

Worship Helpers

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

	April 27/28	May 4/5
Altar Guild	Ginny Schrembs Beth Vance Laura Zimberg	Laura Zimberg
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.		
Greeter	Evelyn Schleidt	Martha Miller
Ushers	Tony D'Amico Randy Wert	Tony D'Amico Steve Puscheck
Reader	Rich Ferrante	Bob Strassburg
Prayers	Susan DePlato	Bob Strassburg
Communion		Tony D'Amico
Projection	Jim Brese	Bill Wood
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.		
Acolyte	Joey Guetti	Peter Cross
Greeter	Darlene Helming	Tom & Debbie Knapp
Ushers	Joel Rockensuess Walt Zimberg Jude Rockensuess Noah Rockensuess	Gerry Schrembs Ginny Schrembs David Gettman MaryAnn HarhiGettman
Reader	Jubal Myer	Cindy Allsop
Prayers	Nancy Stuckwisch	Dorothy Rothrock
Communion		Tom Knapp Joe Allsop Cindy Allsop Lisa Cross Bekah Freed Bill Wood
Projection	Marlene Carr	
Sunday, 11:15 a.m.		
Worship Assistant	Pat Canfield	Sue Steege
Acolyte	Madeline Anthony	Gloria Hodge
Ushers	Fabian Family Adam Kaczmarowski	Abby Pedersen Judy Pedersen Dick McKie Paris Adams
Reader	Mark Bramwell	Confirmand
Prayers	Brian Bunny	Anne DiCenso Marsha Phillips
Communion		Marsha Peth Tracy Bramwell Barb Reardon Jim Passage Bekah Freed
Projection	Bill Wood	Edu Obot

FT Kids & Youth Sunday School

Education Hour Sunday 10-11 a.m.

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

New Adult Education Classes

Sundays at 10 a.m. April 28-June 9

Ruth Led by Pastor Chuck Whited (Lower Level)

This study will focus on the Old Testament book of Ruth. You will be drawn into this story that includes grief, romance, family relationships, and a sweet connection to Jesus.

The Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God

Led by Sue Steege (Library)

The Christian life—even one centered on grace—can still feel like a long list of dos and don'ts. But what if there's more (and less) to our faith than we typically believe? In this study we will tackle popular assumptions about Christian living that create stress and failure rather than growth and joy.

Altogether Beautiful Led by Jaime Christ (Upper Level)

Altogether Beautiful is a video-based Bible study for women on the Song of Songs that explores what it means to be loved fiercely and called beautiful by the God of the universe. This eight-week study walks through each chapter to not only help readers better understand and apply the wisdom offered in the Song, but also challenge them to securely ground their identity in the one who makes them beautiful - Jesus. Whether married or single, young or old, women will find truth and comfort in the Song of Songs because this song, ultimately, is about the fierce love God has for them, whom He declares altogether beautiful.

The Foundations by Ken Ham

Led by Susan Whited (Upper Level)

In preparation for the upcoming trip to the Creation Museum & Ark Encounter, we are offering *The Foundations* class again. As Wendy & Gary B. said, "We believe *The Foundations* series to be a 'must see' resource for everyone! Many questions we all have wondered about throughout our lives are answered so clearly and simply, and help to support our Christian faith and trust in the Bible."



Altar Flowers

Presented to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of Chris Butch
By Carol Butch



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 online 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.

The Heroin Addict Next Door: One Man's Painful Story

Features a filmed interview with Rocky Romano, a former heroin addict. Romano explains that his downward spiral began with alcohol and grew worse from there.

"By the time you know you're in trouble, it's too late," Romano says. "You start to trade one addiction for another, and that's where the drugs start to come in."

We will also explore whether a connection exists between early childhood trauma and self-destructive behavior.



This Monday night
7:00 - 8:00 PM

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

Sermon Topic

April 27/28
2019

We are Witnesses to These Things

Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

I wonder what it must have been like for the disciples in the days after Jesus' death and resurrection. You can imagine them getting together and "exchanging notes" about all that was happening. As more and more have an encounter with Jesus post-resurrection, the story begins to take shape. Thomas, one of the twelve, finally hears the news, but he struggles to believe:

So the other disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." John 20:25

Sometimes it is hard to trust when we can't see. In tough times, we wonder, "What is God doing here?" Or, "Why can't God just show Himself to me more clearly?" Eight days after Thomas said this, Jesus appeared to him, and sometimes if we're honest, we long for that experience also. But that's not usually how things work.

