

Sermon Topic

God's Mercy and My Failures

Psalm 51:14-19, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 21:15-17

First Trinity launched a Texas Mission Trip for Harvey Recovery on very short notice last week. Eight people joined us for the 10-day trip. What a blessing it has been to the people here in Texas, as well as to the team.

A few fun stories:

- We spent the first and part of the second day helping the Pastor of our host church (Memorial Lutheran in Katy, TX) finish cleaning out his house. We removed drywall, doors and frames, kitchen counters, sinks, and did other odd jobs. We asked if we could mow his lawn, and there was a big sigh of relief knowing he wouldn't have to do it himself.
- Later on Day 2, we helped a woman sort through her belongings and decide what to keep and what to discard. Every item had a story or memory attached to it. Having someone to share these memories with was a critical part of the process. It didn't feel like we made as much physical progress as we'd hoped, but we certainly helped emotionally and spiritually. We had an opportunity to pray with her before we left.
- Day 3 was spent helping clear houses in some of the worst damaged areas with Team Rubicon, another organization helping in Houston. The first floor of these homes consists of a foundation, studs, windows, and plumbing. Everything else was discarded. At one of the houses, the resident prayed for all of us, and had the teams write their names on a doorway header as a remembrance.

Evenings have been spent having dinner at member's homes from the host church. People with the gifts of cooking and hospitality have enjoyed using them to encourage us. Everyone has a flood story to share with us, as well as grateful hearts for God's provision during the storm and after in the form of helping hands like ours and other members from church or the community.

God has truly been working during the trip. Please continue to pray for the team and the people of Houston. God's not done here yet. Jesus was already working when we got here, and He'll be working long after we leave.

Team Members: Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries), David Fabian, Roger Montague, Steve Puscheck, Charlie Trautwein, Kelsey Trautwein, Jon Whited, Susan Whited



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

All-Church Study:

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.	Ends October 21
Sundays	10 a.m.	Ends October 22
Tuesdays	6:30 p.m.	Ends October 24

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!

Schedules for Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Communion Assistants, and Prayer Partners

Schedules for October-December have been emailed to those who have an email listed in our database. If you didn't receive your schedule, will you please contact me with your new email address or check your spam folder? Thanks!

Kathy Figini (kfigini@FirstTrinity.com)



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of Edward & Pearl Makey
By Carl & Deloris Makey

Worship Helpers

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

	Sept 23/24	Sept 30/Oct 1
Altar Guild	Laura Zimberg Ginny Schrembs Beth Vance	Laura Zimberg Ginny Schrembs Beth Vance
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Martha Miller	Martha Miller
Ushers	Tony D'Amico	Tony D'Amico
Reader	Rich Ferrante	Bob Strassburg
Prayers	Susan DePlato	Susan DePlato
Communion		Susan DePlato
Projection	Jim Brese	Jason Christ
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Daniel McKeenan	Jack Kaczmarowski
Greeter	Tom Knapp Debbie Knapp	Julie Miller George Miller
Ushers	Mike Zekas Leo Figini Joel Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess	Gerry Schrembs Ginny Schrembs David Gettman MaryAnn HarhiGettman
Reader	Phil Reed	Fern Innes
Prayers	Cindy Allsop	Dorothy Rothrock
Communion		Wendy Binkley Paul Gerlach Carl Fretthold John Faller Bekah Freed Jason Christ Marlene Carr
Projection	George Miller	
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Sue Steege	Sue Steege
Acolyte	Haley Fabian Lauren Ratajczak	Faith Hackett Zoey Schoenfeldt
Greeter	Jim Brese	Dennis Cassidy
Ushers	Derek Pulver Diane Warner Nikki Warner	Frank Kraemer Paris Adams Abby Pedersen Judy Pedersen
Reader	Gordon Tresch	Jennifer Tresch
Prayers	Brian Bunny Marsha Phillips	Anne DiCenso Jon Whited
Communion		Tracy Bramwell Pat Canfield Marsha Peth Wendy Morris Jason Christ Bill Wood
Projection	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.

Forgiving the Unforgivable: A Son Confronts His Mother's Killer

Features a filmed interview with Louis Barrios, a man who publically forgave the man who brutally murdered his mother.

"Forgiveness is something you practice the same way you practice tennis or guitar," says Barrios. "The more you practice it, the better you get at it."

Participants will have the opportunity to tell about times they've forgiven others or have been forgiven themselves.

**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.

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 September 24– October 1, 2017

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

Sunday	9/24	Thursday	9/28
8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
10 a.m.	Education Hour		CONNECT
11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship		Joshua's Men
Monday	9/25	Friday	9/29
10 a.m.	Education Hour		GQ Life Grp
6 p.m.	Youth Advantage BBall	6:45 p.m.	Tysick Life Grp
7 p.m.	Lifetree Café	7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	9/26	Saturday	9/30
12:30 p.m.	Staff Prayer Time	9 a.m.	Men's Basketball
6:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Prayer	10 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
	All-Church Study	4:15 p.m.	All-Church Study
7 p.m.	Band Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship
	Men's BBall	Sunday	10/1
Wednesday	9/27	8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m.	Women's AA Meeting	10 a.m.	Education Hour
	Executive Team Mtg	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
12 p.m.	Lunch With the Staff		
1 p.m.	Senior Life Group		
7 p.m.	Grief Share		
7:30 p.m.	Volleyball		

THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

Upcoming Sermons

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

First Trinity Women's Retreat *Living Life Together*

October 20-22 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, Oct 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, or whatever.
- Massage and spa treatments are available for an extra cost.

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

Register: FirstTrinity.com/womens-retreat

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)

Honor Our Military Personnel

If you or family members are in the military or a veteran, we would love to have a picture, in uniform, to include in a slide show for Veteran's Day 2017. Please let us know the name, branch of service and years served.

Deadline for pictures is October 31.

Email pictures to **Kathy Figini (kfigini@FirstTrinity.com)**

or we can scan a picture in the office.



Military Ministry

Please help me serve our military members by providing 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 send info to **maharhigetman@roadrunner.com**.

Preschool Requests!

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.

Join with the preschool in collecting needed supplies for Buffalo City Mission's Cornerstone Manor to help single moms and their children. Items needed:

- Diapers size 5, 4, 3, 2 & 1 (listed by priority)
- Baby wipes
- Underwear for boys & girls, size 2, 3, 4 T.

Collection Barrel is located on the preschool landing. Donations collected until Thanksgiving. **Debbie Ferrante (dferrante@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)**

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.

Lutheran Emergency Response Team Training

October 7, 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls

This training equips volunteers to assist recovery in disasters such as the Lake Ontario flooding, tornados, fires, etc. The Eastern District's latest major response was to Baton Rouge one year ago this week. Participants will receive a FEMA wallet card allowing them access to disaster areas when working with first responders at almost any emergency. The cost is \$20/person.

Registration: John Prochaska

(minsk9@verizon.net), H 315-457-1632, C 315-278-9903)

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)



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

Baked Goods for Coffee Hour

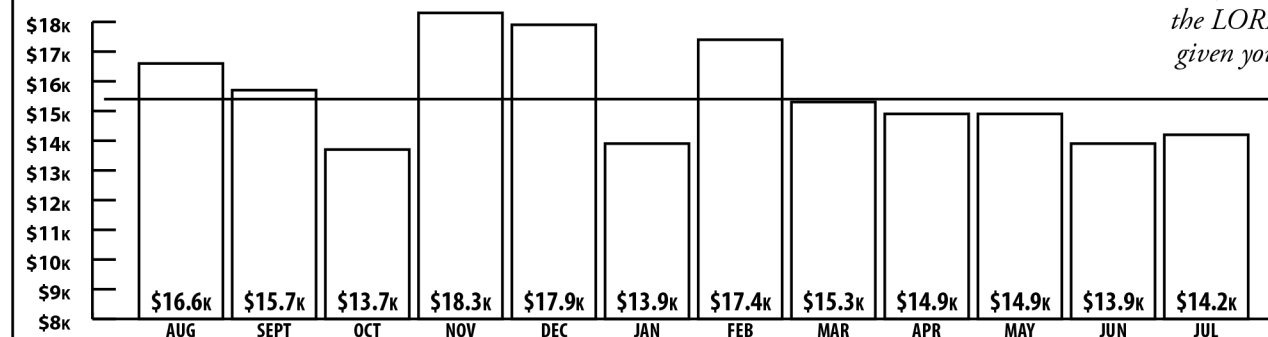
We appreciate store bought or homemade! If you would be willing to buy or bake a goodie for Coffee Hour on Sundays, please sign up in the Lobby. Thank you for your help!

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