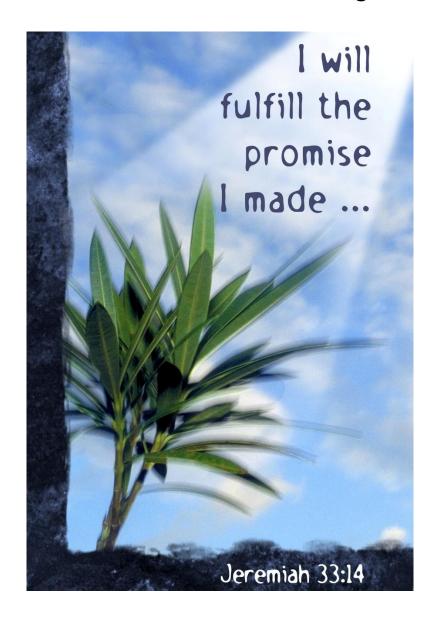
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34 July 20, 2025



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: Holy and gracious God,

C: We have ignored your call to the hard work of justice. In our fears of not having or being enough, we have sought after the easier, more comfortable ways in life. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors. We have closed our ears to the cries of creation. We have thrown in our lot with the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the widow and the orphan. Forgive us for where our natural instinct for self-preservation has become selfabsorption, where our sacred call to self-love has become self-obsession. Make us new in the image of the one who gave all for the redemption of creation.

P: The God who formed you in the womb and knew you before you drew breath also loves you beyond comprehension, and forgives you all your sin. In wholeness and joy, go forth to proclaim the good news of redemption for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend.

C: Amen.

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* GATHERING HYMN "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" LBW 423



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser vice Bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home less; Still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi sion, Till your love's re veal-ing light



Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, Worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed: Still the cap - tives long for free - dom; Still in grief we mourn our dead. In its height and depth and great - ness Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,



We, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart; As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens Your com-pas - sion bids us bear,



Con-se-crat - ing to your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. By your Spir - it send your pow - er To our world to make it whole. Stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

* 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.

* Please stand if able July 20, 2025

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* Please stand if able

* 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...God of promise, we have moments when our hope is gone, when we lose sight of what is good in the world, and lose trust that you are with us. Renew your covenant with us and write your Word on our hearts, that we might know you more deeply and trust you more fully each day. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: God Writes on Our Hearts

Materials: A dry-erase board, marker, and a paper heart

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34

Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so glad you're here today. I brought something with me. (Hold up the chalkboard or dry-erase board.) This is a board I can write on. What kinds of things do you think people write on boards like this? (Let them respond: school lessons, reminders, lists, messages...)

Well, today we're going to learn something amazing God says in the Bible—something about *writing*, and *hearts*, and *promises*. A long time ago, God spoke through a prophet named Jeremiah. God said, "I will make a new promise with my people. I will write my law on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." That's a fancy way of saying that God doesn't just want us to know about Him with our heads—God wants us to know Him with our hearts. God wants us to love him with our whole heart.

(Take out the paper heart.) Let's pretend this paper heart is your heart. Can you imagine God writing something on here? Not with a pen or marker—but with love? God might write I LOVE YOU or maybe just the one word, "LOVE". That's what God says: "I will write my love on your heart." That means God wants you to remember that you are never alone, that you are always loved, and that you belong to Him—no matter what. Even if we make mistakes. Even if we have a bad day. Even if we forget. God says: "I will be your God, and you will be my people."

So, the next time your heart feels a little sad or you feel scared, or alone, I want you to remember: God's love is written right here (point to your heart), and nothing can erase it. It's stronger than chalk, better than ink, and more beautiful than anything we can write ourselves.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for writing your love on our hearts. Thank you for always keeping your promises. Help us remember we belong to you, and help us to share your love with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34

R: Our scripture reading is from the Book of Jeremiah, Chapters 31 and 33. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

¹⁷For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt-offerings, to make grain-offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON Pr. Mel Musser
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who is God's

new Covenant, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today is the last Sunday of our Worship and Sermon focus on the book of Jeremiah. Next week we begin a walk through the Revelation of Saint John. If you've ever wondered about the Lutheran perspective on this controversial book, make sure you're here for A Walk Through Revelation.

