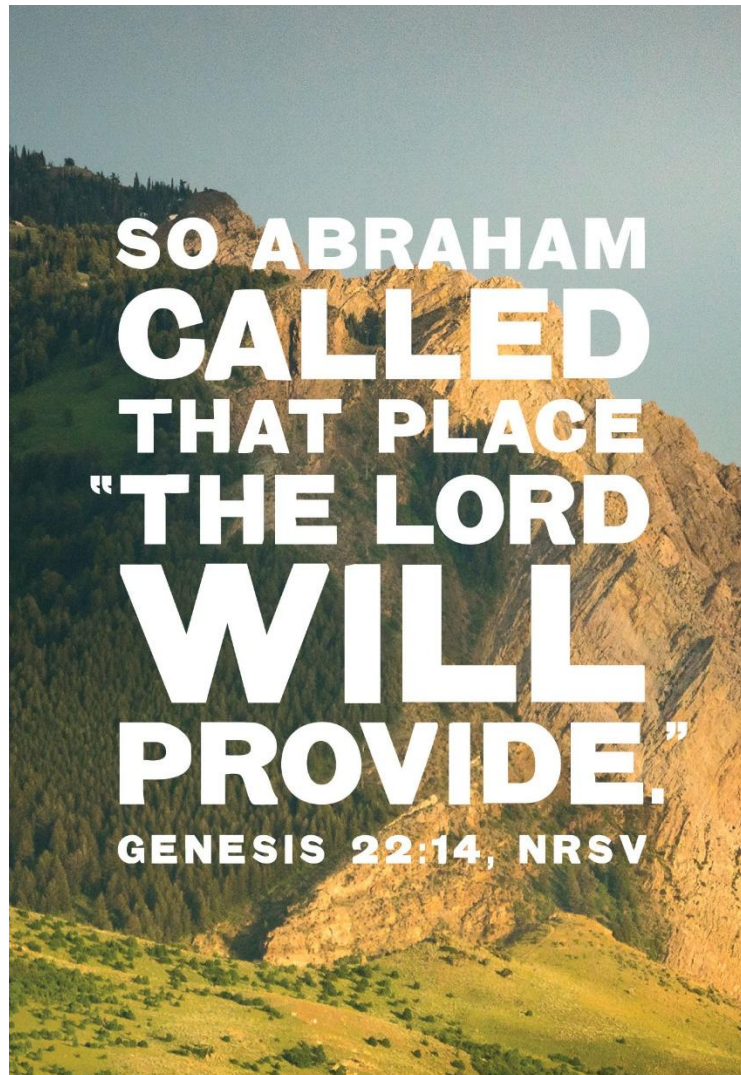


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
September 14, 2025



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.

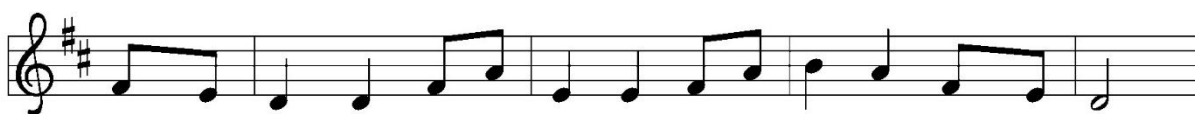
P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

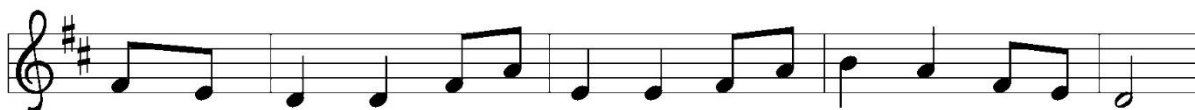
P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. 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

* **GATHERING HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” LBW 499**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY.**

P: Let us pray... Holy God, you did not withhold even your own Son, who willingly gave his life for the redemption of the world. Loosen our grasp on worldly things, that we might be freed from our fears of loss and inspire us to work for justice for all that you have made. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: God Provides
Materials: A Stuffed Lamb
Scripture: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

Bring a stuffed lamb or a small toy sheep as a prop. Good morning, boys and girls! Today I want to tell you a story about Abraham and his son Isaac. Abraham was a man who lived a long time ago in the Old Testament. He and his wife Sarah were very old and they had no children. One day they were visited by an Angel of God who brought them a message from God. They were going to have a baby, even though they were both nearly 100 years old... It took God over 24 years before he finally gave them the son he had promised them. Can you imagine how much Abraham and Sarah loved their son, Isaac?

One day God asked Abraham to take Isaac up a mountain and offer a sacrifice. Isaac thought it was odd that they had no lamb, bull, or even a tiny Turtle Dove to offer God, but He trusted his father Abraham and they both trusted God. On the way, Isaac worked up the curiosity and the courage to ask a really important question: *"Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"*

Now, let's play a little game. Somewhere in this sanctuary, I've hidden a stuffed lamb. Can you help me find it? Go ahead, look around... The first one to find the lamb gets a special prize...

(Let the children look around until they find the stuffed lamb. When they bring it up, hold it up high.)

You found it! In the Bible story, Abraham didn't know where the lamb was either, but he trusted God. And sure enough, God provided a lamb caught in the bushes so that Isaac would be safe.

This story reminds us that God always provides what we need. And later on, God provided the greatest Lamb of all—Jesus. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Because of Jesus, we know God's love will always be there for us.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for always providing everything we need. Thank you for loving us more than we deserve and thank you for Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away all our sin. Amen.

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14**

R: Our scripture reading is from Genesis, Chapters 21 & 22.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

21 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

22 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

* Please stand if able

• 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.

It finally happened. We weren't waiting 24 years, but after almost a year of waiting and working toward her goal, PJ was finally ready for her surgery.

(SLIDE) I, on the other hand, was not so ready. I mean this was a 5 hour long surgery for cosmetic purposes only. She was ready, but I was afraid. The good news is she came through her surgery with flying colors and is well on the road to recovery. I have to say, seeing what she went through, especially those first two or three days, made me wonder if it was worth it. Her surgeon tells us, when it's all healed, she will be very happy with the results, even if it's hard to see that now...

I think that's a tiny smidgeon of what Abraham and Sarah experienced.

(SLIDE) After all the waiting, for more than 24 years!... After all the prayers, after all the wondering if God had forgotten them, Abraham and Sarah finally had a baby. Isaac, the name in Hebrew literally means laughter. After all this time of trusting and doubting, Sarah and Abraham finally got to hold laughter itself in their arms. (SLIDE) It was a miracle that came long after hope should have been gone. Sarah was well past childbearing years, Abraham was over a hundred years old, and yet, as the scripture says: "The Lord did for Sarah as he had promised." Now, you'd think that would be the end of the story. God made a promise. God kept it.

Roll the credits. Nothing more to see here... If that's what you thought, you're in for many more surprises along God's journey.

As we move into chapter 22 of Genesis, God's story takes a turn no one could have predicted or expected. If we over-analyze this story it can become a truly terrifying text. (SLIDE) God tells Abraham to take Isaac—the son he had waited for, the son of the promise, the joy of his old age—and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on some distant mountain. I have to admit, this is one of the hardest passages in the Bible for me to wrap my head around. It's supposed to make us uncomfortable. Abraham gets up early the next morning, takes Isaac, gathers wood, and climbs the mountain. Every parent in this room shudders at the thought. Do you think he told Sarah where they were going? Every child wonders, “Would God ask that of me?” When I come upon really hard texts like this one, I compare what God is doing in this story to what God has doing in other stories. I start by looking at the immediate verses around the story to see if the context can shed light on the meaning. Then, I look at other books or writings from that same author or in the same genre or type of writing. For example, if the scripture I'm trying to understand is from one of Paul's Letters, I would look to see if Paul addressed the same topic in another letter. As I made my deep dive into the surrounding context I kept thinking about the overarching narrative of God's relationship with God's creation. When I look at the ways God interacts with us and all of god's creation, I

don't find a God who is arbitrary or capricious. I don't find a God who gives good gifts, only to take them back later... Instead, what I find through out the Bible is a God who loves all peoples and everything in His Good creation. My conclusion is, God never intended Isaac's death. The story is about trust, not slaughter. (SLIDE)

When I look back on those times in my life when I had to overcome adversity, I always try to give God the credit for providing the strength to persevere or the wisdom to discover a way out of my dilemma. The thing is, in the moment, I rarely recognize God's provision. At least for me, that "AHA" moment usually comes after the fact, when I can process whatever that was that I just came through... In the moment, Abraham doesn't know God has already planted that Ram in the thickets. Despite not knowing what God had in store, Abraham, and Isaac too, walked step by step in faith, neither one knowing the outcome....

I suspect you've been there too. We all face tests, maybe not literal life and death tests, but we've all been tested to our limits. Maybe you've stood on your own Mount Moriah. (SLIDE) For some, it's sitting in the doctor's office, waiting for test results. For others, it's crying at the graveside of someone you love. For our farmers, right now it means watching the skies and listening to the weather guessers on TV and the Radio. For parents, it's sending a child off into a world where no place is completely safe, and praying, "Lord, please take care of them when I can't." Our faith gets tested in the dark valleys of life. Most of the time,

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

like Abraham, we don't know what God is doing. All we can do is walk forward, one step at a time, and trust God can and will make good come out of the evil we humans can't seem to avoid.

