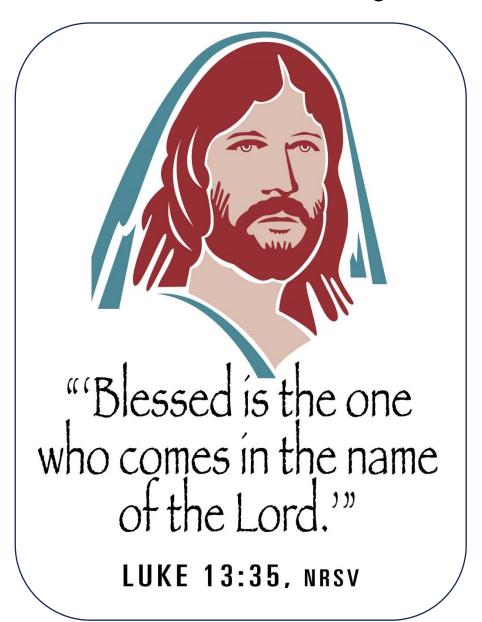
Mission Congregation of the ELCA

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 March 16, 2025



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

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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: God of the journey,
- C: We do not want to follow where you lead. Instead, we turn inward, focusing on satisfying our own wants, even at the expense of our neighbors. We do not see their suffering; we do not act for their justice. We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want, or of losing what we have. We ignore the example of your sacrificial love, which has the power to heal and make whole. Forgive us for refusing to heed your call. Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions, so that we might return to following you, no matter where your journey leads.
- P: Our God is a God of abundant grace and mercy, and never lets us go. For the sake of Jesus, God With Us, who gave all for the redemption of creation, your sins are forgiven. Follow in Christ's loving footsteps.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

Page 2 of 21



- 1 Chief of sin-ners though I be, Je sus shed his blood for me,
- 2 Oh, the height of Je sus' love! High er than the heav'ns a bove,
- 3 On ly Je sus can im part balm to heal the wound ed heart,
- 4 Chief of sin-ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
- 5 O my Sav ior, help af ford by your Spir it and your word!



died that I might live high, lives that I might nev - er die. on deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty. for - giv'n, joy that lifts the are known, all my sor-rows peace that flows from sin soul to heav'n, my wants to him are his own. When my way-ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, Ι am his, and he is mine. Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not. faith and hope to walk with God the way that E - noch trod. in sus-tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife. grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I

* 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 March 16, 2025



^{*} Please stand if able March 16, 2025

[•] 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, you call us to gather under your wings and yet we turn away. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to receive the truth that you desire to be in relationship with us. Help us to seek your care and provision each and every day. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

* Please stand if able

March 16, 2025

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Materials:

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Hello boys and girls. I hope you all had a great week! Today I need some help. I have been trying to come up with as many names for Jesus as I can remember. You know, like The Messiah, Jesus Christ, Lord, and Master. Can you help me come up with any others? ... If you need some help, I put a few more up on the slide on the front wall. (SLIDE)

These are some really fantastic names! Savior, because Jesus saves us from our sins. The bread of life because Jesus feeds us with spiritual food that gives us eternal life. The Son of God is a real favorite. Lots of people call Jesus by that name. Number 11 on my list is always good to remember, especially when we need help only Jesus can give. It's good to know Jesus is also our Mighty God who can help us and protect us.

One of my favorite names for Jesus is Mother Hen. What? You have never heard Jesus called by that name? In our Bible lesson for today, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and along the way he stops on a tall hill overlooking the city. That's when he says something a little funny. He says to the people of Jerusalem that he wishes he could take them all under his wings like a mother hen does to protect her chicks. Jesus is like a mother hen! He wants us to gather together, which is what we do every Sunday. When we're all together Jesus is with us and Jesus protects us from the Devil and from our own sin. Like a mother hen keeps her chicks under her wings to protect them from foxes and other wild animals that would try to eat them up. Jesus won't ever let that happen to you!

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the picture of you as our mother hen. We love living under the protection only you can provide. Amen.

