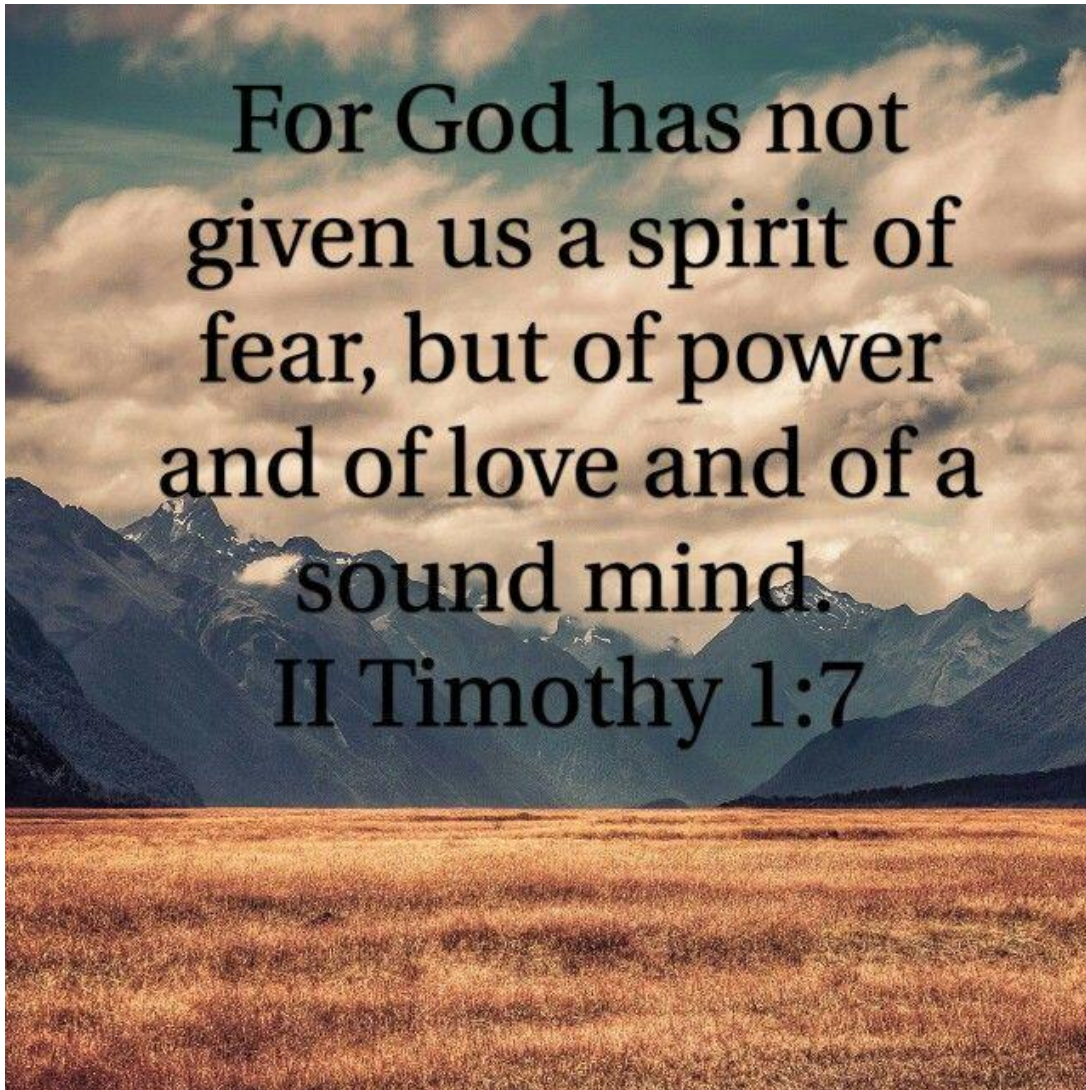


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



2 Timothy 1:1-14
July 26, 2026



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Pam Sherman**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

