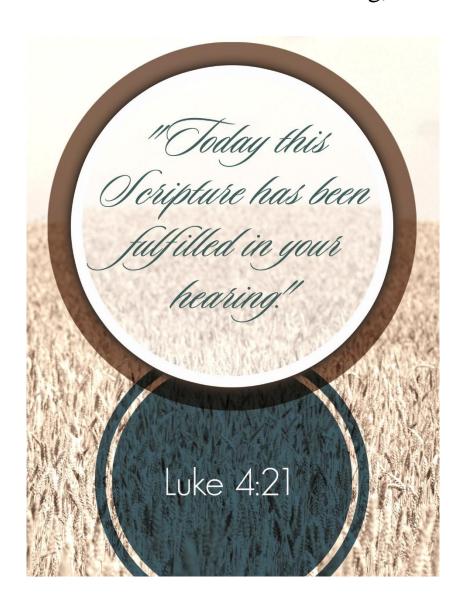
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Luke 4:14-30 January 19, 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

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

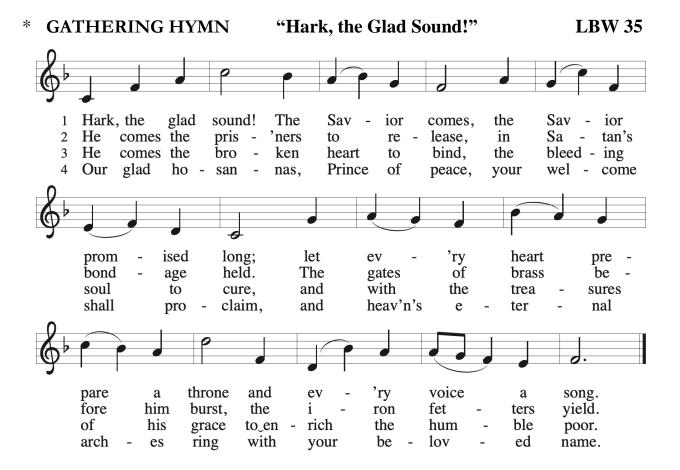
Pause for silence and reflection.

- P: God of light,
- C: You reveal yourself to us, but we do not see. You call to us, but we do not hear. You reach out to us, but we do not feel. Instead we live as though you are not our God. We act in ways that bring disunity, oppression, and pain to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us for our constant wandering. Draw us back into your loving arms and re-direct our steps onto your path of love, justice, and healing, for the sake of all that you have made.
- P: Children of light, God will always find us where we wander, and carry us safely home. H Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, whose sacrificial selflessness has redeemed you and all of creation.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

· 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 January 19, 2025

· Please be seated

Page 3 of 21



* Please stand if able

* 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... Gracious God, may your Spirit be upon us, and may the Spirit inspire us to stand with those who are oppressed, and proclaim your liberating love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Jesus was rejected in his home town **Materials**: There's No Place Like Home Pictures

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30

Hello boys and girls. I hope you all had a great week. Today I want you to look at th3ese pictures of some wall decorations that some people might have on the walls of their homes. They're all pretty fancy, but they say pretty much the same thing. There's no place like home. What do you think people mean when they say, "There's no place like home"? It means that home is a cozy place where they feel safe and secure. Home is where they feel the love of their family. Home is the place where they made lots of memories and have lot's of friends. When we go away on vacation, it's always good to get back home.

It's true, home is a wonderful place to be most of the time, but not always! In our Bible lesson today, Jesus went back to his hometown of Nazareth and he did not receive a very warm welcome. In his travels around Galilee, Jesus had performed many miracles and had been well-received. When he returned to Nazareth, they had heard about the miracles Jesus had done in Capernaum and they just didn't know how they could be true. After all, wasn't this Joseph's son? How could the son of a carpenter do all of the things that they had heard about? He had turned water into wine, healed the sick, and even gave sight to the blind man.

Jesus heard the people grumbling and said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown." The people in the synagogue became furious. They jumped up, mobbed Jesus, drove him out of the town, and took him up on the hill on which the town was built because they wanted to throw him off of a cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. I doubt that Jesus was thinking, "There's no place like home" that day. It seems that no matter what Jesus did, he just couldn't seem to please the people in his own hometown.

Jesus was rejected by his own friends in the town where he grew up, but you don't have to reject him. When you love Jesus he comes and stays with you and walks with you every day. Some people even say we carry Jesus around with us in our hearts. I hope you love Jesus and welcome him into your heart too!

Let's pray... Heavenly Father, give us the faith to welcome Jesus so He can make our heart his home. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

• Please be seated

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:14-30

R: Our scripture reading is from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶vet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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 preaches

Good News, gives us sight, and sets us free, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Tomorrow we will witness the inauguration of the 47th President of the

United States of America. (SLIDE) I have no idea what Donald Trump is going to

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

• Please be seated Page 7 of 21

say in his Inaugural Address, but I can remember a few lines from some of our past presidents. Franklin Delano Roosevelt said we have nothing to fear, but fear itself. (SLIDE) John F. Kennedy implored us not to ask what our country could do for us, but what we could do for our country. Ronald Regan spoke of eliminating the threat of nuclear war. In our Gospel reading from Luke today we heard Jesus give his inaugural address. In his first big sermon in front of his hometown family and friends, Jesus claimed to be anointed by God to preach Good News to the poor, bring sight to the blind, and to set the captives free. That's a pretty big agenda. Maybe too big for this lost and sinful world...

Bringing good news to the poor in an ongoing, probably never-ending task. Even Jesus had to admit that we would always have the poor with us. Today, it is estimated there are nearly a billion people facing starvation. (SLIDE) This map shows where most of the hunger is located in the world. The sad part is that most Christians don't care. I have a feeling some of you are more upset that I just said Christians don't really care about the plight of the poor, than over the fact that nearly a billion people are currently going to bed hungry every night... We do a lot here at Trinity to bring good news to the poor, but even we can do better.,, I can do better. Last week I failed the people of California who lost everything in the wildfires. I had announced we were going to take up a special offering, but then I forgot to do it. I won't make that mistake again today. We will be having a special offering for those affected by the wildfires... Bringing good news is much

^{*} Please stand if able

January 19, 2025

more than having good intentions. I have to... We all have to do better at following through...

Jesus also said His mission was to bring sight to the blind. (SLIDE)

Sometimes he did that with a simple word. Other times Jesus had to make a paste of spit and dirt which he spread on the blind man's eyes. The Bible records these miracles, but I'm not so sure that was the only meaning Jesus had when he said he came to make the blind to see. His larger mission was to make those of us who are spiritually blind to come to a faith that sees in the man, Jesus Christ, the actual Son of God who came to pay the price for our sin.

(SLIDE) Once there was a man who created beautiful leather item. His creations were so beautiful they were highly sought after. His young son used to watch him make these amazing creations and told his father he wanted to be just like him and learn to make beautiful things from leather when he grew up. The father told the young boy, named Louis, he didn't have to wait to become a grown up, he could start right away. The father handed Louis a punch and an awl and drew a fancy design on a piece of leather. The boy began to work the leather, but the first time he used the punch, the awl flew out of his hand and poked a hole in one of his eyes. As fate would have it, Louis also lost the sight in his one good eye a few years later. After some time of being totally blind, a friend handed Louis a pinecone to touch and feel. As Louis held the cone in his hand he could feel the rough bumpy texture and an idea hit him. After working on his idea for some time,

^{*} Please stand if able

(SLIDE) Louis Braille came up with a system of raised bumps that could be "read" by every blind person. This opened up a whole new world for the blind. There's another story about an eye surgeon who operated on a man born blind. As he was healing from the surgery and his sight was becoming clear, the man simply couldn't make out what he was looking at. He had to be taught what trees and buildings and animals were. (SLIDE) Apparently, having the ability to see and understanding what you're looking at are two completely different things.

Finally, Jesus came to set the captives free. Once again this wasn't a literal freeing of incarcerated persons. (SLIDE) I noticed Jesus didn't get his own cousin, John the Baptist out of Herod's prison. He had to mean something else... I'm certain none of us have ever been enslaved in the literal sense. Slavery and human trafficking is still alive today, but probably modern day slavery hasn't directly touched any of us. (SLIDE) On the other hand a different kind of slavery has and continues to bind each and every one of us, even still today. We are all enslaved to sin. We're held captive to our selfish desires and to our own self interests. We want what we want, and we want it right now. The entire world is held in the grip of sin and you, and I are not exempt. (SLIDE) We are the captives Jesus came to release. He did that on the cross by giving his own life for you and for me.

Those are some pretty big agenda items. Brining good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and releasing the captives. Someone much smarter than me once

^{*} Please stand if able

said every organization is the shadow of one man. The Church today is still the shadow of the one man, Jesus Christ. (SLIDE) We stand in his shadow as we still attempt to carry out these three missions. From his baptism to his death on the cross of Calvary, Jesus understood what he was here for. The mission of the Church hasn't changed to this day. Everything we do here at Trinity needs to be viewed through the lens of these three mission areas. Here's what I mean... We help folks who need a little extra during Christmas and at other times during the year in order to bring the Good News of God's love to the poor. The quilt that was donated to the Morgan's Place auction will help bring a bit of good news to a family who lost a baby. Every week we bring good news to the poor through our work at the FISH Pantry and through the work of Grace Resurrection Soup Kitchen. In helping these folks we've also helping to open the eyes of faith in people who have had little reason for hope in their lives. The smiles you share, the kind word you speak, even the smallest gestures of compassion all add up to helping open the eyes of faith to someone in need of a blessing.

You might be thinking that's all great pastor, but how are we able to set people captive to sin free? That's a good question. I hope I have a good answer... When someone treats you badly, you have a choice to make. You can retaliate and do likewise, or you can choose a different path. Instead of repaying tit for tat, you can choose to forgive and instead offer a blessing or a word of kindness in return. You can pray for the person who hurt you. You can even do a good deed for them.

* Please stand if able

January 19, 2025

• Please be seated

One time a school bully continually picked on one of the weaker kids.

(SLIDE) He stole his lunch money almost every day. One day the weaker kid decided it was time to stop the bullying. Instead of standing up to the bully and fighting him, the weaker kid brought a spare lunch. Instead of waiting for the bully to threaten him, he preemptively offered the bully his lunch and to sit with him and have lunch together. This was such a turn around the bully was at a loss. After a couple of days the two became friends and the bully never bullied anyone again. Sometimes turning the other cheek means turning a bully into a friend. I would say the punie weakling was certainly able to set the bully free from captivity allowed him to live into a new life of grace and mercy he otherwise would have never known.

We can all live into this mission Jesus has created for His Church. We might not be able to eliminate the poor or set every captive free, but we can all do something. If you're not involved in some aspect of the mission of the Church, (SLIDE) either here at Trinity or where you work or play, Jesus is calling you to find a way to preach the good news to the poor, to bring sight to the spiritually blind, and to set the captives free. Nearly every one of you are already doing these things.

As we prepare to hear yet another Inaugural Address by incoming president Donald Trump tomorrow, I pray we will be inspired to follow in the shadow, not of any president or human leader, but of the one from Nazareth, who lived out his

^{*} Please stand if able

mission from the day of his Baptismal anointing, until the day he announced, "It is finished". (SLIDE) Jesus is still calling us to preach the good news to the poor, to bring sight to the blind, and to set all captives free in his name. May the Lord of heaven and earth, bless you in your serving and provide you with even more opportunities to work along side of your brothers and sisters in Christ and along side of Jesus Himself to fulfill this scripture reading in our lives today. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* 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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

L: Help us embody Jesus' message of liberation and justice in our communities. Grant us the courage to stand firm in faith, and may all that we do reflect the transformative power of your love. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your call for justice and transformation extends to all of creation. Teach us to be good stewards of the earth, and inspire us to advocate for sustainable practices that benefit creation. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

• Please be seated Page 13 of 21

L: Empower your people around the world to work toward a future where all are welcomed and embraced. May dignity and compassion guide our interactions and decisions. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We lift up those who are burdened by physical, emotional, and spiritual afflictions (*especially*...) Help us create spaces of support and understanding for all who suffer. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The challenges we face today can seem insurmountable. Help us turn to you for hope and strength, and help us create a world where all can experience the fullness of life that Jesus' proclaims. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Thank you for the saints who have paved the way for us to continue their labors of love and justice. Help us to keep striving to better the world for future generations. God, draw near,

C: Hear our prayer

L: 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

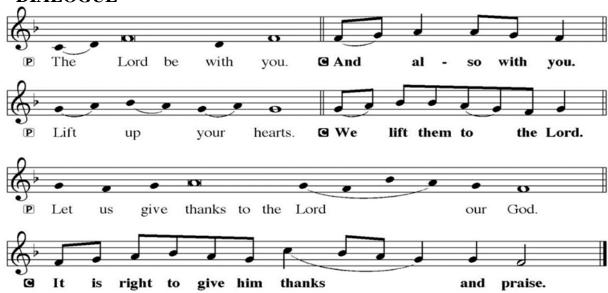
P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ... Abundant God, you have filled us with all good things, and lavished your goodness upon us. With joyful hearts we return to you these, our gifts and tithes, and ask that you would bless them for the work of loving our neighbors.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025





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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Please stand if able January 19, 2025 Page 15 of 21

Please be seated

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.
- 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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of 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: 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus, who fulfills prophecy and brings good news to all who suffer, invites you now to the feast of healing and wholeness in his name. In the bread and wine, be joined with your siblings in Christ throughout the world and be strengthened to carry the message.

• 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.

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

Please be seated

POST COMMUMION 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



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







* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

C: 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 January 19, 2025

Please be seated

* Please stand if able

tid - ings

of

Je

sus,

re - demp-tion, and

* DISMISSAL

- P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and othr 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

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Caleena Hesler
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	



Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 26th Luke 5:1-11

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: How many ways can you say Hello

BODY: Get a Facial **SPIRIT:** Start a prayer journal

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

• Please be seated Page 19 of 21

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.

This Week at Trinity – January 19 thru January 26

17005 Troote at 1701	out of the state o	y 15 titl a Gallaari y 20
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Jan. 19	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Mon, Jan. 20		Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tues, Jan. 21		Newsletter Deadline
Fri, Jan. 24	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Jan. 26	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club "The Chosen"

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THIS TUESDAY, JAN. 21.

Save The Date!

Tuesday, January 21	Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, February 1 @ 6:00 pm	Euchre Tournament at Trinity
Sunday, February 9 @9:00 am	Thrivent Guest Speaker with Breakfast!
Sunday, February 16 @ 12 Noon	Trinity Troops!
Tuesday, March 4 @ 6 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 5 @ 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service



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.

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025

• Please be seated Page 20 of 21



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

* Please stand if able January 19, 2025