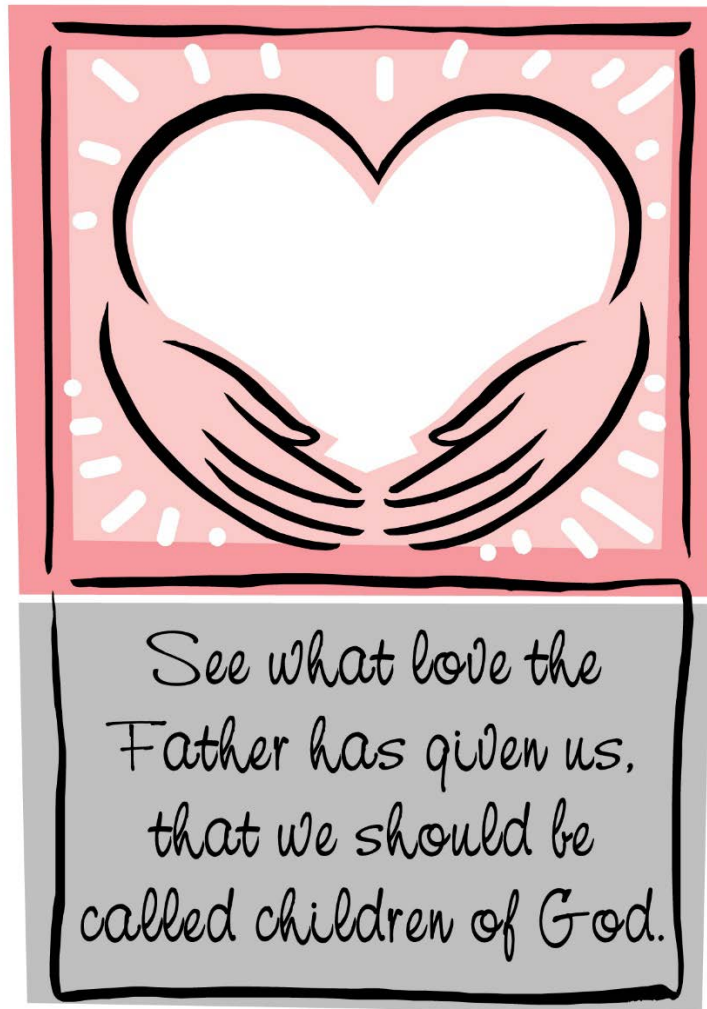


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



1 John 3:1-7
June 30, 2024



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**
--Facebook Live Viewers

*** 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



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of 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 Love, out of the dust of the earth you created us, then breathed your Holy Spirit into us to give us life. In great love, you made us your holy and beloved children. Remind us today and every day of your unending love for us, that we might in turn share that love with our neighbors, for the good of the world and the glory of your holy name. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

 WORD

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

June 30, 2024

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Children of God

Materials: Birth Certificate - Can of Food

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. I brought in my birth certificate to show you this morning. Look, here's my name and the names of my mom and dad. Here my birthday... This is a legal document that proves when, where and to whom I was born... The relationship between moms and dads and their children is very special. Our parents gave us our names. They take care of us. They feed us. They make sure we have a home and best of all, they love us like no one else on earth. Do you know the Bible says we are all Children of God? That's who we really are. You and I were God's children even before we were born on earth to our moms and dads. Our Father in heaven created you and knew you even before you were born.

Can you take a guess who decided that you would be a Child of God? No, it wasn't your mom or your dad. It wasn't your Pastor or your Godparents either. It was God who decided. God loved you so much He wanted you to be his very special child. The Bible says, "See what love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. That's exactly who you are. So, why does God make you and me to be children of God? Because God loves us!

Can you tell me what it means to be a child of God? ... Well, it means we are loved by God no matter what we do or don't do. It means God will never stop loving you, ever. It means God will forgive us when we do bad things or when we forget to do good things. It means we have a giant family too. Look at all the people sitting in church today. These are all your brothers and sisters in Jesus. You have lots of other relatives all over the world who are also God's Children too. God gives us the Church so we can learn about God and his love. He gives us the Church so we can have a place to belong together so we can help each other and encourage each other.

I also brought this can of soup today. One thing we can do as God's children is to help feed our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. Can you think of other things we get to do because we're God's children? Yes, we can be kind, we can share our toys, we can pray for each other. There are lots of things we can do, all because God first loved us.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for calling us your children. Help us to know what that means and to live as your children in the world. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-7**

R: Our scripture reading is from 1 John, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

3 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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 paid the price for our salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

One of my favorite things about Christmas is our Christmas auction. I love the fellowship and the fact that we make raising money to help needy people so much fun! We laugh at and with Dean and Eldon as they model women's scarves and try to figure out what to do with some of the items donated. (**SLIDE**) I've always been impressed with how much Mark's fish or Barb's peanut brittle go for. They usually end up way above my budget... I read a story this week about an auction where every item was auctioned off for much more than the normal market value. For example, the winning bid for a rocking chair valued between \$3,000

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

and \$5,000 was \$453,500.00. A used automobile, valued between \$18,000, was sold for \$79,500. A set of green tumblers, valued at \$500, sold for \$38,000. A necklace, valued at \$500, went for \$211,500. For four days articles of common, ordinary value were sold for wildly inflated prices. Why? (SLIDE) The items auctioned were from the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The value of the items at the auction were sold on the basis of the one to whom they had belonged.

