

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

Sermon Series on the Book of 2 Corinthians
Week 4
August 2, 2020



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- **Prelude** “Pass Me Not; I Must Tell Jesus; Jesus Loves Me;
I’ll Be A Sunbeam; Give of Your Best to the Master” **Roxanne Groff**

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome** **Pr Mel**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is The Feast”**

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **I** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **II** Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Ⅰ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Ⅱ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*** 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: Loving God,

C: When our path becomes difficult, we do not always turn to you. We look for an easy way out. We escape in avoidance and addiction. We forget your promises and seek what does not satisfy. Forgive us and bring us back into the strength of your Spirit.

P: God is generous and loving and forgiving. Hear and believe that your sins are washed away and that new life is yours through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*** 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: All-wise God, You long for us to look upon the world through the loving eyes of your Spirit. Help us to see as you do, giving ourselves where we are needed, for the sake of Jesus our Lord,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— ³if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we

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are away from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 in whom we put our faith, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Our theme for today is walking by faith. What is faith, and how does it shape your life? What does it mean to “Walk by faith and not by sight?” For the past couple hundred years, the power of faith has been reduced into nothing more than a head game. Faith has been coopted to mean little more than assent to a certain set of theological beliefs such as Jesus’ virgin birth, infant baptism, and the rapture - or Biblical stories that defy science such as a six day, 144 hour creation, Jonah being swallowed by a big fish, or when the sun stood still during an Israelite battle. My point is not to argue where these points are right or wrong. What I do want to stress is that if our faith is limited to defending a certain set of religious beliefs, then our faith is neither powerful nor is it life changing, and it’s not the faith Paul writes about to the Corinthians. Before we can talk about what faith is, we all must understand that it’s a gift that comes from God. God has revealed Himself to us through his mighty acts in the Bible and through His Son Jesus Christ whose resurrection gives us something to place our trust in. Without God’s mighty acts there would be no faith. There would be nothing to trust, no reason for hope. God gives us a reason to live our lives trusting in his promises because we’ve already seen the lengths God is willing to go in order to make his grace known to us. So, let’s talk about what faith means in practical terms.

Faith is first and foremost about trust. Paul writes in verse 6, “So we are always confident ...” I think we could also translate this as, “So we always trust ...” A key understanding of faith for Paul is that faith is trust -- trust in a loving God with whom we have a relationship. We trust God is at work in our world moving toward the further establishment of his kingdom. We trust God is moving in our lives in a positive rather than negative manner; in a loving rather than vengeful way. We trust God is caring for us, lovingly embracing us, and that God holds us in the palm of his hand. When we struggle with faith and trust, we become worried and anxious.

Faith is also about commitment. In verse 9 Paul writes, “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.” Faith is a radical centering on Christ--a commitment. We’re committed to live out God's will, so we seek to discern, to understand God's will and how we can carry it out in faithful obedience. Our relationship with God is at the center of our lives and we are devoted to that relationship. We are children of God and disciples of Christ first, above all else. Yes, that means above work, hobbies, vacations, even family. They all come in some order, after our relationship to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We live out this relationship and our commitment in our job, our family, and our

relationships with others. When we struggle with faith and commitment, we become self-centered and rebellious.

Our faith is also about vision. Paul writes in verse 14 that, “The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.” For Paul faith is a unique perspective, or vision, of life. It is popular to see God as vindictive, creation as bad, and evil as the dominate force in the world. Christians adopt a different perspective. We see God as loving, creation as good, and God's love and grace as the dominate forces in the world. With this perspective we become loving and accepting of all God's creation... With the possible exception of mosquitos and poison ivy... With this perspective we live our lives as people who have been blessed and who want to be a blessing. We seek to serve rather than be served. Hope, gratitude and celebration are characteristics of this perspective of faith. Hopelessness and despair are its opposites.

Our perspective with regard to our neighbor is seen through this vision. Instead of the neighbor being someone we're in competition with, like keeping up with the Jones's', we see our neighbor as someone to love. I'm going to use an example here that might not make me the most popular person in this gathering today. I'm going to talk about our use and wearing of masks, our social distancing, and use of hand sanitizer. What purpose do these actions have in our daily lives

and why should we follow these measures every day, including on Sunday? Do you try to follow them because they keep you safe? Do you rebel and not follow them because, after all this is a free country? Do you not follow them because you have “faith” God will keep you safe from the Covid virus? I used to think we were getting more Covid cases here in Ohio because more tests were being done. I thought the tests were readily available for just about any and everyone to take. Several days ago my eyes were opened to a different reality. Our daughter had a change in her work schedule that meant she and her husband had to work on the same day. They normally are able to schedule their days so one of them is always home with their six children. Since this happened, I agreed to watch the grandchildren for the day. Unfortunately, on the night before I was to babysit, our daughter called and said three of the kids had runny noses and slight fevers. She wanted to know if we were still ok with bringing them over for me to watch. It’s a good thing my wife took that call. I’m an old softy and would have said it was ok, but she just asked, “if it was the Covid and something bad happened to me or her, how would our daughter deal with it the rest of her life.” She called off work and tried to get her kids tested for the virus. It was not available... Luckily the kids got better the very next day and show no signs of any illness. My point is, this virus is still a threat, testing is still not readily available, and we should all continue

to keep our guard up. We wear our facemasks, keep our social distance of at least 6 feet apart, and continue to wash our hands and sanitize everything in sight, not to keep ourselves safe, but for our neighbor--for each other. We do it because our faith in God and in Jesus Christ informs our actions and we want to show our love of God by loving those whom God loves. We show our love for God by our actions towards all the others whom God loves. I can't give God a present, but I can help keep this world that God loves in pristine condition. I can't buy God a gift, but I can help those who hunger, are lonely, and those who are sick and in despair. It's all part of the vision of the world we gain through faith in Jesus.

