

## Worship Helpers

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

	<b>Dec 2/3</b>	<b>Dec 9/10</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b> .....	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno Laura Zimberg	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno Laura Zimberg
<b>Saturday, 5:30 p.m.</b>		
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Evelyn Schleidt	Martha Miller
<b>Ushers</b> .....	Tony D'Amico Steve Puscheck	Tony D'Amico Randy Wert
<b>Reader</b> .....	Martha Miller	Susan DePlato
<b>Prayers</b> .....	Susan DePlato	Karen Wert
<b>Communion</b> .....	Tony D'Amico	
<b>Projection</b> .....	Bill Wood	Charlie Ellis
<b>Sunday, 8:45 a.m.</b>		
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Adam Kaczmarowski	Jamie Mattheus
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Susan Brenan	Paul Gerlach Fern Innes
<b>Ushers</b> .....	Mike Zekas Sue Lichtenthal Dave Shotwell Sam Gugliuzza Louis Gugliuzza	Joel Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess Kevin Cross Peter Cross
<b>Reader</b> .....	Anne Miller	Jubal Myer
<b>Prayers</b> .....	Dorothy Rothrock	Nancy Stuckwisch
<b>Communion</b> .....	John Faller Tom Knapp Bob Kopec Linda Kopec Bekah Freed Jason Christ	
<b>Projection</b> .....	George Miller	Marlene Carr
<b>Sunday, 11:15 a.m.</b>		
<b>Worship Assistant</b> .....	Sue Steege	Pat Canfield
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Faith Hackett Zoey Schoenfeldt	Mara Tysick
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Jim Brese	Paul Gerlach
<b>Ushers</b> .....	Frank Kraemer Paris Adams Abby Pedersen Judy Pedersen	Rachel Bissell Ben Bell Dick McKie Dan Gietz
<b>Reader</b> .....	Wendy Morris	Gordon Tresch
<b>Prayers</b> .....	Anne DiCenso Jon Whited	Marsha Phillips Marsha Peth
<b>Communion</b> .....	Jim Passage Wendy Morris Tracy Bramwell Pat Canfield Bekah Freed	
<b>Projection</b> .....	Stacy DiCenso	David Phillips

## FT Kids & Youth Sunday School

### Education Hour Sunday 10-11 a.m.

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

### 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!

### Advent Devotions From Lutheran Hour Ministries

**Love Came Down** is available to you at LHM.org/advent  
You can receive these messages as a daily email, online, or via podcast. They help prepare us for Christmas and tell us of God's sacrificial Love.

### 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.*



### Altar Flowers

### Presented to the Glory of God

In Memory of Norma Vandermeer

By The Schrembs Family

And

By the 62nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers



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.

### Secrets of Finding Contentment: Live a Satisfying Life

Features a filmed interview with Justin Mayo, who organizes proms for senior citizens.

"I'd say it's the most incredible dance you'll ever go to," says Mayo. "We've learned that when you love and focus on others, the most empowering, incredible experiences really do happen."

Lifetree participants can tell about times they've experienced contentment.



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

## Sermon Topic

December 2/3  
2017

### Where is God When Dreams are Broken?

2 Corinthians 4:7-16, Matthew 1:18-25

**D**o you remember the TV show Wipeout? It was a gameshow that pitted contestants against increasingly difficult obstacles above a pool of water. They were bombarded with all manner of challenges that required a high level of balance and agility to conquer. Typically, most people ended up in the waters below, failing the course.

Life can feel like a game of Wipeout sometimes, can't it? There have been seasons in my life where I'm running from one bad thing to the next, constant tripping up and falling into the lake below. Struggles with family, work, or friends. At times like that, it's like everyone and everything conspired together and said, "Let's all agree to make life miserable for Jason!"

I suspect you've felt similarly tossed and beaten by the obstacle course of life. It's a sad reality of living in a broken, sinful world. But no matter what comes our way, we are able to overcome it, because we have one who conquers the obstacle course for us:

*We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NLT)*

Pressed but not crushed. Perplexed but not despairing. Hunted but not abandoned. Knocked down but not destroyed. Why? Because in those moments, we are sharing in the death of Jesus—but also His life! When reality comes at us full force, we are victorious in Christ.

