

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



Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17
September 26, 2021



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



• **Prelude** **“Spend A Time with Jesus; My Tribute”** **Roxanne Groff**

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

• **Welcome** **Pastor 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: Creator of all things,

C: We have failed to care for all that you have made. We have squandered resources and oppressed others. Forgive us for what we have done and have failed to do. Teach us how to be steward of your creation with care and nurture. Amen.

L: Our God will always love all that God has made. Although we sin, God forgives. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, granted as a gift from a loving God. In the name of Jesus we pray.

C: Amen.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638



1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
2 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per - fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

* **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 of second chances, when Jacob lied to his father and stole from his brother, another might write him off. But you did not, God. You saw something in him no one else saw. See that in us, too.

C: Amen.

- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: Feeling God's Presence

Scripture: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Items Needed: Binoculars

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see you. I've been looking around all morning with my special God Finder Binoculars. Do you think I can see God with these? Here, give it a try... Can you see God through these? No... Me neither...

I want to tell you a story about a man named Jacob. He was travelling from his home to his uncle Laban's to stay with him for a while. You see Jacob had done a bad thing and had to leave. He cheated his brother out of the inheritance and out of the special blessing of their father. Along the way to Uncle Laban's house Jacob needed to stop for the night. Now back in those days there weren't hotels everywhere like we have today, so Jacob had to camp out. The Bible says he had to use a big rock for his pillow. That's a pretty hard pillow, isn't it?

So when Jacob fell asleep he had a dream where there was a ladder that went all the way up to heaven. Then Jacob saw angels coming down and going up the ladder. Jacob called that place Bethel, which means place or house of the Lord. In that place Jacob could feel the presence of the Lord and he knew he was going to be ok...

What are some places where you can feel the presence of Jesus? At Home, at church, in Sunday School, During Worship services...

Even though we know God is here with us we can't see God with our eyes and we can't really see God, even with my special binoculars, but we know God is always with us. God is with you when you have done something good for someone and God is with you when you disobeyed your parents or your teachers. God is always with us, even when we can't see him directly, we can feel his presence and it gives us peace. It's like we don't have to worry about our troubles because we know, no matter what God is still with us and still loving us. That makes me feel very safe and confident that I can try new things and even if I mess up, God will still love me. That's my favorite thing about God, that He never gives up on me or you.

Let's pray... Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for always being with us through thick and thin. Help us to see and feel your presence even more closely. Watch over us this week and keep us safe. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17**

P: Our scripture reading is from the Book of Genesis, Chapters 27 & 28.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

27 When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.”² He said, “See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.”³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me.⁴ Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.”

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; ¹⁶ and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

¹⁸ So he went in to his father, and said, “My father”; and he said, “Here I am; who are you, my son?” ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.” ²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” ²² So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³ He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

28 ¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

• **SERMON**

Pastor Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who opened for us the “Gate of Heaven”, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, amen.

One of the overarching themes in today’s text is lying. Jacob and Rebecca both lie to Isaac. They lie because God spoke to Rebecca in a dream and told her the older son would serve the younger. God was referring to Jacob’s older, twin brother, Esau. For some mysterious reason that only God knows, God chose Jacob to be the one son through whom many descendent come. Jacob is to be the heir of the promise God made with Isaac’s father, Abraham. This text is also about blindness. Isaac is so blind that he couldn’t even distinguish between his two twin sons. Now Esau and Jacob were quite different. Esau, from the day he was born was covered with red hair. Esau was also a great hunter, but not a very bright fellow. One story about these two brothers has Esau coming home after a long, unproductive day of hunting. He begs Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup. Jacob cons Esau out of his birthright in exchange for the soup. Now in today’s text, we see

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Jacob aided and abetted by his mother, to steal Isaac's blessing which he had intended to bestow on Esau.

Let's talk for a minute or so about lying. Apparently, we all do it with great regularity. I read a survey this week that showed a whopping 89% of those surveyed admitted they lie on a regular basis. Almost 70% said they lie to their spouse sometimes or often. These respondents also admitted to lying to their children and those who were children admitted to lying to their parents. A large majority also admitted to lying to their other relatives and to their friends. At first, I was shocked by these numbers, but when I think about it, I would say those 11% who said they don't routinely lie, are in fact, lying...

Most lies are intended to deceive or misrepresent the truth. We lie to manipulate our situation in order for things to be more favorable for us. Rebecca lied to her husband Isaac by misrepresenting Jacob as the elder son. You see Isaac and Rebecca both picked favorite sons. Isaac liked the wild game meat that Esau provided for the family. Who doesn't like a good BBQ? On the other hand, Rebecca highly favored the younger son, Jacob because he was the one who stuck around the house and helped out with the chores. Since her favoritism was so blatant, she knew Esau would not be the one who would care for her in her old age. So, she conspired to lie to her husband and present Jacob as his brother in order to

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receive the blessing meant for the firstborn son. Jacob, of course, was fine with this deception since he would benefit. The firstborn male received a double share of the inheritance and that's what Jacob stole from Esau not once, but twice. Even more than just the extra money, Jacob stole Esau's chance to be the next patriarch of the family.

I said this story is also about blindness. Isaac was blind both physically and spiritually. We know he was physically so blind that he had to feel his son's hands and the back of his neck to distinguish between Esau and Jacob. It occurred to me that Isaac, Rebecca, and Jacob are all spiritually blind as well. They all knew God had already decided it would be Jacob who would receive the promise of both a land and descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens. Despite knowing this, they all insisted on their own agenda and lied and deceived in order to get what they wanted. Isaac knew God had ordained Jacob as the heir apparent to the promise, yet he insisted on giving his blessing according to the Hebrew tradition, meaning to Esau, the eldest son. Jacob and Rebecca also knew God had said Jacob would be the chosen one, yet they didn't trust God to work that out in God's own timely manner. They both took matters into their own hands and forced the issue by lying and deceiving Isaac.

All week as I pondered this text, I kept thinking about the words we used to say in the brief order of Confession and Forgiveness: “If we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sin and cleans us from all unrighteousness. One question that wasn’t on the survey about lying was, “do you lie to yourself.” I think I know the survey results on lying to yourself. My guess is it’s over 90%! Maybe even approaching 100%... Lying is a part of our fallen human nature. We lie to ourselves and others all the time. From little white lies to full blown whoppers, lies are just a part of who we are.

Here’s where the story gets really crazy. God knows the heart of every human being. He did create each and every one of us. So, God already knew Jacob was a deceiver and a greedy coveter who from his birth always wanted what his brother had, the blessing and the inheritance that went with being firstborn. Despite all the lying and deceiving, God still chose Jacob to be the next patriarch of the Hebrew people. That is, after all, the way God works. God chooses the ones we would consider unlovable and loves them the most.

Our reading for today says Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. In the scripture we skipped over, Esau became so angry at his brother for cheating him out of the double share of the inheritance and his father’s blessing that he

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chased Jacob out of town and wanted to kill him. So, it's not like Jacob was taking a vacation to Haran, he was fleeing for his life. He had messed up his relationship with his brother so badly that Esau was actively trying to kill Jacob in order to get his birthright back. In the midst of his escape, Jacob stops for the night to rest. Evidently Mike Lindell hadn't even vented his My Pillow travel size yet, because poor Jacob had to rest his head on a large rock. Now, I've eaten at the Hard Rock Café, but Jacob's spending a long night at the Hard Rock Hotel. He had indeed hit rock bottom. Rock bottom is exactly the place where God always shows up. Up until that night, Jacob kept trying to make God's will happen through his own efforts. He couldn't see, let alone experience the abundant blessings of God until he put down all pretense of being able to make it on his own power and begin to trust God to be faithful to God's promises.

We're all a lot more like Jacob than we'd like to admit. Once I discern what God's will is in a certain situation, I tend to force the issue by pursuing my own version of what I believe to be God's will. I try to keep Mel's will from interfering with God's will, but I admit, I don't always get that right. I've had more than one night sleeping beside Jacob in my own version of the Hardrock Hotel... That's never the place I would prefer to spend the night, but when morning comes, I pray that I might learn from my mistakes, and I thank God I get another opportunity to

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try again. I know I'll never get it right, but I also know the Good News is that the more I mess up the more God forgives me and gives me another chance. My guess is that each one of us has experienced that grace and mercy filled moment when God said to us get up and try again. Your past is behind you. I love you and I forgive you...

May the God of second chances never give up on you. May we all humble ourselves and seek God's Word instead of our own desires. May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, continue to bless us in order to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- * **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Dear Lord, you reach past all our trickery, our dishonesty, our ill-gotten gain, and insist upon being in close and inescapable communion with us. Take what we meant for our own self-promotion and use it to your glory, turning us around to a new awareness of the tall task of being your followers. Persistent God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Indeed, we are like the dust of the earth, spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. May your children truly be instruments of your peace, that all the families of the earth might be blessed because of our witness. Persistent God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Reach out to those who feel disenfranchised, robbed of what they feel was rightfully theirs. Give them courage to stand for justice and reparation, and to also find a peace in you that no other could possibly give—or take away. Persistent God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are feeble at times, Lord. Our health fails. Our strength flags. We long for the blessing of your healing, and ask it especially on behalf of... Persistent God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As the descendants of Abraham and with all your saints in glory, we rejoice in the mercy which you show to your family on earth and in heaven. Keep us faithful until that day when we are brought face to face with you. Persistent God,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: You have shown us wonders, and yet we shall see greater things yet. May our prayers rise to you and may we trust that you have mercifully heard the cries of our hearts, for the sake of Jesus our brother.

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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 26, 2021

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*** 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. We are stewards of everything that you have made. Receive these fruits of our labors that we bring to you, seeking your blessing. Bless these gifts as you have blessed the givers. We pray in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the "tie that Binds us together", 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: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN** **“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”** **LBW 250**



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

* **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** **“Let A Little Sunshine In”** **Roxanne Groff**

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 3rd
Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Get your annual flu shot

MIND: Take a trip to the zoo

SPIRIT: Forgive yourself

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
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel & PJ Musser in honor of their wedding anniversary.



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.

SAVE THE DATES!

Fall Festival Decorating: Saturday, October 9 at 11 am. FREE PIZZA!

Trinity Fall Festival: October 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

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AROUND THE PARISH

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Week @ Trinity – September 26 thru October 3, 2021

Sun, September 26	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tue, September 27	10:00 am	Prayers & Squares Quilting
Fri, October 1	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, October 3	10:30 am	Worship Service



TRINITY TRUMPET – Please pick up your October newsletter.

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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