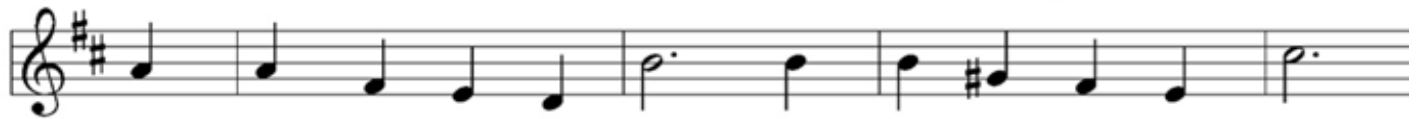
(Verses 1-4 Only)



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



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



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



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

* 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... Holy Spirit, you do not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of love, power, and self-discipline. Help us to lean into you and this beloved community that we might be refreshed for your work in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

 WORD

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

July 26, 2026

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: The Light Is Still There
Materials: Battery Operated Candle or Flashlight
Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Good morning! I brought something with me today, but I've hidden it under this gray cloth. Can any of you see anything shining underneath? *[Allow answers.]* There's a little bit of light under there, isn't there? Let's see what it is. *[Slowly lift the cloth enough to reveal the glowing candle.]* It's a candle! The candle was shining the whole time, but the cloth made it difficult for us to see.

In our Bible reading today, Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy. Timothy was having a difficult time. He was feeling sad, tired, and afraid. Have you ever felt sad or afraid? *[Allow responses.]* Sometimes when we're sad, afraid, sick, lonely, or worried, our faith can feel a little like this candle. The light may still be there, but our worries cover it up, just as this gray cloth covered the candle. Paul told his friend, Timothy, "Rekindle the gift of God that is within you." "Rekindle" means to help a fire begin burning brightly again. Paul was telling Timothy, "God has not left you. The Holy Spirit is still working in you." What are some things that might help us remember that God is with us when we're sad or afraid? *[Encourage answers such as praying, reading the Bible, coming to church, singing, talking with parents or grandparents, and having someone pray with us.]* Those are all great answers. Sometimes another person helps us see God's light when we're having trouble seeing it ourselves. A parent, grandparent, teacher, friend, or even your pastor, can remind us, "God loves you. You aren't alone."

[Remove the gray covering completely.] Look how much more clearly we can see the light now! It didn't suddenly become real when I removed the cloth. It was already shining underneath. That's one reason we gather around this font. *[Gesture toward or place your hand upon the baptismal font.]* In Baptism, God makes us a promise: "You are mine. I love you. I forgive you. I will be with you." Some days we may feel God's love very strongly. Other days we may be sad and have trouble feeling it, but God's promise doesn't disappear just because our feelings change. Our feelings change from day to day, but God's promise stays the same. So, when your light feels small, it's OK. You can ask someone to pray with you, remember your Baptism, remember Jesus loves you and the Holy Spirit is still at work in you. Then, when your light is shining brightly, you can share that light by helping, encouraging, forgiving, and loving someone else.

Let's pray... Dear God, Thank you for making us your children. When we are sad, tired, or afraid, help us remember that you are still with us. Send your Holy Spirit to make the light of your love shine brightly in us, and help us share that love with others for the sake of the Gospel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

R: Our scripture reading is from 2 Timothy, Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our light, our life, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Does anyone here like camping? After spending so much time living in a tent in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War, my idea of camping is poor room service at the Holiday Inn... (**SLIDE**) Even so, most of us have probably looked at the remains of a campfire the morning after and assumed the fire was cold and dead. The flames are gone. The wood has

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

collapsed. Everything is covered with gray ashes. Back in the day, when I was a young Boy Scout, I remember getting up early and stirring up those ashes. Most of the time you could add a little kindling wood, blow on the embers, and before long you'd be cooking breakfast. My point is, the fire wasn't gone. It needed someone to tend it.

