



Trinity Dove

January 22, 2012 + Epiphany 3 + Why "Church"?
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Larry Gravill, president + André Lavergne & Anne Anderson, pastors
Helen Toman, visitation pastor + Bob Thaler, preacher + Jamie Courtney, minister of music
Erika Mueller, youth & family worker + Brian Racho, sexton + Jill Merner, secretary
Syd Mills, pastoral assistant + Cywin Murray, emerita director of music

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+ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, January 29 ~ Epiphany 4

- + Anchor Community Worship at 9:30 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Nurturing Faith at 10:45 am. Adults: Interesting Lives 3/4 - *Derek & Kim Schwartz*
- + Sanctuary Community Worship at 11:30 am.

Sunday, February 5 ~ Epiphany 5

- + Anchor Community Worship at 9:30 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Nurturing Faith at 10:45 am. Adults: Interesting Lives 4/4 - *Helen Toman*
- + Sanctuary Community Worship at 11:30 am. Chili Cook-off at 12:30 noon.

Tuesday, February 7 ~ Week of Epiphany 5

- + Families @ Five. Doors open at 4:30 pm.

Sunday, February 12 ~ Epiphany 6

- + Joint Anchor Community & Sanctuary Community Worship at 9:30 am. At the conclusion of worship, the Interfaith Community Counselling Centre will honour Trinity for 30 years of continuous support.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Nurturing Faith at 10:45 am.
- + Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:45 am.

Sunday, February 19 ~ Transfiguration

- + Anchor Community Worship with Installation of Minister of Music, Jamie Courtney, and of Council members and officers.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am. There will be cake in honour of Krista Durrer.
- + Sanctuary Community Worship at 11:30 am.

Wednesday, February 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

- + Imposition of Ashes, 10:30 am, at Nithview Home.
- + Joint Anchor and Sanctuary Community Worship with Imposition of Ashes at 7 pm.

Sunday, February 26 ~ Lent 1

- + Anchor Community Worship.
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- + Nurturing Faith at 10:45 am. Adults: Invitation to Easter 1/6 - *Anne Anderson & André Lavergne*.
- + Sanctuary Community Worship at 11:30 am.

+ *andré lavergne*

Inside TRINITY DOVE

Pr. Anne ~ Why "Church"?	2
Jamie Courtney ~ Music at Trinity	2
Sacraments & Seasons	3
Nurturing Faith ~ Adults	3
Families at Five	4
Trinity's Prayer Shawls & Quilts	4
Erika Mueller ~ TYGers	5
Nurturing Faith ~ Faith Chests	5
Tintinnabulations	6
The Women of Trinity	6
December Council News	6
Financial Update	7
Nurturing Faith & Confirmation	7

+ Pr. Anne ~ Why "Church"?

Grace and peace to you.

Erika Mueller, Trinity's Youth and Family Worker, and I attended a learning event at Waterloo Seminary in November. Dr. Reginald Bibby, a noted Canadian sociologist whose area of scholarship is "religion in Canada" spoke. He offered a somewhat dismal picture of the faith life of Canadians. "Where are we headed as Canadian churches?" he asked? To be fair, there was some glimmer of hope offered in the course of his presentation. It had to do with the presence of youth and young families.

Reginald Bibby asked the question "Why would anyone want to be a part of this organization?" In essence he was asking our question: "Why 'Church'?" Why not some other organization or none at all? That got me to thinking. Why would anyone want to be part of this community? The easiest way for me to answer is to answer for myself. For me, being part of church is a three-fold thing.

One. *Being part of church* allows me to respond to the overwhelming love that God has given to each us. It's a way for me to say thanks to God through worship and actions of service in the church and beyond.

Two. *Being part of church* is good for me. Where else do I experience multi-generational time together? Nate, our son, has many aunts and uncles and grandmas and grandpas here, not to mention countless brothers and sisters to play with. We are rich with the gift of each other. We have a place to listen to and support each other when we are hurting and to rejoice when good things abound.

