

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



Ruth 2

August 21, 2022



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



- **Prelude**

Darrell Fryman

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

- **Welcome**

Pr 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: Faithful God,

C: We are not always quick to claim you as our God. We do not show care for one another. We fail to see all people as your people, and hurt one another with our actions or lack of action. Forgive us our sins, and give us the same fierce love for our neighbors that Ruth had for Naomi.

P: God, who calls and sustains, forgives you all your sins. Go forth in the confidence of God's loving care, in Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE “We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

LBW 362



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,
 2 He on - ly is the mak - er Of all things near and far;
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good.



But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand.
 He paints the way - side flow - er, He lights the eve - ning star.
 The seed - time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food.



He sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey him; By him the birds are fed.
 No gifts have we to of - fer For all your love im - parts,



The breez - es and the sun - shine, And soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 Much more to us, his chil - dren, He gives our dai - ly bread.
 But what you most would trea - sure— Our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.



All good gifts a - round us Are sent from heav'n a - bove.



Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord For all his love.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

August 21, 2022

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*** APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

*** KYRIE**

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord have mercy.**

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

C: **Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of all grace... You call us to provide for our neighbors with generosity. Show us how to respond to the needs of others, and to accept others' generosity to us, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,

C: **Amen.**

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Generosity

Object: Barley Grain

Scripture: Ruth 2

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see you today! I hope you had a good blessed week... Today we're going to talk about generosity. Who can tell me what that word means? It means that when we have more stuff than we absolutely need we can share it with others. Being generous comes because we're satisfied with what we have and we know God has called us to share our extra stuff with others who may not have everything they need.

Here's what I'm talking about. In the Bible book of Ruth there was a man who showed great generosity. Ruth and her mother-in-law were both widows and were very poor. They were so poor they would have probably starved to death if

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someone hadn't helped them. In the ancient times the law was that farmers and rich land owners had to leave some of the field with grain so that the poor might come and receive at least a small amount of food to live on.

Boaz was a rich land owner in Bethlehem. You remember anything important that happened in Bethlehem? That's right, that is the town where Jesus was born. Our story about Ruth and Boaz took place hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Boaz was a man who loved the God of Israel, that's our God in Heaven. He knew God had blessed him with so much land he could never eat all the food his land produced. When he heard the story about how Ruth had left her home in Moab to come to Israel and help Naomi, Boaz knew this was a sign from God that he was to help these two very poor women. That's just what he did. He made sure they had plenty to eat and they were well taken care of. He told his workers to allow Ruth to pick some of the Barley. Have you ever seen barley before? I have some here...

How can you be generous in your life with all the stuff you have? You can share your toys or your candy with your brothers and sisters... You might even go through your toys and decide to give some of them away to a neighbor who doesn't have very many. Or, you can give them to a local charity. Ask your mom or dad before you start giving away your stuff though. They might be able to help you find someone in need.

Let's pray... Dear God you inspire us with stories like this one about Ruth and Boaz. Help us to learn to be generous in our giving and to graciously accept help when we need it too. Amen!

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Ruth, Chapter 2.

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

2Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ²And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

⁴Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." ⁵Then Boaz said to his servant who

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was in charge of the reapers, “To whom does this young woman belong?”⁶ The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.”⁷ She said, ‘Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.’ So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.”⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.”⁹ Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”¹⁰ Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?”¹¹ But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.”¹² May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!”¹³ Then she said, “May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.”¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.¹⁵ When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, “Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her.”¹⁶ You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.¹⁸ She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied.¹⁹ Her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.”²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.”²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.’”²² Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is better, my daughter,

that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.”²³ So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

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 trust and have our life and breath, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, amen.

