. He aint ever aloof, like a statue with its face smiling at us day-in-and-day-out. Our misdeeds displease Him; they incite His just wrath against us. And there must be a reckoning! We can't hide ourselves from Him and His holy anger; all we can do is draw near to Him, fall down before Him with "*weeping and mourning*" (Joel 2:12) and plead at His mercy Seat: Christ!

The false prophets get Judah to forget God's Name – to stop believing in Him, to not call upon Him, to disassociate themselves from His Name. False teachers want you to do the same thing – to disregard the Name of the Lord; to not trust in Him; to neglect calling upon Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. To forget that His Name is yours.

But you have the Name above all names branded upon you by Christ's holy sacrifice and Baptismal waters! Don't discard His Name but own it, love and cherish it, prize it as yours – above-and-beyond even your own name! Believe only, ever "*in the Name of the Son of God!*" (1 Jn. 5:13) Always call upon the Name of your Savior!

Christ your Redeemer warns you of false teachers, saying, "*Beware of false prophets,*" (Mt. 17:15) because He loves you and desires above all to keep you in His one true Christian faith. His caution has to do with the fact that many a false teaching appears on the surface to be right-as-rain – good for you. How are you to determine if a teaching is true or false, good or bad? Hear Jesus; look to His Word alone! He teaches you that a teaching will be proven true and good, or it will be outed as false and killing based on the fruit it produces. (See Mt. 7:16)

False religious teachings glorify sinful man and our devious ways. They only appear to be godly and God-pleasing; puffing us up before God; making us pleasing to Him based on who we are, what we do. True, godly teaching glorifies God in Christ alone! It condemns the sinner and his, her sin. It calls upon you to cast your many serious,

deadly trespasses against God onto Jesus: God's precious, sacrificial Lamb! True Christian teaching declares that you and all believers in Jesus are "*justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when [you] believe that [you] are received into [God's] favor, and that [your] sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, Who, by His death, has made satisfaction for [your] sins. [According to] this faith God [regards you as] righteousness in His sight.*" (*Augsburg Confession: Article 4: Justification*) True, godly teaching is always Christ-centered, never you-centered.

False teaching is like Sodom's Apple, which grows in the Holy Land. Sodom's Apple grows to look like a ripe, juicy apple. But if you bite into it, you find that it has a poisonous, bitter pulp. The true doctrine of God is like a ripe, juicy, nourishing apple inside-and-out! So only, ever eat of it! Spit out and discard all false apples you may happen to bite into.

As I said earlier, there must be a reckoning for your sin. Thank God there is! Not a reckoning of God against you for your chaffing at, resisting His Word of Law; for downplaying His Name for you, but a reckoning of the Father against His Son for you! For God judged, condemned His Son to death for you, in your place – covered, as He was, with all your sin. "*[Christ] Himself bore all our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you are healed.*" (1 Pet. 2:24)

Israel only, finally heeds Jeremiah's call to repentance – to turn from sin, idolatry, evil – as they suffer exile in Babylon. There they fear that the Lord God has forsaken them, cast them off forever. So He "*declares to His people that He has not forgotten them, but will restore them, bring them out of exile, bless them and make them His righteous people once again. (See Jer. 31:23) He will ultimately forsake His one and only Son for them and for you so that they and you might never be forsaken or forgotten by Him. This is comfort that satisfies the weariest of souls!*" (whatdoesthismean.org/devotions.html – *Around the Word Devotions, 7.14-20, 2024*) 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: Let us rejoice in God's judgments and promises, coming before Him boldly with our petitions through the merits and mediation of Christ our righteousness, Who sits at God's right hand.

