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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
New Hamburg, Ontario



2011 Bulletin of Annual Reports

Annual Congregational Meeting
February 12, 2012

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Minutes ~ Annual Congregational Meeting ~ February 13, 2011

	Bulletin page (s)
Call to Order (Larry Gravill)	
1. Opening Prayer (Anne Anderson)	
Hymn 641 — All Are Welcome	
2. Approval of Agenda	
M. Ernie Ritz, S. Cy Ridout to approve the agenda as circulated/revised. Carried.	
3. Minutes of February 14, 2010, meeting	1-4
M. Larry Keller, S. Gywin Murray to accept the Minutes as published. Carried.	
4. Report of the President of Trinity Lutheran Church	5
M. Don Jardin, S. Rick Ritz to accept the President's Report as presented. Carried.	
5. Pastors' Reports	5-11
Parochial Report	12
M. Rick Ritz, S. Doug Miller to accept the Pastor's Reports as presented. Carried.	
6. Reports & Information from Council	
Mutual Ministry	13
Witness & Outreach / Service	14
Worship	15-16
Property & Maintenance	17
Nurturing Faith - Children and Youth / Adults <i>Including Faith Adventures, Cradle Roll, Affirmation Ministry, Adult Learning, Faith in Film...</i>	18-20
Congregational Life <i>including Trinity Prayer Circle, Trinity Shepherds, Trinity Quilters, Gentle Friends Readers...</i>	21-22
M. Larry Keller, S. Bob Ruthig to accept the Reports from Council as presented. Carried.	
7. Reports of Auxiliaries	
Junior & Senior TYGers — included in Pastor Anne's report Youth Presentation to the Congregation	20
Women of Trinity <i>including Treasurer's Report & Seminary Women's Auxiliary...</i>	23
M. Doreen Lindner-Baan, S. Gywin Murray to accept the Auxiliary Reports as presented. Carried..	
8. Approval of 2009 Financial Statements	yellow 3-8
Finance & Stewardship Reports	yellow 2
Auditors' Statement	yellow 2
Rick Ritz presented 2010 Financial Statements.	
M. Reta Ridout, S. Jim Wettlaufer to accept the Year 2010 Financial Statements as presented and to appoint the	

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auditor for the 2011 fiscal year. Carried.

9. Elections and Appointments

A. Election of Congregational Council Members

Nominated: Ken Seltzer, Heidi Ziegler, Susan Rogers, John McCurdy
Acclaimed.

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

Nominated: Jacqui Bailey (to join Michel Gascon & Neil Klaassen)
Acclaimed.

C. Confirmation of Appointment of Treasurer: Bob Ruthig

M. Don Jardin, S. Mike Gascon to confirm the appointment of Bob Ruthig as Treasurer. Carried.

D. Confirmation of Appointment of Financial Secretary: Laurie Clarke

M. Cy Ridout, S. Larry Keller to confirm the appointment of Laurie Clarke as Financial Secretary. Carried.

10. Confirmation of 2011 Endowment Fund Distribution

yellow 8

Rick Ritz presented list of 2011 Endowment Fund Projects

It is placed before the Congregation by Council.

M. Ken Seltzer, S. Pat Schmetzer to confirm the 2011 Endowment Fund expenditures. Carried.

11. Approval of 2010 Program Budget

yellow 2-7

Rick Ritz presented 2010 Program Budget

It is placed before the Congregation by Council.

M. Jim Wettlaufer, S. Lloyd Hagen to accept the Year 2010 Program Budget. Carried.

12. Other Business

Nothing was added.

13. Information

Interfaith & Day Care Reports

25-26

Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 7 pm (third Wednesday)

Installation of Council & Officers: Sunday, February 20, 9:30 am

Other Information

14. Adjournment

M. & S. That we adjourn. Carried.

15. Closing Prayer (André Lavergne)

Hymn 546 — To Be Your Presence

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

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✚ President's Report ~ Larry Gravill

It is an honour and a pleasure to be part of a congregation and a council that continues its faithful journey, embracing change in a way that that strengthens Trinity, and better enables us to serve our community.

Your council has been active meeting the challenges that come from the retirement of a key member of our staff, renovation and repair of our facilities, the development of policies that improve our ability to respond to the expectations of our congregation, and managing the fiscal responsibilities within the economic realities of our wider community.



Our support team continues to be dynamic. While we lost a strong contributor, Gywin Murray, through a well-deserved retirement, we had tremendous interim support from Bob Marshall, and our new minister of music, Jamie Courtney, has hit the ground running. Jill Merner, Erika Mueller, Syd Hills, Brian Racho, Helen Toman, and Bob Thaler are integral to the success of Trinity. It is my pleasure on behalf of our congregation to thank them for their commitment and diligence.

The strong leadership of Pastor Anne and Pastor Andre is evident in all aspects of Trinity's ministry, and service to the congregation. Their shared vision, commitment, passion, and compassion provides guidance to the congregation as a whole, and we are also very thankful for the way they serve and support the varied individual needs of the members of our church.

On behalf of council I would like to thank Heidi Ziegler for her contributions as she completes her time on council. I would also like to thank Doreen Lindner-Baan, Krista Durrer, Chris Normandeau, and Cy Ridout for their contributions as they complete their respective terms, as well as agreeing to stand for election to an additional term.

We are truly blessed that so many people are willing to share their talents, time, and resources on the many committees and task groups that make our congregation both vibrant and vital.

Peace.

*Larry Gravill
President, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Chairperson, Trinity Council.*

✚ Faithful Journey ~ CLWR Baby Bundles

Now that we are through our Mitten Tree Season, we turn our thoughts to baby bundles. Each year we prepare these baby bundles for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. They get sent out in the spring. Last year we were able to send over 40 bundles!

This year we are in need of knitted or crocheted baby sweaters, sleepers, shirts, wash-cloths, receiving blankets, and baby wool for our knitters. We can also use funds to help purchase flannel for diapers and receiving blankets, diaper pins, baby wool, and other supplies. We will need volunteers to hem diapers and receiving blankets.

Are you able to help? Please put any articles in the narthex. They can be new or gently used. Donations should be placed in an offering envelope labeled "Baby Bundles".

Imagine the joy of a new mother who receives a bundle from CLWR to welcome her newborn! More information? Contact Pat Schmetzer.

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✚ Pastor's Report ~ André Lavergne

Grace and peace to you.

Recently, Rick Ritz, Pastor Anne and I wrote the following in a letter published with our offering statements and 2011 income tax receipts.

“Council is putting the finishing touches on our 2012 program budget. Jamie Courtney has joined our staff as Minister of Music. Families @ Five comes to Trinity soon. A new young adults program is on the drawing board. Our pastoral care is becoming more focussed. It's hard to keep up!



Indeed, we've had quite a year. We're feeling wonderfully optimistic. And it's hard to keep up!

Faithful Journey: From Welcome to Invitation

A few months ago, Council adopted the following theme to guide our ministry in 2012: "Faithful Journey: From Welcome to Invitation".

The idea is simple. Everyone hangs out a welcome sign. Trinity does. Every other congregation in Wilmot Township does. Businesses do. Clinics do. Adult Communities do. We all hang out the "welcome" sign. In 2004, Trinity went so far as to craft an "Affirmation of Welcome." If you had any doubts before, we dealt with them! We *really* mean welcome! No one means welcome more than we do!

Except that in the real world, it doesn't work quite that way. Or *just* that way. When Fred or Martha wander by the church, and see our sign, the first thing that comes to mind is not "My search is over. Here we are. Here, we're welcome! Tell me now: where do I sign?" It just doesn't work that way.