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Now, let's get back to our sermon for today. Have you ever waited for something so long that you started to wonder if it would ever really happen? When I was a kid, Christmas Eve felt like the longest night of the year. (SLIDE) I was convinced time slowed down on purpose. I'd lie in bed, eyes wide open, listening for reindeer hooves or maybe the rustling of wrapping paper downstairs. "Is it here yet?" I'd whisper to myself. "Is it finally coming?" I'm pretty sure Christmas eves were the beginning of my sleepless nights...

Jeremiah's people—God's people—were waiting too. (SLIDE) They weren't waiting for Christmas. They were waiting for healing. For restoration. For peace. They were waiting for things to get better. And they'd been waiting *a long time*. They were waiting for a Messiah who would once and for all liberate the Chosen people from all the foreign powers that had time after time oppressed and enslaved them. When Jeremiah spoke these words from our text for today, God's people were in a bad place. The kingdom was divided. The temple was destroyed. The people were exiled. Their leaders were corrupt. It was a mess. (SLIDE) The land once promised to them looked more like a battlefield than a blessing. Sounds like the 5 O'clock news to me...

Into that mess, God speaks through Jeremiah: "The days are surely coming," says the Lord. "I will make a new covenant..." "I will write my law on their hearts..." "I will forgive their sin..." "A righteous Branch will spring up for

^{*} Please stand if able

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David..." This is more than wishful thinking. This is a promise from the mouth of God. Jeremiah 31 and 33 were written during some of the darkest days in Judah's history. The Babylonian army was threatening to destroy Jerusalem. The monarchy, which was supposed to be a sign of God's favor, was failing. The covenant—the deep relationship between God and God's people—had been broken over and over again by sin, injustice, and idolatry.

(SLIDE) Jeremiah—sometimes called the "weeping prophet"—was tasked with telling hard truths. Much of his book as we've read through it over these past six weeks is full of warnings, calls to repentance, and lament. We even read about how the King tried to silence God's Word by burning it, word by word in the fire. Today, here—in chapters 31 and 33—we get a glimpse of hope. These promises are like sunlight breaking through heavy storm clouds. (SLIDE)

I'm certain we can relate. Maybe we're not watching armies march toward our cities, but we know what it feels like when the world doesn't seem to work the way it should. We've seen the news reports of rioting in Los Angeles and on the campuses of some of our greatest universities. We've all experienced times when life doesn't go as planned. When relationships break down. When churches struggle. When crops fail. When sickness comes. When we feel like we're living in the "not yet" of God's promises. All of us know what it means to wait—to wait for healing, to wait for answers, to wait for God to show up and make things right.

^{*} Please stand if able

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We know what it feels like to carry burdens quietly, behind closed doors or out in the open for all to witness our shortcomings and failures. Sometimes we ask the same question Jeremiah's people asked: Has God forgotten us? Sometimes it's hard to see the sunlight through the clouds...

There is good news for us today. God hasn't forgotten. God speaks into our world the same way God spoke into Jeremiah's. God still says: "The days are surely coming when I will make a new covenant." "I will write my love on your heart." I will forgive and not remember your sins."

I love the thought of that... God gives himself selective amnesia. He intentionally forgets to remember our sin. God's promise isn't to just patch up the old covenant, not to fix the try to put the pieces back together like Humpty Dumpty—but to make something new. God's new thing isn't something that depends on human obedience, temple sacrifices, or governmental politics. (SLIDE) The new covenant is instead rooted in God's own heart. "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." This is pure, unadulterated grace at its finest and God's grace always trumps the Law. God promises to be our God not because we've earned it, even if we could keep the Commandments perfectly, but because God has chosen us. Not even our stupidity, our stubbornness, or even our failures can stop God from keeping that promise.

