

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



Philippians 1:1-18a
May 22, 2022



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



- **Prelude**

Roxanne Groff

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

- **Welcome**

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: Forgiving God,

C: We spend so much of our time doubting you, doubting ourselves, failing to place our trust in you. Our lack of faith causes us to stumble, and when we fall we fall far. Forgive us our sin and lift us so that we can rise to the challenge of carrying out your mission. In Jesus' name we pray.

L: God is merciful and just. God offers forgiveness for all who ask it. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins and walk with the power of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

LBW 370



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of grace, Paul encouraged believers to have courage and live their truth. Grant us courage and a willingness to put you and others first.

C: **Amen.**

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Good Role Models

Materials: A Football, Baseball, Golf Club or any other sports equipment

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-18a

Good morning girls and boys! I hope you had a great week! I'm really happy to see you this morning.

I have some sports equipment here today. Do any of you play sports? What sports do you play?

Today I have a baseball and a golf club. If you want to become really good at these sports how would you do that? I think that beside doing a lot of practicing the best way to get really good at throwing a curve ball or perfecting your fastball or even getting better at hitting the ball with a golf club is to watch what other people who are champions in the sport do. You imitate what the really good players do and maybe with enough practice you can be just as good or maybe even better than they are...

We call these people role models because we learn from them how to get better. Did you know the same is true in other areas of life? We learn how to be better people by imitating the people we admire and who live their lives in faithfulness and trusting in God.

In our Bible story for today we have just that sort of person. His name was Saint Paul. He lived his life trusting God and our savior Jesus. Because he loved Jesus and trusted Jesus Saint Paul was courageous even when he faced terrible things like being ship wrecked and when he was put in prison just for telling people about Jesus. Paul started many Churches in the ancient world and he was the role model the first Christians looked to when they faced bad things in their lives too.

Who is your role model when it comes to learning about Jesus for you? Is it your mom or dad or your grandma or grampa? For me it was my mom and then later in life it was my wife PJ who inspires me and helps me to live a better life as I try to walk with Jesus. Of course, our best role model is Jesus himself. He spent his days loving everyone, even people most others didn't love...

I hope you have lots of people in your lives who help you live as Jesus would like us to live. Let's close with a prayer... dear God, thank you for all the wonderful role models and teachers you give to us. Help us to learn from them how to live our lives so that we can be more like Jesus. Amen!

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 1:1-18a**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from the Book of Philippians the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

¹²I want you to know, beloved that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. ¹⁵Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

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 unites us in His Gospel, Christ Jesus, Our Lord, amen.

Paul's letter to the Church in the Macedonian city of Philippi is one of my favorite books of the Bible. It was certainly Saint Paul's most joyful letters. The unbridled joy Paul has when thinking about the Saints in Philippi is perhaps a bit surprising since Paul says he's writing this letter from behind bars in prison. I certainly wish I had the ability to be so positive when the chips are down in my life... Scholars aren't quite certain exactly when this letter was penned, but if it was when Paul was in the prison in Ephesus, then it would have been about 54 to 55 AD. If it was when he was in prison in Rome it would have been perhaps 5 or 6 years later, so maybe around 59 to 60 AD. Paul had established the Church in the city of Philippi and this became the first church in Europe. It was located in modern day Greece. The city of Philippi was founded around 450 years BC by Philip II, Alexander the Great's father. It was later conquered by the Romans and converted into a Roman City, which is who ruled during the time of Paul.

When I read about the early Church I wonder how they survived. How'd they keep their faith alive when they see the missionaries and Apostles like Saint Paul thrown in prison and even killed. The church at Philippi was one of many

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new churches being established by Paul and other missionaries and Apostles. As a new church in a world that didn't like such a dramatic change, hearing stories of the missionaries' imprisonment, beatings, and even executions must have been terrifying. Even though their founder was in prison and his fate unknown, once you see the truth for yourself, you can't unsee it. So, how would they continue in the face of such trials? From prison, Paul wrote to the Philippians. He encouraged them in their work. He spoke with grace and courage, even as his own fate was all but cast in stone. He lifted them up and pointed to other models of leadership that were doing God's work boldly despite the danger. Paul's gift to the people was in the way he modeled grace under pressure with his words and his attitude. He maintained his composure and he continued the work, looking out for the Philippians even as his own life was in grave danger.

One of the best gifts we can give others is to model faith. Our words are empty if they are not backed by our actions. When I went on my Via de Cristo weekend, which is the Lutheran version of the Methodist Walk to Emmaus, I learned a catch phrase that simply says, as Christians we must not just talk the talk, but also walk the talk. Sometimes our words aren't even necessary if our actions speak our truth. Still, the more authentic and honest our words, the more impactful they will be. Modeling faith takes practice. Like anything else in life the more

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you try the better you get... With practice, living out our faith can become second nature. We can live our truth and others will be changed by what they see.

Over the years as a Pastor, I've had the privilege of sitting with several families as they wait for their loved one to pass. It's a sacred honor that I don't take lightly. One thing always stands out when I know the person is a Christian is they aren't afraid of death. They almost look forward to being released from this life to move on to the next. Christians don't cry out for more time or blame God for taking them. They have quiet confidence that their savior is waiting for them on the other side. Of all the times in our lives when the witness of the Christian is able to influence others, the time of our death is perhaps that one time when our actions really do speak louder than our words.

