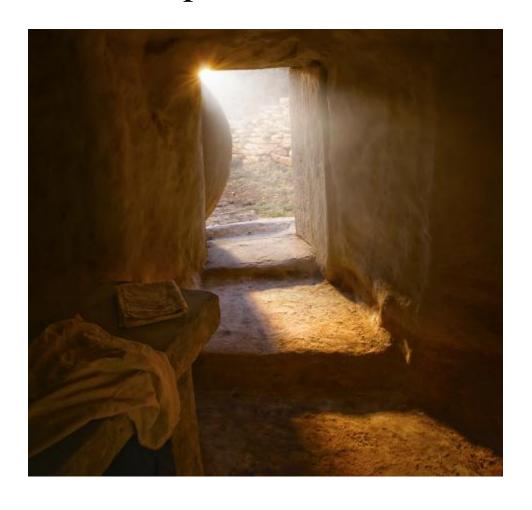
# Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358

# The Resurrection of Our Lord! Easter Sunday April 20, 2025



Luke 24:1-12



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page, our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.

#### **GATHERING**

• Prelude Roxanne Groff

- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Welcome Pr Mel Musser

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

- P: God of new life,
- C: We live as though you are still in the grave. We do not rejoice in the good news of liberation for all people without exception. We continue to sin against you and our neighbors by our actions and our failure to act. Shake us out of our complacency, cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and make us joyful participants in the work of bringing about your reign in the world today.
- P: We are an Easter people! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has redeemed all of creation. Know that you are made whole, forgiven of all your sins, and empowered to live out the gospel in joy.

C: Amen.

# \* GATHERING HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" LBW 128



#### \* APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. A

men

#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Gracious God, with the women, we come grieving to the tomb only to find that the stone is rolled away and the tomb lies empty. Relieve us of our fear and confusion and fill us with joy and wonder as we realize the truth of what we are witnessing: Jesus is risen!

#### C: Amen.

#### **WORD**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week! Today I brought a dozen eggs, but we're not making scrambled eggs. The Easter Egg is a good visual aid to help us understand what this day is all about. Inside each of these eggs there is a symbol of something that relates to the Easter Story. So, I'll open the egg and you can tell me what's inside and how it fits into the Easter story.

Luke 24:1-12

Go through the 12 symbols and help the children if they get stuck...

Let's pray... Dear God, we're so happy that you raised Jesus up from the grave and that his tomb was empty on that first Easter morning. Help us to always remember what Jesus has done for us and to be thankful for opening the way to new life for us all Amen.

#### • A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:1-12

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 24.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

• SPECIAL MUSIC "Thank You, Jesus, for the Blood" Larry Harter

• SERMON Pr. Mel Musser
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the risen Lord Jesus
Christ, amen.

In keeping with the long established tradition here at Trinity we'll begin with a few Easter jokes this morning. Before I start with my lame dad Easter jokes does anyone have a joke they would like to share? They have to be clean, short, and funny. We'll rate you based on how well you meet these three criterion. Again, that's clean, short, and funny... If no one has a joke to share you'll have to hear mine, I guess...

Why did the Easter egg hide? Because it was a little chicken! ... What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter? Tired. ... How does the Easter Bunny stay in shape? Egg-cercise! ... Finally, why was Jesus not buried in a modern cemetery? Because He wouldn't stay dead! You know, the resurrection is the biggest joke ever played—God's joke on death, on sin, and yes, on Satan. They all thought they'd won. But Easter morning says: "Surprise! He's not here—He is risen!"

Let's step into the story as told to us by Luke the physicial. (SLIDE) It's early dawn. The women come to the tomb with heavy hearts. They had watched Jesus die just last Friday. They had seen where He was laid. Now, early in the

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

morning on that first Easter Sunday, they return, not with hope, but with spices.

Not to see a miracle, but to mourn. It is kind of funny how God works His grace and mercy. It always arrives when we least expect it.

The Pastor at Saint John's Lutheran in Greenville shared in her Good Friday message during the Stations of the Cross event, that they start their early morning Easter Sunday Worship service in the cemetery across the street from the Church.

(SLIDE) At first, I thought, "What a gruesome way to start the Easter celebration," but the more I thought about it, that just might be the most appropriate place to begin the celebration of the resurrection. It did all begin at the empty tomb... All the graves in all the church cemeteries, as well as all the graves that now contain the remains of the saints of God, will one day be like a giant vacant parking lot. When Jesus returns all our graves will most certainly be empty. That's the promise we have and the hope we have in the resurrection.

