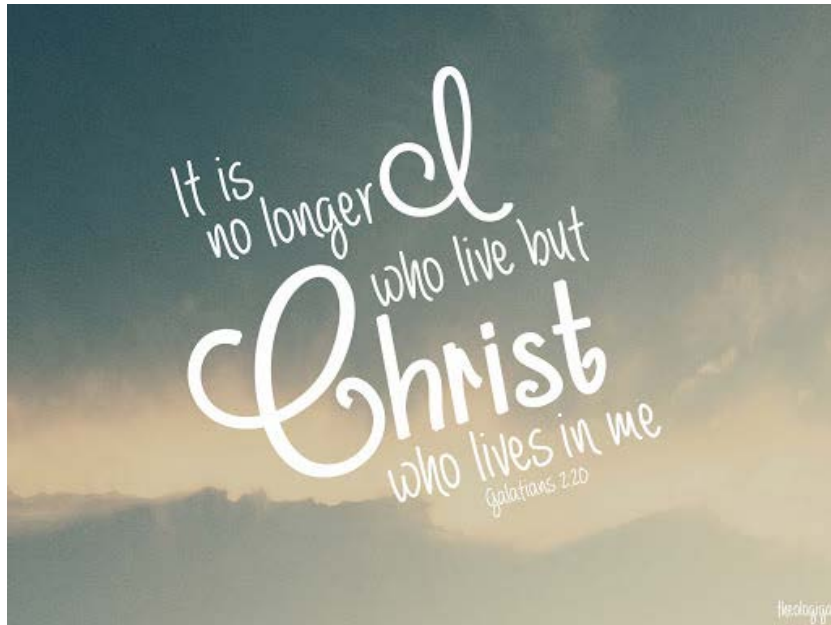


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Living by Faith May 9, 2021



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



* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

LBW 479



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Merciful God, We cannot save ourselves through our own actions, only through your grace, freely offered. Yet keep us faithful to the lives we have chosen and make us examples that others might see and come to believe in you, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

May 9, 2021

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr Mel

Put a whistle in your mouth and blow it. Ask the children to name some of the people who blow whistles. If they need help, some answers are referees, coaches, teachers, lifeguards and crossing guards. Ask the children what crossing guards do. A guard's job is to keep children safe when they cross the street, and a guard might need to stop a child who is doing something dangerous. Stress that guards don't punish children, but they might need to be very firm in order to keep children safe. Explain that the same is true with the laws of the Bible. The apostle Paul says that we were "guarded under the law," meaning that the law was a kind of crossing guard for us (v. 23). Talk about how the laws of the Bible against stealing and lying keep us safe. Then ask if we need a crossing guard throughout our lives. No! Point out that when children grow up, they know the rules of traffic safety, so they don't need a crossing guard anymore. Tell them that Paul knew this, which is why he said, "the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came" (v. 24), meaning that Jesus has put the rules against stealing and lying in our hearts, so we can stay safe by following Jesus. Blow your whistle one more time, and encourage the children to follow their crossing guards so that they will stay safe, until that time that all the rules are in their hearts.

Lets pray... Thank you, God, for laws and rules and all the crossing guards that help to keep us safe. When we think we are good enough and have done enough good to be your children, remind us that we are your children by your grace and not by our own good works. May our good deeds be done out of thankfulness and love for you rather than trying to earn you love. In Jesus' name, amen.

• SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Galatians, Chapters 1 & 2.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; ¹²for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. ¹³And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

• **SERMON**

Pastor Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one whose faithfulness saves, Jesus who is the Lord, amen.