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, ... Acts 5:32a

When Peter was confronted by religious leaders about Jesus, he simply told them what he experienced and saw—and he is telling us the same this day. Through the faithful witness of a small number of individuals, the church was born. Peter and the disciples told people about Jesus, who in turn told other people about Him, and on and on it went.

God, through the divine working of the Holy Spirit, has preserved that witness for us in the form of the Bible. We may not have an experience like Thomas, but we have the faithful witness of those who have gone before us pointing to Jesus—and we have Jesus in print form. He is the Word of God made flesh for us. When you hold the Bible, you are literally holding Jesus in your hands. So let's take advantage of that and read it daily. Turn to it when you're experiencing sadness or grief or joy or excitement or — whatever. He is there, ready to assure you and comfort you, no matter what situation you find yourself in!

Vicar Jason Christ, Director of Attract and Middle School Ministry

It's Spring Clean-up Time! Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m.-Noon

Join us for fun and service while we beautify God's House! Come whenever you can between **8 a.m. - Noon**; we can use your help even if it's just for an hour.

We're hoping young and old will come out because it will be fun to serve with one another! You can choose the job that best fits your abilities, inside or outside, and then we'll have lunch at Noon.

Please sign-up in the Lobby. Thank you.



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.

Transforming our world, one life at a time, through the power of God's living Word.
Connect With Us: [Facebook.com/FirstTrinity](https://www.facebook.com/FirstTrinity), @FirstTrinity, @FTMissions

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Calendar for April 28 - May 5, 2019

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

Sunday 4/28	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Baptisms-Marcy & Kennedy Plyler	Thursday 5/2	6 p.m. Confirmation Banquet
10 a.m. Education Hour		National Day of Prayer	6:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship			7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Monday 4/29	6 p.m. Youth Advantage BBall	Friday 5/3	
7 p.m. Lifetree Café		Saturday 5/4	8 a.m. Youth BBall Clinic
Tuesday 4/30	10 a.m. GriefShare		9 a.m. Men's Basketball
12:30 p.m. Staff Prayer Time			9:30 a.m. Confirmation Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Prayer			5:30 p.m. Traditional Worship
7 p.m. Band Rehearsal			7 p.m. Saturday Night Light-Concert Series
Wednesday 5/1	9:30 a.m. Women's AA Meeting Servants of Christ Life Group	Sunday 5/5	8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
12 p.m. Lunch With the Staff			10 a.m. Education Hour
6 p.m. Mandarin Bible Study			11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship Confirmation
7:45 p.m. Volleyball			

Upcoming Sermons—The Birth of the Church

May 4/5	God, Are You Sure?	Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19
May 11/12	A Mother's New Life	Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
May 18/19	God Loves Even You	Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35
May 25/26	Obedient to God's Call	Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29

Listen to past sermons at FirstTrinity.com/Listen

Thank You From the Staff

We enjoyed treats for Easter, including a huge bowl of delicious fruit. We are truly grateful for all the special care we receive from the **Staff Care Team**. You make us feel so loved and appreciated! If you are interested in joining the Staff Care Team, contact: *Sheri Ellis (716-998-4956, guardianangel235@aol.com)*.

Ark Encounter & Creation Museum Trip (August 2-3)

Cost: under \$200 per person, including hotel (double occupancy), bus, and tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum. You can have up to four people in your room; then the per person price is lower. Registration is now open. Space is limited, so sign-up soon! **Sign up at FirstTrinity.com/Ark**. Information and sign-up also in the lobby. Questions? Contact *Sue Steege (716-440-5025 talk or text OR ssteege@firsttrinity.com)*.

MINISTRY COUNCIL

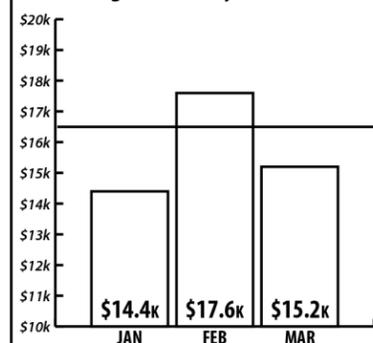
Jennifer Tresch, Pam Jones,
Sophie Myers, Marlene Carr,
John Faller, David Fabian,
Jeff Weber

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN WORSHIP: 509

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: 212

MARCH BY THE NUMBERS

Average Weekly Giving Comparison
(Budgeted Weekly Need = 16.5k)



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 (\$856k Budgeted)



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

(All data through March 31, 2019)

National Day of Prayer - May 2

Love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34

This is the theme for this year's event. Please join fellow Christians in prayer for God's guidance, protection and sharing. Our Sanctuary will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may come at any time for prayer or you may pray off-site. Prayer Guides will be provided for your use.