Paul believes something like this is happening within Timothy. Timothy's faith has not disappeared, but fear, grief, and weariness have begun to cover it. So, Paul writes, "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you." Paul doesn't tell Timothy to go find a new fire. He doesn't say Timothy's faith was never genuine. He doesn't tell him to pretend that everything is fine. (SLIDE) Paul believes the gift is still there. The flame may be low, but God has not let it go out. Timothy certainly has reasons to be discouraged. His mentor and friend, Paul, is sitting in prison because he proclaimed the Gospel. The church is facing opposition. Following Jesus has not made life easier. Timothy may even be wondering whether he has enough courage, wisdom, or strength to continue.

Paul remembers Timothy's tears. His references to cowardice and shame suggest Timothy may be tempted to withdraw—to remain silent, to distance himself from Paul, or to avoid the suffering that might come from publicly identifying with Jesus. Paul doesn't shame Timothy for being afraid. He doesn't say, "Timothy, you're a disappointment. Pull yourself together!" Instead, Paul says, "Timothy, I remember you. I pray for you night and day. I remember your tears. I long to see you. (SLIDE) I remember your grandmother Lois and your

mother Eunice. And I remember the sincere faith that lives in you.” Paul brushes away the ashes so that Timothy can see the ember again.

Timothy’s faith has many fingerprints upon it. His grandmother Lois tended the flame. His mother Eunice tended the flame. Paul encouraged and instructed him. The community laid hands upon him and recognized God’s calling... Most of us are here today because somewhere along the way, somebody tended the flame for us. Perhaps it was a parent or grandparent who taught you to pray. Perhaps someone brought you to Sunday school. Maybe a pastor spoke a word that stayed with you, or a church member noticed you, learned your name, and showed you that you belonged. Who tended the flame of faith for you? Even more importantly, whose flame might you be tending today—perhaps without even realizing it?

Paul reminds Timothy of Lois, Eunice, and the laying on of hands, but he does not tell Timothy to trust his family history, his training, or even the strength of his own faith. Paul directs Timothy toward something much stronger--the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Paul writes that God “saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.” There’s the Gospel... “Not according to our works.” Timothy’s future does not depend upon his ability to produce enough courage. His salvation does not rest upon the strength of his faith. His calling does not depend upon his flawless performance. Everything begins with God’s grace. Before Timothy became frightened, grace was already his. Before Timothy succeeded or failed, God had already claimed him. Before Lois and Eunice taught him the faith, God had already determined to save through Jesus Christ.

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

And Christ, Paul tells us, has “abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (SLIDE) Paul may be in jail, but the Gospel cannot be imprisoned! Timothy may be frightened, but fear cannot separate him from Christ. Death may threaten them both, but Jesus Christ has robbed death of its final authority. That is why Paul can say, “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” Those three gifts belong together. Power without love can become domination. Love without power can become little more than a nice sentiment. Self-discipline without grace can become rigid self-reliance. The Good News is The Holy Spirit gives us power to act, love to guide our actions, and self-discipline to remain faithful. This isn’t the world’s kind of power. It *is* the power of the cross. It’s the power to serve, forgive, endure, speak the truth, and continue loving when love is costly.

We may be separated from Timothy by nearly two thousand years, but we know something about fires that burn low. There are seasons when faith feels joyful and alive. Then, there are other seasons when we keep doing faithful things while feeling very little fire inside. Grief can cover the ember. So can illness, disappointment, exhaustion, seemingly unanswered prayers, worries about someone we love, or fear about the future. We may look around the church and remember when there were more children in Sunday school, more voices singing, and more people sitting in the pews. We can become so focused upon what appears to be missing that we overlook the embers God continues to keep alive among us.

(SLIDE) But look carefully... We can see the embers glowing when our quilters make something that will warm a person they may never meet. We see them when our children put together birthday kits so another child can celebrate. We see them when the prayer chain surrounds someone with prayer, when Communion is carried to someone who cannot be here, and when volunteers prepare to offer water and hospitality at the Great Darke County Fair. These are not merely church activities. They are signs that the Holy Spirit is still breathing upon the embers of our lives.

