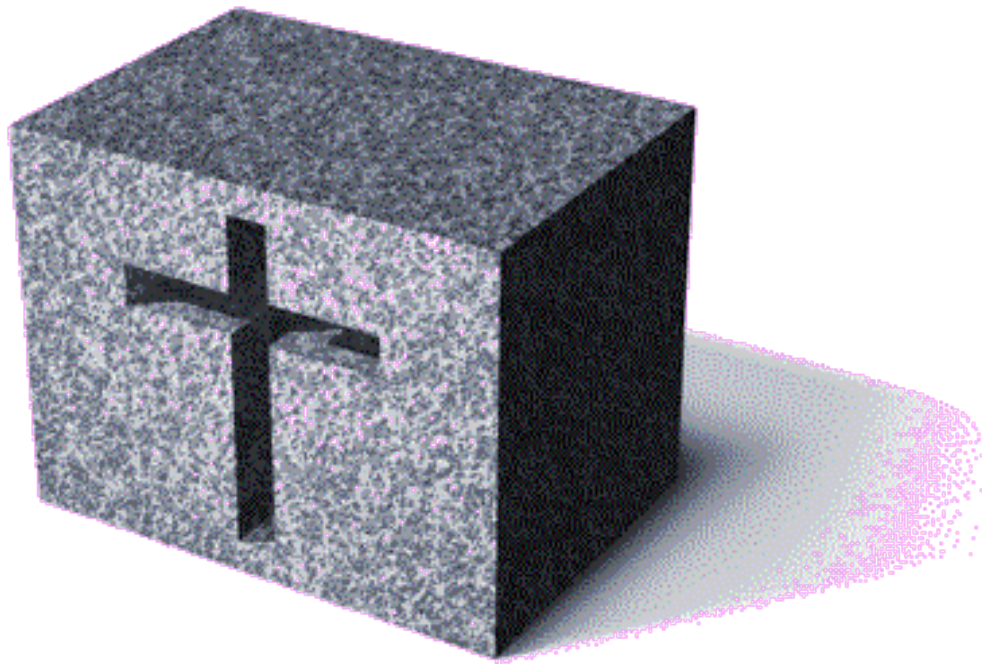


Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



1 Peter 2
July 17, 2022



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



- **Prelude** **Darrell Fryman**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Saving God,

C: Too often we have turned away from you and toward ourselves. We have not had unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, or a humble mind. We have repaid evil for evil. We have failed to serve. Draw us back into the joy of your beloved community, and give us eager hearts to love our neighbors.

P: God who redeems all flesh gives you new life in Christ and forgives you all your sins. Rejoice in the grace and mercy of God, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

“How Firm A Foundation”

LBW 507



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 “Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.”
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.”
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne.”

* 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... Merciful God, you have called us out of darkness and made us a
royal priesthood, a holy nation, your very own people. Inspire us to proclaim
your mighty acts to all the world, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: The Easy Way or the Right Way

Object:

Scripture: 1 Peter 2

Good morning girls and boys! I hope you all had a very blessed week. In today's Bible reading one of the disciples of Jesus, a man named Peter wrote some very encouraging words to the early Christians. He reminded them they were already chosen and saved by the incredible Grace and mercy of God through Jesus. Then he wanted to help them learn to live their lives trying to be more like Jesus. To help us understand what Peter was trying to tell us let's play a game that requires you to make choices.

Tell me if this is a true statement or a false one. Today is Monday. Next, True or false: there are more girls in our group than boys. Now that you have the idea, let's change it up a little. Instead of answering true or false I want you to tell me if which of the two choices is the easy way out and which is the right thing to do.

Here we go... Suppose you ate the candy in the candy dish, but your babysitter told your parents it was not you, but your sister or brother who ate the candy! What would be the easy thing to do?" To let your sister or brother take the blame for what you did, of course! What is the *right* thing to do? Admit that you were the one who took the candy and then take the punishment your parents decide is needed for your behavior. Isn't it always better to be honest than to lie to your parents?

Let's try this again... If you are playing a game and you are losing and you have an opportunity to cheat when no one is looking... What is the *easy* thing to do?" Cheating would be very tempting and the easy way to win. That's for sure... What is the right thing to do? The right thing to do is to play fair, even if it means you lose the game...

Jesus taught us to do what is right and to treat one another as we would like to be treated.

Let's pray... Dear God, help us to always remember that the easy way is not always the right way to live our lives. When we have a hard time figuring out the right thing to do, please give us your holy guidance and your gracious mercy if and when we choose the easy way instead of the right way. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 2**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from 1 Peter, Chapter 2.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

2¹⁻³ So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God.

The Stone

4-8 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent: Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, the stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone. For the untrusting it's . . . a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

9-10 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

11-12 Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life in your neighborhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.

13-17 Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.

The Kind of Life He Lived

18-20 You who are servants, be good servants to your masters—not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. There's no particular virtue in

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

²¹⁻²⁵ This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step. He never did one thing wrong, Not once said anything amiss. They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right. He used his servant body to carry our sins to the Cross so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way. His wounds became your healing. You were lost sheep with no idea who you were or where you were going. Now you're named and kept for good by the Shepherd of your souls.

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

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Chief

Cornerstone of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, amen.

Most of you know PJ and I love to attend Rock N Roll concerts. I've been a fan of the Rock band Pink Floyd for many years. When I read this second chapter of First Peter I couldn't resist mentioning one of their iconic songs "Another Brick In The Wall" from the album The Wall. In the late '70's, Pink Floyd came out with this hit song that school kids loved. Although the band broke up in the 1980s, Roger Waters, who wrote most of their music, toured the world playing the album, The Wall in its entirety. We saw this concert, not once but twice at the beginning of his world-wide tour in Columbus and then again toward the end in Indianapolis. As the concert progressed, the stagehands constructed a giant wall that separated

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the audience from the band. It was a symbol of how Roger Waters struggled with mental illness during his life. Both times we saw them they included a local children's choir to sing the chorus. "We don't need no education. We don't need no thought control... Hey teacher! Leave those kids alone... And the line... All and all you're just another brick in the wall." There's some debate concerning the last line, but I always understood it to mean if you willingly believe everything your teachers tell you, you're just another brick in the wall--a conformist who must not be very bright because you're not willing or able to think for yourself. No, students shouldn't just swallow everything that they hear from their teachers.

Here's what I mean, I had a teacher in 9th grade who used to say his job wasn't to tell us what to think, but to teach us to think for ourselves. We need more teachers like that today! Of course, there are many who will accuse you of being just another brick in the wall if you believe everything you read in the Bible – especially the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Neither Christ, nor Bible-believing Christians are just another brick in the wall.

According to several house-building websites I checked, foundations are the most difficult and important part of construction. A foundation that might work in one part of the country where it is relatively dry, probably wouldn't work in another area where wet weather or poor drainage cause wet or damp soil

conditions. So, if you're intent on building your own home, it's best to consult the experts before laying your foundation. Get the foundation wrong and the rest of your house is doomed because the walls and roof won't have the support the house needs to stay standing. The Apostle Peter explains the same thing is true of our eternal salvation. He quoted the prophet Isaiah in our text: The Scriptures provide precedent: Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, the stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone. For the untrusting it's . . . a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted..

Many people feel their own goodness can be the foundation of their salvation. However, according to the Bible, that's like building your house on sand. Peter reminds us Jesus is not just another brick in the wall. He's not just another path up the summit of salvation or another item on the spiritual, but not religious menu. Christ is the cornerstone, the only foundation that will lift us up and make us righteous before God Almighty. Jesus himself made it clear in John's Gospel when he said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the only sure foundation of

our salvation because he is the only one who measured up to God's standard of perfection. Trusting in ourselves or anything else is like standing on an empty cardboard box you've painted to look like a rock, thinking it will support your weight and help you reach higher heights. You can't simply step over or around Christ the Cornerstone as if he's a brick that fell off the mason's wheelbarrow. He's much bigger than that. So, don't treat Jesus like just another brick in the wall – like another guru you can choose to listen to or ignore without consequences.

While Christ is the cornerstone of God's temple, he's not the whole building. What do you suppose the rest of the temple is made out of? Marble? Gold? Listen to Peter again: ...But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. God is building his house out of you and the Christian sitting next to you. It's no wonder he calls us stones instead of bricks. Bricks are all the same shape, size, and color. No two stones are alike, not even stones cut from the same rock. God loves this variety, bringing us together to become a dazzling mosaic designed for his glory.

This building technique is a blessing for us. I'm not very good at fixing things. So, if church maintenance was left to me, we'd have a furnace that doesn't

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

work and doors that remain broken. Thankfully we have a few living stones here who look after those things. Likewise, you might not be gifted at sewing or making quilts, but we're blessed with several rock-solid seamstresses who enjoy making the most beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We also have some living stones who are able to help pack up the quilts for shipping and others who can help load them into vehicles, and others who can drive them to the pick-up locations. There's enough work to go around so everyone can get involved!

What gifts has God given you? How are you using them for the benefit of God's people? There are no ornamental stones in God's house... You may feel like another brick in the wall when you come to church on Sunday morning and sit there for an hour while I talk and others play the piano and organ. But you're not a brick. You are a living stone and that's how God's people roll! Serving others for God's glory is what God made you to do! That's what I call a real Rolling Stone!

To get that point across Peter used another analogy in our text. He said we are a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices. Just as Aaron's descendants had the privilege of busying themselves in the temple offering animal sacrifices every morning and evening, God has called us to be priests who now offer spiritual instead of animal sacrifices. An example of such a sacrifice is when you willingly create delicious meals for grieving families. Sure, you would like to actually sit

* Please stand if able

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down and eat that great meal, but you stay in the kitchen or help serve the family until they have all been served. Then, and only then, do those who serve sit down to eat themselves. Even younger members can do something... Perhaps out of love for your family you watch your younger siblings while Mom and Dad get some yard work done. Sure, you'd like to be off playing, doing your own thing, instead you sacrifice your time to help the family. When you do it for God's glory you're being a living stone and a royal priest.

Let me make this clear. Sacrificing your time, talent, or treasure for others doesn't make you a royal priest or a living stone. You already are living stones and royal priests. How did this happen, you ask...? It wasn't because God saw anything pretty in you or me. A miner will descend into the dirty depths to retrieve diamonds because they're worth something, but when God's Son came down here he only found worthless grit. Still, he scooped us up, sacrificing his life as he did and washing and polishing us with his blood. Just how precious are we now? Look at what an angel showed the Apostle John in the book of Revelation. This is a symbolic description of believers. The angel said, "'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' (that's us folks) ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its

* Please stand if able

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brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:9-11)... See, you are not just another brick in the wall! You’re a gem, a jewel, a precious living stone in God’s temple. You already shine with God’s love. Our job is to simply direct that love at others so they may see God’s brilliance and learn they too are not just another brick in the wall.

I don’t know what Pink Floyd had in mind when they sang: “All and all you’re just another brick in the wall,” but Peter’s words are clear aren’t they? Christ is the cornerstone of our salvation, and built on him Christians are living stones in God’s temple. Show off your God-given beauty this week as you praise the Rock of our salvation with your words and deeds, for Christ is never just another brick in the wall and neither are you. You are that precious gem, reflecting God’s glory, giving God the honor and the praise for his great mercy and his grace given all for you, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLE’S CREED**

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

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Assured of God’s promise to redeem all creation through Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Mothering God, feed us on your pure, spiritual milk, so that we might grow in your image. Keep us from malice, guile, insincerity, envy, and slander, that we might be models of the holy life into which we are called. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: You have chosen us as your people, and charged us with the care of all that you have made. Spur us to action on behalf of the natural world, that we may live in harmony with your creation. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Peter called the early Christians to be obedient to human institutions, even though those institutions were persecuting the church. Give us discernment in choosing leaders who are committed to creating just laws for all people. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Sometimes illness, tragedy, and adversity shake the foundations of our lives. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, (*especially*). Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Our world carries the shameful legacy of human enslavement, even as people are still subject to its ravages today. Move us to work tirelessly for justice for all those whose lives have been torn apart by such abusive practices throughout history. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with joy all the saints who have gone before, living stones which have built the foundations of our faith. May we join them in continuing to grow and strengthen the church. Faithful God,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: Holy God we place all for whom we pray into your loving care, trusting in the promise of your salvation.

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 www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Faithful God, by your generous provision, you help us build a strong foundation for our faith. We return, now, these gifts, and ask your blessing on them, so that others may be similarly strengthened here and throughout 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

• Please be seated

*** THE PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** THE SANCTUS**

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

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

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: God has built for us a glorious table and invites us to be fed like newborns, on pure, spiritual milk. Let us gather there and feast on the abundance that is Jesus.

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

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN “In Christ There Is No East or West” LBW 359**



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

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

*** POSTLUDE**

Darrell Fryman

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 24th
1 Peter 3

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

July 17, 2022

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – July 17 thru July 24, 2022

Sun, July 17 10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Tues, July 19 6:00 pm HayDay Vacation Bible School

Wed, July 20 6:00 pm Finance Team Meeting
 7:00 pm Trinity Council Meeting

Thurs, July 21 11:30 am Ladies and Gents Luncheon – Marion Pizza, Troy
 6:00 pm HayDay Vacation Bible School

Fri, July 22 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry

Sun, July 24 10:30 am Church Picnic & Outdoor Worship



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Tuesday, July 19 and Thursday, July 21 – 6:00-8:15 pm.
 R.S.V.P. to Marge Warner at 937-623-2544.

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Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship – Next Sunday, July 24th – Worship will be under the portico and the picnic will be in the fellowship hall! Please mark the date and plan to attend!

- *There is a sign-up sheet on the table for donations of food items needed for the picnic. (Meat, drinks, condiments, and ice cream will be provided.)*

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Take an exercise class
MIND: Read to someone
SPIRIT: Make only positive comments



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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- * Please stand if able
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