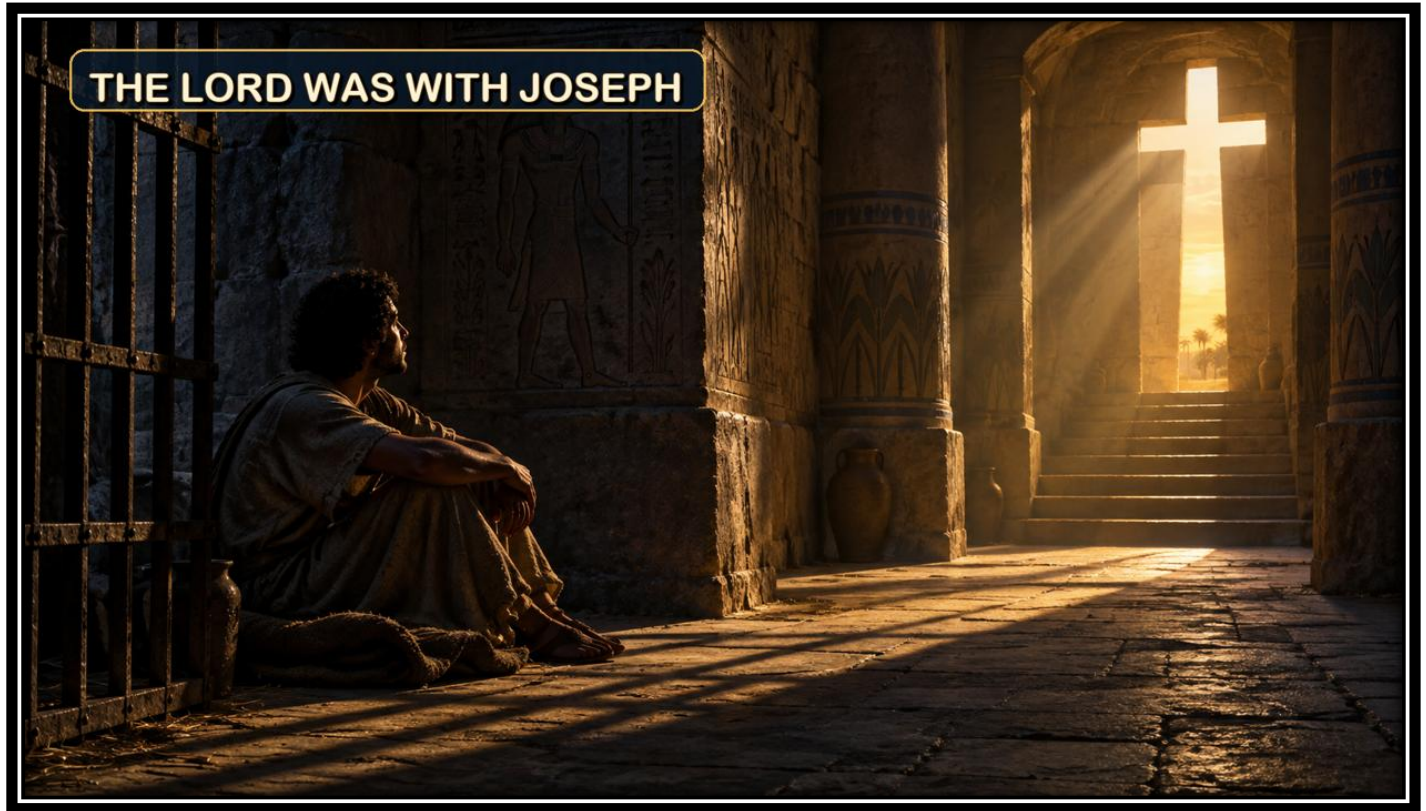


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Genesis 39:1-23
September 27, 2026



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

GATHERING

- **Prelude**

Pam Sherman

- **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**

“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!

* **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...God with us, your presence never fails, even in the midst of challenges or crises. Stir up in us your fire for truth and make us willing to risk for the sake of the flourishing of others, trusting that you are with us in all things. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Theme: The Lord is with us!

