

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



Revelation 21, 22  
August 1, 2021



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



- **Prelude**

**Beverly Zimmer**

- **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: Eternal Lord,

**C: We live in a world of anguish, and our sin only multiplies our suffering.**

**Our despair discourages others. Our hopelessness paralyzes us from carrying out your work in the world. We pray for mercy, for strength, and for our faith to be restored, knowing that all good things come from you. Amen.**

L: God will indeed make all things new. Our Creator knows, hears, and answers the cries of our hearts. Despair no more, for the One who comes in power also comes in love, and death has no dominion in the world to come. Receive our Lord's promise of pardon, renewal, and peace that knows no end.

**C: Amen.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LBW 315



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy  
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in  
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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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... Faithful God, when all has passed away, you remain. May our hearts be glad and our hope restored, that we might live each day to the praise of your glory. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C:** **Amen.**

**• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Theme:** God promises to make all things new.

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

**Object:** Pictures of Home Renovation Projects

Hi everyone, I'm so happy to see you this morning! Did you know that God is making all things new? That's right! God is making everything, including you new each and every day. Today I want to talk about how God does that, making all things new...

Have you ever see an old broken down house that really needed lot's of repairs, or maybe you think it's so old and broken nobody could fix it and make it look as good as new ever again. Well, up on the wall I have a picture of a house

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\* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

that looks in pretty bad shape. Look at the paint, the old car in the lawn and the bad roof. Even this silly doorway.

Well now look at what they've done to the outside of this house! It looks great with new paint and a new roof. They got rid of that old car and that weird doorway. They replaced some things and even add a little something like this patio and these patio doors right here.

You know when God says He will make all things new, God doesn't just throw on a new coat of paint and call it new. God work on our insides too. These pictures are from the same house I showed you on the outside. Well, here's just a couple of pictures of what this remodeler did on the inside... I think you can see the vast improvement. It literally is like a brand new house.

That's how God works on us too. Very slowly, over many years, God slowly removes all the badly broken stuff in our lives too. He takes all our sins and removes them and replaces the space they took up with his love. Over time we become less sinful and more like God. God fills us with so much love that we can freely share it with our friends and family because we know there's lots more of God's love coming to us every day than we could ever give away.

Let's offer God our Prayers... Dear God, we love you and we thank you for your promise to make all things new. Help us to be your helpers by sharing the love you've given to us with everyone we know. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Revelation, Chapters 21 & 22.

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

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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\* Please stand if able

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**22** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 Alpha and the Omega, Our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Have you ever read a really good book that you never wanted to end? As you approach the ending you almost dread turning the pages because you know the ending is just around the corner. That's how I feel every time I read the Book of Revelation. With every page there's a new surprise. Last week we read about the two great beasts that were sent from the dragon to wreak havoc on humanity. In the parts we skipped over, there was a great build up to the final war, the Armageddon. After all the parts we skipped we landed today in the final 2 chapters, and we get a glimpse into the aftermath of what happens after a properly executed celestial war. By the way, the lectionary probably skipped over Armageddon because it turns out to be a big nothing burger. There are no

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\* Please stand if able

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Blackhawk helicopters, no F-32s, no stealth bombers. There's no swords or guns at all. There were no verses describing people being left behind to face the evil devil alone... In fact, the only weapon even mentioned is the Word of God. At the mere mention of God's Word both beasts are thrown into the Lake of Fire and the Dragon, who is the Devil himself, is bound and thrown into the bottomless abyss. So, like I said, a big nothing burger in terms of John's vision. Much more important for John, is his vision for what comes afterward, and it is marvels-- beyond human capability to comprehend.

The new heaven and the new earth coming down out of heaven. It's the perfect place for God's children. In order to interpret all the images John uses to describe this New Jerusalem, I would have to be an Old Testament Bible Scholar, which I am not... I do have an imagination and I'm not afraid to use it though...

