A Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



Daniel 3:1-30 August 11, 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

--Facebook Live Viewers

* 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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* 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... God of deliverance, make us strong in our faith, unafraid to hold fast to your word, inspired to act on behalf of those in need no matter what resistance we might face. Walk with us, protect us, and liberate us to speak your truth in word and deed. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

Ι	N	R	D

* Please stand if able

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• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: What is Integrity

Materials:

Scripture: Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30

Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. Today we're going to be talking about one of my favorite stories in the Bible. It's the story of three friends of the Bible heroes, Daniel. They have really strange names, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were taken away from their homes in Jerusalem and had to live in a country far away. Since they were already pretty smart, the King sent them to his own schools and taught them his country's culture and traditions. One time the king made a giant statue out of gold. It was over 90 feet tall. He ordered all the people, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to bow down and worship this ginormous idol. Do you know what they did? They refused to worship a false god. Because they disobeyed the king, he had them tied up and thrown into a giant furnace of fire.

Now, what would happen if you or I got thrown into a giant fire? That's right, we'd get burned up. But God was with our three friends and when they came out of the furnace they were not burned at all. In fact they didn't even smell like smoke. When the king and other people looked inside the furnace, they saw all three of the men, but they also saw another person in the furnace with them. Can you guess who that fourth person was? It was Jesus! Jesus was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Jesus saved them from being burned!

Have any of you ever gotten burned by a fire? I have and I can tell you it really hurts. There are lots of things in our lives that can hurt us, but no matter what, Jesus will always be with you. You always have Jesus as your friend and he will never abandon you or leave you alone. I'm really happy that I know Jesus as my friend and my Savior. How about you?

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for promising to always be with us, even when the fire is really hot. Help us to be your presence for our friends when they are having trouble and are hurting. Amen.

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• A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3:1 [2-7] 8-30

R: Our scripture reading is from Daniel, Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

2 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. [2Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, 4the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.]

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you. have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up." ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall

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immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

* Please stand if able

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• SERMON Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who is with us always, even in the fiery furnace, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

Do any of you know how old the common Marshmallow is? (SLIDE) More than 50 years? 100? Would you believe the marshmallow was around before Columbus discovered America? There's a very real possibility that Jesus, Mary and Joseph might have actually eaten marshmallows while in exile in Egypt. You see, historians estimate that the marshmallow came into being over 4000 years ago. They claim marshmallows got their name when pharaohs discovered squeezing the mallow plant, which grows wild in marshes, a sweet, sticky substance surfaced. Thus the name was given Marsh Mallows... Honey was flavored with the extract. The delicacy was so special, it was reserved for gods and royalty alone. Today's marshmallows don't actually include any mallow; they are a combination of corn syrup, corn starch, sugar, and gelatin. Why all this talk about marshmallows? Well, we're going to be talking about a big fire. (SLIDE) If there's going to be a big fire, you want to make sure somebody brings the marshmallows. The fire we're talking about is the one in the fiery furnace where Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego may have toasted marshmallows instead of being consumed by the flames. These three, I'll call the 3 Amigos, were Daniel's friends, hauled off into exile by the conquering king Nebuchadnezzar. (SLIDE) They had been educated

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in the finest Babylonian schools and were part of the Kings court officials. You might say they were civil servants. When Daniel successfully interpreted the King's dream the 3 Amigos were promoted above other Chaldeans, which set up the court intrigue in our story of the Fiery Furnace. What made the 3 Amigos so special? They didn't bow. They didn't bend. They didn't burn.

The Chaldeans didn't like the fact that these Jews got all the breaks and the favored positions. As they coveted, they waited and plotted. The 3 Amigos' civil service routine was interrupted one day when they received word that they and every other official were to gather at the plain of Dura where the king had erected a 90-foot statue. (SLIDE) This was Nebuchadnezzar's idea of a team-building exercise. Every civil servant was to bow down and worship the statue in a show of loyalty. Anyone who disobeyed was to be thrown into a fiery furnace. This was not an idle threat. The king had burned people to death before (Jeremiah 29:22) and not too far from the statue stood a furnace already emitting a column of smoke as if to provide the exclamation mark to the king's decree. When the time came, Nebuchadnezzar built the golden idol in the province headed by the 3 Amigos and they didn't bow. The 3 Amigos didn't bow... Now the Chaldeans couldn't wait to tell the King how they wouldn't bow down and worship the idol. (SLIDE) It was

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all kind of petty and nasty and smarmy in-house politics. Politics aside, the King didn't like being snubbed. So, he sent for the 3 Amigos.

It's one thing to disobey the king from a distance, but quite another to disobey him right to his face. (SLIDE) Yet, despite their fear and the very real threat to their lives they didn't bend. What thoughts do you think were going through the 3 Amigos' minds? Did they consider: "If we don't bow down to this statue, we'll die and then what good will we be to the Lord and to his people? We're so young. We have our whole lives ahead of us. Surely God didn't bring us here only to let us die so soon! Anyway God will understand if we bow down just this once – especially if we're just going through the motions. If he does count that as sin, we can always ask for forgiveness." All of those thoughts and probably a hundred more go through my mind when I'm faced with a tough decision or a moral dilemma. I'm certain I'm not alone here... We all try to justify doing what we want, rather than what we know to be God's perfect will.

So, our 3 Amigos didn't bow, nor did they bend to the pressure to worship a foreign idol. They even told the King that God would save them, but even if God didn't save them, it wouldn't change their own love for God. This stoked the king's anger even more. The furnace was turned up to broil and the 3 Amigos thrown it the fire. (SLIDE) When I toast marshmallows in a bonfire they get all

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gooey and toasty brown. Sometimes, if I get them a little too close to the fire they start to burn and even fall off my stick right into the heart of the fire.

