

## Worship Helpers

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

	<b>Jan 6/7</b>	<b>Jan 13/14</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b> .....	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno Pauline Shotwell Laura Zimberg	Darlene Helming Charlene Beno Pauline Shotwell 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> .....	Karen Wert	Bob Strassburg
<b>Communion</b> .....	Bob Strassburg	
<b>Projection</b> .....	Bill Wood	Charlie Ellis
<b>Sunday, 8:45 a.m.</b>		
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Brian Lackie	Peter Cross
<b>Greeter</b> .....		Paul Gerlach Susan Brenan
<b>Ushers</b> .....	Mike Zekas Adam Kaczmarowski Garrick Wright Gretchen Wright	Walter Zimberg Sam Gugliuzza Sammy Gugliuzza Louis Gugliuzza
<b>Reader</b> .....	Jennalise Olson	Fran Dawe
<b>Prayers</b> .....	Dorothy Rothrock	Dorothy Rothrock
<b>Communion</b> .....	Wendy Binkley Paul Gerlach Carl Fretthold John Faller Sue Steege Jason Christ	
<b>Projection</b> .....	Bill Wood	George Miller
<b>Sunday, 11:15 a.m.</b>		
<b>Worship Assistant</b> .....	Sue Steege	Pat Canfield
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Zach Collins Nick MacVittie	Paris Adams
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Jim Brese	Paul Gerlach
<b>Ushers</b> .....	Rachel Bissell Ben Bell Dick McKie Dan Gietz	Fabian Family
<b>Reader</b> .....	Mark Bramwell	Joanne Wood
<b>Prayers</b> .....	Anne DiCenso Jon Whited	Marsha Peth Brian Bunny
<b>Communion</b> .....	Wendy Morris Tracy Bramwell Marty Doster Jim Passage Jason Christ	
<b>Projection</b> .....	David Phillips	Edu Obot

## 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>

### 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. This class will also be available on **Facebook Live**.

### Saturday Bible Class: Who Do You Think You Are? January 13-February 17, 4-5 p.m.

Join us for a 6-week Bible Study that will explore the themes from the weekly sermons in a deeper way. We will be using the same material that our life groups are using. The class will be taught by:  
**Jason Christ** ([jchrist@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:jchrist@FirstTrinity.com), 716-860-5007)



### Altar Flowers

**Presented to the Glory of God**  
In Loving Memory of Tom Opferbeck  
By Ron Opferbeck



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

January 6/7  
2018

## Purpose, Praise, Prayer, and Power Ephesians 1:1-23

I hope you had a nice Christmas season. We had my mom up from Cleveland for Christmas Eve, then drove in to Cleveland on Christmas Day for family celebrations there. We won't discuss the drive except to say I don't recommend passing through Erie, PA while they're being slammed with 34 inches of snow...

Here's the thing I've noticed about Christmas: Family and friends are too generous to our kids! Honestly, I've not seen so many presents for three kids. It was all great stuff—and we're so thankful—but seriously! I'm amazed by the love shown to our kids as expressed through gift-giving during Christmas.

God is quite the generous giver too. Check out what Paul writes about God's generosity in Ephesians 1:

*He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. Ephesians 1:7-9 (NLT)*

I like to use different translations of the Bible to get a better, deeper understanding of God's Word. Where the New Living Translation chooses to use "showered", the English Standard Version uses "lavished". If you were to look that word up, you'd find definitions like "produced with extravagance", "unstinting", or "to give or bestow in abundance".

In His kindness and grace, God has lavished forgiveness upon you because of Jesus. It's like the best Christmas ever, but it never ends. Just when you think God may be running out of forgiveness presents, He pulls out another. And another. And another. You don't deserve it. I don't deserve it. No one does, and yet God continues to lavish forgiveness upon us because of His great love for us. Because of Jesus, we are purchased back from death's clutches and given forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Wow!

*Jason Christ (Director of Attract and Middle School Ministries)*

### Make the Most of Your Life: A Perspective That Will Change Your Life Forever

This is a filmed interview with Tony Melendez, a professional guitarist who was born without arms.

Melendez describes how his attitude has affected his ability to live a normal life—and make his living performing music.

"The people who make my heart hurt are those who say, 'I can't,'" says Melendez. "I wish I could help them say, 'I'll try.'"