* Please stand if able

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How can this be true, you might ask... In chapter 33, Jeremiah gives us a glimpse of the One who will fulfill this promise (SLIDE): "A righteous Branch will spring up for David..." We know who that Branch is. His name is Jesus. He is the flesh and bones incarnation of God's new covenant—the one who writes love and mercy into our hearts. The one who sits on the throne of grace. The one who offered himself in our place. The one whose cross became our tree of life. The one whose resurrection assures us: God keeps promises.

So, what does this mean for us, today, in July of 2025? It means we don't have to live in fear or despair. It means God is not finished with us—not with the Church, not with our small towns, not with our families. It means we are people of promise. To be sure, we still live in a world constantly disappointing us, but Jeremiah reminds us God does not, will not, and can not disappoint. In a time when trust in government, in our schools, in our justice system and our courts, even in the Church itself is hard to come by, we are invited to trust God's Word. For all my life it seems like we've been living in times of upheaval, change, and uncertainty. During times like these the best advice anyone can give is to cling to the truth that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

As most of you know I grew up living by Lake Erie. (SLIDE) During the summer I spent almost every day on the beach. As the long afternoons dragged on, sometimes we would write notes on the beach in the sand. Most of the time it was

^{*} Please stand if able

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silly things like "Kilroy was here." Or Randy, my best friend back then, likes Leslie, his high school sweetheart. The thing is, those messages would be washed away long before we headed home for supper. Some things in life are like that written in the sand, easy to forget or wipe away. God says to us in Jeremiah, His promise isn't written in the sand. It's not scribbled on a piece of paper that might get lost or blown away. It's not even written in stone like the Ten Commandments. No—God says, "I will write it on their hearts." (SLIDE) That's not like a quick note. It's more like a tattoo of grace right on your soul. You can't wash it off. You can't forget it. It's not dependent on how well you behaved this week or how strong your faith feels. God's promise is permanent. It's not going anywhere anytime soon. So, whether you feel strong or weary today... Whether you are full of joy or carrying a boatload of sorrow... Whether your life feels full or feels like an endless waiting room... Hear again the words of the Lord: "The days are surely coming..." "I will be your God..." "You are my people..." That promise is written not on tablets of stone, but on your heart.

May God's covenant of love be alive in you. May Christ, the Righteous Branch, be your hope and your strength. And may the Spirit write mercy and grace on your heart, so that you may live as God's own beloved people. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* APOSTLES' CREED

* Please stand if able

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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: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence*.

L: God of promise, you renew your covenant with us daily—you are our God and we are your people, no matter who is in charge of our nation, our communities, or even our jobs. Keep us ever mindful that it is you who reigns in love and justice, and make us to work to reveal your reign in all the earth. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hold all natural resources, water, minerals, plants, and animals—including us—in your loving arms. Make us to be siblings with all of creation, and care for all that you have made as you would. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hold all leaders, local, national, and international in your loving arms. Make them to be advocates for justice for all, and make us to be active participants in our own governance. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hold all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit in your loving arms. Guide medical professionals and caregivers, and strengthen all who are facing illness or injury of any kind, (*especially...*) God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hold all victims of violence and oppression in your loving arms. Guide them to resources of peace and liberation and make us to provide those resources wherever and however we can. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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L: Hold all the saints who have died in your loving arms. Guide us in their faithful footsteps until the time we all feast together in your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Trusting in your unending grace for all that you have made, we lift these and the prayers of our hearts to your loving care.

C: Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING

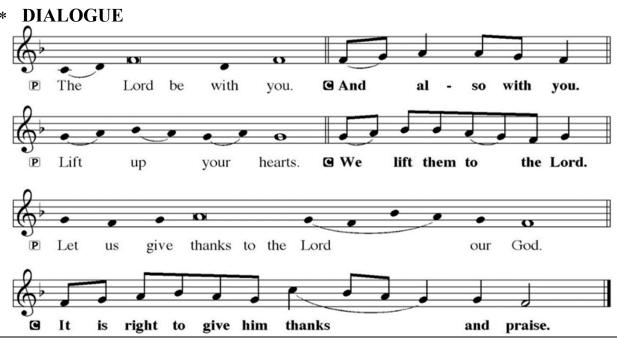
P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet may go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...Holy God, you have given us every good thing according to your promise to be our God. In return, we promise to be your people, and offer here our gifts as a sign of our faithfulness to you and our commitment to your work of justice and peace throughout your good creation. Bless them, we pray, that they might be a blessing to the world.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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July 20, 2025