The biggest revelation that struck me like a bolt out of the blue was when I realized chapters 21 and 22 aren't describing a time when everything as we know it will end. There are precious few times in the entire Bible when God speaks directly, like on the mountain top transfiguration of Jesus. So, when God speaks, we should pay attention... In the text for today God said, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." For some reason, as I read those words this week, I realized God is in fact the end of all things. When we get to that time, God

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will be all and in all. PERIOD. That's right my dear friends, God will be your neighbor and maybe even more intimate than your neighbor, God will be in you and around you, so close that there won't be any need for the sun or moon for light. God will be all around in all and throughout every atomic particle, God will be within everything. In John's vision, the imagery of the walls of the new city of God are made of every kind of jewel, but the jewels mentioned were all Old Testament images that referred to God's glory. So, if I can venture to interpret, this means the walls are made out of the Glory of God. God's own Glory protects the New Jerusalem, and that same Glory serves to light the city as well...

If God can be taken at His Word, and God really is the End, then these last 2 Chapters are actually describing God. It's too marvelous for words to describe. I mean a city where the streets are made of Gold, but not just your average, ordinary gold. No, the streets of Heaven are paved with gold that's as clear as glass. Wait! What? How can gold be clear as glass? All I can say is that is some pretty well refined gold with no impurities, at all...

Since it's really hard, no, impossible to describe what God is like in human terms, John sprinkles in some things that God is not. There is no sea. Where did the sea go and why? Well in traditional Jewish interpretations, the sea was always the source of chaos and evil. So, if all evil has been cast out, then the seas would

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serve no purpose and of course be eliminated... Evil, even as a potential disturber of creation, will have been irrevocably overcome. There will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain. In one phrase John sums up all human frailties when he says, “the former things have passed away.” God says, “See. I am making all things new!” Here the Almighty himself promises all that now robs life from being fulfilled, joyful, vibrant life will be absent from the final reality to which God is leading history.

I want to spend a short moment thinking about how the Book of Revelation itself refutes this whole false doctrine of the Rapture. Did you notice that the New Heaven and the New Earth come down here? The New Jerusalem comes to earth. There’s no mention of all the good Christians going elsewhere. God is headed our way folks. God is in the renovation business. He says so himself, “See, I am making all things new.” He never said, “See, I am making all new things...” All things will be made new. I believe all means all. All our relationships, all our rusted out old cars, even this old broken body will be made new. All means all. If so, then every person will be made new and acceptable to God. That doesn’t mean we should accept criminals or criminal behavior. Yet, I refuse to limit God and believe God can find the good, even in hardened criminals, and maybe even lying politicians, which means all of them... I think about the image of God separating

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out the wheat from the chaff. Both grow on the same plant, yet when you thrash the plant, you can separate out the good wheat germ from the disposable chaff. I think God can do that with humans as well. When we go to God's city we too will be well refined like the see-through gold used to pave the roads. All the evil will be thrashed out of us as well and as a result, there won't be any sinners or sin in the New Jerusalem. The vision of God all the way back in chapter 4 is fulfilled: God is the creator. Yet the one who does not quench a smoking wick or break a bruised reed as it says in Isaiah 42:3 and Matthew 12:20 does not junk you, me, this planet, or any part of the cosmos and start all over—he renews the old and brings it to fulfillment. God makes ALL THINGS new! And that's really good news for all of us sinners!

John affirms this world and its value and thus pictures eternal salvation as the salvation of the world and of history itself. Salvation does not, according to John, offer escape from the tragedy of historical existence. On the contrary, our history, complete with all the pain and suffering we've inflicted upon the earth and each other will be redeemed, reconciled, and renewed. So, what does all that mean for us? Well for one thing, it means the good we do here on earth really does have significance. We are part of God's plan of salvation and rehabilitation of this part of the cosmos. I don't care what your stance is on man-made global climate

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\* Please stand if able  
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change, all of us can agree that humans have scarred this planet with our strip mines and nuclear waste and many forms of pollution. On the other hand, we can each play a part in the restoration of the earth and in the reconciliation of one another through our good works and through our acts of forgiveness of one another. That's called being good stewards of everything we have. We can do that in every aspect of our lives! Any excess money we have, has been given to us in order to be a blessing to others who have far less than we do. When we care for one another through the good times and through life's messes, that's when we're assisting God in bringing about this new heaven, right here on earth.

