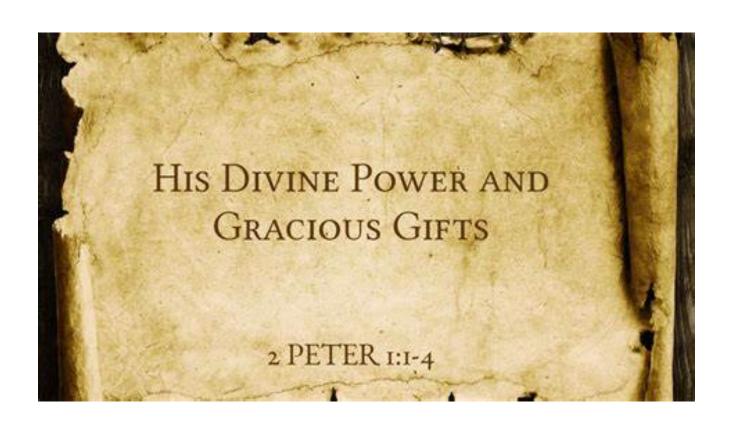
# Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



2 Peter 1:1-11 July 2, 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

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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: Reconciling God,
- C: We bring our lives before you, knowing that we haven't lived as your faithful people. We have been petty. We have complained about our lot. We have been unsupportive of those who needed us. And we have doubted your faithfulness. We ask your forgiveness and long to be restored by your grace. Amen.
- P: God is indeed faithful, all-knowing, and all merciful. We are pardoned, and we are reconciled by the one who never stopped loving us, no matter our mood or our behavior. Thanks be to God.

#### C: Amen.



\* Please stand if able

July 2, 2023

Please be seated

#### \* 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 2, 2023

• Please be seated

#### \* 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... Holy God, through the writers of scripture, you urge us to work toward the ideals of goodness, knowledge, self-control, love, and all that would lead us to be selfless members of your beloved community. Continue to make us aware of the ways in which we can be open to change for our own sake and the sake of others. In Jesus' name we pray.

#### C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able

July 2, 2023

• Please be seated

#### WORD

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



**Theme**: Divine Power

Materials: Battery Drill, Rechargeable Battery, and Charger

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. I was fixing some things around our house this week and I needed to use my electric drill. When I was using it to reposition the door latch my battery died. Luckily I had a spare battery and this charger to recharge the dead battery. This made me think about todays Bible lesson. Saint Peter said that we Christians have received something called Divine Power from God. He tells us this divine power will give us everything we need for life and goodness.

People are kind of like this rechargeable battery. Sometimes life can be very hard. We are so blessed to have a Savior like Jesus to lean on during those times like when we're sick or maybe someone in your family is sick and you get worried about them. That's when we can lean on Jesus to get us through those tough times.

Sometimes our faith can get weak when we go through those hard times, but Peter reminds us we have this gift of divine power given to us from God. Just like when I plug in my battery into this charger, when we come to Church for Sunday School and study God's Word and when we Worship God we are plugged into God's Holy Spirit and our divine power can be restored too. That's why it's so important to come to Church to Worship God and to also study God's Word in the Bible. That way we can keep our spiritual batteries fully charged and ready to go when we need a little extra help from God.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for the gift of divine power. Help us to remember to lean on you and your power when we're afraid, sick, or lonely. Amen.

\* Please stand if able July 2, 2023

Please be seated

#### • SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 1:1-11

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Second Peter, Chapter 1. C: Glory to you O Lord.

I Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. <sup>11</sup>For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

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

• SERMON Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and promise keeper, Jesus Christ, amen.

Have you heard of Dwayne Johnson. He started his career as a professional wrestler after his dream of playing in the NFL failed to materialize. He was a 10-time world wrestling champion and dominated wrestling until his retirement from

\* Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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the sport in 2013. Since 2001, he's starred in nearly 50 movies. You probably better know him as "The Rock." (SLIDE) His movies include The Mummy Returns, The Fast and The Furious franchise where he starred in 6 of their 10 big screen movies. He's starred in everything from disaster movies like San Andreas to fantasy movies like DC Comic's League of Super Pets. He's appeared in 19 TV shows like That 70s show and hosted Saturday Night Live 6 times (back when that show was still funny). He's even had his likeness appear in 44 video games. It's fair to say going from Dwayne Johnson to "The Rock" elevated his

popularity and helped make him the household name he is today.

Today's scripture is from the second letter bearing the name of Peter, the apostle and disciple of Jesus Christ. Peter was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. He was invited to leave his fishing business and become a Fisher of Men.

(SLIDE) His name at the time was Simon, but Jesus famously changed it to Peter, meaning "The Rock." Even with his new divine name, Peter still had a lot to learn about being a disciple of Jesus and about leadership in this new Jesus Movement. Peter was the impulsive, foot in mouth disciple who seemed to say and do whatever came into his head. He acted on some of those, well, less virtuous impulses too. Like the time when Jesus was being arrested and Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest. Jesus had to remind Peter and others,

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

July 2, 2023

"...those who live by the sword will die by the sword." He then healed the man's ear. Think on that for a moment... Jesus healed the ear of the High Priest's servant who was sent to help in his arrest. What does that one action tell us about how we should treat our enemies, even those who want to see us arrested or even killed?

