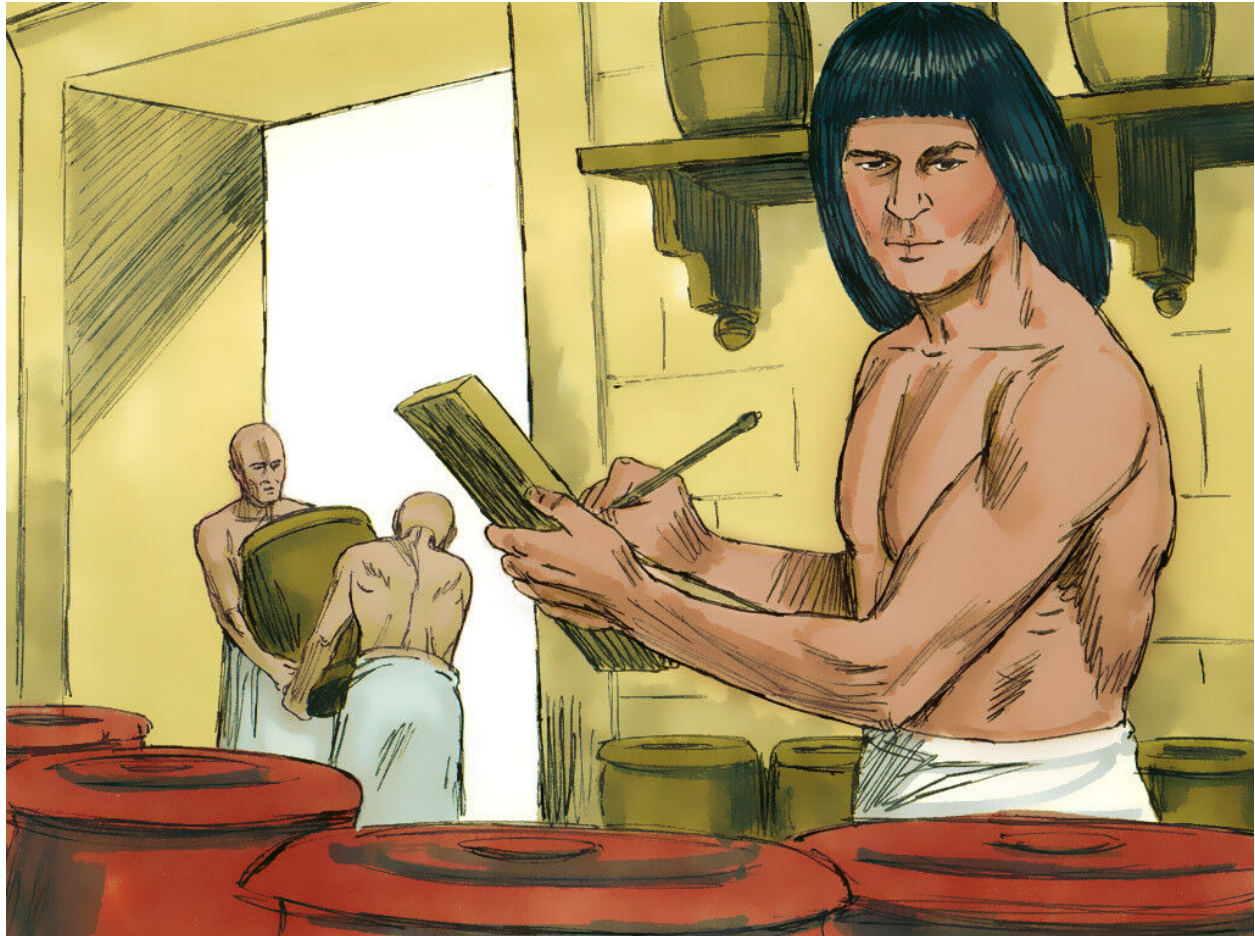


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Genesis 39:1-23
September 25, 2022



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



- **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 promise,

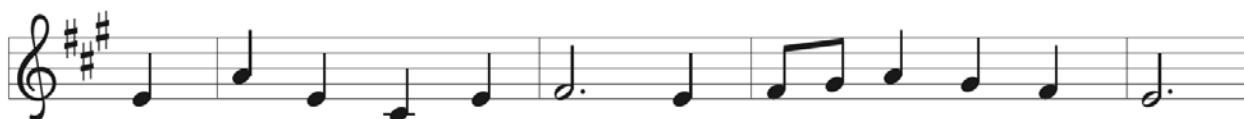
C: You have given us all we are and all we have, and still we have not trusted you fully. We have tried to be god in our own lives, hurting ourselves and those around us in our attempts to control. Wash us clean in the waters of your salvation, and bring us back into right relationship with you.

P: God welcomes you home with open arms, and forgives you all your sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, live in the promise of God's love, freely given.

C: Amen.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"**

ELW 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

*** 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

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... Faithful God, you prospered the work of Joseph's hands, in good times and bad. Give us Joseph's unfailing love for you, that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we might overcome whatever life throws at us.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Bullying

Materials: N/A

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-23

Good morning Boys and Girls! I hope you had a great week! I'm so happy to see you all this morning... Today we're going to talk about bullies and one way you can respond to being bullied. I'll start off by saying I hope you never encounter a bully. I really hope and pray you will never be a bully.

In today's Bible story Joseph, a man who lived a long, long, long time ago had 11 bullies for brothers. They didn't like Joseph because he was the favorite of all 12 sons of their father Jacob. They were so jealous they wanted to kill him. They changed their minds and instead sold Joseph into slavery and Joseph ended up in a country called Egypt. While there Joseph became a success and was placed in charge of the master's property. That's when Joseph encountered another bully. Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph into doing bad things. She was a bully too...

Do you know what Joseph did? Do you think he gave in to her temptations? What would you do if a bully tried to make you do something you knew was wrong? Would you just do it or would you try to do something different? Joseph wanted to do the thing that was right in the eyes of God, so he did what most of us should do when we come up against a bully. Joseph ran away.

If you ever come up against a bully, sometimes the best way out of a bad situation is to just run away. Find an adult you trust and let them know what is going on. Most of the time that's enough to make the bully go away and at least that will save you from any bad outcomes... Bullies are every where. Jesus said we should pray for our enemies, so, let's pray for all the bullies.

Dear Jesus, Help us all to avoid bullies. Keep us safe from the harm they cause. Gracious God, bullies were probably also bullied in their lives. Help them see that being a bully is bad news and help them be better people that know how to honor you, our God of love. If we are being bullied, give us the courage to run away like Joseph and tell someone in charge so they can help the bully behave better toward others. Amen!

- **SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 39:1-23**

P: The Scripture includes readings from the book of 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

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

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

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace from God our Father and from our sinless and Holy Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

This is a hard Scripture text to preach on. I tried to figure out any way to water it down or soften the message. Mark Twain famously said it wasn't the parts of scripture that he didn't understand that bothered him, it was the parts he did understand that kept him up at night... So, I decided to talk about superheroes today instead... As a grandfather I find it hard to keep up with all the superheroes out nowadays. Back in my youth we had a middle aged, slightly overweight black and white superman, a TV version of Batman and Robin that I never missed, and cartoon Spiderman. Spiderman is still popular, but it looks like Superman has taken a backseat to some newer guys like the X-Men, DC Comic Heroes, all the Marvel characters and the supes on the popular Amazon Prime series The Boys. One thing I doubt has changed is that a superhero is someone who doesn't run from trouble but meets it head on. Actually, not all heroes stick around to take on the bad guys. In fact, in our Scripture lesson today we met someone who was a

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

hero precisely because he ran away. For so many reasons, God fearing believers still today try to be less like all those Superheroes and a whole lot more like Joseph, the hero who ran away.

Let's review... Joseph was one of twelve sons of Jacob. He was his father's favorite and the boy who had those dreams about how one day his brothers and parents would bow down to him. This perceived arrogance didn't sit well with the brothers so when they got their chance, they sold Joseph to slave traders who were going to Egypt. There Joseph became the slave of a man named Potiphar who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. He was respected by his master and quickly promoted. Soon he was supervisor over almost everything in Potiphar's house. There was, of course, one thing that was off limits to Joseph: Potiphar's wife. Not that Joseph would ever make advances on her, but when Potiphar's wife saw how handsome Joseph had become, she didn't just do a little harmless flirting, but came right out and demanded: "Sleep with me!" This was a woman who was obviously used to getting her way. How did our hero respond? He refused. He continued to refuse her and even declined to be in the same room with her. Still the woman persisted. She finally thought she had her chance when one day all the other servants were out of the house leaving her alone with Joseph. This time she grabbed his cloak and demanded: "Sleep with me!" What was poor Joseph to do? Consider his situation. Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers and given

up for dead by his father. He must have been lonely and now here was someone who appreciated him. If he continued to reject Potiphar's wife, he might lose his job. Why not give in to this woman's demands? Plenty of other slaves had done worse things to keep their master's happy. Perhaps he could just flirt with her. Would that be so dangerous? Joseph did think it would be dangerous. That's why he not only refused Potiphar's wife again, but this time he ran from the house. Would Joseph's will power alone have been able to withstand further propositions, or would his sinful nature have said something like, "You tried to get away. You did the right thing, but I guess it's just not meant to be. Anyway, it's her fault for pursuing you like this. Just give in to her demands and maybe she'll leave you alone!" Joseph didn't trust himself to stay in the house. So, he fled outside where he could run beyond the reach of that woman's temptation. In his haste to get away, Joseph left his coat in that woman's hands and she used it to build a case against him, accusing Joseph of trying to force himself on her. As a result, Potiphar had Joseph thrown in prison. Joseph may have lost his cloak, his job, and for a time, his freedom but he retained a clean conscience. Joseph is a hero for running away.

But why was Joseph so determined not to sleep with Potiphar's wife?

He gave two reasons for his unwillingness to sleep with the boss's wife. He didn't want to take advantage of his boss who had given him charge over everything in

the household, but more importantly, Joseph realized that sleeping with this woman would not just be a sin against his boss, it would be a sin against his Creator. Joseph knew that as a believer his goal in life was not to have fun, fun, fun., but rather to honor and glorify the God who had created him to serve the people around him.

How do we stack up against Joseph? Do you flee temptation or do we flirt with it? Do you spend more time coming up with excuses as to why the sin you're about to commit is "permissible" instead of using your energy to plan and carry out your escape? If we're honest, we'd have to admit we're all a bit more like thermometers than thermostats. We usually just try to match the mood around us instead of trying to control it. Friends, if we can't control the situation, and we usually can't, then we need to run. Running doesn't make you a coward – no, just the opposite; it makes you a hero, like Joseph.

The best course of action may be to run from temptation even when there doesn't always seem to be a benefit for doing so. I mean look at Joseph. He ended up being unjustly accused and thrown into prison for doing the right thing. What kind of justice is that? How could a just and righteous God allow such injustice? If Joseph struggled with those thoughts, we don't hear about it. On the contrary we hear how he made the best of his new situation. He didn't feel sorry

for himself and mope about, angry at God. Instead, when he was given the task of looking after the other prisoners he did this to the best of his ability.

Friends, you might not get an A because you refused to cheat on that exam. You may never get to move out to that acreage because you refuse to pad your timesheet at work or cheat on your taxes. You might not get that great job because you didn't exaggerate your resume and as a result find yourself stuck in a "dead-end" job. That's OK. You can serve God faithfully right where you are. In fact, there really is no such thing as a dead-end job – not if you remember you're not working for a paycheck, but are serving the Creator of the universe. Joseph kept that in mind and was therefore able to serve Potiphar cheerfully even though he had ended up there because his brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph served cheerfully again even when he found himself imprisoned unjustly. You may have to suffer for a time for doing the right thing. In this life you may never be rewarded or find success as Joseph did. Life isn't always fair and we don't always get to see the success we deserve. Even worse, God's grace falls on the good, the bad, and the ugly. We wince and complain, at least I do... That doesn't mean God isn't faithful. Joseph was arrogant, yet he had God's favor.

What about us? We at least try to be as morally upright as Joseph. If Jesus forgives all of our sins why try so hard to fight temptation? In Old Testament times God made it clear that the animal sacrifices didn't cover that kind

of sinful attitude. Likewise, the forgiveness we receive in Holy Communion on a Sunday morning doesn't cover a sin we're plotting for that afternoon. Such an attitude shows lack of saving faith. The writer to the Hebrews put it this way: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God" (Hebrews 10:26, 27).

How then can anyone be certain of salvation? Try as I might I can't seem to remain perfectly patient with my own family, let alone all those sinners I see on the TV... The Psalmist put it this way, "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ² Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him" (Psalm 32:1, 2a). God does not count our sins against us because he counted them against Jesus. Like an umpire who counts our missed swings as strikes against the opponent, God the Father charged our sins against his Son, who should have been our enemy, but made us His friends when he took the blame for our sins. With forgiveness and His own Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us the power to flee, to run away from sin.

So you might be a fan of Spiderman and Batman, but please add Joseph to your list of favorite heroes. Sure, he ran away when the going got tough but that's what makes him a hero. We can also follow in Joseph's footsteps by making it a habit of running from temptation into the loving arms of our Savior.

* Please stand if able
• Please be seated

May the blood of Jesus cover all our sin and make us acceptable in the eyes of God our Father and our creator. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** 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.*

*** BLESSING OF QUILTS AND KITS**

P: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

C: Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

P: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

C: Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

P: God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

C: Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

P: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

C: Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

P: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

C: Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

P: Recognizing God's abundant hope, we send these quilts and kits to be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far as signs of God's justice, and a feast of God's goodness. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident in the promises of our covenant God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Faithful God, through Joseph you blessed so many whose lives were in his path. Make us blessings for others so that they may know of your abundant mercy. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Show us how to be faithful stewards of your creation, being not wasteful, but thoughtful in the ways that we use and reuse the resources you have entrusted to us. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Bless all people through the leadership of all whom you have called to govern. Give those with power, hearts to serve with justice and mercy. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Pour your healing upon all who suffer, (*especially*)... Sustain them through their challenges, and bring all into your healing light. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Through us send resources to all people in need, so that all who are hungry, homeless, or suffering might suffer no more. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with joy and thanksgiving all the saints whose humble efforts kept churches running smoothly for congregations near and far. Inspire us to follow their footsteps, that you might prosper our work. God of promise,

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

C: You hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your grace and mercy, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

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

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God, you have caused the work of our hands to be successful. We now honor you with the fruits of our labor. Use these gifts in the service of your justice.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the tie that binds us together. 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.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

* **SENDING HYMN** **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”** **ELW 858**



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

* **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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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 2nd
Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Trudie Arling
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel and PJ Musser in celebration of their anniversary.

This Week @ Trinity – September 25 thru October 2, 2022

Sun, Sept. 25 10:30 am Worship
Tues, Sept. 27 10:00 am Prayers and Squares Quilting
Wed, Sept. 28 6:30 pm ~~Confirmation~~
Fri, Sept. 30 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Oct. 2 10:30 am Worship w/Communion

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Get a hand massage

MIND: Learn the names of the birds in your yard

SPIRIT: Help with children Sunday school

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

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 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.



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