

Trinity Dove

November 18, 2001 + Pentecost 24 + A Human Face

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne & Nadine Nicholds, Pastors

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+ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, December 2 ~ Advent 1

- + Worship at 9 am. (Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday Church School at 10:15 am.
Adults: A Human Face: **Tracey Wagner-Rizvi**
- + Worship at 11:15 am. (Ministry update at 11:05 am.)

- + This morning, grade 8's leave Trinity at 8:45 am to visit Cedar Grove Mennonite Church. Back by noon.

Sunday, December 9 ~ Advent 2

- + Worship at 9 am. (Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday Church School at 10:15 am.
Adults: A Human Face: Imam **Abdul Mannan Syed**
- + Worship at 11:15 am. (Ministry update at 11:05 am.)

Sunday, December 16 ~ Advent 3

- + Worship at 9 am. (Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday Church School at 10:15 am.
Adults: A Human Face: **David & Nancy Butz**
- + Worship at 11:15 am. (Ministry update at 11:05 am.)

Sunday, December 23 ~ Advent 4

- + Worship at 9 am with the Affirmation Singers and Trinity Choir in Concert. (Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday Church School rehearsal for evening Christmas Program at 10:15 am until 11:30 am.
- + Sunday School Christmas Program at 7 pm.

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- + Candlelight Family Communion Service with the Affirmation Singers at 7 pm.
- + Candlelight Choral Service with Trinity Choir at 11 pm.

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- + Worship at 10 am with the Trinity Choir offering the cantata TOUCHED BY A CHILD, TOUCHED BY A KING.

Sunday, December 30 ~ Christmas 1

- + Single service at 10 am. (Ministry update at 9:50 am.)
- + Community Fellowship at 11 am.

+ *andré lavergne*

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+ Pastor Nadine: Reflections - A Year in New Hamburg

Peace, friends.

Well, can you believe it? I have been here for a year. It feels to me like I only just moved in! Everything seemed so strange last October, so foreign. I grew up in the big city: tall buildings and grey asphalt. The little town of New Hamburg seemed a strange place with strange faces.

During this past year I have begun to learn some of the idiosyncrasies of the burg. Geographically, I am learning the area, even if sometimes I take the long route. (I still haven't *really* figured out where Plattsville is!) I even know street names... which is not very helpful given that everyone knows the road as "old (fill in the blank) road."

The post-office is quite something, a whole community unto itself. I find I only pick up my mail a couple of times a week and I'm all for home delivery. However, some feel that getting rid of central mail pick up might ruin the atmosphere of the town. Maybe they have a point. A lot of information and stories get exchanged at the post-office.

The people are a different breed than what I have been used to. No, that's not a bad thing! First, everyone is related!! I have stopped trying to keep track. There's no use. Also everyone knows a lot of history. A number of people can tell me who has lived in a particular house back several generations *and* who married whom. I find this information intriguing.

And, oh how I emphasize with all those spiky-haired kids. Yes, there is more than one! All those youths dreaming of tall buildings and grey asphalt...

All together, in the year that I have lived here, all those strange faces—even though I still do not know all the names—seem not so strange anymore. I am not scared to walk alone at night and I'm eager to offer a friendly "hello" to those I greet on the street.

New Hamburg has become *human* to me. There is a human face to this little village of New Hamburg.

+ *nadine nicholds*

+ Adult Learning: A Human Face

In the light of the tragic events of September 11 and after, we have contemplated how best to touch the various issues that have arisen. Early on we published letters from our bishops and addressed important themes in sermons and at prayer. We published an excellent piece entitled REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11 by **Philip Yancey**. We have also made available a number of helpful books from the parish library.

We are now looking to pick up some important threads at our Sunday morning adult learning sessions. The new series is entitled "A Human Face." The idea is that we offer a "human face" for some of the realities of recent weeks.

On December 2, **Tracey Wagner-Rizvi** will join us. She was, until a few weeks ago, living with her Pakistani husband, **Muddassir Rizvi**, and their two children, in Pakistan. He is a journalist while she has worked in the area of women's advocacy.

On December 9, Imam—a priest—**Abdul Mannan Syed** of Waterloo will join us. He is the spiritual leader of the Muslim community in this region. He ministers to people of many different cultures who share the common faith of Islam.

On December 16, **David & Nancy Butz** will join us. Both have made many long visits to Pakistan. **David** is a human geographer while **Nancy** is completing her PhD in women's studies. Both will be familiar to many as long-time members of our community.