I'm not much into recycling... I know I should try to separate plastic from paper and compost all our actual garbage, but it feels like too much trouble and I just can't seem to get in the habit of separating out the various different kinds of trash. One thing I have repurposed or recycled is the Alpaca manure. We've

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

mucked out the stalls and moved the alpaca poo to our garden and it makes wonderful fertilizer. I guess I do some repurposing. Nothing like the scale that is practiced by some of our large metropolitan zoos. I read a story this week about the Seattle Woodland Zoo. They operate an award-winning “Zoo Doo” program that each year takes the waste from the park’s elephants, hippos, zebras, giraffes, gazelles, and other zoo creatures and transforms it into nearly a million pounds of compost to enhance gardens and lawns throughout the Seattle area. The transformed waste is so highly prized they can’t keep up with demand. Not only does the repurposed animal waste — once sent to landfills — now provide a completely organic alternative to chemical fertilizers, but the zoo no longer has to pay more than \$60,000 a year for disposal. Instead, this unlikely product contributes upward of \$20,000 to the annual budget and has earned the organization recognition for environmental conservation. Now that’s what I call creative repurposing... There’s so many other examples I could sight, like how the old bell bottom jeans I threw into the garbage back in the day now sell on eBay for anywhere from \$75 to over \$300! How about companies that turn our old worn-out tires into playground equipment and astro-turf for football and soccer fields, or plastic bottles into outdoor furniture. One company has creatively repurposed earthworm doo-doo into plant food. Did you know worms produce more than their

body weight in doo-doo every day! So, this company right they dehydrates worm excrement and packages it for resale as plant food. You can buy it off the shelves at your local garden shop and even at WalMart. I know it's gross to talk about, but that company posted a \$15 million dollar profit... Repurposing is one way to help lessen the amount of garbage we send to landfills every day.

God's been doing this for years, most powerfully through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. You see, the Apostle Paul grew up believing he would be justified or made right with God, by doing what was correct according to the laws of the Bible. Paul was a champ at this. In this letter to the Church he founded in Galatia, he says he was more zealous than any of his peers when it comes to keeping the law and even persecuting this new sect called the Christians... When it came to being made right with God through works of the law, Paul was batting a thousand.

Now let's talk about God's repurposing program... Paul met Our Savior Jesus on the road to Damascus while on a trip, sanctioned by the Chief Priests of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, in order to arrest and persecute followers of Jesus Christ. He was an enemy of Christians and assisted in the stoning of Stephen and probably many others. Yet, despite all these Jewish honors Paul wrote this to his Church in Philippi, "... whatever gains I had, I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own

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that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ” (Philippians 3:7-9). To recap, let’s describe Saint Paul before his conversion... Circumcised Jew, Israelite, tribe of Benjamin, Hebrew, Pharisee, blameless law-abider. It’s all rubbish, says Paul. In fact, what he really says, using the Greek word skubala, is that it’s total “excrement.” Nothing but worm waste.

We don’t have to be Jews by birth to understand what Paul is talking about. He was playing the game according to the rules he grew up with, but then he discovered God was creating a whole new ballgame. We run into the same trap when we focus on work, money, or sex-appeal, which our culture constantly encourages us to pursue. We work hard to acquire great jobs, accumulate lots of money and find attractive partners only to discover these enticing goals can get in the way of having a right relationship with God.

We tend to worry about things like drugs, drinking or pornography or whatever your favorite flavor of sin might be, but it’s not all the bad and nasty things that are our biggest problems. The devil is way too crafty to show up in his red tights, long pointed tail, and pitchfork... He much more often shows up draped in things we would consider good things, even blessings. Things like, working for career advancement, accumulating money, and seeking an attractive mate. These are all great and good goals. These are the goals most people pursue in 21st-

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century America, just as Paul chased the goal of being made right with God through works of the law in first-century Palestine. The trouble is these goals don't really make us happy or fulfilled because they are not God. If we pursue these things at the expense of having time for God, they become nothing more than false gods or idols.

Fortunately, God is in the business of creative repurposing, and he's playing a whole new ballgame through his Son, Jesus Christ. "A person is justified not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ," writes Paul to the Galatians. "And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law". Everybody wanted to be "justified," that is, made right with God. What Paul discovered was the "works of the law" don't get the job done. When we rely on them to either make us right with God or when we rely on our money, job, or sex-appeal to supply our happiness, we're relying on not much more than worm waste and alpaca poo...

