

Worship Helpers

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

Dec 30/31

Altar Guild.....Susan DePlato
Laura Zimberg

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Greeter.....Martha Miller
Ushers.....Tony D'Amico
Randy Wert
Reader.....Bob Strassburg
Prayers.....Susan DePlato
Communion.....
Projection.....Jason Christ

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Acolyte.....Tyler Pastore
Greeter.....Tom Knapp
Debbie Knapp
Ushers.....Gerry Schrembs
Ginny Schrembs
David Gettman
MaryAnn HarhiGettman
Reader.....Cindy Allsop
Prayers.....Ron Opferbeck
Communion.....

Projection.....Marlene Carr

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Worship Assistant.....Pat Canfield
Acolyte.....Jared Doebler
Matthew Klapp
Greeter.....Jim Brese
Ushers.....Frank Kraemer
Paris Adams
Abby Pedersen
Judy Pedersen
Reader.....Jennifer Tresch
Prayers.....Brian Bunny
Marsha Peth
Communion.....
Projection.....Stacy DiCenso

Jan 6/7

Darlene Helming
Charlene Beno
Pauline Shotwell
Laura Zimberg

Evelyn Schleidt
Tony D'Amico
Steve Puscheck
Martha Miller
Karen Wert
Susan DePlato
Bill Wood

Brian Lackie
Julie Miller
George Miller
Mike Zekas
Adam Kaczmarowski
Garrick Wright
Gretchen Wright
Jennalise Olson
Dorothy Rothrock
Wendy Binkley
Paul Gerlach
Carl Fretthold
John Faller
Sue Steege
Jason Christ
Bill Wood

Sue Steege
Zach Collins
Nick MacVittie
Jim Brese
Rachel Bissell
Ben Bell
Dick McKie
Dan Gietz
Mark Bramwell
Anne DiCenso
Jon Whited
Wendy Morris
Tracy Bramwell
Marty Doster
Jim Passage
Jason Christ
David Phillips

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 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.



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 30/31
2017**

Looking Back or Looking Forward

Numbers 14:1-12, Philippians 3:7-14, Luke 12:22-32

We have a tendency to go where we're looking, almost as if the eyes control the body. This is especially noticeable when driving. Take your eyes off the road and watch out your side window, and before long, the car is drifting that way. As we conclude one year and begin another, where we choose to look is critical. Where you look determines where you'll go.

God's people were faced with this dilemma on their way out of slavery to a promised land. Egypt—where they lived as slaves—was miserable for them, and yet they longed to return there after a little hardship on their journey to a better land. Their own land. Moses writes:

"If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" Numbers 14:2b-3 (NLT)

A new year is dawning. We'll make all kinds of resolutions about our finances, our health, our relationship—you name it. We mean well, and we'll try our best to be better at those things, but chances are, we'll fall away from the new good things into the old bad habits we want to break. Why?

Maybe it's because we aren't looking in the right direction. The Israelites were stuck in the moment and could only see their present hardship. Even Egypt looked better by comparison, so they chose to look backwards, and longed to return the slavery they knew. But God had something amazing in store for them.

He has something amazing in store for you too.

This new year, instead of looking to the past or your present circumstances, try fixing your eyes on Jesus—the only one that can transform us from the inside out. Read His Word. Worship. Pray. God has a hope and a future in mind for you. Focus on Him, and see if He doesn't get you there.

Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)

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.**

**No
Lifetree Café
January 1**

**We'll be back
on January 7.**

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.



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of Don Stein
By Maurine Baker-Stein

Church Office Closed—Monday, January 1

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 31 – January 7, 2018

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

Sunday 12/31	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship	Thursday 1/4	6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball
	11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship		6:30 p.m. Choir Epiphany Party
	4:30 p.m. Pickleball	Friday 1/5	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball
Monday 1/1	Church Office Closed		6:30 p.m. Pickleball
	No Lifetree Café	Saturday 1/6	9 a.m. Men's Basketball
Tuesday 1/2	6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball		5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship
	6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer	Sunday 1/7	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
	7 p.m. Band Rehearsal		10 a.m. Education Hour
Wednesday 1/3	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting		11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
	Executive Ministry Team		4:30 p.m. Pickleball
	Servants of Christ Life Group		
	12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff		
	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball		
	7 p.m. GriefShare		
	7:30 p.m. Volleyball		

Next Sermon Series—Who Do You Think You Are?

- Jan 6/7 Purpose, Praise, Prayer, and Power**
Ephesians 1:1-23
- Jan 13/14 The One Who Took My Place**
Psalm 8:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 1:14-18
- Jan 20/21 All in the Family**
Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-32
- Jan 27/28 A Secret Worth Sharing**
Ephesians 3:1-21
- Feb 3/4 Divine Imitation**
Ephesians 5:1-33, 6:1-9
- Feb 10/11 More Than Conquerors**
Ephesians 6:10-24

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

Thank You From Pastor David Young

Thanks to Pastor Chuck for the public presentation of my certificate from the Lutheran Church upon my 55 years in the ministry—20 years at First Trinity, 13 at Hollywood, Florida, 5 years in Denver, and 17 years in retirement. I am grateful for these many years of blessings.



Interested in Joining First Trinity?

Next New Member Class—Sign-up Today!

Wednesday, January 24 at 6-8:30 p.m.

If you have been worshipping with us, and you would like to learn more about our church, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to consider attending our next **New Member Class**.

Participation in the class does not commit you to church membership, but it is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and to give prayerful consideration to entering into membership. We start with a light supper served at 6 p.m.

Please register at FirstTrinity.com, click on **Coming Events**, or call the church office (716-835-2220), so that we know how much food and supplies to buy.

2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage.

The following weekends have been scheduled.

* March 16-18, 2018 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. A newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

* April 6-8, 2018 at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.

* September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.

* October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, **Fred & Julie Schamber (724-325-3166, fjschamber@comcast.net)**

Thank You!

Thanks to Pastor Chuck, Jason Christ and Sue Steege for the great job preparing and presenting the New Member's class information. We are looking forward to meeting new people and assisting in any way possible. **Dave and Jackie Foster**

GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, January 3 at 7 p.m.

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).

Join Us for Pickleball!

Friday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 7 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)



Horizon Health Services

Tuesday, January 9, 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)**

Thank You Staff Care Team!

We are so grateful to the **Staff Care Team** that takes such good care of us. The Christmas Cookies were delicious and devoured by all of us! We are also very appreciative of our Christmas gift cards and will take great pleasure in using them!



If you are interested in joining the Staff Care Team, contact:

Sheri Ellis (716-998-4956, guardianangel@aol.com).

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).**

Want to Support Our Preschool?

2018 God's Creation Calendars - \$10

There are still a few calendars available. Sales will benefit our preschool. Please place your order and check in **Debbie Ferrante's** Main Hallway mailbox. (dferrante@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)

From Pastor Chuck & Susan

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, and gifts you have given to our family this Christmas. What a blessing you are to us! God bless you!

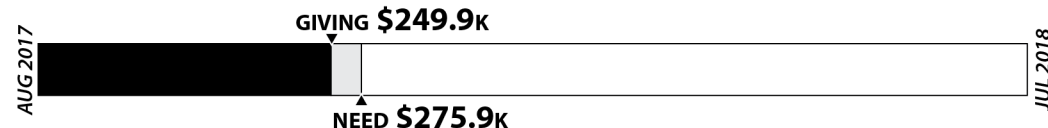


UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 505 **UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 198**

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)



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

(All data through November 30, 2017)

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

