

Worship Helpers

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

	Dec 9/10	Dec 16/17
Altar Guild	Susan DePlato Laura Zimberg	Susan DePlato Laura Zimberg
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Martha Miller	Evelyn Schleidt
Ushers	Tony D'Amico Randy Wert	Tony D'Amico Steve Puscheck
Reader	Martha Miller	Lessons & Carols
Prayers	Karen Wert	Bob Strassburg
Communion		Bob Strassburg
Projection	Charlie Ellis	Bill Wood
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Jamie Mattheus	Eli Schiferle
Greeter	Paul Gerlach Fern Innes	Julie Miller George Miller
Ushers	Joel Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess Kevin Cross Peter Cross	Jonah Cross Peter Cross Jude Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess
Reader	Jubal Myer	Children's Program
Prayers	Nancy Stuckwisch	
Projection	Marlene Carr	Bill Wood
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Pat Canfield	Jason Christ
Acolyte	Mara Tysick	Lauren Ratajczak Rebekah Jaenecke
Greeter	Paul Gerlach	Dennis Cassidy
Ushers	Rachel Bissell Ben Bell Dick McKie Dan Gietz	Derek Pulver Zelda Pulver Diane Warner Nikki Warner
Reader	Pam Jones	Lessons & Carols
Prayers	Marsha Phillips Marsha Peth	Marsha Peth Brian Bunny
Communion		Marsha Peth Jon Whited Kim Kwietniewski Barb Reardon Sue Steege
Projection	David Phillips	Edu Obot

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.*

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.

FT Kids & Youth Sunday School

Education Hour Sunday 10-11 a.m.

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

New Adult Classes Begin January 7

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!

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 Worship

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



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving to God for Beth Vance
By Darlene Helming



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.

Sermon Topic

**December 9/10
2017**

Where is God When I Feel Alone?

Luke 1:39-56

As an introvert, I like my alone time. Sunday afternoons are spent crashing on the couch or playing computer games by myself after a people-filled weekend. If I don't get that alone time, I get cranky and grumpy. Being able to schedule and keep alone time is critical for my health.

But what happens when you aren't the one choosing the "alone" time? Many people struggle with feeling lonely, even when surrounded by people. Whether you're an introvert or an extrovert, we all need to be in relationship with others. It's how God designed us. When others exclude us, it hurts. Loneliness is no fun.

I imagine Mary experienced her fair share of loneliness via exclusion. Young, unmarried, and suddenly pregnant with Jesus, I wonder how others reacted to her. Sideways glances? Hastily ended conversations as she approached? Judgmental statements that she would overhear? It's easy to picture all of this and more happening to her on a regular basis.

In the midst of her loneliness, however, she turned to God for strength. Through her cousin Elizabeth, she found encouragement and hope in the midst of that isolation. As she was visiting Elizabeth, she praised God in the midst of her loneliness. She recognized that even now, God was good to her:

For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. Luke 1:4 (NLT)

Where do you turn when you're feeling alone? When it feels like everyone has abandoned you? Those feelings are real, and yet there is one that never leaves us or forsakes us (Matthew 28:20). God promised to be with you no matter what comes your way—and He's working good in those hard times.

Maybe you're feeling alone this Christmas season—that's OK. Your feelings are real and true. But so is this: You are not alone. The Mighty One is with you, and like with Mary, He is doing great things for you, even if you don't see it right now. So turn to Him and rejoice: You are not—and never will be—alone!

Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)

Children with No Place to Call Home: Helping Kids in Crisis

Features a filmed interview with Jennifer Herrera, director of the Colfax Community Network, an organization dedicated to serving children and families living in rundown motels in the heart of Denver, Colorado.

"These children are living in situations that are absolutely dangerous," Herrera says. "Some of them know things that some of us have never experienced, never wish to experience, and should never experience." Participants will have opportunity to discuss ideas for helping address this issue.



**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

It Is With Great Joy

that we welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ into the membership of First Trinity Lutheran Church.

Dave & Jackie Foster
Bob & Toni Freeland
Dawn Jacoby
Caroline Kromphardt
Heather Thomas

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.

STAFF

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MINISTRY COUNCIL

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

Calendar for December 10-17, 2017

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

Sunday 12/10	Thursday 12/14
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship	10 a.m. Preschool Chapel
10 a.m. Education Hour	6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
4:30 p.m. Pickleball	7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Monday 12/11	Friday 12/15
10 a.m. Monday Bible Study	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball
3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball	6:30 p.m. Pickleball
7 p.m. Lifetree Café	8 a.m. Work Team
Tuesday 12/12	Saturday 12/16
12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time	9 a.m. Men's Basketball
6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball	Children's Christmas Prog. Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer	Christmas Basket Assembly
Horizon Support Grp	5:30 p.m. Traditional Lessons & Carols
7 p.m. Band Rehearsal	Sunday 12/17
Wednesday 12/13	8:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting	10 a.m. Christmas Breakfast
Executive Ministry Team	11:15 a.m. Contemporary Lessons & Carols
10 a.m. Preschool Chapel	4:30 p.m. Pickleball
12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff	
3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball	
6:30 p.m. Loss of Parent/Sibling Group	
7 p.m. GriefShare	
7:30 p.m. Volleyball	

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

Portals of Prayer—Daily Devotions

Portals of Prayer is great for personal devotions featuring a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. It can be picked up near the Welcome Center.