Are you feeling pressed, perplexed, hunted, or knocked down by life right now? Maybe it's time to stop running and let Jesus carry you instead. Rejoice in the opportunity to share in His death, because you know that you also share in His life—life everlasting for those who trust in Him! He is with you; He will conquer.

Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)

### Christmas Candlelight Concert at First Trinity Sunday, December 3 at 4 & 7 p.m. Directed by David Werth

Pre-Service Bell Choir, St. John Lutheran, N. Tonawanda  
Candlelight Procession  
Choral & Instrumental Music Congregational Singing Holy Ghost Children's Choir

### The Annual Star Tree

In the spirit of Christmas giving, the Star Tree has returned to First Trinity. Many families have made this a holiday tradition, by helping those in need. This year's recipients will be Ken-Ton School families, and Cornerstone Manor.

**To Participate:** (Only one star per family please!)

- \* 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 3.**
- \* Any questions, call **Wendy Binkley 716-694-5431.**



### 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, @FirstTrinity, @FTMissions

Transforming our world, one life at a time, through the power of God's living Word.

## STAFF

### Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited Jr.

Senior Pastor  
cwhited@FirstTrinity.com

### Jason Christ

Attract/Middle School Ministry  
jchrist@FirstTrinity.com

### Marsha Peth

Care Ministry  
Homebound/Hospital Visits  
mpeth@FirstTrinity.com

### Susan Steege

Transformation Ministry  
ssteege@FirstTrinity.com

### Carl Fretthold

Serve Ministry  
cfretthold@FirstTrinity.com

### Timothy Hartnett

Ministry Operations  
thartnett@FirstTrinity.com

### Rebekah Freed

High School/Young Adult Ministry  
rfreed@FirstTrinity.com

### Kathy Figini

Office Manager  
kfigini@FirstTrinity.com

### Dona Trautwein

Administrative Assistant  
dtrautwein@FirstTrinity.com

### Susan Brese

Traditional Worship  
sbrese@FirstTrinity.com

### Marcus Deveso

Worship Band Leader  
mdeveso@FirstTrinity.com

### Debbie Ferrante

Preschool Director  
dferrante@FirstTrinity.com

## Calendar for December 3-10, 2017

For calendar details, visit our website: [FirstTrinity.com/calendar](http://FirstTrinity.com/calendar)

Sunday 12/3	Monday 12/4	Tuesday 12/5	Wednesday 12/6	Thursday 12/7	Friday 12/8	Saturday 12/9	Sunday 12/10
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball	12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting	6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball	9 a.m. Men's Basketball	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
10 a.m. Education Hour	7 p.m. Lifetree Café	3 p.m. Sanctuary Cleaning/Decorating	12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff	6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	5 p.m. Scrapbooking/Craft Night	1 p.m. Senior Life Group	10 a.m. Education Hour
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship	4 & 7 p.m. Christmas Vespers	6 p.m. Amherst Youth Basketball	1 p.m. Senior Life Group	7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party (Gr 6-12)	3:30 p.m. CCA Basketball	11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
			7 p.m. GriefShare			7 p.m. GriefShare	4:30 p.m. Pickleball
			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](http://FirstTrinity.com/Listen)

## 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](mailto:mamydry@roadrunner.com))



## MINISTRY COUNCIL

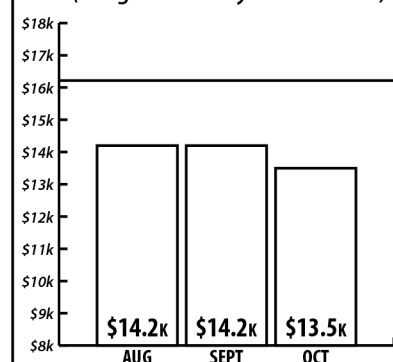
Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones,  
Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr,  
John Faller, Mike VanDerPuy,  
Jeff Weber

