

January 21, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor  
Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973  
Our website – [www.trinity-stjames.org](http://www.trinity-stjames.org)

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**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban  
The Altar Guild – Debbie Winkler  
The Organist – Kevin Patschke

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – David Boettcher  
The Acolyte – Jimmy Norment  
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack  
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay  
The Altar Guild – Teresa Exner, Kelsi Otte, Peggy Raines  
The Organist – Kevin Patschke

**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.

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**SUMMARY OF TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS –  
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**Jesus’ First Miracle Reveals God’s Glory** The coming of the Messianic Kingdom means the restoration of creation. When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to

restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine. (*John 2:1-11*) With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The “back” of God (*Exodus 33:12-23*) is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation’s curse into His own body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride (*Ephesians 5:22-32*), and from His side will flow water and blood, the Holy Sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

## READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

*Summary: Marriage is a gift of God by which He blesses man to have an intimate companionship that is to be fruitful and multiply, as well as a type of the relationship Christ has with His bride, the holy Christian Church. As such, marriage is to be highly regarded and celebrated, which Christ’s first recorded miracle at Cana indicates.*

But this Sixth Commandment is aimed directly at the state of marriage. Understand how gloriously God honors and praises this estate. For by His commandment He both approves and guards it. Therefore, He also wishes us to honor it and to maintain and govern it as a divine and blessed estate because, in the first place, He has instituted it before all others. He created man and woman separately, as is clear. This was not for lewdness, but so that they might live together in marriage, be fruitful, bear children, and nourish and train them to honor God.

Therefore, God has also most richly blessed this estate above all others. In addition, He has bestowed on it and wrapped up in it everything in the world, so that this estate might be well and richly provided for. Married life is, therefore, no joke or presumption. It is an excellent thing and a matter of divine seriousness. For marriage has the highest importance to God so that people are raised up who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil.

This estate should not be despised nor held in disrepute, as is done by the blind world. Marriage should be regarded as it is in God’s Word, where it is adorned and sanctified. (*The Large Catechism, 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment*)

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† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN: ♪ 343:1-3

### 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: PASTOR:** All the earth worships You and sings praises to You [O Lord our God]; they sing praises to Your Name. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. To proclaim Your steadfast love in the morning and Your faithfulness at the close of the day. Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His Name; give to Him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! Your power is so great that Your enemies come cringing to You. All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your Name. Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man. Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me! (*Psalms 66:1-5, 20; 92:1*)

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

### COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

**P:** Blessed Lord Jesus, Savior and Giver of all that is good, at the wedding in Cana, You blessed the marriage of a newly-united couple with Your presence and miraculously turned water into wine to provide for them and their guests in their need. Provide for all of our needs of body and soul as well, that we may be sustained in the one true Christian faith and always believe in You, Who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit are our one Lord, one God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – EXODUS 24:3-11**

**P:** <sup>24:3</sup> Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules [the Commandments]. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” <sup>4</sup> And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” <sup>8</sup> And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup> and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

<sup>11</sup> And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE INSERT)**

### **EPISTLE LESSON – EPHESIANS 5:22-33**

**P:** <sup>5:22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, <sup>27</sup> so that He might present the Church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the Church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 2:1-11**

**C:** ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**P:** <sup>2:1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.”

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

<sup>11</sup> This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 🎵 343:4-7

**SERMON: CHRIST FIRST REVEALS HIS DIVINE GLORY AT CANA – JOHN 2:1-11**

*“This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.” (Jn. 2:11)*

*The peace of the Lord be with your spirit. Amen.* Our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, His mother, Mary, and His disciples have all been invited to a wedding and its celebration feast. It’s at Cana in Galilee, not that far from Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, or from Capernaum, the place He’s made His headquarters or base-of-operation. How He’s received an invitation to the wedding is not directly stated. In all likelihood, His mother is a friend of the family. So she is there, Jesus is there and so are His disciples. There’s definitely something for them all to behold on this day!