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

Page 6 of 21

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 13.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.""

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 our Mother Hen who still longs to gather us under her wings, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.

Repent, for the Kingdom of God in near! Repent now, while you still have time! (SLIDE) Those are two sentences you usually don't hear much today.

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

• Please be seated Page 7 of 21

Repentance and the call to repent has pretty much gone out of style. I'm pretty certain it was never really in style. Prophets have been calling for repentance almost since the fall of mankind into Sin. Prophets have been killed for telling people, especially those in positions of power they need to repent. (SLIDE) Although it doesn't say so in the Bible, ancient historians and Church tradition tell us the prophet Isaiah was sawed in half for calling the nation to repent. I'm pretty certain Jesus wasn't crucified for healing people, even if he did it on the Sabbath. Even today, we don't like to have our faults and failings pointed out to us and then instructed to change our evil ways or face the deadly consequences. Back in the days of Jesus as today most people think of themselves as "Pretty Good" people. (SLIDE) If you believe you're a pretty good person already, who does this Jesus think he is to come along and tell us we need to repent or face the same consequences as those poor souls whose blood Pilate mingled with the altar sacrifices in the Temple or those people who died when that tower fell on them or those poor souls who died in that plane crash...

Two of the major weaknesses of our sinful human nature are: one, that we love to live in denial and two, we're experts at the art of procrastination. We can put-off that which is unpleasant with the hope that it will look after itself or just go away if we delay it long enough. Our Gospel today tells us that we cannot procrastinate, we cannot put on the backburner what needs doing today. The

* Please stand if able

March 16, 2025

prophet Isaiah says: ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isa. 55:6-7 NRS) If you, like me, deep down think of yourself as a pretty good person, I have a news flash, (SLIDE) our human reality is none of us are pretty or good compared to our pure and Holy God. We're born into sin and we wallow in it every moment of every day. Some will say, "at least I never robbed a bank or committed murder..." If that's your standard, I'd say it's time to re-read your catechism...

In the Gospel text, apparently someone must have commented about how sinful those who Pilate had killed during their Sacrificial worship must have been. Just then, someone else piped in, yeah, also those killed when the tower collapsed must have been pretty sinful too... Jesus corrects them by asking if they thought those folks were any more sinful than everyone else, including those listening to his voice right then and those of us reading his words today. To both groups, Jesus says an emphatic, "No Way! You are all sinners and every single one must repent and return to the Lord your God." (SLIDE) If you've ever wondered why the crowds, who had witnessed all the healing and other miracles Jesus had performed, could so quickly turn on him, think about being told you are all just as guilty of sin as that prostitute or that rioting, murdering, insurrectionist. It's enough to offend

March 16, 2025 Page 9 of 21

^{*} Please stand if able

even the most easy-going "pretty good" person. The truth is, our lives are like that fig tree in the parable Jesus told. (SLIDE) God gives us only a certain amount of time to live on this earth. This week with two back to back funerals certainly proved that fact... We don't know when we are going to die. Therefore, we are given the opportunity right now, today, every day, to repent—to make peace with our God and one another and be prepared to meet our Maker, in case our time is now.

That brings us to the second major human weakness most of us share, procrastination. Some of us are very proficient when it comes to procrastination. I'm chief among them. (SLIDE) My motto is never do today, what can be put off until tomorrow. The problem is that tomorrow never comes... My sister Pam and her husband Ed used to dream of the time after Ed retired, when they would have the time and money to travel. They had plans of visiting all kinds of historic and tourist destinations. Unfortunately, a few years before Ed retired Pam developed COPD and Agoraphobia, which is fear of leaving your house. They were never able to fulfill all those grand plans they had put off for all those years. Lent is a good time to act on the urgency of repentance. (SLIDE) Now, today is the time to do what needs doing, rather than putting it off or hoping, falsely that it will go away or look after itself. Seize the opportunity, "seize the day," while it presents itself; otherwise it may never be there for you again. We are not God; we are

• Please be seated Page 10 of 21

March 16, 2025

^{*} Please stand if able

given only a certain amount of time here on this earth, so act now. Some opportunities in life run out for us. We could be here today and gone tomorrow.

