

Worship Helpers

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

	Dec 16/17	Dec 30/31
Altar Guild	Susan DePlato Laura Zimberg	Susan DePlato Laura Zimberg
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Evelyn Schleidt	Martha Miller
Ushers	Tony D'Amico Steve Puscheck	Tony D'Amico Randy Wert
Reader	Lessons & Carols	Bob Strassburg
Prayers	Lessons & Carols	Susan DePlato
Communion	Bob Strassburg	
Projection	Bill Wood	Jason Christ
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Eli Schiferle	Tyler Pastore
Greeter	Julie Miller George Miller	Tom Knapp Debbie Knapp
Ushers	Jonah Cross Peter Cross Jude Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess	Gerry Schrembs Ginny Schrembs David Gettman MaryAnn HarhiGettman
Reader	Children's Program	Cindy Allsop
Prayers		Ron Opferbeck
Projection	Bill Wood	Marlene Carr
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Jason Christ	Pat Canfield
Acolyte	Lauren Ratajczak Rebekah Jaenecke	Jared Doebler Matthew Klapp
Greeter	Dennis Cassidy	Jim Brese
Ushers	Derek Pulver Zelda Pulver Diane Warner Nikki Warner	Frank Kraemer Paris Adams Abby Pedersen Judy Pedersen
Reader	Lessons & Carols	Jennifer Tresch
Prayers	Lessons & Carols	Brian Bunny Marsha Peth
Communion	Marsha Peth Jon Whited Kim Kwietniewski Barb Reardon Sue Steege	
Projection	Edu Obot	Stacy DiCenso

Little Orchestra on Christmas Day

Violin	Peter Roseboom, Stacy DiCenso
Cello	Bethany Erhardt
Flute	Lisa Cross
Saxophones	Jim Brese, Luke Ciminelli, Wisken Whited
Trumpets	Matthew Ciminelli, Jake and Josh Collins, Mike VanDerPuy
French Horn	Jonah Cross
String Bass	Laura Ciminelli
Percussion	Sue Steege

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

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

**No Sunday School Classes on
December 17 or 24 or 31**

**All Sunday School Classes
Resume January 7**

New Adult Sunday Classes—10 a.m. January 7—February 11

The Family Project *This class runs from January 7 - March 25.*

Led by Pastor Chuck and Susan Whited (Upper Level)

This is a 12 part series from **Focus on the Family** which explores God's design and purpose for family. How can Christians live with purpose and an eternal perspective? And how can we model God's design for families to our neighbors, peers, and coworkers? The goal is to be a positive influence in our own family and, ultimately, our culture. Your family will be blessed by this series.

The Ten Commandments

Led by Phil Reed (Lower Level)

This class will explore the ten commandments and help us apply them to daily life.

King David: A Man After God's Own Heart

Led by Jason Christ and Sue Steege (Library)

This class will explore the Old Testament man, David, in two ways: we will look at events in his life and explore the corresponding Psalm to those events. In this way we will see both David's mind and his heart for his relationship with God—real life events connected to real conversation with God.



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of Friends and Family
By Terri & John Mecca



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.

Mental Illness: Breaking the Silence, Overcoming the Shame

Features a filmed interview with Amy Simpson, author of the book "Troubled Minds" who grew up with a mother who was later diagnosed with schizophrenia.

"My family needed help, and we didn't know where to get it. My whole family felt alone," says Simpson, who equates mental illness with other physical illnesses. "I should no more be ashamed of mental illness than I should be ashamed of a broken leg," says Simpson. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss why a stigma is commonly attached to mental illness.



L I F E T R E E
C A F E
LifetreeCafe.com

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

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

Lessons and Carols

Dec 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Dec 17 at 11:15 a.m.

Children's Program

Dec 17 at 8:45 a.m.

**December 16/17
2017**

How is your Christmas prep going? We're getting close at our house. The tree and other decorations are up, most of the shopping is done, cookies are made and delivered, and the school programs are complete. We still have a few items to check off, but we're almost there.

It seems like there's always a long list of things to do as we prepare for Christmas. The list can feel overwhelming at times and exciting at others. For some people, it doesn't "feel" like Christmas unless you get some (if not all) of your list complete in a timely manner. It's so much work to be able to relax and celebrate with family and friends!

*And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."
Genesis 3:15 (NLT)*

God spent years preparing for the first Christmas. Thousands of years. Immediately following the first sin by Adam and Eve, God promised to send a Savior. That Savior, Jesus, would do battle with Satan and destroy his power forever. At just the right time, God's Son would be born to fight on our behalf. Not a moment too soon or too late, after all the items on the checklist had been completed, just as God had planned.

Now we are waiting and preparing again. We no longer wait for the birth of Jesus, but for His return. And just like the first period of waiting and preparation, God is preparing things again. Specifically, He's preparing you! Day by day, God is drawing you and me closer to Him. He's there, working in the good times and the bad to help us trust in Him.

So how is your "2nd Coming" prep going? At Christmas, we remember with joy the first coming of our Savior, and look with great anticipation for His second. We wait patiently, reading His Word, worshiping, and praying that God would help us be ready—to trust in Him with all our heart.

Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)

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



Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 20, from Noon-2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 26

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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Calendar for December 17-24, 2017

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

Sunday	12/17	Thursday	12/21
8:45 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program	6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball
10 a.m.	Christmas Breakfast	7:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Lessons & Carols	Friday	12/22
4:30 p.m.	Pickleball	6:30 p.m.	Pickleball
Monday	12/18	Saturday	12/23
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball	9 a.m.	Men's Basketball
7 p.m.	Lifetree Café	10 a.m.	Little Orchestra Rehearsal
Tuesday	12/19	5:30 p.m.	No Worship
12:30 p.m.	Staff Prayer Time	Sunday	12/24
6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball	10 a.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
6:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Prayer	5 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
7 p.m.	Band Rehearsal	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday	12/20	Monday	12/25
9:30 a.m.	Women's AA Meeting	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
12 p.m.	OPUS Christmas Party -Offsite	7 p.m.	Lifetree Café
12-2 p.m.	Office Closed - Out for Lunch	Tuesday	12/26
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball		Church Office Closed
7 p.m.	Grief Support Group		
7:30 p.m.	Corvair Car Club		
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.

Haiti Mission Team Leaves Jan. 10!

There are 17 members of the team this year.

We received a "wish (needs) list" from Israelson. Many of the items can be found on Amazon.

In addition to that list they need: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant and shoes for girls and boys. Several on the team will be doing a health clinic so we'll need to take some supplies, basic first aid supplies and some over the counter meds.

The needed items are posted on the Donation Board in the Main Hallway. If you're able to help, please take a slip and put your name on the sign-up sheet. All items must be delivered to church by Friday, January 5.

Questions? **Beth Schmidt**, bjs3184@aol.com or 481-8722.

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**.



Kairos Thank You!

Thank you for your prayers for Kairos 61 at Wende Correctional. Eighteen inmates made the weekend. Please keep these men in your prayers as the Holy Spirit continues the spiritual work in them. Thanks for the 36 packages of cookies, the placemats, and the caring.

In Jesus, **Brian Bunny & Ron Opferbeck**

Join Us for Pickleball!

Sunday, December 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Donation—\$3 per person.

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

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



OPUS (Older People Up to Something)

Christmas Lunch and Pirate Gift Exchange

Wednesday, December 20 at Noon

Classics V, Niagara Falls Blvd.

In the Adam David Room All invited to join us for food, fellowship and fun! Entrée choices are on sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Last chance to sign-up! Cost is \$18 per person.

Please pay Erhard "Moose" Moosmann and sign up by December 17.

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)

GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, January 3 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).

Staff Prayer Partners Requested

Prayer Partners are requested for our staff for January-March.

Sign up 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 appreciates your prayer support. Questions, please contact **Dorothy Rothrock (716-694-3181, dorothyrothrock@yahoo.com).**

After 11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship

Feel free to stay and enjoy **Lights are Strung Around the Houses** written by **Ben Milak**. Ben was born in Buffalo on March 17, 1975 and spent all seventeen of his years as a member of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, N.Y. While Ben was being treated for leukemia in Roswell Park Cancer Institute, he began working with music therapist Krista Robak. Krista encouraged Ben to write the lyrics to "Lights..." and enlisted her husband, Rev. Ward Robak, to write the music. The song is played each Advent at First Trinity to celebrate Ben's life and faith.

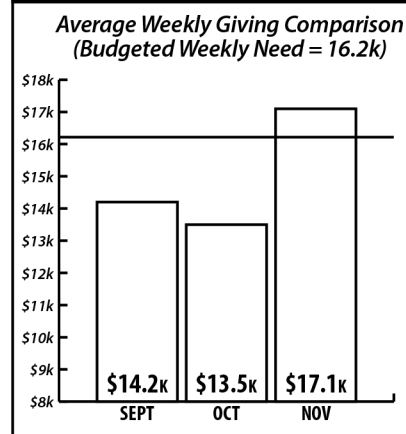
MINISTRY COUNCIL

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

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 505

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 198

NOVEMBER BY THE NUMBERS



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)

