

February 4, 2024

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor
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Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]
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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Julie Schubert

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Dwayne Cass
The Acolyte – Korban Brown
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Organist – Daniel Krause

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay
The Altar Guild – Lynetta Latimer, Miriam Meyer, Ruth Meyer
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Lillie Clifford’s birthday this past Friday (2) by her family.

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Jesus Is Lord of All Creation In Jonah we see ourselves. For Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord (*Jonah 1:1-17*) even as we sinners turn our backs on God and go our own way. This brings the storm of God's judgment. But in Jonah we also see Christ our Lord. For even as he was in the great fish for three days and three nights, so also Jesus was buried in the depths of death for us and raised to life again on the third day. The Lord of creation, Who rules over the wind and the wave (*Matthew 8:23-27*), saved us from the fury of divine wrath by taking the judgment in His own body. His love is the fulfillment of the Law of God. Though our faith be weak in the face of peril, yet we are kept in safety on the ship of the Church since the Son of God is with us. Though the whole creation groans with us under the curse, yet by Jesus' speaking, there is a great calm. For we know that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us, and that, since we are justified by faith alone in Christ, no one can condemn us. (*Romans 8:18-23; 31-34*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: "What sort of a man is this [Jesus]?" (Matthew 8:27) He is the sort of a man Who is also truly and fully God. Therefore, in addition to His miracles like calming the sea, Jesus the ascended God-man works a miracle for us in His Holy Supper where He gives us His very body and blood to eat and to drink.

Christ's human nature alone would not have been able to do these miracles if it had not been personally united and had communion with His divine nature. The human nature, after the resurrection from the dead, is exalted above all creatures in heaven and on earth. This is nothing other than that He entirely laid aside the form of a servant. [*Philippians 2:7-11*] He did not lay aside His human nature, but retains it to eternity. He has the full possession and use of the divine majesty according to His received human nature. However, He had this majesty immediately at His conception, even in His mother's womb. As the apostle testifies [*Philippians 2:7*], He laid it aside. As Dr. Luther explains, He kept it concealed in the state of His humiliation and did not always use it, but only when He wanted to use it.

Now He has ascended to heaven, not merely as any other saint, but as the apostle testifies [*Ephesians 4:10*], above all heavens. He also truly fills all things, being present everywhere, not only as God, but also as man. He rules from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth, as the prophets predict [*Psalms 8:1, 6; 93:1-4; Zechariah 9:10*] and the apostles testify. [*Mark 16:20*] He did this everywhere with them and confirmed their word with signs. This did not happen in an earthly way. As Dr. Luther explains, this happened according to the way things are done at God's right hand. "God's right hand" is no set place in heaven, as the Sacramentarians assert without any ground in the Holy Scriptures. It is nothing other than God's almighty power, which fills heaven and earth. Christ is installed according to His humanity (in deed and truth), without confusing or equalizing the two natures in their essence and essential properties. By this communicated divine power, according to the words of His testament, He can be and is truly present with His body and blood in the Holy Supper. (*Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, Article 8, the Person of Christ*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 546

**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: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble. Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His

wondrous works to the children of men. Some went down to the sea in ships. They saw the deeds of the Lord, His wondrous works in the deep. [Then the Lord] commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted the waves of the sea. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and He brought them to their desired haven. Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people. (*Psalm 107:1-2; 23-25; 28-32*)

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

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, in Your divine wisdom and fatherly goodness You cause Your children to bear the cross and send us many afflictions both to subdue our sinful flesh and to enliven our hearts to faith, hope and unceasing prayer. Have mercy on us, we pray, and graciously deliver us from these trials and afflictions, so that we may acknowledge Your grace and fatherly assistance, and with all the saints forever praise and bless You, Who with the Son and the Holy Spirit are the only everlasting and almighty God Who lives and reigns now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – JONAH 1:1-17; 2:10

P: ¹Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach against it, for their evil has come up before Me.” ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

⁴But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. ⁶So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

⁷And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, Who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

¹¹Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.” ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. ¹⁴Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not lay innocent blood on us, for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You.” ¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

¹⁷And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

^{2:10} And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE INSERT)

EPISTLE (LETTER) LESSON – ROMANS 8:18-23; 31-34

P: ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him Who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And

not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God Who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One Who died – more than that, Who was raised – Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 8:23-27

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 8th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{8:23} And when Jesus got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” ²⁶ And He said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?”

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: ♪ JESUS, WHEN A STORM WAS RAGING [SUNG TO 367]

1. Jesus, when a storm was raging, Thou didst hear Thy servants cry; Hear me also, poor and helpless, grace in time of need supply! “Master, save us, lest we perish!” Was their earnest, anxious plea, and Thy hand was raised to save them from the perils of the sea.