It's the same for you and me. You and I may appear to be very ordinary to people around us, but God sees us as having ultimate value. (SLIDE) Enough value that God gave His Son for you and for me. Don't let anybody tell you that you don't matter. Don't let anybody rob you of your identity. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Somewhere between 9 and 15 million Americans are victims of identity theft each year. You click on the wrong email or link in a text message and the next thing you know someone is ordering food from Dashlane in Kansas, where you've never been... True story...

Beloved, you are children of our Heavenly Father. God's own adopted child—that's what you are. That's your first and primary identity. The bright shiny baubles of this world, the temptations thrown at you by the Father of Lies, the Devil himself, and even your own self-doubts all try to steal your true identity from you. The Devil whispers in your ear that you're not good enough to be a child of God. He keeps reminding you of your past failures and goading you into

future sin. He promises you wealth, fame, power, health, and ultimate happiness, if only you put aside the trust you have in Jesus and rely on your good looks, your good behavior, or your substantial retirement fund.

In our scripture reading this morning the author of First John reminds us who and whose we are. Can you imagine the love God must have for us?

(SLIDE) I love dogs and I take mine to the vet for all their shots and for regular check-ups. Imagine you found a stray dog, obviously infected with rabies. Would you bring the stray into your home? Would you give a rabid stray dog the run of your home and let him sleep in your bed? No, of course you wouldn't! We are like that rabid stray dog and God has brought us into his house. That's only a tiny amount of the love God has for you.

There are 3 things we can get out of this scripture reading for today. First, we can start to believe it. (SLIDE) We have been given the faith to trust in the promise of Jesus Christ. In His suffering, death, and resurrection we are adopted into the family of God as God's sons and daughters. We haven't earned the right to be called children of God. Rather, that title has been bestowed upon us by God himself. It's a free gift from God who lavishes us with love beyond measure.

The second thing we can glean from this scripture reading is we can imagine what it will be like when we are fully with God in eternity. (SLIDE) The author of First John says what we *will be* like when we see God face to face has not been

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

revealed to us. There is so much that God has left for our imagination! What will it be like in heaven? Will there be beds and pillows and houses and streets and cities? Will there be gardens and trees and rivers and seas? Will my body be twenty years old or forty years old or will there be some with gray hair and wrinkles? When John says we will be like “him” I don’t think he’s referring to what our bodies will be like in the resurrection. John’s referring more to what our life will be like. We shall be like him - perfect and holy. We shall be like Adam and Eve in the beginning, created in the image of God and made to be like God. Gone will be our sinful flesh and all those terrible temptations! Gone will be the guilt and the shame we feel when we’ve failed to do good and managed to do only evil! Imagine having only pure, peaceful and happy thoughts in your mind all the time. Imagine the joy of loving perfectly all the time. And that’s not all... John says we’ll see him as he is. We’ll see Jesus face to face! Can you imagine what that will be like? The Apostle John did a lot of imagining at the end of his life. Imprisoned on an island. Separated from his friends. Living into his 90’s under the harsh conditions on a prison island. My guess is every morning John got up and thought, “Maybe today I will get to see Jesus face to face!” I know many people who get up every day even now and say the same thing. Maybe today I’ll get to see Jesus face to face... When life isn’t treating you fairly, when you’re struggling with your health, when you can’t seem to keep a handle on your

emotions, when you wonder why bad things keep happening to good people, I invite you to take a few minutes to imagine... As God's children you have that right! Because that is what you are! Believe it is so. Imagine what it will be like. And finally, the third thing I want us to consider from this scripture reading... Work at it!

Work at it... Here's what I mean... Can people tell who your heavenly Father is by taking one look at you? Do you look much like the other children of God you see in God's family? Is your walk through life straight and true? Can people tell from the smile on your face you are glowing with the joy of God? When you open your mouth, is your speech characteristic of your Father's Word? Is it truthful? Honest? Pure? Kind? Loving? Are your desires for heavenly things or earthly pleasures? "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" Remember who you are! God has purified you with the blood of his Son. He has called you to be his Child. He put his name on you in your baptism and adopted you as a member of his family. Because of this lavish love showered on me by God our Father, I want to become more like him every day. That's why John says, "Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." In this case, the English verb doesn't quite catch the flavor of what it says in the Greek. A better translation would be, "Everyone who has this hope *keeps on purifying*

