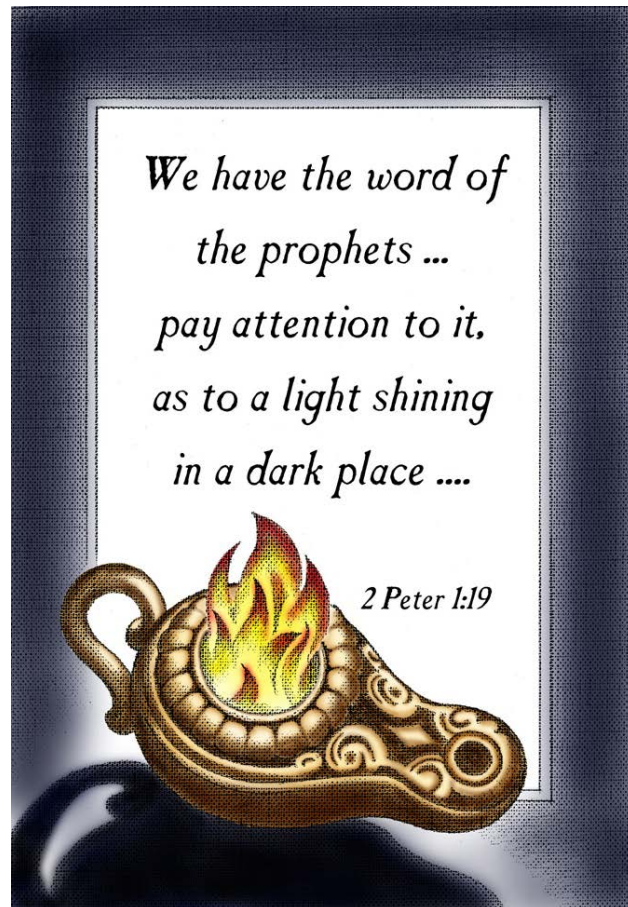


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



2 Peter 1:16-2:2, 15-19
July 9, 2023



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**

* **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** **“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**
(Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6 Only)

LBW 546



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love pos - sessed:
 4 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! What - e'er my hands be - gin,
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the_e - ter - nal Word



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 this bless - ing shall break in: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 the_e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!

5 Let all of humankind
 in this their concord find:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!
 Let all the earth around
 ring joyous with the sound:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space,
 sing, all who see his face,
 sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
 God's whole creation o'er,
 today and evermore,
 shall Jesus Christ be praised!

* **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.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of all, we are daily bombarded with conflicting messages about what is meaningful and valuable. Clear away the noise and distraction that we might discern your voice as it calls us into your work of love and justice for all your beloved children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

WORD



• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE




Theme: Jesus Reveals His Glory

Materials: Power Ranger Toy

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-2:2, 15-19

Good morning girls and boys! Did you all have a great week? I sure hope you did! Do you like to watch the Power Rangers on TV? My granddaughter Emery went through a phase where that was all she wanted to watch and so, I also watched a lot of Power Ranger cartoons. (SLIDE)  The thing about Power Rangers is that during a normal day at school they were just normal teenagers going to school. But when trouble arises these ordinary kids transform into superheroes and together they combine their powers to save the day.  (SLIDE)

In our Bible story for today Peter, one of the closest disciples to Jesus, tells of a time when he and two other disciples called James and John were invited by Jesus to go up to the top of a Holy mountain. When they got there Jesus was transfigured into a great Bible Superhero. (SLIDE)  His face and clothing began to glow like the sun and God spoke from heaven telling everyone that Jesus was God's Son and that we should all listen to Jesus. In this transfiguration, Jesus revealed the Glory of God in his own divine or Holy Body. After he returned to himself, he told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he was raised up to be with God forever.

The letter from Peter we're about to read does exactly as Jesus had asked. Peter waited until a long time after Jesus ascended into heaven before he wrote this letter to the Churches of his day. In that letter he told the people what he had seen and heard with his own eyes and ears. I'm glad Peter finally told everyone about this important event because it lets all of us know for sure that Jesus is God's only Son and that we should all try our best to listen to Jesus when he speaks to us through the Bible, through our songs we sing at Church, and through all of the loving Christians Jesus puts in our lives like our parents and family.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for showing us your glory through Jesus. Help us to listen to Jesus when we want to do things our own way. Amen!

- **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 1:16-2:2, 15-19**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 2 Peter, Chapters 1 and 2.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned.

¹⁵They have left the straight road and have gone astray, following the road of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of doing wrong, ¹⁶but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness. ¹⁷These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the deepest darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸For they speak bombastic nonsense, and with licentious desires of the flesh they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for people are slaves to whatever masters them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our prophet, teacher, Savior, and Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

As I said last week, this second letter of Peter was most likely written by a second-generation Christian who was also a follower of the Apostle Peter. It was written in the literary form of a final testament. The author used this literary form in order to capitalize on the authority of Peter's word in the early Church.



(SLIDE) By using these supposed words of Saint Peter, the author gained credibility with his audience in the hope of encouraging them to remember the gift of faith given to them by the grace of God. He also wanted to issue a warning to the Church regarding false prophets and teachers. If that's your goal, what better name to invoke as the author of your letter than the name given to the first human to recognize Jesus as the Son of the Living God and the long-awaited Messiah. That man was of course Simon, called Peter by Jesus. The author retells the story about the time when Jesus took Peter, James, and John, his three closest disciples, up on the mountain top where Jesus met with Moses and Elijah. (SLIDE)




During their visit they talked about Jesus' exit strategy from this life and his resurrection to eternal life. During their conversation, Jesus was transfigured right before their eyes. His face glowed like the sun and his clothing was brighter than any bleach could wash them. God's voice boomed from

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Heaven telling the three hapless disciples, Jesus was God's beloved and they should listen to him. Our text for today begins with Peter reminding the Church that this isn't a myth, nor some idle tale. This was a real event that really happened, and Peter can attest to the truth because he was there and saw Jesus Transfigured with his own two eyes and heard God's voice with his own two ears.

Having established his credibility and authority, the author warns his readers and all of us who still read his letter today, about all the false prophets and false doctrines that will surely come along after Peter is dead and buried. Warning of false prophets and teachers is nothing new, even during the time of Jesus. In his first major Sermon we call the Sermon On The Mount, Jesus famously warned,

(SLIDE)  "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."




(Matthew 7:15-16) If Jesus had to warn his followers and then Peter also felt the need to remind the Church regarding false prophets, how much more do we need that warning today. I mean in today's environment, we can't even trust the nightly news to be true, let alone the Good News that happened 2000 years ago. I wonder if there might be some way for us to tell the difference between the truth and false prophecy. Right here in our reading for today Peter tells us no prophecy originates from humans, but rather it comes from God through God's Holy Spirit. That's my

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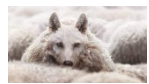
first test for determining the truth or fiction of a modern-day prophet. My second test is sort of like the first, but with a subtle difference. We can't always know if a teaching comes from God, but we can test it to see if it's grounded in the Word of God found in the Bible. In other words, does this doctrine carry the authority of scripture and is it Biblically based. If not, then run away, ignore, or rebuke the person bringing that teaching or prophecy because sound doctrine originates with God, is recorded in the Word of God, is consistent with the whole revelation of God, and leads to good fruits of both spiritual health and godly living. On the contrary, false doctrine originates with humans or demons, is foreign to or different from the Word of God in the Bible, is inconsistent with the whole revelation of God, and leads to bad fruit like spiritual weakness and ungodly living. It must pass all of the tests in order to be sound. If it fails one, it fails all of them.

Can I give you an example you might be asking yourself... Well, I can think of several. The first one that comes to mind is *the heretic*. A heretic is someone who teaches what blatantly contradicts an essential teaching of the Christian faith. In the early Church a man named Arius taught that Jesus was either human or divine, but not both at the same time. This was determined to be false and against what Jesus himself said and taught during his time here on earth. Arius was exposed to be a heretic. Another obvious example is *the Charlatan*.

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This is the person who uses the office of priest or pastor for personal gain. During the early 16th century, Pope Leo X commissioned Johann Tetzel  (SLIDE) to peddle indulgences offering the forgiveness of sins for a price. The money went from Germany to Rome and was partly used for the construction of St Peter's Basilica. (SLIDE)  I say partly because Pope Leo used the vast amount of cash raised through the sale of indulgences to fund his extravagant lifestyle. Lest you think the Charlatan was only confined to the Middle Ages, here's a couple of names you might recognize from today's Christian scene: (SLIDE)  Benny Hinn, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar and others.


Besides the *heretic and charlatan*, other false teachers include *the prophet, the abuser, the divider, the tickler, and the speculator*. Each of these false teachers and prophets distort the message of the Gospel in some way.



(SLIDE) *The prophet* claims to speak for God, but the teaching is not based in scripture. You can validate a teaching by testing it against the whole of God's Word. The Word of God is consistent from age to age. *The abuser* uses the position of Pastor or Priest to gain power and to abuse their parishioners through manipulation in order to gain a sexual pleasure. *The divider* tries to use God's Word to separate and destroy the Church which is the Body of Christ. Remember, on the night Jesus was betrayed he prayed for the unity of all his followers.

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Anyone who uses God's Word to divide the Body of Christ must be considered a false prophet and rejected. *The tickler* cares nothing for the Word of God, but only what people think of them. They manipulate and distort the Word of God so that it's pleasing to their followers. In the Bible this is referred to as tickling the ears of the believers. It's giving them only what they want to hear, not what God wants them to know. Finally, *the speculator*... The speculator loves novelty, originality, or speculation. Teaching focused on speculation displaces the sure and steady doctrine of Scripture. The Speculator tosses aside the bulk of the Bible's content and the weight of the Bible's emphasis while obsessing about trivial or novel matters. Old, time proven truths are easily discarded in favor of the newest fad or trend.

If you think about these types of false prophets and teachers even for a moment, you'll be able to pick out the fake versus the true doctrines without breaking a sweat. The pastor who needs a private jet to do God's work is probably a fake prophet. The pastor who is involved in a sex scandal is most certainly an abuser, I don't care how much he or she cries on TV... (SLIDE)  I'm embarrassed to admit this, but the biggest threat to sound doctrine doesn't come from pimps, politicians, or power brokers on Wall Street. The biggest threat to Christianity comes from within, from it's Pastors. I will tell you right here from

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this pulpit, I'm not immune from any of these false teaching temptations. Many times I've wanted to throw out the appointed scripture because it was too hard to preach. I don't mean the language was too difficult to understand. I'm talking about all those times when I wanted to tickle your ears and give you just what you wanted to hear instead of preaching strictly the Gospel message. Our Good News for today is the Word of God will stand, even through my own poor preaching.

(SLIDE)



The Gospel, Good News of Jesus Christ does still stand and it stands in stark contrast to the World News tonight or Fox News Alerts... The Gospel has withstood every false doctrine so far thrown at it by all the purveyors of perversity for over 7000 years if you include all the false prophets from the Old Testament times as well. You are all a big part of ensuring the Good News is carried into the next generation free from false claims and bad doctrines. Martin Luther preached on this when he said God allows these false prophets in order for God's people to test them and prove the truth of the ones who are speaking the true Gospel. That's right, one of your jobs is to test the voracity of my preaching. You are the final arbiter keeping me on the true path of the Gospel.

We can no longer simply accept what our religious leaders feed us without filtering it through the test of these false categories I've listed. If I fall into one of these categories of heretic, charlatan, prophet, abuser, divider, tickler, or

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speculator, or if you watch a televangelist or listen to a podcaster preacher be aware of their words and the doctrines they are preaching. You are equipped with everything you need to test their preaching and teaching. Don't be afraid they might know more than you. Study, pray, ask others, and then address the issue directly with me or whoever is advocating a Word that isn't from God.

May God give you the knowledge to discern the truth from all the fake Good News that's out there. May God's Word convict you of your sin, but also give you peace in knowing God forgives you infinitely and loves you unconditionally. May you never be led astray by my or anyone else's false teaching. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** **“How Good, Lord, to Be Here”** **LBW 89**



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

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*** APOSTLES' 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: 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.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: With the whole body of Christ in all times and places, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: O God, you call us to read and discuss your word in community with one another, that together in your presence we might identify the voices around us that seek to lead us astray. Open us to recognize and receive your truth. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Open our ears to the prophets who cry out on behalf of the pain and suffering of your whole creation. Make us co-creators with you in the renewal of the planet, not conspirators in its demise. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Your word is life, O God. Teach us and all our leaders to use our words with care, for the renewal and building up of all people. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: You know our every frailty, and yet we have nothing to fear. Heal us from all that separates us from you and others, and be with your children in need,

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

(especially...) Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: The world will not always receive your word with acceptance and enthusiasm. Give us strength to stand by the radical prophecy of the Gospel even when our voice is wildly unpopular. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With joy we remember the saints whose prophetic words led us more deeply to live in you. May we likewise be your good prophets, until we see them once again in your everlasting reign. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, loving God, we lift all for whom we pray, confident in your grace and mercy, through our savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet, may you 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.

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day....Holy God, we offer now our gifts and our tithes, not just financial, but our time and our unique and precious gifts, all of which you have first given us. Receive them as a sign of our faithfulness, and use them according to your will, for the good of all creation.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

July 9, 2023

Page 14 of 18

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us 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.

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LBW 315



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

* Please stand if able

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July 9, 2023

Page 16 of 18

* **DISMISSAL**

P: 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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Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 16th
2 Peter 3:1-10, 17-18

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Larry Harter
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel & PJ Musser in honor of the anniversary of Jake & Niki Angles.

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Visit a zoo

BODY: Try to walk between 8,000 and 10,000 steps

SPIRIT: Try a daily online Bible program



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.

* Please stand if able

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July 9, 2023

Page 17 of 18

PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING will **NOT** happen this week due to VBS basement configuration.

This Week @ Trinity – July 9 thru July 16, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, July 9	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, July 11	6:00 pm	“Pets Unleashed” Vacation Bible School at Trinity
Thurs, July 13	6:00 pm	“Pets Unleashed” Vacation Bible School at Trinity
Fri, July 14	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, July 16	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT TRINITY
Pre-K thru 6th Grade

Tuesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 13 – 6:00-8:15 pm.
 Online registration is available.

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
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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