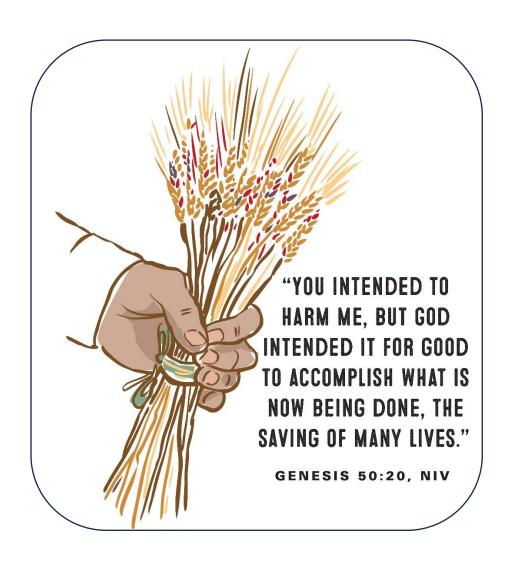
A Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21 September 22, 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.

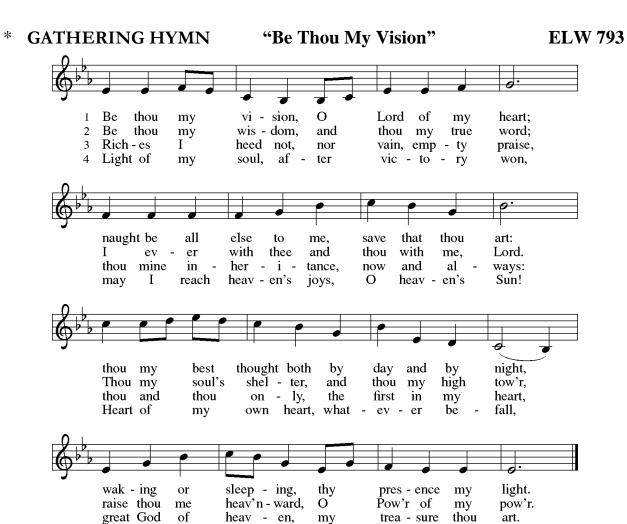
The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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



* APOSTOLIC GREETING

be

my

still

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

Rul - er

all.

of

vi - sion,

C: And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY.

P: Let us pray... Holy God, even in the most dire situations, your love and guidance shine through, sustaining us. Teach us to rely on you, and to know that you are always with us.

C: Amen.

WORD

^{*} Please stand if able

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: God Loves Us and Forgives Us-No Matter What

Materials:

Scripture: Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Hello boys and girls. I hope you all had a great week! Today we're going to talk about an emotion almost all of us have at one time or another. That emotion is jealousy. Have you ever felt jealous of someone? Like at a birthday party and the one how is having the birthday gets all kinds of really great gifts. Maybe even some toys that you wish you could have... We all feel jealous sometimes in our lives and jealousy can cause us to do some really bad behavior.

In the Bible there's a story of a man named Joseph. His daddy gave him a very special coat. It may have been brightly colored or it might have just been a really warm coat with long sleeves that kept Joseph very warm when it was cold outside. Joseph had 11 brothers and none of them got a special coat from their daddy, only Joseph. How do you think that made them feel? I'd be pretty jealous. Joseph made things worse by tattling on his brothers when they were goofing off instead of working as their daddy had asked them to do. Those brothers decided to throw Joseph into a giant hole and kill him, but instead sold him into slavery in the country of Egypt, very far away from their home.

There sure was a lot of bad behavior going around back in those days! From Joseph telling on his brothers to his brothers selling him into slavery, it seems like there is no hope this family will ever find peace. Can you think of something Joseph or his brothers could have done to make their family life better? How about saying, "I'm sorry?" How about not tattling on his brothers... When you feel jealous there are some things you can do too. For example, if you're jealous over someone else's toys, instead of thinking about how much you want what they have, think about all the toys you already have and the fun you'll have the next time you play with them. Or you could add that toy to your Christmas or Birthday list and maybe you'll get one of your own. You might even do some extra chores to earn that toy you want so badly. There are lot's of ways to avoid being jealous.

