

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent

Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor

Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973

Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-PURPLE [Sorrow, repentance, and royalty]

Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@gmail.com

Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Nancy Newkirk, Cindy Terrell

The Flowers – To the glory of God in loving memory of Elmo on his birthday (5) by The Joyce Iselt Family.

The Organist – Daniel Krause

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Guy Latimer

The Acolyte – Koal Dockery

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 Organist – Daniel Krause

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus Overpowers and Defeats Satan God's Prophet Jeremiah was falsely charged – by the faithless priests and prophets of Judah – with speaking evil against God, His people and His temple when in fact Jeremiah spoke the Word of the Lord to them. (*Jeremiah 26:1-15*) The Lord Jesus is likewise accused of being evil and doing the devil's work when in fact He is God, doing His good work. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak. (*Luke 11:14-28*) His bitter opponents falsely allege that He is driving evil spirits out of people by the power of Beelzebub, the devil. They callously refuse to recognize the finger of God – the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man Who overcomes the strong man, Satan. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us from sin, unbelief and judgment by the water and the Word of Holy Baptism. We were once darkness, but now we are light in Christ the Lord. (*Ephesians 5:1-9*) As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him Who saved us. (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:28) The heart of faith is kept full of Christ and occupied with the things of the Spirit so that, swept clean of sin, His baptized believers do not return to the evil from which He has saved them.

All those who have been converted to God, who believe in Jesus, have been freed and exempted from the curse and coercion of the Law. Nevertheless, they still need the Law. They have been redeemed by God in order that they may exercise themselves in the Law day and night.

We believe, teach, and confess that the preaching of the Law is to be encouraged diligently. This applies not only for the unbelieving and impenitent, but also for true believers, who are truly converted, regenerate, and justified by faith. Although believers are renewed in the spirit of their minds, in the present life this regeneration and renewal is only begun, not completed. Believers are, by the spirit of their minds, in a constant struggle against the corruption of their flesh all their lives.

God's Law is also necessary so that the old Adam may not use his own will, but may be subdued against his will. This happens by the warning and threatening of the Law, but also by punishments, so that a person may follow and surrender himself as a captive to the Holy Spirit.

The works of the Law are forced upon unbelievers. The works of the Holy Spirit are done by the Spirit at work in believers. They act as though they know of no command, threat or reward. In this way, God's children live in and walk according to God's Law. St. Paul calls this the "Law of Christ." (*Formula of Concord: Epitome, Article 6, The Third Use of the Law*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 151:1-4

**PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD
[PAGE 15 TO 23/FRONT OF HYMNAL]**

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be put to shame; Do not let my enemies exult over me. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my

distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in You. (*Psalms 25:1-2, 15-18, 20*)

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

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, Who sent Your Son into the world to destroy the works of the devil, we implore You to keep us from false security, curb the tyranny of the wicked foe, protect us from him and graciously preserve us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations, that being daily defended from the evil one, we may fear, love and trust in You according to Your Word and finally obtain everlasting salvation at the end of our lives; through 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 – EXODUS 8:16-24

P: ^{8:16}Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians [of Pharaoh] tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

²⁰Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.’” ²⁴And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

EPISTLE LESSON – EPHESIANS 5:1-9

P: ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 11:14-23; 27-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.


C: ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!**

P: ¹⁴Now Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it

is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”

²⁷ As He said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which You nursed!” ²⁸ But He said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.”

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:  **151:5-7**

SERMON: *THE STRONGER MAN DESTROYS THE TYRANT STRONGMAN’S KINGDOM – LUKE 11:14-23; 27-28*

“Blessed...are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.” (Luke 11:28) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. When the Son of God was “conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,” (*Apostles’ Creed*) the devil and his demons knew what they were in for. The cosmic battle of the ages had begun. Jesus came to “destroy the works of the devil.” (1 Jn. 3:8) The very first time God spoke the Gospel message of salvation by faith in Christ alone, His words were directed at our first parents and at us as our greatest comfort in the midst of a life of sin and death. God’s words were also directed against the devil. He told Satan that Christ the Lord, the Seed of the woman, would crush his head. Our Savior was born of a virgin. The devil tried to kill Him through his servant Herod. He tried to lead Jesus into sin in the wilderness. He and his demons knew that their kingdom was under attack, so they went on the attack themselves.

The devil and his demons are cruel to-the-last. They want us to suffer both bodily and spiritual harm. The demon in today’s Gospel lesson kept on preventing a man from being able to speak because it despised him and relished inflicting suffering upon him. The devil and his fallen angels love to inflict pain, distress and harm on human beings.

Ever since Satan and his vile horde were thrown out of heaven, they’ve devoted themselves to inflicting pain and terror on those whom God loves. God loves us. The devil hates us. Jesus saw the man the demon had made mute. He had compassion on him and cast the demon out of him for good! The crowds were amazed. Others, who were jealous of Jesus and who despised Him and His Gospel, wanted to discredit Him. They claimed that He cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, ruler of the demons. Did they really believe this themselves – that Jesus was a servant of Satan? They despised Jesus so-much-so that they wanted it to be true, and so yes, His enemies likely believed this ridiculous falsehood themselves.

