

Worship Helpers

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

	Nov 25/26	Dec 2/3
Altar Guild	Laura Zimberg Susan DePlato	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Martha Miller	Evelyn Schleidt
Ushers	Tony D'Amico Randy Wert	Tony D'Amico Steve Puscheck
Reader	Bob Strassburg	Martha Miller
Prayers	Bob Strassburg	Susan DePlato
Communion		Tony D'Amico
Projection	Jim Brese	Bill Wood
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Daniel McKeehan	Adam Kaczmarowski
Greeter	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno	Susan Brenan
Ushers	Walter Zimberg Gretchen Wright Garrick Wright Leo Figini	Mike Zekas Sue Lichtenthal Dave Shotwell Sam & Louis Gugliuzza
Reader	Fran Dawe	Anne Miller
Prayers	Cindy Allsop	Dorothy Rothrock
Communion		Jeff Weber Tom Knapp Bob Kopec Linda Kopec Bekah Freed Jason Christ George Miller
Projection	Bill Wood	
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Jason Christ	Sue Steege
Acolyte	Colin Hurley Danny Leising	Faith Hackett Zoey Schoenfeldt
Greeter	Dennis Cassidy	Jim Brese
Ushers	Derek Pulver Jake Kieffer Diane Warner Nikki Warner	Frank Kraemer Paris Adams Abby Pedersen Judy Pedersen
Reader	Jennifer Tresch	Wendy Morris
Prayers	Marsha Peth Brian Bunny	Anne DiCenso Jon Whited
Communion		Jim Passage Wendy Morris Tracy Bramwell Pat Canfield Bekah Freed
Projection	Bill Wood	Stacy DiCenso

FT Kids & Youth Sunday School

Education Hour Sunday 10-11 a.m.

Children	Just Us - Adults
Childcare Infants - Age 2 <i>Meets in Upper Preschool 2</i>	With Developmental Disabilities <i>Meets in Gym</i>
Preschool - Ages 3 & 4 <i>Meets in Upper Preschool 3</i>	Youth
Kindergarten - Age 5 <i>Meets in Lower Preschool 4A</i>	Middle School Grades 6 - 8 <i>Meets on Lower Level</i>
FT Kids - Grades 1-5 <i>Meets in Gym</i>	High School Grades 9 - 12 <i>Meets on Lower Level Lounge</i>

Adult Sunday Classes—10 a.m.

Until December 10

Covenants in the Bible *Led by Pastor Chuck (Lower Level)*
What is a covenant and why do they matter? This class will dig into this important idea in the Scriptures. You will learn more about the heart of God towards His people—and towards you!

A Christian Response to Racism *Led by Susan Whited (Library)*
Why is our country so divided by race? What is the origin of racism? What has fueled it? Most importantly, how do I, as a Christian, respond, and what can I do to change the tide in our culture?

Bad Girls of the Bible *Led by Sue Steege (Upper Level)*
We'll use some video teaching from Liz Curtis Higgs about the lives of some of the Bible's best-known femmes fatales. From Eve to Jezebel to Delilah, each woman's story and struggles come to life. We'll dig into the Bible, too!

Meal Providers Needed

At First Trinity we care and support each other - sometimes through providing meals for those who are going through hard times of sickness, or joyful times like new babies!

If you would like to volunteer occasionally to provide a meal for someone, please sign up on the Meal Provider sign-up sheet in the lobby. We will notify you via email about meal providing opportunities.

Marsha Peth (mpeth@FirstTrinity.com, 716-238-3073)

Altar Flowers 2018 Sign Up

Sign-up area in lobby. \$20 per date chosen may be placed in available envelope and placed in offering. You may take the flowers after the 11:15 service or pick them up on Monday. *Please leave the green insert in the vase.*



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving to God for Darlene Helming
By Beth & Paul Vance



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 online at our 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.

Religious Freedom: Standing Up for What You Believe

A filmed interview with former White House attorney and Air Force officer Michael Weinstein, who believes the U.S. military is under attack by a group that threatens both morale and battle-readiness: Christian fundamentalists. "What do you do when you're forced to convert to Christianity or face incredible scrutiny during basic training?" Weinstein asks. "I went to the Academy to see what was occurring and then realized there was a much bigger problem." Participants will have opportunity to share their opinions on religious freedom being threatened.



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

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

LifetreeCafe.com

Sermon Topic

**November 25/26
2017**

This is Us: We Love

Hosea 11:1-9, 1 John 4:15-21, Matthew 22:34-40

One of my favorite possessions is a quilt that some friends in Texas made for me when I left to move back to Cleveland. They took all my old church T-shirts and patched them together into a kind of "memory blanket" for us. We don't actually use it much, reserving it for guests when they come to visit.

Over the years, we've purged lots of "stuff" from our lives. If you're like me, things build up and you find it's hard to get rid of them. Some stuff is easy to discard, but those treasured possessions? Even as they are worn past their useful life cycle, we hold on to them dearly, not because of the item itself, but because of the emotions and connection behind the item.

The book of Hosea is a fascinating look at God's love for His people, despite all they do to oppose or run from Him. In Hosea 11, God is lamenting over the disobedience of His children and the punishment that should come—cutting them off forever. But He just can't do it:

Oh, how can I give you up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within me, and my compassion overflows. No, I will not unleash my fierce anger. I will not completely destroy Israel, for I am God and not a mere mortal. I am the Holy One living among you, and I will not come to destroy. Hosea 11:8-9 (NLT)

Despite all our failings and rebellion, God simply cannot give us up. His love is too great, His compassion overflows. This unconditional love led our just God to sacrifice His own Son on our behalf. Rather than punish us for our misdeeds, He chose to love us and punish Jesus instead.

Have you disobeyed God? Certainly. Repeatedly. Heavily. Even so, God still loves you. Nothing you do will ever change that. No matter how much you rebel, God will always love you. So let's return to the One who loves, listen and obey, and in turn love others in the same way: unabashedly, unreservedly, unconditionally.

Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)

Christmas Candlelight Concert at First Trinity Sunday, December 3 at 4 & 7 p.m. Directed by David Werth

*Pre-Service Bell Choir, St. John Lutheran, N. Tonawanda Candlelight Procession
Choral & Instrumental Music Congregational Singing Holy Ghost Children's Choir*

The Annual Star Tree

In the spirit of Christmas giving, the Star Tree has returned to First Trinity. Many families have made this a holiday tradition, by helping those in need. This year's recipients will be Ken-Ton School families, and Cornerstone Manor.

To Participate: (Only one star per family please!)

- * Please take a star ornament from the tree in lobby.
- * Sign the poster next to the tree indicating the number on the star that you took.
- * Gift value should not exceed \$25.
- * Gifts should be new, placed in gift bags, with star attached.
- * **Please return all gifts by December 3.**
- * Any questions, call **Wendy Binkley 716-694-5431.**



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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MINISTRY COUNCIL

Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones,
Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr,
John Faller, Mike VanDerPuy,
Jeff Weber

Calendar for November 26 – December 3, 2017

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

Sunday	11/26	Thursday	11/30
8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship	6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball
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	6:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Monday	11/27	7:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
10 a.m.	Morning Bible Study	Friday	12/1
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball	3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball
7 p.m.	Lifetree Café	Saturday	12/2
	Vespers Rehearsal	9 a.m.	Men's Basketball
Tuesday	11/28	11 a.m.	Vespers Orchestra Rehearsal
12:30 p.m.	Staff Prayer Time	12:45 p.m.	FACES
6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball	1 p.m.	Vespers Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Prayer	5:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship
7 p.m.	Band Rehearsal	Sunday	12/3
Wednesday	11/29	8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m.	Women's AA Meeting	10 a.m.	Education Hour
	Executive Ministry Team	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
12 p.m.	Lunch With the Staff		4 & 7 p.m. Christmas Vespers
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball		
7 p.m.	GriefShare		
7:30 p.m.	Volleyball		

Next Sermon Series—Where are You God?

Dec 2/3	Where is God When Dreams are Broken? 2 Corinthians 4:7-16, Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 9/10	Where is God When I Feel Alone? Luke 1:39-56
Dec 16/17	Children's Program / Lessons and Carols
Dec 23	No Worship Service
Dec 24	Where is Your God Now? Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:1-20
Dec 25	Immanuel: God With Us Acts 17:22-31, Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 30/31	Looking Back or Looking Forward Numbers 14:1-12, Philippians 3:7-14, Luke 12:22-32

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

OPUS (Older People Up to Something) Christmas Lunch and Pirate Gift Exchange Wednesday, December 20 at Noon

Classics V, Niagara Falls Blvd. All invited to join us for food, fellowship and fun! Entrée choices are on sign-up sheet in the lobby. Cost is \$18 per person. Please pay Erhard "Moose" Moosmann and sign up by December 12. *Mary Ann Milak-Young (716-639-1169, mamydry@roadrunner.com)*



Memorials make a lasting gift in someone's memory.

Christmas Ornaments

First Trinity is purchasing some Christmas Tree Cross ornaments that we are making available to you for a suggested donation of \$5. They make great Christmas gifts for teachers, relatives, friends, coworkers—whoever! Order forms (including a picture of the ornament) are available in mailboxes or at the Welcome Center. Supplies are limited, so don't delay!
Jason Christ (jchrist@FirstTrinity.com, 716-860-5007)

Christmas Eve/Day Schedule

Saturday, December 23
No Worship Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Sunday, December 24
10 a.m. & 7 p.m. Traditional
5 p.m. Contemporary

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 10 a.m.
Worship with The Lord's Supper & The Little Orchestra



Kairos Prayer Sign Up

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of those who are incarcerated, by sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Please sign-up to pray for our members **Brian Bunny** and **Ron Opferbeck** who will be working at Wende Correctional Facility **December 7-10**. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of the inmates and team. The prayer sign-up poster is in the Lobby.

Cookies for Kairos Packaged cookies are needed for the inmates. The prison does not allow re-sealable packages, raisins, powdered sugar or chocolate liqueur. Please place cookies in the Kairos Bin in the main hallway by December 3.
Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695)

Want to Support Our Preschool? 2018 God's Creation Calendars - \$10

Sales will benefit our preschool. Forms are in mailboxes or at the Welcome Center. Please place your order and check in **Debbie Ferrante's** Main Hallway mailbox.
(dferrante@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We served 35 families this year. Special thanks to the **Kinsella Life Group** who coordinated the baskets this year: **Laurie & Mike Kinsella, Beth & Paul Vance, Heide & Randy Edgington, and Joe & Lynn Kelly**. **Sheri Ellis** and **Carl Fretthold** also helped put the baskets together on Saturday.

Thank you for your overwhelming and outrageous generosity!

**Is there anyone in your life you
could share the enclosed monthly
Lifetree Café flier with?**

Poinsettias for the Altar

In Memory of or In Thanksgiving for a Loved One

Plants are 6 1/2" pots for \$8. Order envelopes are in your mailbox or at the Welcome Center. Please place orders in the offering plate. Plants may be picked up after Christmas Day Worship, or by January 2.

Order Deadline: December 3.



Join Us for Pickleball!

Sunday, November 26 at 4:30 p.m.

Donation—\$3 per person.

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

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



GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy Wednesday, November 29 at 7 p.m.

GriefShare is a 13-week study that includes comfort, answers, and hope. The program provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Fliers are available at the Welcome Center.

Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695).

Christmas Food Baskets

Donations / basket request deadline is Sunday, Dec. 3

Baskets will be given to needy families in our congregation, community, and to La Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in the city of Buffalo. Donations of \$35 will fill a basket. Write *Holiday Food Baskets* on the memo line of your check and place in pew envelope. Baskets will be assembled on Dec. 16 at 9 a.m.

For more information, to volunteer to help assemble baskets, or if you know a family in need, please contact **Carl Fretthold (cfretthold@FirstTrinity.com)** or the church office *(716-835-2220)*.

Help Needed—Sprucing Up the Church Tuesday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

If you would like to help us prepare the sanctuary and chancel for Christmas, please join us and bring a pail and some rags. We will be cleaning and polishing the pews and altar area.

Everyone is welcome to join us! Please contact Laura if you have any questions! *Laura Zimberg (716-435-0020)*

Interested in Joining First Trinity? Sign-up Today!

Tuesday, December 5 at 6-8:30 p.m.

OR Wednesday, January 24 at 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.

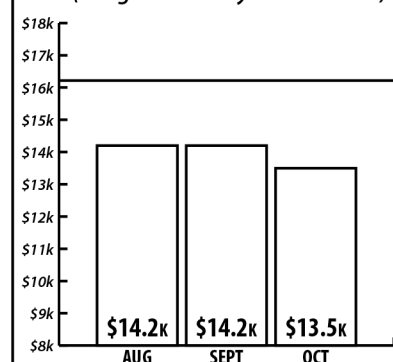
Please register at *FirstTrinity.com*, click on Coming Events, or call the church office *(716-835-2220)*, so that we know how much food and supplies to buy.

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 526

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 206

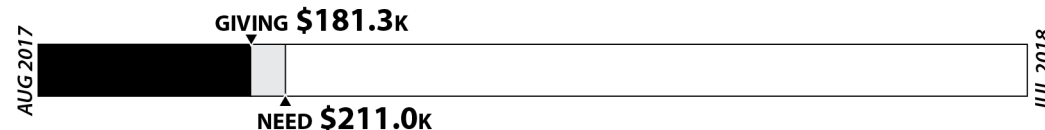
OCTOBER BY THE NUMBERS

Average Weekly Giving Comparison
(Budgeted Weekly Need = 16.2k)



Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. Malachi 3:10

Fiscal Year Giving to Mission and Ministry (\$844k Budgeted)



Give online at FTGives.com or text "give" to 716-710-8800.

(All data through October 31, 2017)