

January 22, 2023

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Color- WHITE [Holiness, innocence, and purity]

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert

The Organist –Jack Wiederhold

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd

The Organist –Dorothy Wachsmann

The Acolyte – Tim Meyer

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

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

The Altar Guild – Kelsi Boriack, Teresa Exner, Peggy Raines

The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Guy Latimer’s birthday on Tuesday (24) by his 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 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, 6th Commandment*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 126

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

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.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

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

³Moses 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." ⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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." ⁸And 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."

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And 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

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

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the Church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church. ³³However, 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

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

JOHN 2:1-11

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

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹When 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 ¹⁰and 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.” ¹¹This, 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!

APOSTLE’S CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 343, 1-4

SERMON: O BRIDE OF CHRIST, REJOICE IN YOUR BRIDEGROOM – JOHN 2:1-12

“Everyone serves the good wine first.... But you have kept the good wine until now.” (Jn. 2:10) Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Following His Baptism in the River Jordan and His being tempted by the devil for forty days in the wilderness, our Lord Jesus makes His way to Cana of Galilee for a wedding celebration. Weddings are always cause for joy and gladness. Jesus and His disciples have been invited to join in the festivities. Little do the newly-married couple, all the guests including the disciples and

Mary His mother know, our eternal Bridegroom has come to increase their joy immeasurably by adding His own divine blessing to the occasion. As for the Twelve, they take great care to go wherever Jesus goes, for wherever He is, there is always life and joy.

This is a time of gladness – for the newly-wedded couple especially, for the families, for the disciples, and for the Lord too. The Savior of the world delights to be in the midst of His people, to share in their happiness even as He brings blessings from the Father above. His presence at this wedding blesses and sanctifies this and all marriages. What God has joined together no one is to separate. What God has blessed no one is to pervert. What God has given for our good no one is to deny and so bring shame upon men, women and children.

The merriment of the day is interrupted by a serious problem. Jesus' mother makes note of it and says, *"They have no wine."* (Jn. 2:3) There is nothing with which to gladden the hearts of the assembled guests. Such is the world into which our Lord has come, and such is the world in which we live. There is plenty of drunkenness, but no gladness, much revelry but nothing good, godly and therefore worthwhile about it. They have no wine at this wedding. The world also is lacking because it has no Jesus, no Gospel, no hope.

There are only six stone jars whose water is used for ritual washing. Those who're unclean, impure due to touching what's unclean, bodily disorders and various bodily functions are to wash themselves so as to be made ceremonially clean again. But this isn't the same thing as the forgiveness of sins – peace with God – granted to penitent transgressors by God. No amount of purification with this kind of water saves people from their sin and the condemnation of the Law. This is because it has nothing to do with Jesus but everything to do with man and his desire to remove his shame. While such bodily washing indeed removes a person's ritual impurity before God, the heart still remains corrupt and stained with iniquity. Man cannot make pure what he has defiled. Woman cannot cleanse the source of her uncleanness. Babies, infants and children can only suffer the consequences of their sin. Everyone fails at self-purification, self-redemption because humanity is depraved and lost due to original sin as well as sin committed.

Is it any different today? We make every effort to be clean and in good health, worrying more about bacteria or viruses on hands, faces and in the air than we do about our sin infecting and killing the heart. We take care of our bodies, seeing to our overall health with everything from good nutrition to taking vitamins and prescribed medications to regular visits to the doctor. We want what's best for us physically, mentally, but what about our souls? Are they not too often neglected? When it comes to our consciences, stricken as they are or should be by the wrong we've done, the hurt we've caused others and ourselves, we avoid the heart of the matter. We ignore the pleas of our conscience and the Word of our God. Joy is exchanged for anxiety. Certainty is surrendered for worry and the heart writhes about longing for heavenly comfort while it receives only earthly unease. How can there be any wine in this world when people won't have Jesus? How much do we crave the wine of Christ in our own lives?

Jesus has come to the wedding feast, come to our world, not to party, revel and glory in man's works and man's self-purifying ways but to take a Bride for Himself, to draw near to His beloved, to redeem her from the corruption of her flesh and to save her from the wages of her sin, which is death and hell. He's come as our dear Bridegroom to love us, comfort us, and forgive us with His presence amongst us.

As our Bridegroom, Christ must cleanse us so that He may present us, His Church, without spot, or stain, or blemish, beautiful and radiant, adorned with a righteousness that goes forth as brightness, mirroring His beaming, eternal light.

