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



# Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7 June 5, 2022



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• Prelude Roxanne Groff

- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Welcome Pastor 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 all,

C: Too often we focus on our differences and fail to lift up the ways that we are united. We judge others for what they cannot do, even while we cannot do it either. We separate ourselves and gather in cliques to the exclusion of many. Forgive us for all the ways we have failed to serve your faithful children. Teach us to do better, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

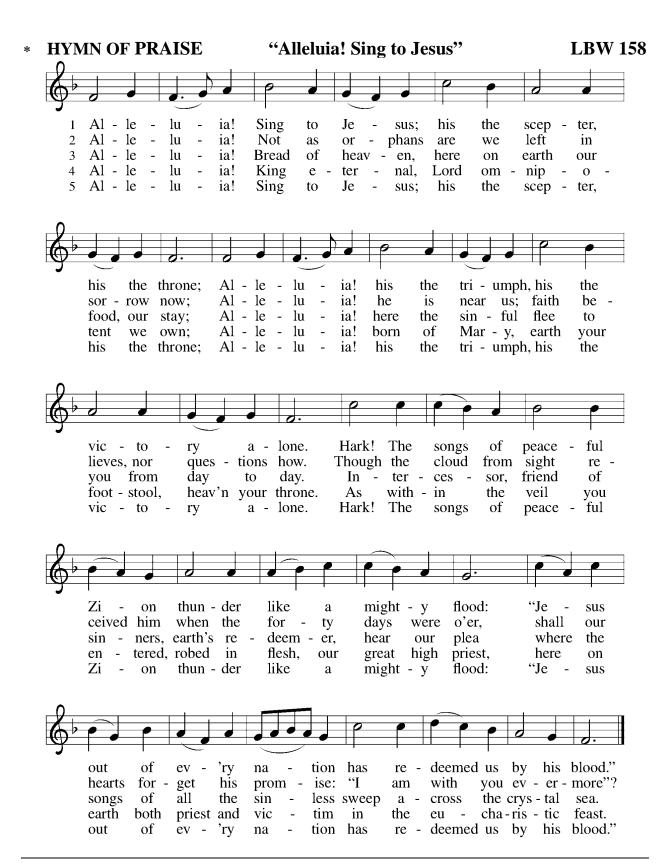
P: Our merciful God knows our weakness, but doesn't hold on to it. Receive this day the entire forgiveness of all your sins, and leave this place with a willingness and ability to love all of God's creation. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able

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\* Please stand if able

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### \* 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.

### \* KYRIE

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

### C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

# C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

# C: Lord have mercy.

A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

# C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... God of all wisdom, Paul knew how to sit with people in their own reality before bringing them along the journey of the story of Christ. Teach us to honor people's journeys with grace and respect.

### C: Amen.

\* Please stand if able June 5, 2022

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### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Theme**: Filled With the Holy Spirit

**Materials**: A Butane Lighter

**Scripture**: Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Good morning girls and boys, I'm so happy you're here today! Did you have a great week? I sure hope so...

Hold up a butane lighter, and create a flame. Who knows what this is? It's a lighter. Please don't play with one of these if you find one around your house or at a friend's house. These are only for adults... What can the flame on this lighter do? It can give light, and warmth, and maybe start another fire on a candle or in a campfire. What if I let go of this little button? The flame goes off... What it can do now. That's right, nothing!

The flame needs fuel and air to keep burning, and if it goes out then it is no good at all. On the Day of Pentecost, "Divided tongues, as of fire," appeared among the followers of Jesus, and "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:3-4). Can you tell me what the fuel was that kept those tongues of fire burning? It was the Holy Spirit of God. Those tongues of fire could give light to a dark world and warmth to people who need God's love. Did the followers of Jesus let themselves run out of Holy Spirit fuel? Of course they didn't! Those first Christians about 2000 years ago opened themselves to God's Spirit and then went out into the world with the light of God's truth and the warmth of God's love.

