

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



THIS IS LOVE  
FOR GOD:  
*to keep his  
commands.*

**1 John 5:3, NIV**

1 John 5:1-6  
July 21, 2024



 SCAN ME

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**

### \* **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: Merciful God,

**C: As we stand before you in the all-revealing light of your eternal love, we cannot help but see all the ways we have sinned and fallen short. We have done and said things that have caused harm to others. We have failed to do and say things for the sake of peace and justice. We have continuously sought after our own comfort, rather than your world-transforming love. Forgive us for our selfishness and shortsightedness, and bring us into the way of active love of you and neighbor each new day.**

P: The good news is that Jesus died to cleanse us from sin, and because of this, our joy can be complete. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### \* **GATHERING HYMN**

**“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”** **LBW 480**



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

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\* Please stand if able

July 21, 2024

• Please be seated

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\* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

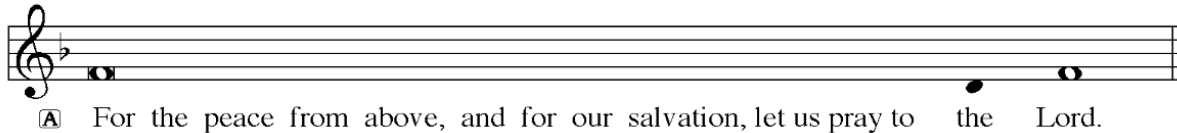
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE**



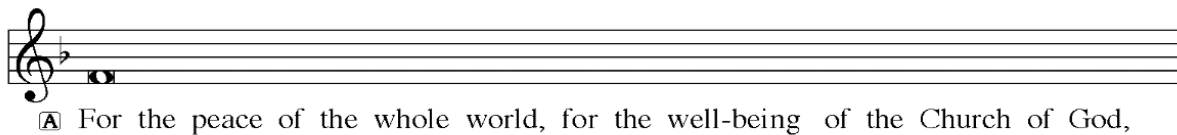
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



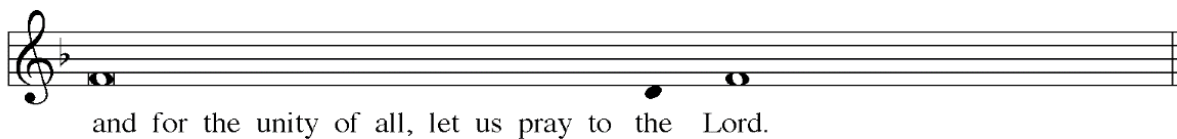
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



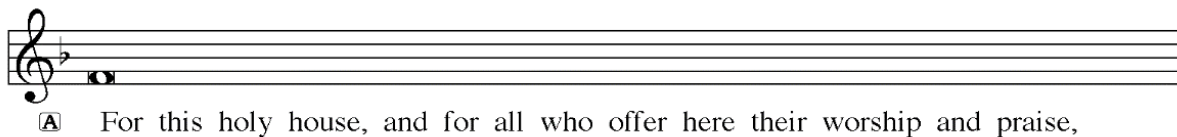
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



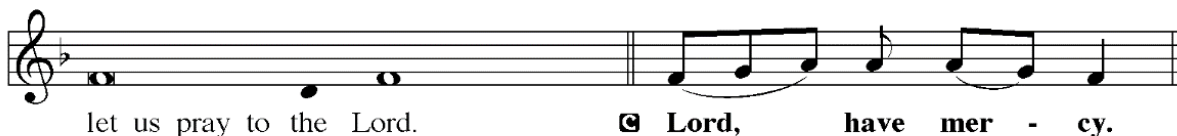
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



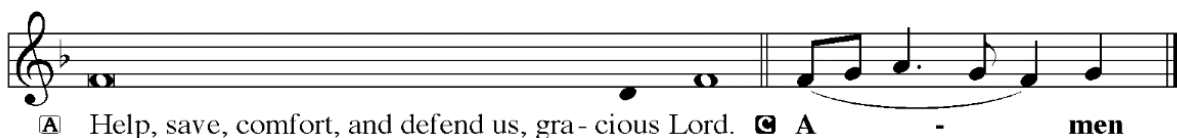
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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\* **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... God our father, because we love you, we also love Jesus, your beloved son and our sibling. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the immovable faith that spurs us to action in love on behalf of all that you have created. Make us living channels for your mercy and healing, that we might bring joy and wholeness to all those we encounter today and every day.

