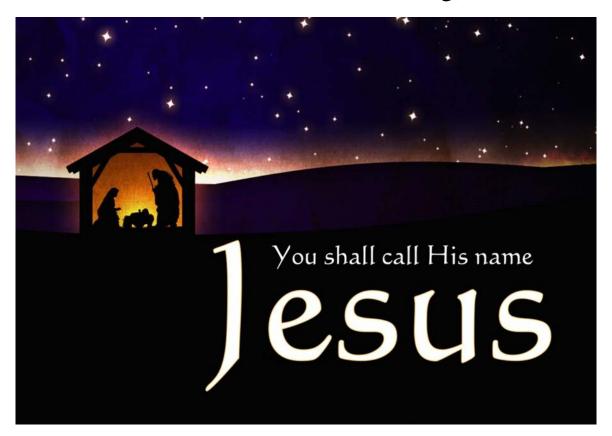
# Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pitsburg, Ohio 45358



Matthew 1:18-25 December 18, 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 Pr Mel Musser

• Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(*light candle 1*) With the prophet Habakkuk, we light this first candle as Reader:

a beacon of hope for those who wait.

**C**: (light candle 2) With Esther, we light this second candle as the fire of

courage that we might bear witness to your justice.

Reader: (light candle 3) With the prophet Isaiah, we light this third candle as a

light to the nations, a promise of redemption for the whole human

family.

**C**: (light candle 4) Now with Joseph, we light this fourth candle as a

declaration of trust that your promise is sure, O God, and that your

son's birth among us is imminent.

#### \* 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: Radiant God,

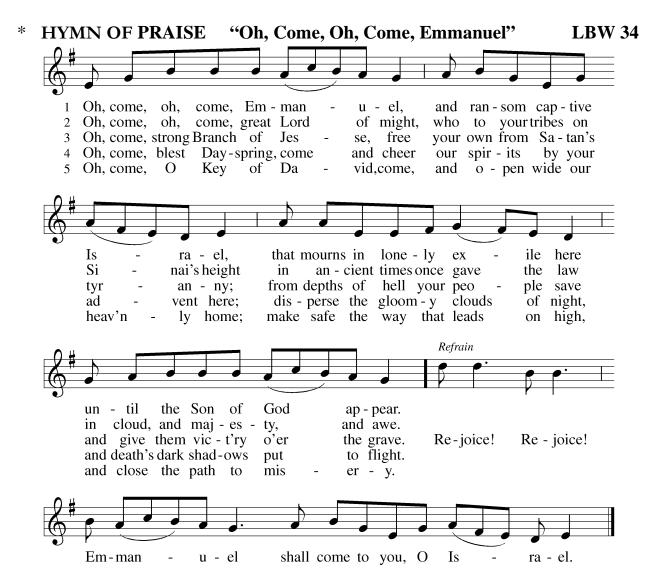
C: You have come to live among us, yet we fail time and again to see you in the faces of our neighbors. We look to ourselves instead of those in need. We seek the shallow comforts of things we can buy instead of the deep and lasting comfort of your presence. Forgive our stubborn refusal to see, and open our eyes to the joy and wonder of your incarnation.

P: Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. The God of boundless grace forgives you all your sins, renewing your spirit for the sake of Immanuel, God with us.

C: Amen.

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• Please be seated



#### \* 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.

\* Please stand if able

#### \* 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 grace and mercy, with Joseph, we live in fear of being humiliated or cast out. As we wait for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you.

C: Amen.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: What's In A Name

Object: Smart Device Used To Google Name Meanings

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Hello Girls and Boys! I hope you all had a great week! I sure did enjoy your version of the Christmas story last week. Did you all have fun telling the story of the birth of Jesus? I hope so. It's one of the most important stories ever told!

Today I want to tell you about how Jesus got his name. Did you know an angel came to Joseph and told him exactly what to name his first born son? The angel even told Joseph why he was to give him this very special name.

Before I tell you what the name Jesus really means, I want you to know that your name has meaning too. Let's look up our names and see what they mean. I'll start with mine. Google says my name means Chief. That sounds about right by me... Let's look up some of your names...

... Every name has a meaning. I said the angel gave Joseph a very special name for this newborn baby. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus. In the Hebrew language that Joseph spoke, his name would have been pronounced Joshua. Let's see what Google says about the name Joshua...

