

Worship Helpers

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

Sept 16/17 **Sept 23/24**
Altar Guild..... Laura Zimberg Laura Zimberg

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Greeter..... Evelyn Schleidt Martha Miller
Ushers..... Tony D'Amico Tony D'Amico

Reader..... Susan DePlato Rich Ferrante
Prayers..... Bob Strassburg Susan DePlato
Communion..... Bob Strassburg
Projection..... Bill Wood Jim Brese

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Acolyte..... Peter Cross Daniel McKeenan
Greeter..... Julie Miller Tom Knapp
 George Miller Debbie Knapp
Ushers..... Ray Voit Mike Zekas
 Erhard Moosmann Leo Figini
 Kevin Cross Joel Rockensuess
 Jonah Cross Noah Rockensuess
Reader..... Fern Innes Phil Reed
Prayers..... Ron Opferbeck Cindy Allsop
Communion..... Carl Fretthold
 John Faller
 Leo Figini
 Lisa Cross
 Sue Steege
 Bekah Freed

Projection..... Bill Wood George Miller

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Worship Assistant..... Pat Canfield Sue Steege
Acolyte..... Paris Adams Haley Fabian
 Lauren Ratajczak
Greeter..... Dennis Cassidy Jim Brese
Ushers..... Rachel Bissell Derek Pulver
 Ben Bell Diane Warner
 Dick McKie Nikki Warner

Reader..... Pam Jones Gordon Tresch
Prayers..... Marsha Peth Brian Bunny
 Brian Bunny Marsha Phillips
Communion..... Barb Reardon
 Marty Doster
 Jim Passage
 Jon Whited
 Sue Steege
Projection..... David Phillips Edu Obot

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

All-Church Study: Starts Sept 16-17

The Miracle of Mercy By Rick Warren

We are going to take **six weeks** as a congregation to see what mercy really looks like! Did you know that mercy is God's number one characteristic in the Bible? The world portrays God as a God of anger and judgment. But God shows Himself first and foremost as a God of mercy.

If mercy is God's number one characteristic that He reveals to us in the Bible—it must also be the most important character trait that God wants to develop in us.

Classes offered:

Saturdays	4:15 p.m.	Starting September 16
Sundays	10 a.m.	Starting September 17
Tuesdays	6:30 p.m.	Starting September 19
In Life Groups		Starting week of September 17

You can sign-up online at FirstTrinity.com or in the lobby.

You can also pick up a book in the lobby for a suggested donation of \$10.

Cancer Companions First Meeting

Salem Lutheran Church

10 McClellan Circle, Buffalo, NY 14220

Wednesday, October 11, 2 p.m.

Cancer Companions (cancer-companions.org) is a Christian support group reaching out to those in treatment, post-treatment and/or their loved ones. The support group will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and is free to all participants. For more information or to register, call **Salem Church (716-824-2787)**



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of John D. Miller
 By Anne Miller



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.

Sermon Topic

**September 16/17
 2017**

God Can Use Anybody

2 Corinthians 4:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, Matthew 18:15-20

As I type this, we are in the final preparations for our mission trip to Texas to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts. We have a total of eight people going on the trip:

Jason Christ	Charlie Trautwein
David Fabian	Kelsey Trautwein
Roger Montague	Jon Whited
Steve Puscheck	Susan Whited

In addition to this, people have donated \$2,700 towards the trip, plus another \$2,600+ in supplies for the effort. God's people at First Trinity are truly inspiring!

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

God is going to do some great things through these donations and missionaries. And that's just it: God is doing this through us. We are imperfect vessels, jars of clay if you will, letting God's light shine through us to the people of Houston. You are a jar of clay also!

God has extended mercy to you through Jesus Christ—and He's now inviting you to be His agent of mercy to the world. Wherever you are, God is calling you to let His light shine through you into your home, school, workplace, community, and even the world.

So let's be agents of mercy in this difficult world. It's OK if you feel like just a plain old "fragile clay jar" because you have a "great treasure" inside you: God's Spirit. God's great power will move through you and bring mercy to others. We just need to be ready and let Him do the heavy lifting.