SCRIP Gift Cards for Your Christmas Shopping

A variety of cards are available on Sundays in the Main Office. Orders may also be placed for pick-up on the following weekend. Profits go to high school/young adult mission trips.

The Christmas Offering

Every Christmas we have a special offering benefiting a mission outside of First Trinity. This Christmas, we will be supporting **Josh and Kari Keithley**, missionaries to Costa Rica. They will be helping people in one of the poorest areas of San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. Josh was a DCE Intern at First Trinity in 2004-2005.

The area is rife with an array of heartbreaking issues such as gang violence, drug use, and substance addiction. Residents only recently got access to clean water and electricity, and many children are trapped in the generational pitfall of prostitution and drugs. They will be helping these residents escape these dangerous situations.

We will have envelopes marked "Special Christmas Offering" at all Christmas Eve services. You can also mark your check "Special Christmas Offering" and put it in a pew envelope at any service. Give online at FTGives, or text "Christmas" plus an amount (ie, Christmas 25) to 716-710-8800.

Christmas Star Tree

Thanks to all who contributed to our annual star tree this year. Your kindness will be felt by many appreciative families.

We have a few additional stars on our star tree.

- 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 17.
- Any questions, call **Wendy Binkley 716-694-5431**.



Project Connect Booklets

Project Connect Booklets are distributed by **Lutheran Hour Ministries**, and are on our display rack by the Welcome Center. These booklets cover a wide variety of topics and are also available to you at lhm.org/projectconnect. You are welcome to use Project Connect and we trust it will be helpful for you and your family and friends.

Thanks to Our Church Decorators

First Trinity looks so beautiful for Christmas! Thanks to everyone who did extra work cleaning, setting up, and decorating the church.

Thanks to these special people:

Wendy Binkley
Dan & Cindy Chamberland
Josh & Jake Collins
Linda D'Amico
Marty & Carolyn Doster
Randy & Heide Edgington
Shirley Edinger
Ben & Katie George
Tim Hartnett
Joe & Lynn Kelly

Mike & Laurie Kinsella
Stan Kwietniewski
Andrew Passage
Gerry & Ginny Schrembs
Pauline Shotwell
Zack Stone
Sue Storch
Joanne Wood
Laura Zimberg

Thank You

Horizon Health Services

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Horizon Parent & Family Support Group
Understanding Substance Abuse & Addiction

Meets at First Trinity the second Tuesday of each month.

Dr. Kenneth Snyder MD, a neurosurgeon will speak on *Addiction & the Brain*. This will be an eye opening, must see, presentation about addiction given by a brain specialist. For more information: **Colleen Babcock (716-907-2585)**

GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

Will resume after Christmas on January 3, 2018

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)

Sisters In Spirit Christmas Party (SIS)

Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m.

At **Wendy Binkley's** 577 Fairmont Ave., N. Tonawanda 14120

All women welcome! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. This is a great opportunity to include a friend.

Wendy Binkley (716-694-5431), Sue Storch (716-280-3448)

Join Us for Pickleball!

Friday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 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)



An Evening of Christian Music

Saturday, December 16, 7-9:30 p.m.

All are Welcome at First Trinity Lutheran Church

Live Music, Open Mic, Snacks **Contact John Angelucci (716-946-9804, LockportDrumShop@yahoo.com)**

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)

Grief Support Group at First Trinity

Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m.

Good Grief for Holidays. Our speaker will be **Michelle Marabelle**, an Individual & Group Therapist. Grief often intensifies around the holidays. Learn possible ways to deal with grief at this time of year. Questions:

Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695), Marsha Peth (716-238-3073)

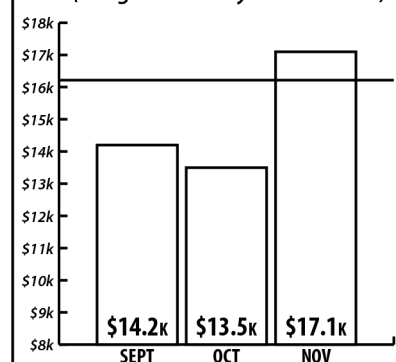


UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 505

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 198

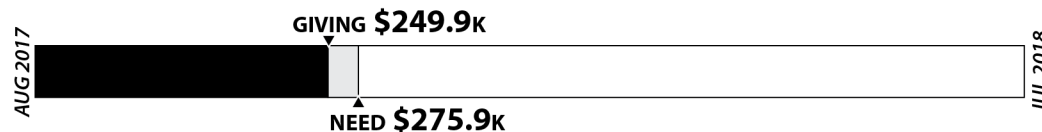
NOVEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

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



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

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



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

(All data through November 30, 2017)