**C: Amen.**

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**WORD**

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- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



**Theme:**  
**Materials:**  
**Scripture:** 1 John 5:1-6

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



**Theme:** Faith Active in Love  
**Materials:** A Sling Shot Like The One David Used  
**Scripture:** 1 John 5:1-6

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week! I brought a weapon to church with me this morning. I'll tell you what my weapon is later, but first I want to show you my slingshot. I got this when I was visiting Israel several years ago. There's a story in the Bible about someone who used a slingshot just like this one. Can anyone tell me who that was? That's right, it was David. When everyone was afraid of the giant Goliath, David put a smooth stone in his slingshot and flung it at him and the giant came tumbling down.

The weapon I brought to church today is much more powerful than this slingshot. In fact, it's the most powerful weapon there is. Our verse today says this weapon will defeat the world. Most people in ancient times and even today still believe the only way to be powerful is to have bigger weapons, but the Bible tells us something different.

When Jesus came and lived here on earth, he showed us another way to be powerful. Jesus showed us that faith acting in love is the only weapon that would one day overcome all the evil and bad things in this world. That's the weapon I brought to Church today. Not a slingshot, or a knife, or even a gun. I brought my faith in Jesus as God's Son and my love for all of you. That's what will change our world!

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, we have the faith and we trust in your word that you are God's Son. Help us to show our faith by acting in love for all of your children. Amen.

- **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:1-6**

R: Our scripture reading is from 1 John, Chapter 5.

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

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 in whom we trust, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Today's sermon will be rather short so we can have enough time to hear everything our guest, Julie Barhorst has to share with us as the representative from Oesterlen. It's actually very fitting to have her with us today as we consider where and how to fill in the gap in our ministry left when Wernle closed a few months ago. Julie shared quite a lot of information in our Christian Conversations time earlier. One of the reasons I love Trinity so much is your heart for loving and helping our neighbors both near and far. We're a small(ish) congregation, but we have arms that reach out far and wide in love.

The author of First John has a lot to say about love. In First John the author identifies at least two sources or directions of how love flows. First we told our love for our neighbor stems from God first loving us. So, we love only because we

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

are loved by God. In today's reading the emphasis changes a bit. The second way our love for each other and our neighbor is possible is because we know and love God. John says if we know God, we'll then love our neighbors. Today we discover that if we love God we'll keep the Commandments and love all of God's children. Our love for others flows from our love for God.

I may be oversimplifying this by quite a bit and it's all quite confusing. Do we love others because God first loved us or do we love others because of our love for God? In the first case love flows from God through us to our neighbors in need and in the second love for our neighbors is sort of a byproduct of our love for God. I might be splitting hairs on this, but it does seem like two different things.

The more I pondered this dilemma the more I began to realize either way, love flows and that's what matters. Verses 4 and 5 remind us, “<sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” It reminded me of the saying of Jesus on the night when he was betrayed when he told his disciples to not let their hearts be troubled. He went on to explain that in this world we all would face trouble, but to take heart because He has overcome the world. It really doesn't matter if our love for our neighbor is inspired by God first loving us or if we come to love God and then learn to love our neighbor. What is important is knowing God's Son, our Lord and our Savior,

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\* Please stand if able  
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Jesus Christ. It's Faith in Jesus, the one who has already overcome the world, that enables us to know God, to know God's love, and to love our neighbors as Jesus did. It was your faith in Jesus Christ and the love of God that first motivated this congregation, many years ago, to work so tirelessly for the children of Wernle. Now, it's that same faith and love driving us to find another way to serve God by serving God's Children.

