

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



Exodus 20:12-16
June 26, 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: God of liberation,

C: We are quick to forget all that you have done for us. We ignore your commandments, choosing ourselves over you and our neighbors time and again. Lead us out of the wilderness of our sin, and into new lives of love.

P: Our God bears us on eagle's wings and lovingly gathers us to herself. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins and walk in the freedom and confidence of God's deliverance, in Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

LBW 370



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

* **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... Blessed YAHWEH, You have blessed us with guidance on how to

live in peace with one another. Help us to respect one another in all that we say and do, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: Rules Are Cool or Rules Are Cruel?

Materials: Ten Commandments bookmark

Scripture: Exodus 20:12-16

Good morning girls and boys, I'm so happy you're here today! Did you have a great week? I sure hope so... How many of you have rules at home? Do you have rules about when to eat? How to eat? How long you can watch television? How you should act? (no hitting, no spitting, no yelling?) Do you like the rules? I remember saying that I did NOT like some of the rules when I was little; especially at school. There were too many!!

Let's think about rules and play a game called "I wonder." I'm going to ask you a question that starts with "I wonder" and you guys are going to use your imagination and help me answer. In our country, we have a lot of rules about food -- how it has to be made before we buy it and eat it. I wonder what would happen if we didn't have any of those rules? (do you think it would be clean? Taste as good? would restaurants be as clean?) We also have a lot of rules in sports and games. I wonder what would happen if our games didn't have rules? (people would cheat and lie, we wouldn't know how to play -- it wouldn't be as fun) And what about on the road -- we have tons of rules on how to drive or ride our bikes on the road. I wonder what would happen if we didn't have those rules? (You could drive anywhere, stop when you want -- there would be crashes all the time!)

We have a lot of rules to live by, and most of them are good, and necessary. If we didn't have them, the world would be crazy!

God also gave us some rules to live by. They are called the 10 commandments and God gave them to Moses. There are 10 of them and they are very important:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Don't worship any other gods. | 6. Be faithful to your family |
| 2. Don't misuse God's name | 7. Don't steal |
| 3. Rest one day a week. | 8. Don't bear false witness |
| 4. Honor your parents | 9. Don't covet your neighbors house |
| 5. Don't kill | 10. Don't covet anything |

It's important for us to learn these rules and to obey them! Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for the gift of rules to live by. Help us to learn them and obey them, even when we don't want to. Amen.

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 20:12-16**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Exodus, Chapter 20.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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 fulfilled every jot and tittle of the Law in your place, Jesus Christ Our Lord, amen.

Today we have before us commandments four through eight. Honor your parents, don't commit murder, be faithful to your spouse, don't steal, and don't lie about your neighbor. Last week we focused on the first three. Those commandments all deal with our relationship with God. Today these five commandments guide our relationships with other people, starting with our very first human relationship, our parents, and expanding outward to include all people. As a reminder, these are basic rules which form the first known code of Law. They were necessary because humans are by nature self-centered and when left to our own base instincts we become consumed with our own needs and desires. When God gave these commandments the "Chosen People" had just been rescued from over 600 years of slavery in Egypt. They had been living under the thumb of

Pharaoh and had no idea how to live as an independent nation. Add to that, they were a people on the march. They had been in the wilderness for over a month by the time they arrived at Mount Saini where God initially spoke these ten words of covenant living directly to the people. They were so afraid of this mighty God, they begged Moses to be their intermediary and to never allow God to speak directly to them again. So, Moses went up the mountain and received the stone tablets. Imagine the situation as they wandered the wilderness. They complained bitterly about the lack of food and water. Since there were no laws governing how they were to treat one another, if they were hungry and the person in the tent next to them had food, they simply took what they wanted. The same went for water, clothing, and every other commodity. They desperately needed a set of rules to be able to live together and form a Holy nation of chosen people.

With that as our context, let's take a quick look at each of these five commands. First, what does it mean to honor your father and mother? In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther said, "We should fear and love God, and so we should not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and esteem them." This is not a suggestion, but the Word of God... This is also the only Commandment that comes with a direct promise attached. God says we're to honor our mother and father so that we will live long

in the land that God is providing. Just as the first three commands establish our relationship with God this commandment establishes our relationship with the rest of our human family.

The fifth commandment is to not kill one another. Luther said, “We should fear and love God, and so we should not endanger our neighbor’s life, nor cause him any harm, but help and befriend him in every necessity of life.” Set in positive terms, we should always help and befriend our neighbors.

This week the Supreme Court ruled 6 to 3 to uphold a Mississippi Law limiting abortion and overturning Roe Vs Wade. When it comes to “Thou Shall Not Kill” this seems like a no brainer, but there are two sides to every issue. I don’t know if you’re celebrating or mourning these decisions from the Supreme Court, but I pray there will be less killing. I certainly hope and pray the states will make appropriate laws to protect women’s rights when it comes to the health and safety of the mother and when rape or incest is involved. I hope we can all agree to peaceful discussion and a conversation about these issues without resorting to violence and even more killing. Add to this conversation, the Supreme Court’s earlier ruling on Gun laws and this was a big week for the fifth commandment.