On that first Easter, instead of a cold, dead body, the women find the stone is already rolled away. (SLIDE) The body of Jesus is gone and in a flash of light, two men in dazzling clothes say, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, He has risen." That's how grace works! It shows up in the graveyards of our lives. When we expect only silence, God speaks. When we expect only sorrow, God brings joy. When we expect death, God gives new life. Maybe you've walked to your own version of the tomb recently. A diagnosis. A

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

broken relationship. A loss. A mistake you can't undo. The resurrection says: God is not done. Grace still has the last word. If grace has the last word, even over death itself, how much more will we receive God's grace for our worries, anxieties, our fears, and our failures.

Over the years, I've seen God's grace work in so many ways. When Melanie was a child, she loved our Church Easter Egg hunts, (SLIDE) probably still would if she could get around better. Even as a child she was slower than the other kids, and by the time she reached the field, the eggs were mostly gone. So many times, her basket would be nearly empty. Almost every year something beautiful happened—some of the other children would take notice of Melanie's empty basket and they would began walking over and placing their own eggs in her basket. Every Easter Melanie walked away with more than enough—not because she was the fastest, but because Grace found her. That's egg-actly what Easter is all about! We don't earn resurrection. We don't race for salvation. It's simply placed in our basket, by the God who delights in giving, and not keeping score.

I noticed the first witnesses to the resurrection weren't the powerful or even the three favorite disciples of Jesus, Peter, James, or John. The first to peer into the empty tomb weren't kings or priests, not deacons or trustees, not even lifelong good deed doers. The first witnesses and the first to proclaim the resurrection were

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

women. (SLIDE) At that time women were not much more than property. Their testimony had no legal standing and they weren't even allowed to testify in legal matters because their testimony was considered unreliable. That was not so in the Kingdom of God, even back then and thankfully although still not complete, women are and should always be recognized as equal or in my opinion the better half of our species... At any rate, Jesus says, these are my messengers. The resurrection is for everyone—the overlooked, the doubters (like Peter), the slow, the tired, the heartbroken. This isn't just good news. It is grace-full news. God's Love is even meant for those who don't believe at first, especially for them! Did you catch what the disciples did when the women told them? They thought it was an idle tale, pure wishful thinking. They didn't believe it. Even that shows God's grace. Jesus didn't wait for them to have perfect faith. He rose anyway. He comes to them anyway. Jesus didn't wait for the disciples to atone for their denials or abandonment of him during his trial, he returned to give them new life anyway. Maybe your faith has questions. Maybe you've struggled to believe. Maybe you have regrets over things you've done or failed to do. The resurrection proves God doesn't give up on us. God's love is bigger than your doubts and even bigger than your failings.

There's an old story some of you might have heard before, but it illustrates resurrection grace so well. It goes like this... (SLIDE) There was a woman who

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

carried water from the river to her home each day using two clay pots, hanging on a pole across her shoulders. One pot was perfect, but the other had a crack in it. Each day, the cracked pot arrived only half full. It felt ashamed of its imperfection and apologized constantly. One day, the woman said, "Did you notice the flowers along the path on your side? I planted seeds there because I knew about your crack. You've been watering them every day without realizing it. The beauty along the way—that's because of you..." That's how grace works. God takes the broken parts of us—our flaws, our failures, even our cracks—and brings new life from them. Look, if God can use a crackpot like me, He can surely transform your life into something beautiful! The resurrection doesn't erase our wounds: it transforms them and us into workers in God's Kingdom, bringing God's love and forgiveness to a lost and broken world. Just like Jesus' own scars—still visible, but now signs of victory, our brokenness becomes the canvas on which God paints His vision of grace.

So, here's one more Easter joke to send us out... "What did Jesus say after He came out of the tomb?" "Ta-da!" Honestly, maybe that's not too far off.

Because on that first Easter morning, when the stone rolled away and life walked out of death's door, God pulled off the greatest "Ta-da!" in history.

(SLIDE) Easter morning is the only sunrise in history that never sets because the tomb didn't just open for Jesus. It opened for all of us. And grace?

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

Grace is still showing up in empty places, surprising us with joy. So, walk into this

Easter day, not with fear, but with laughter; not with shame or guilt, but with hope.

May you carry in your heart, the holy joke God played on Satan—He is not here—

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

#### \* NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

> Or, He descended to the dead.

#### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Holy and ever-living God, we rejoice at the empty tomb! Open our ears to the testimony of all who profess their faith in you, and inspire us to bear witness to

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

your transformative love in our own lives. Risen God,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: Creation shouts with joy at the resurrection and redemption of all that you have made! May we join the chorus and be drawn into closer community with our siblings of the natural world. Risen God,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant peace and refuge to all who face danger this day around the world, whether for their belief in Jesus' resurrection, or their disbelief. Remind us that we are all, without exception, your beloved and redeemed children, and help us to work together for a brighter future for all people. Risen God,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: You who raised Christ from the dead promise healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Hold in your loving arms all who live diminished lives due to illness, injury, addiction, and all other afflictions (*especially*...) Risen God,

# C: Hear our prayer.

# Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with sometimes heavy hearts those whom we have lost. Be with all who are missing loved ones this Easter. Comfort them with joyful memories and the promise of the resurrection. Risen God,

# C: Hear our prayer.

P: These and the prayers of all creation we lift to you in Jesus' name.

#### C: Amen.

#### **MEAL**

#### OFFERING

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet may go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

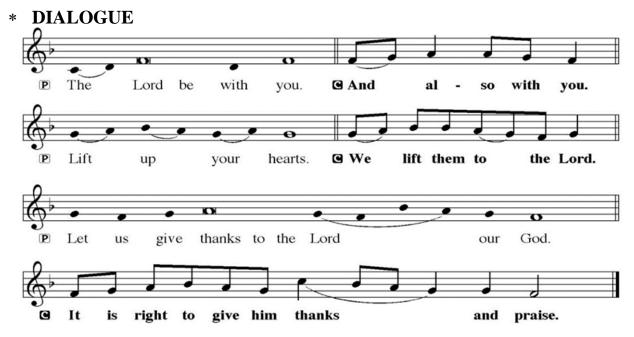
#### \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...God, your generosity is without measure, and we cannot express our gratitude enough. We ask only that you would accept these gifts, brought to you with joyful hearts, and use them so that all might know your abundant love and mercy.

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

#### C: Amen.

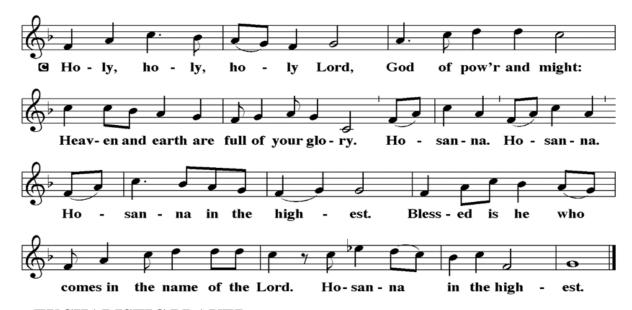
#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



#### \* THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### \* THE SANCTUS



#### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks: broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

#### C: Amen

#### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: United into one through Jesus Christ Our Lord, we pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Come and meet Jesus—risen!—here with us at this holy table. Eat and drink at this exultant feast and be nourished to go out in joy and proclaim the good news.

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by individual cup for First Communion families. Each First Communion family will Commune "At the Rail" with their First Communicant. After all First Communion families have Communed, the remaining assembly will commune "By Station". Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. All the Baptized are welcome to celebrate this Holy Meal.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

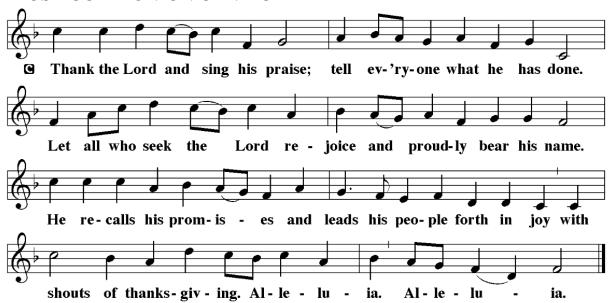
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever, amen.

#### \* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



#### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

#### C: Amen

#### **SENDING**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* SENDING BLESSING

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

#### C: Amen.

\* SENDING HYMN

"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

**ELW 382** 



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forthnev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears. an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to-rious head!



Please stand if able

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Please be seated

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#### \* DISMISSAL

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well. We're glad you're with us today. Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

# C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

#### \* POSTLUDE Roxanne Groff

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# **Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector – 8:00 am	Chris Cassel
Lector – 10:30 am	Kathy Kathman
Acolyte	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Dean Thompson in memory of his wife, Donna whose birthday is this week.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> Luke 24:13-35

# **Health Tips for the Week**

**MIND:** Watch the sunrise

**BODY:** Enjoy the Easter Breakfast at church **SPIRIT:** Read Matthew 28, Luke 24, John 20

# This Week @ Trinity - April 20 thru April 27, 2025:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, April 20	8:00 am	Early Worship Service
	9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
	10:30 am	Late Worship Service
Tues, April 22	Newsletter Deadline	
Fri, April 25	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, April 27	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club "The Chosen"

# **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – This Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** – May  $3^{rd}$ , 4-6 pm at SonRise Church, 750 Arcanum Ithaca Rd., Ithaca to support Steve & Robin Kessler following a devastating fire that destroyed their home. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased at SonRise Church, Arcanum Faith UMC, or Fourman's Variety Store. The dinner includes spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread, salad, drink and a cookie. (A slice of pie is available for \$2.00) There will also be entertainment and a raffle of local business donations and craft persons – tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



# Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

# Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

# **Trinity Contact Info**

Pastor:	Mel Musser
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Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
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