I think all of us in this room and those watching on Facebook realize how short life can be and what a great opportunity each day presents to us. Yet, in our sinful state, we often deny the truth. We say to ourselves, others and God, things like: "I've got to get everything in my life in order before I'll be good enough to go back to church. When I get the promotion, then I can go to fewer meetings and spend more time with my family. I don't have to study for that exam until the night before. I can put off visiting my parents or grandparents until the summer. Tomorrow I'll quit smoking or drinking or gambling or..., after all, I can quit any time. There's lots of time for me to get involved in the church; right now I've got to do X, Y, and Z on Sundays, besides, Sunday is my only day to sleep in... When I retire there'll be plenty of time and opportunities to serve God and my neighbor. What do I need to repent of? I live a good life, look after my family, pay taxes, and stay out of trouble. I'm going to hold a grudge against so-and-so because they don't deserve my or anyone else's forgiveness. Let them come to me and tell me how sorry they are before I'll forgive them. Until then, I'm never going to speak to them again!" Don't these comments sound familiar? I know for a fact, I've said every one of these at one time or another...

^{*} Please stand if able

March 16, 2025 Page 11 of 21

Jesus in our Gospel text invites us to make the most of our time, which God has given to us. Every day is a gift of God. We don't know when our time on this earth will end, and we'll meet our Maker. Our lives are in constant need of returning to the Lord—that is the actual, literal meaning of the word repent. The Bible insists repentance is "Good News." Unfortunately, we're stuck in the mindset that good people are "Blessed" with wealth and health. We still think of those in poverty and sickness as being cursed or somehow unloved by God. If we have a "pretty good" life then we must also be pretty good people. Jesus says no to those ways of thinking. That's not what the Bible or our human experience tells us... Quite the opposite... Since all have sinned none of us are any better than anyone else. Sin is the great level of humankind. When it's all taken away, and we have nothing left except our naked bodies standing before God almighty, who will be "Blessed?" Will it be the one who spent his whole life grubbing for greenbacks or the one who gave everything away to help his neighbor? The "Good News" of repentance is that no matter what you've done or left undone, when you return to the Lord your God, you will receive mercy from God's endless storehouse of Grace. I know, it's not fair... The murderer receives the same reward as all of us "Pretty Good" people, but that's God's economy and no matter how many or how few your sins, we all are loved unconditionally and endlessly by

^{*} Please stand if able March 16, 2025

[•] Please be seated Page 12 of 21

the God of heaven and earth who created you and who grants forgiveness even before you ask.

May this Lenten season be a time for us to return to the Lord; to confess our sins; to forgive one another, and be reconciled with those who have wronged us. Our Lord is a God of grace and our God loves nothing more than to abundantly pardon every last "pretty good" person's sins. Repenting, returning to the Lord is not having "the hell scared out of you." Rather, repentance is God's gift of grace offered to you every day. May each day be one of repenting, returning to God, and thanking God for all of the opportunities we've been given to love and serve our Maker and our neighbor. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* NICENE 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: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

• Please be seated Page 13 of 21

worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

> Or, He descended to the dead.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

L: Holy God, you call us to repentance, and to the bearing of good fruit for the sake of the world. Draw us into your loving embrace and change our hearts, that we might live into your call, no matter how challenging it might be. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Jesus, our mother hen, reminds us of the dignity and love to be found in all of your good creation. Inspire us to protect habitats and turn away from cruelty to your beloved creatures. Help us to cherish all of your creation. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Guide elected officials and hired officers in the self-reflection and examination necessary for true leadership. Give them the humility they need to best serve those over whom they have authority. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gather into your healing arms all who suffer illness, uncertainty, hostile environments, and other life-diminishing circumstances, (*especially*...) Give strength and courage to those in need, and to all who provide care to them. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Immigrants face unique challenges and uncertainties in their new homes. Open the hearts of all who live in the communities into which they move, that they might find welcome and hospitality wherever they go. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: A great cloud of witnesses stands before us. May we draw strength and inspiration from their faithful lives, that we, too, might be faithful to you in all we do and say. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

• Please be seated Page 14 of 21

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.