P: For the Holy Spirit, that we may receive with thanksgiving the Word of the Lord, which daily calls us to repentance and faith; and that our hearts would be enlivened so that we hear the Word with eager hearts and prepare ourselves rightly for God's heavenly Kingdom, unhindered by any worldly teaching or vice, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of sound Lutheran Christian teaching in our Church body and all over the world, and for the defeat of false teaching in the Church and everywhere, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the people of God, that kept steadfast in His Word, we may please the Father by holding fast to sound doctrine and by living holy and just lives by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the conversion of the unbeliever to the Christian faith, that the Lord would remove all false beliefs from the hearts of those who do not confess Him as Lord, and graciously grant them the only, true confession of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all the baptized children of God, adopted in the Son by the Spirit, that we would be kept in our Baptism, remember it every day and always be comforted by it in times of suffering with hope for the eternal inheritance prepared for us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For parents and children, that they would be given the courage to love as God has loved us and be united in their common life by the Holy Spirit to know Jesus and serve Him; and that the Lord would bless the unmarried with chastity, protect the orphan and defend the helpless, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our nation, that God would direct and defend all who make, administer and judge our laws; for our soldiers, police and all those who work to keep our communities safe; that God would keep us from violence, discord and confusion, pride and arrogance, and every evil course of action; and that He would teach us to grow in virtue, living at peace with everyone, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who need healing, strength or comfort, especially _____, that they would be defended from the attacks of the evil one and able to join us in God's praise, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all who commune today, that we may receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in sincere repentance and firm faith and to our abundant blessing, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: God of truth, protect Your flock from the wolves that seek to mislead and devour the sheep through their false teaching. Give us discernment to test them against Your Word and so recognize false prophets by their bad fruit. Preserve Your Church in the pure doctrine of Your Word, that the good fruit of salvation would be offered to all who hear and believe; through 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, Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: 🎵 307, 535 & 355

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 50

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	40	--	12	\$1,450.00
St. James	46	--	3 14	\$1,493.00

	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor				Week
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	
Goal	41,692.00				
Actual	55,422.34		4,590.00		28
Last Week	1,450.00				

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				Total	Week
	Operating	Mission	Future Development			
Goal	73,780.00				73,780.00	
Actual	58,031.77	30.00	140.00		58,201.77	28
Last Week	1,493.00				1,493.00	

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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...at Holy Trinity...Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;...at St. James...Ed Drosche, Dolores Sullivan, 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, 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**...(at St. James) held yesterday (7-20-24)...**Brooks David Brown**, infant son of Michael and Haley Brown, born March 14, 2024. His sponsors are: Caleb Latimer, Kay Latimer, Heather Lundgren-witness, Justin Lundgren-witness. God bless this child and keep him steadfast in the faith.

*****VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**...our children once again had a great week at VBS last week (July 8-12) as we learned *Making Tracks*...we had a total enrollment of 68 children...we would like to **THANK ALL** the many volunteers to help make our VBS happen...Level 1 (3-4 year olds-preschool)-Vanessa Clifford, Gloria Brockenbush, Teresa Exner, Cindy Clifford, Kinslee Hicks, Andrea Clifford, Katy Norment; Level 2 (entering Kindergarten & 1st Grade) and Level 3 (entering 2nd & 3rd Grade)- Debbie Johnson, Courtney Jenke, Brittney Brockenbush, Maggie Jo Rudd, Michael Norment, Kaidyn Johnson, Teal Brockenbush; Level 4 (entering 4th & 5th Grade) and Level 5 (entering 6th – 8th Grades)-Paul Tucker, Mackenzie Clifford, Juanita Clifford, Casey Faske; Music-Ruth Meyer; Kitchen Servers/Helpers-Lynetta Latimer, Elaine Boettcher, Nina Seifert, Janet Frosch, Kathy Dube, Judy Patschke, Linda Patschke, Mary Ann Blair, Nancy Urbanovsky, Sandy Woelfel; Recreation-Michael Norment, Maggie Jo Rudd; James Roensch for bringing boxes for craft projects; and **ALL** who provided the yummy cookies, rice kispies, brownies, etc. for snack!!! Our Joint VBS was made successful because of YOU!!!

*****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**...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 new book, "**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-Alleen Winkler, 22; Jeff Ender, 25; Renee Dodd, 27; ...St. James-Matthew Clifford, today; Lauren Williams, 23; David Roensch, 24.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Paul & Meloney Tucker, today; Dennis Sr. & Dorothy Iselt, 24; Frank & Nancy Newkirk, 24;...St. James-James & Karen Norment, 24.