\* Please stand if able

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Please be seated

Google got it right! Joshua means God or The Lord is Salvation. It means Jesus will save his people from their sins. Do you know what happened next? Jesus grew up to become the only one who could have saved you and me from our sins. He died on a cross so we could live with God forever.

I'd say that's the best Christmas present ever!

Let's pray... Dear God, Thank you for coming to earth as a baby and for being our Savior. Help us to spread this Good News everywhere we go. May we be more like Jesus by being kind and loving to everyone we know. Amen.

#### • SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25

**Narrator**: Our scripture reading for this day is from Matthew, Chapter 1. **C:** Glory to you O Lord.

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

Angel: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**Narrator:** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

**Prophet:** "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

Narrator: ... which means,

Narrator and Angel and Prophet: "God is with us."

**Narrator:** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

\* Please stand if able

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• SERMON Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father in Heaven and from Immanuel, the God with Us, amen.

Put yourself in the place of Joseph for a moment... "What should I do? Joseph asks himself... Mary's been unfaithful to me! Three months ago she went to visit her relatives in Judea, and how she comes back pregnant." Sometimes we so sanitize the birth of Jesus, turning it into a child's bedtime story, we forget the real-life people and their struggles. Even worse, we forget the miracle or at least fail to fully appreciate and value just how astounding and earth-shattering the wonder and mystery of that birth was and still is today. It's not just another birth. It's not simply the miracle of life. It's not just one more difficult pregnancy or delivery. Our daughter, Niki sees these kinds of miracles every day as she works with tiny premature babies in the NICU at Miami Valley Hospital... Even the word miracle fails to bring home to us what a great and mighty wonder this birth is. Niki gets to see the everyday, run of the mill miracles as those one pound babies grow and begin to flourish. That's not what happened 2000 years ago... It's so much greater than turning water into wine or healing the sick or walking on the sea or calming a storm or even raising the dead.

Some of our best loved Christmas carols place the miracle right in front of our eyes... "Round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

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<sup>•</sup> Please be seated

mild..." How can anyone be a virgin mother? That's biologically impossible. Or a holy infant? We're all born sinners. Do you see the wonder? Do you feel the mystery of what God has done? Some of my favorite words from any Christmas Carol ever are from Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Not because I change those words to Hark Harold, the Angel Sings in memory of my own father, Harold... Listen to these lyrics... "Veiled in flesh the God head see, Hail th'incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!" What a commentary on that name Immanuel! As we place ourselves with Joseph today, let's contemplate the wonder of that name: Immanuel. Why is this Baby Immanuel?

Let's look a little closer... Joseph was betrothed to Mary. That's more than a modern "getting engaged." They had made legally binding promises to be husband and wife. The time of betrothal was between the time when the marriage vows were said and the time when the marriage home was completely finished and ready for the new couple to move in. This could be a few days or many weeks. The marriage wasn't consummated until the couple moved in together. Joseph and Mary were betrothed, but he had not yet taken her home. There was no way she could be pregnant by him. So, what was he to do? Only a divorce could break a betrothal. Should he pretend this was no big deal and go ahead with the marriage? No, that wouldn't be right. Matthew tells us Joseph was a righteous man. Most "righteous" men would insist on their "rights" under the law. That would have

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

meant Joseph would have been within his "rights" to publicly accuse Mary of infidelity and she would have been stoned to death... That was the law... That would vindicate him. On the other hand, Joseph's public accusation would destroy her life, condemning her as an adulteress! Joseph's righteousness exceeded that of all the religious leaders and law makers of his day. His righteousness was a sort of divine righteousness, which always leads us to do the kind and loving thing rather than what is "right" or permissible under the law... So, Joseph decided to use the lax divorce laws, like our no-fault divorce. Then Mary wouldn't be exposed to greater public shame. That is until he was paid a visit by an angel in a dream...

Maybe we wonder why Mary didn't tell him about the angel Gabriel appearing to her, telling her that the power of the Most High would overshadow her and the holy one to be born would be called the Son of God. Let's think that scenario through... What would you have thought, if you were Joseph and Mary came to you with this tall tale about being pregnant by God's Holy Spirit? We'd have thought, "It's bad enough you were unfaithful and broke our betrothal, but now to drag in the Lord into this with a preposterous story to try and cover up your sin, how blasphemous!" So, Mary trusted The Lord and left it in the Lord's hands.

