

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



Matthew 16:24 – 17:8

February 19, 2023



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **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...

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what he taught. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we have not done to others as we would have done to ourselves. Shine a light on our hearts, that we might turn from the shadows of our sin and walk in your ways.

P: Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. By his abundant love, all your sins are forgiven, that you might walk in the light of Christ.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING SONG “How Good Lord To Be Here” LBW 89**



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

* **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... Almighty God, you call us to listen to your Son, and follow him in all things. Transform our hearts with your love that we might continue his ministry of healing and reconciliation in the world.

C: **Amen.**

WORD



- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: Seeing Jesus on the mountain top

Object: Song Video "Climb Up Sunshine Mountain"

Scripture: Matthew 16:24 – 17:8

Good morning Boys and girls! I hope you had a great week. It's really good for you to be here today. I have a song to play for you in a minute, but first I'm going to tell you the story about the time when Jesus took his three closest friends on a mountain climbing trip. Jesus knew that the people misunderstood who he was and why he came. Today we all know Jesus was God's Son and he came to save us from our sin, from death, and from the devil too. Back then the people, even his own disciples thought Jesus came to be an earthly King who would get rid of the bad Roman soldiers who occupied the land. The people even tried to force Jesus to become their King after he fed more than 5000 people from a couple of fish and loaves of bread.

Jesus knew his mission was far more important than just being an earthly king. So, he took his friends up to the mountaintop and showed them his true nature. His face and clothing glowed like the sun and God spoke to them from a cloud telling them Jesus was his Son and they must listen to him.

Wow! That would have been a fearful but exciting experience, wouldn't it... I have a song we can learn that includes us in this story of the changing of Jesus into God's Holy and Divine Son. It's called Climb Up, Sunshine Mountain. Let's watch... **(PLAY VIDEO)**

That was a fun song. Now let's pray... Dear God, thank you for showing us that Jesus is your only Son. He is our Savior and the one we not only listen to, but also try to follow and to obey. Help us to listen and follow Jesus every day and forgive us when we misunderstand or follow a different way. In Jesus Holy Name we pray. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 16:24 – 17:8**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapters 16 and 17.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who transfigures you and me, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

For those with no faith this is just another one of those unbelievable stories about Jesus that make Christians seem so weird and gullible. I mean come on, who can really believe Jesus shone like the sun or that he talked with long departed Moses and Elijah? For those of us who see the world through the eyes of our faith, this is another story that reveals exactly who Jesus is. Which camp are you in?

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

This story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is in all three of the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Why did this one event become so important? To find out why we must look at what happened before this event. Back in chapter 15 Jesus was going about his ministry healing the people's diseases and telling them about the Kingdom of God. Then in chapter 16 the religious leaders begin testing Jesus and asking for a sign from heaven. In response, Jesus goes on a long walk up north to Caesarea Philippi. This was the site of a large pagan religious center. There was a temple with numerous statues dedicated to Greek gods, Roman gods, and pagan gods of all sorts and flavors. In that multireligious setting Jesus asked his famous question, "Who do the people say that I am?" This must have been a burning question by this time in the minds of those who had heard about the things Jesus was doing. The disciples were quick to answer, some say you're Elijah or one of the prophets and some say you're John the Baptist reincarnated... Then Jesus turned the question to the disciples directly and asked, "who do you say that I am"? That's when Peter opened his mouth and for the first time ever had the correct answer. He shouted out, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!" Having gotten the correct answer, Peter then proceeded to deny Jesus would suffer and die, but then be resurrected on the third day. Jesus called Peter Satan and told him to get behind him for he had his mind set on human things, not on God's plan... All that happened just before Jesus

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brought his closest three disciples up to the peak of that mountain where they saw for themselves the glory and the divine nature of Jesus the Christ who was anointed by God almighty. This scene is included for all of us to see that this Jesus isn't just some great prophet, nor is Jesus just an innocent man caught up in the political intrigue of the time. He is God's perfect Son and our Lord and Savior.