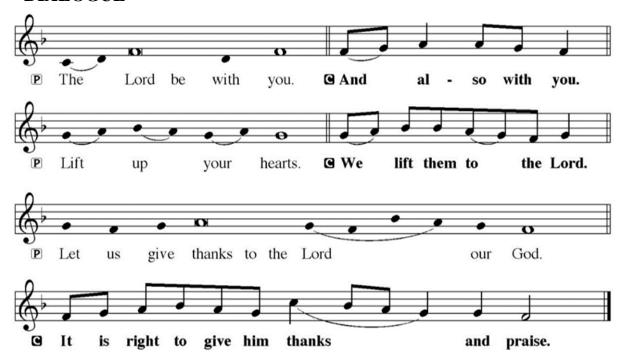
* OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...Loving God, like the fig tree you call us to bear good fruit. Accept these gifts and tithes—the fruits of our work for the purpose of showing love to all in need, known and unknown to us. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* 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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

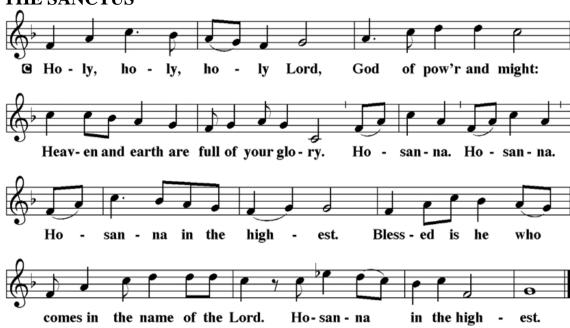
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March 16, 2025

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Page 15 of 21

* THE SANCTUS



* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the dessert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 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 life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

* 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus, our savior and friend, invites you now to this holy table, where he meets you in the bread and wine that is his own body and blood. Come and be fed, for all is prepared.

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.

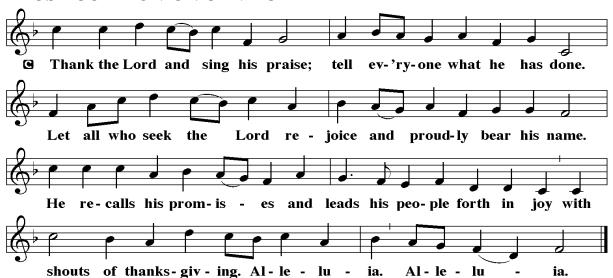
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

• POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

• Please be seated Page 17 of 21

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. +

C: Amen.



Please stand if able

March 16, 2025

Please be seated

Page 18 of 21

* 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 Pam Sherman

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Read a comic strip.

BODY: Do a line dance- even in your own home.

SPIRIT: Learn who St Patrick was.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 23rd Luke 15:1-32

* Please stand if able March 16, 2025

Please be seated

Page 19 of 21

This Week @ Trinity - March 16 thru March 23:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, March 16	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and
		Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, March 18		April Newsletter Deadline
Wed, March 19	10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
	6:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper/Devotion
Thurs, March 20	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at Sharp's Tavern, 101
		S. Main, Palestine
Fri, March 21	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, March 23	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and
		Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the April Trinity Trumpet is Tuesday, March 18!

Save The Date!

Wednesdays - March 19, 26 &	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible Study
April 2 & 9 @ 6:00 pm	Discussion
Sunday, March 30 @ 9:30 am	Greg Hickman, Lawyers Direct, presentation of
	estate planning and other legal needs
Saturday, April 12	Trash Bash Youth Fundraiser
April 17 @ 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18 @ 7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
April 20 @ 8:00 am	Early Worship Service
9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am	Late Worship Service



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

* Please stand if able

March 16, 2025

• Please be seated

Page 20 of 21

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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* Please stand if able March 16, 2025