N. Rolo.

(SLIDE) Let's get back to this letter we call Second Peter. Not much

attention has been given to this book even though there's still much not known.

The bits scholars have written about the book aren't in agreement even on basic issues like who wrote it. The majority of scholars believe it was written by a disciple of Peter, probably a second-generation believer. Some say it was written by Peter's scribe or secretary, Mark; the person many believe wrote the Gospel of Mark. One thing most scholars agree on is there are two basic themes to the letter. First is to remind the recipients of the grace given to them in the faith they received through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We'll talk more about that in a minute...

(SLIDE) The second purpose or theme is for Peter to actually give his final testament, including his vision for the future and his final admonishments to the Jesus followers reading his letter and all those who would come after.

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

The portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter we read today includes the greeting common to all ancient letters. The author states he is Peter who is a servant of Jesus Christ. This gives the readers his credentials. The letter is addressed to all those who have faith, but not just any faith, to those with a faith as precious as the faith of Peter and the other Apostles. We're not talking about just any old faith or belief system, we're talking about the faith that comes from the righteousness of God. In other words, not something we can conjure up on our own, no matter how hard we pray or how many times we attend church services, or even how much money you donate. This faith comes to us as a precious gift from God himself, the same God who inspired Jesus to heal the ear of the man sent to arrest him.

Having established who the letter is written to, the author further defines what this great gift entails. First, and most importantly, God's gift includes divine power.

(SLIDE) This power gives those with faith everything we need for life, but even more for goodness as well. This came as a reawakening for me. I mean, I always understood God's gifts included all the abundance of this amazing planet earth. All the variety of plant and animal life, all the amazing natural wonders like the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls... What seemed new for me is the idea that God has also given us enough divine power for goodness. The talents and abilities we are given by God aren't just for show, they were given to us for

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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good and to do good. I mean, duh... We know Saint Paul famously told the Church located in the town of Ephesus, "For we are God's handiwork, *created in Christ Jesus to do good works*, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

So, having addressed the letter, reminded the readers where their faith comes from and why they were created in Christ, the author moves on to his greater purpose in writing. In ancient times it was common for the patriarch to address his family before his death. Sometimes they blessed their descendants, but the last testament wasn't like our wills are today. The inheritance was spelled out in Jewish Law, so there would be no need for the dying person to spell out who gets the family fortune. In ancient days the last testament was more about summarizing their life's lessons and giving advice for carrying out the patriarch's final wishes. It was much more about legacy than property.

So, what are Peter's final thoughts... After having reminded his readers of the grace of God in Jesus Christ, the author begins to answer the question, now what? Now that we've received this precious gift of righteousness from God, now what are we supposed to do? How are we supposed to be and act now that we have escaped the lustful desires of the flesh? According to the author of Second Peter, we are called to participate in the "Divine Nature." He describes the

\* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

Christian life as a sort of Hierarchy of Needs pyramid.



(SLIDE) Faith is

supported through goodness, from goodness to Knowledge, from knowledge to self-control, from self-control to endurance, from endurance to godliness, from

godliness to mutual affection, and from mutual affection to love.

I think we need to spend a minute or two thinking about what our author calls knowledge. The word knowledge is used 5 times in these 11 verses, so it must be an important term for us to understand if we're going to understand what this Peter wants us to know. In Biblical terminology, I think of knowledge in the same way as I do believing. I can believe Jesus Christ lived and taught and had disciples that followed him. I can even believe he was a good man who died an unlawful death at the hands of corrupt religious and governmental officials. I can learn and know about Jesus from reading about him. That's altogether different from believing *IN* Jesus Christ. If I believe IN Jesus Christ I trust in his promises and in the saving act of his death and resurrection. I look at what he did and what he spoke when He was alive and I try to learn from Jesus what it means to be truly human and created in the image of God. In the same way there's a world of difference between knowing about Jesus Christ and knowing Him. I mean, the devil surely knows Jesus. The devil believes Jesus lived and even believes Jesus is God's only begotten Son. Satan's knowledge stops right there. Satan doesn't trust

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

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Satan or the world. The kind of knowledge of the Lord Peter is talking about comes from knowing what makes Jesus tick. (SLIDE) To know Jesus is to know how Jesus would think, what Jesus would say, and what Jesus would do in any situation. People who are not eyewitnesses to the real time Jesus must rely on the Bible to inform, transform, and conform their minds to the mind of Christ.

