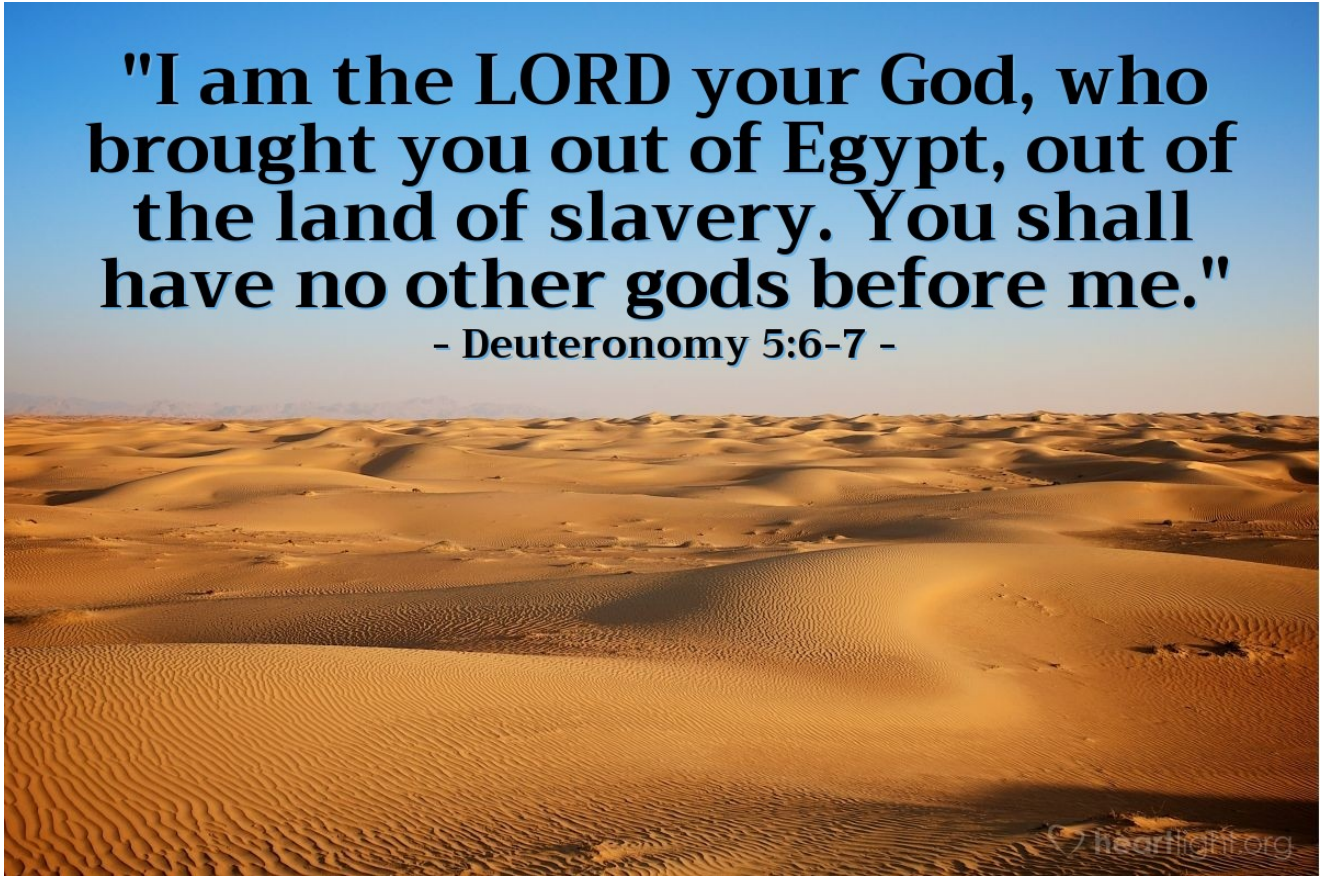


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."
- Deuteronomy 5:6-7 -



Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

October 8, 2023



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.

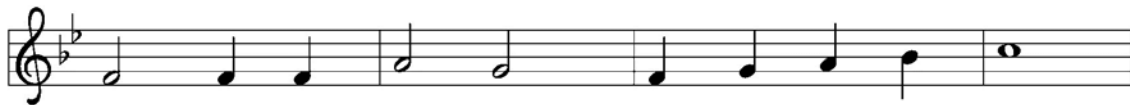
* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” LBW 486**



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

* **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... Guiding God, you have gifted us with your commandments to help us love you with all we are, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us to keep them that all might live together in peace.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 8, 2023

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WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Obeying God's commandments

Materials: "The 10 Commandments Coloring Page" - two copies

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

Hello girls and boys. I hope you all had a terrific week! Today we're going to talk about coloring. Do you like to color pictures? I do at first, but I get bored pretty easily. Also, I'm not very good at it. My pictures never seem to turn out. I never pick the right colors and I have a hard time staying inside the lines. How about you?

Do you remember when you first started to learn how to color? If you were like most children, you probably colored all over the page without staying in the lines. I imagine that some of your pictures looked a lot like this. (Show kids the messy picture.) As you got older, your pictures probably looked more like this. (Show kids the neat picture.) You began to stay in the lines and your color choices were much better too.

These pictures remind me of the way some people live their lives. God gave us the Ten Commandments to tell us the things that we should and should not do. (Show the neat picture.) Some people don't pay any attention to these guidelines that God has drawn for them. (Hold up the messy picture.) They just do whatever they want to do; that's called sin. Often their choices are not very good. They color outside the lines. They think their life is beautiful, but when God looks at it, He sees that it's just a big mess.

(Hold up the neat picture.) There are other people who read the Bible and follow God's rules. They try to stay within the guidelines that God has set. Oh, they may still get outside the lines at times; getting outside the lines is called sin. That is why we all need Jesus. None of us stay inside the lines 100% of the time. Do you want your life to be like this one? (Hold up the neat picture.) Or do you want it to look like this one? (Hold up the messy picture so you're holding up both.) God wants us to obey His Ten Commandments. The great news is we have a Savior in Jesus who loves us even when our lives are messy. When we trust Him as Savior He is our help and gives us strength to obey His laws. Let's ask God to help us obey Him.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that You set boundaries for us. Help us to stay within those boundaries by loving you and loving everyone here on earth too. In Jesus' name, amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 8, 2023

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• **SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Deuteronomy, Chapters 5 and 6.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

5 Moses convened all Israel, and said to them: Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. ²The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³Not with our ancestors did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire. ⁵(At that time I was standing between the Lord and you to declare to you the words of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

⁶I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ⁷you shall have no other gods before me.

⁸You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁹You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me, ¹⁰but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

¹⁶Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹⁷You shall not murder.

¹⁸Neither shall you commit adultery.

¹⁹Neither shall you steal.

²⁰Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbor.

* Please stand if able

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²¹ Neither shall you covet your neighbor's wife.

Neither shall you desire your neighbor's house, or field, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

6⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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 promised to be with us always, Jesus Christ our Savior, amen.

We all need to be constantly reminded of who we are, whose we are, and what we should be about... Two men were talking one day over lunch. The first man said: "My wife has a terrible memory. She has the worst memory you could ever imagine." The second man said: "She forgets everything, huh?" The first man said: "No! She remembers everything!" Most of us are the other way around. We are so forgetful. The other day I walked all the way from our kitchen to the other end of our very long ranch house to PJ's study. I knocked on the door and had to admit I had no idea why I made the trip... It wasn't until I was back at the other end of the house and saw the package of cookies on the kitchen counter that I remembered what I wanted to ask her. I knew those cookies were for the WELCA

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meeting the next day, but I thought she might let me have just one... I suspect I'm not alone when it comes to memory troubles... We just have a lot of trouble remembering things... and consequently, we have to come up with all kinds of creative ways to remind ourselves of what we need to be doing. Some people tie a string around their finger as a reminder, but when I've tried that I can't seem to remember what that silly string is supposed to be reminding me to do! We have all kinds of ways to remind us of what we're supposed to be doing. We use calendars to write down our important events for the day. Some people have secretaries that keep their schedules and keep them on track. We have to do lists, sticky notes on the bathroom mirror and many others.

