

Sermon Topic

Stephen

Acts 6:1-6, Acts 7:51-60, John 21:18-23

Have you ever run a lemonade stand? It seems like a common summer project for kids. In fact, our kids wanted to do one a few years ago, so we decided to give it a go. As any good lemonade stand owner knows, the secret is having a good recipe. Powdered lemonade mix simply won't do.

We found a recipe, bought all the supplies, and got to work. The most important was having good, fresh lemons. We'd squeeze them out, pressing hard to get every last bit of juice out of them. Add sugar and water to taste, and voilà: world's best lemonade stand ever!

But enough about lemonade stands, let's talk about Stephen! Twice the scriptures describe him as being filled with the Holy Spirit:

And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit... Acts 6:5a (ESV)

But he, full of the Holy Spirit... Acts 7:55a (ESV)

In Acts 6, Stephen was chosen to "serve tables", distributing food equitably among God's people. Full of the Spirit, Stephen does this and much more. In Acts 6:8, he was "doing great wonders and signs among the people." In chapter 7, he is giving an impassioned speech about God's faithfulness in sending Jesus, whom the people killed. But by the end of the chapter, Stephen is taken out to be stoned for his faith and testimony.

Here's the thing: bad lemons produce bad lemonade. What's on the inside matters because when squeezed, that's what pours out. Stephen certainly was "squeezed" because of his faith in Jesus—and what poured out was what was inside: the Holy Spirit. In his last moments, as he was being pelted with stones, Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, "cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'" (Acts 7:60a) Wow!

What are you filled with? What will come out when life squeezes you? May we, like Stephen, be filled with the Holy Spirit!
Jason Christ, Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries



FIRST TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome!

If you are a guest with us today, we are so glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a yellow card from the pew rack and put it in the offering plate during worship.

You will find all of the words in the worship service projected at the front of the church. If you require a printed copy, they are available from the ushers in the back of the church.

If you have something you would like us to pray about this week, you can write it on the back of the yellow card. Our staff and prayer team will pray for the requests during the week. If you so choose, we will post your request at our online prayer wall as well.

First Trinity is a Bible-based church. We believe God's Word is the sole authority for this life. We are imperfect people loving imperfect people.

Our prayer for you today is that you would connect to God and grow closer and closer to Him each day.

Education Hour Sunday 10-11 a.m.

Children

Childcare Infants - Age 2

Meets in Upper Preschool 2

Preschool - Ages 3 & 4

Meets in Upper Preschool 3

Kindergarten - Age 5

Meets in Lower Preschool 4A

FT Kids - Grades 1-5

Meets in Gym

Just Us - Adults

With Developmental Disabilities

Meets in Gym

Youth

Middle School Grades 6 - 8

Meets on Lower Level

High School Grades 9 - 12

Meets on Lower Level Lounge

Adult Education Classes

Sundays, 10-11 a.m. April 9-May 14

Cat & Dog Theology, Part I

Led by Pastor Chuck & Susan Whited in Library

Do you enjoy deep theological discussions? Then this is a class for you! Just who is the main character of the Bible? Who do we live for? Who does God live for? What does it mean that God is a jealous God? What's the difference between a "help me" prayer and a "cause me" prayer? And what in the world do cats and dogs have to do with theology?

A Man Like No Other

Led by Carolyn Doster on Upper Level East

There have been many good men and women throughout history that people have wanted to emulate. But what if you found out the personal qualities of the greatest person in history? In this concise, 4-week class you'll find out what made the man Jesus so successful and how you can apply his human characteristics to your own life. You'll discover how those same traits will benefit living the faith through your relationships and at work.

Easter *Led by Phil Reed on Upper Level West*

At Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. That amazing event changes everything! This class will take a "deep dive" into Easter and its meaning for life.

Ruth *Led by Sue Steege on Lower Level*

The Old Testament book of Ruth is a beautiful love story that has a strong connection to Jesus. Perfectly sized for a four week exploration!

Worship Helpers

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a replacement & inform the office.

April 22/23

April 29/30

Altar Guild..... Ginny Schrembs
Beth Vance
Laura Zimberg

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Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Greeter..... Martha Miller
Ushers..... Tony D'Amico
Randy Wert
Reader..... Martha Miller
Prayers..... Doreen Griebel
Projection..... Jim Brese

Evelyn Schleidt
Tony D'Amico
Steve Puscheck
Rich Ferrante
Karen Wert
Jason Christ

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Acolyte..... Eli Schiferle
Greeter..... Darlene Helming
Char Beno
Ushers..... Gretchen Wright
Garrick Wright
Joel Rockensuess
Noah Rockensuess
Reader..... Jennalise Olson
Prayers..... Nancy Stuckwisch
Projection..... Bill Wood

