

March 10, 2024

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

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]  
Our email address – [lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com)  
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**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR**

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert  
The Head Usher – Allan Urban  
The Altar Guild – Nancy Newkirk, Cindy Terrell

The Organist – Daniel Krause

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON**

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd  
The Acolyte – Michael Norment  
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack  
The Finance Board – Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay  
The Altar Guild – Vanessa Clifford, Mickey Milburn, Jacki Lay, Margie Zak  
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of Margie Zak’s birthday on Tuesday (12) by her family.

The Organist – Dorothy Wachsmann

**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.

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**A SUMMARY OF TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS –  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**The Lord Feeds His People** The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness. (*Exodus 16:2-21*) He Who is Himself the living Bread from heaven also miraculously provides bread for the five thousand. (*John 6:1-15*) Five loaves become twelve baskets – that is, the five books of Moses (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy – the Torah*) find their goal and fulfillment in Christ Jesus, Whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in prayers and divine worship. (*Acts 2:41-47*) So it is that God’s people shall not hunger or thirst. For He abundantly provides for us in body and soul. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

## A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

*Summary: Just as Jesus blessed the fishes and loaves to provide more than enough food for five-thousand men gathered in a mountain field, so does He bless bread and wine to give His body and blood to countless saints gathered around altars unto the end of the age. There is always more for the next feast.*

*What is the Sacrament of the Altar?* It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ's Word to eat and to drink. Though the Sacrament is bread and wine, it is not mere bread and wine, such as are ordinarily served at the table. But this is bread and wine included in, and connected with, God's Word. It is the Word, I say, that makes and sets this Sacrament apart. So it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, Christ's body and blood. For it is said, "When the Word is joined to the element or natural substance, it becomes a Sacrament." The Word must make a Sacrament out of the element, or else it remains a mere element.

With this Word you can strengthen your conscience and say, "If a hundred thousand devils, together with all fanatics, should rush forward, crying, 'How can bread and wine be Christ's body and blood?' I know that all spirits and scholars together are not as wise as is the Divine Majesty in His little finger." Now here stands Christ's Word, "Take, eat; this is My body. Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the New Testament." What Christ's lips say and speak, so it is. He can never lie or deceive. (*lcmssermons.com; BOC readings – 1-Year Lectionary; Large Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar*)

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† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:** 🎵 143:1-5, 15

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

**INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)**

**PASTOR:** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, Who keeps faith forever; Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord! (*Psalms 146:5-10*)

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

**COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY**

**P:** Lord God, heavenly Father, Who by Your Son in the wilderness bountifully fed five thousand people with only five loaves and two fish: We implore You to graciously visit us also with Your blessing and to protect us from covetousness and cares for this life, that we may seek Your Kingdom and righteousness first, and mercifully be made to know Your generous, fatherly goodness in all our needs of body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** 🎵 **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS: FIRST LESSON – EXODUS 16:2-21**

**P:** <sup>16:2</sup> And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup> and the people of Israel said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because He has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against Him – what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your grumbling.’” <sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. <sup>14</sup>And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” <sup>17</sup>And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. <sup>19</sup>And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” <sup>20</sup>But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>21</sup>Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM 132:8-18**

**P:** Arise, O Lord, and go to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might.

**C:** Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.

**P:** For the sake of Your servant David, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed One.

**C:** The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back.

**P:** “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep My covenant and My testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit on your throne forever.”

**C:** For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place.

**P:** “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

**C:** I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

**P:** Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.

**C:** There I will make a horn to sprout for David.

**P:** I have prepared a lamp for My Anointed.

**C:** His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on Him His crown will shine.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **SECOND LESSON – ACTS 2:41-47**

**P:** <sup>2:41</sup>So those who received the Apostle Peter’s word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

<sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 6:1-15**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

**P:** <sup>6:1</sup> After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup> Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” <sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup> “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet Who is to come into the world!”

<sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.

