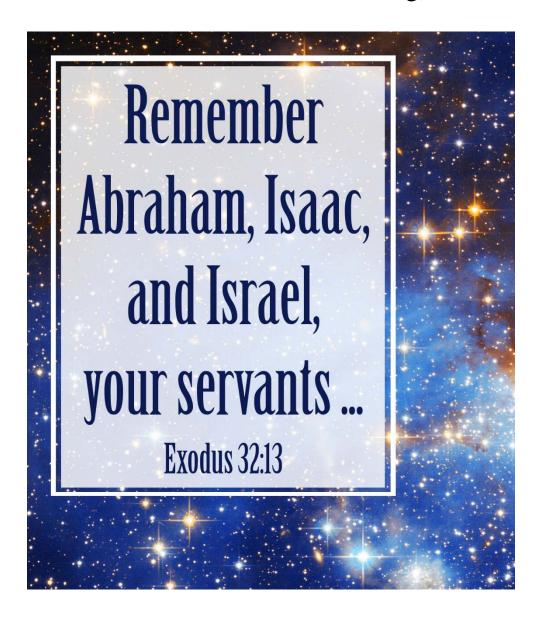
Mission Congregation of the ELCA Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



Exodus 32:1-14 October 6, 2024



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

GATHERING

Prelude Pam Sherman

- Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell
- Welcome Pr Mel Musser

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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: Merciful God,
- C: We confess that from the beginning of time we have failed to understand your call to us. We have acted as though we are gods in our own lives. We have acted or failed to act in ways that have led to injustice and oppression. We have turned away from you and sought after other gods—possessions, people, media, and other distractions. Forgive us for all the ways in which we have failed you and our neighbors. Call us back into the abundant life of loving service that you offer us in your holy name.
- P: Beloved of God, hear these words of hope. God who created you in God's image has redeemed you in Christ Jesus, and for his sake forgives you for all the ways you have sinned and fallen short. Receive this forgiveness with joy, in Jesus' name.

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.

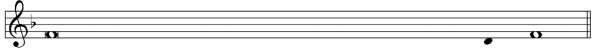
Please stand if able October 6, 2024

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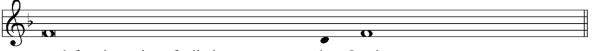


For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to Lord. the





A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

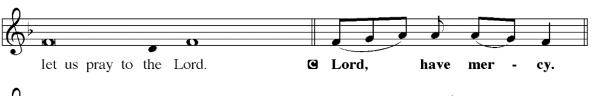


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,





A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. A men

Please stand if able

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* HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Holy God, forgive us when we turn away from you and turn towards human things—wealth, possessions, prestige, or self-indulgence. Direct us back to you, and help us to follow you each and every day.

C: Amen.

WORD

* Please stand if able

October 6, 2024

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Worship God and Him alone.

Materials: A Small Statue Scripture: Exodus 32:1-14

Hello boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week! Today I brought in my statue of Martin Luther. He lived a little over 500 years ago and because of him we're Lutherans today. So, I want to play a little game with you using my statue of Martin Luther, It's sort of like red light – green light. When I hold Martin high in the air like this (hold Martin high), you have to stop everything, stand up straight and tall, and freeze very still. When I lower Martin back down, like this, you can all sit back down. Got it?

Okay, while we're playing this game I'll tell you a story about a time a long time ago when the people of Israel built a statue of a Golden Calf. (Raise Statue) They were waiting for Moses who had gone up to the top of Mount Sinai (Lower Statue) because God wanted to give the Ten Commandments to the people. Moses was up on the mountain for a long time, 40 days... (Raise Statue) While he was up on the mountain the people begged Aaron, Moses' brother, to make a god for them. (Lower Statue) Aaron took all the gold the people had brought with them from Egypt and melted it down and formed it into a statue of a golden calf. (Raise Statue) The people worshipped the fake god that Aaron made. (Lower Statue)

How do you think that made God feel? He was pretty angry! (Raise Statue) Do you know what the very first Commandment is? (Lower Statue) You shall have no other gods except the one true and living God.

Those people who lived a long time ago were pretty silly to think a statue could be their god. Some people today place too high a value on stuff instead of God. Things like money, housed, cars, popularity, and even their family. When we place too high a value on stuff we're making that stuff into a god just like the ancient people of Israel. (Raise Statue) That still makes God angry today, but God forgives us and even became one of us to take away not just our sin of worshipping fake gods, but all of our sins. (Lower Statue) God came to earth as Jesus to show us once and for all that God is a God of love and a God who forgives us when we sin. That makes me want to pray to give thanks for God's love.

Let's pray... Dear God, we thank you for overlooking our sins and for forgiving us each and every day. Help us to never fail you by putting our stuff higher that you and please forgive us if we do. Amen.

