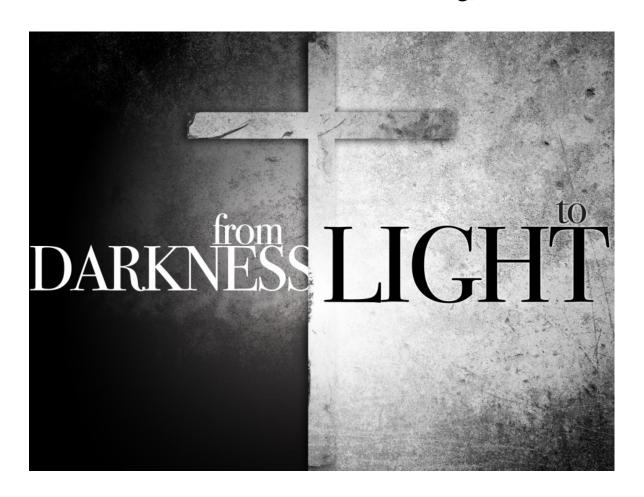
# A Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Isaiah 9:1-7 June 11, 2023



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

# **GATHERING**

• Prelude Pam Sherman

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.

Please stand if able June 11, 2023

Please be seated

# \* HYMN OF PRAISE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

(Verses 1-4 Only)



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je sus' name! Let an gels pros-trate fall;
- 2 Crown him, you mar-tyrs of our God, who from his al tar call;
- 3 O seed of Is rael's cho sen race now ran somed from the fall,
- 4 Hail him, you heirs of Da-vid's line, whom Da vid Lord did call—



di - a - dem bring forth the roy - al and crown him Lord all. ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all. hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all. God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all. Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord all. of Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord all. of The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him all.

# \* 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 light, you meet us where we are, holding us in our confusion and our wandering with great compassion for our sorrows. Shine on us the light which cannot be overcome by the darkness, that we might see clearly all the ways you show up for us in our day-to-day living, and equip us to be that light for others who suffer. In Jesus' name we pray.

## C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able June 11, 2023

• Please be seated

**LBW 328** 

## **WORD**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

KORNER

**Theme**: Peace In The Darkness

Materials: Candle Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

Good morning girls and boys! Did you all have a great week? I sure hope you did! I want to confess to you that I'm a little afraid of the dark. Are any of you afraid in the dark? It's not that I'm scared of monsters of anything like that, but in the darkness I stumble around and sometimes bump into things and even have stubbed my toe on the corner of the couch. Now that we have two puppies walking in the darkness has become even more dangerous because they are constantly dragging their dog toys into the living room and leaving them on the floor. Then I come along and step on one of them and hurt my foot... (*Light the candle...*)

It's good to have a little bit of light so we can see what's out there. Don't you feel safer when you have even a small light to see where you're going? I know I sure do! That's why so many people put nightlights in their bedrooms and other places where they might fall or get hurt.

The good news of Jesus is that the "people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined" (v. 2). (*Point to the candle...*) When Jesus was born, a new kind of light came to people in darkness: Jesus came to be the light of the whole world. Now, Jesus isn't literally a light bulb or a candle, but we call Jesus the light because he is a "Wonderful Counselor," helping us to make good choices; he is our "Mighty God," always strong to help us; he is our "Everlasting Father," loving us forever; and he is the "Prince of Peace," helping us to feel peaceful and safe, even on dark nights (v. 6). Jesus is much more than just a light to see by, Jesus is always with us and his words, that we can read in the Bible, help us and guide our lives if we live according to what Jesus said and taught. If we do that, then Jesus is not only the light of the world, He's your light too. I'm so happy to know that Jesus is always with me, even when I'm sad or lonely. He will never leave you either. That's because he is your light and your friend.

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for being the light in our darkness. Help us and guide us when we can't see where we're going just like a candle helps us see the furniture or the doggie toys before we step on them and get hurt. We love you, and our Father and your Holy Spirit too. Amen.