Here's what we can say about this transfiguration of Jesus. First, this event happened 6 days after Jesus make the bold statement that some who were with him would not see death until they had seen the "Son of Man" coming in his Kingdom. Six short days later Jesus is on the mountaintop with Peter, James, and John when suddenly, Jesus face and entire body begin to glow like the sun... Then, both Moses and Elijah appear and begin talking with Jesus. Luke must have had a better source for this story because in his version he tells us the three men talked about Jesus' upcoming Exodus or departure from this world. Peter blurts out something about it being a good thing he and James and John were there so they could build a booth or tabernacle or some kind of shelter for each of these great heroes of their faith. Peter wanted to commemorate the event by building something that would last, at least for a while longer. Before he's even finished speaking God the Father descends to the mountaintop, covers them in a thick cloud and with a voice as loud as thunder says, "This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" In their fear they fall to the ground. When

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they can finally look up to the place where the three religious giants had been, now all they can see is Jesus, himself, alone...

There's a lot to unpack in this story... First is Jesus' appearance. The intention is to draw our attention to Moses and his mountaintop encounter with God. When Moses received the Ten Commandments, he was on the mountain for 6 days before God called to him. Then, when he came down from the mountaintop his face also glowed like the sun. Moses' glowing face eventually faded away. Moses was a mere reflection of the glory of God, but Jesus glowed because his true divine nature broke through his human nature. In his brilliance He was revealed to be God in the flesh. Matthew's intention was to show us by virtue of not one, but two Old Testament heroes, that the story isn't just about Jesus. It's about the reconciliation of the broken relationship that began all the way back in Genesis when mankind fell into sin. It's a story about the God who knew from the start humans could never repair the breach that happened when Adam and Eve rebelled against their loving creator. Jesus Christ, was and is the one anointed by God to be savior of the world. Jesus is the climax of that great overarching story of our faith.

Peter writes about the mountaintop experience in second Peter, Chapter 1, verses 16-18 where he writes; ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from

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God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.” John also writes about this event... Do you remember the way John begins his Gospel? In the beginning was the Word... He goes on to say, “¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” John begins his Gospel letting us know he has actually seen Jesus, the Word of God made flesh in all his glory! Even James writes about it in his own way. He tells his readers not to be hearers of God’s Word, but to be doers of that Word. James put the emphasis on the final words of God spoken from the cloud, “Listen to Him!” In this mountaintop experience God revealed himself as Jesus Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah, to his inner circle of disciples in all His Divinity and Holiness.

Moses and Elijah appear in this Transfiguration story precisely to connect Jesus to the God of the Hebrews. Moses brought the word of God down from a mountain and Elijah represents all the prophets God called to tell His word to the straying Hebrew nation. Now, Jesus is with both of them, but he isn’t just delivering God’s word in either law or prophecy, He is God’s Word in the flesh...

In the end, what we are meant to remember from this transfiguring event?

Any time the voice of God speaks from heaven or from a cloud we should

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probably pay close attention. In this case God reminds Jesus and makes it clear to us in no uncertain terms who this man Jesus actually is. This is God's Son, the Beloved. Caesar, Herod, Nero, and all the emperors liked to call themselves sons of god. They even had it minted on their coins of the empire. They required everyone to confess the emperor is the son of god and divine. This transfiguration leaves no doubt Jesus is the true, one and only, Son of God, period! Not even Moses, representing the Old Testament Law nor Elijah representing the Old Testament prophets are equal to Jesus. When Peter, James and John finally work up the courage to look up after God spoke, all they saw was Jesus alone. Jesus was revealed as the new covenant, as the Way, as the truth, and as the life.

