

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



Luke 10:25-42
March 9, 2025



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Pam Sherman**
- **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 be seated



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

* **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... Holy God, your compassion for the least and the lost, the oppressed and the sorrowful is without measure. Teach us to love our neighbors as you would, and to care for those who are most often overlooked. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: The Good Samaritan
Materials: Horton Hears A Who
Scripture: Luke 10:25-42

Hello boys and girls. I hope you had a great week! I love Dr Seuss books. My favorite is Horton Hears a Who. It's about an elephant named Horton who's taking a leisurely bath in the jungle when he hears someone calling for help. All he saw was a tiny speck of dust floating through the air and Horton realized someone on that speck was calling for help. As it turned out, there was a whole town of people on that little speck calling out for help. They were afraid the speck of dust would fall into the pool of water and they would all drown. They were so small Horton couldn't even see them, but he made up his mind to help. "After all," he said, "A person's a person, no matter how small." All the other animals thought Horton was crazy. They even tried to put Horton in a cage, but he refused to give up. Because of his faithfulness, the tiny people were saved and all the animals realized just as Horton said, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

The story of Horton reminds me of our Bible story today. One day, a lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to have eternal life. When Jesus asked him what the Bible said, the lawyer answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus answered, "You're right. Do this and you will live." Then the lawyer, asked Jesus another question. "Who is my neighbor?" he asked. To answer this question, Jesus told a story about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They beat him, took his money, stripped him of his clothes, and left him beside the road to die. A priest came by and when he saw the man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and continued on his way. A little while later, a Levite who worked in the temple came along and he passed by on the other side of the road too. Finally, a man from Samaria came along, and when he saw the man, he stopped to help him. He put medicine on his wounds and wrapped them with bandages. Then he took the man to an inn and took care of him. Then Jesus asked, "Which of these men was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers." The lawyer answered, "The one who helped him." "You are right," said Jesus.

Jesus told us to love our neighbor. If you have trouble knowing who your neighbor is, just remember the story of "Horton Hears a Who!" and the story of the Good Samaritan -- then you will know that every person is your neighbor and "A neighbor's a neighbor, no matter how small!"

Dear Father, help us to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Amen.

* Please stand if able

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• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-42**

R: Our scripture reading is from Luke, Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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 our teacher and our Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

Today's scripture contains an embarrassment of riches. (SLIDE) It begins with a lawyer trying to test the teacher, followed by the best known parable Jesus ever told. Normally that's where we stop reading. We finish up with the question of, "who was a neighbor to the man in the ditch?" In the scripture as we have it today, we continue directly into the, also very famous, story of Mary and Martha's dinner party for Jesus and the disciples. (SLIDE) I wonder why these stories are linked. I've read the Gospel of Luke from cover to cover before, but because of the many times I've read and heard the two stories told as stand-alone episodes, I never thought they could actually be linked by some teaching or principle the original audience would have understood, but we don't get. We'll get to that question in a few minutes, but first we should focus on each story to refresh our memories. The lawyer asked a pretty good question. (SLIDE) It was one he already was certain he knew the answer to. What must I do to inherit eternal life? My first impression is you can't "do" anything to gain an inheritance. You receive an inheritance out of the graciousness of a relative or maybe even a friend. So, right off the bat, it's a trick question. Jesus knows all the tricks and in typical fashion turns it back on the lawyer. You are an expert in the law, what does the

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Torah say? Here the lawyer quotes the Shema. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. After Jesus approves of the lawyer's answer, he thinks, "Aha, I've got this Jesus in my trap now, plus I can come out on top by defining the limits of my compassion and generosity. Well then, Jesus, just who is my neighbor? (SLIDE)

We all know the story... I think most people say the Samaritan acted like a neighbor to the poor guy left in the ditch. All I can say is, you all must have lived next door to some really great neighbors... My experience is, your neighbor sometimes acts more like the guys who beat the guy up, stole all his money, took his clothing, and left him for dead in the ditch. (SLIDE) That's the world we live in. It's dog eat dog out there... By way of coming attraction, Brant Hansen the leader of the video Bible study we're going to be looking at during our Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers and Bible Study, would say, we shouldn't be surprised by the actions of the bad guys who did those dastardly deeds. They are everywhere! The people and actions we should be surprised by are the are the Good Samaritans of this world! Sadly, they are few and far between... I know that's not the typical interpretation you're used to on the parable of the Good Samaritan, but my twisted mind always tries to shake things up, just a little...

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I think that's actually what Jesus was doing with this story too. I've talked several times about the bias, discrimination, and outright hatred between the Jews and Samaritans. Everyone within earshot of Jesus, having heard that the dying guy in the ditch had been passed over by both a Priest and a Levite, would have been waiting for the third traveler to also be a Jew, but perhaps a devout layperson. Had that been the third person everyone would have been nodding their heads up and down. The story would have had a very Jewish happy ending. That's not the story Jesus told. When Jesus revealed the hero to be a hated Samaritan, we could have heard the giant sucking gasp of the Jewish religious leaders all the way down to Egypt! Shocking I tell you, just shocking! As we've been reading through the Gospel of Luke so far this year in the lectionary, we've already heard a bit about these Samaritans. It was just this past Wednesday when we read about the Samaritan village that rejected Jesus and how James and John wanted to call down a fire bomb from heaven to take care of those people once and for all... There was certainly no love between these two groups.

Rather than spoon feed you several interpretations and then revealing my personal fav, I'll just introduce you to a few of my favs and let you ponder them during your Lenten journey with Jesus. So, here we go... (SLIDE) The man was travelling along the road to Jerico. His clothing was taken and he was naked.

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Then they beat him. Then they left him for dead... Any of that starting to sound familiar? Maybe the man in the ditch is Jesus and we're all the robbers who took his stuff and left him for dead... Here's another of my favorite ways to look at this story. (SLIDE) The Samaritan comes along and finds the broken, beaten man, all but dead, and laying in the ditch. He cares for the man, takes him to an Inn for rest and gives the innkeeper a blank check to take care of the man. He then promises to return in a few days. Does that start to sound familiar? (SLIDE) What if the Samaritan is Jesus and humanity is the person left for dead in the ditch. That one will be fun to play with in our thoughts and prayers this week... I know there are many more ways to interpret this parable. One of the funniest interpretations was from my friend Peter Kruse who said the Man represents all hurting people and the Donkey represents the Church who literally carries sinful, broken humanity to the Inn, which represents Salvation or heaven or something like that... I say it's funny but sometimes the Church does act like a donkey... (SLIDE)

I can't tell you how to interpret this story or any other for that matter, but hopefully you now have a good start on discerning how Jesus meant it to affect you today. I promised I would talk about how the Good Samaritan and the Mary and Martha stories might be linked, so here goes... In the story of the Samaritan the tension is between doing good and not doing the good you are clearly able to do.

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(SLIDE) Remember from your Catechism days we have sins of commission, things we do that are wrong; and sins of omission, which means not doing something we should do. The robbers committed sins of commission, but the Priest and Levite sins were sins of omission. That same tension is seen in the Mary and Martha story. (SLIDE) Martha was simply being a good host. In fact, the Greek word for the serving she was doing is diakonia. We get the word Deacon or Minister of Service from diakonia. Martha wasn't doing anything she wasn't trained and told was her vocation. She helped people by making sure they had food, drink, and the house was clean. The problem comes when she displays her attitude about her serving. She is kind of a Karen about it. She appears to think of hospitality as an obligation and her attitude shows she resents Mary for not doing more to help. The common thread between Mary and Martha and the Good Samaritan is how and when to serve our neighbor. Is Martha like the Priest and the Levite, too distracted by her busyness that she missed seeing Jesus and hearing his Words of Eternal Life? If Jesus is the guy in the ditch, then the Priest and the Levite both missed out on seeing Jesus in the face of that unfortunate fellow.