2. True, Thou didst rebuke their weakness and their lack of faith in Thee; One storm robbed them of their courage and their former constancy. Yet the reed must not be broken nor the smoking flax put out, lest their faith die altogether and their hope turn into doubt.

3. Roaring winds and stormy weather heard Thee saying, “Peace! Be still!” And at once the angry billows were obedient to Thy will. Winds that threatened now subsided; Stormy clouds made haste to flee, mirroring the peace of heaven in the calm and quiet sea.

4. Thy disciples bowed before Thee, wondering with holy awe, and their faith in Thee was strengthened by the things they heard and saw, asking, “Who is this that orders storm and tempest to subside? Can He be the Christ Who chose us and has been our constant Guide?”

5. Yes, ‘tis He in Whom I trusted ever since my early youth, when the Holy Spirit led me to believe the saving truth – that the Christ is my Redeemer, God’s dear Son, Who died for me, Lord of lords, Who reigns forever in His royal majesty.

6. To this faith I cling unswerving, even in the hour of woe, though all things be rent asunder, tossed like flotsam to and fro; Though my sails be torn and tattered and my masts be swept away, Thou alone art still my Refuge and my Help from day to day.

7. Should the stormy waves engulf me and my course of life be run, be it so, dear Lord and Savior, let Thy will, not mine, be done. Only with Thee life has meaning, with Thee even death is gain, and with Thee in heav’nly glory all Thy faithful people reign. Amen.

(Written by Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther [First President of the LCMS] on March 16, 1860, in the Gulf of Mexico off Key West, Florida, aboard the Oder while traveling to Europe for his health; translated by Rev. W.M. Czamanske; Tune: O Durchbrecher)

SERMON: JESUS CALMS A STORM AT SEA – MATTHEW 8:23-27

“Then [Jesus] rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Mt. 8:26) Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Your Savior Jesus is always in control. When the multitudes press upon Him, when hemorrhaging women grasp the hem of His robe,

when desperate fathers hear that their little girl has died, when the greatest of prophets lose their heads and when sheep without a shepherd gather in desolate places, Jesus is there for them, always in control. Today is no different. Jesus is as much in control now as He ever was – and ever will be! Just as the Lord leads His twelve disciples into the boat, so does He gather us into the mighty boat of His Church. Where the Twelve go we go also, since we too are members of the one holy Christian and apostolic Church, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Himself as the chief Cornerstone. Where God’s saints gather around Word and Sacrament, there is Christ’s Church and there is the Ark of our Salvation. Into the boat we go that we may find rest for our souls.

When a sudden, violent storm arises and mercilessly tosses their boat around like a toy, terror seizes the disciples and they panic. Jesus knows this. He’s always in control, always watching, always praying, always loving His Church then and you, His Church now. All the disciples’ strength, all their will isn’t enough to escape the gale and get to the other side. But Jesus is still in control. The wind and the waves beat upon the vessel and swamp it with water, threatening to sink it. But Jesus is still in control since He rules the raging of the sea. When its waves mount up, He stills them. (*See Ps. 89:9*)

As we journey towards our eternal home, life is far from smooth and calm. So much we see gives us reason to doubt and to fear. When we do so, our hearts are swamped with distress, and our enemy the devil salivates at the prospect of bringing us down into the depths of despair. Our failure to remain steadfast gladdens our adversary. Fearing what we see, realizing that we’re not as in control of things as we think, we begin to torture ourselves with “what if?”

“What if the boat capsizes? What if the water gets over my head? What if the doctor’s news isn’t good? What if I lose my livelihood? What if my marriage begins to fail? What if I can’t care for a loved one or for myself anymore? What if a child or grandchild loses the faith? What if this or that happens to me or a loved one? What if I get sick? What if I die?”

When they hit, the storms of life shake us hard. They quickly become too much for us so that, as hope vanishes, we look for God’s help. “If only we could see Jesus,” we say to ourselves. “Then things would be better.” But think about it. Seeing Jesus doesn’t make things better for the disciples, especially as they witness Him sleeping and, in their minds, His disregard for the seriousness of the situation. St. Mark’s Gospel account adds that they even chide Him in their alarm: “*Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?*” (*Mk. 4:38*)

Seeing Jesus right now is actually not what we Christians need. After all, we walk by faith, not by sight. What we see makes us afraid. When we’re afraid of what we see then faith is easily shaken. It’s small; it’s weak. It’s in danger of perishing. What if that happens? What if you fall out of the boat? What if you fall away from Christ, His Church, the faith? Where will you end up then?

Our salvation doesn’t come by seeing. Salvation comes by hearing – hearing and believing Jesus. Jesus comes topside as the storm’s raging, as His disciples’ hearts are failing and as the boat’s sinking. A watery grave certainly isn’t where Jesus will be buried, nor will the Twelve lose their lives to this storm. So He hears their cry – “*Save us, Lord; we are perishing!*” (*Mt. 8:25*) Christ has compassion on them and rebukes the wind and commands the sea, saying, “*Peace! Be still! And the wind cease[es], and [there’s] a great calm.*” (*Mk. 4:39*) The same authoritative Word of our Lord which created the heavens and the earth controls the heavens and the earth.

The Son of God proves His dominion, power and glory over all things, the sight of which brings a new, different fear upon the Twelve: “*What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?*” (*Mt. 8:27*) Yet Jesus isn’t there to terrify His fellow seafarers. He’s not there to bring down God’s judgment upon them. He doesn’t curse, rebuke and reject them. Jesus is there because He’s always in control – even when the Twelve think they’re in control; even when we think we’re in control. God the Son’s there not to frighten but to comfort. His appearance may startle but His Words give peace.

The words of Jesus, not the sight of Jesus, comfort terrified hearts. What He says identifies Jesus as the One in control of the situation, even in the midst of such a terrible, life-threatening storm. Jesus is the great “I Am.” He’s the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the burning Bush, the God Who brought light out of darkness, the God who stills storms and commands wind and waves, Whose glory fills heaven and earth, Whose hands formed the dry land and Whose voice shepherds His sheep. He’s the Lord God of Sabaoth – of all power and might! And yet He has also taken on our mortal, frail flesh. He was born of a virgin mother, raised by an

earthly father, baptized by God's prophet. For Him the heavens were torn and the heavenly voice declared, *"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."* (Mt. 3:17)

Jesus is the King of kings Who feeds five-thousand with scant food, Who walks on water and calms the stormy sea. And yet He's arrested, falsely tried and convicted, and made to suffer a shameful, wretched death. What greater storm could afflict man than the death of the Son of God! Even in the middle of God's wrath for sins, even as the sun surrenders its light, sheep turn on their Shepherd, thieves curse Him, the serpent Satan pierces His hands and feet, Jesus' own companions abandoned Him, even as Heaven turns its back on the Son of God, even then, Christ is in control! Hell hath no fury that the Son of God can't weather! Death has no dominion over the One Who is life Himself, and in Whom there's life – eternal life! Even as He dies for sins – yours, mine, and the whole world's, He's still in control, still watching, still praying, still loving you!

It's as if He says to us, "Take courage. I am your Savior. Do not fear. Though what you see drives fear into you, hear Me. I suffered and died for you because I love you. I took your place on the cross so that you may be where I am for eternity. My blood washes away all the sins you can't scrub from your heart. My stripes heal wounds you can't restore to health. My death is your life. My resurrection is your eternity. For what you see is not the end. On the third day I rose from the dead and My Easter makes all things new. My Word and My promises are your absolution, your peace with God while storms rage and the world wars against you on account of Me. Take courage. I am Your Savior. Do not fear."

But what do we do? We still tremble as we're *"weak and heavy-laden."* (TLH 457) We're tempted again and again to fix our hearts on what we see rather than what we hear from the lips of Jesus. So let us repent and grasp the Savior's words this morning. Let us surrender our "what ifs," toss away our doubts and uncertainties – which only bring us fear and dread – and let us take hold of and firmly believe the Word of Christ! Let us be courageous and faithfully seek after the Lord where His Word is found, where He – our great "I Am," promises to always be present for us. Let us remain in the boat! Let us remain faithful! Let us hold fast to Christ's Word! Let us feast on His Supper! Let us renew our strength as our Savior draws near to us. For *"day and night the Gospel proclaims to us: 'You are holy. You are holy. Your sins have been forgiven you. You are blessed.'"* (Rev. Luther)

Beloved in the Lord, the Savior is always in control, even when we can't see Him, even when He seems absent, distant from us, even when we hurt, suffer and bear the afflictions of a broken and cursed creation. The disciples learned this on the open sea. We learn this as we live out our days confident of Christ's holy presence and good heart toward us in His Word. His Word comforts our souls, encourages our hearts and heals our wounds as it reassures us that Jesus is always in control, always watching, always praying, always loving His Twelve, His Church, you.

When Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and the waves, all became calm. So it is with us in this boat called the holy Christian Church. For we sing, *"Preserve in wave and tempest Thy storm-tossed little flock; Assailed by wind and weather, may it endure each shock. Stand at the helm, our Pilot, and set the course aright; Then we will reach the harbor in Thine eternal light."* (TLH 264:6) 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: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

To Christ, the greater Jonah, Who was cast into the depths of our sin to bring us peace, and Who was raised to life again after three days asleep in the belly of the earth so that we may find care in every trouble and not perish, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the blessed course of the Gospel throughout this world, that it may refresh the saints and work faith in those who are lost in error and unbelief; and for all preachers, that God would sustain them and turn them from reluctance, bitterness or discouragement to embrace their task and the cross it brings, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

For boldness and courage, that we would not flee like Jonah whenever we are duty-bound to speak against great evil in this land of exile, but stand to confess God's goodness before a world that rejects Christ and His Church, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For love in homes and workplaces, that we may be turned toward our neighbors there to love them as ourselves and do them no wrong, as the good Law of God commands, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who struggle with various temptations, that God would grant them strength to endure the trials, confidence in His loving care, and the blessed comfort of His forgiveness in Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For God's servants for whom we pray, especially _____, that their faith may be increased and their fears calmed by Christ's presence and gracious, sure promises, for without Him we perish, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For all who feast upon the body and blood of Christ this day, that our faith might be strengthened and our sins forgiven, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

In thanksgiving for recent rains and for a wetter weather pattern to persist, that additionally-needed rain for flocks, fields and tanks would fall, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and who now repose in Christ, let us give thanks and praise, asking that our Savior would also grant us a share in their heavenly fellowship and raise us with them to the unending Feast in His Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

[St. James only] For Wayne Woelfel and his family as they mourn the passing of his mother, Mildred, and for Linda Patschke and her family as they mourn the passing of her husband, Charles, Rodney, that they would be comforted by the truth that Christ carried all of Milred's and Charles' sin and death in His own body unto death, and bodily rose again for them and for our everlasting salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, You have anointed Your Son to be our Savior and have established His throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by His Name would see His reign spread among all nations; 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)

It is truly, good, right, and salutary that we should at all time and 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: ♪ 315 & 447

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 649

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

| | Worship | Comm. | S.S. & B.C. | Offerings |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------------|------------|
| Trinity | 44 | -- | 10 | \$2,527.49 |
| St. James | 63 | -- | 6 13 | \$1,655.25 |

| | Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor | | | | Week |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|------|
| | Operating | Building | Missions | Cemetery | |
| Goal | 5,956.00 | | | | |
| Actual | 6,787.49 | | 625.00 | | 4 |
| Last Week | 2,527.49 | | | | |

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

| | Operating | Mission | Future Development | Total | Week |
|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------------|-----------|------|
| Goal | 10,540.00 | | | 10,540.00 | |
| Actual | 8,340.25 | 5.00 | 50.00 | 8,395.25 | 4 |
| Last Week | 1,655.25 | | | 1,655.25 | |

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THIS WEEK

- WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: LWML (St. James)
 3:30PM: Week Day School
- THURSDAY 10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)
- FRIDAY *Pastor’s Day Off
- NEXT SUNDAY +Elders (Holy Trinity) following the service
 *Elders (St. James) following the service

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, 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*.

*****DEATH**...on Thursday (2-1-24), our Lord Jesus in His grace and mercy called out of this vale of tears unto Himself **Charles Patschke** (St. James). His funeral service was pending at the printing of the bulletin. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

+++ We express our sympathy to **The Wayne Woelfel Family** (St. James) at the passing of his mother, Mildred Woelfel, whom our Lord Jesus in His grace and mercy called out of this vale of tears unto Himself on Tuesday (1-23-24). Her funeral service was held Monday (1-29-24) at Ebenezer, Manheim. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with and comfort the surviving family.

*****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. Starting today, 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.

*****TODAY**...St. Paul, Thorndale, is sponsoring their annual BBQ & Auction at the Thorndale Firemen’s Hall with lunch plates available for dine-in or drive thru from 11am until 1pm for \$15.00 each. Live auction begins at 12:30pm See ya there!

+++**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: You are invited to attend the 5th annual Lutheran Writers Round Up at Faith Lutheran High School in Warda on Friday, February 9, from 8-2. The day begins with a live broadcast of *Sharper Iron* at 8, with host Rev. Timothy Appel interviewing Rev. Brian Kachelmeier and Rev. Dustin Beck. At 9 there are two Bible studies from which to choose, one led by Donna Snow on her book "Unshakable," and the other led by Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller on his book "Has American Christianity Failed?" After a group opening at 10, there are adult and student breakout sessions during the morning and afternoon (with lunch provided at noon). Adults will be in the main fellowship hall, while student groups will move from classroom to classroom. Featured authors include Sarah Baughman, Charles Hebert, Christina Hergenrader, Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Rev. Chris Kennedy, Ruth Meyer, Donna Snow, and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller. If you plan to be there for lunch, please RSVP to FLHS at 979-242-2889 for planning purposes. Hope to see you there!

+++**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...(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 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Benjamin Castell, today; Nancy Newkirk, 8;... St. James-Linda Patschke, today; Jason Hall, 6; Chance Dube, 8; Kristie Martin, 9; Karen Norment, 9.

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Christopher & Mackenzie Clifford, 9.