

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

“From now  
on you will



be catching  
people.”

**LUKE 5:10, NRSV**

Luke 5:1-11  
January 26, 2025



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

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## GATHERING

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- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **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**

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- \* Please stand if able
  - Please be seated



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## \* 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... Gracious God, help us to follow Jesus' way of love, which inspires and liberates. Empower us to confront injustices and bring about positive change in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

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**WORD**

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• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



**Theme:** Jesus called us to fish for people

**Materials:** Fishing Gear

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. I was going to go fishing, but it's pretty cold outside. I don't really like fishing enough to be out in the cold... When I was a kid, we lived up near Lake Erie, but I didn't fish in the big lake until I was older, in college. When I was younger I fished almost every day during the summer. We had a small stocked pond, called Palmetto Lake about a block from our house. I would take a slice of bread and ball it up on the hook, toss it about 20 feet from the shore and within minutes I'd be hauling in a small bluegill or sunfish. I must have spent hours by that lake shore.

In the Bible a man named Simon was a professional fisherman. He used nets instead of a line and a hook. One time when Simon and his partners James and John had been fishing all night long, they caught nothing. Then Jesus came along and asked Simon to go back out into the deeper water and cast his nets one more time. Peter was an experienced fisherman who had just fished those very waters all night and had nothing to show for his effort. Yet, he saw something in Jesus and agreed. As soon as he dropped the net into the water the fish almost jumped into the nets. It was a miracle and that giant catch of fish was enough to convince Simon, James, and John that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Sometimes God still works in miracles today, but we have a hard time recognizing them. I'll bet if we prayed for God to open the eyes of our faith maybe we would be able to see where God is working in our lives even today.

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, open our eyes to see how you still work in our world and in our lives today. Help us to make your love known to others so they can see you working in their lives too. Amen.

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 5.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**5** Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

- **SERMON**

**Pr. Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who transcends the heavenly places to call us into relationship with our God, amen.

The last time I went fishing was on one of those charter boats that take you out on Lake Erie. (**SLIDE**) It was a boy’s day out with my brother-in-law Ed and all my nephews as well as my son, Trevor. I think there were 7 of us all together. The boat we were on was equipped with the latest radar to track any storms that

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\* Please stand if able

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might crop up as well as sonar to detect where the fish could be located under the surface of the deep. Our goal was to catch as many Lake Erie Perch or Walleye as the law would allow. The boat captain took us out to a place he thought would be teeming with fish. We stopped and everyone cast their lines out from the boat. We waited and waited and waited... Some of the more experienced fishermen changed their bait to better attract the prey. No matter what we did, no fish were biting. So, the captain moved us on to his next stop. Again, no fish were biting. Finally, I got a bite and after a short tussle, I brought aboard a huge Sheep head. (SLIDE) Now for you non-fishermen out there, a Sheep Head is not what you want. They are slimy and gross. Nobody really likes them, and you just get them off your hook as fast as you can and throw them back. We fished all day and only two Walleyes and no perch were caught. (SLIDE) As the afternoon wore on you could see a large storm heading our way across the water. So, we headed back to the shore, pretty much fish-less...

In our Gospel reading for today, we see Jesus asking Simon to borrow his boat to use as a make-shift Pulpit because the crowd is pressing in on him.

(SLIDE) After teaching the crowd, Jesus asks Simon to put out into the deeper water for a catch of fish. Now Simon and his partners had been out all night long and caught even less than we did on our Lake Erie fishing trip. You can almost

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hear the sarcasm in Simon's voice as he says, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." Can't you just see Simon's eyes roll back as he say Okay to Jesus? (SLIDE) Then the miracle happens, and they catch more fish than Simon's and his partner's boats can hold. When something like this happens, it's called a theophany. It's an event where the supernatural or the divine breaks through into our natural world. The Bible is full of these types of events where God's divinity is revealed for mortals to see or experience. In this case, the divine action in this miraculous catch of fish, reveals Jesus as the Son of God to Simon, then to James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Simon's reaction to this revelation is to become acutely aware of the Holiness of Jesus, but also of his own sinful nature. Jesus reassures Simon and calls him to become a person who fishes for people instead of fish.

