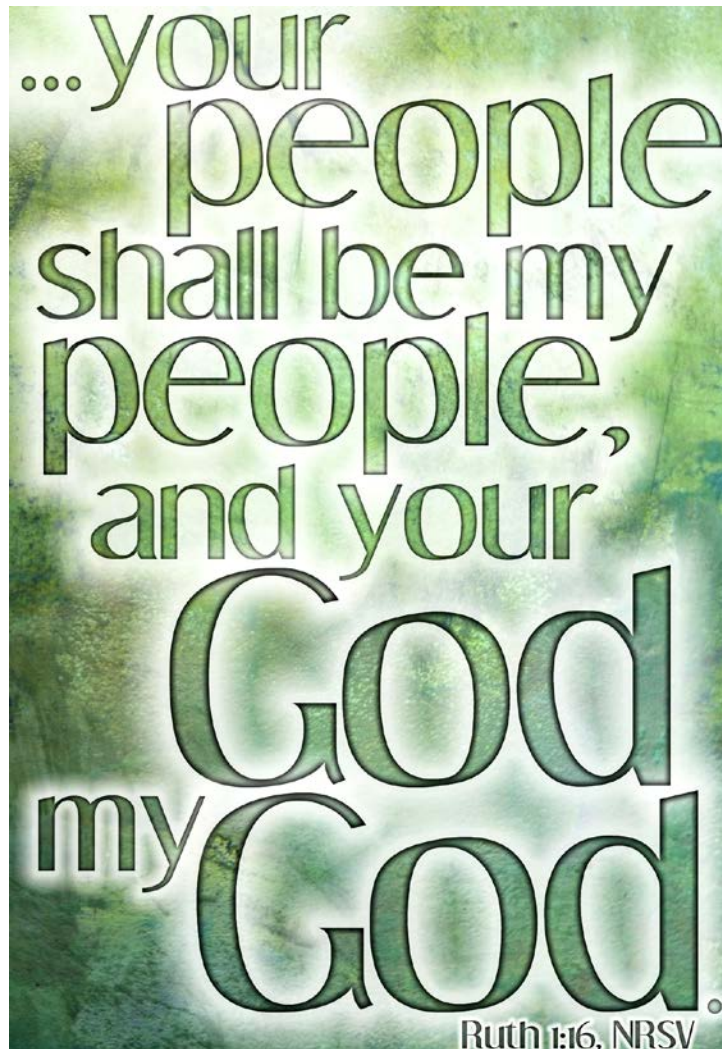


Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Ruth 1:1-17
October 15, 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**

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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: God of all that is,

C: We have failed to trust you to care for us. We have tried to be our own god in our lives and the lives of others. We have not listened to your call, nor lived in faithfulness to you. We have caused harm directly and indirectly to ourselves, our neighbors, and your creation. In your infinite grace and mercy, forgive and restore us, so that with your help, we might become the people you created us to be.

P: Hear the good news: By the power of the Holy Spirit we are made new creations in Christ Jesus, and through his selfless sacrifice, God forgives us all our sin. ✝ Walk with God in this newness of life.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING SONG “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy” LBW 290**

* **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

• Please be seated

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* **KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

* **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... God of the journey, give us the commitment of Ruth, that we might follow your call, no matter how challenging it may seem. Open our ears to hear your words now and always, in Jesus name.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Stronger and Better Together
Materials: a Piece of Ordinary Paper
Scripture: Ruth 1:1-17

Hello girls and boys! I hope you all had a great week. Today I have this ordinary piece of paper. I'm going to tear it in half. Now I'm going to try to tear it in half again. Do you think I can do it? Of course I can. How about if I try it again... And Again... And again... And again... (Stop when you can't tear the papers in half any more...)

After all those times of tearing the paper in half, why can't I do it any more? They are too thick and strong for me to tear. The more papers that are combined together, the harder they are to tear in half. These smaller papers are much stronger than I am when they stick together.

In our Bible story for today, a woman named Naomi was married and had 2 sons, also married. All three men died, leaving their wives with only each other to take care of one another. Naomi decided it would be best for her to return to her home town in her home country. The wife of the first son decided to stay with her own family, but Ruth decided to return to Naomi's country and home town. When they got there Ruth fell in love with a man named Boaz and they had a little boy. Naomi and Ruth were together until they died. Before they died they got to see children and even grandchildren. They were stronger together.

God wants us to know we're stronger and better together too. In fact, that's the motto of our Southern Ohio Synod, "Stronger and Better Together." When we face troubles in our lives, we're much better when we have other Christian family brothers and sisters to help us get through the troubles of life. Let's always try to stick together like Ruth and Naomi did!

Let's pray... Dear heavenly Father, help us to learn from Ruth and Naomi how to stick together when times are good, but even more when times are tough. Thank you for uniting us in Jesus. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth 1:1-17**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Ruth, Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

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

And they all lived happily ever after... (SLIDE) Don't you just love a story with a happy ending? I sure do, and I wish more of our stories had happy endings. So much of the stories in the Bible are filled with bloodshed and treachery, with brother against brother, family against family, and country against country, perhaps that's why I love reading the Book of Ruth so much. It's like an island of tranquility in a sea of violent debauchery. For the most part, people in Ruth's story treat each other well and with honor and loyalty. There's hardly a hint of attempts at genocide, brutal reprisals, disobedience or unfaithfulness toward God or neighbors. On the surface, at least The Book of Ruth seems as soothing as these fun pictures of my favorite species of livestock...

When we discuss books of ancient origin it's important to know the difference between the setting and the date the book was written. In the case of the Book of Ruth, the opening lines state it takes place during the time of the Judges.

* Please stand if able

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(SLIDE) This was known to be a time of severe tribal conflict and war between the Children of Israel and their neighboring nations. One of those hated neighbors was the country of Moab and their citizens, the Moabites. Toward the end of the book we learn Ruth was the great Grandmother of King David. Since David is mentioned by name, this gives us a hint that the book was written during or after his reign as King of Israel. (SLIDE) Although the date of authorship is still hotly debated among biblical scholars, most believe it was written either toward the end of the exile or after the exile when the Hebrew people were back in their promised land of Judah. If you recall, when the Jewish exiles were granted safe return to rebuild Jerusalem, those who returned after over 60 years in exile discovered their Hebrew relatives who had been left behind intermarried and had children with their wives from foreign countries. (SLIDE) Along with these foreign spouses came foreign gods and foreign worship practices. This greatly upset those who returned from Exile because they had spent the previous 60 plus years keeping their religious faith pure and unsullied by foreign influences, despite living among the pagans of Babylon. They had not married into their captor's families, nor adopted their captors' religious practices or influences.

When these two groups encountered one another you can imagine the controversies and conflicts that erupted. It got so bad the Hebrew people who

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returned from Babylon demanded their kinsmen divorce their foreign wives and denounce their children from these interfaith marriages. (SLIDE) Can you imagine? You might have 3.5 children in your perfect nuclear family, when these super-religious zealots return like they own the place and require you to give up on the spouse and children you love so much... Maybe a story about a foreign, Moabite woman's faith and loyalty, might help calm the tensions by telling the story about how the Hebrew people's greatest king was descended from a foreign woman.

(SLIDE) Nothing like this kind of religious bigotry could possibly be relevant today, right??? I'll start by telling the story of a couple from one of my previous church experiences. I knew a couple where the wife was Lutheran and the husband was Roman Catholic. When the couple first planned their marriage, their families were disappointed to say the least. By the time I came to know them, they had been married for many years. The husband used to get up early in the morning and attend the early mass. Afterward, he would bring his wife to the Lutheran Church so she could Worship according to her faith. Although he brought her nearly every week, he never came into the Lutheran Church. He would drop her off at the door, park his car, and wait for her in the parking lot. At least their families didn't start a feud or require them to divorce...

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Now let's see what can happen if religious superiority and bigotry are allowed to fester, unchecked. (SLIDE) Just a week and a day ago, Israel was invaded by members of the Hamas terrorist group. Hamas and other Jihadist terrorist groups seek to kill as many Jews as they are able. They desire and plan for the total annihilation of the Jewish state of Israel. In their blind hatred, these Hamas fighters took over 1200 innocent lives, including women and children. Whole families were burned alive, their remains found with them hugging each other in a final embrace as they perished in flames.

As a Christian follower of Jesus Christ, I wish there was another way, besides taking an eye for an eye, but the Words of Jesus seem like so much noise mixed in with the winds of war. The story of Ruth is all the more scandalous because for most of its history, Moab and the Moabites were the sworn enemies of the Israelites. (SLIDE) Now, here's this story about how a Moabite woman unflinchingly unites herself with her Israelite mother-in-law. Her statement, her promise to Naomi is a powerful statement of faithfulness. Not even death would be able to separate Ruth and Naomi. Imagine the scandal... Naomi comes back to her hometown with this, this Moabite woman! Most Jews would probably have wanted to stone her at the gate... Yet, this hated foreigner attracts the love interest of one of Naomi's male relatives named Boaz. (SLIDE) He marries her. They

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have a son, who has a son named Jesse from whom the branch of Jesse becomes the tree of life and gives forth a son named David. For those of us who trust in the name of Jesus Christ, Ruth is the great grandmother of David whose lineage leads directly to Jesus Christ.