The faithfulness of Christ is what makes us right with God. Not works of the law. Not money. Not sex-appeal. Not success in our careers. Not anything we can do, only a willingness to put our complete trust in Jesus Christ and his faithfulness can save. This is a transformation every bit as unexpected as the

metamorphosis of used tires into athletic field astro-turf or playground equipment. It requires nothing short of dying to self and rising in Christ. “I have been crucified with Christ,” writes Paul, “and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (vv. 19-20).

When we’re crucified with Christ and reborn filled with the power and presence of Jesus himself, that’s God’s creative repurposing alive and working in the world today. So, what does it mean to be repurposed to “live by faith in the Son of God”? To understand what Paul is talking about, I need you to understand an ambiguity that lies at the heart of his description of the power of faith. The Greek words that are translated “I live by faith in the Son of God” should more accurately be translated “I live by the faith of the Son of God,” switching the emphasis from our faith to Christ’s faith. That makes a huge difference! Suddenly, we aren’t living by our own faith; we’re living by Christ’s faith. Our values and practices have been repurposed, with Jesus Christ’s own faithfulness moving in us and through us. The newly repurposed follower of Jesus Christ no longer places his or her own wants and desires first. They live not for themselves, but to be instruments of God, living for God’s purposes not our own.

Take a long, hard look at the cross. Find one and focus on it. The church is full of crosses. Lexie tells me she counted them and there's over 150 in this church. Some of you are wearing them around your neck. Wherever and whenever you see the cross, remember — it isn't just Christ's cross; it's your cross. "I have been crucified with Christ," says Paul, "and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (vv. 19-20). Our old life has ended, and a new life has begun. When we are made right with God by Christ's self-giving faithfulness, we become completely different people — "a new creation," in which everything old has passed away, and everything has become new (2 Cor 5:17). Because we're now living by the faith of the Son of God, with Christ's own faithfulness moving in and through us, our good works are no longer done to earn God's love, but out of thanksgiving for all God has done for us. Not because we're such self-giving people, but because Christ is a self-giving Lord. We live by the faith of the Son of God whenever we reach out to the poor, feed the hungry, or send our quilts and personal care kits and school kits to underprivileged in countries near and far.

Jesus loved us and gave himself for us. Repurposed by the cross of Christ, we are now given the opportunity to live out our faith. May Christ be our life and our purpose. Repurposed for God, may we live for Christ alone. Amen.

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Silence may be kept for meditation...

• **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Larry Harter

* **NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need...

A brief silence.

L: Lead us in lives of integrity that reflect our commitment to you and your gospel, and do not allow us to become reason for others to stumble in their faith. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless all the women who have been like mothers to us in this life, and guide those who tend and care for others who need them. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

May 9, 2021

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L: Help us to outwardly show the Christ that lives inwardly within us, especially in relation to your created world and our responsibility in it. Make us good stewards of your gifts and defenders of all that threatens your creation. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Deliver those who have been victimized by cults and sects masquerading as religion. Heal those who have suffered abuse at the hands of those who act as people of faith. Forgive us our shortcomings as a church and lead us forward in reconciliation. Help us O God, to bring an end to this pandemic. Spread your healing power over the people of India who are now suffering terribly from the Covid disease. Bless all those for whom we pray this day, especially... ..
God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We celebrate Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, hymnwriter and one who helped renew the church. We give you thanks for all who spread your gospel through the gift of music. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

L: Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day. We bring the gifts of our wealth, our time and our lives to your service. We offer them freely as a testimony to our gratitude for the mercy you have shown to us. Accept them and use us for the important work of your kingdom on earth.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the “tie that Binds us together”, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*** 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**

“M-O-T-H-E-R ”


Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Buy a new outfit
MIND: learn a new word and use it
SPIRIT: Adopt a pet



Scripture readings for next Sunday, May 16th
 Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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 – May 9 thru May 16, 2021

Sun, May 9

10:30 am Worship Service



Wed, May 12

6:30 pm Confirmation

6:30 pm Christian Education Team Meeting

Thurs, May 13

2:30-6:30 pm Community Blood Drive at Trinity

Fri, May 14

9:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting

3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, May 16

10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated



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



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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated