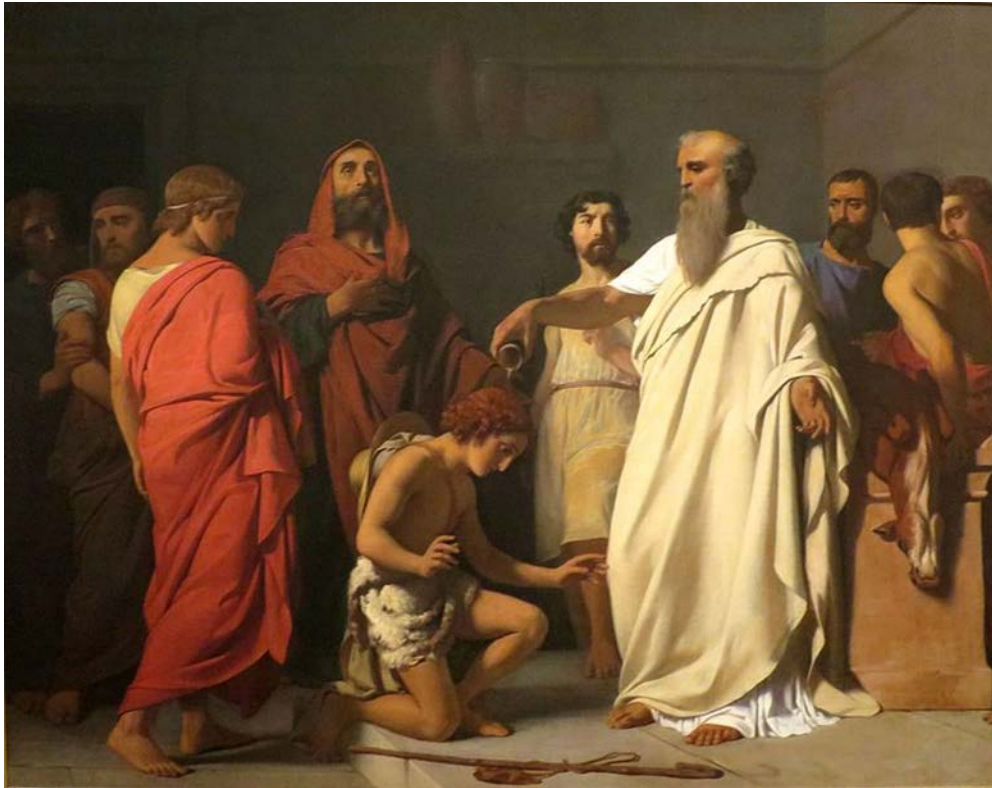


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
October 24, 2021



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



* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” LBW 486**



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

* **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 faithful servanthood, You called Samuel to anoint David, the smallest and youngest of Jesse's sons, to be king over Israel. Teach us to follow you as Samuel did.

C: **Amen.**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

October 24, 2021

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- **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Theme: God Sees what is in your heart

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14

Items Needed: Magnifying Glass

Good morning boys and girls! I hope you all had a great week. As you come up to the front this morning I'll need to examine you a little more closely than I usually do. You see, I'm looking for someone to be the next leader of the Church. I've got to see what color your hair is and what color are your eyes... I need you to all stand up and line up from taller to shorter... Okay! Now for the close examination. Where's my magnifying glass? Oh, here it is. Now let's see who's the best dressed? Who is strongest? Who is the best looking? You can all have a seat. I'll let you know who I've chosen at the end of this Children's Message...

In the Bible, when it was time to replace the King of Israel God helped the prophet Samuel chose which one of Jesse's sons would become the next King. Jesse had a lot of boys and as they all were lined up from oldest to youngest they were all rejected until they came to the youngest boy who was only 14 at the time. David wasn't even brought in for the lineup at first because everyone was certain God would pick the tallest, strongest, fastest and the best looking one to be the new king. To everyone's surprise God picked the youngest son, David. The Bible says God doesn't look on the outer appearance, things like hair color or how good looking you are. Instead, God looks inside our hearts for things like love, joy, peace, kindness, compassion, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

What do you think are the most important things about a person, let's say for a friend? Is it more important that they have good looks or that they're popular at school, or that they have a lot of money? OR Is it more important that they are a loving person who is kind to everyone, not just the good looking and popular, but everyone. I know when I look for a friend I look for the ones who act with kindness and they don't get mad easily, they are able to control their emotions and their actions. I look for people who are faithful and who also love God to be my friends. Those are the things that make a really great friend in my book...

Let's pray... Thank you God for helping us know what kind of people you pick when you need to get a job done. Help us to learn to see the inside motives of those close to us and to pick our friends based on the same values you would like to see in us. Amen.

* Please stand if able

● Please be seated

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• **SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14**

P: Our scripture reading is from the Book of 1 Samuel, Chapter 16 and Psalms, Chapter 51.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

1 Samuel

16The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.”⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 51

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

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 creates in us clean hearts, Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord, amen.

It's official. Our intelligence agencies don't know what they're doing... I've felt that way for many years. Many in America feel that way right now, after the botched withdraw from Afghanistan doing what I never thought I would have seen in my lifetime, leaving Americans and American allies behind... Don't you get frustrated when leaders don't seem to know what they're doing? Many in our country feel that way about our government officials today. They figure if the government knew what they were doing, our response to the pandemic and our country's economic recovery would be in much better shape. It shouldn't surprise us when government officials don't know what they're doing; they're only human. It's quite a different issue when people begin to feel that God doesn't know what he's doing – especially in regard to the people he chooses to lead both in government and in the Church. Our text today puts those thoughts to rest. God

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knows what he's doing when he chooses leaders. That's because God detects, and he directs hearts. Let's find out what that means.

Ever since the terrorist attempt to blow up an airliner with explosives packed into his underwear and shoes, you we have to take off our shoes and step through a full body scanner before boarding any flight at an airport. As one radio commentator quipped, "Be sure you're wearing clean underwear!" One thing that scanner won't be able to see, however, is what's in your heart and mind. The scanner operator won't know if you're annoyed at the increased security or if you don't mind it because you're just so happy to be flying somewhere warm for vacation when we've all been restricted for so long. God can see these and every other thought. God detects what's in our hearts.

God made that clear to the prophet Samuel in our text. The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel?" (1 Samuel 16:2) Samuel was bummed because King Saul had turned out to be such a disappointment. He had started out as a humble leader but along the way thought he could do better on his own and so Saul ignored God's Word. This weighed heavily on Samuel, and God knew Samuel's grief over Saul's destiny. Even this morning God knows what's weighing on your heart even if no one else does. So why hold on to those cares? Hand them over to your Lord. Let God

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carry your burden for you since he already knows what they are anyway. If we refuse to hand over our worries, we only have ourselves to blame when those concerns weigh us down to the point immobility. Maybe you've already handed your cares over to the Lord, but you're still having a hard time getting out of bed to face the day. If so, talk to your doctor. There should be no stigma in seeking help for depression or mental illness just as there is no stigma for seeking help if you get Covid. There's my shameless plug for Mental Health Awareness Month.

God not only knows what's bothering us, he knows what makes us tick. When God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint the next king from one of Jesse's eight sons, he was conducting a different kind of examination of the candidates than Samuel was. When Samuel saw Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, he was certain God wanted this man as king. But God said: "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him." The LORD does not look at the things we look at. We judge by a person's looks and their outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. God knew the hearts of all eight of Jesse's sons and he rejected them all except for the youngest, David.

What was it that God saw in David that others didn't? It must have been the child-like faith David demonstrated later when going up against the giant Goliath.

While seasoned soldiers, including David's own brothers, cowered, David strode

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up to the giant, confident God would not let this oversized bully get away with cursing his people. And so, it didn't matter to David that he was outmatched. David knew the battle was the Lord's, not his. Getting back to today's story, David's father and brothers must have wondered at God's choice. Did God know what he was doing? David was a snot-nosed kid whose only known talent was to follow sheep around. We too may feel that way about God's choice of leaders in our midst. Can we really trust a 64-year old former military officer to lead our congregation? Can God be calling me to teach Sunday School? How can I really handle those Sunday School kids? Does God have any idea what it takes to keep a Church Building and the property in serviceable condition? When we say things like that we're forgetting something: formally or informally, God himself has called these individuals to fill those positions of leadership. We may not think they're up to the task, but God obviously does.

Does this mean we should never criticize our leaders? No, God did that with King Saul. But he criticized Saul because he abandoned the Lord and did things his own way. As we prepare for our Annual Congregational Meeting in just a couple of weeks now is the time to ensure the leaders we pick for our own Church Council are the people God would choose. Leaders who are faithful in developing and using their talents. People of God who are diligently using God's Word and

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their gifts to the best of their abilities. The leaders we have already chosen should be encouraged and affirmed in their calling from God. After all they are God's choice and God knows what he's doing.

Yes, our leaders need your encouragement. Why? Because when I hear how God detects hearts it makes me shudder. I'm the first one to say "How could God have chosen me to be a pastor. I'm short tempered and short sighted. I'm stubborn and I like to get my own way..." There are many other qualities I could mention, but I'm sure you all know me by now... Evidently, God did not choose me because he knows I'm such a swell guy. It makes me tremble to hear that God detects hearts, for it means that God knows every single reason why I'm not cut out to be your shepherd, just as God knew that David would one day commit adultery and engineer a man's death to cover up his sin. So, why did God choose David to be king? Why did he choose a sinner like me to be your pastor? The same reason he chose you (and me) to be his children: grace. Grace is "God's Riches At Christ's Expense." God chooses the weak, the vulnerable. God picks the one's who have nothing of apparent value to elevate so that all people will know when great things happen it was God who was truly responsible. God works miracles in ordinary people to shine forth His Glory!