**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

## Haiti Mission Trip January 10-17

Track our Haiti Team  
at [FirstTrinity.com/Haiti](http://FirstTrinity.com/Haiti)



**Announcements Deadline - Thursday at 9 a.m.**  
[KFigini@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:KFigini@FirstTrinity.com)

1570 Niagara Falls Boulevard • Tonawanda, NY 14150  
(716) 835-2220 • [FirstTrinity.com](http://FirstTrinity.com) • [office@FirstTrinity.com](mailto:office@FirstTrinity.com)

### Worship Times

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

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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**Debbie Ferrante**

Preschool Director  
dferrante@FirstTrinity.com

## Calendar for January 7-14, 2018

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

Sunday	1/7	Thursday	1/11
8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship	6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball
10 a.m.	Education Hour	6:30 p.m.	Youth (Gr 6-12) Parent Meeting
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	1/8	Friday	1/12
10 a.m.	Monday Morning Bible Study	3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball	6:30 p.m.	Pickleball
7 p.m.	Lifetree Café	Saturday	1/13
Tuesday	1/9	9 a.m.	Men's Basketball
12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Traditional Worship
6 p.m.	Amherst Youth Basketball	Sunday	1/14
6:30 p.m.	Tuesday Night Prayer	8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship
	Horizon Support Group	10 a.m.	Education Hour
7 p.m.	Band Rehearsal	11:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship
Wednesday	1/10	4:30 p.m.	Pickleball
9:30 a.m.	Women's AA Meeting		
12 p.m.	Lunch With the Staff		
3:30 p.m.	CCA Basketball		
6:30 p.m.	Loss of Parent Support Grp (Kids)		
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	<b>The One Who Took My Place</b>	Psalm 8:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 1:14-18
Jan 20/21	<b>All in the Family</b>	Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-32
Jan 27/28	<b>A Secret Worth Sharing</b>	Ephesians 3:1-21
Feb 3/4	<b>Divine Imitation</b>	Ephesians 5:1-33, 6:1-9
Feb 10/11	<b>More Than Conquerors</b>	Ephesians 6:10-24

Listen to past sermons at [FirstTrinity.com/Listen](http://FirstTrinity.com/Listen)

## 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](mailto:dorothyrothrock@yahoo.com)).

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

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

## 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](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.

## Friends of Night People Request

Due to the cold weather there is an increase in demand for food and donations for **Friends of Night People (FNP)**. This is a charitable organization that helps the poor, homeless and destitute in Buffalo. They provide food, clothing, medical care, counseling and hope to those in need.

All services are provided free of charge and they rely on the generosity of volunteers and contributors. We serve at FNP the third Sunday of every other month, our next date is Sunday January 21. Could you please consider making goulash, donating cookies, or serving the meal at their soup kitchen? Please check your mailbox to sign up to volunteer.  
**Cindy Allsop** ([cok79@aol.com](mailto:cok79@aol.com), 716-471-7778)

## Thank You From the McKeehans

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards sent to us during our mother/grandma's illness. We thank those who prayed for us and sent condolences in her passing. We rejoice she is spending Christmas with Jesus and those family members that are with Him too. **Karen, Mark, Michael & Daniel**

## 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](mailto:guardianangel@aol.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](mailto: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!



## Join Us for Pickleball!

**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)

## GriefShare: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

**Wednesday, January 10 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. The topic is *What Do I Have to Live For?*

**Ron Opferbeck** (716-812-1695).

## Sisters In Spirit Meeting (SIS)

**Tuesday, January 16, 7 p.m.**

At Carolyn Doster's, 24 Squire Court, Getzville 14068

All women are welcome for Bible Study (Led by Carolyn Doster) and fellowship—bring a friend! All women welcome!  
**Carolyn Doster** (716-689-4806)

## Grief Support Group at First Trinity

**Wednesday, January 17, 7 p.m.**

**Naming Grief.** Ron Opferbeck will be the Leader.

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

## Special Voter's Meeting

**Sunday, January 28, 9:45 a.m.**

This special meeting is needed to make nominations for the following positions:

- Eastern District President
- Eastern District Regional Vice President
- Regional Lay Member – Eastern District Board of Directors
- Synod Committee for Convention Nominations
- Alternate Congregational Delegate to Eastern District Convention

## St. John Lutheran School

**Open House - Kindergarten to Grade 8**

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, 14120

**Tuesday, January 30, 6-7:30 p.m.**

Bring your child, meet the teachers and see the classrooms.

We offer a great Christian Education.

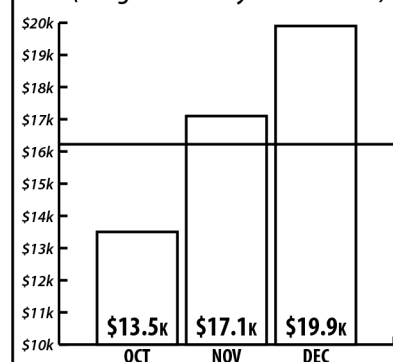
(716-693-9677, [stjohnnt.com](http://stjohnnt.com))

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 517

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 166

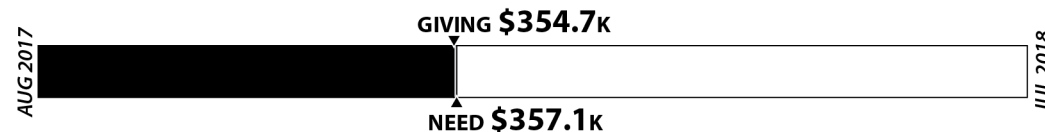
## DECEMBER BY THE NUMBERS

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



*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24*

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 December 31, 2017)