Jason Christ, Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries

Is Church Obsolete: Has God Left the Building?

Explores emerging trends showing the church is quickly losing membership and eroding in influence. "The fastest growing religious group is the group of people who don't associate with any specific religious tradition," says Lifetree representative Craig Cable. "We'll consider what might be behind that trend—and whether the trend represents a problem or an opportunity."

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their views of what's fueling the decline in church attendance around the country.

**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

Congregational Meeting

Saturday, September 30 – 10 a.m.
 Come for coffee and conversation at 9:30!

Agenda items include approval of the annual budget and Ministry Council elections.

We Are Looking for Your Input! One of First Trinity's strategic outcomes is **Increase opportunities for celebration and expressions of joyfulness**. At our next Congregational Meeting, we will be asking for input and ideas for events, happenings, etc. that would help us meet this outcome. Please come with your thoughts!

Agenda & 2017-18 Budgets are available by mailboxes in Main Hallway. **Bi-Annual Reports** are in your mailbox or at Welcome Center.

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](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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Preschool Director
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Calendar for September 17-24, 2017

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

Sunday 9/17	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Education Hour 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship 12:30 p.m. Guatemala Mission Trip Info Mtg	Thursday 9/21	6:30 p.m. Joshua's Men 6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Monday 9/18	6 p.m. Youth Advantage BBall 7 p.m. Lifetree Café	Friday 9/22	8 a.m. Work Team 9 a.m. Kairos Team Meeting Men's Basketball
Tuesday 9/19	12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer All-Church Study 7 p.m. Band Rehearsal Men's BBall	Saturday 9/23	4:15 p.m. All-Church Study 5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship
Wednesday 9/20	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting 12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff 7 p.m. Grief Support Group 7:30 p.m. Volleyball	Sunday 9/24	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 10 a.m. Education Hour 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Upcoming Sermons

Sept 23/24	God's Mercy and My Failures Psalm 51:14-19, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 21:15-17
Sept 30/Oct 1	Mercy Forgives! Isaiah 55:6-11, Ephesians 4:29-32, Matthew 6:7-14
Oct 7/8	How Much You Matter to God Isaiah 53:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:11-20
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

Military Ministry

Please help me serve our military members by providing me with updated names and addresses for any military member or family member to whom I might be able to provide support and encouragement. I have increasingly had cards and prayer books returned to me as our servicemen have been reassigned and I have no forwarding address. You may put names and addresses of anyone you would like me to send cards/care packages to in my church mailbox, **Mary Ann Gettman** or maharhigetman@roadrunner.com.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

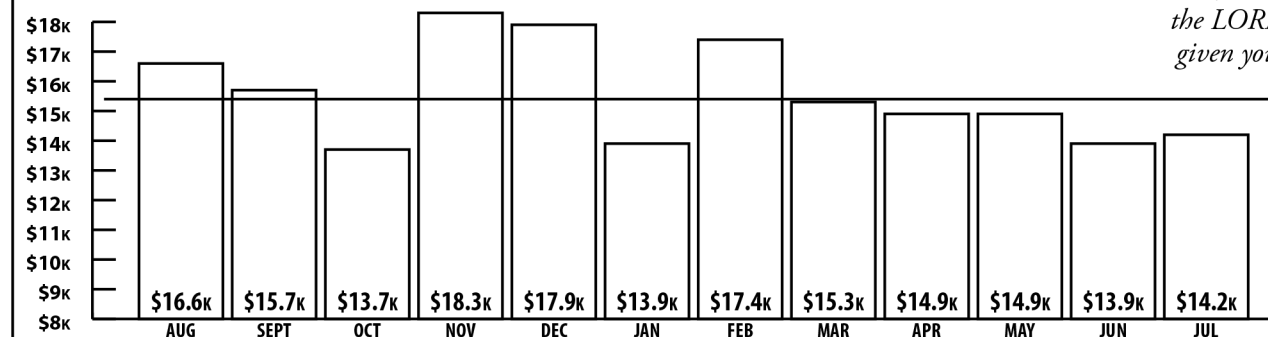
Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones,
Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr,
John Faller, Mike VanDerPuy,
Jeff Weber

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 979

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 321

FISCAL 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Average Weekly Giving Comparison (Needed Weekly Average = 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

\$800,000
Budgeted Giving
\$806,145
Actual Giving

Mission Madness Is Coming SOON!