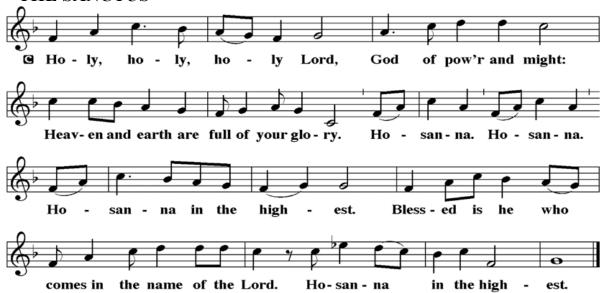
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* THE PREFACE

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, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, on this day, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* THE SANCTUS



* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love: with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.
- 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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth.
- Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

* Please stand if able July 20, 2025

* 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 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: Jesus, who is alive in our hearts, is also present in this holy meal, to which he now invites you. Come with joy and thanksgiving to feast on bread and wine, and be strengthened and nourished, that you may have life and have it abundantly. All is prepared for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by station. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

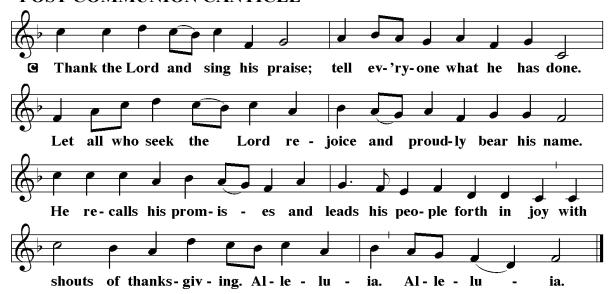
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May this Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever, amen.

* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



* Please stand if able

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* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray...Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

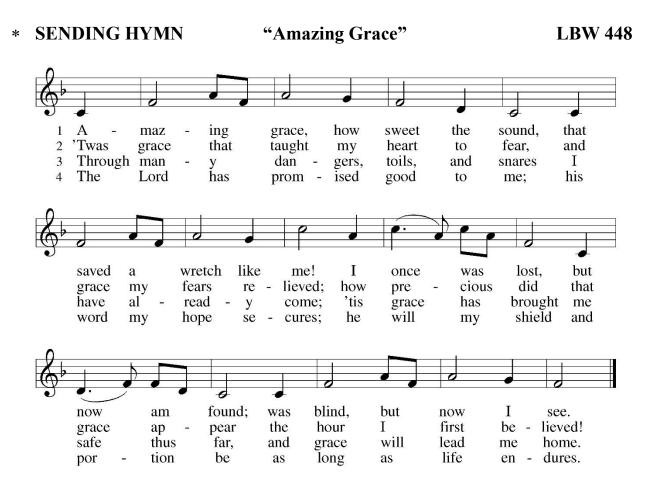
SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.



* Please stand if able

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!

Roxanne Groff POSTLUDE

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 27th Revelation 1:4-8

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Peggy Didier
Acolyte	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Visit an art museum.

BODY: Wear a cap or sun hat when outdoors. **SPIRIT:** Pray for our church leaders.

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This Week @ Trinity – July 20 thru July 27:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, July 20	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, July 21	Newsletter Deadline	
Fri, July 25	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, July 27	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

Save The Date!

Aug 2	Volunteer at the Gauntlet at Chenowith Trails
Aug 21	Lutheran Day at The Darke Co Fair
Sept 7 @ 10 am	Joint Worship and Picnic Festivities with Pitsburg
	Brethren Church at Chenowith Trails
Oct 4 @ 1 pm	Hand out Fall Festival Flyers door to door in Pitsburg
Oct 19 @ 5 pm	Trinity/Pitsburg COB Fall Festival

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.

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Trinity Contact Info

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Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
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Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



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