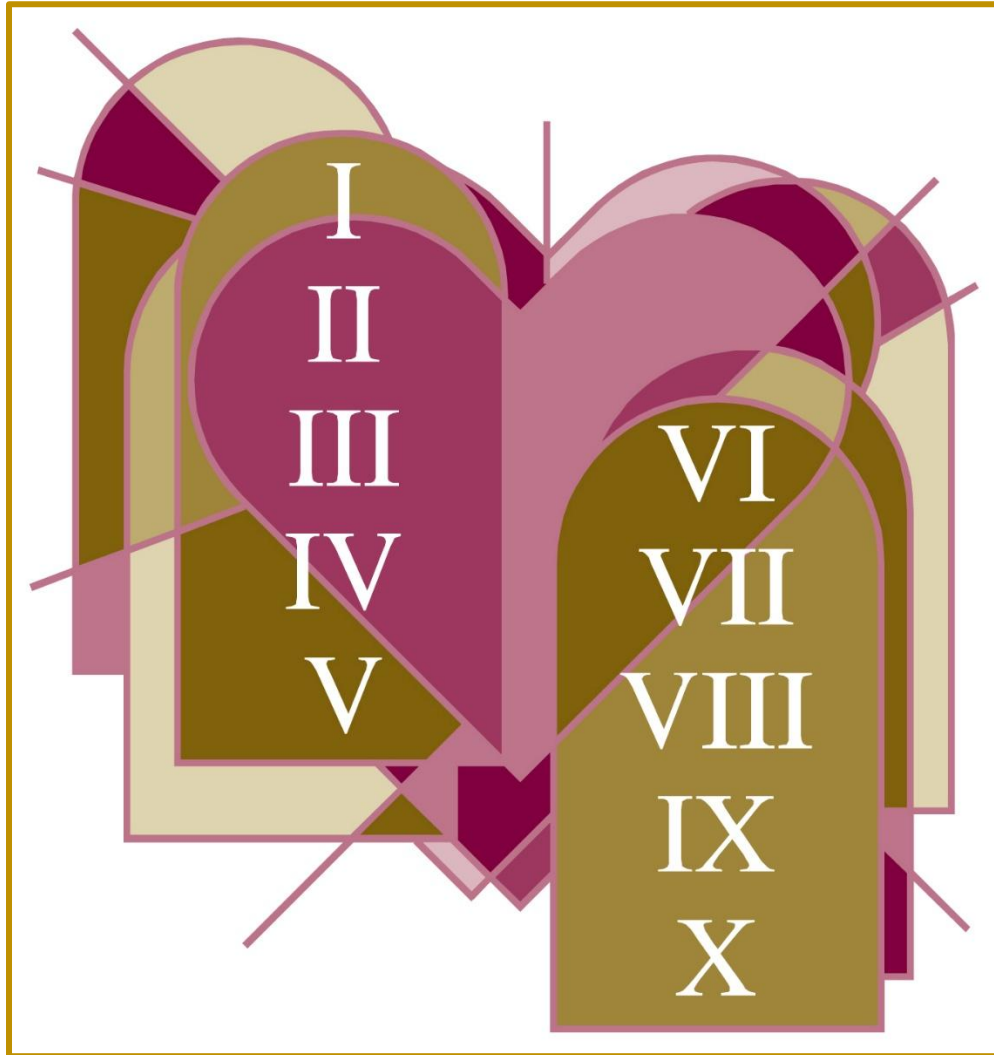


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17
October 11, 2026



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude**

Roxanne Groff

- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**

- **Welcome**

- * **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 “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”**

LBW 403



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y_a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

* **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 ask of us no more than to love you with our whole hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Re-awaken us daily to the truth of this command, that we might act in love toward your whole creation. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: Making Room

Materials: Small Tray, Large Blocks, and a Toy Figure

Scripture: Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17

Hello, girls and boys! I brought a little pretend table today. These blocks are taking up all the space. And here comes somebody who needs a place! *[Show the toy figure.]* Can you help me figure out how to make room? *[Let the children suggest moving a block. Move it and place the figure on the tray.]* Oops... That piece fell off the tray. We don't want to lose any of these precious toys! Let's try again... There! We made room for all the toys by moving everything around just a little bit.