The charge that Jesus, the Son of God, was an ally of the devil was a malicious lie. Pure blasphemy. Jesus gave a threefold refutation of this deceit. First, Satan would not help a man to cast out demons because this would put the devil in opposition to himself. The devil’s evil as can be, but he’s not stupid. He won’t fight against himself or undermine his own cause.

The second argument Jesus gave hit close to home. His critics had sons who were casting out demons – in the Name of Jesus, no less! For the only way – then and now – to cast out demons is by the power and authority of the Lord Jesus. So Jesus was asking them if their own kin who were casting out evil spirits were also in league with the devil. Then He added a word of harsh judgment against His slanderers: “[Your own sons] will be your judges.” (Lk. 11:19)

The third argument is the most important. Jesus said, “But if I cast out demons with the Finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Lk. 11:20) The Finger of God refers to the Holy Spirit Who’d horribly infested the land of Egypt with gnats and flies many centuries before because they enslaved and mistreated God people Israel and refused to let them go. God’s Kingdom is where Jesus rules by the Holy Spirit. There’s no possible harmony between God’s Kingdom and the devil’s kingdom. St. Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15: “What partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what communion does light have with darkness? And what accord does Christ have with the devil?”

There can be no agreement between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom. There can be no compromise. As Jesus said, *"Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters."* (Lk. 11:23) We're with Jesus or at His side by faith alone in His saving Name – thanks to the Finger of God pointing us to Him, bringing us to Him! Remain in Jesus, and He in you. Bless God; oppose the devil, always.

Satan's at war with you, you know. His weapons are his lies. He lies about sin. He lies about grace. He lies about Jesus. He lies to you all the time.

He lies about sin. He told Adam and Eve that they wouldn't die if they ate the forbidden fruit. That was a lie, but since it worked, he kept on lying to them and to us, their descendants. You won't die if you love what you own, what you do and people's praise of you more than you love God. You won't die if you misuse God's Name. You won't die if you neglect to hear and learn God's Holy Word. You won't die if you refuse to submit to parents and other God-given authorities. You won't die if you hate your brother. You won't die if you live according to the flesh, have relations with someone you're not married to. You won't die if you covet and take what doesn't belong to you, or covet and take more than what should be coming to you. You won't die if you say things about your neighbor that make him look bad and you look good.

Lies galore. That's what Satan spews. The Apostle Paul counters these lies with God's truth in our Epistle lesson: *"For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous as an idolater, has no inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."* (Eph. 5:5-6) The Apostle says elsewhere, *"If you live according to the flesh [your sinful desires], you will die."* (Rom. 8:13)

The devil lies about God's grace. Grace is God's favor, His goodwill, His undeserved love by which He pardons the sins of those who don't deserve it. Grace is what delivers us sinners from our sin leading to death and everlasting judgment. We can't deliver ourselves. Only the Son of God could and did so. Jesus, the stronger man, attacked and overcame Satan, the strongman, plundering his kingdom and taking away all the armor and weapons in which he trusted. Our blessed Lord *"delivered us from the domain of darkness [– the kingdom of the devil –] and transferred us into"* His eternal, heavenly Kingdom. (Col. 1:13) He did so in His innocent suffering and death for us, by which He defeated the accuser, the slanderer, the father of lies by reconciling us sinners to God; by bearing God's anger against us. Christ suffered and quenched God's wrath against us! Boy do we ever have a reconciled Father!

The devil doesn't want us to believe this. He wants us to think that we have to make ourselves worthy of God's favor and goodwill, earning it, making it ours by being good people. Satan points to our sins. He says they make God angry and that God must punish us sinners. This is true. Yet the devil then twists this truth and says that we must overcome our sins and make God happy with us so that He'll no longer have to punish us for our wrongdoing. So according to our old evil foe, it's up to us to do better and make restitution for all our wrongs – to make things right between God and us. In this there's not even a hint of repentance. There's no turning from our sins to Jesus; no trusting in Him for forgiveness, life, salvation. There's just the devil wanting to lead us away from God.

So beware of the devil's great lie that God's grace in Jesus Christ is His giving us the ability to do good things that will bring us to Him. Instead, God's grace is His gift of the forgiveness of all our sins for Christ's sake. Turning the Gospel into the Law is the devil's favorite trick. Satan turns grace into works and leaves us to save ourselves. Since God reveals His grace only in Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son, the devil lies about Jesus.

The devil lies about Who Jesus is. He was behind the lie of Jesus's enemies that the Lord was in league with him, rather than being God the Son Who's forever opposed to Satan. Lucifer is behind the lie which says that Jesus didn't really offer up His holy life on the cross to take away God's anger because God wouldn't really require such a thing. If this lie were true, then we'd be under God's wrath forever.

