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



HIS KINGSHIP... SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED.

DANIEL 7:14, NRSV

Daniel 7:1-18 August 25, 2024



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

GATHERING

Pam Sherman Prelude

- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Pr Mel Musser Welcome

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.

* Please stand if able August 25, 2024 Page 2 of 20

Please be seated



* 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.

* Please stand if able

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* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... God of might, in the midst of our often-tumultuous lives—personally, communally, nationally, and internationally—remind us that no human power comes close to your divine power and eternal love. Claim us again as your beloved children and proclaim to us the promise of your everlasting deliverance. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

P: Please be seated...

WORD

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

P: At this time we will present age appropriate Bibles to our Children. We have three age levels to present today. The 3–5-year-olds will be receiving The Life of Jesus story Bible. Our 6–8-year-olds will receive the Spark Story Bible and our 8 year olds and up will receive the Spark Gift Edition Bible. We also have The Lutheran Study Bibles for our new confirmation students, but they will receive their Bible and Student Workbooks at their first Confirmation Class in September.

PJ is our Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. PJ please come forward to present these Bibles to our youth. As PJ calls your name please come forward to receive your Bible. After you receive your Bible please have a seat in the front pew. After all the Bibles are distributed we will have the blessing of the school year and your backpacks.

<u>Life of Jesus Bible Recipients</u>:

Spark Gift Edition Recipient:

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Marie Daniels

Gabriel Angles

Confirmation Bible Recipient:

Jackson Baker

Presentation of the Bible

These or similar words may be spoken:

P: Receive this Bible. Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories. Discover its mysteries. Honor its commandments. Rejoice in its good news. May God's life-giving word inspire you and make you wise.

* Please stand if able August 25, 2024

• Please be seated

BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Pr Mel

- P: Now, as we begin a new school year, I ask all teachers and students to stand if able. I also ask all parents and grandparents of students to stand as well. I ask all people who are associated with our education system in any way to stand. This includes school board members, bus drivers cafeteria workers, volunteers, PTA members, anyone who has anything to do with our schools, our Sunday Schools, our Confirmation program, and our Adult Sunday School program. If you think you don't play a part in any educational system, but if you are willing to commit to praying for our schools over this coming year, then please stand as well. I think that covers just about everyone... Thank you for all you do to help educate children and adults alike! Please be seated...
- P: A reading from First Corinthians: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)
- P: Let us pray... O God, we ask your blessing upon for all who are beginning a new school year. We lift up both students and teachers in their academic endeavors. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, and all who support in any way the institutions of Education. Bless all who use their gifts in administration, meal preparation, transportation, custodial care, as well as those who are directly involved in the learning process, teachers and their students. Make all of us role models and mentors for those people in our lives who look up to us so that by the way we live and by our actions we may demonstrate our love for you. In all we do, may we know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

P: At this time will all the children who have brought their backpacks and anyone else who brought in the tools of your trade please come forward and gather around the Baptismal Font.

As they gather read:

* Please stand if able August 25, 2024

P: A reading from Mark 10:13–16

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

- P: Let us pray for our children and the backpacks they will carry this school year... Dear God, as we begin another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, and especially on these children who will use them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and persistence when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.
- P: We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

P: Children you may go to Sunday School with Miss Kami. For the rest of us, our service continues with the reading of God's Word.

• SCRIPTURE READING: Daniel 7:1-18

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Daniel, Chapter 7.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. ⁴The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then, as I watched, its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a human being;

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and a human mind was given to it. ⁵Another beast appeared, a second one, that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one side, had three tusks in its mouth among its teeth and was told, "Arise, devour many bodies!" ⁶After this, as I watched, another appeared, like a leopard. The beast had four wings of a bird on its back and four heads; and dominion was given to it. ⁷After this I saw in the visions by night a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth and was devouring, breaking in pieces, and stamping what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that preceded it, and it had ten horns. ⁸I was considering the horns, when another horn appeared, a little one coming up among them; to make room for it, three of the earlier horns were plucked up by the roots. There were eyes like human eyes in this horn, and a mouth speaking arrogantly.

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷"As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON Pr Mel Musser

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Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Son of Man whose Kingdom is forever, amen.

When I knew this reading was coming I began to feel a good bit of anxiety. I've never preached on the apocalyptic writing of the book of Daniel. (SLIDE) I did take an entire seminary course on the book of Revelation, but never really had the opportunity to preach on things like the beast or the meaning behind some of these really weird images that first appear in Daniel and then later reimagined by John in his book of revelation. So many people have written about the end times with such certainty, but in my humble opinion, they're all just guessing. In Mark's Gospel Jesus addresses the question of when these end times will happen when he instructed the disciples, "32 But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mk. 13:32-33) Most scholars believe these apocalyptic writings actually came during or after most of the events they describe, So, while they talk about the end times, they're actually talking about events current at the time of the original author using images of beasts and other strange and sometimes scarry events as a sort of code language that the common readers and hearers of the day would understand, but the rulers of the evil empires being referred to would not. So, when we read these apocalyptic writings, please

^{*} Please stand if able

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keep that in mind and remember, as our scripture for today spells out, God is always in charge and will give all power and authority to the Holy Saints.

(SLIDE) Folks the Holy Saints are you and me. We already have all the power and authority we need to live under God's reign of love and peace, if only we would stop looking to and waiting for the end of time for the answers.

My studies for this week proved to be a learning blessing. I just love it when God's word shows me something that to me is brand new. That's what happened when I tried to go back to the Hebrew text to look up some of the key words from our reading. What I discovered was this dream and the interpretation of the dream were not written in Hebrew like over 98% of the Old Testament. It was written in a language called Aramaic. In the Bible, the Aramaic language is only found here in Daniel and in the book of Ezra in the Old Testament. There are also 2 places in the New Testament that were not written in the Greek language, but also in Aramaic. When Jesus gives the Lord's Prayer to his disciples, that was Aramaic. When God was revealing His Word, the Hebrew parts of the Bible were intended to be read by people who could read Hebrew. The Greek parts were intended for a Greek speaking audience. So, why did God reveal these few portions of His Word in Aramaic? I did a little research and discovered Aramaic was, in ancient times, the most universal language. (SLIDE) Here's a map showing the extent of the

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ancient use of the Aramaic language. Most people all around the known world spoke or did business in the Aramaic language. Just like English is today, Aramaic was the international language. So, evidently, God wanted *this* scripture, along with Jesus *giving us the Lord's prayer* to be read and understood, not just by Hebrew speaking Jews or later, Greek speaking Jews, but by the entire known world! I think I get why God wants everyone to know the Lord's Prayer, but what is there about this dream of Daniel that God want's the entire world to know? The first commentary I picked up claimed this chapter with this dream and its interpretation are the pivotal, most important parts of the entire book of Daniel. Now that we all know God's universal intention for this story I must add that this story might be one of the most important stories in the entire Old Testament.

So, what is it God wants all of us to know. The crux of the matter in this reading is Judgment Day. (SLIDE) We Lutherans don't like to talk about Judgment Day, but this super important, universal reading of scripture tells us it is coming and every single one of us and everyone who has ever lived including those not yet born, will one day come face to face with the Ancient of Days, surrounded by all the hosts of heaven where the books will be opened. The first of these books is the entire record of our lives. This book will be opened and read into the holy record. When I did a little research about the opening of this Book, a

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myriad of emotions swept through me. I first became afraid, because I know I've done things and failed to do things I should have done. There are so many I can't even count or remember them all. Some of the things I've done I've justified and some I have no excuses for. So, opening the book of my life scares me. Once I got past the initial terror of facing judgment for my actions, I began to feel a little creeped out. I mean if my whole life is being recorded in God's book, I'm sort of living a cosmic version of Big Brother. Have you seen any episodes of that show? PJ watches it quite a lot... (SLIDE) The premise is all these people are locked in a house with cameras literally everywhere. Someone's always watching and none of the players actions are done in secret. That doesn't stop the shenanigans. In the end each player is judged until only one is left and that one gets the prize money. This Book of our deeds and misdeeds reminds me of the Big Brother TV show... Once I began to seriously process this tidbit from God, I began to look at my remaining days a little differently. I don't want my book to be so negative. I actually do love God, especially the God I know in Jesus Christ, and I want to live my life in ways that please God. Unfortunately, the vast witness of Holy Scripture tells us we cannot ever hope to please God because God abhors sin and we love to wallow in it. If all there is to our existence is the judgment we face when the book of our life is read in open court, we will all certainly be condemned. (SLIDE)

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This political season the democratic ticket is using the campaign phrase Hope and Joy. Where is our hope if all our deeds are finally exposed and the Holy One, the Ancient of Days, passes judgment? The good news is that our scripture readings and the witness of scripture talk about another book that will be opened. This second book is called the Book of Life. (SLIDE) In that Book is written the names of all those whom Jesus came to save from the coming judgment. Your name and mine are written in that book. You and I need not fear the coming Judgment Day because God, In Jesus Christ, has written your name and mine in the Book of life. Our names were written in the very blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is because of Jesus and the saving grace God has freely given to us through Jesus that we can be at peace with God and know our eternal salvation is secure. Yes, there will be judgment, but after the guilty verdict comes the sentencing. During the sentencing, right there next to your name the sentence reads, (SLIDE) "Paid in full by Jesus Christ!"

My you never fear your day of judgment because the sentence has already been served by Jesus. May this story about Judgment Day be properly understood by not just Hebrew speaking or Greek speaking Jews, but by every man, woman, and child on the face of this planet, just as God intended. May the coming judgment help us all to work even harder to spread God's love and forgiveness to

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all the nooks and crannies and corners of God's Kingdom. And may you ever rejoice in the love of God bought and paid for by your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* HYMN OF THE DAY "My Life Flows On In Endless Song" ELW 763



- 1 My life flows on in end less song; a bove earth's lam-en ta tion,
- 2 Through all the tu mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Please stand if able

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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
 - 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

P: Trusting in God's power and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: David dreamt of terrible earthly kingdoms and concluded that only your kingdom endures forever. Help us to trust in the promise of your eternal reign of justice and peace. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Your creation is breathtaking, from the smallest particle to the largest galaxy, from microscopic pond life to elephants and blue whales, from duckweed to great baobab trees. Instill in us such awe and respect for all that you have made that we cannot help but work for its healing and preservation. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Make our leaders to turn away from the kind of destructive power characterized in David's dream, and lead them on the path toward systems that uphold and protect all people. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: You have raised up among us countless practitioners of health in multiple fields. Guide them toward providing the best of care to all who suffer, that all

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might experience health and wholeness. (*Especially today we remember in prayer...*) God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Inspire artists, musicians, writers, and other creatives through dreams like David's or observations of life, that they might enrich our experience with expressions of joyful gratitude and provocative challenge. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with gratitude all whose lives of faith were challenged by adversity, and who emerged ever more committed to you. By their wise guidance, help us navigate our difficulties with our faith intact. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

P: Confident in your life-giving love, we lift these prayers and all those in our hearts into your loving care.

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

While the congregation is still standing say:

- P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet, may you 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.
- P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day....O God, you are the creator and owner of all that is, and all that we have is merely a brief stewardship of what is yours. Accept now our gifts and tithes out of your own abundance, and bless them for the work of the Holy Spirit in the world, today and always. In Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

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* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us 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 blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

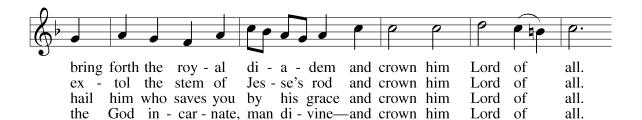
August 25, 2024

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* SENDING HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" LBW 328



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je sus' name! Let an gels pros-trate fall;
- 2 Crown him, you mar-tyrs of our God, who from his al tar call;
- 3 O seed of Is rael's cho-sen race now ran-somed from the fall,
- 4 Hail him, you heirs of Da-vid's line, whom Da vid Lord did call—





Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all. Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

- 5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
- 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

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* DISMISSAL

P: Before we are dismissed, let us offer a word of Grace for the food we are about to receive... Loving Father God, we give you thanks a praise for all your creation and for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. We ask you to bless the food we are about to receive that it may nourish and strengthen our bodies so we can serve you in the mission of Jesus Christ to make You known to all the world. Amen... Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

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

* POSTLUDE Pam Sherman

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Scripture reading for next Sunday, September 1st Daniel 12:1-3, 5-13

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Marge Warner
Acolyte	Miles Baker
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

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Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Maintain a blood cholesterol of 200 or lower. **MIND:** Listen to soft music during rush hour traffic.

SPIRIT: Read a daily devotion.

This Week @ Trinity - August 25 thru September 1, 2024

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Aug 25	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
Rally Day!	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Carry-in Luncheon w/"Sundaes on Sunday"
	10.00	
Tues, Aug 27	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Aug 30	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept 1	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion



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

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



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