Three. *Being part of church* is good for my soul. I learn and give thanks and pray alongside a whole group of people who come from all walks of life but who are doing the same thing, are on the same journey. *You* are teaching *me* as much as *I* am teaching *you*.

So I hear you saying "fine and well", Pastor Anne, "but that's not my experience". Along the way... "I have gotten tired" or "I have been hurt" or "I'm just out of the habit". "I'm not sure I want to be part of this." My invitation stands for all of us. Do us all a favour. Tired, hurt or out-of-the-picture, give our community a try.

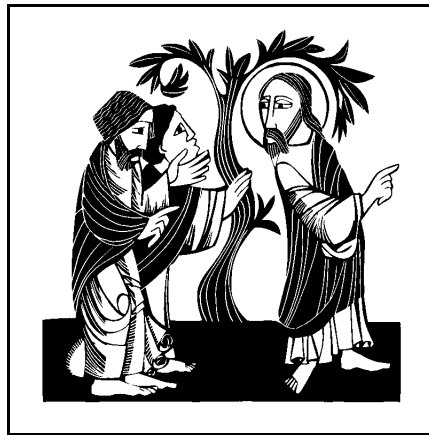
Open yourself to *new* possibilities and to God working in us, with us. You might be surprised at what God can do with and through each of us in this place called *church*!

+ anne anderson

+ Music at Trinity

What a wonderful and welcoming community is Trinity Church! Thank you for welcoming me in this place as your Minister of Music.

As we look at the "Why church?" question, an extension of that —from my perspective— is, "Why Church *Music*?" Clearly, each person with some musical ability has an opportunity to make music in an any number of venues. You're a decent singer? Check out any number of community choirs. There's good stuff going on in our region. Toot on a sax, clarinet, or trombone? We've got some good instrumental ensembles in our area, too. Each of these groups offers a few things, but mostly, a chance to make music, and form community.



But, what about the Church? The Church offers a chance to make music and be part of a community, too. But, in my opinion, the extra dimension of worship changes everything for a musician.

Being part of a worshipping community, and being able to use God-given gifts to support and uplift the worship of God's people, holds a greater reward than any benefit a non-church group can offer.

Having a core choir is the backbone of any successful church music program. And, it is immediately evident to me that the members past and present of the Trinity Choir have played a key role in Trinity's worship life. So, join us. We'd love to have you come and sing. Whether you're in your teens, a senior, or somewhere in between, you are most welcome.

Maybe you're a little younger. Or, you have a child or grandchild. Consider the Affirmation Singers. I am really looking forward to working with this group of younger voices. Even for younger musicians, the extra dimension of worship adds an experience that no other group outside the Church can offer.

Perhaps you play an instrument —a guitar, violin, or trumpet? Adding instruments to our worship enriches the experience of all.

If you have musical gifts, even if they are in their infancy, I hope you are open to God's call to use these gifts in church, *your* church. When we are authentic in our musical expression, the outcome is nothing short of "deepening the mystery" for ourselves and God's people in worship.

+ jamie courtney

+ Sacraments & Seasons

Baptisms

On January 8, Lillian Lynne Schwartz and Cooper David Schwartz, children of Kyle Schwartz and Ashley Ross, were baptized. Welcome, friends!

Wedding

On December 10, Robert Steinberg and Karen Lang were married at Trinity. Congratulations and best wishes!

February Birthdays

1 - Stephen May; **2** - Tammy Spruce, Anesa Wettlaufer; **3** - Janice Ritz, Dwane Arnott, Tara Otto, Kirsten Danner; **4** - Ella Luckhart, Sherry Wallace, Dave Randerson, Dale Schaaf, Jackson Normandeau; **5** - Anneliese Kraehling, Tom Boehler, Ricky Long, Aidan Bruce; **6** - Christina Butz, Jessica Gascon; **7** - Hans Lass, Kim Schwartz, Darryl Smith, Kate Gingerich, Rachel Steinberg; **8** - Joanne Aitken, Christina Flood, Bennett Bradley, Mira Bradley; **9** - Paul Buehlow, Rob Murray, Todd Seltzer, Rachel Heise, Jeremy Wagler; **10** - Susan Leclair, Tyler Legare; **11** - Keith Heise, Heidi Ziegler, Kelly Snyder, Sayde Campbell; **12** - Calvin Schwartzentruber, Anita Hanson, Brad MacDonald, Erin Anger; **13** - Lynn Zoeller, Laurie Clarke, Beth Bender, Derek Snyder; **14** - Jean Hammer, Klaus Jahn, Val Gerber; **15** - Jeff Lindner, Sara Mann, Caitlyn Burchatzki; **16** - Arlene Kropf, David Flood, Greg Martin; **17** - Jeff McClenaghan, Diane Hatchwell, Geri Pries, Jessica Parkin, Justin Gerber; **18** - Troy Hammer; **19** - Mary Ann Keller, Kevin Bingeman, Steve Aitken; **20** - Barry Wallace, Michelle Zoeller, Lynette Moss; **22** - Richard Zoeller, Tracy Sheard, Jacqueline Bailey, Isaac Seltzer; **23** - Judy Hillar, Heather Leu, Angie Scheid, Michael Lagace-Root; **24** - Roy Berfelz, James Schiedel; **25** - Pete Bast, Shelley Lindner, Ashley Leu; **26** - Christine Klaassen, Martha Cook, Anthony Medley, Kevin Schwartz; **27** - George Mueller, Abel Ng, Sheila Hooisma; **28** - Doug Kaminska, Jason Holst, Shelby Junker, Adrian Nickolas. Blessings!

February Anniversaries

1 - Derek & Kelly Snyder; **4** - Corey & Kate Gingerich; **6** - Pete & Sharon Bast, Kimberley & Mark Murray, Holly & Jason Plein; **14** - Christina & David Flood; **16** - Ray & Jill Merner; **19** - Dwane & Lori Arnott; **24** - David & Holly Bast; **26** - Steve Dramnitzke & Teresa MacVicar; **27** - Jackie & Pete Buehlow. Congratulations!

Major Anniversaries

In 2012, Bruce & Janice Junker (March 16), Ken & Marilyn Hoffman (June 9), Art & Jeanette Long (June 23), Edna & Marcus Buehlow and Neil & Reta Klaassen (September 1) will celebrate 50 years of marriage. Ralph and Joanne Roth (September 28) will celebrate 55 years. Hans and Joyce Lass (September 6) will celebrate 60 years. Cy & Reta Ridout (September 20) will celebrate 65 years.

In addition, we'll also be thinking of Edna Haunn (Ernie; July 28 - 50 years), Pat Ruthig (Karl; June 8 - 55 years), Bill Lahn (Jaye; October 26 - 60 years), Ron Linseman (Marion; September 20 - 60 years), Hilda Seip (Bill; May 17 - 60 years) and Rita Coxson (Don; September 25 - 65 years). Each of these will remember a life-partner with fondness and their passing with sadness.

Let us mark these major anniversaries together.

+ jill merner & andré lavergne



+ Nurturing Faith ~ Adults

A new Sunday morning Adult Learning series will unfold this Lent. It's all about "the invitation". We will continue to ponder the question "Why church?" and we'll refine our reflection by examining 12 steps, two a week, to becoming an inviting church. Sure, the sign outside says "welcome". But a *sign* is not an *invitation*. At best, it simply means the door's unlocked. Takes more than a "welcome" sign to be *hospitable*, to be *inviting*.

The new series will begin on February 26 under the title "Invitation to Easter". Until then, look for a variety of Sunday morning learning and fellowship opportunities.