God never gives up on us, even when we behave as badly as Joseph and his brothers did. God created a happy ending for Joseph's family, where they were no longer jealous of each other. We all make mistakes, but we can trust God to love us, forgive us and help us to learn to love each other.

Let's pray... Dear God, help us when we're jealous of others. Thank you for forgiving us and loving us all the time. Amen.

^{*} Please stand if able

• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

R: Our scripture reading is from Genesis, Chapters 37 & 50.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

[Some time later, Joseph sought after his brothers.]

¹⁷The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan." So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. ²⁹When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. ³⁰He returned to his brothers, and said, "The boy is gone; and I, where can I turn?"

³¹Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They had the long robe with sleeves taken to their father, and they said, "This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³He recognized it, and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." ³⁴Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

^{*} Please stand if able

[Many years passed, and Israel died an old man.]

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

• SERMON Pr. Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who accomplished our forgiveness and eternal salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

This week we skip ahead a few generations from Abraham to Joseph.

(SLIDE) Last week God promised Abraham more descendants than the stars of heaven. In their old age Abraham and Sarah produced one offspring together. His name was Isacc. Isacc in turn fathered Esau and Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel several years later. Jacob was the one upon whom God's favor fell even though he was a bit of a scoundrel. (SLIDE) Jacob worked for Reuben for 7 years to earn the right to marry the love of his life, the beautiful Rachel. After toiling away all those 7 years, Reuben tricked Jacob into marrying his other

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daughter, Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob did what any love-struck man would do. He agreed to work for Reuben for another 7 years to earn the right to marry Rachel. This time Reuben fulfilled his end of the bargain. Jacob, Leah, Rachel, and a couple of servant women had 12 sons between them.

Here's where the real fun begins. Joseph was the first-born son of the union of Jacob and Rachel and was clearly the favorite child. The Bible let's us in on his favored status by describing the special coat Jacob gives to Joseph. Now Joe's brothers already couldn't stand him and the gift of that coat just made matters worse. (SLIDE) The Hebrew text describes the coat as a long coat with long sleeves. I was really disappointed to discover that fact in seminary because I have long been a fan of Andrew Lloyd Weber's version of the story titled Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. It doesn't matter if the coat was technicolor or drab with long sleeves, the purpose of the coat in the Joseph story is to show us his favored status.

The story of Joseph is the longest narrative story in the Old Testament.

Joseph takes up over 25 percent of the book of Genesis. In the beginning, Joseph is a naïve, maybe even egotistical teenager. He has not one, but two dreams where sheaths of wheat in one and stars in the other represent his brothers and his parents bowing down to him. (SLIDE) You can imagine the loathing this created among

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Joseph's siblings. Family favoritism is still a common problem for families today. but family favoritism is just the vehicle to get to the real point of the story. Many people would say it's a story about forgiveness. Forgiveness plays a big part in the Joseph story, but I still say forgiveness is only a side plot. Most commentaries I consulted call Joseph a forerunner of Jesus or a template of how we're to forgive those who've wronged us. After all the terrible things that happened to him, Joseph was able to welcome his brothers back into his life and even ensured Pharoh not only provided food and the most fertile land in all of Egypt. (SLIDE) I can tell you from my own experience, forgiveness is not an easy task, nor is it for the faint of heart. Forgiveness does play a big part in this story, but this is really a story about God's love for mankind. The main purpose behind this epic story of Joseph and his long-sleeved coat is to reveal God's love and the forgiveness we receive from God.

Throughout Genesis God had been working for the good of all creation and the salvation of all people. This continues through the Joseph story. God's love travels to Egypt in the person of Joseph and preserves the life of many people.

Joseph is able to look back on the trials of his life and see God's hand at work in them which is why he can tell his brothers, "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people." This

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story of Joseph teaches us about the power of God to work in hidden ways and to do what Romans 8:28 says "work all things together for the good of those who love God." (SLIDE) Joseph's faith has been passed down to him by his father and mother and his community, much the same way our faith comes to us. As a result, Joseph is able to trust God and God works through him.