Basket Auction, Lunch & Bake Sale

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

This is our once a year fundraiser for sending missionaries out to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Last year we raised over \$14,000 between baskets, lunch, and bake sale. This couldn't be done without your generous donations.

Please consider donating a basket with a retail value of \$50 (what it's worth- not what you spend), gift card/gift certificate in any amount. We are also in need of large ticket items (value \$200 or more), a great way for a whole life group to chip in. If making a basket isn't your thing, we will take your items and make the basket for you, or make a monetary donation and we'll shop for you too!

An Idea Board is up at the Collection Center in the Main Hallway! Please start bringing your donations as soon as you have them, or by October 1.

Sue Steege (ssteege@FirstTrinity.com, 716-440-5025)

Chili was our number one seller at lunch last year. Please consider making your favorite recipe. We can accept donations early and will store in the big kitchen freezer. Please put chili in a plastic freezer bag labeled Mission Madness.

Dona Trautwein (dtrautwein@FirstTrinity.com)

Ministry Council Nomination

Committee is Formed

This September the Council will need to fill the position of **President, Vice-President, and one at-large board member**. The positions are all for two year terms. A Nominating Committee consisting of **Kevin Cross, Joel Rockensuess, Garrick Wright, and Christine Hartnett** (as well as Pastor in a non-voting capacity) has been formed to identify those individuals who would be willing to serve.

If you are aware of a member who would be particularly suited to such a position, please submit that name to **Kevin Cross** (*Cell: 716-698-0905 or Home: 716-831-9811*) or in writing in a sealed envelope to the church office. Additionally, if you would like to hear more about the open positions' responsibilities or the nominating process, please feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Staff Prayer Partners Requested

Prayer Partners are requested for our Staff for the months of October, November and December. A sign-up sheet is available at the Sign-Up Center in the Lobby. A sheet of specific and general prayer requests will be provided to you. There is such joy in praying and our Staff is most appreciative of your prayer support. Thank You!

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).

2018 International Youth/Young Adult Mission Trip to Guatemala!

This trip is for those in Grade 10 through Young Adult Age and will take place **July 28-August 5, 2018**.

Come to this last info meeting to find out more!

September 17 at 12:30 p.m. after worship
Rebekah Freed (RFreed@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)

Grief Support Group at First Trinity

Wednesday, September 20, 7 p.m.

The topic is: **Being Life Affirming in Your Remembrances**. Speaker is **Darcy Thiel**, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Questions: **Ron Opferbeck** (716-812-1695)

Sisters In Spirit Meeting (SIS)

Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m.

At Laurie Kinsella's, 7025 Bear Ridge Rd, N Ton. 14120
All women are welcome for Bible study and fellowship—bring a friend! All women welcome
Laurie Kinsella (716-864-0572)

Grief Share: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, September 27, 7 p.m.

Grief Share 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. Grief Share fliers available at the Welcome Center.
To reserve your place, call **Ron Opferbeck** (716-812-1695).

Clergy Panel Discussion:

So the Reformation is 500 Years Old. What's the Big Deal?

Saturday September 30

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 107 Scott St, Tonawanda, 14150
Reservations: Immanuel Church 716-692-6200.

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

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

Reserve your tickets now; no tickets available at the 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

Preschool Prayer Partners

Please consider praying for a preschool teacher or preschool class during the 2017/2018 school year. Fill out the flyer in your mailbox or at Welcome Center and return to Debbie Ferrante's mailbox. More information will follow after sign up.