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



# Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 February 5, 2023



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

### GATHERING

- Prelude
- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Welcome

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

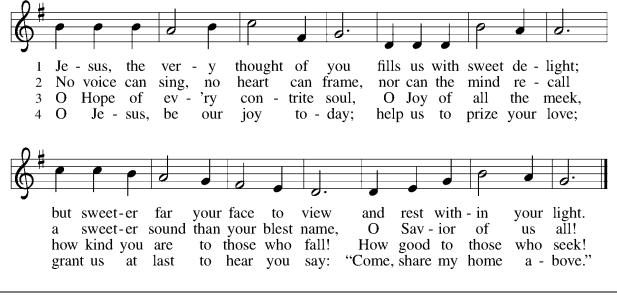
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

### Jesus, The Very Thought Of You LBW 316



\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

**Roxanne Groff** 

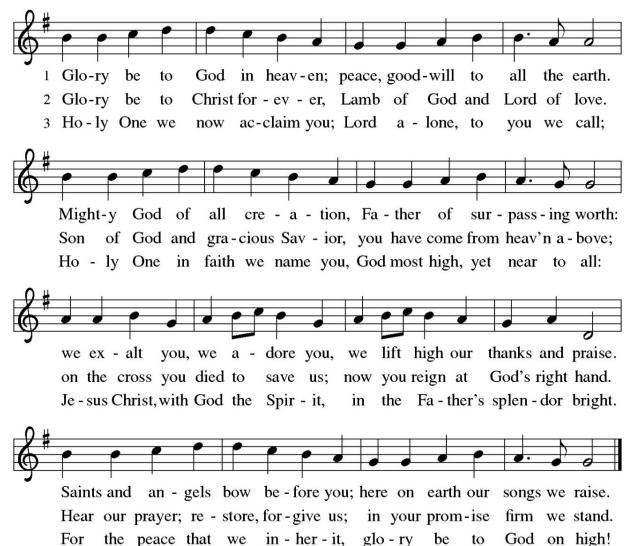
Pr Mel Musser

#### \* 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.



#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE



#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us pray... Righteous God, judgment belongs to you alone. Make us aware of our own limitations that we may act with compassion toward those who differ from us. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

### C: Amen.

#### \* Please stand if able

### • CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Theme**: The Golden Rule

**Scripture**: Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

**Object**: Song, "The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see you today! I hope you all had a great week... I've got a short video to play this morning. You might already know the song in this video. If you do, please sing along. Same for you adults out there. If you know the song and the motions please help us out and sing along... (Play Video...)

That was really fun. You know that song has a pretty good message for us to remember. We can be like the wise man if we build our lives on Jesus. How do we do that? Any ideas? We can build our lives on the Lord Jesus if we study what Jesus did and what he said and what he taught. For example, Jesus said to do to others as we would want them to do to us... When someone hurts you would Jesus say we should hurt them back of something else? We sometimes want to hurt them back, but Jesus says we should forgive them and do good to them... When we do that we're starting to build our house or our lives on the teachings of Jesus.

This week when you're at school or our on the playground or even at home with your brothers and sisters and moms and dads, try treating all of them like you would want them to treat you. Instead of eating the last cookie, maybe you could share it. Instead of insisting on playing the game you want to play, try asking others what they might want to play and then playing with them just like it was your idea in the first place...

There are lots of other ways we can build our lives on the teachings of our Savior Jesus. One of the ways we can do that is by praying.

So, let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us the Golden Rule. Help us to live our lives following your example and doing to others as we would want them to do to us. Thank you Jesus for being the rock we stand on when the rains come pouring down. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

<sup>•</sup> Please be seated

# • SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

# C: Glory to you O Lord.

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye. <sup>6</sup>"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

<sup>7</sup>"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

<sup>12</sup>"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. <sup>13</sup>"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. <sup>24</sup>"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" <sup>28</sup>Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

### \* Please stand if able

#### • SERMON

#### Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Rock in which we build our lives, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, amen.

A Rabbi and a Soap Maker went for a walk one day at the park and studied the people who had come out to enjoy the warm summer day. After going about a mile along the path the soap maker suddenly turned to the Rabbi and said to him, "Rabbi, what good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery that exists in the world! There is still such sin and sadness, even after so many years of teaching and preaching about goodness and truth and peace. If religion is good and true, why should this be?" The Rabbi said nothing. They continued walking until the Rabbi happened to see a child playing in the dirt. The Rabbi said to the soap maker, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on that boy. What good is soap? With all the soap in the world, over all these years, even with all the soap ads on TV and doctors telling us to kill germs with soap, that child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is after all!" The soap maker protested and exclaimed to the Rabbi; 'But Rabbi soap can't do anything unless it is used." With a nod the Rabbi said; "Exactly."