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Thank God he not only detects hearts but also directs them. When Samuel anointed David we're told that the Holy Spirit came upon him in power (1 Samuel 16:13). At your anointing in baptism the Holy Spirit also came upon you with that same power. He created or strengthened faith in your heart so that the forgiveness Jesus won for everyone in the world is now a benefit to you. I speak for myself here, but I know I need a daily reminder that it's God himself who directs my heart because when I hear how God expects his pastors to shepherd his people by binding up the brokenhearted, teaching and equipping the saints for ministry, it's easy to wonder: "Who is equal to the task?" On my own I'm certainly not. Thanks be to God, I'm not on my own. Neither are any of you! God directs your hearts by giving you the gifts to do the job to which he has called you. Trust him and you'll find courage in him. God was with David when he faced lions and bears. God was with David when he went face to face against the giant, Goliath. God was even with David when David was in despair over the guilt of his sin with Bathsheba. I'm certain David would never have chosen any of those life altering events in his life if he had not trusted God for his daily bread. God has promised to be with David and He has promised to be with you when you face your monsters, giants, and even your sin and guilt.

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I don't envy security personal whose job it is to keep terrorists off airplanes. Their job would be so much easier if they could detect what's in the minds and hearts of travelers like God can. Yes, God can see through you. He knows when a smile is hiding a judgmental heart. He's aware when we inwardly seethe even as we offer words of forgiveness. Tremble at this knowledge. God does not take this kind of hypocrisy lightly, just ask King Saul. That's why there is no room for boasting about our positions of leadership. God called me to be your pastor in spite of what he saw in my heart. Thank goodness God doesn't just detect hearts, but directs them as well. So, we pray the words King David wrote so long ago, "Create in me a clean heart, O God and put a new and right spirit within me!" Let's never forget -- God knows what he's doing! May continue to be blessed by God's anointed leaders. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

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*** 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: You look beyond outward appearance, O Lord, and see into our very hearts. Move us in the same way to push ourselves past what the surface reveals and probe the depths of ourselves and those around us, that we might bring an authentic witness to your unconditional love. God of wisdom,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: The illusion of beauty fades, O Lord, as quickly as a fragile blossom wilts upon the vine. Connect us with those things which will sustain over the long haul, rather than those which bedazzle us for a while and then dry up. God of wisdom,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Strengthen loving relationships between people, and show us by example how to truly respect and cherish one another. Bless those who have chosen life without a partner, and those who desire a relationship but do not currently have one. Bring us to a fuller sense of compassion for those around us, the kind that supersedes jealousy, insecurity, and bitterness. God of wisdom,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You have anointed us with your healing balm, and offered us the blessing of your wholeness. Be especially with... God of wisdom,

C: Hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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L: Your saints are a continual reminder that the victory does not always go to the strongest, most popular, or most outwardly beautiful. With your servants of every age, we are in good company, and share in your holy fellowship. God of wisdom,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Cleanse our hearts and hear these our prayers, O Lord, offered in hope for a world that sees as its Creator does—with one all-loving gaze and an irrevocable promise of deliverance for all.

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. We serve you however we can, Lord. Today we bring to you an offering as an act of service. Use these gifts to call others into your service. In Jesus' name we pray.

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.**

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• ANNOUNCEMENTS

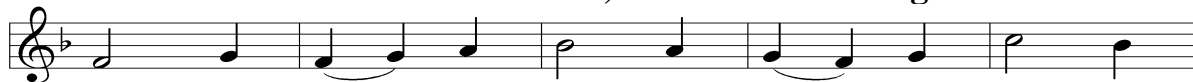
* SENDING BLESSING

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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" LBW 315



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

* Please stand if able

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* **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**

“I Stand Amazed”

Roxanne Groff

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Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 31st
1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Find an exercise buddy

MIND: Sculpt something out of clay

SPIRIT: Watch a faith-based film

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

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Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

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 – October 24 thru October 31, 2021

Sun, All October 24 10:30 am Worship Service
 4:00 pm Trinity Fall Festival (*Outside for distancing*)

➤ *Come dressed in costume!*
 · *Pumpkin decorating* · *Photos taken with fall backdrop*
 · *Lots of games with treats given* · *Food Provided*

Tue, October 26 10:00 am Prayers & Squares Quilting
Wed, October 27 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Fri, October 29 3:30 pm FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, October 31 10:30 am Worship Service – Reformation Day

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is Sunday, November 7th.

Trinity Contact Info

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Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
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Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
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Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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