\* Please stand if able June 11, 2023

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# • SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:1-7

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Isaiah, Chapter 9.

# C: Glory to you O Lord.

() But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

# • SERMON Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the promised King and Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Certain things in life are absolutely necessary. I'm not talking about death and taxes... Air is necessary. Without it you can only survive a few minutes. We need water, also. Humans can only live about three days without water. We also need hope. Life without hope is difficult, if not impossible.

\* Please stand if able June 11, 2023

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(*Slide*) In the hierarchy of mental health needs Hope is at the tippitytop of all the things we need for good, sound mental health. In today's lesson, the prophet Isaiah is giving a message of hope to the people of Israel. Hope is like light shining in the darkness. Because the dawn of hope has come in the form of the man from Galilee we call Jesus, we no longer need to live in the darkness of the night.

I've told you before about our Personnel 'Bunker" we constructed during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the first Gulf War. If you remember, I confessed we Personnel troops were a bit naive regarding how to build a good solid bunker. Plus, we might have been a tad bit lazy when it came to filling the many sandbags it required to build a full size bunker. So, we decided to build our bunker only tall enough to crawl into. There were about 15 of us on duty at any given time and when we needed to get to our bunker we had to get down on our hands and knees and crawl in. Then you had to actually lay down and roll to the farthest end. When we were all inside it must have looked like a giant human cigar box. Other squadrons built their bunkers tall enough that everyone could just walk right in, but we were far too busy to do that much sandbag filling... As I was thinking about these words of hope from the prophet Isaiah and the promise of a baby to be our savior, I began to think how it felt inside that human cigar box.

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

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Please be seated

When we practiced, it was kind of a joke. The other units with their big bunkers laughed at us and called it our Personnel Coffin. We laughed it off too, until that night when the scud missiles hit our base and the surrounding communities. I remember the commander of the Security Forces Squadron guaranteeing us the Patriot Missile defense systems would knock down anything the enemy could launch against us. I trusted Lt Col Pack and believed we were safe. He was, after all just giving us a word of hope so we wouldn't be overly frightened by the threat of those scud missiles. Then the missiles hit, and it became real. From inside our Personnel cigar box, you could feel the shaking of the earth and the reverberations of the explosions. At that moment I lost my hope, at least in Col Pack's promise of protection from the missiles. A feeling of despair and hopelessness overcame me and I lay there unable to move or do anything to altar my future. I literally was hopeless to change whatever was coming and I certainly no longer trusted the promise made by the Security Forces Commander.

Almost everyone experiences times when they feel helpless if not hopeless.

People in both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah were facing many hopeless situations. Political unrest and the constant threat of war were persistent problems. Sickness was rampant and hunger was an everpresent reality. We've seen hopelessness and despair in the aftermaths of

\* Please stand if able

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<sup>•</sup> Please be seated

hurricanes, in the pain and suffering caused by earthquakes and wildfires. The smog from the out-of-control fires in Canada have many people thinking about the Apocalypse. The economy, inflation, crime on the rise, and even the scarcity of items on the shelves of our store all eats away at our hope and we feel helpless to change our situation.

History has shown we can get through just about any circumstance, if we have hope. The prophet Isaiah foresees great things happening for the people of his day. In verse four he says that the "rod of their oppressors" will be broken.

The next verse talks about the joy at the end of conflict and war. At the end of his message, Isaiah reveals how all of this will take place.

I know a little about the joy at the end of a war. (SLIDE) Here I am getting off the plane at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. Trust me, after the helplessness and hopelessness of that tiny, dark Personnel Bunker, and seeing all those people greeting us as we returned to Langley, I felt the joy of war's end...

(SLIDE) There is a light at the end of the tunnel of our despair and it's not a train coming to mow us down. Jesus, the light of the world is foretold by the prophet Isaiah and this promise is the source of hope for all people who are living in darkness. Isaiah says, "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Our hope is not in those in charge over us or even in missile defense batteries

\* Please stand if able

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designed to protect us from incoming enemy aircraft and missiles. Our hope isn't found in a more secure, better paying job, in a nice car, or even in a fine home.