When Fred or Martha wander into our circle, they are looking for two things: a clear *invitation* to come in and a clear *confirmation* that they made the right choice when they get inside. No *invitation*; no welcome. No *confirmation*; no welcome.

So the idea is that we spend some time exploring how we might be and become a more *inviting* congregation.

What makes a place *inviting*? What makes a community *inviting*?

During Lent, Pastor Anne and I are going to lead some Sunday morning Adult Learning sessions designed to have us contemplate how we issue the invitation. The series is called "Invitation to Easter". We'll spend some time during Lent trying to figure out how we could better invite people to join us for the Journey of the Great Three Days and the continuing Easter celebration. Please join us, Sunday mornings, between the services!

Faithful Journey: Staff Re-configuration

Over the last two years, Trinity's staff has been substantially reconfigured. Part of this reconfiguration had to do with compensating for my work as Assistant to National Bishop Susan Johnson. Part of this reconfiguration had to do with the birth of our Sanctuary Community. Part of this reconfiguration had to do with the changing shape of our pastoral care. And part of this reconfiguration had to do with the retirement of our Emerita Director of Music, Gywin Murray.

For the first time in many months, our staff is at its full complement and everyone is doing the work that is unique to his or her vocation. And it shows. Our worship is more sure-footed. Our program design is clearer. The sense of joy and general good feeling in the parish are at a recent all-time-high.

Faithful Journey: Worship

Over the last couple of weeks, we have received a great many comments about worship. The common theme has to do with people feeling good about how things are going and about what fine work the Minister of Music Task Group did for our

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community. We were offered excellent interim music ministry from Bob Marshall. We now have a wonderful sense of vision, musicianship and accomplishment from our new Minister of Music, Jamie Courtney.

Council struck the Minister of Music Task Group with the mandate “to assist Trinity’s Council to secure a Minister of Music to support the worship of the congregation broadly and of Trinity’s Anchor and Sanctuary Communities in particular.” They did a superb job. The Task Group reflected the breadth of the Trinity family (women and men, young and old...) with links to the Anchor & Sanctuary Communities, Affirmation Singers & Trinity Choir, Mutual Ministry Committee and Council. The members were Rick Ritz (chair), Nancy Dale, Cy Ridout, Lori Arnott, Dean Clarke & Erika Mueller, together with Pastor Anne Anderson, me and consultant James Brown (pastor and musician). As you have opportunity, please thank the members of the Task Group for their fine work.

Already, Jamie has begun to form an excellent relationship with our Trinity Choir, with our Affirmation Singers and with some of our occasional musicians. He has been taking his bearings and, together, we are refining this aspect of our pastoral ministry as we go along. That said, people in both our Sanctuary and Anchor communities are feeling good about our direction in these very early days.

Welcome, Jamie, to the pastoral leadership team!

(Jamie’s family, including his wife, Cindy Young Courtney, and kids Allie —8— and Lily —3— have joined our community.)

In addition to Jamie Courtney, Pastor Bob Thaler is an important figure in our worship life. Bob preaches monthly in our Anchor Community. His position is also made possible through the restructuring of my work to take account of my national deployment. Together with our Youth and Family Worker, Erika Mueller, and Visitation Pastor, Helen Toman, Bob is one of our three contract staff whose ministry is reimbursed from my national stipend.



Pastor Bob brings a remarkable voice and profound pastoral sensibilities to his preaching. His presence also offers an important ecumenical witness in our community not to mention a wonderful partner for pastoral conversation.

Welcome —a continuing welcome— Bob, to the pastoral leadership team.

While our worship ministry is being consolidated in our Sunday morning communities, a new program having a foundational worship component will begin to unfold in February. Called “Families @ Five”, this program is designed to assist a segment of our community not well-served by a traditional Sunday morning program.

Look to page 9 in this BULLETIN OF REPORTS for a full description of Families @ Five.

Faithful Journey: Youth and Young Adults

A few months ago, Erika Mueller joined our staff team as our Youth and Family Worker. Her position is also made possible through the restructuring of my work to take account of my national deployment.

Together with pastor Anne, Erika has charted a new course for the TYGers that includes defining the TYGers as youth who are in high school (with Junior and Senior groups to be further defined at length) and offering the TYGers an every-Tuesday-evening program. Erika and Anne have also begun to carve out a place for young adults having completed high school in a new program called “the gap”.

Pastor Anne and Erika are doing some great work with Trinity’s youth and young adults. Look to page 19 in this BULLETIN OF REPORTS for more information.

Welcome, Erika, to our leadership team!

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Faithful Journey: Pastoral Visitation

About two years ago, Pastor Helen Toman joined our pastoral leadership team as our Visitation Pastor. Her position is also made possible through the restructuring of my work to take account of my national deployment.

All three of us —Pastor Helen, Pastor Anne and I— provide pastoral care of various sorts.

Pastor Anne sees a greater emphasis on weddings, as she is becoming better acquainted with the age group most likely to be getting married. At the same time, I often get requests from folks with whom I've ministered over the years, often in connection with the death of a first partner. At the same time, in balance, I tend to take the lead on more funerals (even when we're both involved). That also has to do with the fact that I often have a long-time relationship with some of our older folks, although that, too, is changing as both Pastor Helen and Pastor Anne become established in the lives of our people.

For her part, Pastor Helen's emphasis is on seeing that all of our home-bound folks get a regular visit from the church. She makes her way through a substantial visitation list numbering some 75-80 individuals and couples. Anne and I also visit among these folks, but in a more focused seasonal fashion or as specific needs arise.

As with other members of our staff team, Pastor Helen has been warmly received in our community and has begun to forge some important and lasting relationships among our people.

As always, Helen, we're glad to have you aboard!

(Helen's family, including her husband, Keith, and mother, Edna Stroh, have joined our community.)

Faithful Journey: Financial Stewardship & PAR

A couple of days ago, Council concluded its second 2012 Budget hearing. As I understand it —pastors do not normally participate in the budget deliberations— Council is proposing a 3% increase over last year which would still yield a significant General Fund deficit. At the same time, the 3% is very much in line with inflation which was 2.95% year over year.

Recently, Rick Ritz, Pastor Anne and I enclosed a letter with the offering statements and tax receipts which are being prepared for mailing next week. Members of the congregation were thanked for their contributions in 2011; were asked to review their 2011 contributions and to adjust their offerings for 2012; were invited to switch to PAR if they have not already done so; were invited to read through this *Bulletin of Annual Reports* and January and February issues of *Trinity Dove* to fully appreciate the breadth of the ministry we are asked to support.

Obviously, it is critically important that we all do our parts to help meet our 2012 budget. For our parts, Barbara and I are increasing our General Fund contributions by 5%. That will help to compensate for some of our folks on fixed incomes who may not be in as good a position to go the full 3%. (Truth be told, it also happens to yield a nice round number!)

I should say as well, that our family has supported PAR from Day One. As it turns out, that's 18 years. We were the first Lutheran congregation in Canada to PARTICIPATE by requesting that the United Church of Canada open its then new PAR program to non-United Church folks. The United Church of Canada now provide stewardship services to a number of denominations across Canada. In our home, we have found PAR to be both supportive of our own sense of stewardship and helpful to the congregation we love.

Please take to heart the letter which accompanies your tax receipt.

Faithful Journey ~ Trinity's Leaders

Trinity's Staff Leadership Team is composed of members of the Pastoral Leadership Team — Anne Anderson (Co-Pastor), Helen Toman (Visitation Pastor), Bob Thaler (Preacher) and Jamie Courtney (Minister of Music) and me— together with Youth and Family Worker Erika Mueller, Secretary Jill Merner and Sexton Brian Racho. All of my colleagues provide "above and beyond the call" service to our community, and they do so with enormous grace and goodwill. For each of these —for their dedication and collegiality, especially— I am very grateful.

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Where 2010 saw us celebrate the ministry of Jill Merner, 2011 marked the completion of 50 years of leadership that Gywin Murray has provided as our Director of Music. We celebrated her ministry in grand style; raised over \$11,000 toward a church music scholarship in her honour; and made her Trinity's Emerita Director of Music. I shall always cherish Gywin's dedication and partnership over the years.

Trinity's Congregational Council is composed of Krista Durrer, Larry Gravill, Doreen Lindner Baan, John McCurdy, Doug Miller, Chris Normandeau, Cy Ridout, Rick Ritz, Susan Rogers, Pat Schmetzer, Ken Seltzer and Heidi Ziegler together with Anne Anderson and me. These Council folk serve with a great deal of integrity and behind-the-scenes attention to their portfolios. Again, to each of these, I am very grateful.

This year, Krista Durrer, Doreen Lindner Baan, Chris Normandeau and Cy Ridout have completed terms on Council and are eligible for reelection. They have let their names stand for a new term. Moreover, Council has asked Barry Kalbfleisch (Mutual Ministry) to let his name stand to replace Heidi Ziegler. He has indicated his willingness to serve. Great!

These five names will be before the congregation at the annual meeting.

Several people provide executive leadership for our community. They are Larry Gravill (President and Chair of Council), Rick Ritz (Vice President and Vice-Chair of Council), Krista Durrer (Secretary) together with Bob Ruthig (Treasurer), and Laurie Clarke (Financial Secretary). Each of these persons provides a great deal of attention and time to their leadership in the parish. To each of these, we are justifiably grateful.

Bob and Laurie are allowing their names to stand for reappointment at the annual meeting.

Finally, I want to thank Pastor Syd Hills and Pastor Ron Leonard for their steadfast collegiality. Ron pinch-hits occasionally while Syd does excellent work to support Bob Thaler's ministry as the Padre of the Royal Canadian Legion. He also does occasional stints as an interim pastor in local congregations.

Finally, I want to thank Judy Riley for her continued devoted and excellent care of our facilities.

Faithful Journey ~ National Work

Two years in, and I am coming into my own in connection with my work at the ELCIC's ecumenical officer. I work with a great team of senior staff and serve as assistant to a wonderful bishop and boss. The use of deployed staff has served both the national church and our congregation very well. Both have benefitted from opportunities which would have been otherwise denied if the national church and congregation were operating in more conventional and traditional ways. With Bishop Susan's reelection this summer, the national church and congregation signed a new contract. Great days ahead!

Faithful Journey ~ Last Comment

Family life is good. The big news is that our daughter, Dayna, has taken a position with Toronto's renowned Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre www.aislingdiscoveries.on.ca as a therapist working primarily with autistic children and their families.

John is cooking up a storm at Borealis www.borealisgrille.ca in Kitchener; Blake is entering his level two course work in connection with his brick-laying apprenticeship with Kitchener's George Masonry www.georgemasonry.com (you see some of their work at the Wilmot Rec Centre); Ruth and Ian are teaching, studying and travelling from their home in Vancouver.

Finally, I am indebted to my partner-in-life, Barbara, for her loving support, and to my partner-in-ministry, Pastor Anne, for her enthusiasm and thoughtful leadership in the unfolding reality which is parish life and ministry.

We are well-served, and for all of these, and for all of you, I am grateful.

All blessings.

*André Lavergne,
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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✚ Pastor's Report ~ Anne Anderson

Grace and peace to you.

Faithful Journey ~ A wonderful Year

What a year it has been! In some ways it has whizzed by with the usual events of our church calendar underway but also with many highlights and surprises along the way. The new year came with our annual youth retreat, and continued with youth and children's programs including Affirmation and Confirmation classes and our part-time intern Jennifer Famme brought her gifts and talents to our program while she was with us.



The summer brought our thanksgiving celebrations for Gwyn and her huge gift of music that she has brought to our congregation as she retired from Trinity after 50 good years here. It also brought a short course in Toronto on Vital Church ministries with the Anglican church and my first trip to a national convention in Saskatoon, SK. where much learning and decisions were made. Back to Ontario with Confirmation Camp and our biggest group yet with over half of the camp in attendance from our church.

Faithful Journey ~ New Staff

The fall began with a new staff and support for our youth and family ministries with Erika Mueller at the lead. Also we had the gift of an interim musician Bob Marshall – who was great to have around at Sanctuary to add his wit and music to our gathering.

As always I have been so thankful to welcome new families and children into our community through baptism. I have also been encouraged as I see many of our families connecting with one another and welcoming new folks through meals together and in other ways of support. That is living out our welcome into invitation and it encourages me deeply to see how you are living this out. I hope to see more of these moments in the next year!

Faithful Journey ~ Sanctuary

Our Sanctuary community has been growing. Along with some new faces and some returning faces our community has grown to a good size with a regular attendance at three times it's size a few years back. It has been super to see families connecting and experiencing worship together in different ways. Having Jamie join our leadership has been a real gift and we look forward to many more possibilities together. Our time together in potluck, in study (open table last fall) and in service (the guest workers supper) has been a gift of those gathered as they listen, support and worship together. Thanks to all who help make Sanctuary the community it is. And as always all are welcome. If you are curious, join us some Sunday at 11:30 am. Better yet, bring a friend who might be up for something new.

Faithful Journey ~ Families @ Five

Another part of our movement from welcome to invitation comes in the form of Families @ Five. It is a family time based on a program happening in the UK called Messy Church. Here at Trinity we will be gathering once a month and inviting families with ALL ages to join in with us at Trinity Hall at 5pm on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in February. We will have a variety of activities for families to discover for the first while then join in a short worship and share a warm meal together ending roughly around 6:30pm. Invite a friend and join us- the cost is free and this is a great way to connect into or return to Trinity. Who doesn't love a free meal someone else cooks for you?

Faithful Journey ~ Eastern Synod Partnership

Another exciting piece of my time at Trinity has come in the form of Eastern Synod support. The Synod likes what we are doing here at Trinity and they want us to encourage and support other congregations who are trying to live out faith in new ways. They have given us a grant to host a conference in late spring called 'Both/And' where we will learn and be encouraged and challenged on what it means to be Lutheran and live out our faithful journey in new ways. Watch for posters for this great event!

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Faithful Journey ~ Family

In our personal world Trevor, my husband, has begun a new job with the new Stork YMCA as a Member Services Representative (front desk guy). His new evening shift has changed our reality but it has been a great job for him and we have appreciated the support of the congregation as evening meetings happen and there always seems to be plenty of help for care for our son Nate! We also want to say a huge thanks to the community when we had a scare with Nate having a febrile seizure at church- he is doing fine- back to his energetic self – and we so appreciate and are thankful for the support and love you all continue to show.

Faithful Journey ~ Many Thanks

So my report would not be complete without a big round of thanks to so many. Thanks to André for your support and care and teaching. Thanks to Jill for your good heart and organizing. Thanks to Bob Thaler for your good gospel words and a hymn tune or two. Thanks to Helen for your laughter and solid care of our people. Thanks to Gwyn Murray for your gift of music and friendship. Thanks to Bob Marshall for your humor and gentle time with us. Thanks to Jamie Courtney for a super start. Thanks to Erika Mueller for your energy and ideas. Thanks to Judy Riley and Brian Racho and all their helpers for keeping this place running smooth and clean.

And a last great big thanks to you congregational family of Trinity for you make this place what it is- a warm place for families to live out their faithful journey together!

*Anne Anderson,
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*

✚ Faithful Journey ~ World Day of Prayer Service

The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, March 2 at Holy Family Church. Details will be published in February.