Our Next New Member Class

Tuesday, June 4 at 6-8:30 p.m.

If 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 at 6 p.m.

Please register by June 2 at FirstTrinity.com, click on **Current Sign-Ups**, or call the office (716-835-2220), so that we know how much food and supplies to buy.

Thanks From La Santa Cruz

A special note of thanks for all your special help. Thanks for your love and good heart to bring your donations for Easter to the families of our church. God Bless! Muchas Gracias!

Preschool Enrollment for 2019-20

Forms at Welcome Center or FirstTrinityPreschool.com

Openings for 2 & 4-year-olds

Director, *Debbie Ferrante*

716-835-2220

dferrante@FirstTrinity.com

First Trinity
Lutheran Preschool

Struggling With Pornography

According to Barna Research, 68% of Christian men and 25-30% of Christian women struggle with pornography. Pure Desire Ministries is devoted to healing men and women who have become addicted to behaviors which are harmful to their social, family, and spiritual well-being.

For more information, contact Pure Desire Ministries: (PureDesire.org)

Snow Blower is Missing

Our John Deere snow blower is missing from the shed. We are wondering if someone may have borrowed it, or if someone may have a snow blower they'd like to donate to the church.

Contact **Tim Hartnett**

(THartnett@FirstTrinity.com, 716-835-2220)

Mandarin Chinese Bible Study

Wednesdays 6-8:30 p.m.

Do you wish you could reach out to your Chinese friends or co-workers? First Trinity is hosting a Chinese language Bible study and worship meeting on Wednesday nights. Flyers are available on the brochure stand by the Welcome Center.

Saturday Night Light Concert Series

Saturday, May 4 at 7-9:30 p.m.

All are Welcome at First Trinity Lutheran Church
Free Christian Music & Snacks. Contact *John Angelucci (716-946-9804, 2ndchancesmusic@gmail.com)*

Grief Share: Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Tuesday Mornings, Until May 28, 10-11:30 a.m.

Grief Share is a 13-week study. The content includes comfort, answers, and hope. Provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. It is helpful to be around people who have an understanding of how you feel. Workbook is \$15.

Leaders are *Mary Ann Milak-Young & Ron Opferbeck*.

Questions: *Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695)*

Grief Support Group at First Trinity

Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m.

Topic: *Coping With Loss, Looking for Hope on a Difficult Journey*

Leaders are *Mary Ann Milak-Young & Ron Opferbeck*.

Questions: *Ron Opferbeck (716-812-1695)*

NEW Morning Prayer Time

Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m., Beginning on May 16

Do you like to pray for others? Would you like to talk to the Lord on behalf of others in prayer with other like-minded friends? Come and join us for this new Prayer Group. We will meet weekly, begin with a short Bible Study, and then pray prayer requests. Everyone is welcome. Contact *Dorothy Rothrock (716-694-3181, dorothyrothrock@yahoo.com)*

Roar VBS July 15-19, 9 a.m.—Noon

Registration is Open at FirstTrinity.com

Participants: Birth to completes Grade 5 in June.

Sorry, Nursery and Preschool are full already!

Volunteers: Completes Grade 6 in June to Adult.

VBS is a high energy, child-centered fun learning environment. Students travel with a crew leader to various learning stations as they learn that **God is Good!** Songs! Bible Buddies! Videos! Games! Snacks! New Friends!



Contact *Tracy Bramwell (716-698-9608, tracybramwell@gmail.com)*

Bibles for China

The China Mission team will be teaching and preaching in house churches in China from May 13-26. One of our greatest joys in the mission trip is giving the Chinese people their very own Bibles, often their first ones. People in China are prohibited from buying Bibles, so this is frequently their only way of getting one. Each Bible costs \$3.00 to print and deliver. If you would like to contribute to Bibles for China, you can make a donation to First Trinity and mark "Bibles for China" in the memo line. Thank you!