himself, just as he is pure.” I was born with brown hair and hazel eyes, just like my dad, but I learned to work hard and to be loyal from watching him and trying to be like him. In the same way, as God’s spiritual children, we become more and more like God every day we walk with him. We keep on purifying ourselves, just as he is pure. What does that mean to keep on purifying ourselves? First, we examine ourselves so we can see the impurities and the imperfections. We look at how we act and how we talk. We examine our feelings and our attitudes and our desires. We can compare ourselves to Jesus and even look to the Commandments to measure where we’re at on the pureness or Holiness scale. If we’re being honest, we’ll find ourselves falling short in so many ways. When we come up against the reality of our sinful nature we can bring these impurities to the throne of our Father in confession and claim the promises of God’s mercy, grace, and love. In the first chapter, John wrote, “If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” In humbleness and thanks for the love God lavishes on us, we can leave our sin at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. It has no place in our lives any longer not because we’re so good, but because God loves us. Because we are God’s children! That is what we are! If... no... *when* we’re unsuccessful again because we’re weak, we can look to God for strength and try again tomorrow. And the next day. And the next. In this life we will never be able to become just like him in every way, yet

we do not despair, because God has promised never to forsake us as his children.

Here's the best news of all, we know one day, when we are with him in heaven, we will be just like him! For we shall see him as he is. (SLIDE)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! *Believe* it to be true. *Imagine* what it will be like in heaven someday! *Work at it*, becoming more like him every day of your lives. Thank you Jesus for making us your brothers and sisters and children of our heavenly Father. Help us to be more like you for the sake of the world and to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** “Children of the Heavenly Father” **LBW 474**



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

* **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.

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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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**

L: Confident in the breadth and depth of God's love and grace, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Help us to recognize the love you have given us in making us your own children. Make us to do what is right, and forgive us when we fail. God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: St. Francis took joy in Brother Sun and Sister Moon, and saw all of creation as our siblings. Help us to recognize the complex interdependence of climate and habitats, and work for the betterment of the natural world for all our sakes. God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Inspire leaders at every level, from church councils to parliaments, to recognize the needs of all, that they might work for solutions based not in selfishness, but in generous care for others. God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Hold in your loving and healing arms all who are experiencing uncertainty about their health, facing frightening diagnoses, or in the process of healing and recovery, (*especially...*) God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Everyone is your beloved child, O God, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, and even religious belief. Make us to regard each human being in the light of the love you have for them, and act accordingly. God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with joy all of your beloved children who have shown us by their example what it means to live out their gratitude to you. May we, in turn, lead others into the joy of a life in Christ. God of love,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

P: With all our siblings in Christ here and around the world, we lift all our prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our savior and friend.

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 ...Generous God, you pour your love into every aspect of our lives, and bestow upon us gifts of all we need to flourish. With humble gratitude we now return these gifts and tithes to you, that you might bless them for the work of the church in the world.

C: Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

* Please stand if able

June 30, 2024

• Please be seated

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• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Jesus Loves Me”

ELW 595

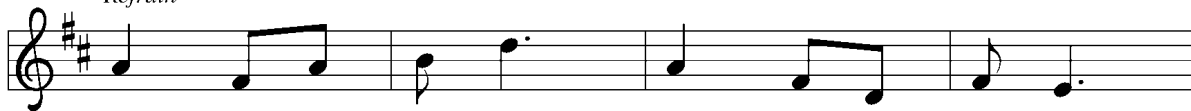


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

* **DISMISSAL**

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

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

* **POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 7th
1 John 3:16-24

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – June 9 thru June 16:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, June 30	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Thurs, July 4	10:00 am	Youth & Family Ministry Team Meeting
		<i>Independence Day</i>
Fri, July 5	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, July 7	9:00 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

Save The Date!

July 14 – After Worship	Trinity Carry-In/Picnic/VBS Celebration
July 21 – 9:00 am	Breakfast & Presentation by Oesterlen Services for Youth of Springfield, Ohio
August 22	Lutheran Day @ the Great Darke County Fair
August 25	Rally Day @ Trinity (Sundaes on Sunday!)

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Swimming is a great low-impact, aerobic exercise

MIND: Think of problems as opportunities for growth

SPIRIT: Look for the greatness of God in ALL things



Vacation Bible School at Trinity
Tuesday, July 9 and Thursday, July 11
6:00 – 8:15 pm

Registration forms on the bulletin table.

ULTIMATE CLEANING CLOTHS now available from WELCA ladies! You just wet them, wring them out as much as you can, wipe your surfaces and walk away. Just rinse them out good and reuse again. They are guaranteed for years.

--- 1 for \$7.00, 2 for \$10.00 or 5 for \$20.00 ---

“TOSS FOR TEENS” CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT – Youth for Christ is hosting a cornhole tournament on Friday, August 2nd. Collect pledges from your friends and neighbors and the proceeds will benefit area teenagers through the YFC organization. Information about the evening’s activities and registration forms can be found on the bulletin table and you must register your 2-man team by July 29th.



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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Trinity Contact Info

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