

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



**YOU CANNOT SERVE
BOTH GOD AND MONEY**

Luke 16:1-15
September 21, 2025



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Larry Harter**

* **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 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

* 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 heaven and earth, in love and mercy you pour out your blessing upon us, that we might be a blessing to all the earth. Show us the way to you each day so that, following in it, we might reflect your beauty, power, and justice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

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- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-15**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 16.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

16 ¹Jesus now told this story to his disciples: “A rich man hired an accountant to handle his affairs, but soon a rumor went around that the accountant was thoroughly dishonest. ²“So his employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about your stealing from me? Get your report in order, for you are to be dismissed.’ ³“The accountant thought to himself, ‘Now what? I’m through here, and I haven’t the strength to go out and dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. ⁴I know just the thing! And then I’ll have plenty of friends to take care of me when I leave!’ ⁵“⁶“So he invited each one who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ ‘My debt is 850 gallons of olive oil,’ the man replied. ‘Yes, here is the contract you signed,’ the accountant told him. ‘Tear it up and write another one for half that much!’ ⁷““And how much do you owe him?’ he asked the next man. ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the accountant said, ‘take your note and replace it with one for only 800 bushels!’ ⁸“The rich man had to admire the rascal for being so shrewd.^[a] And it is true that the citizens of this world are more clever in dishonesty than the godly are. ⁹But shall I tell *you* to act that way, to buy friendship through cheating? Will this ensure your entry into an everlasting home in heaven?^[b] ¹⁰*No!* For unless you are honest in small matters, you won’t be in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. ¹¹And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? ¹²And if you are not faithful with other people’s money, why should you be entrusted with money of your own? ¹³“For neither you nor anyone else can serve two masters. You will hate one and show loyalty to the other, or else the other way around—you will be enthusiastic about one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” ¹⁴The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, naturally scoffed at all this. ¹⁵Then he said to them, “You wear a noble, pious expression in

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public, but God knows your evil hearts. Your pretense brings you honor from the people, but it is an abomination in the sight of God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

- SERMON “Hey, Buddy, Do You Have A Dime?” Larry Harter
Silence may be kept for meditation...

* HYMN OF THE DAY “Blessed Assurance” ELW 638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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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

L: Confident that our God hears and answers our cries, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Gracious God, you have offered us the richness of your blessings. Make us worthy to be the bearers of your life-giving word to the world. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: All of creation is one family. Make us mindful of the needs of plants, animals, ecosystems, and the whole world, that all might flourish in your name. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are like the dust of the earth, spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. May your children truly be instruments of your peace, that all the families of the earth might be blessed because of our actions. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are feeble at times, Lord. Our health fails. Our strength flags. We long for the blessing of your healing, and ask for all who are in need (*especially...*) God of promise,

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C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: As the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, and with all your saints in glory, we rejoice in the mercy which you show to your family on earth and in heaven. Keep us faithful until that day when we are brought face to face with you. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift all these prayers, and those of our hearts, to your loving care, O God. Receive them and restore our hope in your promises. In Jesus' name.

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 ... You have entrusted us with an abundance of good things, O God. In gratitude, we joyfully return to you our gifts and our tithes, that you might use them to bless creation with your goodness and mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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.

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SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

- * **SENDING HYMN** **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”** **LBW 479**



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

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*** DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook Live 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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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Try a Rubik’s cube.

BODY: Join a group exercise program.

SPIRIT: Pray for your church



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 28th
Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17

Prayers & Squares Quilters will meet on Wednesday, September 24 @ 10:00 am to assemble Backpacks and Health Kits. They will also tie quilts and spread quilts in the sanctuary for the “Blessing of the Quilts” on Sunday, September 28. Anyone who would like to help, please join us!

This Week @ Trinity – September 21 thru September 28:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Sept. 21	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, Sept. 23	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	
Wed, Sept. 24	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting & Kit Assembly
Fri, Sept. 26	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept. 28	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”

Save The Date!

Sept 23	Newsletter Deadline
Oct. 4 @ 11 am	Blessing of the Animals @ Darke County Humane Society
Oct. 4 @ 1 pm	Hand out Fall Festival Flyers door to door in Pittsburg
Oct 19 @ 5 pm	Trinity/Pittsburg COB Fall Festival
Oct 26	Confirmation Reformation Sunday (WEAR RED!!!)



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.

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AROUND THE PARISH - 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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