Even though these concepts of faith; trust, commitment, and vision are as old as the Bible, they're still refreshing, powerful and new. They allow Paul to conclude this section of his letter with the declaration, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed; see, everything has become new!" Yes, in Christ you are a new creation. Because of our faith in Jesus Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin. Christ has set you free to be his representative right here in the middle of living your life. You don't have to be a missionary like the Cheeseman's, you have everything you need right here and right now. The first thing we can do is make sure we're treating each other right by moving our chairs to a safe 6 feet apart, wearing your masks when you're inside and can't stay 6 feet

apart, and remembering to sanitize all surfaces and use sanitizer all the time. It's what we do for others...

So, I'll ask again, what does walking by faith and not by sight mean to you? Is it merely agreeing with a certain set of religious ideas or blindly believing every word written in the Bible is literal and defending that belief despite massive scientific evidence to the contrary? I propose faith is something much more powerful and much more life transforming. Faith is placing your trust in a God who is steadfast and will never break a promise. Our God demonstrated His love for you by sending his only son to take your sin upon himself and wash you with his very blood. Walking by faith means we are fearless in the face of even death itself, because we know our redeemer lives. Walking by faith means we share the love God has already given to us with those whom God loves. Walking by faith isn't about coming to Church services every Sunday because it makes you feel good. It's coming to worship the God who created you out of nothing, who redeemed you from the devil, and who sustains you through all the trouble and toil of this world with His Holy Spirit. For me, it's about coming to the altar as often as I can to receive God's embrace, God's reassurance that I'm still the apple of His eye and His beloved Child. Lord knows there's plenty of times I get the opposite

message from this world. That's what walking by faith and not by sight means to me... What does it mean to you?

May you have the faith to take those steps of faith, knowing God is there walking right beside you. May your faith be powerful and life transforming giving you a vision of God's wonderful and beautiful and good creation. May your faith inspire you to even greater acts of love for one another and for all our neighbors, near and far. Amen

Silence for reflection may follow

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

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

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: You have given us the ministry of reconciliation, O God, that your children might know and live in your unifying Spirit. Help us to let go of past preoccupations, grudges and insults, and move forward in renewed relationships. You bid us to walk with you by faith and not by sight. Grant us the faith to see your will the trust to follow you, the commitment to stay with you, and the vision to see our lives and this world as you see us. Holy God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Be present with those who live in places where conflict and disease dominate the landscape. Give your Holy wisdom to leaders who must make tough decisions regarding opening of schools and businesses amid the growing threat of Covid-19. Protect children, unite families and grant safe refuge for all who need it. Holy God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In Christ all is made new. Bless the work of those who find ways of cleaning up a polluted planet and preserving the life which depends upon it. May we find

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our own restoration in caring for all you have made. Holy God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We sometimes become preoccupied by the complaints of our physical bodies and blind to the world outside of ourselves. Show us a better way of caring for these temporary temples, nourishing and using them in ways which honor you and maintain our health. Bless all those who struggle with particular challenges, especially... Holy God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We grieve those who are no longer with us, although we know they are safe and loved in your eternal home. Keep us united in spirit until that day when we shall see their faces again in your heavenly kingdom. Holy God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: We trust in your faithfulness, O God, to both hear our prayers and respond to them in the way which serves us and your world best. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus our savior.

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**

P: Make us ambassadors in your world, O God, and let these gifts we offer speak for us in response to your love and generosity. Join us with our brothers and sisters everywhere on earth, that all may know your mercy and care, in the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Communion is by Individual Serving. All the Baptized are welcome to celebrate this Holy Meal. Please open the Communion Elements only when instructed to do so.

* 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.

* 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: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", 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

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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: You have built for us a kingdom—not made with hands—which waits for us in the life beyond this one. Until we make our home in that place, we come together as your children to be nourished at your holy table. Unite our spirits in this bread and wine and keep us strong to serve another day. Amen.

P: Please open the Ziplock baggie and take the Body of Christ given for you at this time. ... Now, please remove the lid from the wine cup. We drink from this cup which is the Blood of Christ shed for you.

P: Please dispose of the empty cups and baggies in the trash can on your way out when you're dismissed after worship.

*** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray together...

C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through

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the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

- * **SENDING HYMN “I Love to Tell the Story”**



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo-ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ's Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

Postlude

“Stepping in the Light”

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Lector	N/A
Acolyte	N/A
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Greeters	Dean Thompson
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
FaceBook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Touch your toes

MIND: Clean out your car

SPIRIT: Donate to a charity



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 –August 2 thru August 9, 2020

Sun, August 2

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10:30 am Worship Service

Fri, August 7

3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, August 9

10:30 am Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 9th
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

HOLY COMMUNION TODAY

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We're making School Kits for Lutheran World Relief!

If you don't feel like doing the shopping, Linda Baker says she loves to shop (and Tony affirms how much she loves it 😊). Linda has offered and will be happy to accept any donations. She will purchase what is most needed to make the maximum number of school kits with what donations she receives. If you're like Linda and love to shop, here's the list that goes into a kit:

- 1 - Sturdy drawstring backpack style cloth bag— approximately 14" X 17", w/shoulder straps (handmade)
- 1 - Ruler—30 cm on one side (May have inches on the other side.)
- 1 - Box of Crayons (16 or 24)
- 5 - Unsharpened Pencils w/Erasers
- 1 - Pencil Sharpener
- 1 - 2 1/2" Eraser
- 1 - Pair Blunt Scissors
- 5 - Blue or Black Ball point Pens (No GEL pens)
- 4 - 70 Sheet College or Wide ruled Notebooks

