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



Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17 October 3, 2021



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



• Prelude Darrel Fryman

- 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.

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* Please stand if able

* 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.

* KYRIE

- A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord have mercy.
- A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord have mercy.
- A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord have mercy.
- A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord have mercy.
- A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray... God of the covenant, you kept your promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when you returned to deliver the Israelites. Your faithfulness saved your people. Teach us to trust in your faithfulness.
- C: Amen.

* Please stand if able October 3, 2021

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Holy Ground

Scripture: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

Object: Pastor's Shoes

Good morning, Boys and Girls! I'm so happy you're here with us to Worship God this morning! Today's story is about a man named Moses. He's the man God chose to lead the chosen people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the freedom of the land God promised to their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses was just minding his own business tending to the sheep of his father-in-law on a mountain. As Moses was walking along, he noticed a bush that was on fire, but it wasn't getting burned up. Moses must have thought that was pretty unusual, so he turned aside from where he was going and came closer to see what was going on with this flaming bush. That's when God spoke to Moses and told him to take off his shoes because the ground he was standing on, was HOLY.

At our house we have a rule that everyone has to take off their shoes before stepping onto the carpet. Now that rule isn't because our carpet is holy, but just to try to keep it clean... Do you know what holy means? Why would the ground around that burning bush be holy? Well it's easy to remember what holy means. Something that's holy is simply any object that is set apart for God and for God only. This space where we're at right now can be considered holy ground. That's because we set apart this entire room we call the "Sanctuary" for God. We worship God in this space. We pray in this space. We celebrate the mighty acts of God like saving us from our sins in this place.

We don't have parties in the Sanctuary. We don't run or jump or play games in here either. We don't have potluck dinners in here. Here in the sanctuary, we worship God. That means we have set this space apart from everything else and made this place just for God. So, should we take off our shoes when we enter this place? I'll leave that up to you and your parents, but I will tell you that I do act differently in here. This isn't the place to talk to my friends about school or to gossip about the latest thing that's happening with our friends. This is the place where we talk to and about God. That kind of "God Talk" is perfectly fine in the Sanctuary. I like to keep all the other kind of talk outside in the hallways or out in the parking lot. That's where we can catch up with our friends. In here we try to keep our minds focused on God.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for this gift of sacred space where we can come to talk about you and the good news of Jesus. Help us to remember this place is holy ground. Amen.

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• SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Revelation, Chapters 2, 3 & 4. C: Glory to you O Lord.

2 After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. ²⁴God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

3Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you." ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and

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the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

But Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹Then the Lord said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak." ¹³But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."

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 Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, amen.

Several years ago, President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick

Cheney were walking down the street when President Bush thought he saw Moses

walking in front of them. He hurried up to catch up with him and tried to get his

attention. He asked the man if he was, in fact, Moses. The man just stared off into

space as if he didn't hear the president. So, "W" asked him again, "Are you

Moses?" The man continued to ignore President Bush. Finally in frustration Vice

President Cheney grabbed the man by the shoulders and asked if he was Moses.

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The man looked right into Mr. Cheney's eyes and said, "Yes." Dick Cheney asked him why he ignored the President of the most powerful nation on earth, to which Moses answered, "The last time I spoke to a Bush I spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness..."

Today's scripture is the familiar story of Moses and the Burning Bush. I'm still not sure why we call it by that name when the Bible clearly says the bush was on fire, but was *not* being burned up... Some have called this the call of Moses or the commissioning of Moses. This is the beginning of God working through a most unlikely person to accomplish God's purpose.

In today's scripture reading God has heard the cries of his people. These were the people God had promised to Abraham and to Isaac, and to Jacob. These were the descendants who were supposed to be as numerous as the stars in heaven or the grains of sand on the beach. Yet, here they were in the bondage of slavery and not fulfilling their God given potential. The cries of these chosen people of God got God's attention and God remembered his covenant. Ever since the fall of humans from grace in the Garden of Eden, God had denied access to His direct presence, what I call Sacred Space. If you recall the story of the Garden of Eden, God walked with the humans and the entire place was sacred space simply because God was present in that place. After the fall, God evicted the humans and put a

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flaming sword around the Garden to keep the humans out... They were no longer allowed into the presence of God. The sacred ground had become off limits. Now, after all this time, God, who never gave up on this human project, decided it was time to bring those chosen people back into relationship. He chose Moses to do his will because Moses had a keen sense of justice and also because Moses noticed things, things like a flaming bush that wasn't being burned up... As interesting as this call story of Moses is, that's not the main point of this story. This is a story about a faithful God who remembers his promises and will stop at nothing to redeem his people from their deepest troubles. In the case of these Hebrew people, their greatest trouble at the moment was their enslavement. They spent their lives serving Pharaoh. In God's world, God's people should never be enslaved, but rather freed from their bondage in order to know and to worship God. Freedom, yes, but free for the purpose of loving and worshipping the great I AM.

I hear a lot lately about how we're losing our freedom. Since 911

Americans have been more than willing to sacrifice some of the freedoms we enjoy in order to be safer from the evils of terrorism. It's much more difficult to travel by airplane now than it was the first time I got on an airplane. It took me about 20 minutes to process through security in order to enter into the "sacred" departure area of the airport. I literally had to remove my shoes, and my belt, and take out all

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my electronic devices. They even dumped out my water bottle... After the x-rays, I still had to be patted down before I was allowed to get dressed and proceed into the sacred space. The boarding and loading area at the airport is probably the closest thing non-religious people might know of as "Sacred Ground".

All that processing I went though was to prepare me for the journey I was about to embark upon. In a similar way, this entire conversation between God and Moses is God's way of preparing Moses for the journey he was about to undertake as well. God was patient with Moses, answering all his objections as to why he shouldn't be the one to carry out God's plan. Some of these objections might sound familiar to you when God calls your name and gives you a task to accomplish. I know I tried all of them and a few others as well.

God always provides for His people. He provides the most personal thing he has, his name. Yahweh. The most powerful thing God gave to Moses was his name. Knowing God's name allowed Moses to call on The Lord in times of trouble. Calling out God's name, just like if I called out your name, gets God's attention. That's why Jesus instructed his disciples to begin prayer with, "Our Father who art in heaven." We normally shorten that to Dear God or Dear Jesus, but the idea is still the same. When you know the name of God you can call on Him. Moses also objected to his commission on the grounds that he was not an

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eloquent speaker. Who of us is? God said to Moses, I will be with your mouth. I will give you the words to speak. I will be with you, and you will not be facing the enemy alone. I think it's a curious thing that Moses was worried more about the Israelites than facing Pharaoh. His objections are geared toward how to convince the Hebrew people their God has sent him to lead them out of slavery and into the promised land. Moses doesn't mention things that would have worried me. For example, God, what if Pharaoh kills me on the spot for what I did all those years ago? What if he puts me in jail and I rot in prison the rest of my life? What if I never get to see my lovely wife and children again? No, Moses didn't raise any of the objections I would have brought up to God. Instead, he's worried about what to say to his fellow Hebrew people. How is he going to convince them he is God's instrument? Today, when a person believes they are called to lead God's people, they must undergo a rigorous vetting process. A Candidate Selection Committee interviews the person and then watches and guides them through the candidacy process. This includes several retreats and workshops where the committee members get to know the candidate. The candidate is also put through rigorous training and instruction to ensure they speak the true Word of God and not the latest heresy. All of this is to help ensure that when the person is finally ordained, the people of the congregation to which they are called, will in fact listen as if their

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Pastor's voice was the voice of God. We're talking about leadership. Without leadership the people will flounder. Moses was unsure about his leadership skills, but God wasn't. God said he would be with Moses's mouth and even with the mouth of Aaron, Moses's brother, who apparently was a much more eloquent speaker. Yet, God didn't choose Aaron, he picked Moses, the one with the speech impediment... God also gave Moses a physical object for Moses to use to focus God's power. God gave Moses the famous staff. Later, God, through Moses would use that staff to turn the Nile River to blood and to part the Red Sea. God uses people and physical objects to carry out his purpose for all of creation. He even still uses physical objects to help us focus God's almighty power. In Holy Baptism God uses ordinary water to cleanse us from our sin. In Holy Communion God uses the bread and the wine to remind us of His salvation and to ingrain in our minds just how much God loves us.

Now one quick Gospel minute on God's name. The Great I AM. Of all the other gods, there is only one true living God. All others are created by humans. In his very name God is proclaiming He is the one true and living God. This is a God who is willing and able to love every human being because that same living God also created them in His own image. That's why God never gives up on us. He looks at you and sees a reflection of Himself. It's no wonder God became human

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in Jesus Christ. He did it to accomplished what Adam and Eve and every other human being could never accomplish. Jesus is the new Moses who brought all God's people out of slavery, not slavery to Pharaoh, but to sin, death, and the devil.