May the love of God fill your hearts to overflowing. May the abundance of love you have find an outlet where each and every one of us can be a blessing to our neighbors. Now, let's discover how we can share our love with our neighbors at Oesterlen. (Julie Barhorst has worked at Oesterlen Services For Youth for over six years and it has become an organization that is very dear to her heart. As an Executive Administrator—Assistant to the CEO and Director of Marketing—she provides administrative support and handles marketing communications and new opportunities for donations and development of church and community relations. Even though she doesn't work directly with the clients, she feels an obligation for Oesterlen to provide its clients with the best services and opportunities. "These kids have had enough disappointments and people they cannot trust in their lives, and we don't want to be one of them." Julie has a background in employee services, real estate, and marketing communications. She is dedicated to improving organizational efficiency and advancing development. Her team works together to



improve operations and expand outreach. She has been with her husband Craig for 28 years and they live in Beavercreek.) Mrs. Julie Barhorst, thank you for sharing your time and helping us find another way we can reflect God's love to our neighbors at Osterlen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

• **OESTERLEN PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Julie Barhorst

\* **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.*

\* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident in the breadth and depth of God's love and grace, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Holy God, help us to recognize the gentleness of your commandments, that we might follow them with our whole hearts with complete trust in your goodness and mercy. God of love,

**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

L: Conquering the world does not mean wantonly exploiting or destroying it simply because we can. Turn us away from our high-impact, insatiable consumerism toward lifestyles that nurture and restore the natural world. God of love,

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\* Please stand if able

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**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

L: It is love, not violence, that conquers the world. Ground all who lead in this foundational love, that they might find peaceful solutions to difficult problems. God of love,

**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

L: Surround all who are dealing with physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges with your loving arms, (*especially...*) Work through medical professionals and other care providers to bring healing and hope to those in need. God of love,

**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

L: Help us to see the message that faith in Christ Jesus conquers the world *not* as a call to force others to believe as we do, but as a call to live in the unconditional love of God for all people, regardless of their individual beliefs. God of love,

**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: With joy we remember those who have died with complete faith in your victory over death. May we follow them gladly to the end of our days, trusting in the promise of eternal life in you. God of love,

**C: We lift our prayers to you.**

P: With all our siblings in Christ here and around the world, we lift all our prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our savior and friend.

**C: Amen.**

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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 ... Faithful God, you pour on us the abundance of your generous goodness. We now bring to you a portion of what you have given us, as a sign of our love and faith. Accept these gifts and bless them that they might impact those in need for the better.


**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


\* **DIALOGUE**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

\* **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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\* **THE SANCTUS**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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**\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. 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: The one whose victory over death released us from sin now invites you to the table of salvation. Come into his presence with your siblings in Christ, and share in the feast of victory, which is but a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. All is prepared for you.

• **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**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\* **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen**

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**SENDING**

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• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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\* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

\* **SENDING HYMN**      “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”      **LBW 479**



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



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



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

\* **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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\* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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## Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>  
1 John 5:9-13

**ULTIMATE CLEANING CLOTHS** now available from WELCA ladies! You

**Health Tips for the Week**  
**BODY:** Choose olive or canola oil when possible  
**MIND:** Ask others to help you.  
**SPIRIT:** Recite daily affirmations

just wet them, wring them out as much as you can, wipe your surfaces and walk away. Just rinse them out good and reuse again. They are guaranteed for years.

--- 1 for \$7.00, 2 for \$10.00 or 5 for \$20.00 ---

### ***This Week @ Trinity – June 2 thru June 9:***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>Sun, July 21</b>	9:00 am	Breakfast & Presentation by Julie Barhorst, Oesterlen Services for Youth
	10:30 am	Worship Service
<b>Tues, July 23</b>	<b><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></b>	
<b>Wed, July 24</b>	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
<b>Fri, July 26</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, July 28</b>	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Save The Date!**

August 5, 2024	WELCA Planning Meeting
August 16-24, 2024	The Great Darke County Fair <i>Lutheran Day is Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup></i>
August 25	Rally Day – <i>Sundaes on Sunday!</i>



### **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.

### **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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- \* Please stand if able
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