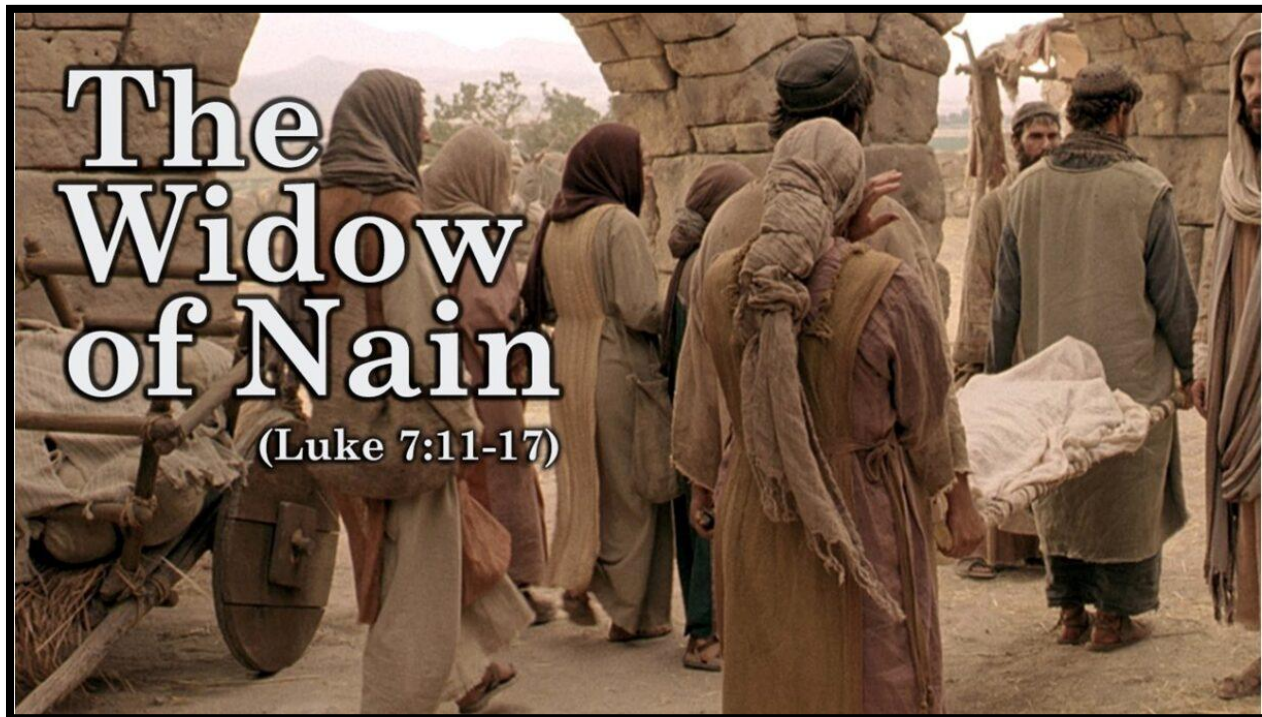


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Luke 7:1-17
February 9, 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**

* **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 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

* 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 show love and empathy to those around us. Open our eyes to see what others are going through, and guide us to care for them. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



Theme: The Compassion of Jesus
Materials: A Football
Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

Hello boys and girls. Do you know that today is the big game? The 59th Superbowl will kick off in just a few hours. Are you excited? I hope you have a great time if you watch the game. As I was thinking about the Super Bowl I wondered what was the biggest comeback in Superbowl history. What team came from the farthest behind to end up winning the game. I looked it up on Google, because Google knows literally everything... It turns out that the New England Patriots came from being behind 28-3 to beat the Atlanta Falcons in overtime by the score of 34 to 28. That was just 8 years ago on February 5th, 2017. Overcoming a 25 point shortfall to come back and win the game was a huge turnaround.

In today's Bible story there was a woman whose husband had died some time ago and now her only son has also died. Can you imagine how sad she must have been? Just when she was about to bury her son, Jesus came along and told her she could stop crying. He touched the dead son and spoke to him like he was alive. Jesus said to the boy rise up and he did just that! Jesus raised the boy from the dead and gave him back to his mother. Now, can you imagine how happy she must have been? That was an even bigger turn around than the New England Patriots coming back from 25 points down to win the big game!

Jesus found this widow and brought her son back to life because Jesus loved her and had compassion for her. Compassion is when you can almost feel the exact same feelings as someone else. When they are sad, you are sad right along with them. When we have compassion for someone, we try our best to comfort them and to help them. We can't make dead people come back to life, but we can offer a smile or to do something kind when we know someone who is hurting inside. Maybe all they need is a smile and a kind word, like saying, "I love you." We can all do that, right?