So, now what are we to do with this story. It's a story meant to help us to be attentive, like Moses, to see where God's presence is and what God is asking of us today. May we never be afraid to raise our fears and objections to God, but humble enough to listen when God answers our fears. May we step out in confidence, knowing God is with our mouths and with every other part of us when we go to the Pharaohs in our own lives and say let my people go. Let my people go from lying. Let my people go from oppression and racism. Let my people go from addiction. Let my people go from greed. Let my people go from poverty. Let us go and worship God on His Holy Mountain and offer our lives to God that we might lead ourselves and others into the freedom of living for God and for His Kingdom on Earth. Amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

SPECIAL MUSIC

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* 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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

L: Dear Lord, we are not always willing when you call. We make excuses, downplay our gifts, deflect and dodge the responsibility you've placed in us. Help us past our doubts, misgivings, and lack of trust in your promises. Lead us boldly forth for the sake of your gospel. Faithful Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We are as much enslaved now as we have ever been, O Lord. Not by shackles or bars, but by our shortsighted greed and callous disregard of the vulnerable and powerless. Bring us to repentance and reconciliation with each other and with all your creation. Faithful Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As seasons change and uncertainty visits us daily, plant within us an assurance of your steadfast promise which has never forgotten us nor left us to flounder on our own. Faithful Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O God you are who you are forever, and one word from you can bring about the healing of all. Visit us with your transformative spirit, and surround with your presence those whom we lift up before you, especially... Faithful Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

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L: We stand in a long line of servants who followed you without knowing exactly where you would lead them, but trusted nonetheless. Make us worthy to share their company, and bring us all into to your eternal kingdom. Faithful Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Steadfast and loving God, gather these prayers we have offered, both aloud and silent, into your loving arms, for we know that you are faithful and will never abandon us. Through Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

* 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.... Faithful Lord, you have given us everything we could ever need, even when we have a hard time seeing it or trusting in your promises. Take these gifts we now offer, presented to you in faith, and use them for your mighty work in the world.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- * 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.

* THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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* THE SANCTUS

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.
- P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.
- P: 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.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God is indeed God for all generations. God has blessed Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God blessed Moses and the Israelites, and God has blessed us. May this bread and cup be a reminder of your faithful promises and the trust we can place in you to keep them. Come and share in the blessings of God!

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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of the body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of the Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us.

C: Amen.

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

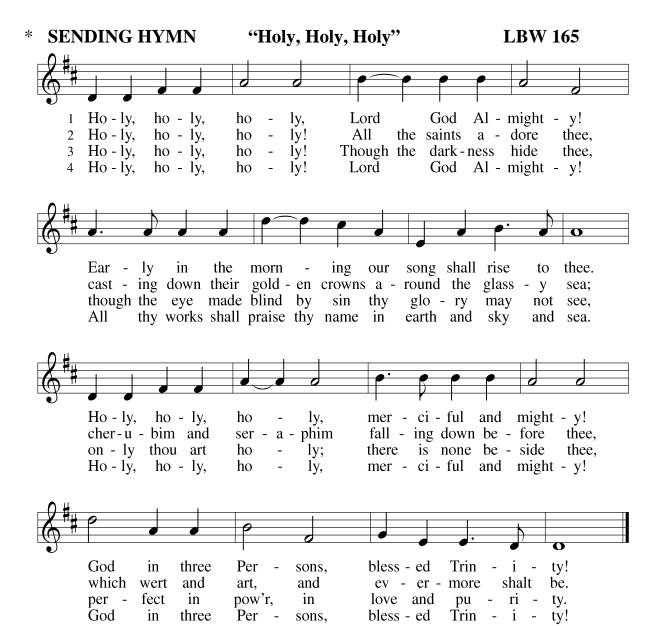
* SENDING BLESSING

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.

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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 Darrel Fryman

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	PJ Musser
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

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Watch for children at bus stops **MIND:** Use your imagination **SPIRIT:** Write a letter to yourself



Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 10th Exodus 16:1-18



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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This Week @ Trinity - October 3 thru October 10, 2021

Sun, October 3	10:30 am	Worship Service
Wed, October 6	6:30 pm	WELCA Meeting
Fri, October 8	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, October 9	11:00 am	Decorating for Fall Festival
Sun, October 10	10:30 am	Worship Service

Reservations are needed for the Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 21 at the

red BERRY Restaurant in Troy. Please call Linda Baker at 937-545-8410 or 937-547-0975 if you are planning to attend.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Trinity Fall Festival: October 24th from 4:00 to 6:30 pm

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.

Trinity Contact Info

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Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
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