Sometimes we need to do that with real people. Maybe we move over on a bench so someone can sit beside us. Maybe we make room in our game so another child can play. Can you think of another way to make room for someone? *(At the lunch table at school, or at the table during Sunday School) [Allow a few answers.]*

In our Bible reading today, God gives his people commandments that teach them how to care for one another. God cares about the person beside us. That person needs kindness, just as we do. Jesus loves you, **and** Jesus loves the people around you. It's easy to forget to be loving, especially when it's to our brothers or sisters... When we forget to be kind, we can ask Jesus to forgive us and help us try again. This week, let's look for somebody we can make room for.

Let's pray... Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Help us notice the people around us. Forgive us when we forget to care for them as kindly as you care for us, and help us make room for others at our tables and in our hearts. Amen.

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17**

R: Our scripture reading is from Exodus, Chapters 19 and 20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” ⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

20 Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You 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. ⁵You 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 the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

[SLIDE 1 — Room for Your Neighbor]



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

Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 11, 2026

Page 5 of 17

Have you ever sat down at a crowded table and heard someone say, “Scoot over a little. We need to make room for one more”? Maybe it was at Thanksgiving. Maybe it was a church dinner. Everybody was already settled. The plates were out, somebody had started passing the potatoes, and then another person arrived. Making room sounds easy until you’re the one who has to move. You’ve found a comfortable spot. You have enough space for your elbows. You can reach everything you need. Now somebody wants you to scoot over. You’re glad they came. You really are. But welcoming them means adjusting something about where you are sitting. There’s a little picture there of what it means to live together as God’s people. Our neighbor needs room, and sometimes making that room requires us to move. I know we’ve all experienced that right here at Trinity during the holidays when attendance swells and family and friends return to Church. That was my pew, but it’s good to have you here this week!

Over the summer, we spent a couple of Sundays with the Ten Commandments. You might have heard today’s reading and thought, “Pastor, didn’t we just do this?” Yes, we did! So, this morning, let’s pay particular attention to the people who have to live with us while we’re trying to follow them. In Exodus 19, God calls Israel a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These people have just been rescued from slavery and barely cobbled together into a community. Now they have to learn how to share their freedom. That’s not easy because my freedom affects your life. If I take whatever I want, somebody else loses something. If I say whatever comes into my head, somebody else may carry the hurt long after I have forgotten the conversation. If I insist everything happen on my schedule, somebody else may never get a

chance to rest. We know that in our homes. We know it at work. And yes, we know it in church. We can all agree loving our neighbor is a good idea... in theory. The difficulty starts when my neighbor needs something that interferes with what I want. That's where these commandments meet us.

[SLIDE 2 — Making Room for Rest]



Listen to the commandment about the Sabbath. God names the people who are to rest: your children, your servants, and the stranger living in your community. Even the animals get a place in that commandment. It reaches beyond the person who gets to decide when the work stops. Someone with authority might say, "I'm taking the day off," while you keep working." God's commandment makes that person look around and ask, "Who else needs rest?" Who depends on your permission to stop? Who is carrying a burden you have the power to lighten? People who had known life under Pharaoh were being taught to make room for rest in the lives of others.

That question still reaches us. Who gets to rest because of the way I live? Maybe someone in your family is always the one who notices what needs doing. They arrange the appointments, prepare the meals, and remember everything everybody else forgets. We might

say, “You ought to take a break.” But have we picked up any of the work that would make a break possible? Sometimes loving our neighbor begins with doing the dishes.

[SLIDE 3 — Caring for a Good Name]



Then there is the commandment about bearing false witness. Most of us probably hear that and think, “Don’t lie.” But consider the neighbor whose name is the topic of many of our conversations. That person has a reputation. They have relationships and people who trust them. Our words can damage all of that. It doesn’t take a courtroom to bear false witness, it can happen over coffee, in a text message or when we pass along something we haven’t checked out thoroughly because it sounds like something that person would do. “I’m only telling you what I heard.” We can spread a story in a few seconds, but the person in that story may spend years trying to recover from it.

Making room for our neighbor means allowing room for an explanation. It means admitting we may not know the whole story. Sometimes it means saying, “I don’t think we should pass that along.” I know it can make a conversation awkward, but our neighbor’s good name deserves our care, even when our neighbor isn’t sitting at the table. That’s especially hard for me. I love to hear all those juicy tidbits...

[SLIDE 4 — Sharing Our Neighbor’s Joy]

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated



And then we hear, “You shall not covet.” That commandment can hit close to home because we can break it without moving a muscle. We see what someone else has, and suddenly the blessings in our own lives seem smaller. Their house. Their money. Their opportunities. Their family always looks so happy in their Facebook pictures. We may know very little about their life, but we know we want what we see. Eventually, it becomes difficult to rejoice with them. Their good news starts to feel like bad news for us. What a lonely way to live. It’s been shown Facebook can cause or worsen depression, especially among younger users.

God calls us into a community where another person’s joy can become something we share. There is room to be glad for them. There is room to give thanks for what we have received, too. Now, I could stop here and say, “So, let’s all make more room for our neighbors this week.” And that would sound like a reasonable sermon ending. But I know something about the person preaching this sermon. He doesn’t always do it. I can become so occupied with my own concerns that I fail to notice what somebody else is carrying. I can speak before I have listened enough. I can recognize selfishness in someone else while finding a very good explanation for it in myself. Perhaps you know someone like that, too.

[SLIDE 5 — Forgiveness and New Life]

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated



The commandments bring our neighbors into view. They also reveal how often we have pushed those neighbors aside. We need forgiveness. We need help that reaches deeper than another promise to try harder. That's where the Commandments turn us to Jesus Christ. Jesus can and did fulfill each and every jot and tittle of every Commandment. Not only that, Jesus sees the people others overlook. He listens to voices others try to silence and welcomes people whose reputations have caused everyone else to pull away. That includes each and every one of us.

At the cross, Jesus bears the sin that has broken our relationships with God and with one another. Our selfishness and careless words are among the things he carries. Through his death and resurrection, he gives us forgiveness and new life. This morning, our Thanksgiving for Baptism reminded us God claims us as daughters and sons and makes us servants of all. Those words belong together. As God's beloved children, we have somewhere to bring our failures. We can confess them without pretending. We can hear Christ's forgiveness and begin again, as servants of all.

[SLIDE 6 — Making Room This Week]



For us here at Trinity, that may mean noticing someone who needs a place to sit and someone to talk with. It may mean giving a tired person some practical help like some food or help with a rent payment. It may mean protecting someone's reputation when a conversation starts heading in the wrong direction. We don't have to wait for a grand opportunity. There will be somebody beside us today or this week whose needs we can notice, whose burden we can help carry. At a crowded table, the invitation is simple: "Scoot over. There's room for one more."

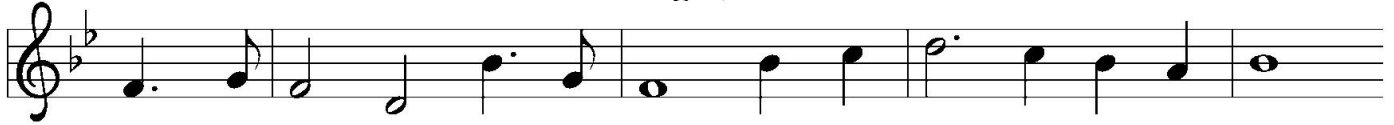
May the Holy Spirit help us hear that invitation in our everyday lives. And when we discover how tightly we have held our own place, may Christ's forgiveness free us to Seek, Welcome, and Serve all. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

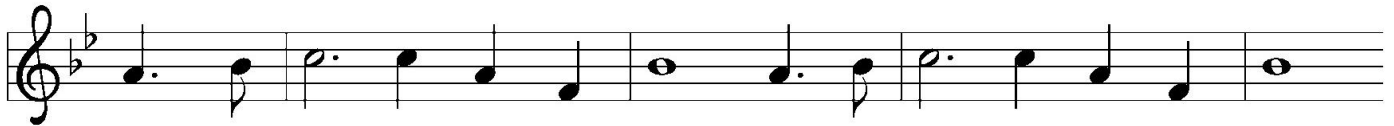
* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

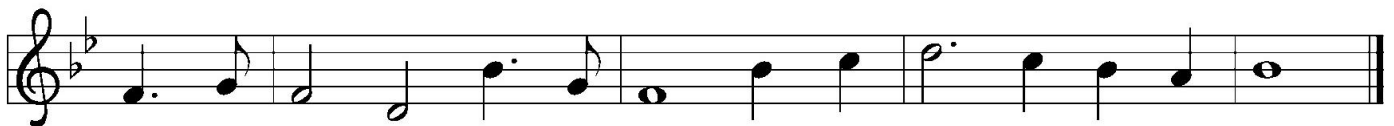
LBW 327



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

* 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 Creator God listens and answers prayer, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, your commandments are simple and life-giving. Make us to see them not as arbitrary restrictions on behavior, but a call into the same love and compassion for our neighbors as you have for us. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: From the beginning, you entrusted humankind with the care of your creation. Make us obedient, not out of fear of punishment, but out of deep love for this beautiful earth and all that live on it. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Help all peoples, nations, and leaders to act on your commandment to love you and neighbor above all else, even if it costs us something. Make us all partners in bringing peace to this war-torn world. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Help us to work for the health and well-being of all people, and guide us in serving those who are dealing with physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges, (*especially...*). God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: You are clear that we are not to covet what is not ours. Remind us that absolutely nothing is ours—all creation belongs to you alone. Relieve us of envy, greed, fear, and all that drives us to serve the gods of wealth and materialism. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with gratitude all those who modeled for us a life based on obedience to your good commandments. Help us live out this gratitude in our own commitment to follow your life-giving law. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

P: God who created all that is, we place all for whom we pray, both aloud and in the silence of our hearts, into your loving arms.

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 ...Holy God, you are the source of all that we are and all that we have. Receive these gifts out of your own abundance as a declaration that we have no other gods but you, and use them for the flourishing of our neighbors, our communities, and our world. In Jesus' name we pray.

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 God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

LBW 479



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

* DISMISSAL

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook viewers for joining us as well. 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: Read aloud to a child.

BODY: Schedule eye care.

SPIRIT: Ask someone how you can pray.



Scripture readings for next
 Sunday, October 18th
 Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – October 11 thru October 18, 2026:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Oct. 11	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:45 am	Pastor Appreciation Potluck
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Tues, Oct. 13	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	
Thurs, Oct. 15	11:30 am	Ladies & Gents Luncheon @ Lincoln Square, 1320 Archer Dr., Troy
Fri, Oct. 16	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 18	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	3-5:00 pm	Trinity Fall Festival

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Save The Date!

Mon, Oct. 19	Dartball vs. St. John Lutheran @ 7:30 pm
Sun, Oct. 25	Confirmation Sunday (Reformation Sunday, too - Wear Something RED)
	Annual Reports Due to Church Secretary!
Tues, Oct 27	Names of those to be remembered on All Saints Day due to Church Secretary
Sat, Oct 31	Decorating the Church for Christmas (10 AM – Pastor bringing DONUTS!!!)
Sun, Nov. 1	Trinity Annual Meeting @12:00 noon
Sun, Nov 8	Women's Thankoffering Sunday (Fair Trade Merch Sale!)
Thurs, Nov. 12	Community Blood Drive at Trinity @ 3:00 pm
Sun, Nov 15	Annual Christmas Auction (3 pm - ???)



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

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 11, 2026

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