I wonder if this kind of transcendent, holy experience is even be possible today. Back in the time of Jesus everyone believed in the supernatural. There were angel visitations and demons around every corner. Today, we like to explain away the divine actions of God away with science and data. Maybe Jesus was tossing out some chum or other fish food while he was preaching from the boat. Maybe the wind had shifted, and the currents of the lake had brought the extremely large school of fish near to Simon's boat. Maybe it was sheer luck that Jesus told

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Simon to put out into the deeper water at just the right time to catch all those fish. Whatever the reasoning, post-modern, secular folks would have some rational explanation. Not so, back in Biblical times when everyone believed in angels and demons.

This week I attended the Ohio Pastor's Gathering at Trinity Seminary, in Columbus. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Andrew Root who has written a 5 book series on Secular society. Dr Root says the situation we find ourselves in today didn't just happen overnight. It actually began a few hundred years ago with the idea of having privacy. In ancient days there was no public versus private life. Everything was open and transparent. Once a wall was erected separating public and private the beginning of the secular age had begun. Dr Root calls this "Secular One." Sometime later, Secular One, with its distinction between private and public, gave way to Secular Two age where people had invested so much into their private lives, the public demonstration of their faith became less important. In this type of secular environment the Church and most church leaders became anxious over so many people leaving the church. Most scholars operating from a Secular 2 perspective urged church leaders to add more enticing programs and amenities in order to boost church participation. So, we saw the rise of churches that looked more like shopping malls than sacred, holy places. (SLIDE) As this trend became

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the norm, our experience of the divine actions of God grew even dimmer and less frequent.

We're now in yet a third version of secular society. Today, the highest form of self is being authentic. We are all different and my belief system is just as real and just as valid as yours. (SLIDE) People today tend to think of all the different beliefs like a giant smorgasbord where they can pick which belief or doctrine best suits their lifestyle and personality. So, you have people who add a pinch of deism to their belief system or perhaps a little reincarnation to their resurrection beliefs. Being an authentic Christian means that you have considered what will satisfy your most current urge and that's what you go with, for now. It can and often does change over time. It sets up a secular society where no one systematic theology can be considered orthodox because the highest form of self-achievement is being authentic to your own beliefs.

I found this theory of the secular to be more than just interesting. It helps to explain why so many are leaving the church and why the Church is not relevant in many people's lives today. The Church says we have these things called Creeds. A Creed is a statement of shared beliefs. If everyone has their own belief system, how can we accept any shared belief, much less a Creed, developed more than 1800 years ago in the case of the Nicene Creed and even longer for the Apostle's

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Creed. In this third secular age these ancient creeds are not much more than quaint, but irrelevant statements from societies that no longer exist.

This is all well and good, but how are we who are still called according to the purpose of God, to make disciples in this age of the secular belief buffet? For many people, even staunch believers a situation might come up where you find yourself doubting your faith. (SLIDE) It might be the death of a loved one or the dissolution of a long-time relationship. It might be a sting of bad events like losing your job and being diagnosed with a dreaded disease all at the same time. You wonder if your lifelong beliefs are enough to get you through. It's called a crisis of faith. We all experience them from time to time. On the other hand, suppose you're a non-believer. Then something happens that you just can't explain in natural, rational terms. Suppose you lost your job and were diagnosed with that same dreaded disease. Only this time another, better job falls into your lap and the disease that was supposed to ravage your body surprisingly disappears without even being treated by your doctor. All of a sudden, you have the same crisis of belief, only this time you think, maybe, just maybe there is a God and you might have experienced some small divine intervention in your life. I believe the real challenge we face today, as believers, is to help facilitate our family and our friends to have conversations surrounding these moments of crisis. Just because

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we've gotten really good at explaining away miracles like Simon Peter's miraculous catch of fish, doesn't mean these divine actions aren't still happening all around us.

Is there a way for us to begin telling our story of God's divine actions in our lives? Can we begin to find ways to talk about those transcendent moments where the veil between the secular and the sacred becomes thin or where you've actually witnessed the sacred actually breaking into the secular world. (SLIDE) During our Advent and Lenten Wednesday gatherings we'll be focusing in on these divine events. We'll each encourage one another to tell our stories of how and where you've seen those God moments in our lives. The church leaders who are stuck in the problems and issues of Secular 2 society are still anxious about falling attendance and overall lack of participation, but those of us operating out of a secular 3 mindset see tremendous possibilities in learning once again how to talk about God, given the almost total emphasis on each person's right to maintain their own unique sets of beliefs in our secular world.

May we begin this storytelling journey open to seeing God's hand still operating in the world today. May our stories open the eyes of faith to others who see the world only from a natural, rational perspective. May the Lord of Heaven

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and Earth bless us as we tell God’s story of salvation and redemption in ways that help others see God’s love again or for the first time. Amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

\* **HYMN OF THE DAY**      “Take My Life, That I May Be”      **LBW 406**



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

\* **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.**

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➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

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\* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

L: Guide us as we walk in your truth and your way, especially as we navigate the challenges of the path before us. Grant us resilience and a spirit of perseverance. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We lift up the earth, which has suffered in so many ways because of our greed and ignorance. Guide us in taking significant steps to care for the earth and to renew its resources. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for all peoples to heed your call for justice and compassion. Inspire those who have power to lead by example, seeking peace and understanding. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for all who are face significant challenges to their health, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, (*especially...*). Hold them in your healing arms and give them strength and courage in their difficulties. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We lift up those who are struggling with mental illness, including the stigma that still lingers in our society. Be with them in all the challenges they face, and help us to create space for them to receive the support they need. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Thank you for the vast communion of saints, of which we are a part. Help us to remember the faithfulness of the departed as we navigate our own paths of discipleship. God, draw near,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift up all of our prayers to you.

**C: Amen.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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## MEAL

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- **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](http://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 ...God, you equip us with all we need to love and serve you and one another. We offer these gifts out of your own generosity to us, and ask your blessing upon them, that they might be used according to your will.

**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

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- **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.**

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\* Please stand if able

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1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\* **DISMISSAL**

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

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

\* **POSTLUDE**

**Roxanne Groff**

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Luke 6:1-16

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

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

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**This Week @ Trinity – January 26 thru February 2, 2025:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>Sun, Jan. 26</b>	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
<b>Mon, Jan. 27</b>	7:30 pm	Dartball at Trinity vs. First UMC
<b>Tues, Jan. 28</b>	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
<b>Fri, Jan. 31</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sat, Feb. 1</b>	6:00 pm	Trinity Euchre Party
<b>Sun, Feb. 2</b>	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

**Save The Date!**

<b>Saturday, February 1 @ 6:00 pm</b>	Euchre Tournament at Trinity
<b>Sunday, February 9 @ 9:00 am</b>	Thrivent Guest Speaker with Breakfast!
<b>Sunday, February 16 @ 12 Noon</b>	Trinity Troops!

**Health Tips for the Week**  
**MIND:** Do a crossword puzzle (no cheating)  
**BODY:** Be sure to visit your Dentist  
**SPIRIT:** Ask a stranger “How may I pray for you?”



**Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3**

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

**Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:**

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

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated



### Trinity Contact Info

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	<a href="mailto:pastor@pitsburgtlc.org">pastor@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	<a href="mailto:secretary@pitsburgtlc.org">secretary@pitsburgtlc.org</a>
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	<a href="http://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a>

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