I'm not saying that our actions through out our lives are less important. The way we live our lives from Baptism onward show others what we believe and in whom we trust, but I think the way Christians react to and understand their mortality is the biggest example of how we can show grace under pressure, like Saint Paul did when he faced his uncertain future. He held close to his trust in Jesus Christ and even while being under the threat of execution, he was still concerned about the Church he started in Philippi. I can only imagine how his words must have encouraged that fledgling congregation as they watched in horror

as their founder was imprisoned and eventually put to death by beheading outside the city of Rome. They were, I'm sure, watching every move he made to see if his words matched his actions.

How do your words line up with your actions? Do you reveal by your actions where your trust is placed? Of course they do! For good or for bad our actions always speak louder than our words... Paul's grace and confidence in the face persecution served the Lord by encouraging others. His actions helped the Church at Philippi to grow spiritually in their own walk with Christ by seeing how Paul walked through his time of trial. In this text we have for today, Paul says he prays for the Philippian Congregation even though he's hundreds of miles away. He's showing them and us the Church isn't just about us and our cozy little gathering here in beautiful Pitsburg Ohio, the Church is global, and Paul cared what happened to other Christians, even those far away, even while facing trials of his own.

How can we show our caring for all Christians, even those far away? How do we demonstrate our partnership in the Gospel with members of Christ's Church who are different from us or are far away from us? We have been taking up a collection every week for our own missionary in Poland, Jodi Hessler. We've already sent two substantial gifts to her organization earmarked directly for Jodi.

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Because of your generosity we are in partnership with her in the work she's doing to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ half a world away in Poland. Another way we've been demonstrating our love for others and our partnership in the Gospel with those who are far away is through our Benevolence offerings that you generously give every week. In the past, those gifts have gone into a black hole called the ELCA and nobody really knew where the money went. About 6 months ago the Church Council voted to allow us to designate our Benevolence offering to special causes instead of giving it all to the ELCA as undesignated giving. Since then, I've been working with Diane Warner, our Benevolence Treasurer, to purchase specific gifts through the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. For example, we've purchased farm animals like chickens, pigs, and cows for impoverished families in South America and Africa. We've contributed to digging wells in some of those same villages where clean drinking water was previously not available. We've even invested in technology to bring irrigation from those wells to the farmers who need the water to grow their crops. I'm really excited to see some of the ways we've been able to walk the talk with our Benevolence funds. If you're interested in what we're doing and how we're spending that money, we have copies of the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog on the communications table across from the office. If you have a heart for one of the Good Gifts in that catalog, please let

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me or Diane know, and we'll try to work in your request for the next quarter when we do the shopping. Special thanks goes to Diane who has spent many hours figuring out how to distribute and spend those funds.

I could go on and give you many more examples of how this congregation, by our actions, proclaim our trust in Jesus Christ, just like Saint Paul did in our text for today. This Church isn't just a club where we gather to talk about Jesus. We're his actual body here on earth. I know others look to the Church to see if we Christians believe what we preach.

May we always follow in Paul's footsteps by reaching out to those who might be falling away or faltering in their faith. May we through our actions show the greater community how much we trust in our Savior. When our day comes to make the transition from this life to the next, may we remain steadfast in our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ and the promises of our loving and living God for life eternal with God and all the saints who have gone before. May you be encouraged in your faith until that day when Jesus calls your name to join him in eternity. Until that day, I will always remember you in my prayers and give thanks for the partnership we have in spreading the Good News of God's love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

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*** 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.

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 in need.

A brief silence.

L: We give you thanks for your servant, Paul, who never allowed misfortune to win the day, and never rested until he had proclaimed your gospel to everyone he met. Give us zeal, energy, and spirit on behalf of Jesus' mission. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: It is easy to second guess the motives of others and assume we know who is genuine. Make us less concerned about the how's and the why's of our brothers and sisters in faith, and more concerned that the gospel is proclaimed. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As spring bursts forth on the Northern Hemisphere, bring about the renewal of our hearts as well, making them well-watered gardens where love abides and hope grows. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Sometimes it is the wounded among us who make the best agents of your healing. Use all of us—shortcomings and all—to tend your flocks and spread the balm of your wholeness. Be especially with... Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We thank you, God, whenever we think of your faithful saints who carried your precious gospel throughout the ages. As their witness has blessed us, so make us a blessing to others, and unite us all in your eternal kingdom. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Gather our prayers, spoken aloud and offered silently, into your hands, for the good of your people and the glory of your name.

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 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 you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Lord, you come to us in any circumstance, both good and bad. As Paul continued to act with your strength while in prison, we too, can act with generosity and courage. Accept these gifts given gratefully, no matter where our lives' journeys are taking us today. In Jesus' name we pray.

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 bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" LBW 343**



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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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**

Roxanne Groff

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, May 29th
Philippians 2:1-13

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Be sure to see your dentist

MIND: Take an online educational class

SPIRIT: Listen to a Christian podcast

SPECIAL MUSIC, READINGS, ETC. needed for our worship services. A sign up sheet is on the table near the office or contact Marge Warner (937-623-2544).

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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.

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.

This Week @ Trinity – May 22 thru May 29, 2022

Sun, May 22	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, May 24	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Wed, May 25	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Fri, May 27	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, May 29	10:30 am	Worship Service

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, MAY 24TH – Please send all news items including any graduates and their future plans to secretary@pitsburgtlc.org!

Trinity Contact Info

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