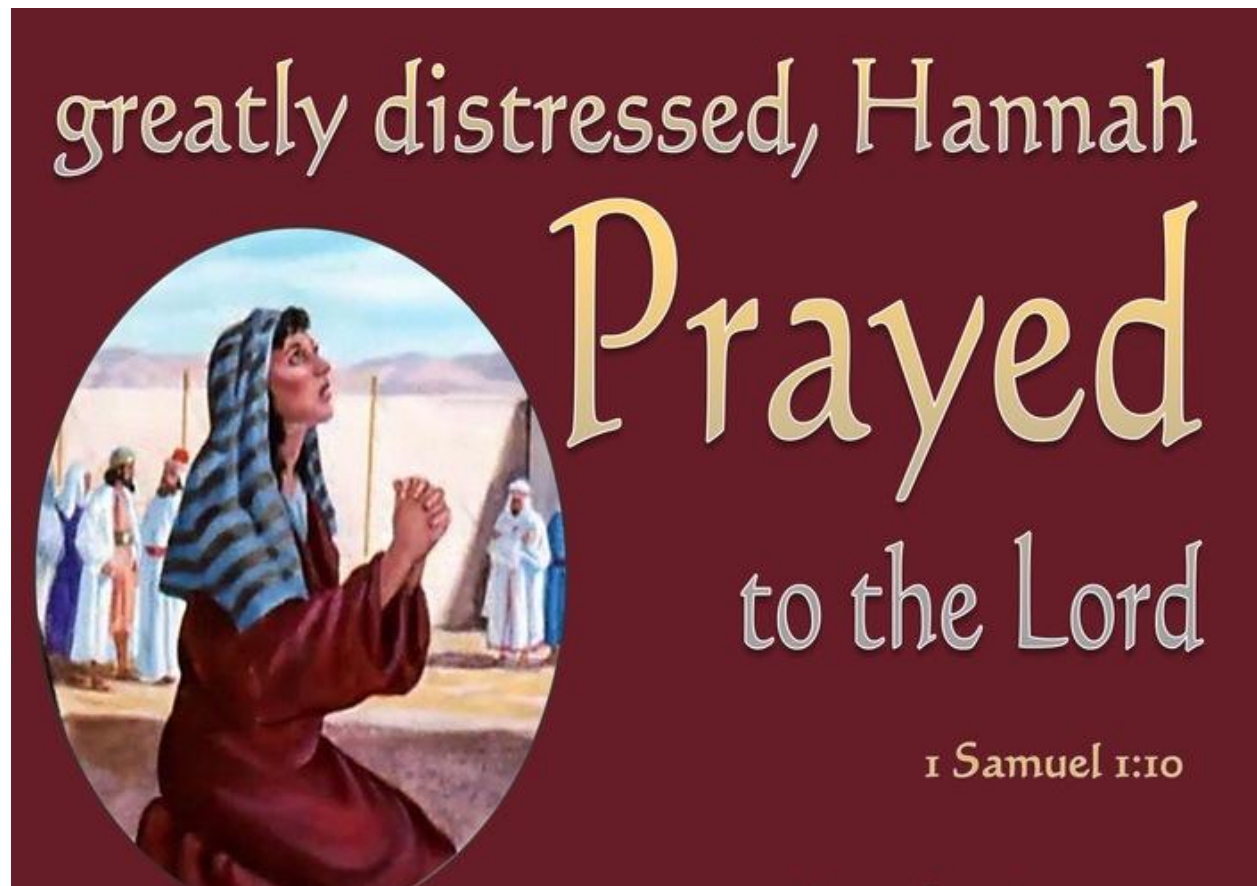


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10
October 13, 2024



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr. Mel Musser**

* **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

* **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... Holy God, you are our rock and salvation. We rejoice for all that you have done. Thank you for your faithfulness, and for hearing the cries of your people.

C: **Amen.**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 13, 2024

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• **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



Theme: Prayer Lightens Our Heavy Loads
Materials: Heavy Backpack
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. Today I brought in my backpack. It's pretty full of all the books I need to study for a sermon. I also have a lot of other stuff like my Lap Top Computer. Can you hold this for me for a minute? It's pretty heavy, isn't it? When I have to carry that thing around all day it can be a bit of a burden. It weighs me down. Is it getting heavy for you to carry? How about if we help you by taking some of this stuff out. (Remove the heavy stuff like the Bibles and the laptop...) Now how does that feel? A lot lighter!

In our Bible story for today a woman named Hannah was carrying around a very heavy burden. She wanted a baby boy, but wasn't able to have one. She thought she was cursed by God. Do you know what she did? She went to the Church in a town called Shiloh and prayed. She told God how much she wanted and needed a son. She even told God she would dedicate her son to serving God if God would bless her with a son. When she turned to God in prayer her burden was made a lot lighter.

That's how prayer works. When you have a heavy burden to carry like maybe you're sad because your friend hurt your feelings you can talk about it with your parents, your teachers, your mentors, and even me here at the church. You can always talk to God about anything that's bothering you too. When you share the things that are bothering you with people you trust or with God, it's like taking the heavy weights out of my Bookbag. It feels a lot lighter to carry! Prayer helps us to lighten the things that weigh us down like guilt, sadness, or sorrow. You can always talk to God about these things and know that God hears you and will always answer your prayers.

