

November 19, 2023

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

Color- GREEN [Life and regeneration]  
Our email address – [lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com)  
Church-(979) 773-2634

### **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban  
The Altar Guild – Vera Farrack, Debbie Schubert

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

### **ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass  
The Acolyte – Koal Dockery  
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack  
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Zachary Lay, Patrick Jatzlau  
The Altar Guild – Elaine Boettcher, Kellye Boettcher, Janet Frosch  
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of November birthdays-Davie Clifford (5), Tim Faske (8), Jacki Lay (11), Mackenzie Clifford (14), Nathanael Clifford (24); in honor of Gary & Marisa Clifford's anniversary (27); and in loving remembrance of Walter & Selma Kaiser's anniversary (29) by The Doris Tally Family.

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 –  
24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**The Strength of the Lord is Our Salvation from Sin, Death and Darkness** A shroud of darkness engulfs us. Sin, death and disease threaten to sever us from life's fullest measure. Without new life in Christ Jesus, there would be no light to dissipate, dispel or curb grief and sadness. But Jesus has qualified us "*to share in the inheritance of the saints of light*" delivering us from the dark domain. (*Colossians 1:9-14*) "*I have put My words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of My hand. You are my people.*" (*Isaiah 51:9-16*) The presence of Christ, in Word, wine, bread and water confronts our sinful nature with forgiveness. In the Sacraments, God claims us as His very own children, creating and sustaining our faith in Christ. So in Him, we humbly receive the words, "*your faith has made you well.*" (*Matthew 9:18-26*) On the Last Day God will surely awaken us also from slumber in resurrection glory. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

**READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

*Summary: The miracles of Jesus recorded by the Evangelists in the four Gospel accounts are evidence that testify to the saving truth that He – Who would also suffer and die for us on the cross, is at the same time both God and man.*

God's Son from eternity has been a particular, distinct, entirely divine person. He is true, essential, perfect God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time He received also the human nature into the unity of His person. He did not do this in such a way that there now are two persons or two Christs. Christ Jesus is now in one person at the same time true, eternal God, born of the Father from eternity, and a true man, born of the most blessed virgin Mary. In this one undivided person of Christ, there are two distinct natures: the divine, which is from eternity, and the human, which in time was received into the unity of the person of God's Son. Each one abides in its nature and essence in the person of Christ to all eternity. He did all His miracles by the power of this personal union. For example, at the wedding at Cana of Galilee (*John 2:1-11*), when He was twelve years old, among the learned (*Luke 2:42-50*), in the garden, when with a word He cast His enemies to the ground (*John 18:6*), and in death, when He died not simply as any other man, but in and with His death conquered sin, death, devil, hell and eternal damnation. (*Colossians 2:13-15*) The human nature alone would not have been able to do these miracles if it had not been personally united and had communion with the divine nature. (*Book of Concord; Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, Art. 8*)

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**† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN: ♪ 590**

**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)**

**P:** In keeping with God's promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth – the home of righteousness. O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! See, You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before You. And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool! Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not be deaf to my weeping! For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers. Bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling! (*2 Peter 3:13; Psalm 39:4-5; 7-8; 12*)

**C:** ♪ Glory be to the Father....

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

### **COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY**

**P:** O almighty God, Who by Your Son have promised to us the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death: We ask You to strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit so that we daily increase in our confidence in Your grace through Christ and hold fast to the hope that our bodies will not die in judgment but sleep in peace, and by Your Son, Jesus Christ, will be raised up again on the Last Day unto eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 51:9-16**

**P:** <sup>51:9</sup> Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not You Who cut Rahab in pieces, Who pierced the dragon? <sup>10</sup> Was it not You Who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, Who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over? <sup>11</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. <sup>12</sup> “I, I am He Who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, <sup>13</sup> and have forgotten the Lord, your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor? <sup>14</sup> He who is bowed down shall speedily be released; he shall not die and go down to the pit, neither shall his bread be lacking. <sup>15</sup> I am the Lord your God, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar – the Lord of hosts is His Name. <sup>16</sup> And I have put My words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of My hand, establishing the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)**

#### **EPISTLE LESSON – COLOSSIANS 1:9-14**

**P:** <sup>1:9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 9:18-25**

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

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

**P:** <sup>9:18</sup> ....A ruler came in and knelt before [Jesus], saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup> And Jesus rose and followed him, with His disciples. <sup>20</sup> And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment, <sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I will be made well.” <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her He said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup> And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> He said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at Him. <sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

**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: ♪ 592:1-3; 5-6

### SERMON: YOUR NEED FOR JESUS IS VERY GREAT INDEED! MATTHEW 9:18-25

*Jesus said, "Take heart, your faith has made you well." (Mt. 9:22) Amen.*

*Dear baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.* How much do you need Jesus? A religious ruler of the local synagogue comes to the Lord Jesus, kneels before Him and pleads for Him to come and restore his daughter to life again since she has died. St. Mark's account of this narrative calls the man Jairus: the head of the area-house of worship. Jairus needs Jesus to the maximum since death has devastating him and his family.

How much do you need Jesus? Just like Jairus, a woman with a chronic disorder approaches Jesus. Unlike the synagogue ruler, she – wishing to remain anonymous with her condition – believes that if she only touches the hem of Jesus' garment, she'll be made well again – her bleeding gone for good! She needs Jesus for healing and restoration. This hurting woman shares the faith of grief-stricken Jairus that God's Son can do what she needs Him to do for her.

How much do you need Jesus? Jairus has no doubt heard reports of Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about God's Messiah – what all the Deliverer of Israel would do when He came to His people. Jairus likely even witnessed Jesus heal people in miraculous fashion, as when He healed a paralyzed man and forgave him his sins in the previous chapter of Matthew. Now this religious ruler needs Jesus to be Messiah for him and his daughter, to deliver her from death. If not for Jesus, Jairus would have no other option but to await his own death before being reunited with his daughter again in the resurrection. Like King David said of his dead son, all Jairus could say of his deceased daughter if Jesus were not there is: *"I will go to [her], but [she] will not return to me."* (2 Sam. 12:23) But Jesus is there!

Jesus and Jairus make for the ruler's house, and as a sign to us all, Jesus is needed more – always more! First by Jairus, then by the hemorrhaging woman and by so many more besides! You and me too! As for this poor woman, she's been bleeding internally for twelve years. Cruel death has ripped Jairus' daughter from his arms. A chronic bleeding disorder has cut the woman off from her community since it has made her ceremonially-unclean before God and man. So a suffering woman and a grieving father need Jesus more-than-ever since the bleeding just won't stop and a daughter just won't wake up again on her own.

In one form or another, this woman's reality is also our own. Jesus also enters our reality when He arrives with Jairus at the synagogue ruler's house. The grim tune fluted out and the wailing voices aren't strange to our ears, though we hear such sounds in a different way: at a funeral visitation, at a service of Christian burial, at the graveside committal and at other places where people mourn. It's the sound of death callously interrupting life, brutally ending it! 12-year-olds aren't supposed to die. Neither are 22-year-olds or 46-year-olds or 72-year-olds. Not even 99-year-olds! And yet this little girl is stone-dead because *"sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all people because all sinned."* (Rom. 5:12)

Jesus kicks up quite the fuss when He announces to all mourners gathered, *"Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping."* (Mt. 9:24) He's not speaking fugitively, but literally. She really is sleeping the sleep of death, from which she'll shortly be awakened. If you who believe in Jesus Christ by God's saving gift of faith should fall asleep in Jesus, perishing on the earth before His return again, then rest assured that He'll wake you too, raising your stone-dead body to life again just as He raised the girl's body to life! Jesus shoes away all the weepers since they're totally out-of-place there. Their presence and their wailing and blaring is like the women coming to Jesus' empty tomb for all the wrong reasons: to anoint His corpse with spices and to further mourn His death. God repurposes their visit to Jesus' grave, making them the first eye-witnesses of His resurrection – those who'll joyfully share the good news that Christ is risen!

For their part, the gaggle of mourners push back at Jesus, mocking Him for depriving them of their duty to spread the tragic news of a death in the community. Normally, they'd be right. It'd be like any of us going to a visitation of a deceased relative or friend and telling everyone there to get up and go home – visitation's over; no need to mourn anymore. What do you think peoples' reaction would be if one of us ever did that?

Know also that these folks are aware of Jesus' ability to heal the sick. But now that the girl's dead, what more can He do? they're no doubt thinking. Jairus and his wife need others to mourn with; the weeping crew is there to meet that need. Yet Jairus and his family have a greater need, and only Jesus can and will meet that need!

The world around us is just like the weeping troupe outside Jairus' house, thinking they're meaningful, they're needed, but that Jesus isn't needed in a situation like this. To them, what good can the Lord really provide in the face of suffering, death, sadness? There's always the desire on the part of sinful man to put a limit on the Lord Jesus – what He can and can't do. To many people nowadays, there's little thought of what Christ can do because they think He's still dead. Just like the mourners believe the little girl will be dead until the general resurrection at the end of the world.