As God had planned out from all eternity and revealed through the prophets, the Christ would come into this world in a most astounding and yet lowliest of ways. Born in the lowliest of conditions, with only an animal's feeding trough for

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

a bed, this birth could not have gotten any lower. The Almighty God, who holds the universe in his hands, through whom all things were created, born in a smelly, dirty, messy animal feeding trough! He didn't come in divine glory or with heavenly majesty, but as a helpless infant in a messy manger.

Yet how astounding! This baby has no biological father. If you remember your biology class, the genetics of X and Y chromosomes, there is no way, not even with cloning, for a female to produce a male. All that is wrapped up in a single word, virgin. We so easily gloss over that one single word without appreciating the astounding miracle worked by the Holy Spirit. Here's the kicker, this whole event was foretold by the prophet Isaiah 700 years before Mary even met Joseph! "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son".

As astounding as the virgin birth is, it's not the greatest miracle or wonder God worked here. It's only the vehicle God used to work a far, far greater miracle. What, you might be asking, is the great and mighty wonder, surpassing all miracles, this mystery beyond mystery... In a word: Immanuel. Yes, dear friends, Immanuel. "God with us." God in the flesh. God incarnate. How can the eternal, almighty, omnipresent God take a full human nature, body and soul, into his person? How can he be both the Son of God and the Son of Man? How can his humanity not be consumed by his divinity? How can his divinity not be corrupted by his humanity? How can he remain fully divine while also at the same time

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able

being fully human? How can the Word, who is with God and is God, become flesh? How can he be Immanuel, "God with us." God veiled in the flesh? What a great and mighty wonder! Try pondering that mystery today as you eat his body and drink his blood in the Lord's Supper. For only Immanuel, God in the flesh, could be with us in such a marvelous and mysterious way. Ponder that as you come again to the manger this Christmas with Mary and listen again to the shepherds tell of the angel's message. This Baby is Christ, the Lord -- yes, the Lord God Almighty. He is Immanuel, God with us, the Godhead veiled in human flesh, born of the virgin. What a great and mighty wonder! But why? Why did he come as Immanuel? The name Joseph was to give him answers that question.

Joseph was to take Mary home as his wife -- not to cover up an illegitimate birth, but to serve as the earthly guardian, the legal father for this Christ-child. In his God-given role as the child's legal father, he was to give him his name. Mathew's Gospel begins with the genealogy showing how Jesus, through his adopted Father Joseph, traces his identity all the way back to Abraham, the Father of our Faith. Joseph, who we often ignore because he wasn't the biological baby daddy, through his name, gives legitimacy to Jesus taking on the throne of Israel's best loved and most famous King, King David. More than just giving this baby his lineage, Joseph obeys the Angel and names the child Jesus, which means God Saves. For that's why he came into this world: to save his people from their sins.

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What a fitting name for our Savior! Notice how the angel is specific: "he will save his people from their sins." Those last little words reveal why God put on the veil of human flesh. He came to deal with our sin, our separation from God. You and I were born as rebels; our sinful minds hostile toward God, warring against the very God who created us. Our sin condemns us to death and damnation -- endless darkness, and separation from God. Yet, this very God, whom you rebelled against, came to save you. He is Jesus, Christ our Lord and our Savior! He is the only-begotten Son of the Father begotten, not made, from eternity with God. He is Jesus, Immanuel. He came to be with us and to save us! Matthew begins his story of Jesus by revealing the Christ Child as Immanuel and at the very end of his story Jesus says to his followers, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Nothing has changed since then. Jesus is still with us when we gather together in His Name.

So, this Christmas, dear friends, as the Christmas carols ring out and the name Immanuel sounds out, contemplate that most marvelous of mysteries we celebrate at Christmas. This Baby is our God. He is Immanuel, God with us. He is our God in the flesh, born of the virgin. He is our Jesus, who came to save us. May this Jesus bring you joy, peace and salvation not just at Christmas time, but every day of your life. Thank be to our amazing and awesome God, Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

\* Please stand if able

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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

#### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Confident in the promises of our covenant God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

# A brief silence.

L: Faithful God, you delivered your people into the promised land, and invited them to live in you. Yet you continued to love them all, whether they chose to follow you or not. We thank you for your faithfulness, even when we so often fall short. God of promise,

# C: You hear our prayer.

L: You placed fertile and beautiful land in the hands of the people of Israel, and taught them to care for it. Teach us to care for all that you have made, and to respect all creation as a gift. God of promise,

# C: You hear our prayer.

L: You chose wise and powerful leaders to guide your people into the promised land. Teach our world's leaders to govern with justice and mercy, remembering the needs of all. God of promise,

## C: You hear our prayer.

\* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

L: Grant healing and wholeness to all who suffer illness, injury, addiction, imprisonment, abuse, isolation, neglect, or despair, (especially).

