

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

Confirmation & Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020



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

- **Prelude “How Great Is Our God; Great Is Our Faithfulness; Here Comes Jesus; Tell Me the Stories of Jesus; The Longer I Serve Him; It Took A Miracle” Roxanne Groff**

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

- **Welcome**

Pr Mel

- * **HYMN OF PRAISE “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**
(Verses 1 74 only)

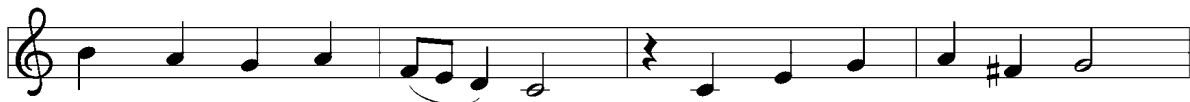
LBW 229



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

* Please stand if able

October 25, 2020

• Please be seated

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*** 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 the covenant,

C: You have never failed in your promises to us, but we often fail to be your faithful people. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love.

P: God hears us when we repent and is quick to pardon our failures. Hear the words of your forgiveness and believe that you have been restored by your creator's great mercy and compassion. Rejoice!

C: Amen.

*** 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: Eternal God, Your true dwelling place is with your people. Make of us a holy temple where you may be praised and your will carried out for the sake of all, in Jesus' name,

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 7:1-17

P: Our scripture reading for this morning is from 2 Samuel, Chapter 7.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

7 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. ¹⁷In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

• **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who still sits on the throne of King David, our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

When I read through these stories in the Bible I love to imagine how they depict God. In today’s scripture reading King David has established his throne and the Lord God of Israel has gone before David and all of his armies to defeat every

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

tribe and enemy of God's chosen people. David always made sure that the Arc of the Covenant was marched out front of the Israelite armies because the Arc was the box that held God's glory. In our text this morning David is feeling a bit of guilt because he's living in a beautiful mansion where he rests, safe and secure from all his enemies, while poor God still has nothing but that small box that's stored in a tent out back with the other relics. David decides it would be a grand idea to build a house for God where God can also rest and be safe.

There's a line in Disney's movie Aladdin where the Genie is let out of the bottle Genie says, "It's all part of the whole genie gig: PHENOMINAL COSMIC POWER...itty bitty living space." I always chuckle when I think about God being contained in the Arc of the Covenant, or within a tent for that matter, because I've also read the story of the calling of another prophet, Isaiah. Isaiah was called during the reign of King Uzziah, some 300 years after King David and his prophet Nathan. By that time the first Temple had already been built in Jerusalem. It was the largest building in all Israel and Judah. It was so grand, having pillars that were gilded with pure gold. Despite the Temple in Jerusalem being the largest project undertaken up to that time by the Hebrew people, the book of Isaiah says the Temple couldn't even contain the hem of God's robe. How much the image of

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God had changed in those 300 or so years! What's your image of God? The Bible says the Universe is God's home and the earth is God's footstool.

I understand David's desire to do something for God. He had been the recipient of so many blessings. Right from the beginning God chose David from all others, even over his own older brothers. God had promised David he would be the one to lead Israel into an unprecedented era of peace and prosperity. God was with David when he stepped up and slayed the giant Goliath. God was with David when he evaded King Saul for all those years. God was with David when he set out to squash all those pesky enemies who were constantly attacking his borders. Now David wants to do something to show God his thanks for all God has done for him. So, David says to his friend and prophet Nathan, I'll build a house for God. I feel so guilty living here in this lap of luxury, while God only has that itsy-bitsy living space out back in the tent...

I imagine God smiling when he heard that conversation... Just think about it and let it sink in... The almighty God who created the entire universe, who put the stars in the night sky, who fashioned the birds, the fish, the land animals and even created you and me, that God, is contained in a wooded box, guarded by cherubim and seraphim and kept in a tent. Our Triune God who brought these same Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt and into the freedom of the promised

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land, that almighty, omniscient, and omnipresent God cannot be contained in any living space designed by humans even one as close to God's heart as King David.

How do you limit God in your life? We all do it. God's people have been trying to put limits on God almost from the beginning. David thought God was safely contained in the Arc of the Covenant, later the people thought God was tied to their great Temple in Jerusalem. Even in our most private prayer time with God, we still hold back from confessing our deepest sin, afraid God will forget his promise of forgiveness. Here's a news flash for you, God already knows everything you've done, failed to do, and all your secret thoughts and desires. There's no reason not to confess them to God. Keeping your deepest evil thoughts from God is as silly as thinking God lives in a tiny box or a giant temple.

The entire universe belongs to God. So, when David offers to make a house for God the answer back from God is thanks but no thanks, for now. Instead, I'll make a house for you. Your house shall reign forever. This is clearly a reference to or foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, whom we commonly call the Son of David, because Jesus' heritage comes through King David's genealogy. Instead of David offering a blessing to God, God turns it around and gives King David yet another promise and blessing for his family to come. God assures David his legacy will live on long after David in resting with his ancestors.

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Today we commemorate a very important day in the lives of four of our own young adults from this congregation. Aiden, Bell, Layni, and Trudy, you are today taking your stand of faith. You are answering for your self all those same promises that your parents and Godparents made for you when you were just a tiny baby and could not speak for yourself. Today you are promising, and I quote from the Lutheran Book of Worship, "...to live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." In short you are promising to build God a spiritual home within your lives. You are following the same impulse that led King David all those years ago to want to build a physical house for God. I'm certain that as you make these promises, God is smiling, just as God smiled on King David. As solemn and sincere as you are in making these promises to God, God knows you inside and out. God already knows all the times in your life when you will choose someone or something over God. Yet, God loves you more than ever because you are making this declaration today. Because of God's great love for you, God will build your house of love that will last into your future. God has already grafted you into the family of King David, into the family of Isaiah and Mary and Joseph. You are part of God's eternal promise to David 3000 years ago

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and God's promise still holds true today and tomorrow and forever. In fact Jesus told his first followers long ago that he was going away to build them a room within His Father's mansion. That's what Jesus is doing for you right now.