Yet Jairus believes differently, as does the hemorrhaging woman, which is the key to our text today. The strength of Jairus' faith in Jesus to raise the dead to life again is a credit to God's saving grace. The strength of the woman's faith in Jesus to heal her of a disorder that everyone else would tell her – "Just deal with it." – is a credit to God's mercy and love for hurting sinners who cry out to Him in their great need! These two godly people don't have to put up with death and disorder – not when Jesus is there!

How much do you need Jesus? Your need for Him is directly proportional to how fallen and sinful you are. If you're just a minor sinner, a slight or occasional breaker of God's Law, who has only offended Him moderately, then you need Jesus relatively little. Heck, then you hardly need God's Church at all! If you're a more serious sinner, but still a pretty good person, then you need Jesus more. Maybe you need Church some of the time, say about a third-of-the-year or so. But if you're a true, guilty-as-can-be sinner, wretched as all-get-out, then you couldn't possibly need Jesus any more than you do! Then you need His Church every Sunday that ends in Y! It's written: *"No one is righteous, no, not even one! No one understands; no one seeks after God. All have turned aside; together [we] have become corrupt; no one does good, not even one."* (Rom. 3:10-12) Apart from Christ and His Church, you're dead, not alive. Apart from Jesus, the woman must live with her bleeding without any remedy. Apart from Christ, Jairus must live with his daughter's death as the victor over life. But with Jesus there's healing, restoration, life, peace forever with God for the woman, for Jairus, for you and for all believers in Christ!

In all our need, do we stand with the synagogue ruler, who went to his home with Jesus in order for the Lord to save his daughter? Or do we stand with the world and say that this girl – along with all who are dead today – are dead and gone forever? When Jairus knew that it was too late for Jesus to heal his daughter of her illness, he trusted that the Son of God could wake her from death. Jesus is always needed! When so many years of hemorrhaging and being an outcast in her community convinced the woman that her situation was hopeless apart from God's help, she brought her need to the only One Who could help her. Jesus is always needed!

Jesus invites you to cast your crushing sin burdens, your griefs and heartaches on Him. The woman certainly has no rational reason to expect that anything good can come from touching Jesus' garment. No matter! She trusts in Him to do good to her and save her. She believes that this is why He's come into the world! Don't doubt the Lord since you have the same faith as she does. If this woman hadn't trusted in the Lord and hadn't cared to touch His garment in faith, then no good would've come to her from God. Look to Jesus for all your needs!

In your confession of sin, in your heartfelt, God-given desire to approach His throne of grace, so that you receive mercy and find grace to help you in time of need (*see Heb. 4:16*), you find yourself right at the moment when Jesus' garment is touched and when He raises a child to life again. You see a world around you that's as dead as the little girl, and wants to take you and everyone you love down with it! You're aware of how you've doubted God. You know you haven't brought all your needs to Him in prayer and trust. But you also know that One greater than you became less than you – Servant and Savior of all – giving His holy, precious life unto death for you as God Who is man! You know that Christ Jesus has taken all your sin, your death and your judgment upon Himself for you!

Do not waver but believe! *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."* (Prov. 3:5) Jesus shows the exact same loving care for you and your loved ones that He showed to the hemorrhaging woman. He helps you to bear your daily burdens so that they won't consume you. You're no more self-sufficient than this woman was. So your Lord takes very good care of you. You have no way to meet the needs which only your gracious God can meet for you: forgiveness of sins, having a clean conscience, being justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ, living a good life before God and man, falling asleep in Jesus, being bodily raised from the dead on the Last Day. How you need Jesus!

God doesn't always heal us of everything which ails us as chronic illnesses and disorders may very well stay with us for the rest of our lives. And the dead aren't raised nowadays since Jesus isn't here waking the dead from their slumber – yet. We could easily become discouraged and forlorn, bemoaning that the woman, Jairus and his daughter had it better than we do now. Maybe, yet we have no less of a need for Jesus than they did. Thank God that He's no less for us as our beloved Savior than He was for the woman, Jairus and his family.

