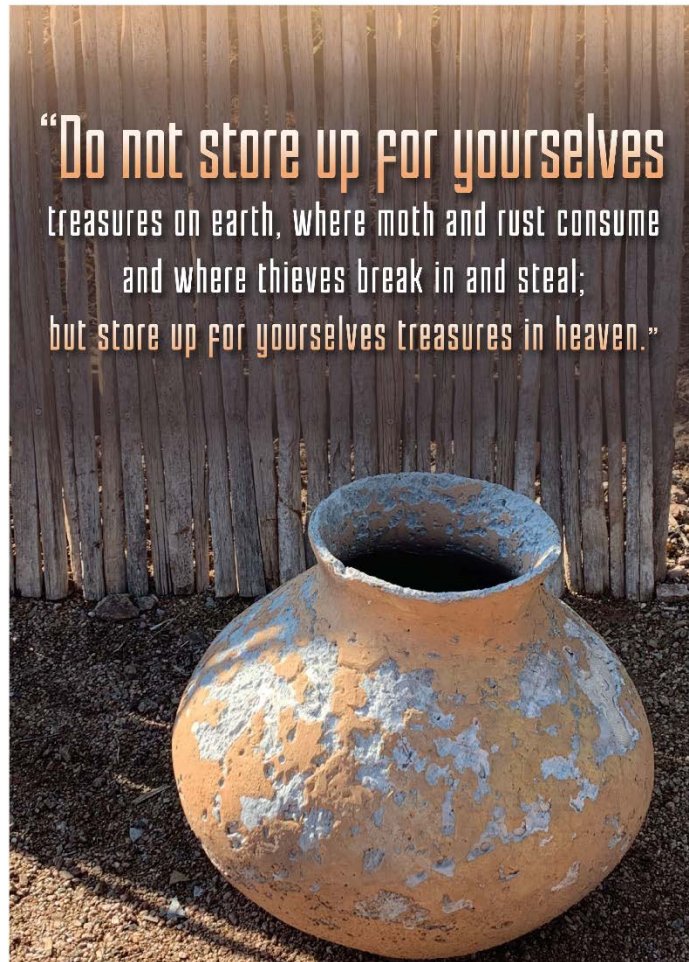


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Matthew 6:7-21, [25-34]
January 29, 2023



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.

L: Merciful Lord,

C: Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what he taught. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we have not done to others as we would have done to ourselves. Shine a light on our hearts, that we might turn from the shadows of our sin and walk in your ways.

P: Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. By his abundant love, all your sins are forgiven, that you might walk in the light of Christ.

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Song** **“How Firm A Foundation”**

LBW 507



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 “Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.”
 your dress to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.”
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne.”

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Gracious God, you invite us to come to you in prayer, and offer us a promise of your never-ending care. Give us the humility to ask only for what we need and to be grateful when we receive it.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

January 29, 2023

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WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Don't worry, put your trust in God.

Object: Quilted Cross from the Prayers and Squares Ministry

Scripture: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear." Matthew 6:25 (NIV)

Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. I'm so happy you are here today!!!

Look at this small square I have here... It is a small, flat piece of cloth that fits into my hand in such a way that I can rub it with my thumb. I carry it with me almost all the time. It was made by the ladies of our Prayers and Squares ministry. Usually they're busy making large quilts for people who are sick or for Lutheran World Relief to send far away to people who may live in a hut with dirt floors... Some might not even have that. They may be refugees who have had to leave their homes because of natural disasters like floods or hurricanes. Others may be refugees because they're fleeing cruel dictators who want to kill them... What are some of the things that you worry about? Do you worry about whether you'll have enough food and clothing? Food and clothing are very important. In fact, they are things which we must have, but does worrying about it help us to get the food and clothing that we need? Of course not! God always provides for our needs...

Back to my small piece of quilt... When I start to worry about something, all I have to do is just reach into my pocket, take out the cloth, and rub it with between my fingers and thumb. Rubbing the smooth surface of the cloth gives me a peaceful feeling and helps them to stop worrying. When I rub this cloth I feel something else.. As I pass this around rub it like this... (Demonstrate) Isn't that weird? Can you feel something inside this tiny quilt? What do you feel? It's a tiny cross quilted inside this cloth. So, as I rub it in my hand it not only calms my worries, but it reminds me that Jesus has taken all my worries, all my anxiety, and all my sin upon himself and made me pure and clean.

Jesus once taught that we should not be worried about what we'll eat or drink, or about having enough clothing. God knows we need those things and gives us the ability to get all we need. Jesus said all we have to do is look at the birds and the flowers to see how God provides for every living thing. That includes you and me.

Let's pray... Father, we thank you that you provide our every need. Give us faith so we can trust in your love and care. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6:7-21, [25-34]**

R: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁷“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

[²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴“So do not worry

about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."]

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 teaches us to live as God's Children, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

Let's be honest... Who here is worried about tomorrow? If I'm being honest, I don't really worry about tomorrow. I do worry a lot about my vague idea about "The Future". None of us knows what the future holds for us, but we have a pretty good idea how things will turn out in the end. It's the getting to the end that bothers me... What will I have to endure as I age and approach the end of my life? How will I respond to losing my freedoms? Will I end up alone or will I go out surrounded by those who I love and who love me?

People worried about simpler things in Jesus' time. I mean, think about it... Just to eat they had to plow the field, plant the wheat. Harvest and glean the ripe grain and then grind it into flour. All this before they can bake a single loaf of bread. Even their clothing was equally arduous to make. They had to breed and nurture the sheep. Then they had to shear them of their wool. Someone had to spin the wool into yarn so they could weave it into cloth. The people back in the first century did have to worry about what they will eat and what they will wear.

* Please stand if able

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Drinking was a similar story back then. There were no water treatment facilities so the ground water was pretty contaminated, especially in the towns and villages where the people and animals lived. It was safer to drink wine than the water... In the scripture reading for today, Jesus advises them and us not to worry about these things. Our Father in heaven knows we need them and just look how God provides for the sparrows and for the grass of the meadow. People back then could easily have become overly concerned with what to eat, drink, or wear. Today in America we have far more stuff than anyone at any time in the history of the world. Most of us don't worry about our clothing except what to choose to wear. We have too much clothing, well, I have too much clothing... Probably more than most people... I was going to count how many pairs of shoes I have, but I was afraid I would cause too many of you Ladies to be jealous... Most of us don't worry about having enough food to eat. We have too much food. Just think for a minute what's in your refrigerator, freezer, and cupboards. We have so much abundance, what we worry about isn't if or when we'll eat our next meal, but what appeals to our over stimulated taste buds... If we don't like our tap water we can pay for bottled water or even better yet Power Aid or some other flavored liquid delight... When it comes to our homes, most of us are blessed to have four walls and a roof

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over our heads. As I consider the basics of life, I realize God has indeed given us all we need and then a large extra measure.

Even though we have enough and more to spare, we still worry. If we don't have enough to worry about, we invent things to worry about. We worry so much we can develop worry lines and wrinkles on our face. I've noticed the older I get the more I worry about the situation of our country and the whole world. I seem to always have something that I'm concerned about. I'm not alone in this. Worry is a plague on humankind. In the United States alone over 40 million people suffer from anxiety disorder.

How can we overcome our tendency to worry so much? In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asks his listeners to ponder creation. God is involved in creation. God not only created everything, but God also sustains and keeps everything running as God intended it to run... God isn't separated from creation. God did not create stuff and then step aside and watch it from a distance. God provides for His creation. God feeds and cares for the birds and clothes the flowers of the field in great splendor. If God is active in creation, then it stands to reason that God is also active and involved in the lives of God's people. It's important for us to ask ourselves how this affects our lives. What does this truth mean for our families and us? How does it apply to our relationships, our careers, our financial well-

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being, our health and our retirement? The same God who created you is also providing for you to have life in abundance. That's another way of saying eternal life. I'm not preaching abundance as in if you only had enough faith, then God would ensure you are blessed beyond your wants and desires. What I am saying is God already paid the price to cover your sin and opened the previously locked gate to the Kingdom of Heaven. What God did for you on the cross and then raising Jesus from the dead was to give you not just an abundant life, but an eternal life.

Now, because of the calling of the Holy Spirit, we've come to place our faith and trust in the promise of that eternal life. As we live into this Kingdom of God, we follow the teachings and the commands of the Lord who has made this relationship possible. Under the reign of God our goals and values are somewhat different from the values of the secular society we live in. We are called to give up our striving for ourselves and instead we are called to seek to serve God and to serve others. Most of the time when I find myself worrying, it's because I've been focusing inward and thinking too much about meeting certain goals or that I might not be getting the most out of my life. To the extent that we over-focus on our own wants and needs we run the danger of losing our focus on serving God and serving our neighbor.

Jesus challenges his listeners, now including all of us, to “Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be yours as well.” We are invited to seek to do God’s will—and have faith or trust God to accomplish God’s will even through difficult times and tremendous obstacles. God has demonstrated this over and over again in the Scriptures, throughout history, in experiences of our congregation, and in our lives.

God’s will does not come about easily. God often moves in our lives so that all other props and supports are taken away and we are able only to depend on God and look to God for assistance and hope. Only when we’re stripped bare of all the false gods we’ve grown accustomed to, can we fully trust the one who can actually make a difference in our lives and in the life of this world. Though this is the place of ultimate security, we do not feel very secure or comfortable when trusting solely in God. In this position we feel vulnerable and at risk. This of course causes even more worry and anxiety. To replace our worry, God invites us to focus on the cross of Jesus Christ, and the reality of God’s love. We live safe in God’s hands; worry free... Not because of an absence of difficulties or due to our own ability, but because of God’s love, forgiveness, power and involvement in our lives.

I still worry about what the future might hold, but in Christ I have a confident hope that God is still in control and what better place can any of us be

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than in the loving arms of the God who spared nothing to make you and me His own? May this God of love continue to provide and sustain us. Now that we're free from our bondage to sin, may we live our lives seeking first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** HYMN OF THE DAY "Seek Ye First"**

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2. Man shall not live by bread a - lone
 3. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and His right - eous - ness, and all these
 but by ev - 'ry word that pro -
 seek and ye shall find, knock and the

things shall be add - ed un - to you -
 -ceeds from the mouth of God -
 door shall be o - pened un - to you -

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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*** APOSTLE’S CREED**

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 our savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up the church, the world, and all in need... *A brief silence.*

L: God of abundance, your son, Jesus, showed us how to pray so that the blessings of heaven might be ours. Keep us ever mindful of those things which are of true and lasting value. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Let the earth heal from the thoughtless damage we have done to it. Make us passionate stewards of your creation, working diligently for its nurture rather than its destruction. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless our world’s religious leaders, and encourage them to be models of faithful living for their communities of faith. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Place your healing hands upon all who are in need, those who are grieving, incarcerated, addicted, isolated, neglected, abused, or ill, (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Inspire us to share out of our abundance with those who suffer poverty. Commit us to ensuring that all people have what they need to flourish. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We lovingly remember all the saints whose lives have taught us to store up treasures in heaven. Keep them in your care until the day we all see you together. Merciful God,

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C: You hear our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

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**

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

While the congregation is standing the offering is raised up and the following prayer is said:

P: You have given us an abundance of earthy treasures, O God. Make us generous to return them to your service, that we might put our hearts not in material things, but in selfless love for you and our neighbors. Accept these, our gifts, and use them to bring light and life to your world.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: United into one Body, 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 God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

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* **SENDING HYMN** **“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”** **LBW 362**

1. We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but
 (2. He) on - ly is the Mak - er of all things near and far; He
 (3. We) thank Thee, then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good; The
 it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand; He
 paints the way - side flow - er, He lights the ev - 'ning star; The
 seed time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No
 sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain, the
 winds and waves o - bey Him, by Him the birds are fed; Much
 gifts have we to of - fer for all Thy love im - parts, but
 breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain. All good gifts a -
 more to us, His chil - dren, He gives our dai - ly bread.
 that which Thou de - sir - est, our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.
 -round us are sent from heav'n a - bove; Then thank the Lord, O
 thank the Lord for all His love. 1, 2. A 3. A 2. He love. 3. We

* **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. In a world where you can be anything, be kind! 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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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

Mind: Do a word search puzzle
Body: Monitor your blood pressure
Spirit: Learn a new mealtime prayer



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 5th
 Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29



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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This Week @ Trinity – January 22 thru January 29, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, January 29	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	After Worship	New Member Class
Tues, January 31	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, February 1	11:30 am	WELCA Meeting
Fri, February 3	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, February 5	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	After Worship	New Member Class

AROUND THE PARISH

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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Office Hours:	By Appointment	Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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