

Sermon Topic

Your Ministry of Mercy

Isaiah 58:5-12, Ephesians 2:1-6, Mark 1:40-45

At Vacation Bible School this year, we learned that we were built for a purpose. God has designed each of us for a very specific purpose. He has given us everything we need—skills and talents, passion and desire—to do the job, including the supernatural power of His Spirit living within us.

Do you know your purpose? Do you know what your “ministry of mercy” is? Jesus has shown us the way, demonstrating mercy to us when we least deserved it:

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)

In our sin, we have ignored or abandoned our God-given purpose in life. Worse than that, we have walked away from the One who gives us purpose. Not satisfied with the division we created between us and God, He decided to do something about it. In Christ Jesus, He showed us mercy, bringing us back into a relationship with Him.

That mission that God had for you? It's still there. He has called you to show mercy to others just as He has done for you. He has given you a ministry of mercy. Isaiah describes what that might look like for you:

This is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. Isaiah 58:6-7 (NLT)

Where can you proclaim freedom to the captives? Whose burden will you lighten? Look around with God's eyes, and you'll see opportunities for mercy everywhere. Ask God to help you see and act—showing mercy by the power of God's Spirit that dwells within you.

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.

FT Kids & Youth Sunday School

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

October 29—All Ages—10 a.m.

No Other Classes

Marty's Party – Celebrating Reformation (Gym)

Next Adult Sunday Classes—10 a.m.

November 5—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!

Christmas Eve/Day Schedule

We are thankful for your feedback at the Congregational Meeting in March. We're excited to share our decision based on that feedback.

Saturday, December 23—No Worship Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Sunday, December 24

10 a.m. & 7 p.m. Traditional

5 p.m. Contemporary

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25 10 a.m.

Worship with The Lord's Supper & The Little Orchestra



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Memory of Family & Friends
By Terri & John Mecca

Worship Helpers

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

Oct 14/15

Altar Guild..... Laura Zimberg
Linda D'Amico
Karen Wert

Oct 21/22

Laura Zimberg
Linda D'Amico
Karen Wert

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Greeter..... Martha Miller

Ushers..... Tony D'Amico
Randy Wert

Reader..... Susan DePlato

Prayers..... Bob Strassburg

Communion..... Tony D'Amico

Projection..... Bill Wood

Evelyn Schleidt

Tony D'Amico
Steve Puscheck

Rich Ferrante

Susan DePlato

Jim Brese

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Acolyte..... Daniel McKeenan

Greeter..... Tom Knapp
Debbie Knapp

Ushers..... Mike Zekas
Ray Voit
Erhard Moosmann
Joe Carr

Eli Schiferle

Fern Innes
Charlene Beno

Joel Rockensuess

Noah Rockensuess

Kevin Cross

Peter Cross

Abbie Morehouse

Jubal Myer

Nancy Stuckwisch

Reader..... Anne Miller

Prayers..... Ron Opferbeck

Communion..... Leo Figini

Tom Knapp

Bob Kopec

Linda Kopec

Sue Steege

Jason Christ

Projection..... Bill Wood

George Miller

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Worship Assistant..... Jason Christ

Acolyte..... Faith Hackett
Zoey Schoenfeldt

Greeter..... Jim Brese

Ushers..... Derek Pulver
Diane Warner
Nikki Warner
Zelda Pulver

Dennis Cassidy

Frank Kraemer

Paris Adams

Abby Pedersen

Judy Pedersen

Wendy Morris

Reader..... Mark Bramwell

Prayers..... Marsha Phillips
Brian Bunny

Communion..... Kim Kwietniewski

Barb Reardon

Jon Whited

Jim Passage

Sue Steege

Projection..... David Phillips

Edu Obot

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.

The 60-Minute Guide to Greater Confidence

Discover how to boost your confidence and gain more personal success. See the award-winning independent film *My Friend Peter*.

“This is a program for anyone who wants to be able to talk to anybody, make friends, and get the job they want,” says Lifetree representative Craig Cable. “We’ll discover simple techniques that can help make all that happen.”