Our Lord has truly wedded us, His Church, by virtue of our common faith and confession of Him as our Lord and God, our Savior and Redeemer. Yes, He's joined Himself to you, married you, become one flesh with you through His holy incarnation. He is truly bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. All ritual washing, the blood of goats and bulls and everything else pales in comparison to the truly purifying, sin-and-death removing blood of Christ! (See Heb. 10:4) In Him alone is the wine of the Gospel, the true meat and drink of your salvation!

God *"did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world would be saved through Him."* (Jn. 3:17) He takes a people out of the world and renders us holy unto Himself through His redeeming grace, His Word joined with water. He suffers His Bride's faults and embraces her death. He loves the unlovely and carries her across the threshold of eternity. Such love requires His work, His life, His blood. As St. Augustine put it, bridegrooms may offer their brides gifts like gold, silver, precious stones, etc., but they don't offer their blood.

They don't die in order to seal their marriage vows. Christ bled and died to seal His marriage vows to us, His Churchly bride!

To have us as His own dear Bride, Christ Jesus had to give His life for us. He had to take up the cross, pour out His lifeblood, surrender His flesh. He was bruised for our restoration. He was stripped bare so that we're clothed and healed in Him. His cross is the doorway through which we must pass to be saved. His death is our life, His wages are our reward. He gives us who have nothing everything. He loves the unlovely and forgives the unrighteous.

God's saving gift to you is always, only Jesus. He's the Gospel, the Good News in the flesh, the heart of God made known to you for your salvation. He takes the world's water jars and fills them to the brim with the best wine because He fills them with His Word, with Himself. With Jesus we have One Who has faced up to our sin and carried our griefs, suffered our sorrows, died our death, and is risen for us. He has turned things around, right side up, outside in, water into wine, sinners into saints. His Gospel gives joy in place of sadness, comfort during times of affliction, hope under the cross, and a foundation upon which we may rest secure when the world around us quakes.

O saints of God who are united to Him in Holy Baptism: look to Christ your Bridegroom! See in Him the desire of your heart. He has taken away your sin, redeemed you from death, and destroyed the devil's power over you. Turn away from the stone jars of the world. Come to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, Who purifies you with His sprinkled blood. (*See Hebrews 12:24*) He has come to be near you, to forgive you, to strengthen you, to comfort you, to cleanse you unto the depths of your heart and soul. He's come to do for you what you can't do for yourself. Look to Jesus your Bridegroom and see His great love for you in His holy cross and passion. Receive His gifts to you faithfully. Be joyful always in this, your Church, in your family, in your life in Christ.

Following the first sign or miracle which Jesus performs in manifesting His glory as God en-fleshed, the disciples believe in Him. That's what disciples do. They follow their Teacher. They learn from His Word. They believe in Him. In faith disciples go where their Teacher goes; always follow where your beloved Lord leads you.

Jesus goes to a wedding and His disciples go with Him, and the Savior of the world is in our midst! He has taken us, His beloved Bride, to Himself. He's joined Himself to us and now offers good, Gospel wine filled with the passion of His blood. Come, drink and be glad! Your God is here to give you the entire storehouse of His goodness, His very best, His precious Gospel peace! He's here to give you Himself! All His priceless, life-giving gifts have nothing whatsoever to do with the world but everything to do with His love for you. The stone jars have been set aside. Now He fills His chalice, giving His own precious blood for you to drink by faith alone. He sets the table, giving His own sacred body under bread for you to eat as well. Here is your health, your life, your hope, your certainty, and your eternity. Let your hearts only believe and it is so for you. 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.

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, for our preschools, our area-day schools and high schools, especially Faith Lutheran High School in Warda, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, especially Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray for 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 us and for all those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that we may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 343, 5-7

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Almighty and merciful God, Who governs all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that You have given all of us Your saving grace and have brought those of this congregation who are married to the holy estate of matrimony and thereby kept them from sin. And we implore You to give Your Holy Spirit to all husbands and wives, that He may lead and guide them in this estate in order that they would be one with each other, give no cause for anger or strife, but lead loving and godly lives together. Even though tribulation is unavoidable for each married couple, remind them to nevertheless always be sensible of Your gracious help and blessing and live with one another in all godliness. Bless and abide also with those amongst us who are young, single, widows or widowers, filling them with Your Spirit as well. Keep their thoughts and deeds pure, and grant everyone – married or not – salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 129

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	45	33	9	\$1,620.00
St. James	72	53	9 12	\$2,596.00

	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor				Week
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	
Goal	4,467.00				
Actual	4,105.00		490.00		3
Last Week	1,620.00				

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				Total	Week
	Operating	Mission	Future Development			
Goal	7,375.92			7,375.92		
Actual	6,021.00			6,021.00		3
Last Week	2,596.00			2,596.00		

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THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: Quilting (St. James)
 3:30PM: Joint Week Day School