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A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32:1-14

R: Our scripture reading is from Exodus, Chapter 32.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

32 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them. 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever." ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ (Spoken)

* Please stand if able October 6, 2024

• Please be seated

• SERMON Pr. Mel Musser

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

(SLIDE) I love it when a plan comes together... That was a tag line from the 1980's TV series, The 'A' Team. I love it when two completely different things come together and create something better than the two were when separate. (SLIDE) Salt and Pepper, Toast and butter, peanut butter and jelly and even peanut butter and chocolate. We missed it this summer, but last year PJ and I went to the Bacon Fest at the Fraze. There were all kinds of bacon creations. We loved the bacon toasted cheese sandwiches made on Texas Garlic toast. One combination that I really liked was the Bacon-banana pudding. At first it doesn't sound so tasty, but the sweetness of the banana pudding mixed really well with the savory, smokie flavor of the bacon. I'd have it again!

One thing I can tell you that does not mix well together is our God and Father in Heaven, who has admitted from the beginning to be a jealous God, and idols of any kind. This story of the making of the Golden Calf is so rich in meaning, it's difficult to narrow down the topics to just one or two for a short sermon. To begin with, I have a few questions. Where did former slaves get all that gold? (SLIDE) I mean enough to make a Golden Calf would be a lot of ear rings. I went back to re-read the story of when Pharaoh let the Hebrew people

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leave Egypt. In chapter 12, verses 35 and 36 it says, "The Israelites had done as Moses told them; they had asked the Egyptians for jewelry of silver and gold, and for clothing, and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And so they plundered the Egyptians. Now if Moses wanted to ensure the people of Israel had enough provisions for a long, long time of wandering in the wilderness, why would he tell them to ask the Egyptians for silver and gold? Why not ask for cases of bottled water, preserved meat, or produce to eat along the way? Apparently, this was a foreshadowing of a Golden Calf to come...

Golden Calves and our Heavenly Father do not go together. (SLIDE) They never mix well. Another thing in this story that makes me wonder is the translation of the Hebrew word we have in English as gods. In some translations it's singular as god, but in others it's translated in the plural as gods. The meaning in Hebrew is uncertain and that's why different translations say it differently. The real issue that stands out for me, isn't whether gods should be singular or plural, the real issue is a word that isn't ambiguous in the least. It's the word make. The people ask Aaron to make them gods or a god. Instead of worshipping the creator, they want something to worship that is made by human hands. (SLIDE) I would think that should have been like a flashing red warning sign to any Hebrew person who was paying attention. Unfortunately, we humans are so easily duped. We

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want a god we can see, feel, and most importantly control. God almighty who controls everything is downright terrifying to us. A God who can't be seen is a God that all too easily is forgotten and replaced by wealth, fame, power, likes on Facebook or Instagram or TikTok. Martin Luther once said anything that comes between you and God is your idol.

Our jealous God doesn't mix well with our desire for false or fake gods. After Moses was delayed on the mountain and the people began worshipping the Golden Calf, (SLIDE) God, who of course knew exactly what was going on, immediately distanced himself from "those" people. He told Moses he intended to consume them and start over with Moses' own offspring. Here's the third thing I noticed about this incredible story. Moses talked God out of killing all the Hebrew people. The Bible says God actually changed his mind! (SLIDE) In case you ever doubt the power of talking to God in prayer, this story should empower and renew your faith in prayer. Moses reasoned with God and showed God that killing this stiff-necked people would gravely damage God's reputation. People would say God brought the people out of Egypt just to kill them on the plains of Mount Sinai. I don't know why all our prayers don't seem to be this effective, but apparently God is open to logical arguments and persuasion. Maybe that's why so many of my prayers seem to go unanswered. I appeal top God out of emotion rather than

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logical persuasion. Then again, God has not appeared to me from a burning bush either...

Here's one final thought before we move on to our Creed and prayers. My favorite President was Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was known for firing his generals when they failed in battle. (SLIDE) One time, his newest general had lost a key battle in his first outing and the President was asked if he intended to fire him. Lincoln's answer was that he wouldn't throw out a new gun just because it misfired one time. (SLIDE) Our just and righteous Lord could throw us sinners away into hell the first time we misfire, and he'd be perfectly correct to do so, but he hasn't. God's love is so strong for his people that he first overlooks our sin and then becomes one of us to remove our sin from us altogether. God didn't throw out the Hebrew people for misfiring. God won't through out you or me either.

(SLIDE) The scene can be described like this... God is like an invading army. The army has created a breach in the wall surrounding the city where the Hebrews dwell. Normally in a battle of this sort, the enemy army will pour through the breach in the wall and overtake the inhabitants of the city. In this case, Moses, the Chosen one, steps into the breach and appeals to God. (SLIDE) His appeal doesn't try to convince God the Hebrews deserve another chance. He doesn't try to excuse their bad behavior. Moses doesn't even try to justify what they did by explaining their impatience when he took so long on the mountain.