Our scripture for today clearly says there's action inextricably tied to our faith. The book of James tells us that faith without works is dead. The soap of our

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

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faith must be put to use in order for it to be relevant in our lives. I would add that the more we use our faith in action to trust Jesus and to serve our neighbors, the more relevant it becomes. This is a very difficult concept for us Lutherans to appreciate. Many of us grew up hearing countless sermons berating the vices of work-righteousness. I've given more than a few of those sermons myself... Martin Luther and other 16th century reformers protested mightily against a faith that was not really faith, but self-achievement trying to please or appease an angry God and avoid God's wrath with our good works and demonstrations to God of just how good and righteous we really are... The reformers were right in their fears concerning works-righteousness, but the end result today may be that we have forgotten that faith does have an "action" component. Faith requires "doing" on our part, not to please God, but in response to what God has already done for us. Faith and good works are like two sides of the same coin.

Our faith, which is the same as our trust in God's Word, is the foundation on which we build our lives. We all have faith or trust in something. Many of us put our trust in our bank accounts or our 401Ks. We struggle and save for that rainy day putting our faith in the almighty... dollar. What happens when the stock market plummets or inflation eats away at that savings? Trusting in our ability to accumulate, and then keep a large nest egg is like the foolish man building his

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

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house on the sand... Jesus calls us to return to God and God's Word as the place where we put our faith and our trust. On the foundation of Faith in God's promises we can withstand the hurricanes that blow through our lives.

Florida is known as the Sunshine State. Lots of people are fleeing northern states and moving to Florida. They do have lot's of sunshine, but also no state income taxes and other state laws and regulations that appeal to lot's of folks. I do like the sun, but there's too many bugs and hurricanes there for me... Yes... There's the matter of all those hurricanes... After one recent hurricane a reporter was talking to a man whose house was the only one left standing in the entire neighborhood. The reporter asked the owner of the house why his home was still standing amid all the destruction around. The man answered that he had built the house himself and had followed all the building codes for the state of Florida to the letter. If the code said to use 2 X 6 roof joists, that's exactly what he did. The result of following the Florida building code's rules was that his house stood firm against the worst forces mother nature could blow his way. It's a literal example of the Children's song we heard earlier.

We've been slowly reading our way through Matthew's version of the Sermon on the Mount for the past few weeks. Jesus began with some illustrations of what a life built on the foundation of Jesus's love and Jesus' righteousness looks

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

<sup>•</sup> Please be seated

like. We call that part of his sermon, The Beatitudes. Then we heard Jesus teaching His followers how to pray and He invited them to build up treasures in heaven rather than here on earth. Today Jesus gives us more practical advice on how to live under the reign of God here on earth. It all begins with the foundation of faith, but it doesn't stop there.

All of us have storms that periodically blow through our lives. I know some of you are dealing with health concerns. Others are caregivers for the ones we love. Still others have recently lost ones we love. Some of us have been adversely affected by the poor economy and still others are in abusive and degrading relationships and have no idea how to either move on or improve their situations. The metaphor of building a house on the rock solid foundation applies to our lives and every situation of our lives. If faith or trusting the promises of God are the foundation, then our serving and our worshipping are the bricks that make up the rest of the house. They are the constant fortifications that continue to keep the hurricane winds and rains at bay.

Unfortunately, there are many people who love going to Church and enjoy meeting fellow Christians. They love to sing familiar hymns and read Christian literature, but they don't associate what they are doing and saying with what is happening in their life. The Words of Christ do not penetrate to the point of

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

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making a difference in the way they live their lives. In my life I seem to fluctuate between trying to live out my faith and doing my own thing... When things seem to be going along fairly smoothly, I just go through the motions of faith. I don't really think too much about what I'm doing or how I'm living that faith in daily life. Then something happens as it did this past week where out of the blue tragedy strikes and I'm sort of shocked back to the rock of my faith. If it weren't for that foundation I'm not sure how I, or any of us, can stand up to the junk the world or the devil or just the forces of evil throw against us. When everything we love is stripped away, what's left for you? For me it's a strong trust that God is still in control and Jesus' work has done it's job well and completely, and that the Holy Spirit not only comforts me, but also calls me back to the loving arms of the God who loves me and gave everything for me... For me at least, that's how trusting in the promises of God and resting on the righteousness of Jesus and not my own forms the basis for living.

May our Father, the God of creation, may the only begotten Son, the God of our salvation, and the Holy Spirit, the God of our continued sanctification keep you in His loving care and be the foundation you build you life on. When the storms come, and they will, if they haven't already, may that same God comfort you and assure you that your ultimate fate is not in question because the entire price of your

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

<sup>•</sup> Please be seated

salvation has already been paid on the cross by our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the

Golden rule guide your life as you continue to build your life on the solid rock of

Jesus' love and his righteousness. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

### \* APOSTLES' CREED

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

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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 grace and mercy, make us wise that we would build our houses on the sure foundation of your word. Open our ears to hear your truth, so that we might endure when the storms come. Merciful God,

### C: You hear our prayer.

L: You call us to do to others as we would have them do to us. Remind us that your creation nurtures and sustains us, and that we cannot survive without it, so that we, in turn, might nurture and sustain creation, for the flourishing of all. Merciful God,

### C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make our leaders slow to judge based on their own preconceived notions. Give them open minds and hearts, and ears to listen, so that equitable solutions might