God wants to fill us Christians who are alive today with that same Holy Spirit that changed those first disciples from scaredy cats into people who were not afraid to tell everyone about the love of God found in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and our friend. Those first disciples even helped other people to "catch fire" and become Christians too. (*Click on your butane lighter*.) We can offer light and warmth in the same way today, if we keep drawing on the fuel of the Holy Spirit of God. That's one of the reasons we come back to Church every Sunday, so God can fill us up with the fuel of his Holy Spirit and then send us out to tell of God's wonderful love.

I love Pentecost Sunday Don't you? Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for the gift our your Holy Spirit. Lead us, guide us, and help us in every way to be your people. Amen.

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# • SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the book of Acts, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter. **C: Glory to you O Lord.** 

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

# (Philippians)

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made

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known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON Pastor Mel Musser
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who sends us

this gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

I learned to speak English as my primary language probably at the age of two or three like most other toddlers. I love trying to communicate with Emery. She has a really big vocabulary for a three year old. She really loves to act out the stories she has read to her or that she sees on videos. Right now, her current favorite is the three little pigs. We all act the story out then Emery changes the roles. She'll assign new parts and we go through the whole story again and again and again... What makes story time so much fun is when Emery reaches the limits of her vocabulary skills and goes into make it up mode... Most of the time we can figure out what she's trying to say, but there are other times when only she knows what she's saying. Since learning English, I've taken French in High School, German in College, and both Greek and Hebrew in Seminary. Although I passed every class with good grades I can't speak any of those languages. You see if you don't continue to use the language skills you'll lose them.

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Today's scripture isn't so much about speaking in a different language as it is about hearing in your own native tongue. The miracle of Christian Pentecost is that all those foreigners who were in Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks, which was a celebration of the first harvest, could hear God's Word in their own native language so they could hear and understand it. For many years I thought Pentecost was God's way of reversing what went wrong in the story of the Tower of Babel from the Book of Genesis... I was taught in Sunday School, God was putting things back the way they were before the languages got all confused. That's one way to look at what happened during the Feast of Weeks in Jerusalem all those years ago, but I believe there's a much better interpretation.

To understand what's really going on here you need to go all the way back to the beginning... When God made human beings he blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. They were to fill the entire face of the earth and stay in relationship with their creator and sustainer God. Things went terribly wrong when sin entered the world. Humans became disobedient and forgot where all their blessings came from. Rather than multiplying across the entire earth they began to build cities. Cities had walls and towers. These were to keep the inhabitants safe and separated from the rest of the world, out there... The Bible says the people decided to build a tower to the highest heavens in order to

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make a name for themselves. They wanted to be great and forgot all about the God who created and blessed them. Instead of scattering around the world they gathered inside their walled city and praised themselves for all they had accomplished, on their own, without God... God didn't confuse their single language to keep them from building because he was afraid of the competition if they became too godlike, he did it as a blessing, to give them the nudge they needed to move on out and fulfill the purpose for which they were created in the first place to spread God's name and praise all over the world. If you look around at our world you have to conclude that God loves diversity. I mean there are over 900,000 different species of insects alone and more discovered all the time. When God commanded humans to multiply and fill the earth the mission was to have as many different cultures and peoples as the earth would hold. We've turned God's blessing around when we fail to love the diverse peoples and cultures around us.

All this got me to wondering this week... What language does God speak? Some churches who still use the King James version of the Bible would say God speaks in the Olde English, of course. Do you know what language Jesus spoke? He didn't know English, that's almost for certain... Well, if seminary makes you take Hebrew and Greek you might think it would be a safe bet to say either one of those, but you'd be wrong... Jesus actually spoke the Aramaic language. There's

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only one or two passages in the New Testament that refer to Aramaic. In the Lord's Prayer when Jesus begins with the Our Father, that word for father is in Aramaic. The word Abba or Father, that's one of the few references in the Bible to the language of Jesus, but what about the language of God?