Do you believe in coincidence? Leroy Jethro Gibbs formerly the main character on the long running hit TV show NCIS doesn't... Gibbs, for many years was the lead investigator of his NCIS team. Over the years he revealed many rules to follow when investigating a crime. Rule number 39 is, “There is no such thing as a coincidence.” If you're a non-believer or an unbeliever in the power and majesty of God then you might say that almost everything that happened in today's scripture reading from Ruth was a coincidence. If you're a believer and a person of faith, then you can easily see the hand of God working in and through Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

Some might say it was a mere coincidence that Ruth happened to come to the field belonging to Boaz, just as he was arriving from Bethlehem to oversee the harvest of barley. A few years ago I might have thought the same. Then I started watching NCIS and I learned there were no coincidences... I the Time To Revive

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movement that came through Darke County a few years back I learned a different way of looking at seemingly random events. Through NCIS I heard Gibbs' rule 39, "There are no Coincidences," and I learned a new term from my Revive friends. That term is Divine Appointment. Divine Appointments are not coincidences... They're appointments set by our Father in Heaven.

Here's what I mean... In August of 1998 PJ and I, along with three children rolled into town. Our first stop was the base 24-hour lodging and reception desk. We soon discovered there were no available rooms on base and the airman at the desk gave us directions to a hotel over near the Beaver Creek Mall. Since it was still morning, it was too early to check in, so we also asked for directions to Base housing. We wanted to at least get a glimpse of the housing area where we would soon be residing. On our way to look at the housing area we somehow made a wrong turn. Instead of turning onto Kaufman Road we turned onto Dayton-Yellow Springs Road. Before we knew it, we were passing Abiding Christ Lutheran Church. We decided to come back on Sunday to check it out. That was God, setting a divine Appointment for me and my family. We did return to Abiding Christ and found it to be a very welcoming congregation and we still have many friends we met there. It also turned out that the lead pastor was on the Southern Ohio Synod Candidacy Committee. Pastor Craig Fourman became my mentor and

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a huge advocate, helping me all throughout the candidacy process and even arranged my internship at First Lutheran Church in Xenia. So, was that wrong turn a coincidence or a God inspired divine appointment? I know where I stand...

What is a divine appointment? For one thing they show us how God works in the world. They may not be overtly miraculous, but the hand of God can be seen. Sometimes God works through mighty acts like parting the Red Sea or a flash of lightning that heals a baby's heart. God can and does display His power and majesty in these supernatural miracles. These kinds of miracles are rare and we shouldn't grow too dependent on them. On the other hand, God also works in the gaps and margins of our lives. These small miracles may go unnoticed or be mistaken as coincidence.

God turned Ruth's decision to go out and work in the field, gleaning barley, into a life altering experience. Even in this story about how God has blessed this foreigner we read words of coincidence. In verse 3 it says, "As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech." In verse 4, "Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem..." These two verses make it sound an awful lot like mere coincidence. Don't be fooled. Ruth's decision to find employment demonstrated her faith in the God of Israel. Naomi's blessing of her decision equally showed faith that God would not only provide for

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them in terms of food and a future, but that God would also protect Ruth from others who might see her misfortune and take advantage of her or abuse her. Instead of falling into the hands of jealous workers or lustful young farm hands, she meets a kinsman of her father-in-law, Elemilech.

Boaz was a man who had made good in his life. He was a rich landowner who employed many servants. He wasn't an absent boss, but one who obviously kept tabs on things around the farm, as well as keeping up on all the local gossip. When he saw Ruth in the field he had already been told her story, how her loyalty to Naomi had brought her from Moab to Israel and how she was working hard to, at least, keep a subsistence life for her mother-in-law. Since Boaz was somehow related to Elimelech, he felt a calling to help the two women. Boaz obviously felt thankful to God and grateful for all the wealth and land he had been given. He considered all of it a blessing from God and out of a grateful heart flowed much generosity. The Law of Moses only directed the rich landowners to leave the corners of the fields and whatever happened to drop on the ground for foreigners, widows, and orphans. Notice instead what generosity Boaz displays toward Ruth. He advises her to stay close to the other women servants and to glean with them in his fields only. Next he invites her to drink from the water that his young men servants have drawn from the well. That alone was a very special life-giving gift.

Then he instructs those young male servants to allow Ruth to take handfuls of grain right out of their hands... From their sheaths. Boaz was indeed a generous, grateful, loving, man of God. His gifts to Ruth and Naomi were real life savers! Meeting Boaz out in the field that day was certainly a divine appointment for Ruth!