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

**C:** ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** ♪ 347

### **SERMON: CHRIST JESUS FEEDS YOU NOW – AND FOREVER! JN. 6:1-15**

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and our Savior Jesus Christ, Whose blood set us free to be people of God. Amen.* From the very first, God the Father – according to His ultra-generous heart, has provided for the needs of His creatures. After forming man out of the dust of the ground and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life, “the Lord God planted a garden in Eden...and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.” (Gen. 2:7-8) He did this so that Adam and Eve and their decedents would not die but live and proclaim the works of the Lord – all that He has done for us. (See Ps. 118:17)

As great as our need for food and nourishment is, how much more do we need the mercy and salvation of our heavenly Father in His Son Jesus Christ! We can’t do without daily bread. We really can’t do without the true, living Bread of God! For this is the Bread which the Son of Man loving feeds us: He Himself! As our Savior says, “I Am the living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. And the Bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” (Jn. 6:51) So what we have in our Old Testament and Gospel lessons is God providing food to enliven the bodies of His people so that they look to Him all-the-more-so for food that saves the soul.

The awe-inspiring accounts of God the Father feeding His people Israel in a desert wasteland for forty-years and God the Son feeding five-thousand people with next-to-nothing certainly speak to the glory of God to do the impossible for those dear to Him. These Biblical narratives also speak to God’s gracious will to eternally save those whose bodies He nourishes and strengthens. Call it God providing them food for their bodies so that He can then provide them with the heavenly, everlasting food-of-faith in His own dear Son. After all, God doesn’t provide

manna and quail for Israel to eat in the wilderness in order for them to just live on, die and that's it. His uppermost desire is for them to look to Him for their every need – their every good of body and soul! They're to understand that those whom God feeds are those whom He seeks to save through His Son.

Our Lord Jesus likewise miraculously feeds five-thousand of His fellow Israelites with just five loaves and two fish so that they look to Him to fill their empty souls with God's saving grace. He doesn't want them to strive ultimately for food that perishes, but "*food that endures to eternal life,*" (Jn. 6:27) which He, the Son of Man, promises to give them. What Jesus really wants to feed the crowds then and us nowadays is His whole self and being. Which is why He says in John 6:54, "*Whoever eats of My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life.*" To eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood is to consume Him completely – to trust in the Lord fully, forever. It's the "*free gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (Rom. 6:23b)

What loving, providing God would lead His people out into the wilderness only for them to perish from hunger?, the children of Israel wonder. We, who also know what it is to doubt the goodness of God, get their thinking. To all appearances, after they've safely crossed the divided Red Sea, it sure looks like they've been abandoned by God to a grim fate. So that's what they accuse Him of doing. Yet it's right at this point that they, who've just been saved by the Lord their God from slavery in Egypt, from Pharaoh and his attacking forces.... They should trust that the Lord will keep on protecting them and providing for them. There's no reason for them to doubt God's goodness, to think that He'll fail to provide for them in the Sinai desert going forward. They do so anyway.

We hear them grumbling against Moses and his brother Aaron – really against God. In their perverse thinking they long for the "good old days" when they "*sat by the meat pots [in Egypt] and ate bread to the full.*" (Ex. 16:3) Never mind that they were enslaved by the Egyptians then and treated poorly, as slaves tend to be. And what slave is ever well-fed? So instead of trusting in the Lord to do good to them – which they know very well He can do, they cynically accuse Him of bringing them "*out into [the] wilderness to kill the whole assembly with hunger.*" (Ex. 16:3)

Later, when a lack of water becomes a concern for them, rather than ask the Lord for water... Rather than be confident in His goodness toward them, what do they do again but rail against God and even threaten to kill their God-given leader, Moses, due to their fear that they'll die of thirst.

Cursing God and killing Moses won't get them water, but will only doom them all to everlasting judgment. So what God is doing is testing His people Israel to see whether they'll trust in Him and call on His Name for food, drink and everything else which they need from Him. They're right, at least, in realizing that they're "dead meat" in the desert on their own. Not a one of them or all of them put together; not even Moses can provide food, water and other necessities for them all in such a barren place. Only the God of heaven can; only He does.

The people of Israel fail God's test miserably. He's the One Who opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. (See Ps. 145:16) He's the One Who's brought them this far and will bring them safely through! As a baby cries to his mother for milk, so should they beseech God for their earthly needs and His heavenly blessings. From where does their help, our help come but from the Lord? (See Psalm 121:1-2) As for us, what are we to do but implore our heavenly Father to meet our earthly and heavenly needs?