There are many ways to look at these stories and many interpretations, but one thing is clear. Too many distractions can cause us to miss out on the one needful thing, encountering Jesus. Whether it's out in the world where we see a neighbor

in distress, or we're working in the Kitchen of this very busy fellowship hall, being overly focused to our own needs and business might just cause us to miss Jesus because we're too busy. The end result is we miss out on seeing or hearing Jesus. One story before I wrap this up... Of course, Jesus is the real Good Samaritan in this story. Once upon a time there was a man who traveled that Jericho Road. He wasn't going away from Jerusalem, but He was going towards Jerusalem. In fact, he set his face on it. Just like that Samaritan, He came to all of us sinners, who the world, the flesh, and the devil have beaten and robbed and left for dead and totally naked. Jesus gave us everything He had when we could give Him nothing in return. (SLIDE) Like a good neighbor, Jesus is there, which makes this final story so poignant. It was during the wintertime in Europe and snow was a foot deep. A man working in his shoe store noticed a barefoot little boy outside the baker shop next door. He was trying to keep warm by standing on a grate blowing hot air. The shoe store owner was surrounded by all his shoes and the baker with all his pastries. Both were watching this hungry, barefoot, boy standing outside in the snow. Just then a kind lady walked by. She bent down, spoke some kind words to the child, brought him into the shoe store, and bought him some brand-new shoes and socks. She then takes him to the bakery and buys him some pastries and hot chocolate. As she begins to leave, he looks at her and says, "Are you God's wife?"

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She said, “No Son, I am just one of His children.” He smiled and said, “Well, I knew you had to be related to Him somehow.”

May we never be so distracted, even with our Church work, that we miss meeting Jesus in our neighbor. May Jesus the true Good Samaritan bind our wounds and carry us all the way to salvation. By our words and actions may others see we too are related to God. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**
(Vs. 1,2,5,6) **LBW 429**



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

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*** NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: So often we judge those in need as unworthy of our help, and we pass on the other side of the street, refusing to see them. Open our eyes and hearts to love and serve our neighbors wherever we meet them on the way. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: All of creation is our neighbor, O God. Make us to stop and pay attention to the needs of our siblings in the natural world, and commit us to the care and healing of all that you have made. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Leaders at every level often face tough decisions and competing priorities. Help

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them to listen to those they serve, and give them wisdom to discern how best to meet the diverse needs of their constituents. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Work through us on behalf of the sick, suffering, and oppressed, that all might receive the care they require to return them to wholeness. Hold all those in need in your loving arms, (*especially...*) Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we begin the journey of Lent, may we deepen our relationship with you and with one another. Shape our lives to reflect your love. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we remember those who have gone before us in the faith. May we follow in their footsteps until we all meet again in your eternal presence. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray.

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 ...God of compassion, you care for us in material and immaterial ways. In gratitude we return to you these gifts and tithes, that you might use them to care for all who are in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

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* **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.

* **SENDING HYMN “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak” LBW 403**



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

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*** DISMISSAL**

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

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

*** POSTLUDE**

Pam Sherman

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 16th
Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Pam Sherman
Lector	Eldon Erdmann
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, March 9	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Wed, March 12	6:30 pm	Lenten Soup Supper/Devotion
Thurs, March 13	9:00 am	Youth & Family Ministry Team Meeting
	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, March 14	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, March 16	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

Save The Date!

Wednesdays - March 12, 19, 26 & April 2 & 9 @ 6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Video Bible Study Discussion
Tuesday, March 18	April Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, March 19 @ 10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
Thursday, March 20 @ 11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon at Sharp's Tavern, 101 S. Main, Palestine
Sunday, March 30 @ 9:30 am	Greg Hickman, Lawyers Direct, presentation of estate planning and other legal needs
April 17 @ 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18 @ 7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
April 20 @ 8:00 am	Early Worship Service
9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
9:45 am	Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am	Late Worship Service

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the April issue Trumpet is March 18th.

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Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Call a church member who you have not seen at church recently.

BODY: Go to the mall and walk.

SPIRIT: Be sure to start each day with a short devotion.



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



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