Maybe we should pray right now! Dear Lord, thank you for listening to our troubles and problems. Thank you for answering our needs and helping us lighten the heavy loads we carry around. Amen.

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10**

R: Our scripture reading is from 1 Samuel, Chapters 1 & 2.

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C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

2 Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.

²“There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world.

⁹“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

- **SERMON**

Pr. Mel Musser

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

The story of Hannah is very personal to me. As a small child, I remember my mother telling me how much she and dad wanted a son. They had 4 girls and then a ten year gap. (SLIDE) My mom always told me that for all those ten years she prayed and prayed God would give her a son. She promised God she would dedicate a son to serve God and finally, I came along. What she never told me was I wasn't the first son to be born in our family. I was already an adult when I found out they had another baby boy born a year or so after my youngest sister. They named him Harold after my dad... He was born with water on the brain and only lived 24 hours. I think this all came rushing back into my memories after PJ and I delivered the beautiful quilt made by the Prayers and Squares Ministry to Morgan's Place this week. (SLIDE) Molley, the founder of Morgan's Place, took us on a tour of the tiny cemetery she and her husband started after the death of two of their unborn children. For those who don't know, Morgan's Place is a cemetery for babies who don't make it all the way to full-term or who die shortly after birth. These might be from miscarriage or even the remains after an abortion. (SLIDE) Molley knows the details of each of the babies buried at Morgan's Place and each story is extremely emotional. In my family's case, mom and dad had their tiny

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baby cremated. I always wondered why mom kept a bronzed baby shoe next to her bed. (SLIDE) I learned after she passed her first baby boy's remains were inside that baby shoe. After she passed my sisters had that shoe buried with her.

In our scripture reading for today, Hannah is childless and everyone blamed her. Elkanah, her husband, had at least one other wife and she was able to bare children, including precious male offspring, but not so with Hannah. (SLIDE) Ancient peoples assumed when a woman was unable to conceive a child, she must have committed some sin to offend God. We don't know her name, but Elkanah's other wife never missed an opportunity to rub it in Hannah's face that she had given Elkanah male heirs. So, Hannah prayed for a son. (SLIDE) She didn't just pray for a son, I mean she prayed and she begged and she bargained with God for a son. She traveled to the temple at Shiloh where her shame and suffering were placed on display for all to see. Perhaps the others who were at the temple saw her affliction and also prayed for her. That's what we would do today. We might even make Hannah a prayer quilt. Of course, today we don't blame childlessness on God. We know a thing or two about where babies come from and there are certain In vitro Fertilization procedures couples can try to have the baby they long for.

Hannah came along in the Biblical narrative at just the right time. For many decades, probably centuries, the Israelites had been thinking and acting according

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to their own wants and desires. They routinely abandoned God and took up the worship of whatever god was handy. (SLIDE) Then the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would withdraw His Godly protection and the nearest enemy would come in and overthrow them. After a while God would hear their cries and prayers and raise up a leader. In the Bible they were called Judges. Most of the time these judges were like God's superheroes. They were super strong like Sampson.

(SLIDE) The Judge would solve the current crisis and then fade away. The people would then go back to doing what they wanted, again forsaking their one true God. This pattern repeated itself over and over again. (SLIDE) You can read about it in the Book called Judges in the Bible. As I said, Hannah came along at just the right time. Something had to be done to break this cycle. God heard Hannah's prayers and saw her faithfulness. The answer to her prayers and to the dilemma of how to break the cycle of sin, repentance, forgiveness, then sinning again was to raise up a true man of God who would be the one to anoint both the 1st and 2nd kings of the Hebrew people. Hannah's son grew up to anoint both Saul and David. (SLIDE)

Last week we read how Moses prayed to God using logic and persistence and in the end, God changed God's mind regarding wiping out the stiff-necked people. (SLIDE) This week we read about Hannah and her prayers for a child. In our translation it says Hannah was "deeply distressed" and prayed. Another way to

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translate the Hebrew is to say she prayed stubbornly. Hannah wasn't giving up after casually mentioning her need to God. (SLIDE) She constantly pounded on the doors of heaven until God heard her and answered her prayers. As I think about my prayers and prayer in general, I think Hannah is given to us as an example of how to pray. It makes me wonder if the saying is as true in heaven as it is here on earth that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease." Another great example of what I'm talking about is the way Jesus prayed. On the night of his betrayal, Matthew tells us Jesus threw himself to the ground and prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane for the cup to pass him by. (SLIDE) In Luke's version Jesus prayed so urgently and in such anguish that his sweat became blood. He literally sweated blood he prayed so hard. When I read stories like this one about Hannah and the example Jesus gives us of prayer, it makes me sad and embarrassed when I compare my prayers to these. It's no wonder my prayers seem to go unheard.

It reminds me of how honey bees behave when the scouts find a rich source of nectar or pollen. The scouts return to the hive and begin to do a dance.