Jude Rockensuess
Susan Brenan
Fern Innes
Joe Carr
Leo Figini
Sue Lichtenthal
Mike Zekas
Bill Stuckwisch
Cindy Allsop
Russ Thomas

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Worship Assistant..... Pat Canfield
Acolyte..... Ana Bellanti
Mara Tysick
Greeter..... Jim Brese
Ushers..... Rachel Bissell
Ben Bell
Dick McKie
Paris Adams
Reader..... Wendy Morris
Prayers..... Marsha Peth
Brian Bunny
Projection..... Stacy DiCenso

Jason Christ
Ben Trautwein
Rebekah Jaenecke
Jim Brese
Derek Pulver
Dan Gietz
Diane Warner
Nikki Warner
Gordon Tresch
Marsha Phillips
Marsha Peth
David Phillips



Announcements Deadline - Thursday at 9 a.m.
KFigini@FirstTrinity.com

1570 Niagara Falls Boulevard • Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 835-2220 • *FirstTrinity.com* • *office@FirstTrinity.com*

Worship Times

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:45 & 11:15 a.m.



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of our Brother, Rob Oberg

By Susie Stenson & Kathy Figini

Class Warfare

"Class Warfare: The Unending Struggle for Equality," features filmed interviews with three people who have personally seen and experienced India's caste system.

"Westerners can change our destiny," says Melanie Hutchinson, a U.S. born teacher serving in India. "In the caste system, you can't. What you are born into is what you are. Your caste determines your job, who you marry, what you eat, and even how you dress."



**This Monday night
7:00 - 8:00 PM**

Here in our beautiful, cafe-like lower level. Free snacks & beverages - hope you'll join us!

**Interested in Joining First Trinity?
Wednesday, April 26, 6-8:30 p.m.**

If you have been worshipping with us, and you would like to learn more about our church, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to consider attending our next **New Member Class**.

Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership, but it is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and to give prayerful consideration to entering into membership. We start with a light supper served at 6 p.m.

Please register at *FirstTrinity.com*, click on Coming Events, or call the church office (716-835-2220), so that we know how much food and supplies to buy.

Connect With Us: Facebook.com/FirstTrinity, @FirstTrinity, @FTMissions

Transforming our world, one life at a time, through the power of God's living Word.

STAFF

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The Lutheran Hour
Sundays 9:30 a.m.
WXRL 1300AM LutheranHour.org

Calendar for April 23-30, 2017

For calendar details, visit our website: FirstTrinity.com/calendar

Sunday 4/23	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship	Thursday 4/27	5 p.m. Nagel/Byrd Wedding Rehearsal
	10 a.m. Education Hour		6:30 p.m. Remix Gr 6-8
	11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship		CONNECT
	4:30 p.m. Pickleball		6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
Monday 4/24	10 a.m. Monday Bible Study		7 p.m. Journey Review
	6 p.m. Youth Advantage Basketball		7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
	7 p.m. Lifetree Café	Friday 4/28	2 p.m. Nagel/Byrd Wedding
Tuesday 4/25	10:30 a.m. Creole Lessons		Saturday 4/29
	12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time		9 a.m. Men's Basketball
	6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer Time		5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship
	7 p.m. Band Rehearsal	Sunday 4/30	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
	Men's Basketball		10 a.m. Education Hour
Wednesday 4/26	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting		11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
	Executive Ministry Team		Baptism - Lincoln Philip Ihle
	12 p.m. Lunch with the Staff		4:30 p.m. Pickleball
	1 p.m. Senior Life Group		
	6 p.m. New Member Class		
	6:30 p.m. Milak Scholarship Interviews		
	7:30 p.m. Volleyball		

Project Connect Booklets

Project Connect Booklets are distributed by **Lutheran Hour Ministries**, and are on our display rack by the Welcome Center. These booklets cover a wide variety of topics and are also available to you at lhm.org/projectconnect. You are welcome to use Project Connect and we trust it will be helpful for you and your family and friends.

Upcoming Sermons - Obscure Characters of the Bible

April 22/23	Stephen	Acts 6:1-6, Acts 7:51-60, John 21:18-23
April 29/30	Benaiah	2 Samuel 23:20-23, 1 Peter 5:6-9, Luke 10:17-22
May 6/7	Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 9:1-8, 2 Samuel 9:9-13, Luke 12:8-12
May 13/14	Lydia	Proverbs 31:10-31, Acts 16:14-15, Luke 24:44-49

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

Preschool 2017-18

Enroll now - classes fill quickly!
Openings in 2- & 4-year old classes.



First Trinity
Lutheran Preschool

Enroll for September 2017 now. If you are interested in enrollment, turn in your applications soon to assure a spot. Forms are available at the Welcome Center or FirstTrinityPreschool.com.

For more information contact **Debbie Ferrante** (dferrante@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)

Movies You Won't Want to Miss

You won't want to miss these Christian movies shown at the Transit Regal Cinema **one day only**. For more information and to view the trailers, go to Fathomevents.com.

Tuesday, April 25, Laugh, Cry, Love with **Chonda Pierce Enough!** She is the queen of clean comedy!

Tuesday, May 2, Sight & Sound Theatres presents **Jonah - On Stage!** An amazing production for the entire family.

Knitters and Crocheters!

Would you be interested in helping us make white baptism blankets? Lynn Shaffer has very easy instructions.

Lynn Shaffer (lynnshaffer@gmail.com, 716-837-4478)

Give Thanks to God For Loved Ones

All Saints Service November 2017

If you have a loved one who has passed away since January 2016 and you would like them remembered at our next **All Saints Service** in November, please email a photo (or give us one to scan) with name and date of death to

Kathy Figini (kfigini@FirstTrinity.com).

MAKER FUN FACTORY VBS

July 17-21, 9-Noon

Register Now at FirstTrinity.com

(Sorry - Nursery & Preschool are Full)

Participants: Birth to completes Gr 5 in June.

Volunteers: Completes Gr 6 in June to Adult.



VBS is a high energy, child-centered fun learning environment. Students travel with a crew leader to various learning stations as they learn that **God will always love you!**

Songs! Bible Buddies! Videos! Games! Snacks! New Friends!

Tracy Bramwell (716-698-9608, tracybramwell@gmail.com)

Honor Our Military Personnel

If you or family members are in the military or a veteran, we would love to have a picture, in uniform, to include in a slide show for Veteran's Day 2017. Please let us know the name, branch of service and years served. Deadline for pictures is October 31.

Email pictures to **Kathy Figini** (kfigini@FirstTrinity.com) or we can scan a picture in the office.



Reformation 500 Celebration

Sunday, April 23, 4-6 p.m. Festive Choral Vespers

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church
6630 Luther Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Take a step back in time as the Festive Choral Vespers offer a service that gives us a glimpse of Lutheran worship in Germany 200 years after the Reformation. The service will include music by Bach and Telemann, presented by the Lutheran Chorale, with Robert Duerr - a renowned North Tonawanda native - serving as organist. Bach's Leipzig Vespers is the model for our vespers.

Cost: Free Will Offering.

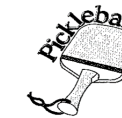
Join Us for Pickleball!

Sunday, April 23, 4:30 p.m.

Donation—\$2 per person.

In our gym—paddles are supplied or bring your own.

Rich Ferrante (Call or text 716-774-1060)



Sisters In Spirit Meeting (SIS)

Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.

At Sue Storch's, 6542 Wills Hollow, Lockport 14094
All women are welcome for Bible study, **Our Unrivaled, Uncontested God**, and fellowship—bring a friend!
Sue Storch (716-280-3448)

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The next DEA National Drug Take-Back Day for collection of unwanted pharmaceuticals is scheduled. It is a drive-up event and any drugs, medications, syringes and needles are accepted. Everything collected will be incinerated thereby preventing diversion and environmental contamination, and increasing patient safety.

Drop off sites are: Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, DeGraff Memorial Hospital, or Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

Sowers Ministry

Save the Date: Sowers Ministry annual missions banquet will be May 5. We are planning a trip to Nepal in late June.

For more information, contact:

Pastor Chuck (716-835-2220, cwhited@firsttrinity.com)

It's Spring Clean-up Time!

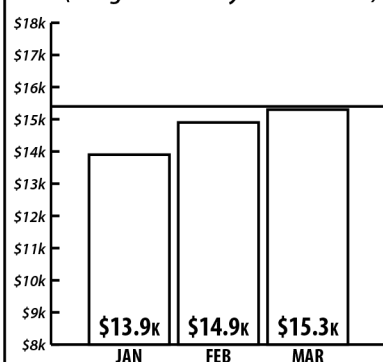
Saturday, May 20 (rain date Sat., June 10)

Join us for fun and service while we beautify God's House! Come whenever you can between 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., we can use your help even if it's just for an hour. We're hoping young and old will come out because it will be fun to serve with one another! You can choose the job that best fits your abilities, inside or outside, and we'll break for a hot dog lunch. Please sign-up in the Lobby. Thank you.

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 509 **UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 181**

MARCH BY THE NUMBERS

Average Weekly Giving Comparison
(Budgeted Weekly Need = 15.4k)



One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24

Fiscal Year Giving to Mission and Ministry (\$800k Budgeted)



(All data through March 31, 2017)