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-23

Props: A Cross, 3 sheets of paper (Good Day, Hard Day, and Waiting Day)

Good morning! I brought a cross with me today. This cross reminds us of Jesus and of God's promise to be with us. I also brought three different kinds of days.

[Place the "A Good Day" sign on the floor.] This is a good day. Maybe you have fun at school, someone says something kind to you, or something happens that makes you happy. Do you think God is with us on a good day? *[Place the cross beside the sign.]* Yes! God is with us on good days.

[Place the "A Hard Day" sign somewhere else.] This is a hard day. Maybe someone is unkind to you. Maybe you get sick. Maybe you tell the truth, but someone doesn't believe you. Do you think God is still with us then? *[Place the cross beside the second sign.]* Yes. God is with us on hard days too.

[Place the "A Waiting Day" sign down.] Sometimes we have waiting days. We pray, but we don't know yet how things will turn out. We want something to get better, but it hasn't gotten better yet. Is God with us while we wait? *[Place the cross beside the third sign.]* Yes. God is with us while we wait.

In today's Bible story, Joseph tried to do what was right, but someone told a lie about him and Joseph was put in prison. That was unfair. The Bible does not say that God kept every bad thing from happening to Joseph. Instead, it says something very important: "The Lord was with Joseph." God was with Joseph on the good days, on the hard days, and during the long time when Joseph had to wait.

When you were baptized, the sign of the cross was made on your forehead. That cross reminds you that you belong to Jesus. Wherever you go and whatever kind of day you are having, God goes with you.

Let us pray... Dear God, thank you for being with us on good days, hard days, and waiting days. When we feel frightened, lonely, or treated unfairly, help us remember that we belong to you and that you will never leave us. Amen.

• **A READING OF SCRIPTURE: Genesis 39:1-23**

R: Our scripture reading is from Genesis, Chapter 39.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

39Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking.

⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" ¹⁰And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, ¹²she caught hold of his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

¹³When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴she called out to the members of her household and said to them, "See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; ¹⁵and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside." ¹⁶Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; ¹⁸but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside."

¹⁹When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. ²¹But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. ²²The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ

- SERMON

Pr Mel Musser

SLIDE 1



Grace and peace from God our Father and from the one who is always with Joseph and with you and me, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SLIDE 2 THE HERO WHO RAN



Four years ago, when this story last appeared in the Narrative Lectionary, I called Joseph “the hero who ran away.” I still think that is true. When Potiphar’s wife grabbed his garment, Joseph did not stick around to negotiate with temptation. He ran. Sometimes running away from something destructive is the best act of courage anyone can demonstrate. This time, another part of the story caught my attention. Joseph ran from wrongdoing and still landed in prison. He told the truth, but the lie was believed. He honored Potiphar’s trust, but Potiphar punished him as though he had betrayed it. Joseph did the right thing, but doing right did not make everything turn out right. His story speaks to anyone who has tried to be faithful and still suffered, or who has been mislabeled, falsely accused, or trapped by someone more powerful. I discovered a long time ago in the Air Force and in life in general, you do what you do and you

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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get what you get... The two don't always match up... When we do our best and things still turn out poorly, despair can leave us jaded and cynical about the world and even about God. Yet when everything appears to have gone wrong, Scripture tells us what matters most: "The Lord was with Joseph." And the Lord is with you too.

SLIDE 3 TRUSTED, BUT NOT FREE



Joseph didn't go to Egypt looking for an opportunity. He didn't submit a resume to Potiphar. His brothers sold him, traders carried him to Egypt, and Potiphar purchased him. Other people controlled nearly every part of his life. He had no freedom to leave, no family nearby to protect him, and no standing in the community. Yet Joseph served faithfully, and Potiphar eventually entrusted the whole household to him. For the first time since his brothers sold him, Joseph may have felt his life was becoming stable. Then Potiphar's wife began making demands. The imbalance of power matters. She belonged to the household that owned Joseph. He couldn't resign, report her conduct, or expect anyone to believe a foreign slave over his master's wife. Joseph refused her anyway. To violate Potiphar's trust would be an offense against his master and a sin against God.

SLIDE 4 GARMENTS USED TO TELL LIES



She pressured him day after day. Finally, she grabbed his garment and made her demand once again. Joseph pulled away and ran, leaving the garment in her hand. It became evidence against him. This had happened before. Joseph's brothers had taken his special robe, covered it with blood, and used it to support the lie that Joseph was dead. Now another garment supported the lie that Joseph was guilty. Once again, the person holding Joseph's clothing appeared to control his story. Potiphar's wife also knew how to use his identity against him. She called him "that Hebrew servant," appealing to the household's prejudice against a foreign slave. She even shifted some blame toward her husband by saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us." She possessed the garment, the accusation, and the social power. Joseph had only the truth.

We want to believe the truth will always win, that faithful people will be recognized, and that doing right will protect us from terrible consequences. We want life, the world, or God to reward our effort. Genesis 39 makes no such promise. Potiphar hears the accusation and sends Joseph to prison. There is no investigation, no opportunity for Joseph to defend himself, and no witness to confirm his story. He does the right thing and still loses the little freedom he had.

SLIDE 5 THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH — IN PRISON



This story raises some difficult questions: Where is God when an honest person suffers and the person with the least power pays the highest price? Where is God when the lie is believed and justice never seems to arrive? Genesis answers with a sentence so quiet we could almost miss it: “But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love.” God’s presence did not prevent Joseph from entering prison. God went into prison with him.

We often say God was with us when the surgery succeeded or the danger passed. We should certainly thank God in those moments, but favorable circumstances are not the only evidence of God’s presence. The Lord was with Joseph in Potiphar’s house, and the Lord was with Joseph in prison. The address changed. The promise did not. God’s presence didn’t mean Joseph would be rescued immediately or the injustice no longer mattered. It meant Potiphar’s household did not have the final word about him. The prison did not have the final word. Even Pharaoh’s empire didn’t have the final word. Powerful people could restrict Joseph’s movement and call him a slave or prisoner, but they could not decide who he ultimately was. Joseph belonged to God.

SLIDE 6 CLOTHED WITH MERCY — BAPTISM



Belonging and relationship with God connects with our Thanksgiving for Baptism. Joined to Christ, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Other people kept taking Joseph's garments. His brothers took the robe that identified him as his father's beloved son. Potiphar's wife took the garment associated with his place in the household. They could take those outward signs, but they could not take away God's claim upon Joseph's life. In the same way, Baptism doesn't make us immune from illness, grief, or injustice. The sign of the cross on our foreheads doesn't promise an easy life. It tells us who we are when hard things happen. We are children of God, clothed with mercy and joined to Christ. No accusation, diagnosis, prison, or human judgment can take that identity away.

God continued to work through Joseph inside the prison. This didn't make the imprisonment good or excuse the lie that sent him there. Wrong remained wrong. Yet Joseph was never beyond the reach of the God who loved him. The jailer gave Joseph responsibility for the other prisoners, and Joseph's faithful service again became a blessing. His world had become smaller, but God's work through him continued.

SLIDE 7 TROUBLE TODAY — TRINITY



That is good news for anyone confined by circumstances they did not choose. I have felt something of that during these past months as I recovered from two bouts of pneumonia. Others know the confinement of a hospital room or a body that no longer permits them to do what they once enjoyed. Some feel trapped in grief while life continues around them. Others face caregiving responsibilities or a future that looks nothing like the one they planned. Genesis offers no easy formula for changing those circumstances, but it offers the same promise to us Joseph knew firsthand... The Lord was with Joseph. The Lord is present before we know how the story will end, while the jail door remains locked, and while justice has not yet arrived.

SLIDE 8 JESUS — DEATH DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD



We see that promise most clearly in Jesus. Powerful people falsely accused him and twisted his words. Pilate pronounced Rome's sentence. Soldiers took Jesus' garments, mocked him, and led him to the cross. Every visible sign suggested the authorities had taken control of the story. Rome had spoken, the stone had been placed across the tomb, and the case appeared closed.

Then God raised Jesus from the dead... The resurrection did not erase the cross. Jesus still

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

bore its wounds. Yet, in the resurrection God revealed violence, accusation, and death do not possess the final word. God always does! Our hope, wherever we feel confined is that God, in Jesus Christ is always with us, even to the end of the age... Joseph could not see Pharaoh's dreams, the coming famine, or the day he would be reunited with his family. Genesis 39 ends while Joseph is still in prison. That matters. The chapter ends before the rescue because sometimes we must live for a while in the unfinished part of our story, between the prayer and the answer, between the injustice and the restoration we hope to see. In that unfinished place, God gives us the promise that sustained Joseph: "The Lord was with Joseph."

Friends, the same Lord is with you. The struggle may continue and the answer may not come as quickly as we want, but neither the prison nor the grave have the final word. The accusation does not have the final word. Even death does not have the final word. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, has the final word, and his word is mercy, life, and steadfast love.

May the God who was with Joseph in the household and in the prison be with you wherever life may lead. When the way is shadowed by injustice, illness, grief, or fear, may Christ hold you fast in the promise of your baptism: you are God's beloved child, clothed with mercy, and never beyond the reach of God's steadfast love. May the Holy Spirit give you courage to do what is faithful, strength to serve where you are, and faith to trust that no prison, no accusation, no suffering—not even death—will define who and whose you are. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, has that final word, and his word for you is mercy, life, and peace. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

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- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

* HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

LBW 448



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

* 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.*

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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*** 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, like Joseph many are imprisoned falsely due to failures in our justice system. Make us to work on behalf of all who lack resources to defend themselves, to enact unbiased laws, and to elect wise and impartial judges. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Prosper the work of all those who labor in the field of environmental justice, ecosystem restoration, and all disciplines concerned with caring for your beautiful creation. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: Raise up leaders like Joseph, whose trust in you compels them to be honest and just even when it lands them in trouble. Guide and protect all who are imprisoned due to standing up and speaking truth to power. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: We lift to you all those in our congregation, community, nation, and world who are dealing with illness, injury, or recovering from surgery, (*especially...*). Guide all caregivers in their service to their patients. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: All labor is worthy in your eyes, O God. Prosper the work of every hand, and give us appreciation for those who do the jobs some might deem menial or less noble. Help us to see your face in the faces of all who serve us in any way. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Throughout history you have inspired your saints to will and to work for your good purpose, no matter how challenging life is. Inspire us by their example to follow in the way of faith and hope. God of mercy and grace,

C: We lift our prayers to you.

L: 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, in your abundant love you sustain us even in our darkest of times. Receive these gifts out of that abundance, in gratitude for all that you have given us. Bless our offerings that they might be used to help bring about your reign of love and justice, 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: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you ✝ today and always.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733



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 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

Pam Sherman

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Health Tips for the Week

MIND: Research your name's meaning.

BODY: Dance to a favorite song.

SPIRIT: Pray for farmers.



Scripture readings for next

Sunday, October 4th

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

This Week @ Trinity – September 27 thru October 4, 2026:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Sept. 27	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Video/Book Club “The Chosen”
Tues, Sept. 29	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, Oct. 2	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 4	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:45 am	Youth & Family Ministry Meeting

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Save The Date!

Wed, Oct. 7	WELCA Meeting @ 11:30 am
Sun, Oct. 11	Pastor Appreciation Pot luck @ 11:45 am
Thurs, Oct. 15	Ladies & Gents Luncheon @ Lincoln Square, 1320 Archer Dr., Troy
Sun, Oct. 18	12 th Annual Trinity Fall Festival @ 3-5 pm
Sun, Oct. 25	Confirmation Sunday (Reformation Sunday too- Wear Something 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.

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