As it is, Jesus is the eternal Son of the eternal living God – our Savior! He, bearing all our sins and woes, even our death-sentence of awful divine judgment! – He suffered God's wrath and judgment against us. Jesus died for you, for your loving people and things more than Him – so that you fear, love and trust in Him above all! He died for your misuse and non-use of His Holy Name so that you keep it holy and pray to God, praise Him and thank Him evermore. He died for your neglect of His Holy Word so that you hold His Word as sacred and gladly hear and learn it. He died for your bristling at authority figures and hating others so that you honor all those in authority over you and love your neighbor as yourself. He died for your straying eyes and heart so that you rejoice in and

always love the spouse of your youth. Christ died for you, for your depriving your neighbor of his money or possessions, for speaking ill of him, so that you speak well of him and help him keep his possessions and honor.

After Jesus dispels His enemies' false accusation that He's a servant of Satan, He shows that they're really the ones who're on the devil's side – where they or anyone should never want to be! St. Mark in His Gospel account records Jesus saying, *“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” – for they were saying, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’*” (Mk. 3:28-30) Known as the “unforgivable sin,” it’s rejecting godly, saving faith in Jesus Christ, which the Holy Spirit pours out upon all people. Cursed is everyone who grieves the Holy Spirit through unrepentance and a refusal to believe in the Forgiver or sins and the Savior or souls. Blessed are you who look to the Lord Jesus, the man for you on the cross, and faithfully receive the proclamation about Him: *“Behold, your God!”* (Is. 40:9) Blessed are you who hear the Word of God concerning His Son and believe it! 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.**

That our eyes may ever be fixed on our merciful and unchanging God, Who is always ready to hear and answer our prayers; and that we would be ready to receive His forgiveness and help in time of need, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church on earth, that her Lord would preserve and bless her; that He would keep us, her members, from falling into the sin of pride and self-confidence; and that He would grant boldness to her ministers as they preach His Word to all, especially to those in need of repentance, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For spiritual weapons and tongues sharpened by the words of Christ, that we His people would be guarded against all powers of the devil, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For patience to hear God's words of rebuke in faith, for sincerity in our repentance, and for the forgiveness He eagerly extends to us as His people, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have no right knowledge of God or who have wandered from the truth, that our Lord, Who does not seek the death but rather the life of all, would free them from all error and bring them into the fellowship of His Holy Church to the glory of His Name, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and its government, that as no kingdom or house divided can ever stand, God would frustrate the destructive work of Satan, unite our leaders and our people for the common good, and lead us to place our true hope in His eternal Kingdom, which is not of this world, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For those afflicted by any adversity, whether of body or soul: _____, that God would lead them by His Spirit to renewed strength and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the unity of the Church in doctrine and life; for our Holy Communion this day; for strength in faith and an increase in love; and that our Lord would accept our sacrifices of thanksgiving and the offerings we bring, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, for protection against plague and famine, and that creation would bear rich fruit according to her Creator's gracious design, and for all those adversely affected with evacuations, loss of homes, property and cattle in the Panhandle wildfires, that the fires would subside, the deprived would be cared for and reeling communities helped, let us pray to the Lord: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take up our flesh, that He might overcome the devil and defend us poor sinners against the adversary. We thank You for Your merciful aid and implore You to attend us with Your grace in every temptation. Preserve us from carnal security and, by Your Spirit, keep us in Your Word and fear, that we may be delivered from the enemy and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again, and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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: ♪ 311, 179 & 258

POST-COMMUNION RESPONSORY FOR LENT

P: As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup:

C: Ye do show the Lord's death till He come. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 173 [SUNG TO 175, 1ST TUNE]

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	41	--	12	\$2,292.00
St. James	50	--	6 11	\$1,621.00

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	11,912.00					
Actual	12,782.49			1,285.00		8
Last Week	2,292.00					

	Operating	Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	20,080.00				20,080.00	
Actual	14,665.25	10.00		50.00	14,725.25	8
Last Week	1,621.00				1,621.00	

+++++

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY

9:00AM: LWML (St. James)

3:30PM: Week Day School

7:00PM: Joint Lenten Vespers (at St. James)

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

2:00PM: Post Oak Zone LWML Spring Rally (at Holy Trinity) with registration beginning at 1:30pm

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...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.

***FLHS Spring Raffle Tickets: It's time for the annual Faith Lutheran High School Raffle fundraiser! This year's list of prizes include a \$1700 travel voucher with World Travel, a custom AR rifle by Jigsaw Weaponry, a Kalahari Resort 1 night stay with 5 water park passes, a "relax and chill package" worth \$700, a "Staycation" package worth \$400, and more! Tickets are \$20 each. Please see Tim Meyer or stop by the church office to purchase your tickets. Thank you for your support of Faith Lutheran High School!

+++**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...next Sunday...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!

+++**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 1st Corinthians in Easter. Our Thursday morning Bible study is making its way through the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to attend.

+++**St. James Finance Board**...is divided into 2 groups serving every other month...(March, etc.) are: Rodney Exner, Ferman Iselt, Patrick Jatzlau, Zachary Lay...(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-Don Holmes, 6;...St. James-Nathan Iselt, 5; Carter Speer, 5; Haley Brown, 7; Benjamin Meyer, 9.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Donald & Mary Boettcher, 7.