- + January 22 ~ Ethics & Genetics - *Matt Ramer*
- + January 29 ~ Interesting Lives 3/4 - *Derek & Kim Schwartz*
- + February 5 ~ Interesting Lives 4/4 - *Helen Toman*
- + February 12 ~ Annual Congregational Meeting. *No Adult Learning.*
- + February 19 ~ There will be cake in honour of Krista Durrer. *No Adult Learning.*
- + February 26 ~ Invitation to Easter 1/6 - *Anne Anderson & André Lavergne.*

+ andré lavergne

+ Families @ Five

During Lent, we are going to be talking about “extending the invitation”. That invitation is offered to all whether connected to the congregation through baptism, or through family, or simply because they are seeking a place to call “home”. So, once more: “Why ‘Church’?” Why would a *young family* want to journey with us?”

We have been pondering this question in the office. One of our answers is that Trinity is a place where young families can experience welcome and discover life-affirming relationships while learning and worshipping together and while supporting and being supported in this place. Last fall, several Trinity people and friends experienced a form of event called “Messy Church”.

Messy Church is a once-a-month gathering where all ages are welcome to join in interactive activities, share a short, simple worship time, and have a meal together. Messy Church happens on a weeknight over the supper hour to take the burden off busy families and those tired of cooking, whether for many or for one.

At Trinity, we will embark on our own version of Messy Church called “Families @ Five”. The kick-off for Families @ Five is Tuesday, February 7. Doors open at 4:30 pm for a 5 pm start. Families at Five will run on the first Tuesday of every month thereafter. So... Who's invited?

Everyone has a place, whether young or old or in between! If you are interested in a hot home-cooked meal, a little learning, a lot of fun, and some worship in the mix, we'd love to welcome you. Please join us in Trinity Hall on Tuesday, February 7 for Families @ Five. Put it on your calendar. Spread the word!

Care to know more? Looking for information? Thinking about someone or some people to invite?

Speak to Erika Mueller or to me. Want to just show up? Join us on February 7, at 5 pm. You'd be welcome!

+ [anne anderson](#)

+ Coming soon... “the gap”

No, not *that* Gap!

So, what “gap”? Watch for the signs...

+ [erika mueller](#)

+ Trinity's Prayer Shawls & Quilts

Recently, we provided a prayer shawl to Marilyn McNaught and a prayer quilt to Betty Lou Ramseyer.

Many of our people knit and crochet warm, comforting shawls destined for people in need of the reminder of God's embrace and the prayers of our community.



Some of our people also create prayer lap-quilts which are knotted at church by members of the congregation and which include a personal prayer for each knot. We bless God in the giving of the quilts at one of our services before they make their way their intended recipients.

This past week I received a phone call from Marilyn's daughter. Marilyn is Trevor's aunt. She has just been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. She received a prayer shawl.

Marilyn wanted our congregation to know how thankful she is to have the shawl. Marilyn keeps the shawl on her bed in the hospital at all times. Her nurses and

doctors keep commenting on what a great thing it is. It has even sparked her Hamilton pastor to start a prayer shawl ministry there. The shawl has given comfort and support in more ways than any of us ever could have imagined.

Thanks be to God for the hands that model and help to remind us of God's care of each of us.

If you are interested in knitting or crocheting a shawl, please speak with Pat Schmetzer, 519-634-8232.

+ [anne anderson](#)

+ Sanctuary Community

Been to Sanctuary before? We'd love to see you back!

Never been? Give it a try! We gather Sundays at 11:30 am. Sanctuary offers the shape of worship familiar to all—gathering, word, meal and sending—but may feel a little different than what some have experienced before: the music may have a different flavour; the instruments are varied; the sermon includes conversation and interaction; and there may be surprises.

Curious? Come out. You are welcome and our hope is that you might find a place with us on Trinity's faithful journey.

+ [anne anderson](#)

+ TYGers

Winter Retreat ~ As TRINITY DOVE hits the streets, the TYGers are on retreat at Camp Edgewood.

“What a Friend” CD Sales ~ First of all, we want to say “thanks” to Gywin Murray for her great music and for all her help with signing and selling the CD’s and “thanks” to Mike Hayes and Celia Jones who engineered the CD. It was a great success and we raised \$880. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Quilt Draw ~ The winner of the quilt draw was Maggie (Racho) Lorentz. Congratulations! We say a big “thanks” to the Trinity Quilters and to everyone who got tickets! We raised over \$500.