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Luther Hostel 2012 ~ June 4-8

Luther Hostel 2012 - Church Transformed for the Sake of the World

In the light of the challenging global realities we face today, how do we — in relation to those in contexts different than our own — understand, question, and live out the Christian Faith? What are their issues and in what ways are they distinct from yet also related to our issues? How are we, our theological understandings, and our ways of being church (practices) challenged and transformed through conversation with those who are different than us?

Location & Dates: Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, Ontario; June 4-8, 2012

Speakers:

Dr. Karen Bloomquist, former Head of Theology for the LWF
Dr. Mary Joy Philip, from India
Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus, from Nigeria

More info? Visit www.seminary.wlu.ca/lutherhostel in early March.

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✝ Sacraments & Seasons ~ Jill Merner & André Lavergne

The following events reflect a snap-shot of realities in Trinity's ministry during 2011.

Births

Austraya Alves (Nov 2), Ellie Balfour (Mar 3), Lily Beavis (Jun 24), Elliot Cape (Aug 9), Mackenzie Deckert (Aug 8), Sheldon Eichler (May 8), Abigail Ferguson (Nov 1), Bridget & Wesley Freitag (May 31).



Baptisms

Brody Parkin (Mar 6); Joseph Becker, Grace Becker (Apr 23); Isabelle Otterbein, Lily Preidt (May 8); Sheldon Eichler, Elliot Cape, Aaron Wettlaufer (Jun 19); Lily Beavis, Ellie Balfour (Sep 18); McKenzie Deckert, Bridget Freitag, Wesley Freitag (Oct 2)

Confirmations

On November 6, Heather Heise, Aspen Kienapple, Kylie Patton, Samantha Lindner and Sadie Hammer.

Marriages

Al Roberts & Susan Arsenault (April 9); Ian Spruce & Tammy Bingeman (May 13); Kyle Hicks & Meghann Otterbein (June 4); Howard Lorentz & Margaret Racho (Aug 20); Manfred Chiduck & Judythe Schnarr (Sept 17); Robert Steinberg & Karen Lang (Dec 10).

Deaths

Ralph Becker (Jan 7); Ron Ziegler (Jan 29), Rose Schwartztruber (Feb 21); Jean Agnew (Feb 28), Don Coxson (Apr 24), Karen Junker (May 5); Doris Bast (Jun 1); Erma Cheeseman (Aug 22); Helen Roth (Aug 16); Tony Greulich (Sep 28); John Hillar (Oct 28); Walter Schneider (Nov 7).

People Coming

Chris & Shelly Faulhafer (Kennedy, Olivia, Reese); Derek & Leanne Freitag (Bridget, Wesley); Steve & Christa Kieswetter (Cassidy, Sydney); Judythe Schnarr-Chiduck.

People Going

Joyce & Verne Hammer (Zion, Stratford); Kelly White, Ben & Becca Klooster (Wolfville, Nova Scotia); Rob Lindner, Nicole (Zion, Stratford); Mike & Jess O'Donoghue, Emily (St. James, New Dundee); Stuart & Millie Rhem (Zion, Stratford); Gary & Greta Riedel, Matthew, Nathan, Sarah (Trinity, Tavistock); Tracy Smith, Alexandra & Christopher (North Bay); Bill & Betty Thompson (Zion, Philipsburg)

Jill Merner,
Parish Secretary, Trinity Church

André Lavergne,
Pastor, Trinity Church

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✚ Mutual Ministry ~ Lori Arnott

The Mutual Ministry Committee is a team of selected congregational members who support and foster the ministry at Trinity by being cognizant of the spiritual, emotional and financial needs of all staff, and reviewing/revising ministry goals and job requirements and policies. The committee members include Roger Dale, Jim Arbuckle, Deb Gravill, Lori Arnott, Don Jardin (retired December 2011) and Heidi Ziegler (retired December 2011). A special thank you to both Don and Heidi for their amazing leadership and dedication while serving on the committee!



This year has been very busy for our committee. We provided support and understanding to the staff through the transition of the intern's position. We shared in the excitement of welcoming our new youth worker Erika Mueller to the staff team. We shed our tears and shared our support with Gywin Murray as she informed us of her decision to retire. We look forward to our future relationship with Jamie Courtney as we welcome him to the staff at Trinity.

The team has also been committed to reviewing, updating and developing ministry documents. We have updated Trinity's Policy and Procedure Manual to include job descriptions for Helen, Erika and Jamie, as well as revisions to both pastor's job profiles. As well, our team developed a new Code of Ethics document for Council Members and Officers, and created a new Mutual Ministry Guidelines document. We have also made our recommendations to Trinity's council re: remuneration for staff.

The Mutual Ministry Committee is ever thankful for the strong ministry we are provided by all our staff, including Pastor Andre, Pastor Anne, Jill, Brian, Bob, Helen, Erika, Gywin and Jamie. What a team! We are so grateful for their strength, leadership, and vision. We look forward to continuing on our mutual ministry together.

Lori Arnott
Member, Mutual Ministry Team

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Electronic Communications

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church —telc— maintains a terrific website at < www.telc.ca >. The current issue of TRINITY DOVE is always posted there so that winter snow-birds and others may keep up-to-date on news from home. The current edition of the Trinity *Worship Rota* is also posted online as are many other important documents. A couple of years ago, we added a comprehensive photo section. There are now several thousand photos online! Drop by and take a look!

A year ago, we endeavoured to collect e-mail addresses so that we could put out a weekly "Sunday_to_Sunday@Trinity" bulletin with news around our Sunday ministry and the week ahead. This project has garnered a great deal of favourable response. We also use this list to offer pastoral messages and to let people know of such time-sensitive items as a death in the parish.

Our SUNDAY GUIDE TO WORSHIP & MINISTRY is now published on the website and attached to our weekly (Thursday) Sunday_to_Sunday@Trinity mailings.

Trinity operates two Facebook pages. The general congregational page is open to all. You need simply to visit www.facebook.com/Trinity.New.Hamburg. Members and friends of the congregation are welcome to join!

The TYGers and their families also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/TYGers/. Membership has to be approved by Pastor Anne or Erika Mueller.

Both Pastor Anne and I, together with other members of the staff, have Facebook pages. You're welcome to seek us out!

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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, and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (including We Care Bags and Gifts from the Heart).



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, and 2 TOPS groups. In general, Pastor Lavergne relates to these agencies / programs.

In 2010 Trinity Church raised over \$10,000 towards CLWR's relief efforts for the earthquake that devastated Haiti. All told, Canadian Lutheran World Relief has reported that over \$1,100,000 was raised for this appeal.

This past year Wilmot Family Resource Centre has again received hundreds of pounds of food, monetary donations, and warm winter woollies to help fill their Christmas hampers.

ROOF has also received numerous winter apparel and personal hygiene products in 2011.

Trinity supplied 8 Christmas Hampers, 56 Christmas Cheer Tins and a large number of We Care Bags to various families and organizations during the holiday season.

The New Hamburg Optimist Club again sponsored a breakfast in Trinity Hall on December 17 and raised \$2,000 for Community Care Concepts.

Boxing Day saw Trinity Church sponsor a blood donor clinic at Waterloo-Oxford DSS where 89 residents gave the Gift of Life which will help to save 267 lives. It can take 5 units of blood to help someone in cancer treatment and 50 units to help someone in a car accident. The following people volunteered to assist in setting up, tearing down, serving refreshments or preparing a delicious meal to the Canadian Blood Services staff: Nancy Brodrecht, Paul Diebel, Madison Erb, Mykaela Erb, Hailey Gingerich, Lisa Hagen, André Lavergne, Dave Mello, Carol Merner, Doug Miller, Betty Murray, Pat Schmetzer, Chris Thomson, Shirley Unrau.