The story of Ruth begins with famine and death, but ends with harvest and new life. In that context, it's a lot like the story of the resurrection. The resurrection necessarily begins with the death of Jesus, but ends with new life, not just for Jesus but for all of humanity. This story shows us there is another way. Our story doesn't have to be filled with death and destruction. Instead of shunning those who are different from us or who may have different faith traditions, maybe we can learn to love them as Boaz loved Ruth or even better as Ruth loved Naomi. Bitter enemies don't have to remain enemies forever. (SLIDE)

The narrator's portrait of Bethlehem in the concluding scenes of the Book of Ruth offers a vision of a harmonious and joyful community. Boaz ensures that all matters are handled decently and in order; there is uprightness in the meeting at the town gate. The leading man of the Israelite village and the poor Moabite widow are married with the blessing of the community elders and others gathered round. The child of this union is celebrated by the women of the town as he is placed into the arms of Naomi. The continuing bond between Ruth and Naomi is underscored

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as the women compare Ruth's value to that of seven sons. This portrait of the community is a microcosm of the peaceable kingdom envisioned by the prophets. It's a human community where the marginalized person has dared to insist upon full participation, where the one in the center has reached out beyond societal norms to include the marginalized. It is a community in which children are celebrated and the elderly are attentively cared for. It's a community where all are fed, a community where joy is the dominant note. The Book of Ruth offers us not just a memory of a powerful story from the ancient past, but also a beautiful vision of our future hope. This vision of the future can happen when we all begin to live our lives as if God's Will is actually being accomplished on earth as it is in heaven. When that happens, we will all live happily ever after... (SLIDE)

May we see in Ruth's story not just a story about their love and loyalty, but also the inclusion and acceptance of those who once were once distant strangers and enemies, but are now our family and our friends. May the God of Naomi and Ruth continue to call us into a relationship of faith and love. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLE’S 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.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: 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.

L: Steadfast God, inspire us by the example of Ruth to be faithful to one another in your name. Stir up in us the desire to strive for the flourishing of all those in our families, communities, and beyond. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: You created us from the dust of the earth and breathed life into our bodies, and commissioned us to care for all of your beloved creation. Renew in us a sense of call to this holy vocation. Fill our hearts with love for the infinite diversity and beauty all around us, that we might commit ourselves to its preservation. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Give all who hold positions of power and influence in our communities and the world a spirit of steadfast faithfulness to those they serve. Give them the humility to set aside their own ends for the sake of the needs of others. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Enfold all who journey with injury, illness, loneliness, or grief into your healing

* Please stand if able

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arms, that they might know your presence with them is sure, (*especially...*)
Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Our biological humanness has hard-wired us to categorize and compartmentalize for our own comfort, thus we judge others without knowing them, and decide their value is less than ours. Make us to see all people through your loving eyes, that we might see Jesus in one another and commit ourselves to justice and equality for all. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Put us in mind of all those who came before us, whose love and commitment demonstrated their steadfast faithfulness to you and their communities. Inspire us by the example of the saints to follow in their footsteps. Eternal God,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

*** OFFERING**

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.

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... O God, your faithfulness to us is without measure. We offer now our gifts in response to all that you have given us, that they might in turn demonstrate your faithfulness to our neighbors and all creation.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* Please stand if able

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October 15, 2023

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* **DIALOGUE**



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. Ⓑ And al - so with you.



Ⓐ Lift up your hearts. Ⓑ We lift them to the Lord.



Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Ⓑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* **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**



Ⓐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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: 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.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Jesus who will never leave us now invites us to the table to share in the feast of life. Come and dine, for all is prepared for you.

* Please stand if able

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• **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

Communion is by “Station”. Please come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. 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.

* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ✠ strengthen, keep, and unity us, now and forever,

C: Amen.

* **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

* Please stand if able

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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**

“Abide with Me”

LBW 272

*** 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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Health Tips for the Week
MIND: Volunteer at a school.
BODY: Walk around a corn maze.
SPIRIT: Pray for youth for Christ organization.

 Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 22nd
2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Larry Harter
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	

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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 – October 15 thru October 22, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Oct. 15	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Communion
Mon, Oct. 16	7:30 pm	Dartball at St. John’s Lutheran
Tues, Oct. 17	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Wed, Oct. 18	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Thurs, Oct. 19	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon, The Train Stop at 121 N. Miami, Bradford
Fri, Oct. 20	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept. 24	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service

SAVE THE DATE!

- **October 22 - Trinity Fall Festival – 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm**
- **October 29 – Reformation/Confirmation Sunday**
 - Reception following Service
- **November 5 – All Saints Sunday – Annual Congregational Meeting**
- **November 5 – 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**

TRINITY TRUMPET NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Tuesday, October 17!

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
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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