If you or a loved one have a chronic illness or a bodily defect, God may not relieve you of it in this life. But He will for certain in the next! In the meantime, cast all your needs, cares, anxieties upon Him, for He cares for you! (*See 1 Pet. 5:7*)

How much do you need Jesus? Dear saints of God, you know how much! 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:** By His Word and promise, through which God has made us His people, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For confidence in the power of Christ's death and resurrection, by which He has forgiven our sin and brought us to Himself so that we may faithfully arrive at the gate of heaven to join the saints in glory, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Churches of the Lord, shining as lights in the darkness, that we may shine by the power of His Spirit and show forth His Gospel, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the gift of faith which clings to the Lord Jesus and for joy in the reconciliation between God and all people in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For strength in the Holy Spirit to resist temptation and to walk in the good works He has prepared for us beforehand, that believing His Holy Word, we may lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For daily bread and contentment with what God has richly provided us, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For President Biden, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord, **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the weak among us, the sick or injured, the lonely and all in need, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that God would protect and relieve them, teaching us to cast every care on Him, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who commune, that God would give us a heart without deceit, a right confession of our sins and peace in the forgiveness of sins; and that we may come worthily to His table with the eyes of faith, seeing that He is good, forgives our iniquity and shows us His tender pity, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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: ♪ 315 & 618**

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 604**

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

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### **OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY**

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	29	--	19	\$2,137.00
St. James	58	--	3 15	\$2,371.00

	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor				
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	68,494.00				
Actual	78,113.26		7,337.00		46
Last Week	1,180.00		957.00 (includes door collection)		

	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington				Week
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	
Goal	113,097.44			113,097.44	
Actual	92,016.16	1,352.00	475.00	93,843.16	46
Last Week	1,552.00	819.00 (includes door collection)		2,371.00	

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### THIS WEEK

#### THURSDAY

#### \*THANKSGIVING DAY

9:30AM: Joint Thanksgiving Service (at St. James)

#### FRIDAY

\*Pastor's Day Off

#### NEXT SUNDAY

3:00PM: Children's Christmas Service practice (St. James) with decorating of trees/party following

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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...*Heidi Hobbs, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ryan Jatzlau, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, W. O. Exner, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Doug Wheeler, Charles Patschke, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Irene Faske* [mother of Tim Faske/sister of Doris Tally (Holy Trinity/St. James)], *Gloria Evans* [mother-in-law of Randall Sullivan (St. James)], *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*.

+++ST. JAMES...we will have our 1<sup>st</sup> Children's Christmas Eve Service practice **NEXT SUNDAY**, November 26, at 3pm. Following practice, we will decorate Christmas trees and have a fun party. If you would like, you may bring a snack item or dessert. **THANK YOU!!!**

\*\*\*ST. JAMES...**newly elected congregational officers for 2024:** President-Gary Dube; Vice-President-Clyde Lay; Elders-David Clifford, Dwayne Cass, Paul Rudd; Secretary-Dwayne Cass; Treasurer-Jeremy Brown; Trustees-Dennis Boettcher, Joshua Lay; Finance Board-Ryan Brockenbush, Clyde Lay, Zachary Lay; Head Usher-Wesley Boriack; Assistant Ushers-Ryan Brockenbush, David Clifford, Ferman Iselt, Joshua Lay, Zachary Lay. We thank **ALL** of our Officers [incoming and outgoing] for their love and dedication to our congregation!!!

+++**INVITATION EXTENDED TO HOLY TRINITY & ST. JAMES**...St. John's, Lincoln, is inviting anyone interested in **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** [Nursing Homes, etc.] to join them on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm at St. John's. For more information, you are welcome to contact Kristy Kauffman at 979-540-8405!

\*\*\***Homemade Noodle Fundraiser:** St. James LWML made homemade noodles and if you ordered any and have not picked them up, you may do so following the service! We greatly appreciate

all donations, help, and of course, orders!!!

+++**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**... We've begin a Bible study on this past summer's LCMS National Convention's theme – "We preach Christ crucified." (1 Corinthians 1:23) Come, learn and spiritually grow in the truth that Christ's cross is our theology and our salvation.

\*\*\***St. James**...we have Thanksgiving and Christmas cards available, as well as a variety of other cards...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

+++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!!!

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

\*\*\***PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**...the stamp collecting program of the LWML will end on December 31.

This date allows time for those who have gathered and trimmed canceled stamps to deliver them forward. As a result, the Executive Committee of the Post Oak Zone has voted to take the final collection of stamps on December 31. Thank you for your support over the years!

+++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.

\*\*\***BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Sarah Urban, 20;...St. James-Erin Kirkpatrick, today; Penny Biehle, 20; Jacob Poston, 20; Ernest Biehle Sr., 22; Diana Lerche, 22; Lorine Lerche, 22; Nathanael Clifford, 24; Junior Brockenbush, 25; Karen Hoelscher, 25.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Michael & Judy Brade, 23;...St. James-Tony & Crystal Hicks, 21.