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

✚ Faithful Journey ~ February 6: Secret Sisters' Pot-Luck Supper

Our Women of Trinity host one of Trinity's most wonderful ministries. It's the Secret Sister program in which women are paired with one another as "secret sisters."

During the year, each sister sends birthday and anniversary 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 supper at which identities are revealed. Are you a current participant? Terrific! Not aboard? Consider joining on February 6, 6:30 pm, at this year's pot-luck supper! Call Pat Schmetzer, 634-8232, or Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for additional details. There's a sign-up sheet doing the rounds. Already, several new people have signed-up!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Worship ~ Cy Ridout, Anne Anderson & André Lavergne

The Worship portfolio embraces the ministry of choirs & musicians, ushers, tape ministers, acolytes, altar guild, assisting ministers and greeters/hosts. The following serve primarily in Trinity's Anchor Community worship for which a formal Worship Rota is published twice a year. Many who provide similar ministries in the Sanctuary Community do so on an informal week-to-week basis.



Altar Guild

Nancy Arbuckle, Kathryn Eichler, Marilyn Hoffman, Dorothy Jardin, Mary Ann Keller, Reta Klaassen, Brenda Malloch, Holly McCurdy, Betty Murray, Melissa Racho, Reta Ridout, Gwen Ruthig, Pat Schmetzer and Lyla Wettlaufer.

Acolytes

Dayton Arnott, Alayna Bailey, Sophia Bailey, Leeta Currah, Alison Dale, Meghan Dale, James Gascon, Hailey Gingerich, Emily Kalbfleisch, Tyler Kleine, Shane Lagace-Roote, Laura Lindner, Brandon Morrison, Emily Morrison, Colby Ricketts, Stephanie Rogers, Mackenna Schaaf, Aspen Schwartz and Chantelle Schwartz.

Assisting Ministers

Dean Clarke, Sherry Coman, Neil Klaassen, Reta Klaassen, Samantha Lindner, Doreen Lindner Baan, Scott Malloch, Devon Merner, Ray Merner, Mackenzie Normandeau, Tara Otto, Emily Ritz, Nancy Ropp, Randy Thomson and Emma Wiechers.

Greeters / Hosts

Trevor Anderson, Jim & Nancy Arbuckle, Jackie Bailey, Kathy & Flex Bender, David & Millie Buehlow, Wendy Chapman, Laurie & Dean Clarke, Jean Cook, John Ritz & Betty Dixon-Ritz, Debbie & Larry Gravill, Lisa Hagen & Randy & Chris Thomson, Nancy & Carl Hallberg, Mabel Heldman, Brenda Malloch, Holly & John McCurdy, Doug & Mim Miller, Paul, Sheri, Brandon & Emily Morrison, Carol & Rob Murray, Earl & Susan Nickolas, Brad & Claire Otterbein, Cy & Reta Ridout, Janice & Rick Ritz and Muriel & Bill Weichel.

Affirmation Singers

Alison Dale, Meghan Dale, Emily Kalbfleisch, Emily Morrison and Allie Courtney.

Trinity Choir

Trevor Anderson, Val Brenneman, Dean Clarke, Audrey Cook, Jean Cook, Paul Diebel, Kathy Eichler, Lloyd Hagen, Ken Hammer, Anne Hammer, Dorothy Jardin, Larry Keller, Mary Ann Keller, Neil Klaassen, Arlene Kropf, Joyce Lass, Barbara Lavergne, Betty Murray, Stan Otterbein, Cy Ridout, Janice Ritz, Pat Ruthig, Judythe Schnarr-Chiduck, Judie Seltzer, Lynn Thompson, Keith Thompson and Lyla Wettlaufer.

Musicians

The following assist and support the ministry of Jamie Courtney, Trinity's Minister of Music: Trevor Anderson, Valerie Brenneman, Dean Clarke, Kaleb Doyle, Lisa Hagen, Caleb Herbison, Jeffrey Kropf, Bob Marshall, Emily Ritz and Chris Thomson.

Ushers

Wilson Abraham, Ross Eichler, Ryan Gueguen, Ken Hammer, Tom Hinz, Don Jardin, Jeffrey Kropf, Dave Mello, Ray Merner, Brandon Morrison, Brian Racho, Ken Seltzer, Hollice Stock and Del Jutzi.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

Tape Ministry

Rose Mueller reports...

The tape ministry team produced and delivered over 300 tapes this year. Helping with duplication were Nancy Brodrecht and Mike Mueller.

Tape deliveries were done by Ernie Ritz, Gywin Murray, Rick Ritz, Nancy Brodrecht, Hollice Stock, Shirley Unrau and others.

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

Rose Mueller

Mike & Rose Mueller have been very generous with their time and patience concerning our ancient tape duplication technology. As we mentioned last year, while we have been seeking alternatives, it is not clear what sort of technology would be appropriate to the use of our nursing home community and others. While digital recordings committed to USB keys are easily created, they are not particularly useful if people are not easy with or do not have access to computers, USB key readers, and the like. In any event, we are grateful to Rose and Mike for soldiering on and to keeping what we have in place, working.

Finally, 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 and worship life.

*Cy Ridout,
Worship Portfolio, Trinity Council*

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

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Soup, Sandwich, Sermon & Song

Trinity will participate in this well-attended annual series held Wednesdays during Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22. Trinity and St. George's Anglican will jointly host the February 29 devotions and lunch.

This year's theme is "Characters of the Passion". We'll be focusing on Peter for our luncheon.

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 Canadian Bible Society.

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Scholarship & Edgewood Applications

Eastern Synod scholarship applications are available from Pastor Anne or Erika Mueller. Many Trinity youth have benefitted from this opportunity over the years. Applications are due in the Synod office May 14.

Applications to work at Camp Edgewood are already available. See the poster in the narthex. Program Staff applications are due by January 31, 2012 and all other applications are due by February 28, 2012.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Property and Maintenance ~ Ken Seltzer

Saturday, May 7 saw 28 enthusiastic members arrive to dust and polish the church woodwork and pews, clean windows, remove courtyard weeds, replace ceiling tiles where necessary, trim tree branches, insulate heating pipes, plus other odd jobs, followed by a delicious lunch.

We are grateful to Pat Schmetzer for the donation of the Christmas Tree and to Mim and Doug Miller for the Mitten Tree.

Special thanks to Betty and Rob Murray for the upkeep of the flower beds and to Marcus Buehlow for keeping the grounds in such good shape.



The following items were also completed in 2011:

Church

New phone system installed; additional sanctuary hearing-assist headphones purchased; kitchen painted and Trinity Hall touched up; new fridge purchased; masonry repairs including new window sill in courtyard and entryway; brick repointing and cornerstone mortared; flat roof replaced on 1983 and 1991 additions.

Peel Street Parsonage

Removal of all carpets; hardwood floors in living and dining rooms lightly refurbished; new flooring installed in office, kitchen, laundry room, bedrooms and hallways. New doors installed off deck and patio; upstairs closet repainted; new quarter-round installed throughout; temporary roof repairs.

Wilmot Street Parsonage

Basement dry-walled and painted and electrical outlets installed; eavestroughs repaired.



The following projects are contemplated for 2012:

Energy Power Saving Blitz (lighting replacement);
replace Peel Street roof; parking lot repairs.

*Ken Seltzer, Doug Miller & John McCurdy,
Property and Maintenance Portfolio,
Trinity Council.*



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Discipleship ~ Lori Arnott & Anne Anderson

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, and our Faith in Film series.



Cradle Roll

Cradle Roll Coordinator, Nancy Brodrecht, reports:

Trinity's cradle roll involves our youngest children, newborn to age 3.