Our forgetfulness isn't a new problem brought on by our modern lifestyles. Our short memories date back as far as recorded history. That's precisely what this famous passage in the second part of our scripture reading for today in Deuteronomy 6 is really all about. Moses reminds the people that the main thing, is to keep the main thing, the main thing! He does this by giving them the what our Jewish brothers and sisters call The Shema. This is one of the mountain peak moments in all of the Bible, the Greatest Commandment of all time. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone (no other gods). (So) You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

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Now, let me tell you why Moses is giving the people this great commandment at this particular time. A lot has happened since last Sunday when we left Moses at the Burning Bush. Let's get up to speed... It took 10 plagues before Pharaoh would release the Israelites from his iron fist. They had been a nomadic people traveling in the wilderness for a long time, forty years long... During the entire adventure they had to depend on God for everything. By everything I mean they picked manna from the ground in the morning, Quale for meat in the evening, and water from the rock when they were thirsty. They were given a law and the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. God had personally led them with a pillar of clouds by day and fire by night. All the while, they had rebelled against God. First, with a golden calf and then constantly complaining against God every time they forgot just how awesome and powerful, forgiving, and loving their God truly was.

Now two very dramatic things are about to happen to them. First, they are about to cross over into the Promised Land. Second, Moses can't go with them. He has grown old and weak, and God had already told him he will not be allowed to lead the people into the promised land. As they establish themselves there, Moses will not be with them to constantly remind them they are God's covenant people, God's servant people and to put their trust in God and God Alone. So, to

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help them to remember, he “ties a string around their finger” so to speak, reiterating the Ten Commandments and then by giving them this Great Commandment. He tells them to always remember to put God first and to serve God alone, and to put their faith and trust in God alone. “Love God alone with all your heart, soul and might.” Put these words on the doorposts of your homes. Put these words on the gates of your city. Wear them on your arm-bands and head-bands. Speak them in every worship service. Teach them to your children. Don’t give in to the temptation to worship the gods of the Canaanites. Don’t water down or contaminate your faith. Don’t chase after every new fad that comes along. Just put your trust in Yahweh. Serve God and God alone. AAH... If it were only that easy...

For all those years, the Hebrew people had struggled to survive in the wilderness. Now, they have come to the Promised Land. They had dreamed of this. They had longed for this. They had prayed for this, but Moses knew, as they went into the land, they would face an even more dangerous problem. Other people already lived there... They had their own set of gods they worshipped. They had a god of wine, a god of war, a god of fertility and a god of this, that, and a god on every hill and high point. Moses knew as they settled in, some of these gods would look attractive to the Hebrews... So much so, they might begin to

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worship them instead of Yahweh. So, Moses gave them this great commandment to be a constant and daily reminder... to worship, serve and trust God alone, to love God (and no other) with all your heart, soul and might. That great commandment is as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago when Moses first spoke it because it's all about choices, decisions, commitments, loyalties, priorities. It's about deciding – to whom we will give our allegiance; - in whom we will put our trust.

Let's bring this closer to home. All of us have at one time or another faced an uncertain future. You may be staring into that void right now. If you are, this Shema serves as your reminder to put God first; to worship Him alone; to not be taken in by false prophets or gimmicky religion; and to remember God's promise to always be with you. This is God's greatest promise, isn't it? We find it recorded over and over again in the Bible... on page after page of the Scriptures... God's promise to always be with us, God's promise to never forsake us, God's promise to give us the strength we need in every situation... Someone said God always gives us the strength we need, but He doesn't give it to us in advance or else we would take the credit. So, if you are going off to college, or to a new school, or a new job, or a new marriage, or a new home, or a new location, or a new challenge, or a new opportunity, or a different health situation... then, stop,

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remember God. Remember His love, His strength, His great promise to always be with you, no matter what it is you're facing. Moses knew the Hebrew people would face great temptations in their new land. He knew they would be tempted to do things not worthy of their sacred heritage. He knew they would be tempted to short-cut their best selves... and contaminate their covenant faith. So, he gave them this great commandment to love God alone with all your heart, soul and might. They would be sure to always remember God, even when Moses was no longer leading them.