Hope isn't being inside a bunker you can stand up in or even in a bunker built by slackers. Rather, it is God's presence in our lives and in our world that makes the difference.

Isaiah's message to the people of Israel in his day and time was that God will use a person to change their mourning into dancing. (SLIDE) For the people of that time, it was the birth of a king—probably Josiah or Hezekiah, scholars aren't in agreement on which king is being foretold in this scripture.

Some 500 or so years later, after the resurrection of Jesus, the Church has taken these verses and applied them to Jesus Christ. Certainly, Jesus has saved us from lives lived apart from God and has provided us with new relationships with God.

Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome.

We have seen how God uses people to bring hope and help time and time again. Not only have we seen how God uses other people during times of disaster, but God has also used this congregation to do things none of us could have ever imagined nor been able to accomplish on our own.

(SLIDE) We've come together to raise money for victims of flooding after storms, for wildfire victims of previous fires, and to help refugees fleeing the war in the Ukraine.

\* Please stand if able

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Think about the hope your prayer quilts bring to those who need something to cling to during their long nights of despair or the hope your felt blankets bring to youth at Wernle who, in many cases have had the hope ripped out of their souls. Your acts of kindness just might be the one thing keeping someone hanging onto a thin and fraying thread of hope. Thank you for being one of the ones God is using today to spread God's message of Hope into a very dark and oppressed world!

If you are in a hopeless situation, let me play the role of the prophet Isaiah and assure you there is hope, even for you. God is with you. You can place your trust in God and rest in God's love. Rejoicing in the hope that is yours, I would challenge you to do something "crazy" even in the middle of your own difficult situation. Look for someone for whom you can be both help and hope. God will always take care of you and God is calling you to bring light to someone's darkness. My experience has been that when we focus on bringing hope to someone else in their troubles, our own troubles fade to the background until they disappear altogether and the thing we used to think of as trouble has turned into the catalyst for moving us into a whole new adventure.

Now go back to Saudi Arabia with me... In the darkness of our little, very bleak, low-rider bunker, it was hard to remember that Jesus is with us everywhere. Those ground shattering explosions we heard and felt from our Personnel Coffin

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did do their damage. One Scud Missile hit near our aircraft and damaged one F-15. I have a piece of that scud missile with me today if you want to look at it... The other scud that night hit an apartment building a few miles from the base. That apartment was filled with Army Soldiers who had just arrived in-country and were waiting to be sent north into Kuwait. That Army unit took over 120 casualties from that single scud missile. For the survivors, and the families of those soldiers, even though their loved one and comrade in arms gave their earthly lives for their country, they can have peace because of the promise of this son given to us, Jesus Christ. In fact, all of us who have lost loved ones can be assured of that same promise of the peace of Christ even in the midst of our present suffering.

The son that was promised to the people of Israel so long ago still lives and invites you into the blessed hope of the resurrection. May you too receive that hope and the peace of Christ in the midst of whatever difficult situations you face.



(**SLIDE**) May the one called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace surround you protect you, and give you hope for a better tomorrow, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

\* Please stand if able

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# \* HYMN OF THE DAY "Crown Him with Many Crowns" LBW 170 (Verses 1-4 Only)



- 1 Crown him with man y crowns, the Lamb up on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir gin's Son, the God in car nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own. whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won which now his brow a - dorn; rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.





and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty. the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem. but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys-ter - ies so bright. who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

## \* 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

\* Please stand if able

June 11, 2023

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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.

# \* NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

- P: Today we celebrate an all too rare event in the life of our congregation as we welcome our newest member, Jim Brown to our family here at Trinity. Jim and Marlene have both completed the Lutheran Course even though Marlene has been a member and completed her Catechism years ago, she stood by Jim as he worked through all my theological speeches and boring lectures. So, today we get to add another soul to our member list.
- P: Since we have already confessed our faith all that's necessary is for you, dear congregation to welcome Jim to our sheepfold. So, I ask, will you support Jim as he continues to worship God and learn about God's saving Grace among us here at Trinity and to pray for him as he continues to grow in his faith? If so, respond we will and we ask God to help and guide us.