To inform, transform, and conform we must do some work. That work (SLIDE) giving time for contemplation involves personal Bible study, and meditation, leaving space for God to speak. I might read a verse or 2 over and over maybe three or four times. Then I wait... Sometimes an idea pops into my head and sometimes I overhear someone talking and that gives me an idea. Sometimes it's a week or more later when that Bible verse will inspire me to think about something in a new way. All of those can be the Holy Spirit's way of moving us to where God wants us to be. (SLIDE) Group Bible study is equally important. When I'm left to my own devices I can make the scripture mean just about anything I want it to mean. It's been used to justify wars, slavery, and even Child sacrifice. The best way to help us all stay on the path to growing in our knowledge of Jesus Christ is to read the Bible devotionally, join in a group Bible study, and finally attend corporate Worship as often as you are able.

• Please be seated

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

We have 2 more Sundays to focus on this under-represented Book of

scripture.



(SLIDE) May God use this small book to increase our

faith in our Lord and may we learn from the apostle Peter the importance of continuous growth in our knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

#### \* APOSTLE'S 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.

#### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: 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 into a life of holiness. Be present in the midst of our congregation that we might learn from you and from one another how we might best work toward living according to your will in this community and the world. Eternal God,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: All things are redeemed in you, down to the smallest creature. May we despise nothing that you have made, and give us a heart made tender toward those who rely on us to be merciful and caring. Eternal God,

# C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

\* Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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L: Hold our leaders at every level to the highest standards of integrity and compassion, and make them willing to work on those areas of weakness that would prevent them from fulfilling your call to serve. Eternal God,

## C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Soften us to let go of judgments, of ourselves or others, and to share instead your healing message of reconciliation. Restore our hearts, bodies and souls to wholeness, (*especially...*) Eternal God,

## C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: The world is constantly demanding that we justify ourselves, make excuses, and survive on sheer strength. Make us witnesses to the surpassing power of your mercy and the surprising impact of forgiveness. Eternal God,

## C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

## Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Gather those whom we have loved and lost, and join us at last around your eternal throne. 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.

## **MEAL**

#### \* OFFERING

# 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.

#### \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God, you have given us everything needed for life and godliness. Accept now these gifts we return to you from your own abundance as signs of our gratitude and faithfulness. Use them for the good of the whole body of Christ and all your beloved children.

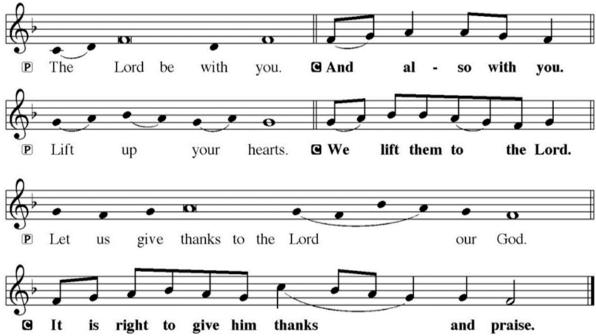
#### C: Amen.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

\* Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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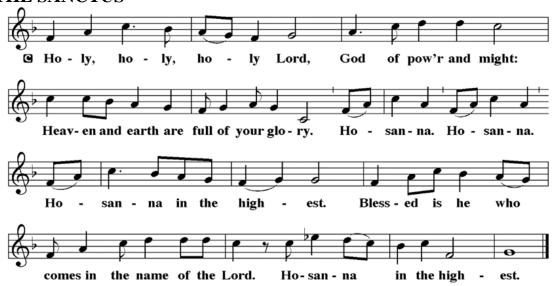
## **DIALOGUE**



#### 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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### THE SANCTUS



Please stand if able

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#### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.
- 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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
- Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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

# \* 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.

#### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus, who opens the door to eternal life, now invites you to the table where he meets you in the sharing of the bread and wine. Come and be united with the whole body of Christ in this heavenly meal.

\* Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

Communion is by "Station". Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

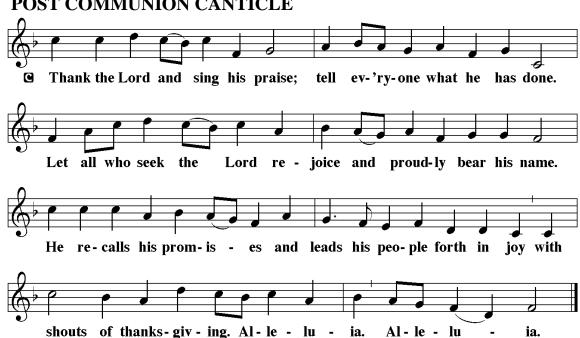
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING (Only on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

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

#### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C: Amen

Please stand if able July 2, 2023

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## **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

July 2, 2023

· Please be seated

#### \* 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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# **Health Tips for the Week**

MIND: Read a newspaper for current events

BODY: Be sure to eat a variety of fruits

**SPIRIT:** Send a "Thinking of You" card to someone who has not been in church for a while



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2 Peter 1:16-2:2, 15-19

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff** 

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Dean Thompson
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 birthdays of PJ and their grandson, Stephen Angles.

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# This Week @ Trinity – July 2 thru July 9, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, July 2	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	
Thurs, July 6	1:00 pm	VBS Meeting
Fri, July 7	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, July 9	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion



# 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.
Church VBS Decorating – July 6 @ 1:00 pm



# 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**

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



\* Please stand if able

July 2, 2023