Isn't it something to realize Moses never made it to the Promised Land? He died just before they got there. When they came to a mountain where they could look over and see the land... Moses realized his body was too old and too weak and he didn't have the strength to go on. So, he passed the torch to Joshua to lead the people while Moses stayed behind... on the mountain... alone... to die. Can you imagine how it must have felt for Moses to be so close to the land he had dreamed of for all those years... He was so close and yet too old and too sick and too tired to go on. I mean, just imagine the conversation between Moses and God. "Lord, I know Your plan is best, probably, but I can't help but feel disappointed. I wanted so much to lead the people into the land. I had dreamed of it for well, forty years now. I wanted it so badly... and now this. I'm so weak, so frail, so tired. If

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only I could have had a little more time.” And God answers... “Moses, Moses... you have served me well. You have done your best. Soon you will come and live with me.” Moses looks down from the mountain and He sees the people moving forward toward the land (without him) and suddenly, he feels so alone. Moses looks up into heaven and quietly, he says: “Are you with me, Lord? Are you *still* with me?” And the answer comes back: “Of course I am, Moses. Of course I am.” “Now take my hand and let me lead you home...”

This is the good news of our faith. When you’re facing an uncertain future, when you’re battling temptation and especially when you face your own death or the death of a loved one, you will find hope when you remember to trust in God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

* **HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Keep Up Steadfast in Your Word” LBW 230**

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

* **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**

P: With gratitude for our whole selves, created in your image and made new in Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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L: God of peace, you bless us with laws designed to guide us in living together as a beloved community. Help us to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: You brought forth animal life in all its forms from the simple to the complex. Help us to live in harmonious balance with our siblings great and small, protecting fragile ecosystems, and working for the flourishing of everything you have made. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Commit all who serve you in leadership at every level to live by your greatest commandments, that all our neighbors in all the world might flourish according to your will. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Send your healing love into the lives of all our neighbors, near and far, who are faced with trauma, terminal illness, persistent mental challenges, or catastrophic injury, and all who suffer in any way (*especially...*) Reveal yourself in the work of medical professionals and supportive communities, so all might live fully in you.

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Restore faith in science, education, and expertise throughout our world. Pull us away from our need to justify our own worldview by discarding established facts, so that we might act in ways that preserve the health and well-being of our neighbors, our communities, the natural environment, and the world. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember the saints who, by their example, taught us to love you and our neighbors. In gratitude for them, help us model our faithfulness to your commandments to all who come after us. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

P: We place in your loving arms these, our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your boundless mercy, though Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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C: And also with you.

MEAL

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet, may you 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.

P: Let us pray for the offerings we receive this day....Holy God, among the laws you gave your people is a command to give back a portion of what we have in gratitude to you and for the sake of others. Accept these gifts cheerfully given as a sign of our commitment to you.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

"Awesome God"

W & P 13

* Please stand if able

October 8, 2023

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Our God is an awe-some God, he reigns from
 heav-en a - bove with wis - dom, pow'r, and love— our
 God is an awe-some God! Our God! Our God is an awe-some
 God! Our God is an awe-some God!

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Until the next time we gather together as God’s people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ’s Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

*** POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – October 9 thru October 15, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Oct. 8	9:00 am	Christian Conversations w/Eric Hanes
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Mon, Oct. 9	<i>Columbus Day</i>	
Thurs, Oct. 12	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Oct. 13	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 15	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion

SAVE THE DATE!

- **October 22 - Trinity Fall Festival – 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm**
- **October 29 – Reformation**
- **November 5 –**
 - ▣ **All Saints Sunday –**
 - ▣ **Confirmation Sunday -**
 - ▣ **Annual Congregational Meeting**
 - ▣ **Trinity Annual Christmas Auction**

Starts at 3:00 pm @ Bev & Eldon Erdmann's Home
- **November 12 – Women's Thankoffering Sunday**
- **December 3 – First Sunday of Advent**



Scripture reading for next Sunday, October 15th
Ruth 1:1-17

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Health Tips for the Week
Mind: Read to a young child.
Body: Annual eye exam.
Spirit: Ask someone “How can I pray for you?”



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
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Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
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