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

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*****We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Frank Newkirk, Alleen Winkler, Al Cain, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Donna Moerbe, Margaret Richter, Carolyn Nitsche, Andrew Richter* (currently residing at Oakland Manor in Giddings), *Connie DeHart* [wife of Mickey DeHart (Holy Trinity)], *Michelle Holmes* [sister-in-law of Paul & Meloney Tucker (Holy Trinity)];...at St. James...*Ryan Jatzlau, Holt Brockenbush, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, W. O. Exner, Genell Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, David Roensch, Lucas Raines, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Doug Wheeler, Charles Patschke, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Jean Griffith* [mother of Vickie Iselt (St. James)], *Tom Kollhaus* [husband of Diane Pelham-Kollhaus (St. James)], *Levi Dube* [grandson of Walter Jr. & Sherry Dube (St. James)], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)]; *Scott Husband* [son of Sherwood & Janet Frosch (St. James)], *Amber Brockenbush* [friend and relative of St. James members], *Elton "Sonkey" Walther* [father of Felicia Poston (St. James)], *Bethany Behrens Lara* [friend of St. James members], *Tim Kleinschmidt* [brother of Tom Kleinschmidt (St. James) and friend of members] and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

+++We express our sympathy to *The Della Biehle Family* (St. James) at the death of her brother-in-law, Herman Symank, whom our Lord Jesus in His grace and mercy called unto Himself on Friday (12-23-22). A graveside service was held on Wednesday (1-4-23) with a memorial service planned for a future date at St. Mark, Houston. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

****St. James LWM* will be updating their **Altar Guild schedule** and want to hear from any and all ladies [adolescent young ladies, men?] who are interested in helping wash the communion ware on a once a year (unless you are willing to help more often!) and once a month basis. We also would like to hear from you if you are currently on our schedule and feel you are unable to help

or would prefer a different month. Please contact either Brittney Brockenbush or Sandra Lay and as always, we certainly appreciate each of you and your dedication to help..bless you!!!

+++**ST. JAMES**...Work-day is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, beginning at 8:00am. Make plans now to come and join us...your **HELP** is appreciated!

*****St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...beginning (January, March, etc.) are: Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau... beginning (February, April, etc.) are: Jeremy Brown, Eugene Jenke, Tom Kleinschmidt, Victor Yurk. 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!

*****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!!!

+++**HOLY TRINITY** ...we would like to express our sincere **THANKS** to Nolan Huston for the recent donation of a load of gravel...thanks Nolan!!!

*****SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY FOR CHRISTMAS & EARLY EPIPHANY**...We continue to pause our Bible study on the Book of Daniel for Christmas and the first part of Epiphany in order to learn about the Prophet Isaiah's proclamation of Christ coming and blessed birth for us as our Savior. Join us at Fedor at 8AM and 10AM at Lexington.

+++**Family/Personal Daily Devotional Settings**: It is good for us as Christians to be able to utilize devotional settings throughout the week for family or personal use. You're therefore encouraged to make use of several Lutheran devotional settings/devotions in printed form, available now at the entrance to Church, and online at: trinity-stjames.org/devotions_updated_. The use of daily devotionals settings/devotions is a great way to receive and grow in God's Word in-between the weekly Sunday Divine Service. So by all means, do make faithful use of them!

***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 would not need or would like to donate to this project, put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office whenever they are in Giddings.

+++Holy Trinity...**A Note of Thanks from Head Usher Allan Urban**...on behalf of the our congregation, I would like to express my appreciation to the faithful and dedicated gentlemen willing to step up and help with ushering! It is a wonderful thing to know that we have such dependable and willing help and support by their continued service...many **THANKS!!!**

*****QUILTING**...St. James LWML invites you [we need participation] to come **HELP** quilt on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am.

+++ **THE NEW 2023 FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".

***Get your published novels *Grace Alone*, *Faith Alone*, *Hope Alone*, and *Stand Alone* by Ruth Meyer ...if you are interested in purchasing a copy (\$12.00), you can either contact the church office or see Ruth!

+++St. James & Trinity...the LWML and Ladies Aid are collecting used postage stamps (regular and commemorative). At least a ¼ inch margin should be left around the stamp (or just drop in the whole envelope). A box has been placed in the Narthex that you may place your stamps in.

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Randall Bownds, 23; Jason Winkler, 26; Tyler Iselt, 27;...St. James-Diane Wells, today; Guy Latimer, 24; Pastor Schumpe, 24; Katelyn Nunez, 25;

Meadow Stanley, 27; Elizabeth Boettcher, 28; Clyde Lay, 28.
+++ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...Holy Trinity-Louis & Sarah Castell, 27.