The large crowd's need for food in our Gospel reading prompts Jesus to ask His disciples, "*Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?*" He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what he would do." (Jn. 6:5) Like Israel of old, the disciples ought to trust that Jesus, as Lord and God of all, can feed everyone present there just as He fed Israel for a generation in the wilderness. Knowing Jesus' compassion, His power to heal, raise the dead, calm a stormy sea, walk on water, etc., they should know Him as the "*Lord Who provides*" (Gen. 22:14) for His people. They should ask Jesus to feed the five-thousand Himself. Yet they fail to trust in Him as the Son of God Who'll provide bread and fish aplenty to nourish the peoples' bodies; Who'll save and enliven their souls.

We all doubt God too, also eyeing Him with suspicion. Rev. Luther summed up our problem well, observing that we find it easier to view God as all-powerful than as good. We never have so much as a single, good reason to distrust the Lord. But we do so anyway because we're fallen, rebellious sinners.

So while we believe that God gives us our daily bread, which we pray for, we nevertheless don't always trust in Him to provide for our every need. We wonder whether He'll always take good care of us. We fear that He won't always come through for us, do good to us as He promised. In this we're just like the father in the Gospel account

who doubts whether Jesus can exorcise a demon from his son after His disciples have failed to do so. When Jesus gently rebukes him for his lack of trust in Him, the father replies in earnest: *"I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mk. 9:24)*

This isn't to say that faith and unbelief can coexist in our hearts – they cannot. A person is either a believer in Jesus by God's grace through faith in Christ alone – or not. What it does mean is that our faith becomes clouded by doubt and fear that God doesn't have our backs when it comes to our earthly well-being and our eternal salvation. Since such distrust of God will be the death and damnation of us, do we ever need the forgiveness of our sin – the removal of our coldness to our Father! Thank God that we have this in the sin-cleansing, bloody sacrifice of His Son, our Savior!

The children of Israel don't get the Lord their God to feed them manna in the desert and to provide them water from the rock. Nor do Jesus' fellow Hebrews get Him to fill their famished bodies with bread and fish. Their good God feeds them according to His own generous heart and lovingkindness. Their needs of body and soul are met not for their own sakes, but for the sake of their Savior Who'd die for them and rise again. Is it any different with you?

For God's ancient people who falsely accused Him of starving them to death; for Jesus' disciples who didn't think He had it in Him to care for and provide for His people; for us who're leery of His care for us – whether He'll always meet all our needs or not, sustain us in our bodies and keep our souls or not... For all those who are His, then and now, Christ Jesus gave His own precious life unto death, suffered and was buried! Because of this, your doubt and distrust of God isn't your Waterloo, your demise and your doom. Your trepidations and fears that God doesn't always care for you, that He won't always provide for you, won't purify your soul and your body forever in Christ's blood are met and done away with in Jesus! In all truth, you're Baptismally washed, you're sanctified, you're justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of your God! *(See 1 Cor. 6:11)* What's more, you're fed the very, precious body of your mighty Savior. You're given to drink of the most holy blood of your dear Redeemer! So to you Jesus says, guarantees: *"Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."* *(Jn. 6:54)*

Beloved in the Lord: Make your heartfelt appeal to your Lord and Savior: *"Strengthen, 'increase my faith!' (Lk. 17:5)* Drive all unbelief from me and my fellow Christians; save us from it always!" Ask Him for daily bread – all that you need to support you in your body and life. Seek what's most important for you from Him: the life and flourishing of your soul through His Holy Word and Sacraments.

*"All I have needed Thy hand hath provided – great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!" (Great is Thy Faithfulness)* our faith sings in glad exultation! And this because we look to and trust God's Word in which He always gives, always provides, never fails or forsakes us, His dearly beloved ones!

Sadly, not all who wondered in the wilderness of Sinai for forty years inherited eternal life with God their Provider and Savior. Not all who ate of the multiplied loaves of bread and fish went on to trust in the Lord Jesus forever as they ought to have. One of Jesus' own disciples even rejected Him forever. To those who should've known better, who ought've trusted in God's clear love, care and salvation for them – but didn't – only His wrath remained. But to you and to all who believe in the Lord Jesus, who look to Him for all good in this life and in the next, God has given the eternal right to be His cherished children! *(See Jn. 1:12)* 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 Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Blessed Lord, You give sight to the blind, You open the ears of the deaf and You make the lame to walk. In the darkness of sin, we cry to You, O Lord. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know You and give You thanks for all Your benefits to us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You gave Your ancient people bread from heaven that lasted but one day. You give us Your Son as the heavenly bread that abides forever. Sustain our faith by His holy provision, that we would not lose heart in the wilderness of this world but endure to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Church You nourish and sustain our faith. Give peace to Your Church during the turmoil and warfare of this world, and cause us to rejoice in Your goodness despite every cross and trial. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, restore to all Christian hearts the joy of Your salvation by the blood of Christ, and make us eager to hear the voice of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins. So, in turn, lead every Christian household – husbands, wives and children – to speak the truth with our neighbors and to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, send Your Holy Spirit and sustain our hope while in this world, that though we cannot see the heavenly Jerusalem, yet we may know her to be our true mother and come at last to dwell in that eternal city. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve our nation from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O God, our Shepherd, protect, comfort and guide all who call upon You in need, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Grant healing and peace, that they may continue to serve You with joy in this life and finally come to that good land in Your eternal Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN: ♪ 144**