Another divine appointment happened to me when we were living in Alaska, just before moving back here to Ohio. At that time, I was totally miserable at my job. I was working well over 12 hours per day, seven days a week and getting nowhere. I was not satisfied with what I was doing and I was extremely frustrated. Just then the Lutheran Chaplain who had been our Pastor on base got orders to Barksdale Louisiana and they were replacing him with a Baptist preacher. PJ had noticed there was a Lutheran Church on the road where the school where she worked. We decided to give that church a try. On our very first Sunday at our new church, the pastor's message was from the 21st Chapter of John. It was the story of the disciples fishing all night and catching nothing. In the morning, the resurrected Jesus calls to them from the beach and tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. When they follow Jesus' advice they catch a great net full of fish. The Pastor said if you're not fulfilled or satisfied with your job, then maybe you're not casting your net where Jesus is calling you to cast. That message hit me like a ton of bricks. I had been running in the opposite direction of

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God's call in my life. Through this pastor, who I had never met before, God was speaking directly to me. If that wasn't a divine appointment, I don't know what one is... They happen all the time. Over the next week, I challenge you to look back on your life, especially at those times when you had to make significant life decisions and ask yourself, "Can you see God working behind the scenes influencing and turning what seemed at the time to be a coincidence into the thing that changed the direction of your life?" If so, I'd love to hear about it. You can call me, email or text me your story... They are all fascinating! Each of us has a story of how God called us or opened a door that was previously shut and locked. The story of Ruth's divine appointment in meeting Boaz fits into a greater story God had planned from the beginning to redeem the world from sin, death, and the devil. I call this the story of Ruth's Divine Appointment, but it was also a divine appointment for Boaz as well. God had been preparing him, his whole life for this very moment when he would have the wealth and the desire to be of service to his neighbor and to show his love for God by doing good for someone else. You see, sometimes we're more like Ruth, in need of a blessing and other times we're more like Boaz, in need of giving a blessing to someone. God, being a perfect matchmaker brings the two together and we can all see what happened from

there... Like Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs I don't believe in coincidences either...

May you ponder Ruth's story and be able to see all those times in your life where God set you at a certain place in order to go through a certain experience so that your faith might be kindled into a flame and your heart set afire for this God who loves you. May God's timing be the perfect timing for a divine appointment in your life. May you find the words and the courage to share your divine appointment story so others can see God's glory working in and through you for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake of God's Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLE'S 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.*

* Please stand if able

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*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of kinship, by working together, Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz supported one another. Give us hearts that desire cooperation and collaboration, so that others may be loved, supported, and protected. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Love and protect all the amazing things in your great creation, O God, and show us how to participate in the tender stewardship of all that you have made. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Show the leaders of this world how to govern in ways that encourage empowerment, cooperation, and community, so that all may be lifted up. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Pour your healing upon all who are in need, who suffer from illness, grief, disempowerment, isolation, and abuse, (*especially*). God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Knit this world together into one community, united in your name, doing the works of your hands, and the will of your heart. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with gratitude all who have come before us, living lives of humble dependence upon you, who by their example have taught us that you are always faithful. God in your mercy,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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*** 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.... Compassionate God, you ensure that we have all we need to survive and thrive. Accept now our gifts that others might flourish by your grace.

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:

*** 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.

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 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. 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: Just as God sustained Ruth and Naomi through the generosity of Boaz, God nourishes and sustains us through the gift of bread and wine in Jesus Christ. All are welcome at this holy table. Come and eat.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of The Body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

* **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**

Darrell Fryman

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Have some watermelon
MIND: Learn a song in a foreign language
SPIRIT: Stand out in nature and pray



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 21 thru August 28, 2022

- Sun, August 21** 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
- Tues, August 23** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Thurs, August 25** 12:00 pm **Lutheran Day at the Fair**
- Fri, August 26** 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
- Sun, August 28** 10:30 am Worship Service

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, August 28th
Ruth 3



DON'T FORGET! The WELCA Silent Auction runs through the end of August 2023. Check out the items available each month and enter your bid!

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 |
| 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 |

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