Chili Cook-off ~ Do you think you make the best chili? Well, here is your chance to prove it! The TYGers are holding a chili cook-off on Sunday, February 5, at 12:30 noon. Just like eating chili? Come out, and for a \$5 donation you can eat and vote for your favourite chili!



TYGers' Calendar

New Directions ~ We've decided to move our youth activities to Tuesday evenings.

In my experience, youth come to events because they are fun and because they have friends going with them. So my hope is to choose a time that works for a large number of youth so that we can grow as a group and make connections and lasting friendships.

In talking with some of our youth and families, Tuesday nights seemed to be the best choice. Over the course of four weeks, we'll do an evening each of service, games, fellowship and group-building. As there are four Tuesdays in February, there are four nights of fun planned!

February 7 ~ Families @ Five ~ Youth are asked to assist in exchange for volunteer hours. Meet in Trinity hall.

February 14 ~ Movie Night ~ We'll gather in the Bruce Hammer Theatre at 7 pm.

February 21 ~ Minute 2 Win it Games Night ~ Gather in the TYGers Hang-Out at the Anderson home.

February 28 ~ Board Games ~ Killer Bunnies anyone? Gather in the TYGers Hang-Out at the Anderson home.

+ erika mueller

+ Nurturing Faith ~ 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.

+ anne anderson

+ Tintinnabulations

February 6 ~ Secrets Sisters Pot-Luck ~ 6:30 pm.

February 7 ~ Adult Learning Team ~ Gather at 8 am.

February 7 ~ Prayer Circle Update ~ Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

February 7 ~ Families at Five ~ Doors open at 4:30 pm.

February 12 ~ Congregational Meeting ~ 10:45 am.

February 16 ~ DOVE Prep Team ~ Gathers at 9 am.

February 21 ~ Gentle Friends Readers ~ Gather, 7 pm, in Trinity Hall. This month: *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Allan Bradley. Copies are available at the New Hamburg Library.

February 27 ~ Blood Donor Clinic ~ Gather, 2 to 8:30 pm at Waterloo-Oxford.

Tuesdays, 9 am & 6:15 pm ~ TOPS ~ Taking Off Pounds Sensibly in Trinity Hall and the Martin Luther Room.

First Wednesdays, 11:30 am ~ Congregate Dining ~ Gather at Zion United Church.

Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A ~ Open meeting in Trinity Hall.

+ *andré lavergne & jill merner*

+ The Women of Trinity

Secret Sisters' Potluck

The 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 Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for details.

+ *pat schmetzer*

+ December Council News

+ Every month, Council sends a number of thank-you notes to deserving people in our community and beyond. This month, we thanked the Minister of Music Task Group whose duties were discharged with such care and grace. Plans were made, in particular, to thank Pastor James Brown for his efforts.

+ Council reviewed three draft documents: 1. new *Code of Ethics for Congregational Council Members and Officers*; 2. new *Guidelines for the Mutual Ministry Committee*; a revised *Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual*. The brief *Ethics* document was approved while the other two were tabled to January so that everyone might review them. The *Ethics* document is available online.

+ Council examined a draft budget for 2012. The budget will be approved by Council in January.

+ *Messy Church* will come to Trinity in February, 2012, as a first-Tuesday-of-the-month *Families @ Five*.

+ A new pattern of choir rehearsals will begin in January: Affirmation Singers on Tuesdays at 7pm and the Trinity Choir on Thursdays at 7 pm. A new name for the younger choir is being contemplated.

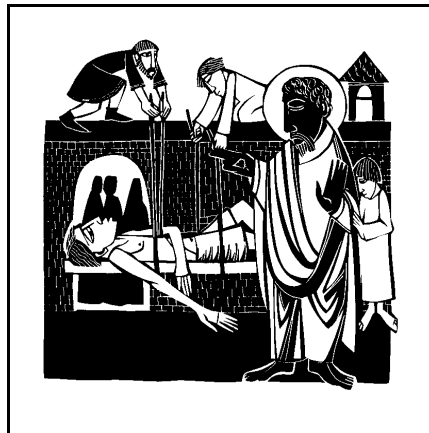
+ The Trinity-Optimists Christmas Breakfast raised over \$2,000 for Community Care Concepts.