At the last moment, as Abraham lifts the knife, the angel of the Lord calls out: "Do not lay your hand on the boy!" (SLIDE) And suddenly, Abraham sees it: a ram caught in the thicket. God provides. The child is spared. The promise continues. In thankfulness and to honor God, Abraham names the place, "The Lord will provide." The story isn't about a God who takes life, but about a God who preserves life. It's about a God who provides a substitute, who makes a way where there was no way. (SLIDE) Making a way where there was no way brings us all the way to the cross. Centuries later, another Son would climb that mountain. Another only Son, also carrying wood on his back, would walk up the hill, obedient to his Father's will. This time, there would be no ram in the thicket. No substitute. Instead, Jesus became the substitute—for Isaac, for Abraham, for me, for you, and for all peoples. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

On Mount Calvary, another hilltop, just outside of Jerusalem, the city built on the same mountain where God provided the ram to substitute for Isaac, God's provision was complete. Not in sparing his Son, but in giving him for us all. So that now, in every trial, in every heartbreak, in every moment when faith is tested,

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

we can say with confidence: “The Lord will provide.” That’s what Abraham named that mountain “The Lord will provide.” I’ve had certain times and places in my life where I can look back and see how the hand of God provided, not just materiel possessions, or even emotional or spiritual strength, but everything I needed to get through the situation. For me, the Dayspring Nursing Home where our daughter, Melanie currently resides is such a sacred place. (SLIDE) When we thought Melanie was not going to make it, Dayspring literally nursed her back to health. It is truly a place where God provides. My point is that when I go to Dayspring Skilled Nursing Facility, I don’t see patients, nurses, aides housekeeping, and cafeteria workers. What I see is God providing for every need of the souls under their care. For me, Dayspring Nursing Home is a sacred place. It’s Holy Ground, every bit as much as the place they call Moriah in Israel... Where is your Holy Ground? It could be a physical place or maybe a season of your life when you’ve experienced God providing everything you needed to get by when you thought all was lost. In each of those moments, God provides. Maybe not in the way we expect, but most certainly in the way we need it the most.

So, here’s the Good News... When faith is tested, when the way is uncertain, when the knife is ready to fall—God always provides. When I went to seminary, I became a little bit of a language and grammar nerd. I love the verb tense in the Greek they call the perfect tense. It’s not just a past tense verb, or a

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

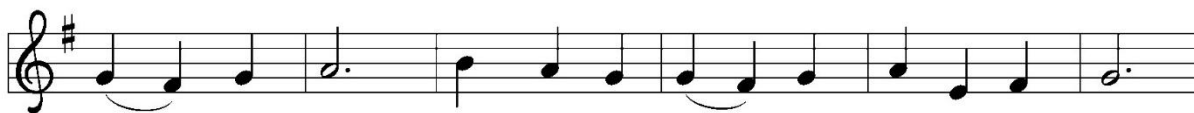
present tense verb. A Perfect tense verb is one where it has action that takes place in the past, but it continues to the present, and extends into and affects the future. We don't really have anything like that in modern day English. That's why we have these really weird verb tenses when we say during the Easter Season "He Is Risen..." In today's story Abraham declares Mount Moriah to be the "Place Where God Provided, where God provides, and where God will continue to provide." (SLIDE) That's a perfect tense verb, because Mount Moriah was the place where God provided, but also the place where God will provide the true means of grace in Jesus Christ. Of course, what Jesus accomplished on the mountain top of Calvary was completed 2000 years ago for us, but it was still a future event for those living at the time of Abraham and Isaac. God isn't finished yet either! The saving actions of Jesus continue to have affects on all those who believe in Jesus today, tomorrow, and forever.

Dear friends in Christ, may you know, in every season of life, the Lord who provided for Abraham, who provided in Christ, and who will also provide for you. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

* 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: Confident that our God hears and answers our cries, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: You do not bestow gifts only to take them away again. Train our eyes and hearts upon your steadfastness, so that we also might be found faithful to your covenant. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You do not ask that we slaughter animals to appease you, but rather that we responsibly steward all the riches and resources of your creation. Forgive our missteps and help show us how we can be part of healing this beautiful but wounded planet. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Many in this world suffer from the threat of abuse and maltreatment by those more powerful than themselves. Make us to work for a society where such crime is neither persistent nor tolerated. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord, your presence is balm to those who suffer illness or long for wholeness. Feed them on your promises and surround them with your healing, *(especially...)* God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For all your faithful children who have gone forward to pave the way, so that we might worship without fear of persecution, we give you thanks. Shine their light ever before us as we strive to continually follow you. God of promise,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift all these prayers, and those of our hearts, to your loving care, O God. Receive them and restore our hope in your promises. In Jesus' name.

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 ... You do not ask of us more than we can give you, O God, but instead give us more than we can possibly need. We return now these gifts, a sacrifice for the well-being of the world, out of gratitude for all that has been sacrificed on our behalf. In Jesus' name.

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: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

* DISMISSAL

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook Live 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!

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 21st
Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Read Shakespeare.

BODY: Use a moisturizer on your body.

SPIRIT: Pray for students.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – September 10 thru September 17:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Sept. 14	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Wed, Sept. 17	10:30 am	GRCC Soup Kitchen
	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Thurs, Sept. 18	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon @ El Carreton, 401 Wagner Ave., Greenville
Fri, Sept. 19	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept. 21	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

Save The Date!

Sept 23	Newsletter Deadline
Oct 4 @ 1 pm	Hand out Fall Festival Flyers door to door in Pitsburg
Oct 19 @ 5 pm	Trinity/Pitsburg COB Fall Festival
Oct 26	Confirmation Reformation Sunday (WEAR RED!!!)



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.

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.

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Trinity Contact Info

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org



-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated