

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



**Matthew 3:1-17**  
**January 8, 2023**



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.*

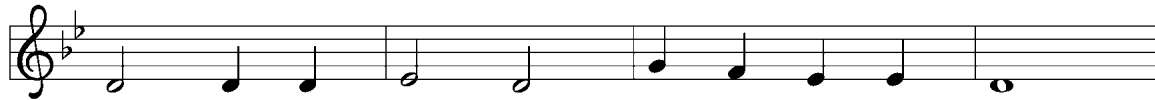
L: Merciful Lord,

**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.**

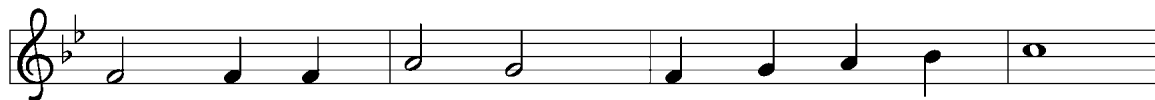
\* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My heart” LBW 486**



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860  
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

\* **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 Spirit, in the waters of the Jordan you claimed Jesus as your beloved son and launched him into his earthly ministry. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we might live as your children and care for all that you have made.

**C:** Amen.

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Theme:** Baptism

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-17

**Object:** A Glass of Water

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see you today! I hope you all had a great week...

I'm really thirsty today. It's a good thing I have this glass of water handy. *(Take a sip.)* Water is really good for us to drink. Our bodies need a lot of water just to survive every day. Did you know water is one of the most abundant things on the earth. Over two thirds of our planet is covered with water. The water that comes from the rain is needed for the farmer's crops to grow too.

Water can also cause harm. Have you ever been to the beach and gotten knocked over by a big wave? Water can be very powerful. If we get too much rain water can flood the fields and even some people's houses.

Besides drinking and watering the crops in the field, what else is water good for? That's right for taking a bath. Water cleans us up when we get dirty doesn't it?

*(Ask all the children to gather around the Baptismal Font.)*

God made water a sign for us. When we baptize someone we use regular water, but because we have God's Promise to forgive us all our sins and to bring us to eternal life in heaven with God, the water in this bowl becomes something much greater than just ordinary water. When you were sprinkled with the water from this Baptismal Font or any other one at any Church, you are made into a new person. God comes to live inside you with His Holy Spirit and you become a totally new person. Even after the Baptism is over, you are never the same. God now lives inside each and every one of you.

Doesn't that make you feel extra special! Let's thank God for all His Blessings, but especially for the gift of Baptism... Dear Lord God, we thank you for water to drink and to make us clean. Please help those who have too much water. Thank you for giving us water as a sign of your Kingdom and the new life we have in you. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 3:1-17**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

**3** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
**2**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” **3**This is the one of whom  
the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the  
wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” **4**Now John  
wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was  
locusts and wild honey. **5**Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going  
out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, **6**and they were baptized by him in  
the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

**7**But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to  
them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?  
**8**Bear fruit worthy of repentance. **9**Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have  
Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up  
children to Abraham. **10**Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree  
therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11**“I  
baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the  
Holy Spirit and fire. **12**His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his  
threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will  
burn with unquenchable fire.”

**13**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

**14**John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do  
you come to me?” **15**But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for  
us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. **16**And when Jesus  
had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were  
opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting  
on him. **17**And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom  
I am well pleased.”

P: 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 fulfilled  
all righteousness, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

I feel like our timing is off by a week. We had the glorious Baptism of  
Eleanor last week and the story of the Baptism of Jesus this week. Seems a little

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

like our lectionary is off by a week... I my life I've learned that all things happen on God's time, not ours... So, I get to talk about Baptism two weeks in a row!

The story of the Baptism of Jesus is so well known. What more can be said? I mean remember just last week when little Eleanor was all dressed in her bright white dress and she looked so adorable. Her family was all here and we sprinkled her with some water and the Holy Spirit filled her body with God's own gifts and with power. In our Baptism, we are adopted into God's family and become inheritors of all of God's promises. The chief promise we can cling to our whole lives is that of eternal life. Is that all there is? I hope for a better life after we die? Please tell me there's something more... Please tell me it's not only about what happens after we die... Jesus says he came to be Baptized by John to "Fulfill all Righteousness." So, with Baptism comes also the forgiveness of our sins. I once heard a preacher say in Baptism the old Adam in us dies to Sin. Unfortunately, after the Baptism is over and the family has gone home, the Devil returns and gives CPR to him...

Most of us see Baptism as this beautiful ritual we do in the Church for cute babies. I wonder how many moms and dads would bring their cutie pies to the font if they knew they were going to kill their little bundle of joy in the water of Baptism... Thanks be to God the death isn't the forever kind. The death we

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  - Please be seated

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experience at the font is a death of our old sinful self and a rising out of the water as a new creature, a child of God, infused with God's own Holy Spirit. Saint Paul put it this way when he wrote to the Church in Rome, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Baptism changes everything for us. We are not the same people after we're Baptized.

