Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



2 Kings 5:1-19 November 6, 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

* 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: Gracious God,

C: We have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have taken what is not ours, and justified our actions. We have turned away from your wisdom. We have not done justice, loved kindness, nor walked humbly with you. Forgive us for the harms we have caused through word and action, and restore us to the joy of following your will for us.

P: God knows our every weakness and yet loves us without ceasing. Rejoice and be glad, for the God of grace and mercy forgives you all your sins, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 2 of 18



* 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

October 16, 2022

• Please be seated

* 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... Loving God, Naaman's pride almost prevented him from receiving the gift of your healing. Give us the humility to come to you for help in all things, that we might receive wholeness in you.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Just follow God's plan. Object: A box of instant pudding Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-15a, [15b-19]

One day last week, I wanted a snack. I looked in the cookie jar...empty! I looked in the freezer for some ice cream...nothing there either. I looked everywhere, but all I could find was a box of chocolate instant pudding mix. I'm not much of a cook, so I wasn't sure I could make pudding. I looked at the directions on the box and this is what it said: (Say slowly and with emphasis so kids can recall later.) (1) Beat the pudding mix into two cups of cold milk for two minutes. (2) Pour the mixture into small individual serving dishes. The pudding will be ready to eat in five minutes.

How simple! You don't even have to cook it. Anyone could do that, couldn't they? Well, I did it and the pudding was delicious. Who remembers what the two directions were? (Allow kids to answer.)

Those directions were pretty simple. There are many things in life that are simple. We just have to learn to follow the directions. In our Bible lesson today, we'll hear about a man named Naaman who learned that even serious situations can sometimes have a simple solution.

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 4 of 18

Naaman was the commander of the army of the king of Syria. Because he'd won many battles for his country, Naaman was famous. You might think he had everything he wanted, but he had a serious problem. Naaman had a disease called leprosy. Thankfully, one of his servants suggested he go see a prophet, which is a religious leader. She said the prophet could heal his leprosy. So Naaman's king sent him with a letter to the prophet's king, the king of Israel, to ask for help. The king of Israel didn't know what to do, but the prophet Elisha heard about the letter, and he said he could heal Naaman. So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and waited at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger out to him: "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River to be healed."

That sounds simple. When have you followed such simple steps to instantly get over a sickness? (Pause for kids to respond.)

It sounds simple, but Naaman was mad that Elisha didn't even come out to meet him. He thought Elisha would wave his hand over him and he'd be better. So Naaman refused to do what Elisha said. Thankfully, Naaman's officers convinced him to do what Elisha said. He dipped down into the Jordan River seven times, and then he was completely healed! We often face problems in our life. Sometimes we're willing to try almost anything, except what God's Word tells us to do. God's Word has the solution to all of life's problems if we will just follow the directions.

Let's pray... Dear God, when we face life's problems, help us to be willing to follow the directions You've given us in the Bible. In Jesus' name, amen.

• SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Kings 5:1-15a, [15b-19]

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 2 Kings, Chapter 5.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 5 of 18

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; [please accept a present from your servant."

¹⁶But he said, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing!" He urged him to accept, but he refused. ¹⁷Then Naaman said, "If not, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant; for your servant will no longer offer burnt-offering or sacrifice to any god except the Lord. ¹⁸But may the Lord pardon your servant on one count: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow down in the house of Rimmon, when I do bow down in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord pardon your servant on this one count." ¹⁹He said to him, "Go in peace."]

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the One who can heal our sin sick soul, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Do you remember those TV shows that were so popular a few years ago where they would do a complete make-over of a person? Some of them would deal with the person's weight, others their clothes, and still others used invasive medicine such as plastic surgery, Lasix eye surgery, dermabrasion, implants, reconstructive dental procedures, and a host of other medical procedures to complete the extreme makeover. I remember PJ being a big fan of those "Reality" shows... A similar genre still popular today are all the Home Makeover Shows.

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 6 of 18

On all these shows the idea is always the same; you can become a totally different, better person simply by wearing better clothing, losing weight, having better teeth or better skin. We're led to understand that by undergoing an extreme makeover we can be radically different and more beautiful people. Well – maybe, if all that is important is on the outside!