God spoke on the mountaintop that day to Peter, James, and John, but also to you and me. God said Jesus is the only Son of God, not Caesar, or Herod, or Nero. Not even Mel Musser or the Pope, only Jesus. God left Peter, James, and John with one final command. "Listen to Him!" Jesus isn't just another prophet who came and was killed by the rebellious religious leaders of the day. No! Jesus is the very Son of God whose blood shed on the cross literally saves the world from its own failure. Will you listen to Jesus? I'm pretty sure God didn't want us to sit back in our easy chairs and listen to Jesus as we would a good TV crime drama. God wants us to listen and then act on the Word of God revealed in Jesus Christ. That means a lot more than listening. It carries with it the Old Testament

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connotation of obeying Jesus. After this theophany, Jesus appears by himself, alone. Gone are the Old Testament heroes of the faith. There is no heavenly host to show the glory of God. There is only Jesus alone. Without heavenly visitors, without heavenly glory He, Jesus is the tabernacle. There is no need for Peter to construct a tent or booth or whatever building he had in mind. Jesus is all the shelter we need from the storms of this world. Jesus is from this time forward God's presence in the world. Jesus is still our shelter and our comforter in all of life's struggles.

May we raise ourselves above our fears to gaze on the likeness of Jesus in all His glory. May we see Jesus shining like the sun and trust He is God with us now and forever. May we be emboldened to spread the Good News that Jesus has come and we are free to take up our cross now and follow Him. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** 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

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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: Confident that our savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, when your son, Jesus, was transfigured on the mountain, your glory was revealed to the disciples. Reveal yourself to us each and every day, and show us evidence of your presence in our lives. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Your majestic creation includes towering mountains and deep valleys, laughing streams and broad oceans. Make us to love and care for all that you have made just as you do. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Strengthen the compassion of our world's leaders. Show them how to walk in your ways, and bless them with wisdom and mercy. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: So many are in need of comfort and care. Shine your healing light on all who are sick, grieving, or suffering, (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Teach us to accept all those whose differences frighten or anger us. Help us to love all your children, upon whom your love shines. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we lift up the saints who have gone on before us, who have shown us how to live in your light. Merciful God,

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C: You hear our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

• **OFFERING**

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, for those worshipping with us through the internet, if you go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org, you'll find a button where you can make your offering to God through our secure website.

While the congregation is standing the offering is raised up and the following prayer is said:

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day... O God, you ask us what we will give in return for our lives, and we know we cannot possibly offer what you deserve. Accept these, our humble gifts, as a sign of gratitude for all that you have given us, and of commitment to all that you have called us to.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* **DIALOGUE**

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

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* **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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* **THE SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy. We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation, he 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.

With joy we tell our story: Alleluia!

C: Alleluia!

P: We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise: Amen, amen, amen, amen.

C: Amen, amen, amen, 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: It is good for us to be here in the presence of our savior, Jesus Christ, and all the saints, living and departed. Jesus invites you to the feast of all creation. Come and be fed.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by "Station". Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*** 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... Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Beautiful Savior”

LBW 518



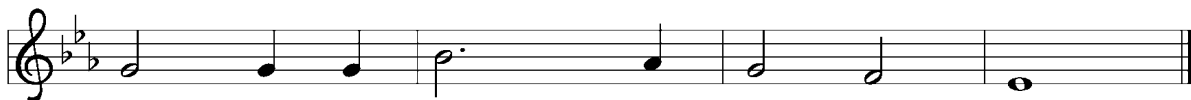
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well. We're glad you're with us today. In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

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

* **POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Peggy Didier
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Dean and Donna Thompson in Honor of Donna's birthday.

Health Tips for the Week

Mind: Play solitary card game

Body: Complete your Health Care Power of Attorney

Spirit: Volunteer at Church



Scripture readings for next Sunday, February 26th
Matthew 18:15-35

This Week @ Trinity – February 19 thru February 26, 2023

Sun, Feb 19	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Mon, Feb 20	7:30 pm	<i>President's Day</i>
Tue, Feb 21	Newsletter Articles Due to Church Secretary	
Wed, Feb 22	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Fri, Feb 24	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Feb 26	9:15 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice & Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

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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.

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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