Once there was a Lutheran Pastor who served a Church in Eastern Tennessee. As you might know that region is the heart of the Bible Belt and almost exclusively Baptist. Now our Baptist brothers and sisters in Christ, believe that total immersion under the water is the only way for a Baptism to be effective. In that area of the country, even the dogs and cats are Baptist... So, one day a very tall, nearly six foot tall woman came to this Lutheran Pastor asking to be Baptized and to join the Lutheran Church. She told the Pastor that she wanted to be Baptized "all the way," meaning she wanted no part of sprinkling water over her forehead, she wanted total immersion. So, the Pastor agreed and they met at the river in mid-July. At that time of the year the river was at it's lowest and as I said,

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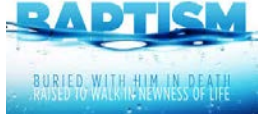
this woman was very tall. Now, add to her height the fact that she had long hair all



piled up on top of her hair.

(SLIDE) Think Marge Simpson...

(SLIDE) So the Pastor began the Baptism and as he



lowered her into the river she reacted to the cold water by lifting

the back of her head. When she did this her beehive hair stayed out of the water.

The Pastor was already heading to the riverbank when she called him back. She

said her hair was still dry and she wanted to be Baptized all over. So, the Pastor

redid the Baptism. When she was being dunked the second time she reacted in the

same way. So, they had to redo the Baptism a third time. This time the pastor put

his hand on her forehead and pushed her, hair and all under the water. She was

finally fully Baptized from head to toe. The congregation gathered on the

riverbank thought this was pretty funny and were all laughing about how it took

three times to get her done. I thought this was an interesting story because most of

us want to keep some part of ourselves out of the Baptismal waters. For some it's

our money. We don't want to give up control of our wallets or purses. For some

it's bad habits or our moral superiority. We all have something we hope stayed dry

when we were Baptized. What are you holding back from the Baptismal waters?



The witnesses of Jesus Christ tell us Jesus held nothing back. He gave all for you and for me...



**(SLIDE)** Another Baptismal story comes from the country of Tanzania, in Africa. The custom over there is such that when the tribal leader decides to do something, the rest of the tribe follows their leader. So, after many months or probably years of teaching and asking, finally the Tribal leader decided he wanted to be Baptized. After that, the rest of the village followed. They all gathered at the river and when it came time for a young boy to be Baptized he entered the river and the Pastor immersed him in the water. As he was coming out of the water, he yelled, “I’m alive! I’m alive!” When the missionary asked the boy what he was doing, he explained that when the missionary said people were “buried with Christ in the waters of baptism,” he thought people were actually killed through the process. This boy thought he was literally going to be killed, yet he went along with the Baptism anyway... When I first heard this story I chuckled to myself until I realized how haunting the scene really was. Then I wondered how many of us would have wanted to be Baptized if we really thought we would die in the process...



**(SLIDE)** Jesus certainly did not need baptism. He did it to show us the attitude of obedience, faith and willingness God

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desires for us. Jesus got baptized to identify with us, whom he came to save. It might come as a surprise to some of you, but Baptism didn't start with John the Baptist. It actually began as a purification ritual for Gentile converts to Judaism. It symbolized the cleansing of past sins and the rising of a new person of the Jewish faith. When we visited the Holy Land several years ago we saw many



Mikvehs or Jewish baptismal fonts. (SLIDE) Here's what they look like...

Jesus certainly did not need to have any sins forgiven. So why was he Baptized? He did it to fulfill God's promise of redemption for all those who enter the waters of baptism with him. Through the waters of baptism, we are so united with Jesus the Christ, that we share in his righteousness; we share in his death, and we share in the glory of His resurrection. Clearly, Jesus did not enter the waters of John's baptism for his own redemption, but to so identify with us, that we might come to know him, and through his submission to the will of God, receive the grace of God for our own redemption. The Baptism of Jesus was different in one important way from every other baptism performed by John.



(SLIDE) Our Scripture says when Jesus was coming out of the water the Holy Spirit, like a dove rested on him and God

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spoke from heaven. In Jesus' Baptism the Holy Spirit took over and God's will was made known. This is my Son, the one I love!

Luther often proclaimed that as Christians, we should always remember our baptism, in the sense of daily dying to self, and rising to do the will of God – daily repenting of our sins, and seeking God's forgiveness – and so we should. Every time we remember our own Baptism we are reassured of the grace and presence of God in our lives, as we face whatever comes our way. Our baptism assures us that Christ identifies with us and walks with us on our life's journey. Some of us make the sign of the cross several times during worship. Others think that's too Catholic and don't. Your salvation is assured either way, but I want to tell you why I make the sign of the cross every time I think of it. It's a remembrance of my Baptism. It's a reminder to myself that I am Baptized and I'm walking still wet all over from the experience of being named and claimed by God to be God's child.