One point we sure can draw from this is that Jesus is affirming God’s institution of marriage, blessing – as He does – this new couple’s nuptial union with His presence and His wondrous miracle. Just so is Jesus present at all Christian weddings, and He blesses every Christian marriage to this day. Yet there’s more to this Gospel narrative than Jesus’ blessing and approval of the institution of holy matrimony – which He, as the Son of God, first instituted.

Another point to be made about this text has to do with Jesus’ mother. She finds out – amidst the big wedding celebration – that they’ve run out of wine. First-century AD Hebrew wedding celebrations were known to go on for several days. So this is a big deal! It’s a disaster, an embarrassment, and will really put a damper on things. So Mary goes to her Son and asks Him if He can do anything about this. Apparently, she realizes that Jesus has the authority and the power, from God, to do some pretty amazing things. And she trusts her Son to do the right thing in this situation. So she tells the servants, *“Do whatever He tells you.” (Jn. 2:5)* That’s faith speaking. These words of Mary are a model of faith as she’s a role model for the Church. Let us be faithful like Mary to say to each other about Jesus, *“Do whatever He tells you.”*

But there’s more to this account than that. Jesus teaches His mother, His disciples and us that it’s not yet time for Him to reveal His full glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. So His hour of glory has not yet come. Yet He certainly does reveal a glimpse of His glory as God enfleshed by miraculously, instantly changing gallon-and-gallons of water into wine to satisfy the need of the couple and their wedding guests.

What we see from our Lord’s wedding-at-Cana-miracle is that He clearly has power from heaven to do this mighty wonder. No one else can do this. Jesus is, at minimum, no less than a mighty prophet sent from God like Elijah or Elisha or Samuel. And, given that after Jesus’ first sign or miracle His disciples place their faith in Him, He’s no doubt revealed to them by the Holy Spirit as the very, eternal Son of God come in the flesh! We read in the beginning of John’s Gospel account that this Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word, was in the beginning with God, and that through Him all things were made. So now as the Word made flesh, Christ Jesus has the power of creation at His command, demonstrated here in His turning water into wine.

And yet there’s still more to this story. The water that Jesus turns into wine, where does it come from? St. John tells us: *“Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim.” (Jn. 2:6-7)* John could’ve just written something like, “Now there were some large water jars there, and Jesus turned the water in them into wine.” But we’re told more than that. There are six of these large stone water jars, each of them holding twenty or thirty gallons. And Jesus has the servants fill each one of them to the brim. This emphasizes how abundant, super-abundant, is the gift Jesus is going to give. That’s how Jesus does things. Always more than we can expect, imagine or measure. He is rich in His grace toward us. Full to the brim.

St. John doesn’t stop there. He says that these are six stone water jars used *“for the Jewish rites of purification.” (Jn. 2:6)* Jesus chooses to use these water jars – meant for Jewish rites of purification – for His purposes, so John records it. The Jews would have various self-cleansings, various washings to render themselves ritually clean and to get rid of certain types of uncleanness. And with these they often would go beyond what God had commanded of Israel. We read elsewhere in the Gospels that the Jews and the Pharisees especially would have particular washings – of hands, utensils, even couches – to make or keep themselves clean. None of these were ever ordained by God. Thus the presence of these six stone jars for ritual purification.

And these are the vessels which Jesus is filling to the top. Then He replaces them with different content – new wine in old wineskins, if-you-will. Or in this case, new wine in old water jars. For these old Jewish rites of

purification are passing away. They're pointing ahead to the new and only way of purification, which is through what Jesus provides. Jesus fulfills; He fills full what the Old Covenant pointed ahead toward. He brings in the new wine of the New Covenant.

Here is your purification, O people of God! It is in what Jesus provides. It is in what Jesus gives. And what does He give? Jesus gives His own body unto death for your purification. Jesus sheds His own blood for your forgiveness. This is how you are clean. This is how you're forgiven: through Jesus giving Himself for you, to be your purification.