Currently 51 children receive age appropriate material from a GROWING IN CHRIST package. Each child receives an introductory CD of information and songs, thereafter a series of pamphlets or booklets based on their age.

At age 3, they receive an invitation to be a part of our FAITH ADVENTURES Sunday School program. We are very grateful to The Women of Trinity who continue to sponsor this wonderful program of learning for our youngest members.

Faith Adventures Sunday School



The Faith Adventures Committee includes Krista Durrer, Jackie Currah, Lori Arnott, Kylie Becker, Erika Mueller and the direction of Pastor Anne. The Faith Adventures Committee, teachers and shepherds continued to provide exciting learning opportunities for our children (Age 3 to Grade 6) with the use of Spark Online programming and Spark bibles (which are generously donated through the "sponsor a bible" event by members of the congregation). The committee meets monthly and continues to plan and develop new, innovative ways to get more young families introduced to our church family and at the same time strengthen involvement with our young people. From this ongoing effort, we have been blessed with commitment from many new teachers, helpers, and new families, keeping our Faith Adventures program vibrant and lively!

Our families have been involved in many different projects and events beyond our Sunday morning programming, including our Annual Congregational Carnival, Backpack Sunday, Christmas Caroling and Christmas Pageant, Winter Family Fun Day, Lenten Project (raising money to "build a city" through CLWR), the Congregational Litter Walk, and Prayer Partners. Thank you for supporting these inter-generational events as we try to build close relationships between our kids and the whole family of Trinity!

Our teachers and helpers for the 2011/12 season include Trevor Anderson, Mim and Doug Miller, Jackie Currah, Mike, Chris and Jess Gascon, Nancy Dale, Krista Durrer, Lori Arnott, Kylie Becker, Erika Mueller, Ray Merner, Megan Clarke, Deb MacDonald, Tara Kleine, Christine Flood, Shelly Faulhafer, Julie Kalbfleisch, Brenda Ricketts and Pastor Anne Anderson. We would also like to recognize the many parents of our young children that give us a helping hand throughout the year!



The Faith Adventures Committee would like to thank all of our dedicated and supportive volunteers for their time and commitment to the continued success of our program.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

Faith Days for Grades 3-6

This past year we have been continuing with our teaching program for grade 3-6 with a half day of education and fellowship during school PD days. The new year comes with a change of name and program . We will be calling our program Faith Days – to reflect the theme and move away from Affirmation as a title. We also will be moving to a whole day program to allow for more teaching and help families who might need a full day of care rather than half a day. The program covers basic bible and liturgy to help our children become more comfortable in our community.

Confirmation Teaching for Grades 7-9

We have continued with our four Saturday classes for the grade 7 and 8 youth where we study bible basics and Lutheran theology with activities, games, movies and discussion. We have been using the *Here We Stand* curriculum this year. For grade seven and eight students we have asked them to begin filling out a short worship report for at least two Sundays a month. This helps build reflection into the program along with encouraging our young people to experience worship with their families. We encourage our confirmation students to join in the TYGers events as they are able. In Grade nine as a part of their preparation for confirmation the students take a weekend to prepare a short sharing of their faith journey with the congregation. This year we had 5 young women do an excellent job of their faith sharing on Reformation Sunday (Oct. 31) and were confirmed in November.

Confirmation Camp

Confirmation Camp is available for students entering grade seven and eight in the fall. We strongly encourage students to attend as it is one of the best ways for us to connect with and teach our youth (and it's a ton of fun!!!!). Last year we had our biggest group from Trinity yet with 30 campers including 15 Vet campers who were returning as junior leaders. We were also grateful for the leadership of Nurse Kim Schwartz, a Trinity member, who volunteered her time to keep us healthy and safe. We have begun planning for this coming year and it promises to be a great year again!

Adult Learning

Pastors André reports

Several times per year, we post Trinity's Adult Learning Program Plan in the narthex and on-line.

In 2011, Sunday morning programs included several series and a number of one-time sessions, including Interesting Lives, Christian Ethics, Growth in Discipleship, Greening Our World, Youth & Family Ministry and more.

In 2011, our regular Faith in Film series, led by Sherry Coman, included Classic Literary Performances.

In 2011, we did a series with Hillcrest Mennonite Church called *Healing Memories; Reconciling in Christ*.

In 2012, our Sunday morning programs will include Interesting Lives, Invitation to Easter, Community Partners and more. A Faith in Film series will unfold in the spring or over the summer, 2012. Details TBA.

We are very grateful to Sherry Coman, busy person that she is, for her ongoing enthusiasm, passion and leadership of our now, much-acclaimed, Faith in Film series.

The Adult Learning team is composed of Anne Anderson, Kathy Bender, Dorothea Butz, André Lavergne and Ray Merner. Congregational input for our Program Plan is always welcome! Look for the latest edition posted in the narthex and available online.

*Lori Arnott,
Nurturing Faith (Children and Youth)*

*Anne Anderson
Pastor, Trinity Church*

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ 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 the Women of Trinity.

Once again it's been a busy year on the hospitality front. We've had a number of cake Sundays to celebrate the ministry of some of our Trinity friends. During Lent we hosted another Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song lunch at Zion United. This year we partnered with St. George's on this venture and it was great to work with their ladies to serve our New Hamburg neighbours.



In May we wrapped up our Anniversary celebrations with a luncheon for National Bishop Susan Johnson. Remember the great potato salads and pies? Then in June we organized another pot luck lunch to celebrate Gywin Murray's 50 years of ministry at Trinity. It was fun to showcase a bunch of recipes from our Tasting Trinity's Treasures Anniversary cookbook. In November we provided a hot lunch for the folks attending the Messy Fiesta – once again using recipes from our cookbook. Then on Boxing day we provided a supper for the nurses and staff from the Blood Donor Clinic. Pastor Andre's turkey vegetable soup received rave reviews. It was delicious!

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped with food preparation, set up, serving, cleanup, etc. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Trinity Prayer Circle

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

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

Members pray regularly for requests and concerns given by the Pastors, circle or congregation members. Requests also come from neighbouring churches' prayer groups.

Prayer requests are updated on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am with the pastors and the prayer circle convenor.

Congregation members interested in prayer ministry are most welcome to join. Contact any member or the Pastors to become a member or to place a prayer request.

Throughout the year we have received numerous prayer requests. Also received have been expressions of thanks for the prayers given. They have felt the power of prayer and found comfort in knowing others were praying for them.

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, 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, Rob & Carol Murray, Betty Murray, Brad & Claire Otterbein, Betty Lou & Paul Ramseyer, Keith & Nancy Ropp, Jean Schaaf, Doris Schwartzentruber, Darryl Smith & Susan Yutzi-Smith, Joanne Snyder, Hollice & Betty Stock, Joseph & Holly Trafford 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.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

Trinity Quilters

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

Our quilters meet every Wednesday to enjoy quilting, fellowship, tea and a brown bag lunch at noon. Our group is getting much smaller.

During the year we quilt for a number of people and also do knotting for relief quilts for the House of Friendship, St, Monica House, Wilmot Family Resource Centre, and ROOF. We make Prayer Quilts and Shawls for people who are ill and we make cuddle blankets for children in hospital.

Well done Quilters! This year the quilters also donated 2 coffee makers for the kitchen, 2 hearing assist devices for the church and a quilt for the Camp Edgewood fundraiser. Our quilters also assembled the quilt blocks created by our families and helped the Faith Adventures Prayer Partners to knot this Anniversary Quilt.

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.

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Faith Chests

We have so many wonderful gifts and gifted people in the Trinity community! Did you know that one of those gifts is woodworking? Did you know that some of those gifted people are woodworkers?

