Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 June 1, 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 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 new life,

C: We live as though you are still in the grave. We do not rejoice in the good news of liberation for all people without exception. We continue to sin against you and our neighbors by our actions and our failure to act. Shake us out of our complacency, cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and make us joyful participants in the work of bringing about your reign in the world today.

P: We are an Easter people! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has redeemed all of creation. Know that you are made whole, forgiven of all your sins, and empowered to live out the gospel in joy.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able June 1, 2025

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Please be seated

GATHERING HYMN "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

LBW 170





as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty. and hail him babe of Beth - le - hem. root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the 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

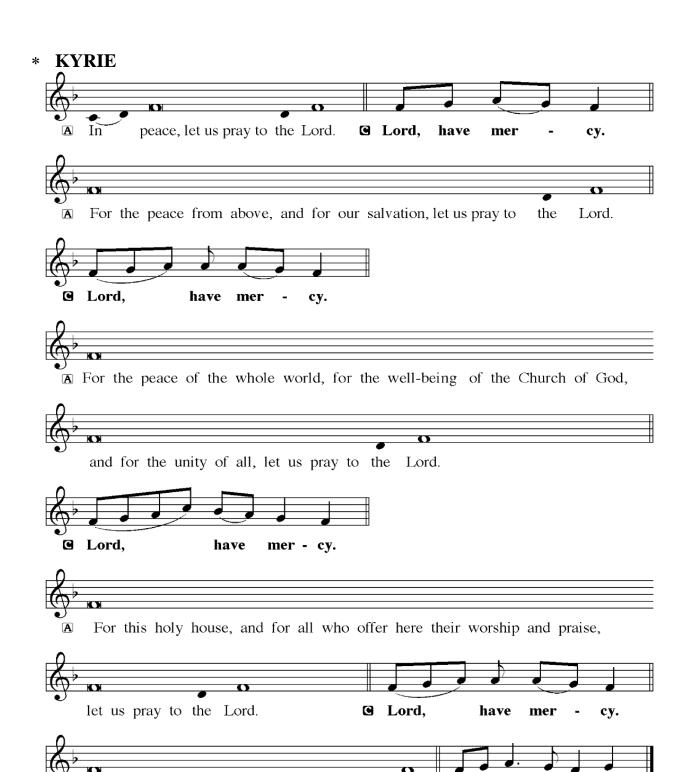
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Please stand if able

June 1, 2025

• Please be seated



- * Please stand if able

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.

A

• Please be seated

men

* 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... Gracious God, guide us in pulling down every barrier between ourselves and our neighbors. Help us to see how we are all one in Christ Jesus. End divisions among us, and foster unity in their place. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able June 1, 2025

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WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: The Law, the Whistle, and the Love of Jesus

Materials: A Whistle

Scripture: Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

Today I brought something fun with me—a whistle! (Blow the whistle.)

Who else uses a whistle? (Wait for answers.) That's right! Referees at games, coaches, lifeguards, sometimes teachers, and **crossing guards**. A crossing guard's job is to help kids stay safe when crossing the street. If a car is coming, the crossing guard might blow the whistle to say, "Stop! Wait! It's not safe!"

Now here's something important: Crossing guards aren't trying to be mean. They don't punish you—they **protect** you! They're there to help you stay safe until you learn how to cross the street on your own.

Did you know the Bible talks about something kind of like that? Saint Paul—he was a follower of Jesus—said that God's Law (like the Ten Commandments) is kind of like a crossing guard. He said we were "guarded under the Law." That means the Law helped keep people safe and taught them how to live the right way. But here's the best part: Paul also said that now that Jesus has come, we don't need the Law to guard us the same way anymore. Why? Because when we're baptized, we become part of God's family—God puts His Spirit in us and writes His love in our hearts!

So now we don't just follow rules because someone tells us to. We **follow Jesus** because we love Him, and He loves us.

(Blow the whistle again.) I'm so glad Jesus came—not just to keep us safe—but to bring us into His family and help us live with love in our hearts.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for your laws that help keep us safe. And thank you even more for sending Jesus, who puts your love in our hearts. Help us follow Him every day. Amen.

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• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

R: Our scripture reading is from Galatians, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! ²The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? ⁴Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. ⁵Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

⁶Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," ⁷so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. ⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you." ⁹For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. ²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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 great leveler of society, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A few years ago, there was a farmer named Earl who decided he was going to help out his grandkids by building them a treehouse. (SLIDE) Now, Earl was a good farmer, an excellent mechanic, and a reliable handyman—so naturally, he

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figured he didn't need any instructions or blueprints. He just went out with some boards, nails, and his hammer and got to work. After two days, the treehouse had three floors, two doors that opened into mid-air, and a ladder that didn't actually reach the ground. His grandson looked at it and said, "Grandpa, this is the coolest thing I've ever seen—but how do we get in?" Earl scratched his head and said, "Well shoot—I was so focused on building it right, I forgot to make it welcoming." Now hold onto that story. We'll come back to Earl's treehouse.

Paul is writing to the Galatians about a similar kind of problem. The Galatians had started out with the Gospel. Paul knew this because he's the one who first told them the Good News of Jesus Christ. Paul knew they had been instructed in how grace works and how God so loved them he gave them a savior named Jesus. (SLIDE) These Galatians knew very well they were justified, made right with God, not by doing the law, not by keeping all the rules, not by measuring up, but by the pure, unadulterated grace of God made possible through the faith of Jesus Christ. Period!

Here we are, just a few years since Paul first proclaimed the Good News and now some folks had come in and told them the faithfulness of Jesus wasn't enough. In order to really belong to the people of God, they needed to follow the Jewish law—get circumcised, eat the right foods, observe the right holy days. In other words, Jesus is a good start, but now it's time to really prove yourself. I love

^{*} Please stand if able

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Paul's response here. He doesn't mince words when he nearly shouts from the pages of the Bible (SLIDE), "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?" In modern language, he might have said, "Are you out of your minds? What are you thinking?" ... Here's the heart of the matter. If we start thinking God loves us because we follow the rules, then we're climbing a ladder that doesn't reach the ground. (SLIDE) We're building a religion that looks impressive but forgets how to welcome people in.

Paul reminds those fickle Galatians—and us—how this all started. He points back to Abraham—not Abraham the rule-follower, but Abraham the believer. Abraham trusted God's promise, and that is what made him righteous. "Those who believe are the descendants of Abraham," Paul writes, not those who follow the law, but those who trust in the promise. It's not about earning. It's not about achieving. It's about trusting in Christ's faith. (SLIDE) Now let's be honest: that sounds too easy for some folks. We live in a culture—and especially in a farming community—where you work hard, you earn your keep, and you don't expect something for nothing. That's the work ethic we always tried to instill into our kids and now our grandchildren. (SLIDE) There's a lot of good in that ethic, but when it comes to our salvation—our identity before God—Paul says it doesn't work that way. God isn't running a merit system. God is running a grace system. And that leads to one of the most beautiful passages in all of

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Scripture, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... (SLIDE)
There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Paul is saying: the old lines that used to divide people—ethnicity, status, gender, background, you know all the issues that have been dividing our country for the past several years—those lines don't define us anymore. What defines us is this: We are baptized into Christ. We are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and that makes us all children of God.

Back to Grandpa Earl and the treehouse... (SLIDE) When Paul looks at what the Galatians are doing—building a big, beautiful, but exclusive religion—he's saying, "That's a nice treehouse you've got there... but how do people get in?" The Gospel was never meant to be a clubhouse for the spiritually elite. It's a wide-open door. It's a family reunion with no guest list. It's a treehouse with steps that extend all the way from the ground straight to heaven and best of all there's a big "Welcome" sign on it that is meant for every single person. That's what Jesus built and we don't get to remodel it. (SLIDE)

So, what does that mean for us, here in our little part of the world? It means we don't need to add anything to God's grace. We don't need to prove our worth. We don't need to look sideways at others and wonder if *they* belong. If they're in Christ, they do. Period! It also means the church, our church, this congregation, is not a place where you have to meet a standard before you're accepted. It's a place

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where people come to hear the promise again and again. What promise, you ask?

(SLIDE) The promise that you are a child of God. You are clothed with Christ.

And best of all, that you belong.

When I read Paul's letters sometimes I think Paul didn't quite go far enough. When he says we don't have to follow all the 613 Jewish Kosher laws, I'm with him all the way. My problem with Paul is that sometimes, especially in our English translations, it sounds like he's saying all we have to do is believe and we'll be saved. My problem with that kind of language is that it turns believing into just one more good work that we have to do in order to earn God's love and our salvation. As a Lutheran, I strongly believe we are saved by Grace, through faith. (SLIDE) When I say I believe that, I mean I'd bet my house and farm on it. Here's the real truth. We are saved by God's actual grace, not by our believing in God's Grace. God's grace is real and it's for all people. Christ didn't die only for those who can utter the words that they believe, he died for the whole world. That's why I love Martin Luther's explanation to the third article of the Apostle's Creed. Our beloved Dr. Luther reminds us (SLIDE): "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with

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Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

I'll end with this. There's an old Lutheran preacher's story about a man who dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the gate and says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to get in. Tell me all the good things you've done." The man says, "Well, I went to church every Sunday." Peter says, "Great, that's 1 point." "I gave generously to the poor." "Good, that's 1 more." "I was a faithful husband, a hard worker, and I never missed a church potluck." Peter says, "Wonderful—now you're up to 4 points." The man panics and says, "At this rate, the only way I'll get in is by the grace of God!" Peter smiles and says, "That's 100 points. (SLIDE) Welcome home." My dear Church, we are not saved by what we do. We are saved by what God has done for us in Christ. When you walk out those church doors today, I want you to know this, deep down in your bones: You are a beloved child of God. You belong to Christ and nothing—nothing—can take that away. May we all live in the peace and the joy of these promises. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

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* 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 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: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, Jesus prayed that you would make us one as you are one. Remind us always that we are each an equal and precious part of the Body of Christ regardless of our perceived differences. Help us to reach out to one another in solidarity at all times. Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer

L: We are one with creation. You made us from the dust of the earth and to earth we will return. Make us to care for all that you have made as if we are caring for our own bodies. Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer

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L: We are one with our neighbors around the world. Be with refugees and displaced peoples from all nations. Sustain them with your love and help them find stability in new places. Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are one with all who are sick and suffering. Give us compassion and make us to care for all in need of healing and wholeness (*especially*...) Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer

L: We are one with people of every age. Help us listen to the youngest among us. Bless their visions, hopes, and dreams, and help us to see how you work through them. Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We are one with those who have gone before us. We remember them with longing, and seek your guidance as we follow in their footsteps in doing your work in the world. Holy and wonderful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: These and the prayers of all creation we lift to you 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 ...Holy God, you have nourished and sustained us in countless ways. With grateful hearts we offer now our gifts and our tithes. Accept and use them for the nourishment of all in need, according to your will.

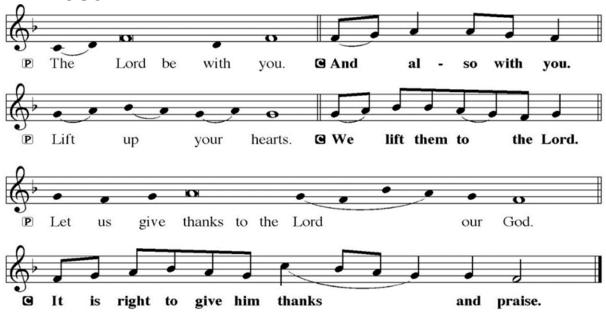
C: Amen.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

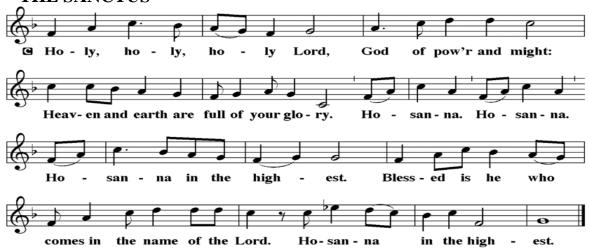
* DIALOGUE



* 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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* THE SANCTUS



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* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.
- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks: broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness 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

* 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, who makes us one with him, invites you now into his presence at this holy table, to feast on his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Come and be united with the whole Body of Christ throughout the world.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is at the rail. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

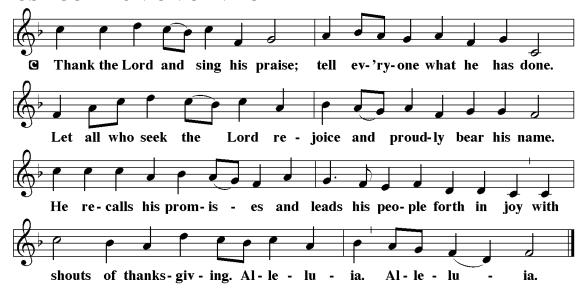
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

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* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen

* SENDING OF HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

We will normally only bless those taking Holy Communion to those unable to attend Worship on the First Sunday of each month.

P: Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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P: Our sending hymn is Alleluia, Sing to Jesus. We shall sing verses 1-3 and 5 only. We're omitting verse 4.



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* 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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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, June 8th Acts 2:1-7; Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26]

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Spend time in meditation before getting out of bed.

BODY: Limit your alcohol intake. **SPIRIT:** Hold hands with a loved one.

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This Week @ Trinity – June 1 thru June 8, 2025:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, June 1	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Thurs, June 5	10:30 am	Youth & Family Ministry Meeting
Fri, June 6	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, June 8	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club "The Chosen"

Save The Date!

Wed, June 18 @ 10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
Sun, June 22 @ 9:00 am	Breakfast and Richard Tuvell, Primerica
	Financial Planning
Sun, June 29 @ 12:00 pm	Trinity Troops @ Trinity



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

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

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

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Trinity Contact Info

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