I don't have an easy answer for that one... God speaks in so many ways. I wish God would speak openly and plainly as He did with Moses through the burning bush or to Isaiah or any of the prophets. I've experienced God's guiding hand many times in my life, but those times are too few and too far apart. The more I think about it the more I have to thank God for not speaking all the time. God gives us a pretty wide birth to lead our own lives and exercise our own free will. It's during those times when I've had big decisions to make and when I faced a fork in the road that I looked for and prayed for God's word to fall afresh on me.

How do you understand when God speaks your name? His message, even in my expensive study Bibles is already translated from the Aramaic Jesus spoke to the Greek and Hebrew that was written down some 50 or more years after the events themselves actually took place and then into English. On this day of Pentecost God breathed into all the believers, God's Holy Spirit and the Christian Church was born. Unlike what I had thought most of my life, God did not simply reversed the effects of the story of the Tower of Babel. On that Pentecost day

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roughly 2000 years ago when the Holy Spirit came upon the church in Jerusalem each person heard God's word in their own native tongue. The Bible doesn't say all the languages became one single language, but rather that each heard his or her own native language. Then, after the Festival of Weeks had concluded, all those folks went back home, still speaking their own native languages. The effects of the Tower of Babel were not reversed, but God intervened in such a way that the Good News of Jesus Christ was spread in the fastest and most effective way possible for those ancient times and people. Since Saint Paul only went to the city of Rome at the end of his life, the Christian Church in Rome was most likely founded by one or a group of these Jewish people returning from the experience of Pentecost. Today we have devices that can translate language and speak the words in your own language through a tiny speaker in your ear as small as a hearing aid. If God wanted to announce something important today He might use television sets equipped with closed captioning so you can at least read the words in your own language... Seems we humans never stopped trying to build that tower of Babel...

As human beings our natural tendency is to live life in fear. We tend to build walls around ourselves. We like to gather with people who speak our own language and are safe, and we want to keep everyone else out. We also tend to be self-serving and forget that God is the giver of life and it is God's name that is to

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be praised, not ours. Pentecost reminds us God's mission moves in the opposite direction. God is the giver of life and has created all things, and continues to create and sustain all things. The mission of God is not to get everyone to look and act exactly the same, but is to help us remember it is God's name that gets the glory, not our own. God calls us out of our self-serving and fearful ways into a life of generosity and trust in God, through Jesus, and in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

I'm still beating about the bush on this question of what language God speaks... Gary Chapman, famous for writing the book the 5 Love Languages recognized there are basically 5 ways humans relate to each other. He calls them the 5 love languages. If you want to be understood by your spouse or significant other person in your life, then you need to know their love language and how to speak so they understand. The five languages are Words of affirmation, Quality time, Physical touch, Acts of service, and Receiving gifts. If you want to enrich your relationship with your spouse or significant other. learn what love language they speak and communicate with them in their native love language. We know that God is love, and as much as I appreciate the concept of these five love languages, I don't think God speaks in any one of these.

What language does God speak? God speaks every language. God is with us, in every culture, and the mission is to bring every culture to call on God's

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name, in their own language, so that God can get the glory of the entire earth. AS different as we all are, we are united by one thing, our dependency on God. God is with us. God gathers us in this place around the body and blood of the crucified and risen Jesus, so that we can be scattered into the world to bring glory to God's name among all people.

May we be people gathered by the calling of the Holy Spirit and fed with the Word of God, equipped with God's forgiveness and grace and then sent back out into the world that so desperately needs to know God's love. May we break down the walls of fear and scarcity so God's name is truly praised and Honor is given to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

### \* NICENE CREED

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

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

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

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

Or. He descended to the dead.

### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

# A brief silence.

L: Gracious God, on the day of Pentecost, each one heard your word in a language they could understand. May we not be obstacles between your word being proclaimed and received by those hungry for it. Transforming Spirit,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: The giving of the Holy Spirit is a cosmic event, encompassing not only all people, but the whole universe you have made. Give us a vision as wide as we can handle, that we never set our sights too small in carrying out the work of your kingdom. Transforming Spirit,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: As the church celebrates its birthday, we give thanks for our worshipping community, for all the blessings we receive from it, and all the ways we can contribute to it. Strengthen congregations, their leaders, synods, church bodies, and all whose primary work is to magnify your name in all the earth. Transforming Spirit,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: Spirit of life, pour out your healing upon each and every one of us, those with visible and invisible ailments, and those too afraid to ask for help. We ask a special blessing upon... Transforming Spirit,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: For saints of all tongues, tribes, and traditions, we thank you. For every challenge and every joy that lies ahead, we bring our gratitude and ask your protective power. Make us one, O God, as only you can. Transforming Spirit,

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# C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Into your hands we now commend all these things for which we pray, as we know with confidence that we can trust in you, Lord God, lover of our souls.

### C: Amen.

### \* OFFERING PRAYER

# While the congregation is still standing say:

- P: You may place your offerings in the Offering plates provided at the back of the Sanctuary. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church. For those worshipping online if you go tour website, www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.
- P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Holy Lord, we bring before you the best of what we have to offer. We recognize the needs of others and we desire to make your world work for good. Accept these gifts that we offer to the rich diversity of your earthly community and use them to unite, rather than divide us. For Jesus' sake we pray.

### C: Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- \* DIALOGUE
- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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### \* 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; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, on this day, as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### \* THE SANCTUS

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love: with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to 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

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### \* 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: With the church that gathers in every corner of the world, we share this holy meal together. Though our tables are many, our host is the same—Jesus Christ, our Lord. As you call your children for dinner, gather us now to be fed, nourished, and blessed, so that we may be inspired to continue your work. Come, this global table is prepared for you.

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of The Body of Christ, Given For You.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of The Blood of Christ, Shed For You.

The communicant may say: Amen.

### \* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever,

C: Amen.

### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

## C: Amen

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

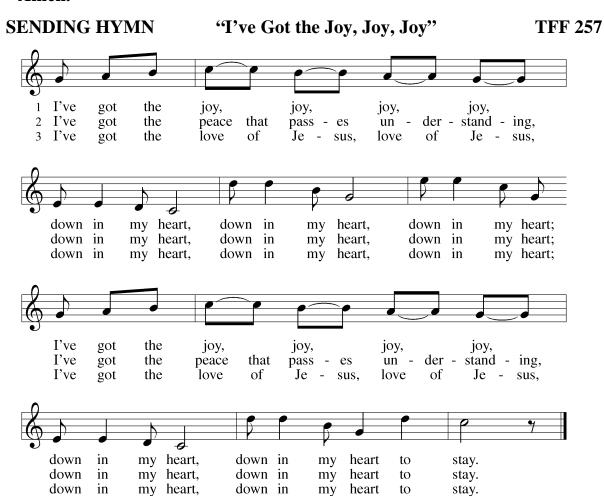
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### \* SENDING BLESSING

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless you now and forever.

### C: Amen.



### \* 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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# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES HAVE CHANGED! The new dates are Tuesday, July 19 and Thursday, July 21 – 6:00-8:15 pm.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff** 

|                        | Tibbibiditib difa bulli   |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ministers              | All the People of Trinity |
| Organist               | Roxanne Groff             |
| Lector                 | Teresa Neitzelt           |
| Acolyte                |                           |
| Parrish Nurse          | PJ Musser                 |
| Custodian              | Mark Groff                |
| Secretary              | Sharon Fourman            |
| Facebook Live Recorder | PJ Musser                 |
| Altar Flowers          |                           |

# **Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** Try an online exercise class MIND: Play a game of Trivia

**SPIRIT:** Read your Bible while still in bed

# 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.

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# This Week @ Trinity – June 5 thru June 12, 2022

Wed, June 8 **Confirmation Class** 6:30 pm

Prayers & Squares Quilting Thurs, June 9 10:00 am

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry Fri, June 10

Sun, June 12 10:30 am Worship Service

# 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.

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

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Trinity Info

| Office Phone: | 937-692-5670        |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Website:      | www.pitsburgtlc.org |

Contact

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