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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Get Behind Early Detection**

*Colonoscopies Save Lives*

LONGVIEW (March 16, 2017) – According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States. As with many types of cancer, screenings available to determine if signs of cancer exist, and early detection is often the single most effective means of treating cancer.

“With proper screening, colon cancer can be detected before symptoms develop, when it is most curable,” said Daryl Buckelew, MD with CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic. “Colonoscopies are the most effective screenings allowing for examination of the entire colon.”

A colonoscopy is an internal examination of the large intestine and rectum, using a small camera attached to a flexible tube. As the scope is moved around, tissue samples may be taken with tiny biopsy forceps inserted through the scope. Polyps may be removed, and photographs may be taken. Nearly all colon cancers begin as noncancerous (benign) polyps, which slowly develop into cancer.

Colon cancer can affect anyone - both men and women - and risk increases with age. Some people are at greater risk than others. Some risk factors include:

- Are 50 years of age or older;
- Are African-American or of eastern European descent;
- Have cancer elsewhere in the body;
- Have a family history of colon cancer or colon polyps; or
- Lead a sedentary lifestyle.

The skilled physicians of CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic represent the area’s most experienced group of gastroenterologists who are committed to delivering personalized, state-of-the art services and quality care to every patient. Our gastroenterologists are experts in the field of colon cancer and specialize in the treatment of all gastrointestinal disorders including disorders of the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, rectum, liver, gall bladder and pancreas.

For more information or to schedule an appointment today, please call (903) 236-2222.

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