We too have the promise that God has called us according to God's own purposes and for God's own reasons. I suspect as each of us reflects on different times and events in our lives, we can see God at work—perhaps in leading us into a vocation that we love, or into a relationship with our spouse or significant other who is just perfect for us, or gifting us with children or other family and friends that make our lives abundantly rich. Even if we never do anything as grand as Joseph, we're still called by God to love our neighbors and love even our enemies. (SLIDE) Jesus teaches us we are to do something very difficult—we are to love those who don't love us, those who would do us harm, and those who have hurt us. Not only that, we're to do good to them, expecting nothing in return. In short, we're to practice radical forgiveness, forgiveness like what Joseph showed to his brothers at the end of today's reading. This kind of forgiveness is tough, maybe even humanly impossible, but it is not impossible for God.

^{*} Please stand if able

(SLIDE) In 2006, a man by the name of Charles Roberts walked into a one room Amish school in Nickel Mines, PA and executed 5 young girls, injured 5 others, and then took his own life. His father initially thought they would need to leave the community, after all, how could they miss the signs their son was the type of person who would do such evil. The Amish had a different view. They forgave. Even while some of the parents were still awaiting word of what happened to their daughters, one of the Amish community leaders went to the Roberts' home. He said he knew they were grieving the loss of their child as well and he called them friends. That day in Nickel Mines, the paths of the Roberts family and the Amish community merged. They reached out to one another in grief and bore witness to each other's pain. The Amish did more than forgive, they embraced the parents of the murderer as part of their community. (SLIDE) Dozens of Amish, including the parents of some of the victims, showed up to form a human chain blocking the media from Charlie Roberts' funeral so his parents could say good-bye to their son. (SLIDE) When Teri Roberts underwent treatment for stage 4 breast cancer, one of the girls who survived the massacre cleaned her home before she returned home from the hospital. Amish school children came and caroled for her that Christmas. The Roberts family have hosted events for the Amish community that continue to this day. They're a family brought together out of tragedy.

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This kind of forgiveness, this kind of love for one's enemies is hard. For the Amish people, it is simply part of living out their faith. Steven Nolt, a professor of Amish studies at Elizabethtown College, said for most people, forgiveness and acceptance come at the end of a long emotional process, but the Amish forgive first and then every-day work through the emotions of it. This "decisional forgiveness" opened a space for healing for the Amish community and the Roberts family.

(SLIDE) Decisional forgiveness is quite simply love for those who should be or are our enemies. We are also called to this kind of forgiveness even if it's really hard. Just to be clear, decisional forgiveness doesn't mean we put ourselves back into harmful or abusive situations solely for the sake of forgiving our neighbor. Jesus doesn't ask us or call us to be doormats for abuse or hatred. Yet, even when we need to keep ourselves out of a situation or away from certain people for our own emotional, physical, and even spiritual well-being, we can make the choice to forgive. We can decide to forgive and turn them over to the mercy of God. We can pray for our enemies and love them even when we have to keep them at arm's length or at least 500 feet away for our own safety and well being... As we do this, we will one day find our pain is somehow different. We can, through the eyes of faith, begin to see the pain we've gone through has made us into the stronger, better person we are today. Our pain and suffering become

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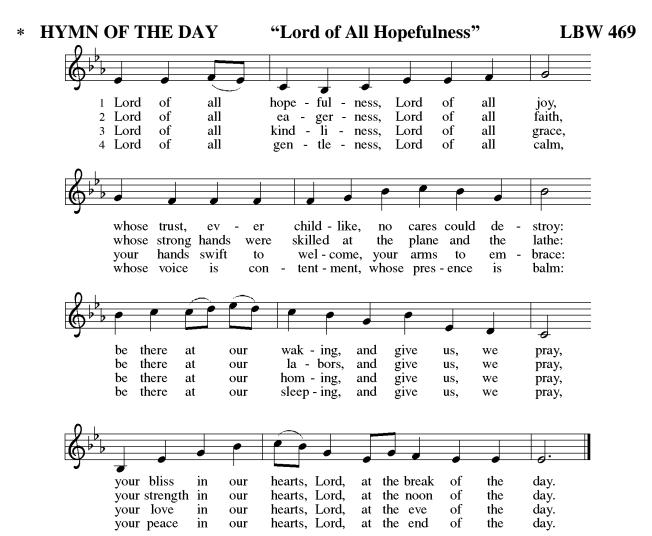
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part of our story and part of our testimony to the work of God in our lives and in our world. This is what's meant by how God works to bring all things together for good.

