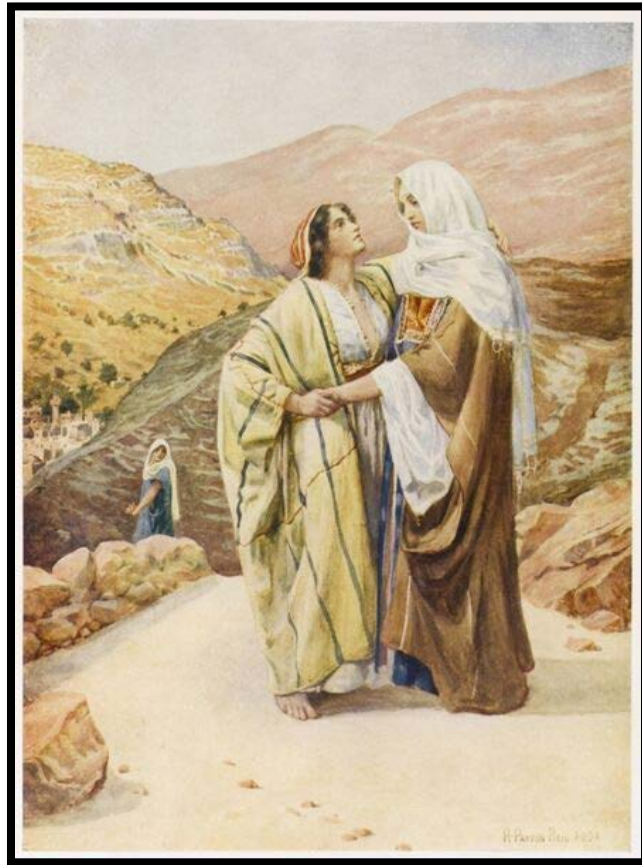


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Ruth 1

August 14, 2022



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



• **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: Faithful God,

C: We are not always quick to claim you as our God. We do not show care for one another. We fail to see all people as your people, and hurt one another with our actions or lack of action. Forgive us our sins, and give us the same fierce love for our neighbors that Ruth had for Naomi.

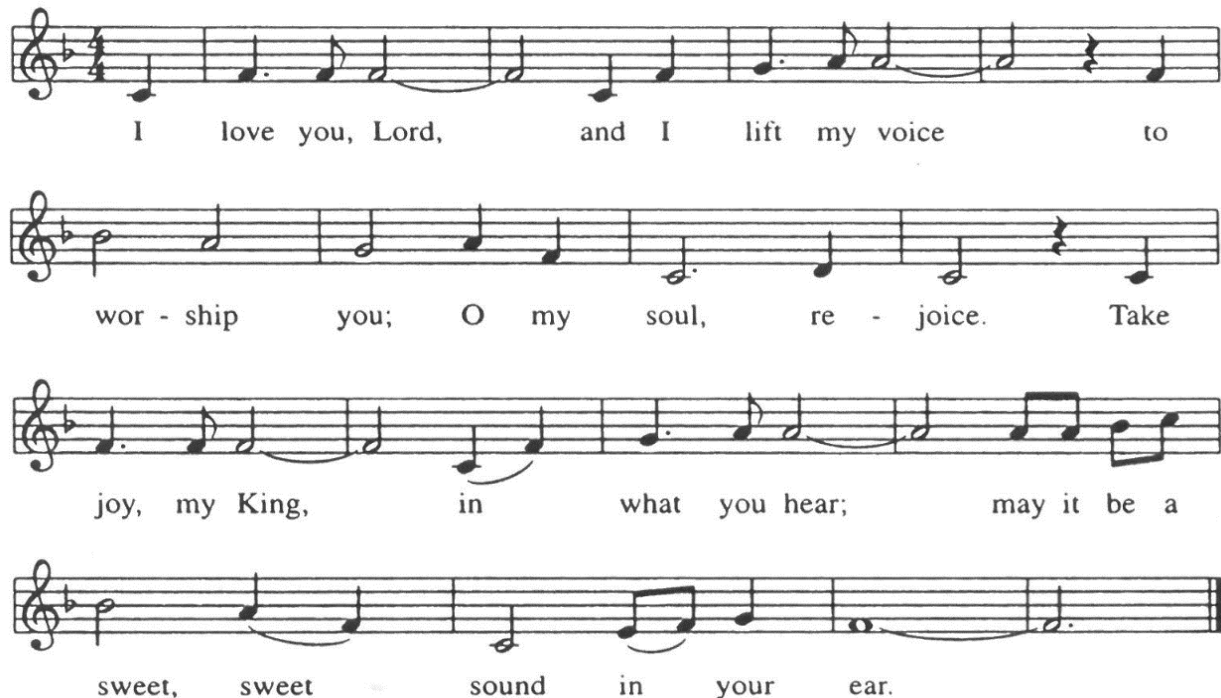
P: God, who calls and sustains, forgives you all your sins. Go forth in the confidence of God's loving care, in Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"I Love You, Lord"

W&P 67



I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to
wor-ship you; O my soul, re-joice. Take
joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a
sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

* Please stand if able

August 14, 2022

• Please be seated

Page 2 of 16

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... God of lovingkindness, in the midst of Naomi's grief, Ruth's love and loyalty turned her despair to hope. Teach us compassion that has the power to heal, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: Showing God's Love

Materials: None

Scripture: Ruth 1

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see all of you! Today our Bible Story is about Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah. Naomi was married and had two sons. They all lived in a far away country called Moab. After about ten years all three of the husbands died. That left Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah very poor and with no way to survive on their own. Naomi told both of her daughter's in law to return to their families so they could start over and maybe remarry a new husband. Orpah decided to return to her family, but Ruth said she loved Naomi so much she would never leave her, even if it meant they would die together. So, both Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem together.

Why do you think Ruth decided to give up her change to return to her family and start over like Orpah did? Ruth loved Naomi so much she would rather be with her than to go back to her own family. Ruth really loved Naomi, didn't she?

God wants us to show our love for others too. What are some of the ways we can show people we love them? We can be kind to them. We can do good things for them, without them even asking... We can do big things like cleaning our rooms and helping mom or dad with chores around the house. We can even do very small things like smiling at a stranger or someone who looks like they need a friend. At School if you see someone sitting all by themselves, you can offer to sit with them. If you see someone being bullied, you can tell a teacher or another grown-up about what you saw.

There are so many ways to show people that you love them aren't there? How did God show us He loves us? God provides sunshine and rain for the crops to

grow so we can have lots of good food to eat. God provides us with this wonderful planet we call the earth to live on. God provides our home and our family for help us and to support us. God even provided His only Son, Jesus to take away all our sins and to make us into saints so we could then show that same love to everyone else! What a great and loving God we have.

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for all the wonderful blessings you provide. When things are hard, help us and give us the strength we need to make it through all our troubles. Thank you the most for sending Jesus to be our friend and to show us how to love others like you love us. Amen!

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth 1**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Ruth, Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

me.” ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them, “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” ²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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 takes all our worries and anxieties to the Cross, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Today we begin a four-week series on the Book of Ruth. As I normally do when we start our way through a new book, let’s look at the background and context before we dive into the theology and story itself. The Book Ruth is named after the daughter-in-law of a woman named Naomi, a Hebrew name meaning “pleasant.” Naomi’s life is anything but pleasant. She and her husband flee Israel because of a severe famine and wind up in the country of Moab, one of Israel’s most hated enemies. She flees death due to famine, but death follows here into the far country. The book’s namesake, Ruth in the Hebrew means friendship or just

plain friends. It never dawned on me the ancient Hebrew has found its way into our modern language when we say a person who has left all his friends behind to go alone is ruthless...

Most scholars date the book of Ruth to the time after the Israelite peoples returned to Israel after their captivity in Babylon. The opening lines tell us the story is set during the time of the Judges, before Israel had its first king. That would place Ruth sometime between 1400 and 1350 BC. Since the book concludes with the mention of King David, the author must have known about King David. So, it's a fair assumption that the book was written sometime during or after the kingship of David. This is where the current debate over the dating of Ruth stands today. Scholars are divided over an earlier date of 950 -700 BC while others have determined it was written almost 500 years later or about 500 to 450 BC. In either case it's a story about loyalty and faithfulness. Martin Luther said it was a story given to us to show us that God is the God of all peoples, including a Moabite woman named Ruth. If you can, try to put aside all the things you already know about Ruth and just follow the story line as it comes to us today and the next three Sundays, then you'll see it's a book with a surprise ending! I'm not going to reveal that surprise just yet. You'll have to keep coming back to find out what God is doing in this great epic tale.

For today's installment we find Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion, residents of Bethlehem and scripture says they're also Ephrathites. The name Ephrathites refers to an even more ancient name for the city of Bethlehem, from before Abraham came on the scene and God gave all the Canaanite land to His favorite wandering sojourner. The name Ephrathah means "plenty" and Bethlehem means "House of Bread." So, we start out with a bit of irony. The land formerly known as the Land of Plenty and currently known as the House of Bread is experiencing a great famine, enough that it forced Naomi and her family to travel to the land of Moab on the other side of the Dead Sea and into if not enemy territory, then certainly a country with strained relations with Israel.

Moab was a land populated by the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Moabites were pagans who worshipped the god Chemosh. Therefore, Ruth, as a Moabite, is an unlikely hero in the overall Jewish story. However, the book that bears her name clearly presents Ruth as a hero. Ruth exhibits several important qualities, valued in the ancient world and in the Bible overall. Ruth is loyal to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's words of loyalty to Naomi are some of the most famous and most quoted verses of the Bible. When Ruth declares, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and

* Please stand if able
• Please be seated

so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” she is declaring her undying love for Naomi. We will see in the coming weeks if the “Chosen” people of God, the Hebrew People, will follow God’s Command to take care of the widows, even a widow from an unfriendly nation... This story is the Old Testament equivalent of the parable Jesus told about the “Good Samaritan.” It answers the question who can be counted among the faithful and how far does my obligation to help my neighbor extend. If this book had been composed during the post exile period as many scholars believe, then it would also be a story to help the returning Israelites accept those who had been left behind and who had married foreign wives. If Ruth can find a home and peace among the Jewish nation and with the Jewish God Yahweh, then maybe the newly returning Jews could also accept and include those who are also outside the bloodline of Abraham.

This is a great epic tale about overcoming adversity and famine, but also about how the people of God respond to tragedy and death. It’s a story about loyalty and faithfulness to one another and to the God who, as Job would say gives and takes away. When we look at the Book of Ruth we see three women who have lost everything. Under the laws of Moses, when a man dies the widow’s sons are obligated to take in their mother. Similarly, if a man dies and leaves a widow, his brother is obligated to take in the woman and provide for her for the rest of her life. That was the social safety net provided under the law for widows. In the case of

Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah that safety net was pulled out from under them with the death of all three husbands. In ancient society women had no security, no ability to earn a living on their own. They were entirely, 100 percent dependent on the men they married. It appears to me the Moabite god Chemosh and his followers had no further social safety net to take care of widows since Naomi decided it would be better for her to make the trip back to Bethlehem in Judah rather than to stay in Moab. At least in Judah, again under the laws of Moses, widows and orphans were granted access to the fields and farms to glean the droppings that were left after the harvest. This was actually coded into their laws. Ten percent of the harvest was to be left behind and foreigners, widows, and orphans were allowed to take what they needed. The law made no provision for housing or any other necessities of life, but at least they would have some food to subsist. That was the life Naomi thought she was returning to in Judah, but at least it would be better than staying in the land where no such protection was provided and the place that held so many painful memories of losing her husband and both of her sons. In a similar situation, I would have done anything to get out of that place!

In the Air Force we had humanitarian reassignments that could be made when a family suffered such a loss. We would even go so far as to allow the Air Force member to retrain to a different career field in order to get them back to an assignment close to their family of origin or any other place they requested. These

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assignments were called Humanitarian or Compassionate reassignments. In essence, that's what Naomi chose. She had decided to return to the place of her family of origin. She needed to find some peace and the familiarity of her hometown maybe some friends or her family might remember her and take pity on her. As she returned to Bethlehem, and in dialog with her daughters in law, she reveals just how much the losses have affected her. Upon arriving back in Judah and being recognized by her former neighbors she even changes her name to Mara, a name that means "bitter" in Hebrew.

Naomi has good reason to be bitter. How many of us, when faced with far smaller troubles have made similar claims against God. In school, after spending my time having fun with my friends instead of studying, I remember asking God why He allowed me to get such a low grade on the exam... I definitely had a huge Blame God attitude after the deaths of my dad and 11 months later the death of my sister Marilyn. It took years for me to realize God didn't cause nor did God want those two beloved people to die at such and early age. God never wills bad things to happen. What I do know is that God accepts our laments and God even loves it when we blame Him for our troubles. God wants to be in relationship with you and me so badly that God will gladly shoulder all our cares, worries, anxieties, and our anger. In return God provides us with peace and the comfort of knowing we are never alone in our sorrow or in our suffering. Quite the opposite is true

actually. God lifts us up during our times of grief and gives us the strength to get up one day at a time and carry on. When we do, despite every fiber in our body telling us to roll over and play dead, we're living out our faith and faithfulness toward this God who loves us and who provides the sunshine and the rain.

May we learn to take all our troubles and cares to the God of Naomi. May her God be our God today and every day. May the loyalty demonstrated by Ruth toward Naomi be an example for us to cling to our Church family when it seems like everything is falling apart. Thanks be to God, through His beloved Son Jesus Christ for showing us just how far our Heavenly Father would go to give us the hope for an eternity with God forever and ever, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Larry Harter

* **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: Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Gracious God, in spite of hardship, Ruth and Naomi remained faithful to each other trusting in your power to sustain them. Show us how to live faithfully as they did, and help us to trust you in all things. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give us the same faithfulness to your good creation as to one another, that we may honor, respect, and care for all that you have made.
God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Teach humility to those who lead, and confidence to those who follow. Bring justice into this world, and make us instruments of your peace. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: With bitterness we sing songs of grief, illness, addiction, isolation, abuse, and neglect. For all who suffer, we pray your mercy and healing, (*especially*). God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Remind us that this world is not too big for our compassion. Show us how to act in love for all people, no matter how distant from us, no matter how different they may seem. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We praise and thank you for all the saints who have gone before us, whose lives teach us how to live with mercy, kindness, and compassion.
God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

August 14, 2022

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L: With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior.

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.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day... Merciful God, even in the midst of our struggles, you care for us, generously providing all we need. Now we offer our gifts with a spirit of gratitude for your faithfulness. Accept what he have offered, and bless it for your work in the world.

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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

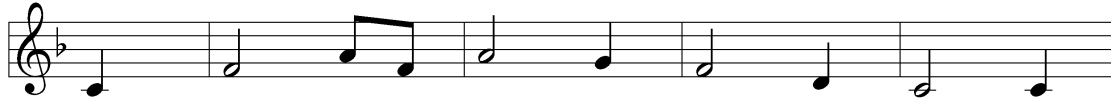
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* **SENDING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

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.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: 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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Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 21st
 Ruth 2

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Jennifer Arling

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

This Week @ Trinity – August 14 thru August 21, 2022

- Sun, August 14** 10:30 am Worship Service
- Wed, August 17** 6:00 pm Finance Team Meeting
7:00 pm Trinity Council Meeting
- Thurs, August 18** 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Old
Richmond Inn, 138 S. 5th St., Richmond, Indiana
- Fri, August 19** 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
- Sun, August 21** 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion



LUTHERAN DAY AT THE FAIR is Thursday, August 25. Trinity is responsible for the hour of 12 noon to 1 pm. If you would like to be present during that time, please contact Pastor Mel. We would also like to provide snacks for those who stop by so if you want to contribute something (cookies, single serving chips, candy, or other items), please individually portion and wrap them for sanitary reasons. [Avoid chocolate candy due to the heat of the day.]

Contact Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100 or pastor@pitsburgtlc.org

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Have a fresh summer salad
MIND: Learn at least one constellation
SPIRIT: List things you are thankful for

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Is Tuesday, August 22nd. Please submit any news to secretary@pitsburgtlc.org

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

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 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.

Trinity Contact Info

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