+ Trinity prepared 8 Christmas hampers with food, gifts, gift certificates & woollies; delivered large loads of warm, winter woollies to ROOF & the Wilmot Family Resource Centre; delivered 56 tins of cookies in the parish. The response was amazing!

+ Plans were made to honour Bob Marshall on Sunday, January 1.

+ Cy Ridout, Krista Durrer, Chris Normandeau and Doreen Lindner-Baan are all completing Council terms. Each is willing to return for a three-year term. Their names will come before the congregation on February 12. Heidi Ziegler has indicated her desire to relinquish her position on Council to devote herself to her family. Heidi presently serves as a liaison with our Mutual Ministry Committee. Council is therefore seeking someone to complete her term (2 years).

+ *krista durrer & friends*



+ Financial Update to December 31

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 286,460	\$ 19,896	\$ 35,019
Outgo	289,624	40,613	35,019
Balance	(\$ 3,165)	\$(20,717)	\$ 0

Overview

We began the year in the midst of uncertainties related to staffing and an anticipated General Fund deficit of \$7,639. We concluded the year with a substantially changed staff complement and a deficit of \$3,165. Given the continued cloud of economic uncertainty this is a good result. Moreover, the feeling going forward in the congregation, especially around our youth & family ministry and music ministry, is one of tremendous joy and optimism.

Our Capital Fund, which had an accumulated opening balance of \$23,737 (owing to relatively small capital expenditures 2007-2009) has been depleted with the construction of the new roof. Again, this overall result is quite good given the alternatives. The roof repair was both necessary and could not be postponed.

The transfers reflect a great deal of good work accomplished in 2011. Included here are CLWR (\$13,317) and contributions toward the Gywin Murray Church Music Scholarship Fund (\$11,294).

These numbers provide a brief financial year-in-review for 2011. A complete picture, including full audited statements and a 2012 budget, will be provided by the end of January ahead of the February 12 annual meeting.

+ bob ruthig & rick ritz

+ 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.

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.

+ andré lavergne

+ Nurturing Faith & Confirmation

Prayer Partners ~ We're now into our second annual Prayer Partners program. We're inviting people to commit to praying for one of our young people for the winter season and to join us for two Sunday morning events, March 4 & April 29. Information is available in the narthex. We're grateful to all who've already signed-on.

Winter Family Celebration ~ We are having our annual winter afternoon together with sledding and games and treats on Sunday, January 29, from 2 to 4 pm. We'll gather at Trinity. Look for the sign-up sheet. All are welcome!

Faith Days ~ Students in grades 3 & 4 are invited to attend a Faith Day on Friday, January 20, 9 am - 3 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Confirmation Classes ~ Grades 7 & 8 have four Saturday classes for the year: January 28, February 25, March 31 & April 21. All sessions run from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch is provided.

Confirmation Camp ~ Confirmation Camp will run from Sunday, August 26 to Friday, August 31. Forms are available from me.

+ anne anderson

+ Guide to Worship & Ministry

You may have noticed or heard. In addition to the monthly posting of TRINITY DOVE on the Trinity website, we have begun to post our weekly GUIDE TO WORSHIP & MINISTRY as well. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive.

The GUIDE TO WORSHIP & MINISTRY is usually completed by Thursday such that our worship leaders and choirs might feel confident about their leadership responsibilities for our community's worship life.

As much as possible, we'll also make the GUIDE TO WORSHIP & MINISTRY available through our weekly parish-wide e-mail notifications so that everyone may have a sense of our current calendar and areas of emphasis and of any course corrections made since the publication of TRINITY DOVE.

If you are not a regular recipient of our Thursday e-mail notifications, simply let us know and provide us with your e-mail address. We'll take care of the rest.

+ andré lavergne