Joseph likely had a lot of feelings to work through when it came to the actions of his brothers. (SLIDE) Yet he chose to forgive and committed to the emotional work of that forgiveness. Eighteen years later, the Amish of Nickel Mines are still working through their emotions as individuals and as a community. God is still present with them, daily creating space for God's love to mend the most broken places of their lives.

May these stories of God's love in action like the forgiveness experienced by Joseph's brothers as well as stories of love and forgiveness in our own time, teach us to love and forgive as well. May God's Holy Spirit enable us to do what we cannot do on our own, to practice decisional forgiveness. Lord, forgive us our trespasses and enable us to forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

^{*} Please stand if able

* 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 compassion and understanding, we pray. Help us to do away with jealousy. Instead of following in the path of Joseph's brothers, lead us to walk in your light and truth. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: For all the earth and those who care for it, we pray. Inspire and sustain environmental activists around the world, and help us to listen deeply to Indigenous wisdom to care for creation. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For those in positions of power, we pray. Inspire leaders to lead with humility and open hearts, and bring all peoples together in peace. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all who cry out to you, we pray. Draw near to those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*...) Sustain them with your love and strength. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For students, teachers, and families, we pray. As students and families are finding their rhythms this school year, be with them always, and grant teachers and all who work with youth your guiding care. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For all those who have died in your name, we pray. Make us to follow in their example of faith and bring us together at the end of time in the feast that has no end.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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 ...God, as Joseph's wise stewardship in Egypt sustained a great land, so we act in stewardship of our gifts and return them to you for the sustenance of all in need. Bless these gifts and use them according to your will.

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

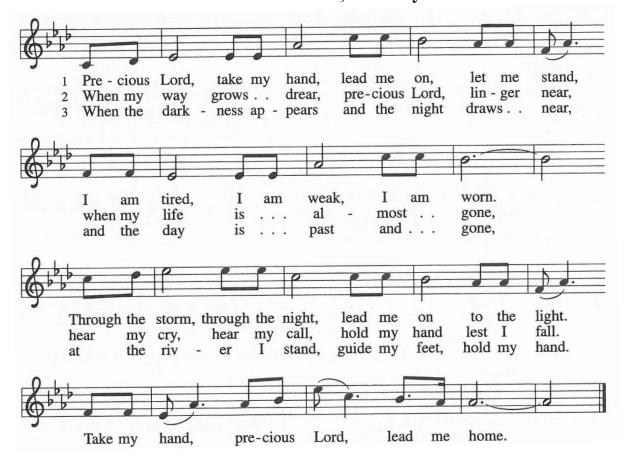
* SENDING BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

ELW 773



* 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, September 29th Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

* 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	Lexie Angles
Acolyte	
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Eat breakfast daily to jump-start your day. **MIND:** Take time to talk to your family. **SPIRIT:** Be a supportive friend.

This Week @ Trinity - September 22 thru September 29:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Sept. 22	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club – "The Chosen"
Tues, Sept. 24	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
	October Newsletter Deadline	
Wed, Sept. 25	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Fri, Sept. 27	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, Sept. 28	8:00 am	WELCA Biennial Convention
Sun, Sept. 15	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

^{*} Please stand if able



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. Our home Communion team is gearing up to start providing home Communion as we did prior to the Covid Pandemic. Someone from our home Communion team will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Trinity Contact Info



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* Please stand if able

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• Please be seated