God of promise,

#### C: You hear our prayer.

L: In war there are no winners and losers. There are only those whose losses are greater. Bring this world to peace, so that there might be no more suffering in any land. God of promise,

#### C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with joy all those who declared with confidence their choice to serve only you. May we, in their memory, also proclaim our faithfulness until we meet again in your presence.

God of promise,

### C: You hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your grace and mercy, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

#### OFFERING

P: As we receive our offering today, those who are worshipping with us on-line can go to our website at <a href="https://www.pitsburgtlc.org">www.pitsburgtlc.org</a> and there you'll find a button that says Donate to Trinity. You can make your offering on that secure platform...

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God, you guide and protect us, showering us with generosity. Accept now the gifts we offer in gratitude to you, for the sake of your promised savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

\* Please stand if able December 18, 2022

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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; 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 in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

#### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.
- 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 life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of 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.

\* Please stand if able December 18, 2022

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#### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God who restores our souls invites us now to the table, to feed us on the nourishing body and blood of Jesus Christ. All is prepared for you—come and be fed.

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is by "Station." Come forward down the center aisle, receive the Body of Christ, then proceed to the Wine "Station" to receive the Blood of Christ. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they 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 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... God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* SENDING BLESSING

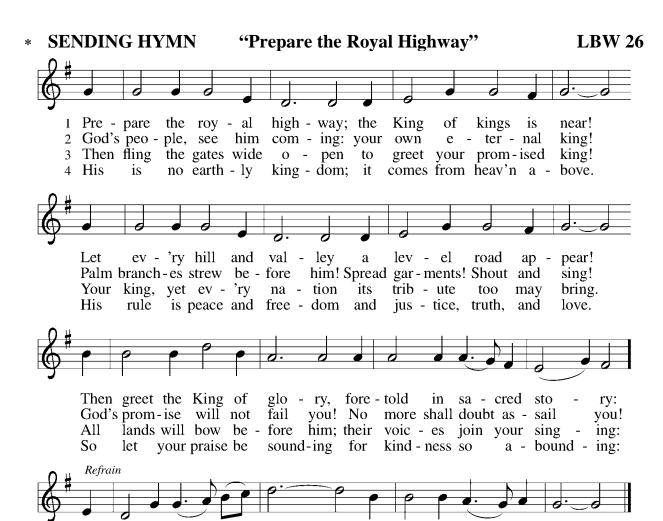
P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

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#### \* DISMISSAL

Ho - san - na to

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.

for

he

ful - fills

God's word!

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

the

Lord,

## \* POSTLUDE Roxanne Groff

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Please be seated

**Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff** 

	<u> </u>
Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	PJ Musser, Jake Angles, Lexie Angles
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

# **Health Tips for the Week**

**BODY:** Dance and sing around the house **MIND:** Watch a Christian documentary **SPIRIT:** Watch the Chosen

## This Week @ Trinity - December 18 thru December 25, 2022

Sun, Dec. 18	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Mon, Dec. 19	7:00 pm	Dartball at Trinity
Tues, Dec. 20	Newsletter Deadline	
Wed, Dec. 21	9:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	GRCC Soup Kitchen  Finance Team Meeting  Trinity Council Meeting
Fri, Dec. 23	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, Dec. 24	4:00 pm 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship at Trinity Christmas Eve Worship at Trinity
Sun, Dec. 25	10:30 am	Come as you are (or wear your ugly Christmas Sweater) Casual Sunday Service of Carols
Sun, Jan. 1	10:30 am	Full Communion Service with Baptism

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if able



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** – We will have an "Open Mic" morning! Any individual or group wishing to share vocal or instrumental Christmas songs will be welcome to the mic! Please tell Pastor Mel if you would like to provide something that morning. We will also sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns.

<u>AND</u> on December 25<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to wear your "ugly Christmas sweater".



Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:8-20

# 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.



## 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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