The sixth commandment concerns our relationship with our spouse. We should fear and love God, and so we should lead a chaste and pure life in word and

deed, each one loving and honoring his wife or her husband. I'm old enough to remember the scandal when President Jimmy Carter said he was guilty of committing adultery because he had lusted in his heart. I'm not sure President Carter had it totally correct. We all have certain thought that randomly come into our heads. The real trouble begins when you get a thought in your head and then dwell on it without dismissing it. That's when Satan sees an entrance ramp into your brain, and you begin to go down the road to sin. Whether it's porn on the internet or a simple sexy ad on TV we're bombarded with temptation every day. Being tempted isn't a sin, but dwelling on images and then acting on our urges is...

Number seven is the prohibition against stealing. Luther says... "We should fear and love God, and so we should not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by dishonest trade or by dealing in shoddy wares, but help him to improve and protect his income and property." This week I learned of an excessively despicable theft. Some of you might know the Zimmer family. Charles and Krista Zimmer both perished as a result of a helicopter crash on June 7th. Last week robbers broke into their home and stole their possessions. This happened before the family could even go into the home and begin sorting through the household. Stealing is wrong, but this blatant disregard for a family's loss and grief is especially hard to understand. Now,

before we all rush to condemn, we should ask ourselves if we're guilty of breaking this commandment. When I ask this of my Confirmation students they usually say at least they don't go around sealing other people's stuff. I ask them if they have ever failed to study and gotten a poor grade on a test. They all have done that at least once or twice. Luther says doing shoddy work is the same as stealing... How about you? Have you ever just phoned it in instead of giving your all to your vocation? Stealing is stealing...

The eighth Commandment is telling us not to bear false witness. This Commandment is so much more than just about lying about our neighbor... Luther says, "We should fear and love God, and so we should not tell lies about our neighbor, nor betray, slander, or defame him, but should apologize for him, speak well of him, and interpret charitably all that he does." This is really hard for us. Who doesn't like to Gossip and hear the dirt about others. If you doubt me, all you have to do is look at the rating boost the networks had during the Trump years or just a few weeks ago during the Johnny Depp, Amber Heard trial. We love a good take down story... When framed into a positive, this commandment tells us we should always and only talk good about others. My mother used to say if you don't have something good to say about someone, then don't say anything at all...

So, there's Commandments 4 through 8. Who here has perfectly kept all of these? Go on raise your hand... No one. I feel like Jesus saying to the crowd, the one who has no sin, cast the first stone... You are all well catechised Lutherans! So, if we can't or won't perfectly keep these four Commands from God, what hope do we have of ever fulfilling our God given potential here on earth or reaching heaven for that matter? First, just because you can never be perfect doesn't mean you stop trying. **(SLIDE)** Here's a chart that shows repeated division by 2. You will get closer and closer to zero, but never reach exactly zero. That's how it is with our behavior and the Commandments. We can keep trying to be better and better people, but our sinful nature prohibits us from reaching perfection. On our own we can never do it! Thanks be to God we're never left on our own. We have the one on our side who did perfectly fulfill each and every one of these and all the other Commandments as well. Jesus once said he didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. **(SLIDE)** He did what was humanly impossible for us to do. By perfectly fulfilling God's Law He became our substitute. Because of Jesus we are able to stand on the day of judgment and plead guilty as charged, but fall on the mercy and the love of Jesus Christ who stands in our place. Jesus took all our sin to himself thereby presenting us to God as blameless. There is no other action necessary on our part to claim this protection.

If Christ has done everything required to fulfill the law on my behalf, why should I even try to be a better person by following the Laws of God? Now we're talking ethics not legalism. We should all try our best because when we do we demonstrate our thanks and our love for all that Jesus has done on our behalf. It's a way we have to show our appreciation for God's Grace in pardoning our sin. We've come up with all kinds of ways to convince ourselves that this or that isn't really sin. We call bad things good all the time. Thanks be to God we have Jesus who covers our sin with His righteousness. May we always recognize where we go astray and fall on our knees before our righteous judge. Thanks be to God, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLES' 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: Trusting in the faithful promises of our God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of mercy, teach us to love one another so deeply that treating each other with kindness and respect, ethically, and honorably, comes more naturally to us than hatred and fear. Show us how to love boldly. God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give us hearts to tend to all things that you have made. For tangible things and for those things that we cannot grasp: love, shame, compassion, fear, and mercy, we pray your blessings upon all that we say and do. God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give us hearts to lead and to follow as you see fit. Give discernment to those whom we follow, and confidence to those whom we lead.
God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give us hearts to care for all who are in need of healing, and pour your restorative love upon those whose healing is beyond our reach, (*especially*).
God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Give us hearts to remember those who live in conditions that prevent their flourishing, in our nation and across the world. Turn our remembering into action, that your justice might be done. God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Give us hearts to honor the example of parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and countless others who have gone before. We gratefully praise your name for all these good saints in our lives. God of Promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: With humble hearts we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ our savior.

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.... God of blessed community, we offer now these gathered gifts, signs of our love and respect for you and our neighbors. Bless them for your work of bringing peace and justice to the world.

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.

• 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** **“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”** **LBW 492**



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

* **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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* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Walk in a park

MIND: Learn to let go of the negativity

SPIRIT: Look up at the night sky

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 – June 26 thru July 3, 2022

Sun, June 26	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tues, June 28	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, July 1	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, July 3	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion



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.

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship – 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.)*



Scripture readings for next Sunday, July 3rd
Exodus 20:17

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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