(SLIDE) “Rekindle the gift,” as Paul tells Timothy, does not mean, “Pray harder, believe harder, volunteer more, and stop feeling tired.” Sometimes rekindling begins by admitting, “I am tired. I am frightened. I need help.” Sometimes it begins by allowing someone else to pray for us. Sometimes another person sees the ember within us before we can see it ourselves. Most of all, rekindling begins by remembering what God has done. That is why, on Sundays when we aren’t celebrating Holy Communion or Holy Baptism, we gather around the font and give thanks for Baptism. We remember that we are joined to Christ, clothed with mercy and forgiveness, and claimed as children of God. We will soon have the joy of seeing those promises given to others. Next Sunday, a dad and his two children will receive this Holy and precious gift. Then, on August 23, we will gather around this font again as the promises of God are poured over another infant. (SLIDE) The waters of Baptism do not prove how you’ve now dedicated your life to God or how strongly any of us can hold onto God. They do prove how firmly God holds onto us. There are days when the flame of faith burns bright.

There are other days when it seems buried beneath ashes, but God's promise does not rise and fall with our emotions. At the font, God says: "You are mine. You are forgiven. You are joined to Christ. The Holy Spirit is at work within you."

The Gospel is a strange kind of treasure. Paul tells Timothy to "guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us." We don't guard it by keeping it to ourselves or locking it safely inside the church. We guard it by faithfully giving it away. Lois shared it with Eunice. Eunice shared it with Timothy. Paul encouraged Timothy to share it with others. Someone shared it with us. Now God entrusts it to us. Perhaps your fire is burning brightly today. If it is, use that flame to bring warmth and light to someone else. Perhaps your fire is burning low. If it is, don't be ashamed. You are not alone, and God has not abandoned you. Remember your Baptism. Remember the people who tended your faith. Remember the Savior who abolished death and brought life into the light. The flame may be low, but God has not let it go out. Even now, the Holy Spirit is breathing upon the embers of our lives. Come, Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O, my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

* 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.*

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Together with the whole Body of Christ throughout the world, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Sustaining God, we so often grow weary in our work; we don't see how anything we do does any good for your beloved children. Rekindle in us the knowledge of your presence with us, that the Holy Spirit might inspire us anew. God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are in awe of the work of your hands, O Creator. Teach us to understand the interconnectedness of all of nature, that people, animals, plants, and the earth itself might flourish together. God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Help our leaders to recognize the value of every single human being, so that they would strive to create a society that is welcoming to all, without exception. God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bring up all who have been brought low by sickness, grief, imprisonment, addiction, isolation, neglect, or illness, (*especially...*). God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Open our hearts to extend your hospitality to all the people of the earth. Let us tear down the artificial barriers we construct between peoples and cultures. God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We thank you for all the saints whose faithfulness has kindled in us a holy fire—a passion for the work of the gospel. God of all that is,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our savior.

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 ...Loving God, you kindle in us a spirit of generosity, that we might meaningfully respond to the needs of our neighbors. Accept these gifts from what you have first given us, and use them on behalf of our suffering world.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

July 26, 2026

• Please be seated

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* **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

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN** **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** **LBW 499**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook 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

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

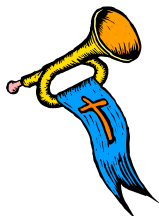
MIND: Discover the meaning of your name.

BODY: Enjoy foot care or a pedicure.

SPIRIT: Learn a new bedtime prayer.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 2nd
2 Timothy 2:8-15



Please pick up your August Trinity Trumpet!



- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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This Week @ Trinity – July 26 thru August 2, 2026:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, July 26	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, July 28	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, July 31	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry

Save The Date!

Thurs, Aug 27	Lutheran Day at the Fair (Trinity Serves 12 noon – 2:00 pm)
Sun, Aug 30	Rally Sunday (Sundaes on Sunday) Dedication of Sunday School Classroom to Marge Warner Asst to the Bishop, Pastor Tim Mentzer Will be with us!



August 21 – 29, 2026



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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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Trinity Contact Info

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated