

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
New Hamburg, Ontario

**✚ Minutes ~ Annual Congregational Meeting ~ February 8, 2009**

Call to order (Robert Bender)

*page(s) from 2008 Bulletin of Reports*

1. Opening Prayer (André Lavergne)
  - Hymn 641 - All Are Welcome
  
2. Minutes of February 10, 2008, meeting 1-3
  - M. Lloyd Hagen, S. Larry Keller to accept the Minutes as published. Carried.
  
3. Report of the President of Trinity Lutheran Church 4
  - M. Rick Ritz, S. Dave Mello to accept the President's Report as presented. Carried.
  
4. Pastor's Report 5-10
  - Parochial Report 11
  - Pastor André spoke to report.
  - M. Lyle Roth, S. Kathy Bender to accept the Pastor's Report as presented. Carried.  
(Pr. Anne added comments.)
  
5. Reports & Information from Council
  - Mutual Ministry 12
  - Witness & Outreach / Service 13
  - Worship 14-15
  - Property & Maintenance 17
    - See also off-white pages 2 & 5 in the Financial Statements*
  - Nurturing Faith - Children and Youth / Adults 18-19
    - including Faith Adventures, Cradle Roll, Affirmation Ministry, Adult Learning, Pastors' Classes, Faith in Film...*
  - Congregational Life *including Trinity Prayer Circle, Trinity Shepherds, Trinity Quilters, Gentle Friends Readers...* 20-21
  - M. Jo Knackstedt, S. Jim Wettlaufer to accept the Reports from Council as presented. Carried.
  
6. Reports of Auxiliaries
  - Junior & Senior TYGers - *no separate report this year*
  - ELW *including Treasurer's Report & Seminary Women's Auxiliary...* 22-23
  - Priscilla Group 24
  - M. Dean Clarke, S. Roger Lindner to accept the Reports from Auxiliaries as presented. Carried.
  
7. Approval of 2008 Financial Statements off-white 1-6
  - Finance Report addendum
  - Auditors' Statement addendum
  - Anne Lindner presented 2008 Financial Statements.
  - M. Henry Simon; S. Judy Seltzer to accept the Year 2008 Financial Statements as presented. Carried.

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8. Elections and Appointments

A. Election of Congregational Council Members

*Nominated: Jo Knackstedt (second term);  
Jackie Currah, Krista Durrer, Devon Otterbein (first term);  
Rick Ritz (completing existing term; 1 year)*

Nominations from the Floor: Doreen Lindner Baan, Stu Rhem.

Secret Ballot: Elected: Jo Knackstedt, Krista Durrer; Devon Otterbein; Rick Ritz; Doreen Lindner-Baan.

B. Election of Trinity Endowment Fund Committee Member (3-year term)

*Nominated: Neil Klaassen (to join Dave Buehlow & Mike Gascon)*

Neil Klaassen acclaimed.

C. Confirmation of Appointment of Treasurer: *Bob Ruthig*

Bob Ruthig confirmed.

D. Confirmation of Appointment of Financial Secretary: *Laurie Clarke*

Laurie Clarke confirmed.

9. Confirmation of 2009 Endowment Fund Distribution

off-white 6

M. Kathy Bender S. Bill Weichel to accept the Year 2009 Endowment Fund Distribution. Carried.

10. Approval of 2009 Program Budget

off-white 1-6

Anne Lindner presented 2009 Program Budget.

Discussion included Salaries, Benefits and Wages. (Pastors left the meeting voluntarily).

M. K. Seltzer; S. Lloyd Hagen to accept the 2009 Program Budget. Carried by secret ballot (24/19)

11. Other Business

Discussion re Synod Apportionment of 14% of Budget allocation.

12. Information

Installation of Council & Officers: February 15, 9:30 am

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 7 pm (third Wednesday)

Other Information

13. Adjournment

*Minutes taken by Bill Weichel,  
Secretary, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

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## ✚ Faithful Journey ~ Soup, Sandwich, Sermon & Song.

Trinity will participate in the annual *Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song* series held Wednesdays during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17. This year's theme is the Seven Last Words of Christ. Trinity will host the February 24 devotions and lunch. Pastor André will be on-deck. Pat Schmetzer and friends will co-ordinate the lunch effort. We gather at Zion United Church on Peel Street at noon. A free-will offering supports the work of the Canadian Bible Society.

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✚ **Minutes ~ Congregational Call Meeting ~ June 21, 2009**



The following motion, upon recommendation by Trinity's Mutual Ministry Team, came before Trinity's Council on Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. That Pastor Anne Anderson be offered a 5 year term position as co-pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. This term would be coterminous with Pastor André Lavergne and payment would be determined by the appropriate grid level as suggested by Synod. The motion was approved by Council and now comes before the Congregation as a recommendation of Council. It is moved and seconded by Council.

So the motion before the house is this:

That Pastor Anne Anderson be offered an extension to her present call as follows: A five year term position as Co-Pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. This call would be coterminous with that of Pastor André Lavergne. Compensation would be determined by the appropriate grid level as suggested by Eastern Synod Guidelines.

Following comments made by Lori Arnott:

The Mutual Ministry team met with Pastor Anne in May for an End-of-Term review. Our time spent together allowed for an opportunity to reflect on both party's expectations, fulfillments, frustrations, strengths and weaknesses as well as our vision to move forward. The Mutual Ministry team really appreciated this time we had with Anne and thanked her for her time especially while on her maternity leave. The Mutual Ministry then made recommendations for Pastor Anne's extension of call to the council at their May meeting, where the members of council voted in support of the recommendations.

The Mutual Ministry committee understands that during these economic times, the Synod is seeing some term calls instead of tenured calls to allow a church to reassess its financial status in an allotted amount of time. Moreover, the Mutual Ministry recognizes that since our church is supported with a Team Ministry, a term call allows for an opportunity to, once again, spend time together (like we had with Anne at her End-of-Term Review) to reflect, review, plan and set new goals and/or visions for the future.

The Mutual Ministry recommended that Anne's renewed call be co-terminus with that of Pastor André's as it is with her current call. Especially significant when dealing with a team ministry, this allows our congregation as well as Pastor Anne an opportunity to re-assess their direction/vision if André ends his call with us.

As proposed in the motion, Anne's compensation would continue to be determined by grid-level according to Synod Guidelines. Pension and benefit provisions are approved by Synod every two years in conformity with ELCIC national guidelines. As well, Trinity's Personnel Policies and Procedures document would continue to dictate specific provisions for statutory holidays, maternity/parental leave and so on, as these things sometimes differ from province to province, even within the same Synod. The Mutual Ministry committee reviews this document every two years to make sure it accurately reflects current provincial regulations.

The Mutual Ministry would also continue to support Anne during an extension of call. If there are any pending changes to her compensation package (such as salary, housing, mileage allowance or other) it would be discussed and negotiated with her as needed.

Discussion followed:

Nancy Dale: (on behalf of the Sanctuary Community to the Anchor Community) thanks for supporting Anne and their members during their time of gathering, thanks to the Faith Adventures Program and the work Anne does there for our Children's Education. As a parent, thank you!

Rick Trafford: we need to invest in our future. Anne is our future!

Scott Malloch: speaking from a youth perspective has seen Anne's work (inspirational!) she brings the "okay" to life, that "we are not alone, God is with us". Her work goes above and beyond, great impact on our youth, she is helping us strengthen our relationship with God.

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Please note: These members not only affirmed Anne's call, but the ministry of the Team, and vision for ministry as a whole.

Votes were cast upon hearing the above motion read again.

Votes cast: 170 / Yes: 168 / No: 2

Motion Approved - Loud applause followed!

Ballots destroyed.

Adjournment.

*Krista Durrer*  
*Secretary, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

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## ✚ Faithful Journey ~ Faith in Film VI: In Mission... On the Streets

We gather on seven winter Monday evenings, 6 pm (note second time change), in Trinity's Bruce Hammer Theatre.

Sherry Coman —writer, teacher of film & lover of the arts— leads our conversation.

January 18 - **The Soloist** (USA: Joe Wright, 2009) - A Los Angeles journalist befriends a homeless Julliard-trained musician.

January 25 - **Missing** (USA: Costa-Gavras, 1982) - When an idealistic writer disappears during the military coup in 1973 Chile, his wife and American businessman father try to find him.

February 1 - **Amal** (India: Richie Mehta, 2007) - A dying billionaire leaves his estate to an autorickshaw driver who has no knowledge of it.

February 8 - **Entertaining Angels; The Dorothy Day Story** (USA: Michael Ray Rhodes, 1996) - The story of 1920's-30's social activist, Dorothy Day, who, sometimes singled-handedly and always controversially, fought social injustice.

February 22 - **Besieged** (Italy: Bernardo Bertolucci, 1999) - An African woman, working as a cleaner in Rome, searches for her husband with the help of an English pianist.

March 1 - **The Long Walk Home** (USA: Richard Pearce, 1990) - Two women —one black and one white— in 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, must decide how to respond to the bus boycott led by Martin Luther King Jr.

March 8 - **The Visitor** (USA: Thomas McCarthy, 2007) - A college professor travels to a conference in New York City and finds a young couple living in his apartment.

Information: Sherry Coman at [sherry.coman@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.coman@gmail.com).

Visit [hanadreaming.blogspot.com](http://hanadreaming.blogspot.com) for Sherry's movie blog.

Trinity's films are licensed by Audio Ciné Films Inc.

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✚ **President's Report ~ Lori Arnott**

Thanks to all of you for allowing me the opportunity to take on the role of Trinity's chairperson for this past year. I have learned so much, and have gained an appreciation for how committed Trinity is in extending its mission beyond the walls of our church.



The year has come with many challenges. There has been much uncertainty on this year's economic outlook and on Trinity's future financial position. That nervousness is still prevalent today. I am proud, however, of the members of council recognizing these concerns, supporting responsible financial spending throughout the year and continuing to keep Trinity's well-being a priority. These council members are valuable stewards in Trinity's ministry.

There are many other highlights of our year that I am proud of. A Stewardship Task Group was convened, and they carried out a fall program to educate all of us on the importance of Good Stewardship in our lives. I value the feedback we have received and continue to receive from this program.

An Anniversary Task Group was also gathered. They have done a spectacular job bringing our members, past and present, together for celebrations throughout the year and continue to work on exciting projects for the year to come.

Pastor Anne's extension of call was greeted with overwhelming support at our June Congregational Meeting. I am thrilled she, Trevor and Nate can continue to share in our exciting journey and I look forward to the many new adventures we will be able to experience together.

We have also received exciting news about André joining the National Church to be the Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations. This can provide new opportunities for Trinity and the National Church to extend their mission, again, beyond the walls of our church.

From Trinity investing their Endowment Funds with ELFEC, to carrying through with efficiency upgrades on our parsonages, to recognizing a great need for our newly formed parish visitation team, to receiving a hot coffee and a warm welcome on Sunday mornings, I am grateful beyond words for so many things.

We have so many Good Stewards at Trinity that continue to offer their "time, talents and possessions" to further the ministry of our church... too many to mention. For that, I say "thank you". I am truly blessed.

With peace,

*Lori Arnott*  
*President, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,*  
*Chairperson, Trinity Council.*

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✚ **Faithful Journey ~ CLWR Baby Bundles**

We extend a word of thanks to all who supplied knitting for the 2009 Mitten Tree and for the 2009 Baby Bundles. Well done, good and faithful servants! Now that we are through our Mitten Tree season, we turn our thoughts once more to Baby Bundles. Once again, the ELW will be preparing Baby Bundles for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. They get sent out in the Spring. We are in need of knitted or crocheted baby sweaters, sleepers, shirts, washcloths, and baby wool for our knitters. We use the donation to purchase flannel for diapers and receiving blankets; diaper pins; baby wool, and other supplies. Please put any articles in the narthex. Donations should be labeled "Baby Bundles" and put in an offering envelope. Imagine the joy of a needy mother who receives a bundle from CLWR to welcome her newborn!

We frequently make yarn available in the narthex from donations received from our people. All year long, people knit for Trinity's Advent Mitten Tree. Not able to knit? Have some spare yarn? Get it to us so that we can put it to work!

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✚ **Pastor's Report ~ André Lavergne**

Grace and peace to you.

It's January 18. I've just gotten off the phone with Bishop Susan Johnson. She and I discussed what it might mean to me and for Trinity if I were to become "Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations". I feel like I've been riding a whirlwind.



**The Economy**

The year began, as many will recall, around the recent and dramatic down-turn in the economy. One fall day, the Minister of Finance was suggesting that there was no such possibility, and then, there we were. It happened very fast. People were nervous, and that nervousness was reflected in Council budget meetings prior to our annual meeting and at the February annual meeting itself. From those days till now, we have seen the economic bottom but any sense that we have fully recovered would not be realistic. If anything, anxiety has turned to hurt as the full impact of the economic distress moved through the economy and the impact hit close to home.

In that period, in my own family, one son lost his job and Barbara's contract at the University of Guelph was not renewed. (At 60 months, contract workers have to be made permanent employees. She was there 58.) A year ago, Blake was earning \$18 or more per hour, got good overtime, and had some benefits. He's since lost his job, retrained in brick-laying, looked for and found work not once, but twice! Now it's \$13.50 per hour and the prospect of benefits is an open question with a distant answer. You take what you can get. As with many people, any vacation plans our family might have had were shelved and we have helped each other to get on with life as best we could.

About the economy, we are hopeful if not optimistic. Barbara is getting her resume out and will take in a job fair for people who do her sort of computer work tomorrow evening.

For much of the year, Trinity's staffing was not at its usual full complement. In fact, people will recall that, as we reported, we planned "to steady state" and not to introduce much that was new in 2009. Still, things kept us busy. Pastor Anne was off on leave into August and was not-long returned when I had a knee replacement. The surgery issued in complications and recovery has been slow. It will soon be five months and I'm where I should have been at six weeks. I am grateful for Buck Roth's gift of a stationary bike some years ago. I watch the news and tend to speed up during commercials.

In any event, much was accomplished, in 2009, thanks to people who have turned their hands and hearts to the various opportunities which have presented themselves.

**Anniversary Task Group**

Fresh in peoples' minds, is the work of the Anniversary Task Group. We had a fine celebration In November. A lovely new parish album has been produced. Various former pastors will visit in the months to come —David Pfrimmer will be first— and Ernie Ritz is working on a new history of the congregation. This year (2010), Jill Merner will have served on staff for 30 years. In 2011, Gywin Murray will have been with us for 50. Remarkable. Back in November, I invited the congregation to consider "how best we might celebrate these milestones?" I'm sure that Larry Gravill and his group would welcome possibilities.

**"On the Streets" Mission Theme**

In the course of their deliberations, The Anniversary Task Group identified a mission theme to take us into the next leg of our journey. Pat Schmetzer brought it forward from the ELW. Already, together with our ELW, our Faith in Film community, Faith Adventures Team and Adult Learning Team have embraced the theme.

This evening, the first film in Sherry Coman's Faith in Film VI "In Mission... on the Streets" series will be screened. As Pastor Dr. Harold Remus mentioned to the Adult Leaning community on Sunday morning, *Faith in Film* is one of the many wonderful ways in which Trinity's people —and others!— are able to bring their faith to contemporary realities and issues. (Harold has attended a couple of Sherry's sessions.)

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## Partnerships

One of the words that recurred in my conversation with Bishop Johnson, this morning, was the word “partnership.” There was a time when Lutheran—and Christian—parishes saw themselves as largely self-sufficient enterprises more-or-less unaffected and unconcerned by what went on next door. Each congregation was something of an island-church whose participation in the larger reality reflected supporting ministries “out there”.

The truth is, we are discovering that there is wisdom in partnering with all manner of folks around our common concerns and mission. Some time ago, we invited Pastor Bob Thaler to preach for us while Pastor Anne was off. What a godsend! What a wonderful preacher! It's not all that long ago that, except for an occasional pulpit exchange, there was a sort of “Lutheran pulpits for Lutherans” understanding of the church. I'm glad that those days are past and that Trinity's witness has moved in the direction of an inclusive, welcoming and open vision of the church. (Just this morning, I received an e-mail from Bob. He and Anne are in India. He says “hi!”)

Recently, Trinity has partnered with Zion, Philipsburg, to offer a joint confirmation program. On Saturday, a number of Philipsburg youth, together with their pastor, joined our community for a day of activities at Trinity. We are grateful for the opportunity to do some stuff together and to benefit from what each community has to offer.

## Partnership in the Parish

In recent months Anne and I had talked of establishing some sort of parish visitation team to augment the work of the parish pastors. Years ago, we tried Stephen Ministry. However, as many others did, we found that the administrative and programmatic burden was simply too great. Anyway, the issue of lay visitation came up again in the Mutual Ministry team by which time we'd begun to put some thought to it. To date, 8 people have agreed to serve and are just beginning their work. We shall bless God for their ministry on Sunday, February 14. Eventually, it is our hope to take the number to about 20. Right now, the cadre is visiting some of our hurting seniors and others who've experienced such harshness as life has had to offer.

## Partnership with the Eastern Synod

This past year, in a pioneering move, Trinity's Endowment Fund people placed our funds with Synod's ELFEC—the Evangelical Lutheran Fund of Eastern Canada. Under our old program using local bank certificates, we had expected to realize about \$11,600 for the *entire* 2009 year. With ELFEC, indications are that we will get about \$13,800 *for less than half a year!* What a terrific decision! What a terrific partnership! Kudos to the Endowment Fund Committee.

## Partnership with Pastor Anne

A significant reality in my vocational ministry is that I share it with Anne Anderson. Mid-year, Pastor Anne's call to Trinity was renewed by a resounding majority: 168 to 2. Here is what Anne wrote at the time:

When I was ordained, I was asked a series of questions to which I responded “I will, and I ask God to help me.” When I was ordained, I was invited to preach the Gospel, to preside at the sacraments, and to teach and love God's people. When I said “yes”, I said *yes with God's help*. I'm not in this alone. I have been called by God through God's people and do my work with God's help and your support. So, I'm excited to jump back into the business of being a pastor, here, at Trinity. I am looking forward to working with André and Jill and Gywin and Brian and with all who make ministry happen as we walk with all of God's people in our Faithful Journey.

We all have the same opportunity to say “yes, with God's help” in our continuing journey together. That's what excites me! For you, saying yes may involve visiting a neighbour, doing or supporting the work of a committee or task group, taking some quiet time with God, or playing a game with your family. There are so many ways in which to say “yes” and to look for God's help in doing so!

I look forward to what the next five years will bring: time to grow in our Faith Adventures and stewardship programs, to experience our unfolding anniversary celebrations and much, much more!

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I am grateful for that. We are able to stay the course around the mission and ministry which the congregation adopted a couple of years ago and which I elaborated in recent annual reports. For example, we have a nucleus of faithful folks for Sanctuary, nicely nurtured by Pastor Rob Wiesner in Anne's absence. We have a number of willing hearts. And we have an exciting internship possibility which might come to fruition were I to take a deployed position with the national church.

### Partnership with the National Church

On Sunday, January 10, Lori Arnott made the following announcement at worship:

On December 23, Pastor André received a phone call from Susan Johnson, our National Bishop. She has invited André to join the national church staff as "Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations".

This position is a 40-50% of full time position, including some time here, some in Winnipeg and some travel elsewhere. Council will be meeting on January 20 where they will discuss possibilities and options, and will then make a recommendation to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on February 14. Please feel free to have conversation with André about this opportunity ....

Congratulations, André, on this wonderful opportunity that has been presented to you. This is a great time for you, for Trinity and for the National Church to extend their ministry.

As I write, the world, as I mentioned above, seems something of a whirlwind.

On Wednesday evening, we will look at a number of possibilities. At first blush, it would appear that we have an opportunity to broaden and deepen our parish ministry; to build two significant partnerships—one with Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and one with the national church; and to do these in a fiscally responsible manner which might yield increased hours of ministry available to our community with some savings to the parish.

As I write, Rick Ritz is crunching numbers, Anne and I are exploring possibilities with Waterloo Seminary—a formal request would happen later—and I've had some helpful conversations with Bishop Johnson, Bob Thaler, Helen Toman and others.

### Partnership with Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Ministry is changing. Those of us in harness can barely keep up. Those who are contemplating ministry must fairly wonder! The face of ordained ministry is changing. More women than men are entering seminary to prepare for ordained ministry. Many are second career. There will come a point when most Lutheran pastors will be women. Full stop. When I went to seminary, most of us were single guys fresh out of undergraduate school. Back then, everyone, more or less, did a clinical program after their second year of classes and a full year of internship thereafter. A fourth year of in-class integration topped the whole thing off. That worked for us. I count my years at Waterloo among the finest in my life.



However, times have changed and the face of ministry has changed. What if you've already got kids and a home and all of the realities which describe and circumscribe a later stage of life? The old model wasn't very flexible. One of the possibilities is that Trinity would partner with Waterloo Seminary in inventing some sort of internship which would meet the needs of the new reality. Possible? Perhaps we can find out together!

### Yes, with God's Help

Anne mentions that we all have the same opportunity to say "yes, with God's help". This morning, I learned from Lori Arnott that we have a full slate of people willing to stand for Council. As it happens, Cy Ridout approached Lori and *volunteered* to let his name stand as he enjoyed an earlier stint a few years ago. Cy joins Lori Arnott, Marcus Buehlow, Krista Durrer, Larry Gravill, Doreen Lindner-Baan, Doug Miller, Chris Normandeau, Rick Ritz, Pat Schmetzer, Ken Seltzer and Heidi Ziegler who are presently serving, or are willing to serve, and are interested in

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helping us chart our course in the months and years to come.

**A Few Words of Thanks**

I want to thank the staff who provide a remarkable depth of ministry above and beyond the call and often involving extra hours of family time: Gywin Murray, Jill Merner, Brian Racho and Anne Anderson. I want to thank Pr. Syd who pinch-hits for us from time to time. I also want to thank our president, Lori Arnott, who has devoted herself to this congregation at great personal cost. I want to thank Bob Ruthig and Laurie Clarke, our treasurer and financial secretary, who do their work with enormous integrity and who, with the aforementioned, often spend extra hours at family expense. I have enormous respect for all of these people. I should also mention Judy Riley. She leads the cleaning folks. The other day I was approached by a young women, who works for her. She extended her hand: "You must be Pastor Lavergne. My name is..." I was taken by her courtesy and by the way she was going about her work. They often put in long hours at odd times to accommodate our ever-changing reality. Finally, I want to thank Barbara and our family for their love, support and understanding. It was great to have all seven of us at the Christmas table, at the same time. It had been a couple of years...

Last year, I wrote: "...I am grateful to the entire Trinity community for our partnership in ministry. This is a wonderful and supportive place in which to work." I hold to that. It has not been an easy year as our Council and Mutual Ministry Team are aware. Still, all whom I have mentioned have taken their obligations seriously and have proven terrific stewards of Trinity's ministry.

I wish this community well. I wish our community peace.

All blessings.

*André Lavergne,  
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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**✚ Faithful Journey ~ Interfaith Community Counselling**

*The Interfaith Community Counselling Centre has just undergone some interesting changes. Recently, Trinity's Joan Cook, sent along the following note. Both Ruth and Christine will be familiar to many. Ruth was the former Executive Director while Christine was a staff counselor. We wish Ruth, Christine, Joan and the Interfaith community well! Oh, and look for the narthex poster on Interfaith's February 18 Annual General Meeting with Dr. Ken Shonk. He'll have you in stitches. (That's a joke.) Much fun!*

Hi André,

I hope you are doing well and recovery from your recent surgery.

I just wanted to take a moment to personally make you aware of the changes at Interfaith Community Counselling Centre. To better meet the needs of the community, we have restructured the staff of the Centre. Effective Monday January 18, Ruth Martin will become the Clinical Director for the Centre and Christine Bruder will join us as our new Executive Director. Christine will lead the organization and focus on growth. Ruth will focus on providing effective counselling services and programs. Please pass this information on to Anne and Jill so they know to expect a new face to be wandering around the church.

Regards,

Joan Cook  
Chair, Interfaith Community Counselling Centre

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✚ **Pastor's Report ~ Anne Anderson**

Grace and peace to you.

**Faithful Journey *Continued***

Well this year starts in an interesting place. I began back to ministry here at Trinity in mid-August after an eight month maternity leave, caring for our new son, Nathaniel. It was a great start to begin with Affirmation camp and welcome a new set of grade sixes and sevens into our camping ministry. That week was fantastic as our youth grew in faith and developed relationships. Entering into ministry into the fall began a transition as André took a leave to recover from his knee surgery and I began the transition back into work.



Our fall was full with re-entering the regular programming as our Faith Adventures program and Affirmation and TYGers began to ramp up again. The Sanctuary Community had a transition period, as well, as we said good-bye and thank you to Pastor Rob and Kyla Wiesner for their excellent ministry and I came back into leadership with the community.

Much of my fall was spent visiting our people and working through a challenge to our leadership. As we quickly moved into Advent, I was thankful to have André gradually return to ministry, and we began to plan and prepare for the Christmas worship season and beyond into the next year's program.

**Many Thanks**

I have many thanks to give to our community. I am thankful to Trevor for his support as he took over the second half of our Parent Leave and has continued to be flexible and supportive to the ministry of Trinity and a huge support to both Nate and me.

I am very thankful to André and his partnership in ministry. I feel that there has been a good team effort this year through many ups and downs and much of it is because of André's compassion for this community.

I am thankful to the staff team here at Trinity. Countless times they stepped up to make things happen and keep things running smoothly when things got busy. Thanks especially to Jill for her patience, Gywin for her encouragement, Brian for his quiet presence, and Judy and her cleaning team for their hard work and flexibility.

I am very thankful for the hard work of our Council. They have spent many hours working on behalf of Trinity in different ways. A special word of thanks goes to Lori Arnott, and her family, for her leadership, time and talent that she has so freely given. I am very thankful for this.

I am thankful to the many volunteers who give their time here at Trinity, especially the folks who help make sure our kids are welcomed and taught, fed and encouraged. Much of that work happens through the great leadership of our Faith Adventures team. Thank you, ladies and gentleman!

I am thankful also to our congregation as you all continue to hear the Gospel week after week and are challenged to serve and grow and love one another in new ways. Thanks for your kind welcome and care for our son and for being a congregation willing to try new things and join in a faithful journey. Your response to the gospel comes in many ways. This Christmas we had over 65 *We Care* bags, a program run through Canadian Lutheran World Relief, come in for children in other parts of the world. Thanks for your generous gifts and how they encourage others.

**Looking Ahead**

There are many things that I am looking forward to as we continue on our faithful journey here at Trinity.

Our Sanctuary service has been more quiet lately and we are making some changes to encourage participation and growth. I am looking forward to creating a new Sanctuary Worship Rota with folks participating in various aspects of

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our worship. We have had some volunteer musicians indicate a willingness to serve and look forward to creating a small worship team to help with music and try some new music as well. The prospect of an internship would be helpful to us at Sanctuary. We have also been trying new things around the Word portion of our service including clips from Youtube, a series of short videos, as well as trying our hand at creative projects. Did you see the *Mary and Jesus* icon at Christmas? That was created by the Sanctuary Community.

Our TYGers have been quiet this past year as well but we look forward to starting up our monthly events as well as joining in with other youth around the community with events hosted by the Anglican-Lutheran Youth Fellowship Events (A-LYFE) committee. We will also be taking a group of young people to our youth gathering this year in London, August 19-22. The theme is "Hands On", a great support for Trinity's "On the Streets" mission theme. We will also be doing our regular events like Pitch 'N Praise and attending Youth Day at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Faith Adventures continues to move and grow as our needs change. I am especially encouraged by the team's initiative to begin a Junior High Sunday School for our grade seven and eight group of young people that is more suited to their learning needs (plus more time for them to hang out and talk).

We are joining the "On the Streets" emphasis with our Lenten project this year as we help to build a community with our offerings through a program run by Canadian Lutheran World Relief called "One Community".

We will be trying something new for learning. In place of Third Thursday's at MeMe's (TT@MM), we will offer a drop-in philosophers' café on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in March. Called Open Table, we will experience casual conversation with coffee, hot chocolate, tea and treats as we discuss a little and watch some video clips to get the conversation rolling. Our first set of topics will include "living out our faith in the everyday".

While there have been some ups and downs, this year, as we have grown and changed, I am confident that God has called us to be faithful to this journey and is walking with us as we go.

For this I truly give thanks!

All blessings.

*Anne Anderson,*  
*Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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### ✚ Faithful Journey ~ Sanctuary Community Food & Fellowship

We have been very thankful for the ministry of our Sanctuary Community as they welcome all to the table —potluck table that is. We have had many successful potlucks over the year. Some of the highlights include a welcome supper for our neighbours from the Jamaican community who work at the Pfenning's Farm during the produce season as well as a thank-you potluck for Rob and Kyla Wiesner as they began ministry in Belleville having served our community while Pastor Anne was off. We will continue this ministry as the community grows. Watch the back bulletin board or your *Guide to Worship* for upcoming suppers! First up: February 7, 6 pm, after our Sanctuary gathering.

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### ✚ Faithful Journey ~ Luther Hostel 2010

Luther Hostel will unfold at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary between June 7 and 11. Always a terrific event! Information will be forthcoming in February.

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## ✚ Faithful Journey ~ Ministry Proposal: What does this Mean?

For generations, Lutheran confirmation students have been schooled to ask the question “What does this mean?” It was Luther’s frequently asked question —FAQ— marking the small divisions in his Catechism.



At the January 20 meeting of Council, we began to explore possibilities and implications of a partnership with the national church around a deployed staffing position. Council members were invited to contemplate their “top five questions you believe Trinity’s people might be asking about the ELCIC proposal.” “What does this mean?” in real terms. The idea was to make sure that we came to the annual meeting prepared. It was a terrific session with a lot of great conversation. Here is what we learned. We’ve tried to make sure that we addressed all of the questions with the best information available.

### What would an “Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical Relations” do?

Pr. André would assist the church through our national bishop to build and maintain partnerships within the Lutheran communion (eg; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Lutheran Church-Canada; Lutheran World Federation...) and with our partners in the wider church (eg: Anglican Church of Canada, Mennonites in Canada, Canadian Council of Churches, World Council of Churches...). Pr. André would be part of a national staff team which would include staff who are resident in Winnipeg and a number of deployed staff. This would be a half-time, deployed position.

### What does “Deployed” mean?

A “deployed” position is one in which Pr. André would keep his home base but offer a portion of his time to the wider church—in this case, the national church—for which the congregation would be reimbursed. That reimbursement opens the door to new possibilities for the congregation. Of course, Trinity has been here before as when Pr. André served the national church as Staff-Person for Worship.

### How would we cover the ministry gap left with Pr. Lavergne doing national work?

We have explored three possibilities to date, all of which have served us well in the past: preaching (Bob Thaler); pastoral care (Helen Toman) and an internship (Waterloo Lutheran Seminary). See page 15 of this *Bulletin of Annual Reports*. There may be other possibilities as well. For example, we have had placement students and looked at such things as parish nursing, lay youth leaders and Christian Education people in the past. At present, it is envisioned that Bob would be visible monthly in our parish; that Helen would be an every-week figure; that an intern would be visible most regular work days and, especially, on Sundays.

### What would this new ministry cost?

The numbers indicate that we would realize significant savings as we have no payroll burden (pension, insurances, etc., etc.) for people who are contracted and internships cost much less than regular employment. We would expect to recover a little over \$39,000 from the national church and our yearly costs are estimated on page 15 of this *Bulletin of Annual Reports*. The \$39,000+ figure is based on a national scale for assistants to the bishop provided by the national office. The national church handles some things like car allowance and housing differently. All travel, accommodation and expenses related to national work would be reimbursed by the national church. Conservatively estimated, the savings would be in the order of \$24,000 in 2010 (as we transition) and \$15,000 in 2011 (a more “normal” year). At the same time, our *full-time equivalent* for ministry would actually go up significantly. Wages would continue to be paid by Trinity with the national reimbursement received on a monthly or similar basis.

### What are the benefits to the national church?

In the past, Pr. André has done similar work which has taken him into the ecumenical arena. It is a place that is familiar to him. That experience is known, nationally and synodically, and would be valuable to the church. By making the position a deployed thing, the national church is able to benefit from the ministries of people who might not otherwise be able to relocate to Winnipeg. The ELCIC has retained the services of two other deployed persons,

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one from BC to do worship and one from Saskatchewan to do global missions. Both are parish pastors who would serve the national church in the same way as is proposed here. The three deployed people would be part of a national staff "team."

### **What are the benefits to Trinity Church?**



In addition to what has been said above, we would experience the continuing revitalization of our ministry. Parish ministry ebbs and flows over time. Sometimes we sense that we are moving out (as when we do one of God's "new things") and sometime we see ourselves consolidating or steady-stating (as when staff is on leave). We would see an increase in full-time-equivalent pastoral ministry (Pr. Helen, intern) and regular preaching (Pr. Bob, intern). We would have an opportunity to deepen existing ministries (eg: visitation) and to address some needs not presently addressed (eg: a consistent face for music leadership at Sanctuary).

### **What are the benefits to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary?**

We are hoping to create a new kind of internship (see page 8, above) which would make seminary education more attractive and a realistic possibility for contemporary second-career and other folks. Bonus: we would become better aware of the pool of upcoming and available leadership for the church and for future staffing at Trinity.

### **Would the pastoral ministry that our community requires be covered?**

This is one area where we would experience a substantial increase in hours. There would be more visitation (Helen, intern) that we can presently accomplish. This past year, we also began to put in place a lay visitation program. These people are already doing excellent work. We expect this program to grow over time.

### **How often would Pastor André be out of the parish?**

So far as we can tell, there would be four quarterly meetings in Winnipeg, some meetings in Toronto and an occasional meeting elsewhere. We think the average would be fewer than once a month. Much of the work would be done from the Peel Street parsonage office. There would be no significant impact on Jill's time as secretarial support, travel arrangements, etc., would be made out of Winnipeg.

### **Would Pr. André work a fixed or flexible work schedule?**

Flexible. Pr. André's heart is with parish ministry. To the extent possible, a funeral, for example, in the parish, would take pride of place on the schedule. Much of the national work is not time-sensitive in the way that parish ministry can be. The national work is by nature quite flexible. Meeting dates tend to be set in advance such that we can plan ahead and around.

### **What about Sundays?**

Very few meetings would take Pr. André out of the parish over a Sunday. The wider church works hard to keep that day clear. Same for major church festivals. As far as the Sunday morning worshiping community is concerned, they would not experience a lot of difference. Pr. Anne would preach about twice a month in our Anchor community as she does now, while Pr. André and Bob would each preach once and an intern would preach occasionally. Prs. Anne and André would continue to share presiding about 50/50.

Sanctuary is an evolving reality with its own emerging identity and much less formal preaching and much more group exploration of God's Word. Pastor Anne would continue to provide the primary up-front leadership to this community while Pr. André would remain about as visible as now: one or two Sundays a month, preaching occasionally.

The intention overall is that Pastor André and Anne, together with Trinity's intern, would all be very visible on Sundays and very accessible otherwise.

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**Who would supervise Trinity's intern?**

Pastor Anne. Pastor André has supervised a number of Trinity interns at a similar stage of his ministry. The supervisory relationship, especially with people who already bring significant life experience to their ministry, is often more collegial than supervisory in the traditional sense. It can be very affirming for both parties. That is the expectation in this new internship model involving interns with substantial life and work experience. Our new staffing arrangement anticipates that while tasks are redistributed, Pastor Anne's workload would not increase. Better pastoral coverage from Helen and assistance from our intern would offset her supervisory responsibilities.

**Are there any needs not presently met that would be addressed?**

Yes. We have long wanted to provide a more stable and regular music ministry to augment and support our terrific Sanctuary musicians. We are exploring the possibilities. There is a reasonable prospect that an intern could make a very significant contribution in this regard. We would also see more visitation, over-all, as mentioned above.

**Are there any ministries we would give up?**

Not that we can see. Things might be redistributed or done differently but we don't feel that anything would be lost.

**Who would be responsible for parish administration?**

Pastor André. We run a very efficient parish office supported with good technology. We see little change in this area.

**How do we ramp up until September, 2010, when we are at full-staff?**

We use our experience of recent staff leaves as a model. We take immediate advantage of Helen's availability to strengthen our pastoral presence. The truth is that much of our fall program is already in place. Our parish ministry actually begins to ramp *down* in May so that the period where diminished staffing is a concern is actually quite brief.

**What is the length of Pr. André's contract?**

National staff positions expire with our current national bishop's term in office (August, 2011). Our expectation is that Bp. Johnson will continue to serve beyond 2011 and that this position would be renewed beyond that date. (There is no expectation that this position would increase to full time as the national church simply does not have the funds for that sort of thing. The deployed staff model is an example of the national church doing more with less.)

**What about vacation time, days off, etc.?**

These would remain the same. With an intern in the mix and better pastoral coverage, we might actually succeed in getting days off more consistently.

**How does Pastor Anne feel about this new venture?**

"Enthusiastic. I am happy that this opportunity has come to André and our church. I see this as a good use of André's gifts in ministry and a new way to renew our ministry here. I see more opportunity for myself as we try new possibilities within our life here at Trinity."

**How does Pastor André feel about this new venture?**

"Great. This is a terrific opportunity from so many different perspectives. I see the request as affirming both me and Trinity and our horizons broadening before us. I think it's great news."

**How does Council feel about this new venture?**

"Council enthusiastically endorses the proposal from the National Church to share Pastor André Lavergne, and we commend it to the Congregation." This motion was passed unanimously at the January 20 meeting of Council.

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**✚ Faithful Journey ~ Ministry Proposal Possibilities & Costs**

The following represents a base-line set of possibilities in regards to our staffing. It does not preclude additional or alternative possibilities down the road (eg: placement student, etc.). It's a starting point which would help us to begin this new leg of Trinity's faithful journey. We could rejig as our ministry evolves. Initially, we would do 3 things:

1. Invite Helen Toman to do 40 hours of pastoral care per month beginning in February, 2010. Emphasis would be on a broad range of institutional and in-home visitation. Helen is familiar to our people at Nithview, in Tavistock and in a many of the homes of our parish. She would become a more consistent figure in our pastoral care.
2. Invite Bob Thaler to preach once per month beginning in June, 2010.
3. Secure a half-time intern (September, 2010 - June, 2012) from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. We would seek an intern with interests/skills which would dovetail with our current mission and ministry emphasis (Sanctuary, Faith Adventures, welcoming...).

**2010 - Transition year**

Helen	11 months (Feb start)	\$20x40 hours/month = \$800/month	\$8,800.
Bob	7 months (Jun start)	\$150 each	1,050.
Intern 1	4 months (Sep start)	Tuition (full one-time)	500.
		Travel Pool (full one-time)	500.
		Stipend - ½ of \$1,000 = \$500	2,000.
		Housing - ½ of \$850 = \$425	1,700.
		Mileage - ½ of \$200 = \$100	400.
		-----	
			\$14,950.

**2011 - Regular year**

Helen	12 months	\$20x40 hours/month = \$800/month	\$9,600.
Bob	12 months	\$150 each	1,800.
Intern 1	12 months	Tuition	0.
		Travel Pool	0.
		Stipend - ½ of \$1,000 = \$500	6,000.
		Housing - ½ of \$850 = \$425	5,100.
		Mileage - ½ of \$200 = \$100	1,200.
		-----	
			\$23,700.

**2012 - Internship change-over year**

Helen	12 months	\$20x40 hours/month = \$800/month	\$9,600.
Bob	12 months	\$150 each	1,800.
Intern 1	6 months (to Jun)	Tuition	0.
		Travel Pool	0.
		Stipend - ½ of \$1,000 = \$500	3,000.
		Housing - ½ of \$850 = \$425	2,550.
		Mileage - ½ of \$200 = \$100	600.
Intern 2	4 months (Sep start)	Tuition (full one-time)	500.
		Travel Pool (full one-time)	500.
		Stipend - ½ of \$1,000 = \$500	2,000.
		Housing - ½ of \$850 = \$425	1,700.
		Mileage - ½ of \$200 = \$100	400.
		-----	
			\$22,650.

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✚ **Mutual Ministry ~ Don Jardin**

The year has been a very busy one for Mutual Ministry. As well as the usual role of keeping in touch with Trinity's staff, we have updated the *Policy and Procedure Manual*, held discussions and made recommendations to Council re appropriate remuneration for staff, and developed a "Guideline for Church Council Members" document for consideration by Council.

In conjunction with Pastor André, Pastor Anne and Council, we assisted with the process re the renewal of Pastor Anne's call.

Coverage for Pastor André's medical leave also required good support and understanding by all involved.

Mutual Ministry is thankful for the support of all of Trinity's staff, specifically Pastor André, Pastor Anne, Gwyn, Jill and Brian. Mutual Ministry is most appreciative of the direction and guidance we have received from Audrey Cook, Steve Aho, Millie Buehlow, Jes O'Donoghue and Lori Arnott. We look forward in the coming year to the continued support of the congregation at Trinity.

*Don Jardin*  
*Member, Mutual Ministry Team*

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✚ **Faithful Journey ~ February 1: Secret Sisters' Pot-Luck Supper**

Our ELW hosts a Secret Sister program in which women are paired with one another as "secret sisters." During the year, each sister sends greetings, seasonal cards and small gifts to a "secret sister." The latter does not know the identity of the former. Participants gather for a February pot-luck at which identities are revealed.

Are you a participant? Terrific! Not aboard? Consider joining on February 1, 6:30 pm, at this year's pot-luck supper! Call Pat Schmetzer, 634-8232, for details.

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✚ **Faithful Journey ~ [www.telc.ca](http://www.telc.ca) & This\_Sunday@Trinity**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church —telc— maintains a terrific website at < [www.telc.ca](http://www.telc.ca) >. The current issue of TRINITY DOVE is always posted there so that winter snow-birds and others can keep up-to-date on news from home. The current edition of the Trinity *Worship Rota* is also posted online as are other important documents. Not long ago, we added a comprehensive photo section. There are now a couple thousand photos online! Drop by and take a look!

This past year, we endeavoured to collect e-mail addresses so that we could put out a weekly "This\_Sunday@Trinity" bulletin with news around our Sunday ministry and the week ahead. This project has garnered a great deal of favourable reponse. We also use this list to let people know of such time-sensitive items as a death in the parish or news related to such events as the Haiti earthquake.

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✝ **Sacraments & Seasons ~ Jill Merner & André Lavergne**

*The following events reflect a snap-shot of realities in Trinity's ministry during 2009.*

**Births**

Logan Bradley Becker (Jan 21); Carson Gerald James Goodyear (Mar 3); Madeline Anna Moylan (Mar 22); Wesley Adam Preidt (Mar 9); Shelby Faith Cook (Jul 5); Owen David Bowslaugh (Jul 11); Owen Robert Cape (Jul 15); Tyler Laurence Ferguson (Aug 2); Gabriel Johnson Earl Nickolas (Aug 4); Violet Ann Bender (Sep 9); Colton Delroy Smith (Sep 12); Reid Michael Eichler (Nov 11).

**Baptisms**

Emily Ann O'Donoghue & Iris Mae Wettlaugfer (Jan 11); Nathaniel William Anderson & Logan Bradley Becker & Isabel Maria Bingeman & Sierra Eileen Dupuis & Carlee Rose Mohr (April 11); Trent Kenneth Deckert (May 10); Aasia Valentina Dupree (Jul 26); Carson Gerald James Goodyear & Wesley Adam Preidt & Shelby Faith Cook & Blake Mitchell Ricketts (Sep 27); Owen David Bowslaugh & Owen Robert Cape & Amber Brooke DeRuiter (Oct 18).

**Marriages**

Alison Burchatzki & Paul Mitchell (Mar 3); Greg Ropp & Steph Greenbeck (Jun 13); Pam Diebel & Jeff Belfour (Jul 25); Ashley Mueller & Chris Aarts (Sept 5); Mike Mohr & Cheryl Dupuis (Sep 12); Adam Otterbein & Ashley Nagel (Nov 7).

**Deaths**

Glen Brodrecht (Feb 22); Genoeva Bingeman (Mar 29); Sandra Lass (April 14); Willow Diannia Otterbein (April 30); Barb Otterbein (Aug 6); Emily Faruzel (Oct 2).

**People Coming**

Keith & Lynn Thompson, Ed & Marjorie Stix, Lynette Eberschlag & Andrew Moss (Jan 11). Several new families / people are affiliated with Sanctuary: Myrta Biesel; Alan Mills; Nancy, Roger, Meghan & Alison Dale; Kim, Derek, Aspen and Chantelle Schwartz.

**People Going**

Shirley Bender (East Zorra Mennonite); Chris Gravill (Meeting House, Kitchener); Andy Knackstedt (New Zealand); Jeff Knackstedt (Port Hope); Jo & Mildred Knackstedt (Zion, Stratford); Anne & Roger Lindner; Bill & Ruth Lindner (Zion, Stratford); Mathew Lindner (United, St. Mary's); Bob & Paula Povey (Community Christian Reformed Church, Kitchener).

**Confirmations**

Megan Clarke, Kirsten Danner, Mykaela Erb, Alexander Hiuser, Ian McCurdy, Nathan Riedel & Morgan Schaaf (Nov 1).

*Jill Merner,  
Parish Secretary, Trinity Church*

*André Lavergne,  
Pastor, Trinity Church*

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✚ **Witness and Outreach / Service ~ Ken Seltzer**

*The Witness and Outreach portfolio includes programs initiated by Trinity, including Inquirers' Classes and the Trinity Garden Club.*

*The Service portfolio entails relating to groups and agencies in which Trinity participates but which are autonomous. These include the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (including the Food Bank, Christmas Hamper Program & Advent Mitten Tree), Lutheran Campus Ministry at Waterloo, Trinity Christmas Blood Donor Clinic, Community Care Concepts, Trinity/Optimist Christmas Breakfast, Amnesty International, Habitat for Humanity, Missions, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (including We Care Packs).*



*In addition, Trinity relates to a number of programs which make their home at Trinity Church. These include the Creative Beginnings Day Care Centre, Interfaith Community Counselling Centre, A/A, TOPS and CLEAN. In general, Pastor Lavergne relates to these agencies / programs.*

Community Care Concepts annual breakfast held on December 12, sponsored by the New Hamburg Optimist and held in Trinity Hall raised \$2,125.00 and served over 200 meals. Many thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Optimist Club for sponsoring this event.

Wilmot Family Resource Centre continues to serve our community well and Trinity supported it by donating many hundreds of pounds of food and dozens of mitts, gloves, scarves, hats and slippers. Thanks to all the people who took the time to either knit, fill the Christmas hampers or donate money to this worthwhile cause.

Trinity again sponsored the Christmas Blood Donor Clinic held on December 28 at Waterloo-Oxford D.S.S. 184 donors registered to give the gift of life with 159 actually giving. Many thanks to the following who volunteered to assist at a busy time of year: Paul Diebel, Madison Erb, Mykaela Erb, Anne Hammer, Mary Anne Keller, Dave Mello, Betty Murray, Earl Nickolas, Janice Ritz, Rick Ritz, Pat Schmetzer, Judie Seltzer.

Trinity along with Canadian Blood Services have joined the Partners for Life Program which is to promote the giving of blood to family and friends. Did you know 1 in 2 Canadians can give blood but that only 1 in 60 donated last year. More than 50% of Canadians needed blood or knew of someone who did. We, as Canadians, are the only source of blood for transfusions. There is no substitute. So far the following have signed on to be Partners for Life: Mim Miller, Bob Anger, Tim Scheerer, Bill Ritz, Jake Ritz, Debbie Linseman, Blake Edwards, Rick Haffner, Flex Bender, Dean Clarke, Dave Mello, Tara Otto, Manfred Chiduck and Rick Ritz.

Due to wet grounds and some unforeseen circumstances the Garden Club was unable to function this year. We will see if some donated land will become available in the spring of 2010.

Trinity members donated \$1,800 to the New Hamburg Flood Relief Fund.

*Ken Seltzer,  
Witness & Outreach / Service Portfolios, Trinity Council.*

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✚ **Faithful Journey ~ Scholarship & Edgewood Applications Available**

Eastern Synod scholarship applications are out as are applications to work at Camp Edgewood. Many Trinity youth have benefitted from these opportunities over the years. Interested? Forms are out in the narthex. Edgewood applications are due right away. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 23, 2010.

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✚ **Worship ~ Anne Anderson & André Lavergne**

*The Worship portfolio embraces the ministry of choirs & musicians, nursery attendants, ushers, tape ministers, acolytes, altar guild, assisting ministers and greeters/hosts.*



**Lent, Holy Week & Easter**

This past year, while we were functioning with reduced staff, we decided to give special attention to our occasional Lent-Easter liturgies. For example, we rejigged Palm Sunday to meet upstairs to accommodate people who cannot make the steps easily. The Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday liturgies have been simplified in keeping with their devotional character. Good Friday featured a lovely cantata, the Weeping Tree, which had many deeply moved and in tears. Our Great Vigil was a spectacular service with lively movement into the church, several baptisms, and a terrifically joyous feeling for all. We heard the loudest "Amens" we've heard in years! Easter morning saw Sharla Nafziger come up from New York. Who will soon forget her "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth?" All tolled, we had good attendances and a great transition from the darkness of Lent to the light of Easter.

**Sanctuary**

Sanctuary held its own despite Anne's absence and thanks to the loving relationship that Rob Wiesner quickly established with our community. He and Kyla have been sorely missed since Rob took a call to Belleville in September. Rob and Kyla were a big part of the Sanctuary world for a time.

**Watermark**

We were happy this past November, to again host a team of six young people from Youth Encounter. This year's team had an international focus as they will be traveling to Denmark after working in the US and Canada. They were able to help us lead worship at both our Anchor and Sanctuary services as well as spend time with some of our young people and join us in a potluck supper.

The following offer an astonishing variety of ministries:

**Altar Guild**

Nancy Arbuckle, Kathryn Eichler, Jean Hammer, Marilyn Hoffman, Dorothy Jardin, Mary Ann Keller, Reta Klaassen, Doreen Lindner Baan, Betty Murray, Melissa Racho, Reta Ridout, Joyce Roth, Gwen Ruthig, Pat Schmetzer and Lyla Wettlaufer.

**Acolytes**

Sophia Bailey, James Gascon, Jessica Gascon, Hailey Gingerich, Heather Heise, Jonathan Heise, Emily Morrison, Brody Lagace Roote, Shane Lagace-Roote, Laura Lindner, Nicole Lindner, Samantha Lindner, Devon Merner, Brandon Morrison, Willow Racho, Michelle Rogers, Mackenna Schaaf, Alex Scheid and Travis Thompson.

**Assisting Ministers**

Trevor Anderson, Dean Clarke, Sherry Coman, Nancy Dale, Roger Dale, Meghan Dale, Rachel Gueguen, Larry Keller, Neil Klaassen, Reta Klaassen, Stan Leis, Doreen Lindner Baan, Scott Malloch, Ray Merner, Tara Otto, Cy Ridout, Emily Ritz, Nancy Ropp, Randy Thomson and Shirley Unrau.

**Greeters / Hosts**

Trevor Anderson, Kathy & Flex Bender, David & Millie Buehlow, Dorothea Butz, Wendy Chapman, Laurie & Dean Clarke, Jean Cook, Roger, Nancy, Meghan & Alison Dale, John Ritz & Betty Dixon-Ritz, Debbie & Larry Gravill, Lisa Hagen & Randy & Chris Thomson, Nancy Hallberg, Mabel Heldman, Ashley & Heather Leu, Brenda & Scott Malloch,

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Holly & John McCurdy, Doug & Mim Miller, Paul, Sheri, Brandon & Emily Morrison, Erika Mueller, Carol & Rob Murray, Brad & Claire Otterbein, Dee Radke, Janice & Rick Ritz and Muriel & Bill Weichel.

### **Affirmation Singers**

Alison Dale, Meghan Dale, Jessica Gascon and Emily Morrison.

### **Trinity Choir**

Trevor Anderson, Val Brenneman, Edna Buehlow, Dean Clarke, Sherry Coman, Audrey Cook, Jean Cook, Paul Diebel, Kathy Eichler, Mike Gascon, Lloyd Hagen, Ken Hammer, Anne Hammer, Dorothy Jardin, Larry Keller, Mary Ann Keller, Neil Klaassen, Arlene Kropf, Bill Lahn, Joyce Lass, Barbara Lavergne, Betty Murray, Gywin Murray, Stan Otterbein, Millie Rhem, Cy Ridout, Janice Ritz, Pat Ruthig, Judie Seltzer, Lynn Thompson, Keith Thompson and Lyla Wettlaufer.

### **Musicians**

In addition to our Director of Music, Gywin Murray, the following assist in playing for worship at Trinity: Trevor Anderson, Dean Clarke & Family, Kaleb Doyle, Lisa Hagen, Caleb Herbison, Jeffrey Kropf, Scott Malloch, Michael Murray, Emily Ritz, Chris Thomson, Keith Thom and Kyla & Rob Wiesner.

### **Ushers**

Wilson Abraham, Adam Aho, Flex Bender, Ross Eichler, Ryan Gueguen, Tom Hinz, Alex Hiuser, Don Jardin, Jeffrey Kropf, Dave Mello, Ray Merner, Brian Racho, Brian Roth, Ken Seltzer and Del Jutzi.

### **Tape Ministry**

*Rose Mueller writes:*

The tape ministry team produced and delivered over 400 tapes this year. Helping with duplication were Nancy Brodrecht, Travis and Justin Gerber and Mike Mueller.

Tape deliveries were done by Ernie Ritz, Gywin Murray, Val Gerber, Emilie Faruzel, Doris Schwartzentruber, Hollice Stock, Shirley Unrau and others.

We are very pleased with the speed and quality of our new duplicating machine

As always we welcome any volunteers to help duplicate or deliver.

Lastly, if you have talents to offer and are not yet a member of any of the above groups, please consider joining. It is personally rewarding and you will feel more fully part of Trinity's family.

*André Lavergne & Anne Anderson,  
Pastors, Trinity Church*

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### **✚ Faithful Journey ~ Good Friday Cantata**

We are working on a reprise of last year's Good Friday Cantata, THE WEEPING TREE. It was extremely-warmly received. Care to sing with us? Speak to Gywin Murray if you would like to join us. We rehearse on Thursdays, 7:45 pm, at the front end of the regular Trinity Choir rehearsal. Of course, you'd also be welcome to sing in the regular Trinity Choir. You'd be welcome either way!

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**✚ Property and Maintenance ~ Ken Seltzer**



Thanks to all the folks who volunteered at the fall cleanup of the church. Many hands made short work of the numerous items that were completed. Thanks to Pat for the delicious lunch.

Thanks to Stan Otterbein and family for their donation of a beautiful Christmas Tree in Barb's memory. Thanks to Susan and Earl Nickolas for donating the Mitten Tree. Thanks to Paul Ramseyer, Don Jardin, Steve Jardin, Henry Simon and Earl Nickolas for assisting in cutting down and erecting both.

Four new circulating pumps for the church heating system have been installed. As well, the opening between the organ pump room and nave attic has been closed to eliminate a moisture problem.

An energy audit was completed on October 11 on both the Peel Street and Wilmot Street houses and the following items were approved for completion.

Action	Cost	Rebate	Actual
Insulate Peel Street Attic (completed)	1,100	1,500	-400
Insulate Wilmot Street Attic (completed)	900	1,500	-600
Replace Peel Street water heater (completed)	3,300	630	2,670
Replace Wilmot Street windows (in progress)	3,800	160	3,640
Remove cistern in Wilmot Street House (in progress)	600	-	600
Prepare & drywall basement for insulation	1,000		1,000
Insulate Wilmot Street basement	2,500	2,750	-250
Replace Wilmot Street furnace	4,700	1,300	3,400
Install Wilmot Street Air conditioning	2,400	-	2,400
Replace upper Peel Street toilet	400	190	210
Replace lower Peel Street toilet	400	190	210
Replace upper Wilmot Street toilet (completed)	400	190	210
			-----
Total estimated cost of projects			\$13,090

Council approved this schedule of projects based on the reference quotes. It is anticipated that all items will be completed by the Spring of 2010 from funds gathered in 2009. In other words, all of the above-mentioned projects are fully funded.

For 2010, we anticipate refurbishing the louvered windows in the bell tower. Buck Roth has undertaken to do this work in the Spring. Costs are expected to be minimal.

We are exploring options with regard to any necessary remedial work on the stained glass windows in the church. We are currently consulting with Randy Hannigan who refurbished our windows in the Millennium Project.

We are looking at refurbishing the floors in the Peel Street parsonage. The flooring is all in excess of 25 years old. Some is considerably older. We are looking at the possibility of exposing the tongue-and-groove oak floors in the dining room and living room and leaving them as *is* if they are in decent shape. Other areas would require replacement carpeting or some form of tile.

*Ken Seltzer with Marc Buehlow.  
Property and Maintenance Portfolio, Trinity Council.*

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ **Nurturing Faith (Children & Youth / Adults) ~ Lori Arnott**

*The Discipleship portfolio (Children & Youth) relates to a number of programs including Faith Adventures Sunday School, Affirmation Ministry, Cradle Roll (sponsored by Trinity's ELW) and the production of Faith Chests.*

*The Discipleship portfolio (Adults) relates to Sunday Adult Learning, evening classes, Open Table and our Faith in Film series.*



**Nurturing Faith: Children and Youth**

Nurturing Faith involves children from birth through Grade 8. The Cradle Roll (birth through age 2) is co-ordinated by Nancy Brodrecht. Cards of welcome, birthdays and age appropriate resource material are sent to each family.

The Nurturing Faith Committee includes, Lori Arnott, Krista Durrer, Maggie Racho, Mike and Christine Gascon, Jackie Currah, and Sheri Morrison and is lead by Pastor Anne, who also looks after the Affirmation Ministry. A huge thank you to all our committee members and families for their hard work and dedication to the programs.

**Cradle Roll**

*Cradle Roll Coordinator, Nancy Brodrecht, reports:*

The Cradle Roll program involves children from birth to age 3. Currently 43 young children are receiving material each month. Children who have been in the program receive a "SPLASH" pamphlet each month. "SPLASH" is being phased out and has been replaced with a new "Growing with Christ" package. Each new child receives age appropriate material, as well as special occasion cards for their half birthday and baptismal anniversary. Special thanks to our ELW for sponsoring this wonderful program of learning for our youngest members.

**Faith Adventures Sunday School**

After a very successful launch in 2007 of our new rotation model and greatly improved learning spaces, the "Faith Adventures" committee, teachers/shepherds and families have continued to provide amazing learning opportunities for our children.

The workshop rooms consist of the Bruce Hammer Theatre, the Drama/Storytelling Room, the Arts/Craft Room and the Music/Gathering Room (Trinity Hall). Children rotate on a weekly basis from room to room, enjoying a new learning experience each week. We have seen similar attendance as the year previous.

For our 2008/09 program year, our teachers and shepherds include Trevor Anderson, Lori Arnott, Jackie Bailey, Roy and Betty Bondy, Emma and Caroline Wiechers, Sherry Coman, Megan Clarke, Jackie Currah, Nancy Dale, Krista Durrer, Jane Eichler, Christine and Mike Gascon, Val Gerber, Rachel and Judy Gueguen, Doreen Lindner-Baan, Deb and Sapphire Linseman, Rob Lindner, Scott Malloch, Holly McCurdy, Carol Merner, Ray Merner, Doug and Mim Miller, Sheri Morrison, Earl and Susan Nicholas, Christine Normandeau, Misty and Devon Otterbein, Tara, Josh and Dagmar Otto, Anne Patton, Maggie Racho, Janice Ritz, Judy Riley, Joyce Roth, Mary Seltzer, Angie Scheid, Jane and David Trafford and the ELW group. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your dedication and support toward our program!

This past year our children have been busy with many different projects and events, including an inter-generational Prayer workshop, a Lenten project (families raised money to purchase cows and a plough for a third world country), our annual Carnival, Back-Pack Sunday, Christmas Caroling and a Family Wreath Workshop. We were also thrilled to host Jackie Nunns for a multi-church workshop on our new SPARK Curriculum. Each of our young people, beginning with our newly baptized moving up to our grade eight youth, received a bible this year to work in conjunction with our Sunday School program.

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With great success, our Faith Adventures kids performed a Christmas Pageant in December. A huge "thank you" goes to our youth directors Emma and Caroline Wiechers and Tara Otto for leading our kids in their "star" performances!

Although our Faith Adventures program is planned and organized for the remainder of the season, our committee continues to prepare for additional upcoming events outside of our Sunday learning. These events will include a Winter Fun Day and a Project to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with our whole congregation.

The Faith Adventures Team would like to thank all of our hard working and dedicated volunteers for their time and commitment to our programs, as we look forward to another successful year!

### **Affirmation Ministry**

The Affirmation program continues as children in grade three enter our program for faith education. Grade three through six children attended a half day event with Pastor Anne and parent helpers where the focus is on learning basics of faith. In grade seven and eight, in addition to a week of camp the youth attended three full days of Saturday class within the school year. In grade nine they prepare to be confirmed in the fall where they have a chance to share their faith story thus far at Witness Sunday and join in the congregation in new ways as they are confirmed. This past year we had seven young people confirmed.

This coming year we will continue with the full day classes for our grade seven and eight classes as attendance is good and the youth respond well to the format. We will also have Pastor Sheryl Stone and the Phillipsburg Confirmation class joining us in classes for the year.

### **Adult Learning**

*Pastors Anne & André report for the Adult Learning Team.*

In 2009, we undertook a number of Sunday morning programs including Interesting Lives (long-running series featuring the stories of Trinity's people); Currents in Social Justice II; My Life as God's Steward; and My life, My Times; Our World Our Mission.

In the first half of 2010, we are going with Interesting Lives; My life, My Times; Our World Our Mission; and On the Streets (mission emphasis)

Other topics are being considered or developed. For example, we are contemplating something on *the changing face of relationships* in the fall. We are consulting with Pastor Cindy Jacobson around possibilities. A regular update on the Adult Learning Team's work is posted in the narthex.

In recent times, Sherry Coman has offered a terrific Faith in Film series. Two series were completed in 2009 and a Monday evening series is under way for 2010. See page 4, above, for details.

Open Table will replace TT@MM's (Third Thursdays at Meme's) which was fallow during Pastor Anne's leave. Open Table is something new. In place of Third Thursdays we will offer drop-in philosopher's café on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in March. There'll be casual conversation with coffee, hot chocolate, tea and treats as we discuss a little and watch some video clips to get the conversation rolling. Our first set of topics are being built around "living out our faith in the everyday".

The Adult Learning team is composed of Anne Anderson, Kathy Bender, Dorothea Butz, André Lavergne and Ray Merner. Your input is welcome!

*Lori Arnott,  
Nurturing Faith Portfolio (Children and Youth), Trinity Council.*

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✚ **Congregational Life ~ Pat Schmetzer**

*The Congregational Life portfolio relates to the Trinity Gentle Friends Reading Group, Trinity Shepherds, Trinity Quilters and Trinity Prayer Circle. Congregational Life receives a great deal of support from Trinity's ELW.*



Once again, it's been a busy year in Congregational Life. On the Hospitality front, we've had quite a few "There Will be Cake" Sundays to celebrate the Ministry of some of our Trinity friends. We sponsored one of the lunches for the annual Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song Lenten Services at Zion United. We provided lunches for our Spring and Fall Parish Work Days. We helped with the "100 Mile Diet Lunch" in September and with our Anniversary celebration in November. We also provided dinner for the staff of the Christmas Blood Donor Clinic. It's been great fun working with the many volunteers who provide food and labour as well as help with planning, shopping etc. Thank you so much. Your assistance is really appreciated!

**Trinity Prayer Circle**

*The ELW's Shirley Unrau, Convenor for the Trinity Prayer Circle, reports:*

The Trinity Prayer Circle members are presently Shirley Unrau, Betty Ritz, Betty Lou Ramseyer, Nancy Hallberg, Peggy Faulhafer, Merva Zehr, Pat Schmetzer, Betty Stock, Theresa Bakker and Arlene Kropf.

The members pray regularly for requests or concerns given by the Pastors, Circle or congregation members and also at times from neighbouring churches' prayer groups.

Prayer requests are updated on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am with the Pastors and Shirley.

The group welcomes new members interested in prayer ministry. Contact any members or the Pastors to join or place a request.

**Trinity Shepherds**

*Pastor Lavergne reports:*

The following people are serving in Trinity's Shepherding Ministry: Jim & Nancy Arbuckle, Lori Arnott, Gerry Baan & Doreen Lindner-Baan, Millie Buehlow, Fred Buehlow, Audrey Cook, Ed & Claudia Danner, Dale & Rhonda Egerdee, Kathryn Eichler, Doug & Cindy Hammer, Don & Dorothy Jardin, Arlene & John Kropf, Joyce & Hans Lass, Carl Leu, Grace McGregor, Dave Mello, Ray Merner, Doug & Mim Miller, John & Wally Mueller, Stefanie Mueller, Betty Murray, Brad & Claire Otterbein, Betty Lou & Paul Ramseyer, Cy Ridout, Keith & Nancy Ropp, Jean Schaaf, Doris Schwartzentruber, Darryl Smith & Susan Yutzi-Smith, Joanne Snyder, Jared & Shannon Snyder, Hollice & Betty Stock and Shirley Unrau.

Shepherds help to deliver *Trinity Dove* and other items in their respective neighbourhoods. As well, they keep the pastors apprized of people moving into and out of their areas. Please join me in thanking all of our shepherds for their enormously helpful and dedicated service.

**Gentle Friends Reading Group**

*Kathryn Ritz, contact person for the Gentle Friends, writes:*

Our reading group has enjoyed another year of good books and good times. Because our numbers have increased, we meet in Trinity Hall. This has proved to be a roomy, comfortable place for us to gather around a large table, chat and enjoy our tea. Our New Hamburg Library staff are most accommodating and bring in a supply of books for us. This makes the group affordable for all of us. The books we read are an interesting mix. We read Canadian and

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international authors and our topics are diverse. Discussion is always interesting, friendly and (I believe it is because we have men in our group), we laugh a lot! All are welcome.

### **Trinity Quilters**

*The ELW's Florence Sebert, Convenor of the Trinity Quilters, reports:*

Our quilting group is getting smaller. We meet every Wednesday to enjoy the fellowship and tea with a bag lunch at noon. It's a pleasure to be together. Thanks to all.

During the year we quilted 7 altogether for different people and 2 for ticket selling 1 for Seminary. We made 15 tied relief ones. 5 to the House of Friendship. 5 to St. Monica House plus 1 crib quilt and some layette things. 5 to Wilmot Family Resource Centre. 1 crib quilt and some larger children's sleepers.

We also made 6 prayer quilts for the sick and a bunch blankets for children at hospital, about 20 in the year.

Well done Quilters!

Thank you, friends, for your information and reports.

We are looking forward to serving in the new year in any way we can.

*Pat Schmetzer  
Congregational Life Portfolio, Trinity Council.*

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### **✚ Faithful Journey ~ World Day of Prayer Service**

The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, March 5, 2 pm, at Hillcrest Mennonite Church. Prepared by the World Day of Prayer committee of Cameroon, this year's material is based on the theme "Let everything that has breath praise God" (Psalm 150). All are welcome!

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### **✚ Faithful Journey ~ Faith Chests & Baptismal Books**

The community of Trinity Church makes the gift of a faith chest to each person who is baptized at Trinity. The faith chest is designed to hold various items related to the faith journey of our people: baptismal certificate and candle; baptismal dress or suit; books presented to families at the time of baptism; service tape; greeting cards; Sunday School and Affirmation! Ministry items; Bible; confirmation certificate and cross; any other items related to a person's journey in faith.

Trinity's faith chests are the labour of love of Cy Ridout, Paul Diebel and Don Jardin. Material costs related to the faith chests are underwritten through Trinity's Endowment Fund.

We hope that Trinity's faith chests and collection of baptismal books will serve our baptismal families well. We hope that the journey of the baptized will be faith-filled and fulfilling, part of a life-long home in the Church of Jesus Christ.

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✚ Evangelical Lutheran Women ~ Arlene Kropf



2009 has been another busy and at times, trying year for our ELW at Trinity. Our numbers are down due to the passing of Millie Faruzel, the moving of Lotus Hammer and two resignations. Pat Schmetzer must be commended for her calm and resourceful leadership skills. After Mildred Knackstedt's resignation, she accepted the president position and its responsibilities with grace and managed to keep our ELW afloat. With the same grace, Shirley Unrau has agreed to fill the vice-president position for the interim. The executive will remain as is, until the election in early 2010. Our sincere thanks to these two remarkable ladies. In spite of smaller numbers, our ELW has managed some big goals and commitments again in 2009. We continue to pursue ideas to encourage growth to our current membership. (Refer to October regular minutes) A few changes in the format of our regular meetings have taken place, and more changes may take place in 2010 if it encourages more membership. For now, several of our ELW group are continuing to subscribe to the Esprit so we can use the bible feature as offered.

In 2009, the Secret Sisters' annual banquet took place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. A vote in favour to continue with this social was done and new names for 2009 were drawn.

As in recent years Trinity again participated in the noon Lenten services at Zion United Church here in New Hamburg, as well as assisted in World Day of Prayer, which was hosted by St. George's Anglican Church on March 6<sup>th</sup>,

This year Nancy Brodrecht has taken over responsibilities of the Cradle Roll with the curricular material of "Growing in Christ".

Christmas Care Kits were again sent off to CLWR. Many thanks to those who contributed. It was agreed among the ELW that this is a worth while project and that it should be continued in 2010.

The Baby Bundle Project succeeded in sending off 35 layettes to CLWR again this year. It was motioned and accepted to continue this project also, in 2010. Thanks to the congregational members who contibuted in any way.

The spring conference took place on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener. Three representatives from Trinity attended.

The Prayer Shawl and Lap Quilt Ministry was a new ambition put into action this past year. Lap quilts were blessed and sent to ill congregational members with pastoral visits and prayer shawls were sent along to other people who were experiencing various hardships. To date, the ministry has been well received from those who received the shawls. Millie Rhem (organizer of this ministry) has since stepped down, and we are looking for someone to take her place. Pat Schmetzer has agreed to take on the organizing part in the interim. Thanks to all the busy hands for the creations of these shawls and lap quilts.

The "2009" spring outing took place in the form of a potluck gathering at Pastor Syd and Joanne's Holiday Beach property. Thanks for your generous hospitality, Pastor Syd and Joanne.

The 100 mile diet fundraising luncheon took place on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately \$753.00 was raised. Along with \$300.00 from the Endowment Fund, we were able to present Camp Edgewood with a cheque well over \$1,000 to help buy a new industrial mixer for their kitchen. Many thanks to Pat Schmetzer and her committee for making this happen!

The annual Women's Auxiliary meeting was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A donation was given to WLS Auxiliary in memory of Millie Faruzel's passing. Her name has been placed in the Seminary Memorial Book for her past dedicated services. The donated quilt and Trinity's ongoing support has been greatly appreciated.

October's ELW meeting was brief, but the visit to Lotus Hammer's new home near Durham was very meaningful to those who travelled to attend. Lotus was presented with a pin and prayer shawl for ther many years of dedicated service.

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The annual Fall Conference was held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Kitchener on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Trinity was represented by 5 of our members.

Our ELW ladies continue to volunteer for Trinity Village afternoon teas. In "2009", we served in May and again in November.

The ELW also took a leading role in the organizing of Trinity's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary opening celebration luncheon. It was held in Trinity Hall on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was well attended.

The "Coins for Chamanculo" project successfully raised approximately \$210 and this was sent off to the CLWR in November. A motion was made that we continue this project in "2010".



**Christian Action Committee**

Our Christian Action Committee convenor, Florence Sebert, reports that lunch was prepared and served for 5 funerals this past year.

The quilting group at Trinity has been somewhat smaller in 2009, but continues to produce many artistic handiworks. The Mother's Day Raffle is worth mentioning in that it raised in the neighbourhood of \$550. Its proceeds went to the "Beautiful Unique Girls" program and to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Another quilt was finished and sent to WLS. Several relief quilts went to the House of Friendship, St. Monica House and Wilmot Family Resources (see quilting report "09" for details).

Our dear Florence deeps getting better with age! Not only does she organize and set up for the Wednesday quilters, but she also takes the lead role in designing the prayer quilts, and her busy hands don't stop at that! This past year, she made approximately 20 Cuddle Blankets that were forwarded to both Cambridge and Kitchener hospitals.

**Visiting and Cheer Committee**

Visiting and Cheer Committee Convenor, Merva Zehr, reports that during "2009", 120 assorted cards were sent, and 237 visits were made to congregational members.

Thirty-seven cookie plates were prepared by the ELW of Trinity on December 14, and delivered as our annual Christmas Cheer project. Thanks to those who helped deliver and visit these shut-in people.

Several organizations received benevolence donations from Trinity ELW again this Christmas. Copies of "2009" Treasurer's report, quilters report and the visiting committee report are attached.

*Arlene Kropf,  
Secretary, ELW.*

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**✚ ELW Treasurer's Report ~ Nancy Hallberg**

Balance December 3, 2008		960.77
Receipts (in)	4,506.34	
General Expenses (out)	4,659.29	
Balance December 14, 2009		712.82

*Audited by Joan Cook*

*Nancy Hallberg,  
Treasurer, ELW.*



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✚ Priscilla Group ~ Reta Klaassen

The Priscilla Group is always willing to help whenever we are called on.

In October we were busy making new chrismons for the Christmas tree, additional ones were made by the Sunday School.

Confirmation gowns were prepared for the Affirmation class in November.

In November we also made table centres for the Anniversary lunch.

Thanks again to everyone for their participation in decorating the Christmas tree and the rest of the church, also for the decorations at Thanksgiving, the church looked beautiful.

Christmas Hampers were packed for Wilmot Family Resource Centre for 6 families with gifts, groceries, mittens hats and slippers. Thank you to the congregation for their support in supplying gifts and donations. The Mitten Tree was great with lots of hats, mittens, scarves and slippers.

Thank you to the new faces that have come to assist us in our activities, we are always looking for more participants.

*Reta Klaassen,  
Coordinator, The Priscilla Group.*



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✚ Seminary Women's Auxiliary

The Annual Meeting was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo on September 23, 2009 with the theme "Living Our Faith in Today's World". Rev. Cindy Jacobsen spoke about "How Clergywoman, Counsellor and Candidate have become Expressions of my Christian Vocation". We also had an opportunity to hear three Seminary students speak about their Christian Journey.

This past year Trinity members donated \$525 to the Women's Auxiliary - wonderful! In addition, our ELW made a special donation in memory of Emilie Faruzel who served as our contact person for the Women's Auxiliary for several years. Trinity Quilters also donated another beautiful quilt. These donated quilts are presented to graduating students in the Master of Divinity program who are going into the ministry.

I'd like to thank all the Trinity people who supported the Women's Auxiliary. Faculty and Students are very grateful! Funds are used to help cover costs for student's Clinical Pastoral Education (where they work in a clinical setting such as a hospital, learning pastoral care ); maintaining the seminary gardens; providing a Christmas tree and other decorations; maintaining the kitchen in the students' lounge etc.

*Pat Schmetzer  
Seminary Women's Auxiliary Contact Person.*