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and for having compassion on us when we're sad or lonely. Help us to share your love and be kind and compassionate to our family and to our friends and even to people we don't know. Amen.

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:1-17**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 7.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

7 After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” ⁶And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

¹¹Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, rise!” ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen among us!” and “God has looked favorably on his people!” ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

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 even brings the dead back to life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

I've been to quite a few funerals in my life. (SLIDE) My father died when I was only 13 years old. He was pretty young himself, only 5 days past his 60th birthday. Then just 11 months later my sister Marilyn passed away. That was a very dark period in my life. I watched as my mother became a shell of herself. I remember after she finally got her driver's license, we would come home from the store or after she got off work and we would both just sit in the car in the driveway for what seemed like hours. It was probably no more than a few minutes, but it seemed like hours. Neither of us would say a word. We just sat there. Sometimes she would sob and sometimes I would. It never occurred to me to get out of the car before she did. After a time of gathering our strength, we would eventually go into the house and resume our lives. That time we spent in the car, in silence, both of us together, crying and praying, helped us heal from our grief, even as we walked together through the sorrow. I have since then lost all of my sisters and today, I'm the only one from my family of origin left on this side of the resurrection. I'm not saying I know the pain of losing a spouse or a child for that matter. For those of you who have walked that path, I pray you find comfort and peace through Jesus Christ and the promise of salvation unto eternal life.

This morning, our Gospel lesson confronts us with a picture of life that most of us would rather not think about. Yet each of us, if we haven't already, will join

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the people in this scene, as we bury a loved one. Even though our modern-day practices of burying the dead have changed quite a bit, especially over the past fifty years or so, death is a part of life. Our life here on earth is finite.

In the days of Jesus only the closest next of kin were allowed to touch the deceased person's body. It was thought that anyone who touched a dead body was unclean for one week. So, only the dead boy's mother would have been allowed to prepare his body for burial. She had already buried her husband and I'm certain she thought her life was all but over too. That's what made the actions of Jesus so surprising to say the least. (SLIDE) He approached the funeral procession and the first thing Jesus does is to tell the grieving mother to stop crying. Now, when I was in seminary, we had to take a summer to learn Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE. During this time, we seminarians would be assigned to visit various hospitalized patients, including the families of those who had just passed and those who were in the transition. Every week we had to write what they called a "Verbatim". This was a written document that showed word for word, as closely as we could remember, exactly what we said and what the patient and or family said as well. Then, each of us students would provide the transcripts to the instructor and the other students. During our class time we would go through these transcripts and analyze the interactions. These sessions were brutal to say the least.

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I can only imagine what the other students and the instructor would have said if I had gone up to a mother who had just lost her only child and said to her, “Do not cry...” Crying at the death of a loved one is almost impossible to stop. Crying is one way to allow our bodies to let go of the pain and suffering of grief. No good chaplain or minister would ever tell someone they had to stop weeping over the loss of their loved one. In my experience the crying and the pain of grief may pause for a time, but like waves crashing to the shore it inevitably returns. So, it would have been pretty shocking to hear Jesus tell this widow from the town of Nain to stop crying. The next shocking thing Jesus did was to walk over to the bier and touched it. (SLIDE) I can almost see the jaws of the disciples dropping as Jesus touches the most unclean thing in their world. The weirdness doesn’t stop there. Jesus next words aren’t to the dead boy’s mother, not to the gathered mourners, not even to his own disciples. Jesus speaks to the dead boy as if he expected the dead could actually hear him. Even if I had not been paying attention to what Jesus was up to until now, these words to a dead body would have made my ears perk up. Apparently, the dead do hear Jesus’ voice and the dead boy sat up and began to talk. (SLIDE) It’s a wonder the pall bearers didn’t drop the boy right there in the street and run away!

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This is certainly not the typical thing that we expect to experience during the burial of a one who has died. Whether the funeral occurred in the time of Jesus, or today in the professional funeral parlors of a mortician, or even right here in this beautiful sanctuary, the dead don't hear our voice, get up and speak.

So, what are we to make of this strange story about our least favorite topic. First, I believe that it truly reveals to us the compassion and the grace of God. Jesus had compassion on this widow, in the midst of her grief, which was compounded by the fact that with the death of her son, she had no means of support. Jesus seized the opportunity to bring God's grace and new life, not only to her dead son, but also to the life of his mother.