\* Please stand if able

be found to challenging issues. Merciful God,

# C: You hear our prayer.

L: Jesus tells us to ask, and it will be given to us. Today we ask for healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, in our community and the world, *(especially)...* Merciful God,

# C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with thanksgiving all the saints who imparted your wisdom to us throughout history. May we take their lessons to heart until the time we see them face to face. Merciful God,

# 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. Amen.

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

# \* 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.

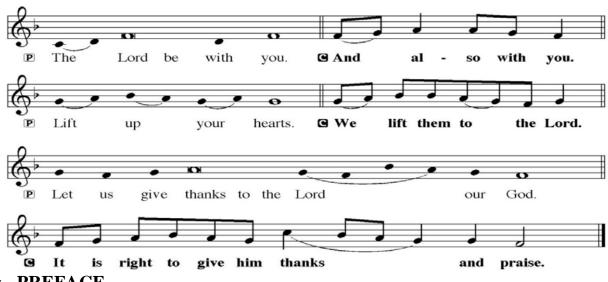
# C: Amen.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Communion is at the rail. All the Baptized are welcome at this Holy Meal.

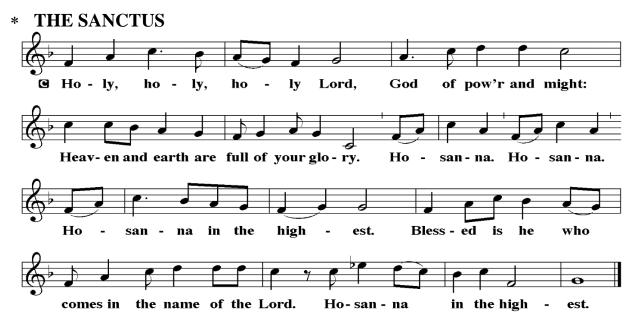
# \* **DIALOGUE**

\* Please stand if able



### \* PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your
- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.
- Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C: Amen.

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: 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.

### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God, our holy parent, gives us only good gifts, that we might grow in spirit. Here at this table we receive the best gift of all, Jesus' body and blood poured out in love for all creation. Come share in this holy gift.

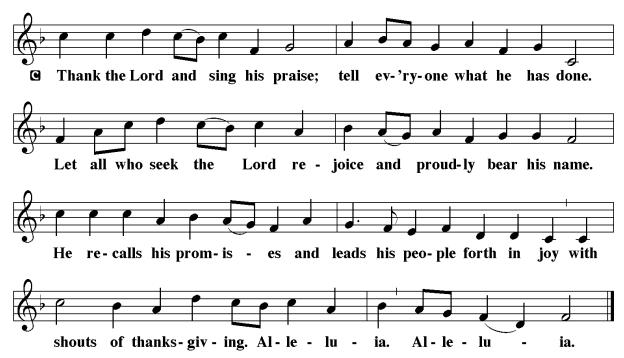
### • COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is at the railing. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say:* **Amen.** 

- \* Please stand if able
- Please be seated

### \* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



### \* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C: Amen
- \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

| se stand | if       | able        |
|----------|----------|-------------|
|          | se stand | se stand if |

- P: Let us pray... God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: Amen.

### SENDING

### • ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* SENDING BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace... +

### C: Amen.

\* SENDING HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" LBW 474

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär-nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en. From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them. un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth. his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

### \* 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!

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

### \* POSTLUDE

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| Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff |                           |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Ministers                            | All the People of Trinity |  |
| Organist                             | Roxanne Groff             |  |
| Lector                               |                           |  |
| Parrish Nurse                        | PJ Musser                 |  |
| Custodian                            | Mark Groff                |  |
| Secretary                            | Sharon Fourman            |  |
| Facebook Live Recorder               | PJ Musser                 |  |
| Altar Flowers                        |                           |  |

|        | Health Tips for the Week |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Mind   | Visit a museum           |
| Body   | Try doing Yoga           |
| Spirit | Meditate during Yoga     |
| U      |                          |



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:24-43



# <u>Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3</u>

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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* Please stand if able
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| DATE              | TIME          | EVENT                                    |
|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Sun, February 5   | 9:15 am       | Christian Conversations with Special     |
|                   |               | Guest Jodi Hesler (Coffee/Juice, Donuts, |
|                   |               | Ham & Egg Breakfast)                     |
|                   | 10:30 am      | Worship Service                          |
|                   | After Worship | Reception for Jodi                       |
| Wed, February 8   | 6:30 pm       | Confirmation Class                       |
| Thurs, February 9 | 10:00 am      | Prayers & Squares Quilting               |
| Fri, February 10  | 3:30 pm       | FISH Choice Food Pantry                  |
| Sun, February 12  | 9:15 am       | Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice    |
|                   |               | and Donuts)                              |
|                   | 10:30 am      | Worship Service                          |
|                   | After Worship | New Member Class                         |

This Week @ Trinity – January 8 thru January 15, 2023

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

### **Trinity Contact Info**

\* Please stand if able