

Sermon Topic

How Much You Matter to God

Isaiah 53:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:11-20

We often make decisions based on what something costs. This is true across all areas of our life. In business, they call this “cost-benefit analysis”. Here’s the idea: You examine the costs associated with a purchase or decision compared to the benefits it provides, and judge whether it is “worth it” to you or not.

From candy to cars or hats to houses, we all evaluate costs vs. benefits. Whether it’s money, time, reputation, or something else, there’s always a cost to everything. If we deem the item worth the cost, we move forward. If not, we walk away. The value of something is determined by the buyer and what they are willing to pay.

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:3-5 (ESV)

How much are you worth to God? Quite a bit actually: God was willing to give up Jesus—His only Son—for you. And did you hear some of the “cost” words in there? Despised. Rejected. Sorrow. Grief. Stricken. Smitten. Afflicted. Pierced. Crushed. Chastised. Wounded.

That’s a steep cost! But here’s the amazing thing: As God did His own cost-benefit analysis about sending Jesus to die in our place, He didn’t pause or waver for even a second. Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send Jesus to rescue us. In fact, before they sinned—before He even created them—He knew what was coming. Despite the costs ahead, God went through with His plan to create Adam and Eve... and You!

How much do you matter to God? How valuable are you? When in doubt, review the cost that was paid: Despised. Rejected. Sorrow. Grief. Stricken. Smitten. Afflicted. Pierced. Crushed. Chastised. Wounded.

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	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>

All-Church Study:

The Miracle of Mercy By Rick Warren

It’s not too late to join our All-Church Study. Even if you can only make one session, we’d love to have you!

Classes offered:
Saturdays 4:15 p.m. Ends October 21
Sundays 10 a.m. Ends October 22
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. Ends October 24

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*

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)

From the Staff *Thank You*

We are so grateful to the **Staff Care Team** who takes such good care of us. The fall treats were delicious and enjoyed by all of us! If you are interested in joining the Staff Care Team, contact *Sheri Ellis (716-998-4956, guardianangel@aol.com)*.



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving to God for Our Anniversary
By Jennifer & Harris Bartz

Worship Helpers

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

	Oct 7/8	Oct 14/15
Altar Guild	Laura Zimberg Linda D’Amico Karen Wert	Laura Zimberg Linda D’Amico Karen Wert
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Evelyn Schleidt	Martha Miller
Ushers	Tony D’Amico Steve Puscheck	Tony D’Amico Randy Wert
Reader	Martha Miller	Susan DePlato
Prayers	Karen Wert	Bob Strassburg
Communion		Tony D’Amico
Projection	Bill Wood	Charlie Ellis
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Jamie Mattheus	Daniel McKeenan
Greeter	Paul Gerlach Darlene Helming	Tom Knapp Debbie Knapp
Ushers	Walter Zimberg Gretchen Wright Garrick Wright Sam/Sammy Gugliuzza	Mike Zekas Ray Voit Erhard Moosmann Joe Carr
Reader	Fran Dawe	Anne Miller
Prayers	Dorothy Rothrock	Ron Opferbeck
Communion		Jeff Weber Tom Knapp Bob Kopec Linda Kopec Sue Steege Jason Christ
Projection	George Miller	Bill Wood
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Pat Canfield	Jason Christ
Acolyte	Ana Bellanti Mara Tysick	Faith Hackett Zoey Schoenfeldt
Greeter	Paul Gerlach	Jim Brese
Ushers	Rachel Bissell Ben Bell Dick McKie Dan Gietz	Derek Pulver Diane Warner Nikki Warner Zelda Pulver
Reader	Joanne Wood	Mark Bramwell
Prayers	Brian Bunny Marsha Peth	Marsha Phillips Brian Bunny
Communion		Kim Kwietniewski Barb Reardon Marty Doster Jim Passage Sue Steege
Projection	Stacy DiCenso	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.

Toxic Faith: When Religion Hurts

Features a filmed interview with Sam Brower, the private investigator who cracked open the case that led to the arrest of Warren Jeffs, the leader of the polygamous Fundamentalist Church of Latter-day Saints.

“It was unbelievable to discover there is this completely lawless town in America that is run by a church and a dictator,” says Brower. “He (Jeffs) manipulated people and could get them to do what he wanted through their faith and beliefs.”

Lifetree Café participants will discover three key factors that are often associated with toxic faith.

**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

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 always welcome. Sign-up in Main Hallway.

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

Church Office Closed—Monday, October 9

Connect With Us: 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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Calendar for October 8-15, 2017

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

Sunday 10/8	Monday 10/9	Tuesday 10/10	Wednesday 10/11	Thursday 10/12	Friday 10/13	Saturday 10/14	Sunday 10/15
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Education Hour 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	Church Office Closed 6 p.m. Youth Advantage BBall 7 p.m. Lifetree Café	12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer All-Church Study Horizon Support Grp 7 p.m. Band Rehearsal Men's BBall	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting Executive Ministry Team 12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff 1 p.m. Senior Life Grp 6:30 p.m. Loss of Parent Support Grp for Children 7 p.m. Grief Share 7:30 p.m. Volleyball	6:30 p.m. Youth (Gr 6-12) Bonfire –Offsite GQ Life Grp Tysick Life Grp 6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5 p.m. Scrapbooking/Craft Night 6:30 p.m. Pickleball	9 a.m. Men's Basketball Homebound Visitors' Training 4:15 p.m. All-Church Study 5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Education Hour 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Upcoming Sermons

Oct 14/15	Your Ministry of Mercy Isaiah 58:5-12, Ephesians 2:1-6, Luke 1:40-45
Oct 21/22	Being an Agent of Mercy Lamentations 3:19-25, Galatians 6:1-5, Luke 6:27-38

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

THE
**MIRACLE
OF
MERCY**

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. And most importantly - covering him in prayer!

MINISTRY COUNCIL

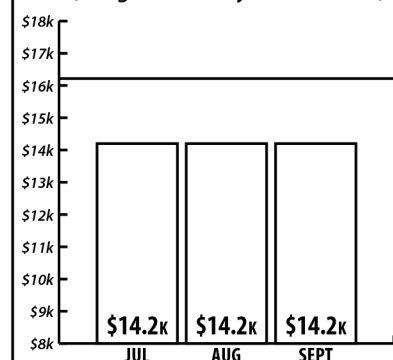
Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones, Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr, John Faller, Mike VanDerPuy, Jeff Weber

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 495

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 223

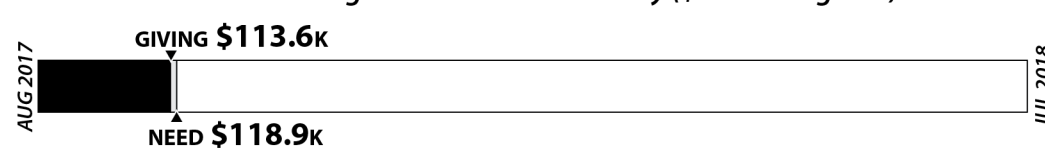
SEPTEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

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)

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 1 - Saturday, October 14, 9-11:30 a.m.

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

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

First Trinity Women's Retreat

October 20-22 Living Life Together

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (LCLCenter.org)

All women, 18 years and older, are welcome!

We will be taking a look at the Scriptures together, helping us to pursue relationships that are rooted in rest, grace and reconciliation. Program begins Sat, October 21 at 9:15 a.m. Come for all or part of the weekend. Friday night we share appetizers and chit chat. Worship and brunch on Sunday.

- *Come for part or all of the retreat.*
- *Time for exercise, napping, reading, knitting, chatting, etc.*
- *Massage and spa treatments are available for an extra cost.*

Sue Steege (716-440-5025 [talk or text],

ssteege@FirstTrinity.com)

Register: FirstTrinity.com/womens-retreat

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.

Pastor, Sue Steege and Pam Jones presented the newly adopted Strategic Outcomes, which were 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.

Horizon Health Services

Tuesday, October 10, 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)*

GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, October 11 & 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)*.

Join Us for Pickleball!

Friday, October 13 & 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)



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)*



Renaissance Feast & Luther Talks

Saturday, October 21, 1 p.m.— Dinner at 5:30

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

Dr. Daniel Zager of the Eastman School of Music (Rochester) will present: "Luther Sets the Tone: Luther on Liturgy and Music". He will emphasize how Luther's presuppositions and work paved the way for a distinctive Lutheran church music through the centuries, up to and including our own day.

Other presentations will be followed by a dinner featuring foods that would have been familiar to Luther and his contemporaries. Entertainment will include the Recorder Consort of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Injest performer Nels Ross, and a special appearance by Dr. Martin Luther himself.

Reserve \$30 tickets by Oct. 7; no tickets available at door.

Dave Werth (716-731-7183, djwerth@roadrunner.com)

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