**CONCLUDING COLLECTS**

**P:** Lord Jesus, Bread of Life, in Your great compassion You fed the multitudes with a few loaves and a few fish. Feed us the holy food of Your Word, that our hearts may burn within us, and nourish us with Your very body and blood, so that our eyes may be opened to see You as the very Bread of heaven. In Your most Holy Name we pray. **C: ♪ Amen.**

**P:** Almighty and everlasting God, Who through the innocent suffering and death of Your dear Son has granted us a rich fountain of divine power unto life and godliness, we implore You to replenish us with Your Holy Spirit, that by sincere repentance and true faith we may be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and, by Your grace dwelling within us, abound more and more in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: ♪ Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 155**

**† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †**

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OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	42	41	11	\$1,820.00
St. James	59	47	5 8	\$2,198.00

Sunday Offerings–Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	13,401.00				

Actual	14,212.49	1,675.00	9
Last Week	1,430.00	390.00	

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	23,715.00			23,715.00	
Actual	16,858.25	15.00	50.00	16,923.25	9
Last Week	2,193.00	5.00		2,198.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY

+Elders (Holy Trinity) following the service  
 \*Elders (St. James) following the service  
 2:00PM: Post Oak Zone LWML Spring Rally (at Holy Trinity) with registration beginning at 1:30pm

TUESDAY

9:00AM: Circuit Pastor’s Conference  
 6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)

WEDNESDAY

3:30PM: **NO** Week Day School...Spring Break in public schools  
 7:00PM: Joint Lenten Vespers Service (at Holy Trinity)

THURSDAY

10:00AM: **NO** Joint Bible Study (at St. James)...due to Spring Break

FRIDAY

+Pastor’s Day Off

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...**at Holy Trinity...*Eldor Brade, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*...at St. James...*Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, 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*.

\*\*\*Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesday. This year’s theme will be based on Psalm 41, “**Be Gracious to Me**”. We will be rotating back and forth beginning at 7pm.

+++**THANK YOU:** St. James LWML would like to thank everyone for their support of our fundraisers over the past year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send money to the following organizations: Concordia Seminary Student Aid, Disciples of the Way, Epiphany Lutheran Church (Bastrop), Evergreen Lutheran School (inner city Detroit), Faith Lutheran High School, Lutheran Braille Workers, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, Post Oak GEMS, Backpack Buddies, City of Lexington, and Week Day School. Thank you for making it possible for us to contribute to so many organizations and ministries!

\*\*\*Post Oak Zone LWML Spring Rally...TODAY...hosted by Holy Trinity. The Rally will begin at 2pm with registration beginning 1:30pm. Guest speaker for the rally will be Ruth Meyer. All ladies are invited to attend!

+++**THANKS** to everyone who contributed toward the annual Faith Lutheran High School raffle ticket fundraiser. We had a great response this year and brought in over \$25,000! Thank you for your



support that made this possible!

\*\*\***St. James**...we have a variety of cards...check out our display of **Easter and Confirmation cards** on the table in the hallway by the offices...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

+++**Lenten Devotionals** are available for pick up in the Narthex. Get yours today!

\*\*\***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS & THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**...Our Sunday morning Bible Class study throughout the Season of Lent will be based on the theme of the previous Wednesday's Lenten service. We will resume our study on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians in Easter. Our Thursday morning Bible study is making its way through the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to attend.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. 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!!!

+++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.

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

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

\*\*\***BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Martin Schubert, today; Meloney Tucker, 15;... St. James-Margie Zak, 12; Ryan Jatzlau, 15; Michael Lerche, 15.