

Sermon Topic

Roadblocks on the Journey

I Kings 19:19-21, Hebrews 12:1-6, Luke 9:51-62

Have you ever been distracted while trying to do something important? It might be a project at work or some repairs at home. Maybe there's a health concern that needs addressing or perhaps it's getting ready for Christmas with the family. You know you have to do these things, but you have to do something else first.

Yes I have this big project, but first I have to check my email and refill my coffee. Repairs at home? Well, first I need to go out and get better tools. The doctor is going to make me get on the scale, so first I have to lose a few pounds. Christmas? Let's just focus on getting through Thanksgiving first, then I can think about that.

But first... Oftentimes, the "first" is just an excuse not to address the issue or do the work. Jesus experienced this when He invited people to follow Him:

To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Luke 9:59 (ESV)

Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Luke 9:61 (ESV)

Let me first... Following Jesus is hard because it means sacrificing ourselves for Him. We give up control to walk with Him—and that's scary! If you aren't careful, you'll find all kinds of roadblocks to following Jesus, all sorts of things that you need to do first.

Perhaps the most outrageous "first" is this: "I want to follow Jesus, but first I'll get my life in better order." Friends, this is dangerous and wrong thinking! The devil wants us to believe that we get everything figured out on our own, when in reality we can't! We follow Jesus first, and He brings healing and peace to our lives. So let us first follow Jesus, and see what He does with the rest!

Jason Christ, Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries



Easter Plants for the Altar

In Memory of or In Thanksgiving for a Loved One

Order envelopes are in your mailboxes and are available at the Welcome Center.

All plants are 6 1/2 inch pots and cost \$8.50.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 26. Plants may be picked up after 11:15 a.m. worship on Easter Sunday.

Come For Worship! Wednesdays During Lent
March 15 - Worship Service at 7 p.m.

Services will feature personal testimonies to convey the hope Jesus gives. Joanne Wood gave her testimony last week and Terri Mecca will give her testimony this week. Our prayer is that we will see the power Jesus has to change our lives. He heals, restores and cares.



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.

Financial Freedom: Practical Advice From a Man Who Had It All—and Lost It

Practical strategies for overcoming debt and achieving financial independence will be discussed. The program features a filmed interview with Matt Bell, a financial advisor who learned money management partially due to a personal financial fiasco.

"I was blind to what was happening to the money I had, and I was acclimated to the lifestyle I was leading," says Bell. "I literally woke up one day and I realized I was in trouble."

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

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

LifetreeCafe.com

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. February 26-April 9

Hebrews Led by Pastor Chuck on Lower Level.

The New Testament book of Hebrews is a great contrast between the Old Testament and the New Testament, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. It shows just how the Old Covenant pointed to Christ and how the New Covenant finds its fulfillment in Him.

The Reformation Led by Gary Praetzel in the Library.

At the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, it's a great time to learn about this pivotal event in world history. Who was Martin Luther? How did the Bible and the events of his life shape the reformation of the known Christian faith of his time? Come and explore!

Bible Journaling Basics Led by Sue Steege on Upper Level.

Bible journaling is a creative way to meditate on God's Word. This will be a hands on class for trying Bible journaling. You do not have to be an artist! Colors are involved!

500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Hymn Festival

Carnegie Hall, Sunday, June 25, 2 p.m.

Performers

Lutheran National Festival Choir, Jason Thoms, Conductor. Concordia Lutheran Festival Choir, Jason Thoms and Ralph C. Schultz, Conductors. Concordia Camerata Chamber Orchestra.

Program

BACH Cantata No. 80: *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, and works by Gwyneth Walker, Keith Hampton, Brahms, John Rutter, Paul Weber, Jason Thoms and Ralph Schultz

Tickets (CarnegieHall.org)

Camp Pioneer Golf Benefit

Monday, July 17, Brierwood Country Club, Hamburg

Early bird registration (\$135 or \$540 Foursome) by June 1. After June 1 (\$150 or \$600 Foursome). Benefits children of military personnel at Operation Purple Camp. Registration ([Camp Pioneer 716-549-1420](http://CampPioneer.org))



Presented to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of Zachary Anthony & Dean Anthony Jr.
By Dean, Erin, Madeline, Noah & Gabriel Anthony

Worship Helpers

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

March 11/12

Altar Guild.....Susan DePlato
Laura Zimberg

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Greeter.....Martha Miller
Ushers.....Tony D'Amico
Randy Wert
Reader.....Martha Miller
Communion.....
Prayers.....Susan DePlato
Projection.....Charlie Ellis

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Acolyte.....Peter Cross
Greeter.....Susan Brenan

Ushers.....Ray Voit
Walt Zimberg
Mike Zekas
Sue Lichtenthal

Reader.....Jubal Myer

Communion.....

Prayers.....Ron Opferbeck

Projection.....George Miller

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Worship Assistant.....Pat Canfield
Acolyte.....Jared Doeblar
Matthew Klapp

Greeter.....Jim Brese

Ushers.....Rachel Bissell
Ben Bell
Dick McKie

Reader.....Gordon Tresch

Communion.....

Prayers.....Brian Bunny
Marsha Phillips

Projection.....Edu Obot

March 18/19

Susan DePlato
Laura Zimberg

Evelyn Schleidt

Tony D'Amico
Steve Puscheck

Bob Strassburg

Bob Strassburg

Doreen Griebel

Bill Wood

Daniel McKeehan

Tom Knapp
Debbie Knapp

Gerry Schrembs
Ginny Schrembs
Jonah Cross
Kevin Cross

Anne Miller

Lisa Cross

Carl Fretthold
Jeff Weber

Tom Knapp
Bekah Freed

Jason Christ

Cindy Allsop

Marlene Carr

Jason Christ

Zach Collins
Nick MacVittie

Jim Brese

Derek Pulver
Dan Gietz

Diane Warner
Nikki Warner

Pam Jones

Tracy Bramwell
Pat Canfield

Barb Reardon
Gordon Tresch

Jason Christ

Marsha Peth
Anne DiCenso

Bill Wood

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.

Connect With Us: [Facebook.com/FirstTrinity](https://www.facebook.com/FirstTrinity), @FirstTrinity, @FTMissions
Transforming our world, one life at a time, through the power of God's living Word.

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

Calendar for March 12-19, 2017

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

Sunday	3/12	Thursday	3/16
8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship	10 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
10 a.m.	Education Hour	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Gr 7&8
11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship		CONNECT
4:30 p.m.	Pickleball		Joshua's Men
Monday	3/13	Friday	3/17
10 a.m.	Monday Bible Study	6:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m.	Lifetree Café	7:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	3/14	Saturday	3/18
10:30 a.m.	Creole Lessons	8 a.m.	Work Team
12:30 p.m.	Staff Prayer Time	9 a.m.	Men's Basketball
6:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Prayer Time	10 a.m.	Youth Band Rehearsal
	Horizon Support Group	5:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship
7 p.m.	Band Rehearsal	7 p.m.	Saturday Night LIGHT
	Grief Support Group	Sunday	3/19
Wednesday	3/15	8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m.	Women's AA Meeting	10 a.m.	Education Hour
10 a.m.	Preschool Chapel	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
12 p.m.	Lunch with the Staff	12:30 p.m.	VBS Crew Leader Coaches' Meeting
7 p.m.	Lenten Worship	4:30 p.m.	Pickleball
7:30 p.m.	Volleyball		

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.

Upcoming Sermons - Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

March 18/19	Rest Stop on the Journey Psalm 73:23-28, Philippians 3:7-14, Luke 10:38-42
March 25/26	Traffic and Tears on the Journey Ezekiel 18:27-32, Acts 17:22-31, Luke 13:31-35
April 1/2	The Beginning or the End of the Journey? Luke 19:11-27
April 8/9	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem Luke 19:28-40

Preschool 2017-18

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



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)

Next Saturday of Service (SOS)

Mobile Pack Event, March 25

This is a one-day event, held quarterly, to compassionately serve others in Jesus' name. SOS complements our longer mission trip experiences by providing local mission and service opportunities. There is no commitment beyond that one day and no prior experience is needed.

We will be partnering with hundreds of WNY volunteers to work with **Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)** in a mass meal packing event at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga. FMSC is a Christian non-profit organization on a mission to feed God's starving children "hungry in body and spirit".

There are two ways to participate:

Event: Join us for the **Mobile Pack Event** on **March 25**. Meet at First Trinity at 5 p.m., and after a quick briefing and devotion we will travel to Villa Maria College for the Event which will occur from 6-8 p.m. This event is open to all ages and is a great family service opportunity (young children will require 1:1 supervision). We will help to pack thousands of specially designed high nutrition meals for distribution around the world. Register at FirstTrinity.com under **Coming Events**.

Donate: You can also make a donation to support this SOS. Each meal costs approximately \$.22. Donate online at FirstTrinity.com/SOS or mark your check/envelope "SOS" and put in the offering plate. If you have any questions feel free to contact: **Patrick Canfield** (716-695-9845).

Lenten Devotions

Lutheran Hour Ministries Lenten Devotions, *From the Cradle to the Empty Grave*, are available to you and can be read online, heard as a podcast, and received by e-mail at LHM.org/Lent. They are also available at the Welcome Center. We hope these devotions will enrich the Lenten season for you, your family, and friends.

Saturday Night Light An Evening of Christian Music

Saturday, March 18, 7-9:30 p.m.

All are Welcome at First Trinity Lutheran Church
(3rd Saturday of the Month)

Live Music, Open Mic, Snacks, Beverages

John Angelucci (716-946-9804,
LockportDrumShop@yahoo.com)



Join Us for Pickleball!

Sunday, March 12, 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)



Horizon Health Services

Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Horizon Parent & Family Support Group

Understanding Substance Abuse & Addiction

Meets at First Trinity the second Tuesday of each month.

For more information: **Colleen Babcock** (716-907-2585)

Grief Support Group at First Trinity TUESDAY, March 14, 7 p.m.

The topic is *Easter Joy Even While Grieving*. Learn how Jesus helped various people with the news of His resurrection from the dead. Ron Opferbeck will lead.

Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695)

Sisters In Spirit Meeting (SIS)

Tuesday, March 14, 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)

Easter Food Baskets

Baskets will be given to needy families in our community and to La Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in the city of Buffalo.

To volunteer to help assemble baskets on Saturday, April 8 at 10 a.m., or if you know a family in need, please contact:

Bill Stuckwisch (westuckwisch@roadrunner.com, 716-625-8177) or the church office.

New on Good Friday!

Following the regular 12:30 p.m. corporate (*that means all together*) worship service, our church's entire first floor will become a new, individual worship experience. There will be 16 stages depicting the events that Jesus endured on Good Friday. It will be a self-guided, meditative, and interactive worship event that's called, **Journey through Good Friday**.

At each stage there will be things for you to read, see, and do as you contemplate the suffering and sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Come anytime between 2 and 8 p.m. and stay as long or as little as you'd like, but anticipate around 30 minutes.

Please take a postcard from the Welcome Center and invite a friend or family member to come with you.

If you'd like to help set up on Thursday, April 13, please add your name to the list at the Sign-Up table in the Lobby.

Portals of Prayer—Daily Devotions

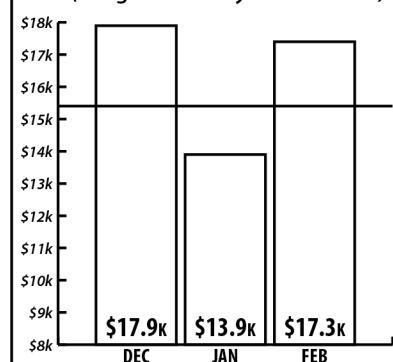
Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions featuring a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. It can be picked up near the Welcome Center. If you know someone who would be blessed by a copy, please take an extra one to share.

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 477

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 187

FEBRUARY BY THE NUMBERS

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



Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17

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



(All data through February 28, 2017)