**(SLIDE)** May you walk wet from the waters of your own Baptism. May every part of your life be drowned and raised to live with and for the Lord Jesus Christ. May your Baptism be the rock you cling to when the world rains liquid do-do on you and keep you from giving in to temptation or giving up on life. May you rise each day, like that young boy in

Tanzania shouting to the mountain tops, I'm Alive! I'm Alive! Thanks be to God we are alive! Amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**            “Welcome to Our World”            **Larry Harter**

\* **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.*

\* **INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

**P:** The following persons have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. Please stand where you are as your Office and Name is read.

**TRINITY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL AND ELECTED DELEGATES**

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TERM</b>
President (1 yr term)	Dean Thompson	Appointed
Vice President (1 yr term)	Mark Oswalt	1/1/23—12/31/23
Recording Sec (3 yr term)	Bev Erdmann	1/1/21—12/31/23
General Treasurer	Tony Baker	1/1/21—12/31/23
Elder (2 yr term)	Jake Angles	1/1/22—12/31/23
	Marge Warner	1/1/23—12/31/24
Trustee (3 yr term)	Eldon Erdmann	1/1/21—12/31/23
	Steve Kossler	1/1/22—12/31/24

\* Please stand if able

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	Brad Harleman	1/1/23—12/31/25
Deacon (2 yr term)	Kathy Kathman	1/1/22—12/31/23
	Dave Warner	1/1/22—12/31/23
	Teresa Neitzelt	1/1/23—12/31/24
	Roxanne Groff	1/1/23—12/31/24
Build Fund Treas (3 yr term)	Andy McKibben	1/1/22—12/31/24
Fin Sec (3 yr term)	Linda Baker	1/1/21—12/31/23
Ben Treas (3 yr term)	Diane Warner	1/1/23—12/31/25
Nom Com (1 yr term)	Teresa Neitzelt	1/1/23—12/31/23
	Kathy Kathman	1/1/23—12/31/23
Child-Yth-Fam Min (2 yr term)	PJ Musser	1/1/23—12/31/23
<b><i>Delegates:</i></b>		
Southern Ohio Synod (1 yr trm)	Mark & Pam Oswalt	1/1/23—12/31/23
Graceworks (1 yr term)	Teresea Neitzelt	1/1/23—12/31/23
	Kathy Kathman	1/1/23—12/31/23
Wernle Home Reps. (1 yr term)	Judy Ulrich	1/1/23—12/31/23
	Bev Erdmann	1/1/23—12/31/23
	Eldon Erdmann	1/1/23—12/31/23

P: In Holy Baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual ministries as a congregation. As each of you stand here to take leadership positions within this congregation, we remember the words of Saint Paul. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1Corinthians 12:4-7)

P: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that

\* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

*The minister addresses those being installed.*

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and to faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

**Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.**

*Those being installed face the congregation. The minister addresses the congregation:*

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**C: Yes, by the help of God.**

*Those being installed face the minister, who addresses them:*

P: I now declare you installed as *officers, council members, and delegates* of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

**C: Amen!**

**\* 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: Jesus, son of righteousness, you came preaching a message of love and baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Set our hearts alight that we might have a passion for your justice. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: In the waters of baptism, you claim us as your own. Keep us ever mindful of the sacred and life-giving waters on the earth, that we may protect and defend them. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Kindle the hearts of all leaders, that they might work diligently for the good of all whom they lead and serve. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

L: Pour your healing waters upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, *(especially)*. Restore to wholeness all who are in need. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

L: Remind us that there are some in our world who have not yet heard your word of love and forgiveness. Show us how we might reach those little ones so all may know you. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: With all the saints we celebrate Jesus' baptism, and the gifts his baptism bestows on the world. Merciful God,

**C: You hear our prayer.**

P: 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.**

**• OFFERING**

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

*While the congregation is still standing say:*

P: God, throughout generations you have sustained your people, providing us with all we need to survive and thrive. We offer now what we have so generously been given, our possessions and our very selves.

**C: Amen.**

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the tie that binds us together. 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 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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\* Please stand if able

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\* **SENDING HYMN “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” LBW 36**



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

\* **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	Larry Harter
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

**Health Tips for the Week**  
**Mind:** Learn a new word daily  
**Body:** Be sure to get an annual physical  
**Spirit:** Join a Bible study (online or in person)



Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>  
Matthew 4:1-17



### **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 8 thru January 15, 2023**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>Sun, January 8</b>	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	After Worship	New Member Class
<b>Wed, January 11</b>	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
<b>Thurs, January 12</b>	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
<b>Fri, January 13</b>	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
<b>Sun, January 15</b>	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	After Worship	New Member Class

**COMING EVENTS:**

**Ladies & Gents Luncheon** – Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at Double M Diner, rear of 537 S. Broadway, Greenville

**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**

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

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