Our scripture for today tells the story of a man in need of an extreme makeover. His name was Naaman. He was the commanding General of the army of Aram. He had led is troops to victory in many campaigns. Some of those battles were undoubtedly conventional army on army warfare. Other smaller scale battles involved leading raiding parties into the towns and villages where the soldiers would attack innocent villagers. In our scripture this morning we meet a little girl who was most likely captured during one of these village rampages. She probably witnessed her father's murder as he defended his household and his family. Her mother was also probably brought back to Aram in slavery. The little girl had every reason to denounce the God of Israel as either dead or uncaring. Most of us would probably have changed our belief system to get along with our captors. This little girl had the faith Jesus talked about when he said we all must have the faith of a little child to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Instead of folding like a house of cards, she boldly spoke up to her master, Naaman's wife. The girl plainly and honestly shared her faith in the one true living God, YHWH.

^{*} Please stand if able

There must have been something about her quiet confidence or the way she spoke in absolute certainty that if her master's husband could only visit the great Prophet in Israel, then the God of Israel would certainly heal Naaman. I wish I had the faith of that little girl... Maybe Naaman had already tried everything else to cure his leprosy and this was a last ditch attempt to find a cure...

So, what about Naaman? What can we say about his faith and his actions in this encounter? Naaman was a great general, in charge of all the armies of his King. He had all the most modern, up to date medical and spiritual medicines known at the time. Naaman was a wealthy man and could afford the best medical care available. He was well respected and honored by both his men under his command and also of his boss, the king. Yet nothing could be done about his disease, leprosy. You probably already know a bit about this dread disease, but as I was studying for this sermon I discovered a few new tidbits. Leprosy was a terminal condition. It started out as a rash, but soon progressed. After a while, the nerves began to die and the person would lose all feeling in their extremities. After that, the skin and underlying flesh would begin to rot. The victim would lose their fingers and toes. As the leprosy progressed, the patient's teeth would fall out and their eyes would rot right in their sockets. It was a slow, painful, prolonged death. Naaman was apparently in the beginning stages of this disease.

^{*} Please stand if able

After being told of this great God and His Prophet in Israel, Naaman does not go directly to Elisha, but first visits his own King. Now just like in the Nursery Rhyme Humpty Dumpty, all the Kings horses and all the king's men couldn't put Naaman back together again. So, Naaman asked his king for a letter of introduction to the King of Israel. That's where he went instead of heading off straight to the Prophet Elisha's house. He still thought the cure for his disease was in the hands of earthly kings and kingdoms. To his surprise and dismay, the King of Israel redirected Naaman to Elisha where he finally ended up... When he arrived at Elisha's house he came in full military regalia. Flags unfurled, full military escort and all the pomp and circumstance Naaman had grown accustomed to, in his presence... Elisha's reaction to all this pomp and circumstance was to not even come out of the house. The God of Israel wasn't impressed... You see, Naaman was filled with his own importance. He saw no value in humbling himself to Elisha, the God of Israel, or anyone else for that matter. He was the number one General in all the land and was entitled to at least a face to face with this Prophet.

There are so many lessons to be learned from this encounter, but so little time... I'll try to stay focused on the idea that pride keeps us from knowing God and God's healing power in our lives. Before Naaman could get the relief he sought, he first had to humble himself and acknowledge the living God who created the universe and everything in it, including you, me, and Naaman. For a

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October 16, 2022

man of his stature that was no easy task. When instructed by Elisha's servants to wash 7 times in the Jordan River, Naaman scoffed and was about to return home unhealed, but at least with his pride intact. That's when the story takes a turn we should all notice. Naaman's servants came to him and persuaded him to follow the simple instructions given by Elisha's servants. When Naaman put his pride aside and washed as instructed, the incurable leprosy was gone.

Sometimes our healing has to come from the inside out. Naaman's outer ailment couldn't be addressed until he let go of all the worldly ties that bound him to his disease. He first tried his own King and country's doctors who were unable to effect a cure. Then he went to the King of Israel who thought it some kind of rouse to gain an advantage in a surprise attack. Finally, as a last resort, Naaman goes to Elisha. There he must put aside all pretext to his own honor and greatness and come before the Lord God vulnerable and naked. I know how hard that can be. We all feel the need to keep up our own façade. How many of us unthinkingly reply, "Oh, I'm fine," every time we're asked how we're doing? We sit in the pews week after week refusing to remove the masks we work so hard to wear.

There's a parable Jesus told in the Book of Luke about a Pharisee and a man who was a tax collector and sinner. The Pharisee went to the temple and prayed, thanking God he wasn't a sinner like that tax collector. When the Tax Collector prayed he couldn't even raise his eyes to heaven, he simply beat his chest, tore his

^{*} Please stand if able

October 16, 2022

clothes, and begged God for forgiveness. Jesus said it was the tax collector, not the prideful Pharisee who left the temple forgiven. He said all those who exalt themselves would be humbled and those who humble themselves would be exalted. Quite an upside down value system in this Kingdom of God...

May we learn from Naaman how to put aside all the incumbrances of this world and remove the mask of pride so we can likewise experience God's mercy and forgiveness. May we learn to listen to the little children and the servants God places in our lives when we stray off the path. Finally, may we learn the lesson of Humpty Dumpty, that all the kings horses and all the kings men can't be relied on to put us back together again, that can only be done through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for never giving up on Naaman and never giving up on you or me either. 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

• Please be seated Page 11 of 18

^{*} Please stand if able October 16, 2022

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: Certain of your justice and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, when you healed Naaman in the Jordan, you expanded your blessing of Israel to include all the world. Pour your abundant mercy on all people, that all might come to you in love and faithfulness. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: In the waters of the Jordan many have been healed, baptized, and blessed. Remind us of the incredible power that lies within your creation, and teach us to nurture all that you have made. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: No leader is above needing your help. Teach all who lead and all who follow that you are the one God who creates, who guides, and who loves. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Wash in your healing waters all who are in need of wholeness of body, mind, or spirit, (*especially*). Cleanse and heal all who come to you for help. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make us ever mindful of the suffering of those in our communities and in nations near and far. Help us be faithful stewards of all you have given us, so that we might share your blessing with all the world. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 12 of 18

P: In holy baptism God makes us saints and gives us a new identity. In Holy Communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In the assembly today, we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." Recalling our own Baptism, we remember we have been sealed by the Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. As we remember each of our own dearly departed loved ones and after names are spoken, please respond in faith that they are "Here with Us."

(The list of names is read aloud...)

All Saints Day List 2022

L: We give thanks to you for all the saints who have gone before us, who modeled the humility to accept your help. May we follow their example and turn to you, until the time when suffering is no more. Merciful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: We lift all for whom we pray into your loving arms, O God, in the name of Jesus, our savior.

C: Amen.

* 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 you can make your offering online.
- P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God of wholeness, we give thanks for the abundant lives you have given us. Accept these, our gifts, offered with gratitude for the healing of the world.

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 October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 13 of 18

* 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. In the blessedness of your saints you have given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that, moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. 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 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: With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas, we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds. With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food. With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present, we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations. With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross, we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth. With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:
- In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, saying, "This is my Body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Then again, after supper, He took the cup and gave thanks. He gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and drink, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It's shed for you for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death. With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection. With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning. With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness, we pray for the power of the Spirit. Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup, with the presence of the body and blood of Christ. Form us into a communion of service, and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 14 of 18

- With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal, and especially with *all those who helped to form our faith*, lead us to a future we cannot yet see, and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.
- Now with all of the family you saved by your love, we offer you honor, glory, power, might and thanksgiving for you are our one living God. And all God's people shouted...

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: Come be made clean through the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ. God invites you to the feast of healing and wholeness.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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

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... God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

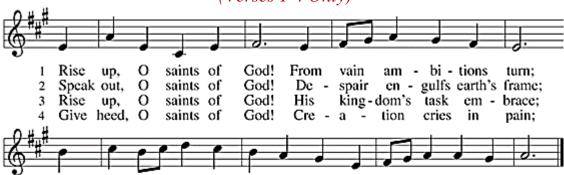
• Please be seated Page 15 of 18

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.





Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn. as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place. stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.

* 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	Katherine Jump

* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

• Please be seated Page 16 of 18

Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Try a new hair style

MIND: Know the facts on election day **SPIRIT:** Watch a Christian movie

This Week @ Trinity - November 6 thru November 13, 2022

Sun, Nov. 6	10:30 am 11:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion Annual Congregational Meeting
Tues, Nov. 8	Election Day	
Wed, Nov. 9	6:30 pm	Christian Education Team Meeting
Thurs, Nov. 10	10:00 am 2:30 pm	Prayers I& Squares Quilting Community Blood Drive at Trinity
Fri, Nov. 11	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Nov. 13	10:30 am Christmas A	Thankoffering Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 13th Micah [1:3-5]; 5:2-5a; 6-8

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.

* Please stand if able

October 16, 2022

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

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* Please stand if able October 16, 2022

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