(SLIDE) This dance has at least two purposes. First the direction of the dance tells the rest of the workers the direction of the food, but the fervor and enthusiasm of the dance tells the others how good the new food source actually is. The more

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rigorous the dance the better the food supply and the more the workers react to the dance. I think that's how prayer works too. The more rigorous our prayers, the more we get God's undivided attention. Hannah prayed with vigor.

Another thing Hannah had going for her was that her prayers aligned with God's plan. We can pray for more stuff or for our loved one's health, but if we already have more stuff than we need, or our loved one hasn't lived a healthy lifestyle then God isn't convinced and we're not praying according to God's plan. That doesn't mean our prayers go unheard or unanswered. It means God might answer them in ways we could never see or expect. Here's what I mean. When I was in the Air Force my career was skyrocketing. I was consistently selected as the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. I was our command's Personnel Officer of the Year several times. I even made the inside of the cover of Time Magazine... (SLIDE) All was looking up. Then I went to Alaska and I ran into a brick wall. Despite working 12 to 16 hours a day I couldn't seem to turn the marginal unit around. I met with resistance on every front. I began to pray and pray and pray. No matter what I did, it seemed to get worse. Then one Sunday we attended a new church and the message for the day was from the Gospel of John where the disciples had been fishing all night, but catching nothing. Right away I knew that described how I was feeling. In that Gospel story, Jesus calls to the

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disciples and tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. When they do, they catch a boatload of fish. (SLIDE) That Sunday things got real interesting. The Pastor said if you're not feeling satisfied or fulfilled in your chosen profession, maybe you're not fishing where Jesus is calling you to fish. That's when it hit me that I was dedicated, just like Hannah's son, Samuel, to God and I was actually running away from that calling on my life. From that day on, I changed course and have tried to follow where the Jesus has led me. The answer to my prayers wasn't for God to help me fix a marginal squadron in Alaska (SLIDE), but to change the course of my life and finally begin to follow the path God had intended for me all along. I have never regretted making that course correction. It hasn't been easy, but it has been fulfilling.

Prayer isn't easy and it's not for the faint of heart. I firmly believe that when you ask God for help, you better be prepared for the answer. It might not be the answer you expect. In fact, it might just be the answer you feared the most. That's when you turn over your wants and desires and fully lean on God for His strength. My experience has been, when I begin to finally trust God, God always provides, especially when my prayers are stubborn or enthusiastic, like our honey bees.

The Lord hears all our prayers. May we be prepared and ready to follow through when God answers. May your deepest needs and desires be satisfied,

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knowing God has indeed heard you and answered your prayers. May you become stubborn as Hannah and open as Jesus to the strength and leading God always provides to those who are faithful. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** “Take My Life, That I May Be” **LBW 406**



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

* **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.

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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: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, trusting in your gracious love and care.

A brief silence.

L: For open hearts, we pray. Your faithfulness never fails and never ends. Just as you were faithful to Hannah you are faithful to us. Thank you for your steadfast word and promises. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For creation, we pray. Help us to enact policies for the wellbeing of the earth, and to better understand how our actions can either hurt or help the environment. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For leaders of all kinds, we pray. Kindle love and compassion in all who lead and are responsible for others' wellbeing, no matter the size or scope of their role. Help us all to work together for good. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all who are in need of your care, we pray. Grant peace to those who are in distress and come to the aid of those who need you most, (*especially...*) God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For openness to change, we pray. As autumn continues, open our eyes and hearts to changes in our own lives, and help us to know that you are with us no matter what. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For all those who have gone before us, we pray. Thank you for all the ways in which they showed your love and cared for others. Help us to do the same. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

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October 13, 2024

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L: These and all our prayers we lift up to you, O God.

C: Amen.

MEAL

- **OFFERING**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet may go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

- * **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day ...Generous God, you hear and respond to our needs, and give us all that we need to flourish. In gratitude, we offer now our gifts and our tithes as a sign of our commitment to you and your work in the world. Bless the for the sake of all creation.

C: Amen.

- * **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: United into one through Jesus Christ Our Lord, we 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.

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

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October 13, 2024

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* **SENDING HYMN**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

LBW 410



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 Hearts still are bruised and dead, and homes are bare and cold,
4 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
and lambs for whom the Shep - herd bled are stray - ing from the fold.
to tend those lost in lone - li - ness, is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

* **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. 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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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 20th
2 Samuel 7:1-17

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – October 13 thru October 20:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Oct. 13	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club – “The Chosen”
Wed, Oct. 16	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Thurs, Oct. 17	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon, Mel-0-Dee Restaurant
Fri, Oct. 18	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 20	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Fall Festival @ Trinity & Pitsburg Church of the Brethren

Save The Date!

October 27, 2024	Confirmation Sunday – Wear red!
	Video/Book Club “The Chosen” @ 6:00 pm
November 3, 2024	All Saints Sunday & Congregational Annual Meeting

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Tuesday, October 22nd.

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Do a 10 minute warm up before exercising, spend 5 minutes doing aerobic and 5 minutes stretching.

MIND: Write a poem.

SPIRIT: Show compassion.



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



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Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
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Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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