Again, carefully hear Jesus saying – as His earthly ministry has barely begun – *“My hour has not yet come.”* (Jn. 2:4) Not now, not yet, not at Cana. For at Cana Christ begins to “epiphany” or reveal His glory as God and man to His disciples and to us. At Calvary, outside the walls of Jerusalem, when Jesus’ hour finally arrives, He reveals His full, total glory as God the Son to us! As only He can do. This is why Jesus has come: to accomplish our cleansing, to accomplish our purification on the cross.

Later in St. John’s Gospel narrative, toward the conclusion of His ministry, Jesus will say, *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour?” But for this purpose I have come to this hour.... And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.”* (Jn. 12:27; 32) And then John adds, *“He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.”* (Jn. 12:33) In other words, Jesus is about to be lifted up on the cross, and this is why He came, and this is how He’ll be glorified, and this is therefore His “hour.” It wasn’t yet at Cana, but it will be at the cross. Cana’s wedding miracle serves as a sign pointing us to Christ and the cross. There and there alone He’ll provide all the purification the world will ever need, in super-abundance, through His sacred body pierced and His holy blood shed.

Just like Mary, Jesus’ disciples, the wedding couple and all in attendance at the wedding in Cana, you need the purification that only Jesus can provide. Your sins will otherwise surely condemn you, and you can’t wash them off on your own. The Pharisees tried that, but it didn’t work. Pontius Pilate tried that as he sought to wash His hands of all responsibility for the death of the Lord, but it didn’t work. The only cleansing that does work is the purification that comes through Jesus’ blood. *“The blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin,”* (1 Jn. 1:7) John writes in his first epistle. *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”* (1 Jn. 1:8) So confess your sins to God, you, His people, for He’ll surely forgive you all our sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness! (See 1 Jn. 1:9)

And with this cleansing, this forgiveness, this purification that only Jesus can provide, what’s the result? Life is! And joy. And celebration! Think of it. Where do life, joy and celebration all come together most beautifully in human experience? At a wedding. In the service of holy matrimony, two lives are united together as one. The wedding and its celebration are the promise of more life to follow, with the glad prospect of children to emerge from this union. A wedding is about the most joyous kind of celebration we have in our experience. It’s a festive time – one for great joy and feasting! There’s wine to gladden the heart. It’s no wonder that Jesus so often in His teaching compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding banquet.

And so it is that Jesus chooses to do this miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding. It’s a sign. It’s the perfect setting for demonstrating the life and the joy that Jesus is bringing through His death and resurrection. Notice, John mentions, *“On the third day there was a wedding at Cana.”* (Jn. 2:1) There will come another “third day” when Jesus will rise from the dead and the celebrating will begin! The celebrating continues to this day, and it’ll never end. Death cannot stop it. Life is the outcome – the life and joy that Jesus bestows on us in super-abundance.

So come, eat and drink of Christ in His body and blood and receive a foretaste of the glorious, heavenly wedding feast to come! It’s the wedding banquet of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which will have no end. Not just for a day or three but for an eternity this feast and celebration will go on. Jesus saves the best wine for last. He gives it free of charge. Always more than we can measure. Never giving out or running dry! 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 pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

To the Lord, Who manifested His glory in the sign and miracle at Cana, and restored creation through the shedding of His precious blood, that He would give us joy and gladness in the revelation of His truth and the abundance of His grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, C: have mercy.**

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving Name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His Kingdom extended, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the Name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful nature, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise to do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For the educational institutions of our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – our preschools, our area-day schools and high schools, especially Faith Lutheran High School in Warda, our colleges and universities, our seminaries, especially Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indian and our weekday school students and catechumens studying the Scriptures by way of the Small Catechism, that those who teach and those who learn would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray for the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For the sacred vocations of husband and wife, let us give thanks to the Lord; and for boldness to stand out in this world, faithful to God's institution of marriage, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have wandered from the Church and the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For all the faithful, that the Holy Spirit would lead us to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty which the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For those who are sick or in any kind of need, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord have mercy.**

For all who approach the altar this day, that by the Holy Spirit we would receive the Holy Sacrament of Christ's body and blood in faithful repentance and to our abundant blessing, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, from the dust of death through the waters of Baptism, You take from the side of Christ crucified a Bride without spot or wrinkle. Let us find comfort and peace in Him, and let us join the whole Body of Christ in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, where the wine of joy and gladness never runs dry; 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** 🎵 314 & 126

**CLOSING HYMN:** 🎵 129

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

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OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	26	--	9	\$1,155.00
St. James	49	--	5 8	\$1,224.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	2,978.00				
Actual	3,210.00		455.00		2
Last Week	1,155.00				

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	5,270.00			5,270.00	
Actual	4,454.00	5.00	50.00	4,454.00	2
Last Week	1,224.00			1,224.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY 6:30PM: Voters (St. James)...rescheduled due to weather last  
sunday

WEDNESDAY 3:30PM: Week Day School

THURSDAY 10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY \*Pastor's Day Off

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...** at Holy Trinity... *Eldor Brade, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche, Connie DeHart* [wife of Mickey DeHart (Holy Trinity)];... at St. James... *Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Charles Patschke, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Levi Dube* [grandson of Walter Jr. & Sherry Dube (St. James)], *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*.

\*\*\***HOLY TRINITY**...we've moved the Elders' meetings to the second Sunday after church each month.

+++**Sunday Sermons to Be Made Available Separately**...During the pandemic and the resulting change in how Divine Worship was conducted, the sermon was included in the bulletin and has been ever since. Beginning in February, it will no longer be included in the bulletin. However, a separate copy of the sermon will be made available to anyone who desires it before worship. You may request a copy of the sermon from the ushers before entering the sanctuary. The sermon will still be in the online bulletin which is available every Sunday at our website: **[http://trinity-stjames.org/sunday\\_bulletin](http://trinity-stjames.org/sunday_bulletin)**.

\*\*\***POINSETTIAS**...we **THANK** everyone that placed poinsettias to grace our chancel area for the Christmas and New Year's services! Please be sure to pick yours up following the

service today!!!

+++Sock and Underwear Drive is under way!: St. James LWML is collecting new socks and underwear [all sizes infant through teen] to donate to Orphan Grain Train. See the box in the narthex for your donations. We are also collecting used clothing, but Orphan Grain Train will not accept clothes with holes or stains, so please be sure anything you donate is in good condition. Please also label clothes donations with size and gender on the bag for ease of sorting. Thank you for your donations!

\*\*\*Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up: Save the date! Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting the annual TX Lutheran Writers Round Up on Friday, February 9, from 8-2. Featured authors this year include Sarah Baughman, Christina Hergenrader, Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Rev. Chris Kennedy, Ruth Meyer, Donna Snow, and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller. Be on the lookout for more details about the schedule in future bulletins, but be sure to mark your calendar now!

+++**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS & THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...As God's Christians, we live by every Word that comes from the mouth of God. (*See Deut. 8:3; Mt. 4:4*) Since His Holy Word gives us saving faith in Christ; (*see Rom. 10:17*) since it strengthens our faith and serves as a lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path and a great comfort to us, (*see Ps. 119:105; Rom. 15:4*), how good it is to hear, read and study it. So by all means do so. On Sunday mornings we're studying: **St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians**. On Thursday mornings we are studying: **St. Luke's gospel account**.

\*\*\***St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...(January, March, etc.) are: Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay...(February, April, etc.) are: Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay. Thanks!

+++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 UPDATE**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Randall Bowns, 23; Jason Winkler, 26; Tyler Iselt, 27;...St. James-Robert Patschke, today; Johnnie Zak, today; Diane Wells, 22; Guy Latimer, 24; Katelyn Nunez, 25; Meadow Stanley, 27.

\*\*\***ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Louis & Sarah Castell, 27.