The beautiful wooden "Faith Chests" that you see every time a person is baptised at Trinity are lovingly created by our own folks. For over ten years there has been a small team of people who have created a faith chest for each person baptised and welcomed into our community. We are thankful for the countless hours that have gone into the creation of these beautiful chests by Cy Ridout, Carl Schroeder, Don Jardin and Paul Diebel.

These chests are meant to be a place where our newly-baptized can house the keepsakes that help mark their faith journey. They are gathering places for the faith and life milestones as they encounter them —copies of baptismal certificates, baptismal candles, cards and photographs; favourite crafts from Faith Adventures; activity sheets from camp or confirmation; marriage bulletins or newspaper clippings; birth announcements; lots of possibilities. The chests are the "known" place to keep important faith-life materials. Each box will end up holding different things because of our unique journeys. So...



What do our Faith Chests include from the beginning? Thanks to our Endowment Fund, we are able to include a baptismal candle and storybook together with books for parents and sponsors. We also start each child off with a SPARK Bible so they'll be all set for Faith Adventures when they turn three.

Now, here's a great bit of news: Some of our younger folks are beginning to take up the wood-working mantle and the creation of Faith Chests. Cy Ridout is retiring from the project but not before working with Chris McElligott and Hunter Racho to teach them how to make the chests. We are grateful to Cy and to all of the participants in this marvellous witness.

Thanks to everyone for this amazing gift for our folks entering their faith journey here at Trinity!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Women of Trinity ~ Pat Schmetzer

2011 was a very busy year for the Women of Trinity. Our annual Secret Sister's banquet was held on February 7. The secret sisters were revealed and we drew new names for 2011. We enjoyed a great potluck and a rousing game of Robber Bingo.

Memorial gifts were donated to the Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in memory of Florence Herman, Ardis Hinz, and Jessie Junker. In addition, money from the Endowment Fund was donated in honour of Lori Arnott, Rose Mueller, and Joyce Roth, who have each contributed so much to the ministry of Trinity Church.



In March we held a Tea Towel Shower to replenish our kitchen stock. The congregation's response was fantastic and we now have plenty of fresh dry towels for our kitchen volunteers. During 2011 we continued to volunteer in serving at the Trinity Village Sunday Teas. Four of our volunteers attended their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on March 31.

In April, four of our ladies attended the Spring women's conference at St. Stephen's Lutheran church in Kitchener. A decision was made to use the name Lutheran Women of Faith for the K-W Conference Women's organization.

On May 9, we hosted an evening meeting with guest speaker Reverend Doctor Peter Kuhnert. Peter spoke about his work as a doctor in the far north and also in a clinic in downtown Kitchener. Guests from Trinity and several of our area churches attended. Refreshments followed. Also in May, we assembled 40 Baby bundles for CLWR. A number of knitted sweaters and blankets were also donated to L.A.M.P. In June, a group of 24 people went to the Walter's Family in Bright for our annual end of season outing. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and a great play.



In September, several of our ladies attended the Annual Meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at St. John's Church in Waterloo. As always, it was a wonderful day. In October, our Women of Trinity hosted the Fall event for the K-W Conference Lutheran Women of Faith. We had some great speakers, great food, and great fellowship. The offering was donated to Anselma House in Kitchener.

Our Prayer Shawl and Prayer Quilt ministry was very active with 15 shawls and quilts given to people experiencing illness or other hardships. Thanks to all the busy hands that keep our inventory stocked. End-of-year benevolence donations were made to 5 organizations. We also purchased two 6' folding tables for the church to use for funeral lunch preparations and other hospitality functions. We want to thank the many, many people who volunteered their time or helped with donations, food, and materials for our many projects over the year. We could not do this ministry without you and we are very grateful for your support.

Christian Action Committee

Our convener, Florence Sebert, reports that lunch was prepared for 9 funerals this past year.

Visiting and Cheer Committee

Our convener, Merva Zehr, reports that during 2011, 124 assorted cards were sent and 200 visits were made to members of the congregation. There were 56 people remembered with a tin of Christmas cookies and a visit prior to Christmas.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

I want to thank Shirley Unrau for stepping into the Secretary's shoes during Arlene Kropf's absence. She's done a terrific job for us. We were very pleased to have Arlene back for our January meeting and wish her a much better year in 2012. I also want to thank Nancy Hallberg, our Treasurer, who manages our finances with great patience, dedication, and a wonderful sense of humour.

*Pat Schmetzer,
Convenor, Women of Trinity.*

✚ Women of Trinity Treasurer's Report ~ Nancy Hallberg

Balance December 31, 2009		\$ 1,530.14
Receipts (in)	3,074.00	
General Expenses (out)	3,019.70	
Balance December 31, 2010		\$ 1,584.44

Audited by Joan Cook

*Nancy Hallberg,
Treasurer, Women of Trinity.*



✚ Seminary Women's Auxiliary

The 98th Annual Meeting was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo on Sept. 28th, 2011.

Guest speakers were Karen Kuhnert and Dorothy Frook. Special music was provided by Richard Schwass. We had a Quilt Service of Blessing and Thanksgiving after which quilts were presented to newly ordained graduating students. For me, one of the highlights of the day is to listen to some of the students talk about their faith journey and how they came to be a student at the seminary.

This past year, the Auxiliary contributed \$4,790 to students' Supervised Pastoral Counselling fees. We were told how important this programme is to the students. For example, while on a placement at the Kitchener prison for women, one student had to minister to a woman who had murdered her children. Others have to deal with horrific circumstances in a hospital emergency department. Without this supervised pastoral education they would be ill prepared to handle these and many other difficult situations that they will face in the course of their ministry.

This year the auxiliary also donated \$5,000 to the seminary towards the purchase of video conferencing equipment to allow for the provision of distance education courses and supervision of students doing educational placements.

The auxiliary also plants and maintains the gardens at the seminary, decorates for Christmas, and serves refreshments for the closing and opening services at the seminary.

The seminary faculty and students are very grateful for the work of the Women's Auxiliary. I'd like to thank all of the people at Trinity who donate to this very worthwhile organization. Your donations make a big difference for our future pastors and social workers.

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

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Faithful Journey ~ TYGers

Anne writes:

TYGers program is geared towards our youth entering grade seven all the way through to those leaving high school. Our youth have had a good year with opportunity for new activities and familiar ones as well. We took our usual group of 15 kids to Pitch and Praise – the May long weekend camp in Paris, ON where we partnered again with St. Mark's Brantford. Around ten of our youth attended the winter retreat at Edgewood that is run with area churches. We also participated in region wide activities such as a 30 hour famine with Christ Waterloo and games nights with New Dundee and Phillipsburg. A very wet and stormy day was host to our annual road hockey tournament with New Dundee but we had two teams entered for the day- hope next year's weather is better. We also continued on with monthly 'hang out's. A BIG thank you to the Gueguens for their hospitality and welcome.



In the fall I was happy to have Erika join the team and have her take the reigns of youth programming with my support and a weekly check in with me. She is doing a fantastic job but I will let her tell the rest of the story...

Erika writes:

The first few months of working as a "youth and family worker" I knew would be trial and error, I didn't fully realize that that was actually part of the job description. Working with the youth is always a guessing game and with help from others I'm getting better at guessing right!

June started off with lots of planning for future events, Facebook updating, making posters and more organizing! Summer camping was planned but cancelled because of a conflict of timing. The Corn Roast which happened at the end of July was a great success and answering machines messages really do get heard!! August involved planning of fall events, brain storming for fundraisers and some events. Wonderland was a big learning experience for me and a fun day out for the youth! Golf Tournament was a great success and because of the Gueguen's who planned the majority of it. Youth hang-out's at the Gueguen's and Movie nights like Soul Surfer happened in the fall, as well as Soul Surfer Bible Study and games on Sunday mornings. Chicken sales, Quilt tickets and CD Sales were all great fund-raisers. The Youth participated in a Halloween Dance, hay-ride, rock climbing and decorating the hangout space. We have done different days of the week for youth events and hangouts and so in the new year we are changing this up to better suit the youth! We are going to have hangouts EVERY Tuesday night and events will happen Sunday after sanctuary to encourage worship attendance. This worked well for a few events this fall. Our goal is to grow as a community, to encourage good relationships with God and one another.

Messy Fiesta workshop day got me very excited for our Families @ Five starting in February, this is what I believe to be what families need and want church to look like. Teaching the grade 7 & 8 is my main part in Faith adventures. However, I help where I am needed and for the Christmas program did the planning for the younger children. In the coming year I am looking forward to continuing the great program that we have and getting some more teachers and helpers involved!

In the fall, Sarah Clarke, Anne and I held a Simply Songs event where we just got together and worshiped God through song. We had a great turn out for the first time and hope to do it again in the new year!

Young adults in church can be known as *the gap*, the age that are not seen or heard from in the church setting. Well I feel like everyone needs a community and a safe place to talk about struggles and especially about faith, lack of faith, faithful moments. Faith is hard to find but it's amazing what you find once you start talking! That's the idea that we have behind "the gap" . We are starting with three different parts; theology pub night with open discussion over a pint; Bible study with planned readings and discussion; and a retreat in the late spring or early summer.

Erika Mueller
Youth & Family Worker

Anne Anderson,
Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Interfaith Community Counselling Centre

Staff Updates & Changes

We are pleased to say that 2011 has brought some exciting changes to our agency, which has included the recruitment of new talent. Christine Bruder, Executive Director is currently on maternity leave attending to the newest member of her family Zachary. Lisa Akey, who is the current Clinical Director is covering the role of Executive Director until Christine's return.



Nancy Gingerich, has recently been added to our staff line up to oversee our new Bereavement Support Program. Nancy is a certified bereavement counsellor. We also welcome Pauline Loucks, who is focusing on our Elementary School Based Counselling Program and brings with her the experience and knowledge of providing support for families of domestic violence. She represents Interfaith on the Wilmot Family Resource Family Violence Prevention program.

Leanna Callum, MSW, has recently joined our team to provide additional support to our growing EAP programs and is a certified art therapist and skilled social worker. Carey Reist, MTS, has also joined the team to provide services to families and their children. Phil Morgan, Ruth Martin, Matthew & Hendrike Isert-Bender and Alex Munroe continue to provide counselling support.

Board of Directors

There were several additions to the board last year, welcoming Terry Keller, Klaus Schirrmacher and Lee Fitzpatrick. Joan Cook will be completing her term with the board at the end of January 2012. Joan has contributed greatly to the agency throughout her involvement and will be greatly missed. We are currently recruiting new board members to complete our team.

Programs & Services

ICCC is currently offering a **Bereavement Support Program**. This new 8 week group is designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals facing loss. There will be 3 separate groups; Adults will meet on Tuesdays starting January 31, Children (6-13) Mondays February 6, and Adolescents Wednesday February 15.

Growing Through Marriage is workshop that ICCC has offered for several years. This year again our husband and wife team Matthew & Hendrike Isert-Bender will co-facilitate Growing Through Marriage: a marriage Preparation Course for those preparing for marriage or recently married. Topics such as Communication, Conflict Resolution, Finances, Intimacy, Faith & Extended Family are discussed.

ICCC is preparing to begin **Transitions**, starting on February 16, which is an 8 week program designed to support children experiencing changes in their family as a result of separation and divorce. The group is intended to help children move forward and learn the coping tools necessary to be resilient. Support for children of separation and divorce has been one of the most requested service in 2011.

Moving Forward is an 8 week support group designed for women coping with anxiety which focuses on learning new strategies to be successful at managing anxiety, share our experiences and relate to others that are facing the same challenges. Start date is Wednesday February 22.

The **Elementary School Based Counselling Program** supported 30 children and provided over 200 direct counselling hours in 2011. These children were supported to face challenges, such as ADHD, anxiety, anger, Asperger, family violence issues, self-esteem, depression, separation and divorce. In addition, 21 children participated in Girl Power and Boys R Us groups. These groups will continue to be offered within the school settings. We are now providing counselling in all 5 elementary schools in New Hamburg and Baden.

Interfaith Community Counselling Centre continues to serve many people of this community with over 2500 hours of direct

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church New Hamburg, Ontario

service and an additional 271 new clients in 2011. This is an increase of over 20% in direct hours provided to the community. ICCC is working to strengthen the fabric of our community by equipping individuals, couples and families to realize emotional wellness and triumph over life's challenges.

Thanks to the generous donations from our community we can continue to provide this much needed service.

*Lisa Akey, MSW, RSW
Clinical Director,
Interfaith Community Counselling Centre*

✚ Faithful Journey ~ Creative Beginnings Childcare

Creative Beginnings Childcare is a licensed non-profit charitable organization committed to providing exceptional childcare to the community and the diverse families we serve. We provide a vibrant play-base program for children which fosters individualism, creativity, socialization, and school readiness. Our knowledgeable, professional team of teachers offers resources to help support children in a fun, nurturing and safe environment.

2011 has been exciting and rewarding. First off, we are pleased to have celebrated our 1st anniversary of our 3rd location, Creative Beginnings Sir Adam Beck. This location is attached to the school that was built on Snyder's Road W in Baden. It is home to programs for infants right through to school-agers up to 12 years. We also have a centre attached to the Baden Public School, which is home to toddlers through to school age as well. Our main site here in New Hamburg at Trinity has been operating for 24 years and we currently run programs for children in preschool and kindergarten and before/after school. We also run a school age program; Creative Beginnings New Hamburg II at St. George Anglican Church, everyday through out the school year and a fun and exciting day camp program in the summer time.

Creative Beginnings was involved in some community events in 2011. We organized a food drive and coat drive in the community with the proceeds going to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and to the New Hamburg Thrift Store to help those families in need. We also had games and activities set up during MOPARFEST at Cruise Night. Creative Beginnings also had floats in the Baden Santa Claus Parade as well as the New Hamburg Parade.

We want to take this time to thank those in the community that support our fundraising efforts throughout the year. In the Spring we usually sell MacMillan's and plants for Mother's Day; in the Fall we sell gift items and Poinsettia's for the holiday season. There are various fundraisers at other times throughout the year as well. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are interested in any of these.

On another successful note, our centres participated in Raising the Bar. RTB is a voluntary accreditation program that promotes best practices and quality childcare environments for the children in the community. We achieved the highest standard of Gold in all areas for our programs at each of our centres. It has been a great year with a lot of accomplishments and none of them would have been possible without our great staff who are the face of our centres. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our management team and staff for their hard work, determination and dedication.

As well, there is a lot of hard work done behind the scenes to ensure our centres are serving the community in the best possible way. The following are very dedicated board members and deserve to be recognized: Leaha Beattie-Palmer (President), Eddie Lewis (Vice President), Kelly Bell, Isabel Kuxdorf, Tara Bradley, Brianna Allan, Yvette Ford, Kim Wilhelm, and Lisa Woodrow. Thank you as well, to everyone at Trinity and St. George for the continued support and assistance for us to be able to provide such a valuable service to the community.

For more information please visit our website at www.creativebeginningschildcare.ca. We look forward to serving our growing community in 2012.

*Michelle Koch, RECE,
Site Supervisor, Creative Beginning Childcare,
Trinity Church Campus, New Hamburg.*