The whole Bible, in a round about fashion, has been heading toward this conclusion, we call the Book of Revelation. It's not a time to fear, but to embrace. Every time we join in to help fund a missionary spreading God's Word, or help in bringing fresh drinking water to a village, or show the people in that remote village how to create and sustain a fish farm, or any of a myriad of other good works, you are helping God in this rehabilitation, reconciliation, and renewal project. May our Good Works help usher in the New Jerusalem by shining the light of God's Glory into every dark place on this planet. May you be blessed in this ministry of creation and renewal. May Jesus return quickly so all may know His Glory, amen.

*Silence may be kept for meditation...*

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- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- \* **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.**

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➤ *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: You are the beginning, and you are the end, O Lord. There is nothing outside of your presence, outside of your love, outside of your redemption. Embolden us with this proclamation, that in the midst of life's darkest days, there is a light of the promise that outlasts the deepest despair. Eternal God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: You are the ultimate healing of the nations, and you alone have the power to restore all things to yourself. May we find in this our true consolation, knowing that we do not have to wait until the end of time to know your surpassing love in the here and now. Eternal God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Labor bears fruit, the eventual rewards of honest efforts. May your benevolence be our model for life and society—that all would have a fair chance to enjoy the returns of their work and be able to share the plenty of the harvest. Eternal God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: There is no balm like the comfort of your presence. When we seek you, you are there, if only to remind us that you have never left. Bring a special word of healing to those we name before you today... Eternal God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

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\* Please stand if able

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L: Bless the families and friends of all who have lost their lives. As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America, remember the loved ones of those who lost their lives—not only on the day of 9/11, but also over the decades due to related illnesses. Protect all who served and who continue to serve for the safety and security of all. Eternal God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other petitions may be offered.*

L: Until that day when there is no more night, we bring our prayers to you, laying them at your feet and finding our rest in you, all-loving Creator.

**C: Amen.**

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

*While the congregation is still standing say:*

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

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... As the tree of life bears fruits of healing, so we bear fruit ripened by the sunshine of your love for us. Receive these gifts, offered in humility for the purpose of fulfilling your gracious will on earth.

**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.**

**\* 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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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\* Please stand if able

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**\* THE SANCTUS**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. 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, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

P: Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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: 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: Rejoice! God is our light, our hope, our comfort, our promise of all that is and is to come! What better reason for celebration? What better time than now to throw a feast? Come—the table is ready, and there is a place for us all.

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\* Please stand if able

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• **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.

C: **Amen.**

\* **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: **Amen**

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

\* **SENDING HYMN**

**“This Little Light of Mine”**

**ELW 677**

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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**\* 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**

**Beverly Zimmer**

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**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff**

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

**Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** Reduce red meat in your diet

**MIND:** Play cards

**SPIRIT:** Start a notebook of prayer concerns



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

\* Please stand if able

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## **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.

### **This Week @ Trinity – September 5 thru September 12, 2021**

**Sun, Sept. 5**            10:30 am    Worship Service  
**Mon, Sept. 6**            **LABOR DAY**  
**Wed, Sept. 8**            6:30 pm    Christian Education Team Meeting  
                                  6:30 pm    Confirmation Class  
**Thurs, Sept. 9**        10:00 am   Prayers & Squares Quilting  
**Fri, Sept. 10**        3:30 pm    FISH Choice Food Pantry  
**Sun, Sept. 12**        10:30 am    Worship Service

**Reservations are needed for the Ladies Luncheon** on Thursday, September 16 at Do Good Restaurant in Osgood, Ohio. Please call Linda Baker at 937-545-8410 no later than this Friday, September 10.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Trinity Fall Festival:** October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 pm

### **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
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Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	<a href="http://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a>

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- Please be seated