Now, let me be clear about this fact. There were only three persons, in all of the New Testament where Jesus restored physical life someone who had died. Clearly, he did not heal everyone who was suffering from disease and illness, but in and through these miracles that are recorded in Scripture, we are given an opportunity to witness the compassion and grace of God, which was Christ's mission to reveal. As we live our lives in this world, each of us will bear our share of sorrows and tribulations, of anguish and toil, and yes, our share of grief, as we bury those whom we have come to know and love. I know there is a special pain and grief for those in our congregation who have buried their spouses and even

your children. I pray we can all learn from our Lord, through this story, to be sensitive to this fact. Although we may never be able to raise the dead, we can still offer our love and compassion to those who are experiencing grief and loss.

Jesus may have healed and saved from the grave the lives of some people, he did not do so for himself. (SLIDE) In his acceptance of the cross, Jesus revealed the ultimate compassion and grace of God, by giving his own life in death, for our ultimate healing. In taking our Sin upon himself, Jesus entered into death, was buried, and on the third day, rose in victory over sin and death. As a result, through our faith and baptism into our Lord's death and resurrection, Jesus has already taken hold of our funeral bier, taken our uncleanness upon himself, and will not let go, not ever! It is if he says to us, even though they may bury your body, I say to you, rise and live with me. (SLIDE)

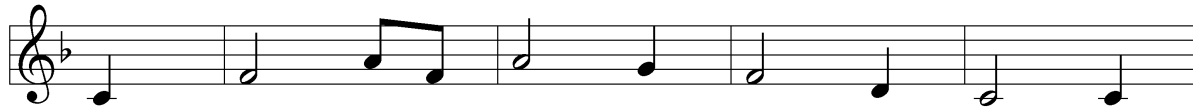
The same is true for all the trials and tribulations we encounter in life. Jesus compassionately cares for us. In fact, I believe he weeps for us, like I wept for my father and for my mother and for all four of my sisters. I believe no matter what troubles may come our way, God in Christ, through the power of his Spirit, wants us to know his eternal presence is with us, and that through his grace, Jesus offers us the hope of new life with God forever and ever. This, is the Gospel and this is the Good News we cling to, especially in our sorrow and grief.

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May you trust in the promise of Jesus, that nothing, including death, will ever separate you from God's love. May the God of compassion himself comfort you in times of trouble and shower each of you with his love and peace. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" LBW 448



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

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*** 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.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: Help us to live in humility and recognize our dependence on you. May we be continually in awe of your mercy and power. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Many parts of creation are suffering. Bring rain where there is drought, and relief where there have been too many storms. Nourish the earth and all that you have made. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We lift up doctors, nurses, and all medical staff who care for those who are ill. Guide them in their work, and be present in all that they do. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer

L: Grant comfort and peace to all who cry out to you for help. Strengthen the hearts and bodies of all who face difficulties, *(especially...)* God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Provide refugees and all displaced peoples with safety, comfort, and new opportunities and communities. May they find deep welcome and hospitality wherever they go. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with love and longing those who have been a part of this congregation in years past. Thank you for their faithfulness and for working

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

through their lives to reach us today. 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.

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 ... Life-giving God, all we have is from you. Accept now these gifts out of your abundance. Bless them for the work of bringing life to all who are in need, in this community and in the world.

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.

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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February 9, 2025

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* **SENDING HYMN**

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

LBW 409



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

* **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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February 9, 2025
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Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 16th
 Luke 7:18-35

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – February 9 thru February 16, 2025:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Feb. 9	9:00 am	Confirmation Class (Participate in Thrivent Event)
	9:00 am	Thrivent Event w/Breakfast
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Thurs, Feb. 13	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Feb. 14	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Feb. 16	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
	12:00 pm	Trinity Troops

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Save The Date!

Tuesday, February 18	<i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>
Wednesday, February 19 @ 7:00 pm	Trinity Council
Thursday, February 20 @ 11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at JT's Bar & Grill, 1475 Wagner Ave., Greenville
Tuesday, March 4 @ 6 pm	Shrove "Fat" Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 5 @ 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesdays - March 12, 19, 26 & April 2 & 9 @ 6 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible Study Discussion
April 17 @ 7 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 17 @ 7 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
April 19 @ 8 am	Early Worship Service
9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am	Late Worship Service

Health Tips for the Week
MIND: Look up at the night sky- what do you see?
BODY: Check your medications for expired items.
SPIRIT: Learn a new morning prayer.



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

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Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



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