Just like my marshmallows, we don't have any promise from God to save us from the fiery furnaces of this life. Sometimes the flames consume and our lives are forever changed. The promise we do have is that even in the hottest of flames, our God in the form of Jesus Christ will always be with us and He will never abandon us. (SLIDE) I, along with many other Bible scholars and theologians believe the fourth Amigo in the fiery furnace was Jesus. My favorite Bible verse is from Matthew chapter 28 the second half of verse 20, where Jesus says, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Martin Luther must have felt the fires of the furnace when the Cardinal, sent from Pope Leo X demanded him to recant his writings, especially where he proclaimed we are saved by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. (SLIDE) Our beloved Martin Luther was standing in front of the Emperor of the entire Roman Empire when he declared, "I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen." Like our 3 Amigos Martin Luther didn't bow, he didn't bend, and he didn't burn either.

^{*} Please stand if able

This story has one big message for all of us today. No matter what we face in life, no matter how hot the furnace or what kind of fire we find ourselves in, we are not alone, God is with us. (SLIDE) Some of us face the fires of grief over the loss of a loved one through death, estrangement, or divorce. Some are facing the fires of financial troubles. Some are facing major health problems with no good treatment options. The Good News for us today is whatever the woe, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is with us all the way. (SLIDE) The issue isn't whether we'll spared the flames and fires of life or whether God will keep us from suffering. That's not really suggested at all, anywhere in scripture. Jesus even said we can expect to feel the heat. "In this world you will have trouble....but have faith, for I have overcome the world." The biblical faith is this: God doesn't promise to take us out of the flames and the fires of life. God promises to be right there with us, smack dab in the middle of the flames and the fire.

One last observation before we move on. I noticed as I re-read this story for the umpteenth time, that when the king looked into the fiery furnace he saw the 3 Amigos, along with a fourth person and all were unbound. The fires didn't even singe a single hair on their heads, but it did burn the bindings that bound them.

(SLIDE) Our faith in Jesus Christ does that same thing for us. We were bound just a tightly as the 3 Amigos, but God in his mercy on the Cross of Jesus Christ,

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He has removed the bindings that bound us to our Sin. Thanks to our 4th Amigo,
Jesus Christ we are free from the bonds to sin, death, and the devil. We are free to
roast marshmallows on the fire that was meant by the devil to torment and torture
us.

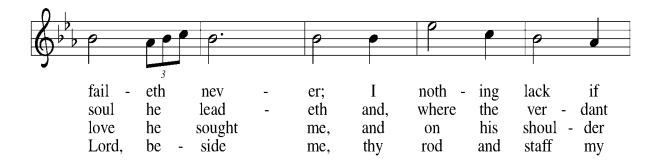
May the God of the Fiery Furnace be with you always. (SLIDE) May you trust your eternity to the 4th Amigo who will never leave you alone in the midst of the fires that threaten to consume you. May you walk tall, never to bow, never to bend, and never to burn, but always rejoicing in the eternal love of our Savior and our 4th Amigo, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* HYMN OF THE DAY "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" LBW 456



- 1 The King of love my shep herd is, whose good ness
- 2 Where streams of liv ing wa ter flow, my ran somed
- 3 Per verse and fool ish oft I strayed, but yet in
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear





I his and he am pas - tures with food grow, laid, gent - ly and home, com - fort still; thy cross

is mine for - ev er. ce - les tial feed eth. re - joic - ing, brought me. be - fore guide to me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

* Please stand if able

* 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 God's power and mercy, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Saving God, as you walked in the fiery furnace with your faithful servants, protect and empower all who stand up to injustice, that their message might transform even those who condemn them. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Guide those who work tirelessly on behalf of this beautiful world you have created, and all forms of life that inhabit it. Soften the hearts of those who insist on destroying the natural world for their own gain or comfort. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Inspire each new generation to live into your call to work for justice and peace. Embolden teachers to speak truth to their students and equip them for the challenging work of transforming society for the better. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Equip all who provide care for the suffering—medical professionals, therapists, addiction counselors, pastors, parents, children, and more—that those in need of help, hope, and healing experience your very real presence with them in their pain. God of mystery,

* Please stand if able

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C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Renew our faith each day, O God, and assure us that a truly meaningful life is not necessarily found on the easiest path. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: So many of the saints who have come before us have dealt with persecution and other challenges to their faith, yet have remained steadfast. Make us bold to live as they did. God of mystery,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

P: Confident in your life-giving love, we lift these prayers and all those in our hearts into your loving care.

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 ...Gracious God, you enrich our lives in big and small ways, materially and spiritually. Inspired by your generosity, we return these gifts to the work of the church: to enlighten and inspire, to care for those in need, and to act for justice. Bless these gifts to your service.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.



- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

* 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, August 18th Daniel 6:6-27

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Trim visible fat from meats and remove skin. **MIND:** Think before you speak.

SPIRIT: Take time for personal growth.

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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



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 - August 11 thru August 18:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	
Sun, Aug. 11	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)	
	10:30 am	Worship Service	
Thurs, Aug. 15	11:30 am	Laies & Gents Luncheon @ Mel-O-Dee Restaurant,	
		2350 S. Dayton-Lakeview Rd., New Carlisle	
Fri, Aug. 16	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry	
	The Great Darke County Fair Begins		
Sun, Aug. 18	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)	
	10:30 am	Worship Service	

Save The Date!

August 16-24, 2024	The Great Darke County Fair
	Lutheran Day is Thursday, August 22 nd
August 25, 2024	Rally Day – Sundaes on Sunday!

* Please stand if able

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AROUND THE PARISH - 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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