^{*} Please stand if able

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Instead, Moses appeals to God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (SLIDE) He reminds God of his covenant and further appeals to God's great love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. Moses is successful in getting God not to see these stiffnecked people as dirty, rotten, scoundrels and sinners, but as God's own beloved children, made in God's own image.

Moses intercedes on behalf of Israel. Now that's two things that naturally do go together: God and intercession. When we intercede on behalf of others it gets God's attention. Do you know that right now you have someone who is interceding for you with God? In John's Gospel the Evangelist writes, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins." (SLIDE) Jesus Christ is the one who intercedes for you and me before our Heavenly Father. Sometimes we people forget to pray for others. We aren't the most faithful intercessors for each other. Thanks be to God, we have Jesus, who never fails us. Christ sees all our sins, but then immediately reminds his Father that he took care of every last one of them.

May we keep God as our one and only God and learn to reject all false gods as the man-made idols they truly are. May we trust in our Savior, Jesus Christ who made us pure and Holy through his sacrifice and resurrection. May we live in thankfulness and gratitude knowing for certain the intercession of Moses and Jesus

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is able to convince God to see each one of us as His beloved and cherished children. 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: We pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, trusting in your gracious love and care.

A brief silence.

L: For strength to resist idols and temptation, we pray. Keep our hearts and minds focused on your love, and our lives focused on caring for creation and loving our neighbors. While there are many temptations to stray, nothing compares to your life-giving ways. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For all that you have made, we pray. Help us to care faithfully for creation, ensuring all can thrive. Help us to listen to those who've been caring for the earth for years, and to make changes in our lives to be better stewards. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For the world, we pray. Where there is conflict, bring peace and understanding. Where there is division, bring compassion and light. God, in your mercy,

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C: Hear our prayer.

L: For those who struggle with mental illness, we pray. Lift up support systems and draw near to those who face anxiety, depression, and all other forms of mental illness. Help us to reduce their stigma and help people to access the care that they need. Hold all who suffer from any challenge to mind, body, or spirit, (especially...) God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For new life, we pray. Disrupt our routines and expectations, and help us to take hold of the new life that you give us each and every day. God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For the lives of the faithful, we pray. Thank you for their examples and the faith that they have passed on. Help us to remember them and to follow in their footsteps. God, in your mercy,

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 ...Loving God, you shower us with riches of every kind. We return this portion of what you have given us as a sign that we do not put our possessions in the place of you. Take and use these gifts for the sake of all who are in need.

C: Amen.

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

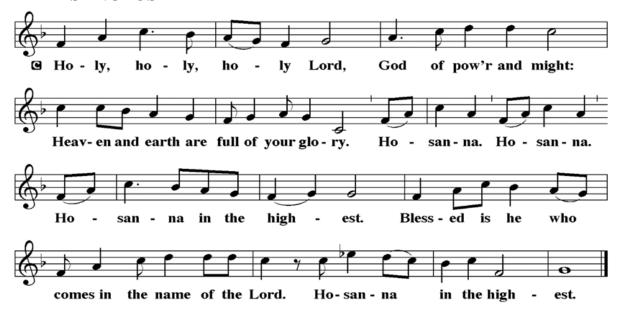
* DIALOGUE

- P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: Amen

* THE PREFACE

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

* THE SANCTUS



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* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.
- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
- Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, in whom all sins are forgiven, now invites you into his holy presence in the bread and wine. Come with your siblings in Christ to the table of mercy.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is at the rail. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they may say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

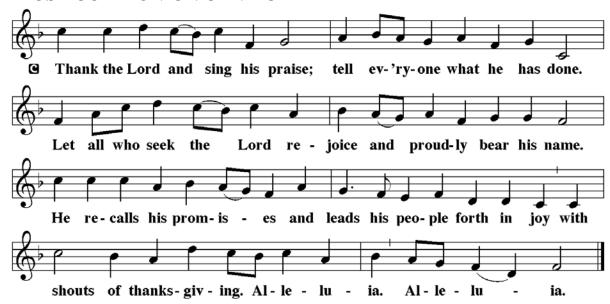
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

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* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

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Please be seated

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* DISMISSAL

· Please be seated

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!

* Please stand if able

October 6, 2024

* POSTLUDE Pam Sherman

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity - October 6 thru October 13:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Oct. 6	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Church Funerals Direct Presentation
Thurs, Oct. 10	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Oct. 11	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
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"

Save The Date!

October 20, 2024 @ 5:00 pm	Fall Festival @ Trinity & Pitsburg
	Church of the Brethren
November 3, 2024 @ 11:30 am All Saints Sunday	
	Trinity Annual Congregational Meeting

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 13th 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Treat yourself to a massage. **MIND:** Update your photo albums.

SPIRIT: Volunteer to visit at a hospital or nursing home.



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.



Trinity Contact Info

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
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