# C: We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray... Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made Jim your own. You forgave him all his sins and brought him to newness of life. Continue to strengthen him with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

## C: Amen!

Council Member: We welcome you as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: We have set a small reception to honor God for calling Jim into His service here at Trinity. Please stop by the fellowship hall downstairs after Worship for some cake and punch and to congratulate Jim.

\* Please stand if able June 11, 2023

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### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

# A brief silence.

L: Isaiah's vision still sounds as far away to us as it must have for his listeners. Forgive us when we despair, and plant within us renewed passion for the work of your Spirit. God of inspiration,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: For all those around the world who walk in darkness daily—for victims of war, violence, abuse and abduction, displaced refugees, the unjustly imprisoned, and all who are tempted to despair, we pray, O Lord. Find a way to reach them with the light of hope, in whatever way, through whatever means possible, and use us as ambassadors for equality, freedom, and justice. God of inspiration,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We give you thanks for all those who dedicate their lives in service to others, to the relief of suffering and the implementation of justice. Strengthen their witness, uphold them, and give them rest when needed. God of inspiration,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Be with those who bear daily burdens, be it mental or physical illness, fear of homelessness or hunger, or other challenges which test their resilience. Surround them with your presence and guide them to the help they need. *We especially lift up...* ... God of inspiration,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Whoever follows you, O Lord, will never walk in darkness. Shine your eternal light upon all your faithful servants, still living or alive in your resurrection, and surround them evermore with your blessing. God of inspiration,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

# Here other petitions may be offered.

L: We lift these and all those we name in our hearts up to you, loving God, trusting in the promise of your mercy, through our savior Jesus Christ.

## C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able June 11, 2023

• Please be seated Page 14 of 18

### \* 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....Abundant God, you fill us with all good things, and call us into a life of mutually supportive community. We offer these gifts for the good of all your children, those close by and those a world away. Accept and use them in service to your holy justice.

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.

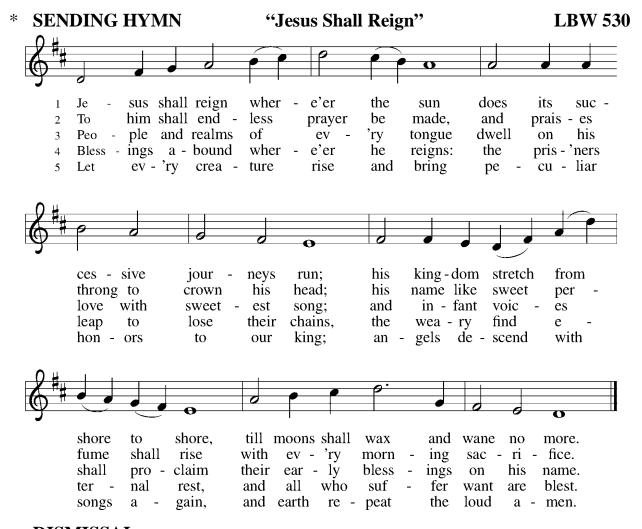
### C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able

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# \* 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 Pam Sherman

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 55:1-13

\* Please stand if able

June 11, 2023

Please be seated

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff** 

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

# **Health Tips for the Week**

**MIND:** Study the birds in your yard **BODY:** Increase your water intake

**SPIRIT:** Make a picture collage of how you feel blessed

# 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.

# This Week @ Trinity - June 11 thru June 18, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, June 11	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
<del></del>	~	
Wed, June 14	FLAG DAY	
Thurs, June 15	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at JT's Brew & Grill,
		Greenville
Fri, June 16	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, June 18	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
Father's Day	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

\* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT TRINITY Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> 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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