God's promises include so much more than just a place to go in the by and by after you're dead. God's promise, first and foremost, is God's promise of loving kindness toward you. God will never leave nor forsake you. God will never abandon you or leave you, even in your darkest hours. God's promise is as true for you today as it was all those years ago for David. I know God's promises are true and God is faithful to make good on those promises because I've read the rest of King David's story. He's the same person who lusted after another man's beautiful wife, a woman by the name of Bathsheba. David is the same man who ordered Bathsheba's husband to the front lines in the battle and then secretly ordered all the other soldiers to retreat, leaving poor Uriah exposed to enemy fire. That's abandonment and murder. Yet after David's confession, God forgave his servant and never withdrew his promise to David. A promise from God is forever and irrevocable. We mortals can't make those kind of promises. We break our promises all the time, but God never does.

So, Aiden, Bell, Layni, and Trudy, wherever your life leads you, never forget these promises you are about to make today. Even when you fail to keep

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them, always remember God's promise of forgiveness, Grace, and mercy are yours forever, no matter what. P E R O I D! May God's constant love always draw us back to God's heart. May our promises, our gifts and our offerings to God always bring a smile to God's face. May we realize our attempts to limit God are folly and God will be and go whenever and wherever God decides. For our part, let us always see God at work in our lives and in God's world so that we can join God in God's loving embrace of the entirety of creation. May we all follow our paths into the world, knowing God is with us and will never leave us. Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow

- **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

A representative of the congregation presents the candidates:

Dean: Trudie Louise Arling, Isabella Marie Harleman, Aiden Jacob Myers, and Elayna Marie Ressler have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

P: Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

- **RENUNCIATION OF EVIL**

The minister addresses those who have been presented.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R: I do.

- * **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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

- * **THE PRAYERS**

A: We pray for the Church, the World, and all those in need... Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In our society today we live more cut off from one another than ever before. Although we may be separated by both physical and spiritual walls, we ask you to remind us once again we are united in one Body, one Baptism, and one Faith. Bring us back to each other and make us whole again as people created for community. Heal all those in need, especially... Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We have asked and you have heard, and it is enough, O God. We thank you for answering our prayers in your good time, for the sake of Jesus our brother.

C: Amen

The congregation may be seated. The minister addresses those making affirmation.

• COMMITMENT

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand answers in turn.

R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

• PRAYER OF BLESSING

P: Let us pray.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Those making affirmation kneel. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.

P: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made *Aiden, Bell, Layni, and Trudy* your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen

• **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each person:

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in (*Trudie, Isabella, Aiden, Layni*) the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

Each confirmand answers:

R: Amen

All return to their places.

* **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 a ceramic flower pot located near the back door of the church. For those worshipping with us at home through FaceBook or other online media, you can make your offering through our website at www.pitsburgtlc.org and click on the Donate Button.

P: Let us pray... You don't want showy buildings and burnt sacrifices, O God, but rather honest and generous hearts. Receive these gifts we offer and bless them that your kingdom might come on earth, for the sake of our Lord,

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Communion is by Individual Serving. All the Baptized are welcome to celebrate this Holy Meal. Please open the Communion Elements only when instructed to do so.

* **DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we humans call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people, for David and Nathan, and the psalmists, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, and Cranach, for Katie Luther and for Bach, for Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer for Bishops and Pastors and for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free, who:

On the night before he died, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we remember your Word, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

We pray, O God, for your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your law, your grace, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household.

We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, and forever.

C: Amen!

*** THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Jesus is the “tie that Binds us together”, since we are united into one through this heavenly food, 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.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Through your promise to David, you have built for us a kingdom—not made with hands. It’s an eternal home but begins right here on earth every time we allow Jesus to rule in our hearts. In obedience to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we come together as your children to be nourished at your Holy Table. Unite our spirits in this bread and wine and keep us strong to serve another day. Amen.

P: Please open the Ziplock baggie and take the Body of Christ given for you at this time. ... Now, please remove the lid from the wine cup. We drink from this cup which is the Blood of Christ shed for you.

P: Please dispose of the empty cups and baggies in the trash can on your way out when you’re dismissed after worship.

* **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray together...

C: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“The Church’s One Foundation”
(Verses 1 & 5 only)

LBW 369



1 The church’s one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, yet one o’er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav’n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: “How long?”
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav’n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - ’ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Depart in Christ’s Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

Postlude

“What A Day”

Roxanne Groff

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* Please stand if able

October 25, 2020


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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

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

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Find an exercise buddy
MIND: Sculpt something out of clay
SPIRIT: Watch a faith-based film



Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 1st
 1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]



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.

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

This Week @ Trinity – October 25 thru November 1, 2020

Sun, October 25

10:30 am Worship Service
3:00-5:00 pm Trinity Fall Festival

Mon, October 26

9:00 am Prayers and Squares Quilting

Wed, October 28

7:00 pm Trinity Bible/Book Club on ZOOM

Fri, October 30

3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun, November 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS – FALL BACK 1 HOUR AT 2 AM.

10:30 am Worship Service



TODAY! An all outdoors event for our Trinity family and their guests. It will be from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and will feature Joseph, a superb children’s entertainer and singer. Safe activities, costume contest, pumpkin decorating contest! We will also have gift bags for each child.

- **TRINITY ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020, following the worship service.**