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

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

9th Annual Theme Basket Party! Mission Madness

Saturday, October 28, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Basket Auction, Lunch & Bake Sale

Check out the display in the Main Hallway for theme basket suggestions. You do not need to wrap your basket, just bring the new items in an open basket or bag and we'll do the rest. **Money donations or gift cards are appreciated**, and we will make up a basket for you! Thank you for being part of our **only fundraiser event** that supports First Trinity missionaries as they serve others in Jesus' name. **Sue Steege** (*ssteege@FirstTrinity.com, 716-440-5025*)

Chili—Sign-up in the Main Hallway to bring your favorite recipe. We can accept donations early and will store it in the big kitchen freezer.

Dona Trautwein (*dtrautwein@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220*)

Bake Sale—Donations are welcome. Sign-up in Main Hallway.

Karen Wert (*RKserv@verizon.net, 716-876-4316*)

Connect With Us: [Facebook.com/FirstTrinity](https://www.facebook.com/FirstTrinity), [@FirstTrinity](https://www.instagram.com/FirstTrinity), [@FTMissions](https://www.instagram.com/FTMissions)

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

STAFF

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Calendar for October 15-22, 2017

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

Sunday 10/15	Monday 10/16	Tuesday 10/17	Wednesday 10/18	Thursday 10/19	Friday 10/20	Saturday 10/21	Sunday 10/22
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship	6 p.m. Youth Advantage BBall	12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting	6:30 p.m. Gr 7&8 Confirmation	6:30 p.m. Pickleball	8 a.m. Work Team	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
10 a.m. Education Hour	7 p.m. Lifetree Café	6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer	12 p.m. OPUS	7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7 p.m. Christian Music	9 a.m. Men's Basketball	10 a.m. Education Hour
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	7 p.m. Band Rehearsal	6:30 p.m. All-Church Study	5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	7 p.m. Christian Music	9 a.m. Kairos Team Meeting	11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
		6:30 p.m. Preschool Ice Cream Social	7 p.m. Grief Share			4:15 p.m. All-Church Study	Baptism—Reagan Tomeny
			7:30 p.m. Corvair Car Club			5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship	Baptisms—James Ayers & Ellia Schilling
			Volleyball			7 p.m. Traditional Worship	

Upcoming Sermons

- Oct 21/22** *Being an Agent of Mercy*
Lamentations 3:19-25, Galatians 6:1-5, Luke 6:27-38
- Oct 28/29** *500th Anniversary Reformation*

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

Celebrating God's Gift of Pastor Chuck!

Fifteen years ago God brought Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited Jr. to First Trinity. What a blessing he has been to us all! We thank God for Pastor Chuck and for all God has done in and through him!

We will celebrate Pastor's 15th Anniversary at First Trinity on the weekend of October 21/22 during the coffee hours after each worship service. Beginning on October 21, we will also celebrate Pastor Chuck with *Fifteen Days of Pastor Chuck*, including fifteen days of prayer for Pastor. Please join in the fun by showering Pastor with cards and gifts. Most importantly - covering him in prayer!

THE
**MIRACLE
OF
MERCY**

MINISTRY COUNCIL

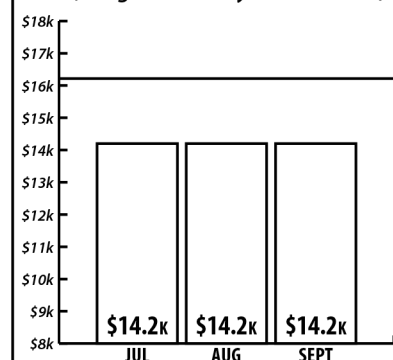
Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones,
Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr,
John Faller, Mike VanDerPuy,
Jeff Weber

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 495

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 223

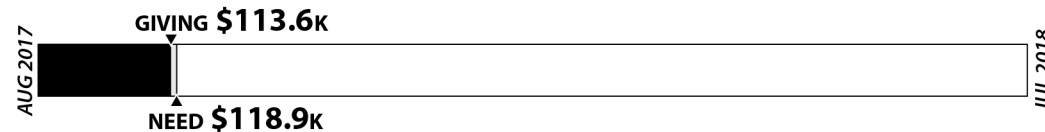
SEPTEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

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 September 30, 2017)

First Trinity Has a Gift for You!

We are excited to share that First Trinity now has access to an extensive, new video library called *RightNow Media*. It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV. There are over 20,000 titles, including 2,500 kids titles.

If we have your email address, you should have received an email from *RightNow Media*. Just click on the link and sign-up for an account and boom—you'll have access to those videos on your iPhone, Android phone, tablet, Roku, computer or Apple TV. And it is FREE to you! We hope you enjoy this tool. By the way—it is not limited to members of First Trinity. We can share with our friends, as well!

We are so thrilled to be helping God's Word get out into the world—in homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. Questions? Didn't get the invitation?

Contact *Sue Steege* (ssteege@FirstTrinity.com or 716-440-5025, talk or text).

Ministry Council Update

Forty-three members of the congregation met September 30 for the Bi-Annual congregational meeting to approve a budget for August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018; to elect members of the Ministry Council; and to review the activities of the last 6 months. A budget of \$993,750 was adopted for the current fiscal year.

Elected for two-year terms: **Jennifer Tresch**-President; **Pam Jones**-Vice President; and **Jeff Weber**-At-Large member. Jennifer Tresch was selected as First Trinity's delegate to the Eastern District Convention in June 2018.

The newly adopted Strategic Outcomes were presented and developed from the congregation's Vision Statement.

- Strategic Outcomes for First Trinity Lutheran Church**
- 1 Equip more individuals, families and groups to engage and grow in discipleship.
 - 2 Develop new and multiple means of worshipping together.
 - 3 Connect more people in/through supportive relationships.
 - 4 Grow our First Trinity family (numeric).
 - 5 Increase our service to the community outside of First Trinity.
 - 6 Increase opportunities for celebration and expressions of joyfulness.

The group focused on Outcome 6 and brainstormed ideas for engaging members through events, social gatherings and happenings. The staff will be developing some of these ideas in the months ahead.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Ministry Council, if you have additional questions.

Give Thanks to God For Loved Ones All Saints Service November 4/5, 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* on November 4/5, please email a photo (or give us one to scan) with name and date of death to *Kathy Figini* (kfigini@FirstTrinity.com).

Joining Jesus on His Mission as a Homebound Visitor

Would you enjoy spending a little time each month visiting someone who can't come to church? Would your children enjoy a visit to one of our homebound members? Has God given you these gifts: a loving and kind spirit, a desire to encourage older adults?

You can be a Homebound Visitor!

Attend two Homebound Visitor training sessions:

Session 2- Saturday, November 11, 9-11:30 a.m.

Marsha Peth (716-691-5799, mpeth@FirstTrinity.com)

Grief Support Group at First Trinity Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m.

Speaker is **Rev. John A. Marshall**, Director of Spiritual Care at Niagara Hospice.

Questions: *Ron Opferbeck* (716-812-1695)

OPUS Meeting

(Older People Up to Something)

Wednesday, October 18, Noon

Subs, Wraps & Cookies - \$5

Sign up in the Lobby. Pay on Oct. 18.

Sue Steege will speak about The Reformation.

Questions? *Erhard Moosmann* (716-688-6854)

50TH
Anniversary
OF THE REFORMATION

Join Us for Pickleball!

Friday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Donation—\$2 per person.

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

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



An Evening of Christian Music

Saturday, October 21, 7-9:30 p.m.

All are Welcome at First Trinity Lutheran Church

Live Music, Open Mic, Snacks

John Angelucci (716-946-9804,

LockportDrumShop@yahoo.com)

Christmas Candlelight Vespers

Sunday, December 3, 4 & 7 p.m. at First Trinity

If you enjoy singing with a large choir and good fellowship as we practice and perform, Vespers is for you!

Rehearsals Begin at First Trinity—October 23

Mondays, 7-9 p.m. (until November 27)

David Werth (djwerth@roadrunner.com, 716-276-8263)

GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy Wednesday, October 25, 7 p.m.

GriefShare is a 13-week study. The content includes comfort, answers, and hope. Provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. *GriefShare* fliers available at the Welcome Center.

To reserve your place, call *Ron Opferbeck* (716-812-1695).

Reformation Sunday Vespers Service Sunday October 29, 3 p.m.

Vespers service with light reception following.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 875 Eggert Dr, N. Ton 14120