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 526

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 206

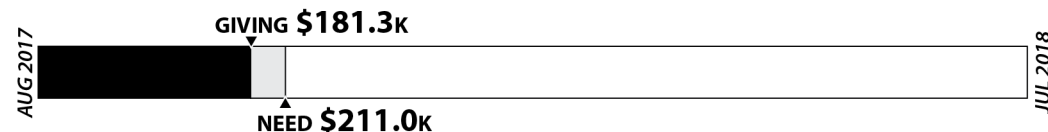
### OCTOBER BY THE NUMBERS

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



Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. Malachi 3:10

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



Give online at [FTGives.com](http://FTGives.com) or text "give" to 716-710-8800.

(All data through October 31, 2017)

## Interested in Joining First Trinity?

### Sign-up Today!

Tuesday, December 5 at 6-8:30 p.m.

OR 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](http://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.

## Christmas Ornaments

First Trinity has purchased some Christmas Tree Cross ornaments that are available to you for a suggested donation of \$5. They make great Christmas gifts for teachers, relatives, friends, coworkers—whoever! Order forms (including a picture of the ornament) are available in mailboxes or at the Welcome Center. Supplies are limited, so don't delay!

Jason Christ ([jchrist@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:jchrist@FirstTrinity.com), 716-860-5007)

## Kairos Prayer Sign Up

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of those who are incarcerated, by sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Please sign-up to pray for our members **Brian Bunny** and **Ron Opferbeck** who will be working at Wende Correctional Facility **December 7-10**. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of the inmates and team. The prayer sign-up poster is in the Lobby.

**Cookies for Kairos** Packaged cookies are needed for the inmates. The prison does not allow re-sealable packages, raisins, powdered sugar or chocolate liqueur. Please place cookies in the Kairos Bin in the main hallway by December 3.

Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695)

## Thanks to Our First Trinity Family!

Thank you so much for all of the love and support during this transition time. We have felt so loved and blessed by all the prayers, cards, gifts and food! Seth and Logan are healthy and growing and Becky is feeling great. Such evidence that prayers are powerful and effective! We cannot wait for everyone to meet Seth and Logan.

Blessings, **Ben, Becky, Joey, Luke, Seth and Logan Chen**

## Want to Support Our Preschool?

2018 God's Creation Calendars - \$10

Sales will benefit our preschool. Forms are in mailboxes or at the Welcome Center. Please place your order and check in **Debbie Ferrante's** Main Hallway mailbox.

([dferrante@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:dferrante@FirstTrinity.com), 716-835-2220)

## Poinsettias for the Altar - Last Chance!

In Memory of or In Thanksgiving for a Loved One

Plants are 6 1/2" pots for \$8. Order envelopes are in your mailbox or at the Welcome Center. Please place orders in the offering plate. Plants may be picked up after Christmas Day Worship, or by January 2.

Order Deadline: December 3.



## Christmas Food Baskets

Donations / basket request deadline is Sunday, Dec. 3.

Baskets will be given to needy families in our congregation, community, and to La Santa Cruz Lutheran Church in the city of Buffalo. Donations of \$35 will fill a basket. Write **Holiday Food Baskets** on the memo line of your check and place in pew envelope. Baskets will be assembled on Dec. 16 at 9 a.m.

For more information, to volunteer to help assemble baskets, or if you know a family in need, please contact **Carl Fretthold** ([cfretthold@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:cfretthold@FirstTrinity.com)) or the church office (716-835-2220).

## Help Needed—Sprucing Up the Church

Tuesday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

If you would like to help us prepare the sanctuary and chancel for Christmas, please join us and bring a pail and some rags. We will be cleaning and polishing the pews and altar area.

Everyone is welcome to join us! Please contact Laura if you have any questions! **Laura Zimberg** (716-435-0020)

## GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Wednesday, December 6 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!

Sunday, December 10 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, 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)

## 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)