We hope that this series will help us to put a human face to the many realities which have unfolded in recent weeks and which will continue to unfold for a long time to come.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Sanctuary Banner: Windows of Peace

People have inquired "whence the banner hanging from the gallery in the worship space?" The "Windows of Peace" banner is the work of **Florence Wilhelm**—**Janice Junker's** mom—of Tavistock. Given the global realities in the news, it serves as a timely reminder of the church's role as an advocate for peace with justice. We are grateful to **Florence** for the opportunity to hang her work.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Sacraments & Seasons

Baptisms

We rejoice at the baptisms, November 4, of Emily Persaud, Darren Morrison, Calvin Wilson, Taylor Randerson and Derek Harrison. We welcome you all into the Lord's family and the community of Trinity Church.

December Birthdays

1 - Scott Leu, Brandon Morrison; **2** - Wendy Chapman; **3** - Wendy Schwartz, Tony Hergott, Alexander Buehlow; **6** - Brendan McCutchen, Brandon Stewart; **8** - Desiree Bender; **9** - Kirk Arsenault, Todd Schroeder, Chantelle Junker; **10** - Kathy Bender, Lisa Mello; **11** - Krystalyn Johnston, Jordan Steinman; **12** - Doris Weicker, Tony Beavis, Kathy Scheerer, Brad Becker, Trevor Deckert, Stephanie Martin; **13** - Carl Hallberg, Ron Schaaf, Wally Mueller, Doug Hammer, Steven Mathewson, Crista Coughlin, Leslie Gravill, Stephanie May, Kendra Danner, Nathan Szierer; **14** - Doris Doering, Ross Eichler, Susan Danner; **15** - Kim Lavergne, Heather Kienapple; **16** - Lotus Hammer, Kimberley Murray, Greg Steinberg, Christianne Mann, Justin Arnott, Mason Runstedler; **17** - Betty Minnie, Earl Nickolas, Bruce Jantzi; **18** - Lorraine Zoeller, Bruce Snider, Travis Deckert, Joshua Otto; **19** - Betty Ritz, Ken Barnes, Brenda McCutchen, Rachel Gueguen; **20** - Kaye Pauli, Megan Clarke; **22** - Grace Nauman, Norm Wettlaufer, Tracey Erb, Sherri Keller; **23** - Greta Mello, Holly McCurdy, Kristal Stere; **24** - Carol Chester, Holly Koehler; **25** - Kay Hofstetter; **26** - Florence Sebert, Joey Ziegler, Katie Murray; **27** - Bertha Becker, Roger Lindner, Lucas Haffner; **28** - Jean Schaaf, MacKenzie Mueller; **30** - Albert Rehkopf, John Parsons, Kylie Becker, Tricia Hammer; **31** - Doris Wagner, Jennifer Barnes. Happy birthday!

December Anniversaries

7 - Ron & Terralene Johnston; **18** - Joe & Joan Firetto; **19** - Jackie & Terry Keller, Eun-Ah Kim & Peter Klosch; **21** - Clarence & Lorraine Zoeller; **23** - August & Margot Popp; **28** - Joyce & Lyle Roth; **31** - Anita & John Hanson, Ann & James Patton. Happy anniversary!

+ *jill merner*

+ Discipleship ~ Kids/Youth

As we get closer to the end of this term, we take a moment to think about Advent and the journey that we take that will lead us to Jesus' birth. Our Sunday Church School is doing just that, exploring the journey and daring to dream about what could be knowing that God will soon be with us.

Just a reminder: The Sunday Church school will take a break over the Christmas holidays. There will be no classes on December 30 or January 6. We will resume again on January 13.

Affirmation! Ministry

Extra! Extra! In early December the grade 3-6 Affirmation! classes will be publishing a cookbook with our favorite recipes. We will be "selling" these cookbooks for food items that we will, in the end, donate to the food bank. Please help support this wonderful cause and maybe get a new idea for your Christmas entertaining.

As for Affirmation! education, things are pretty light this month. Below is what is happening in December.

December 4 - Grade 7 Affirmation! class, 7 - 8 pm
 December 7 - Grade 6 Affirmation! day, 9 am - 3 pm
 December 11 - Grade 8 Affirmation! class, 7 - 8 pm

Mentor Meetings and Program

Blue - Making Disciples 12: LIFE IN THE CHURCH (Oct. / Nov.)
 Red - Making Disciples 9: BAPTISM (Nov. / Dec.)
 Gold - "WHERE AM I GOING?" Share Sheet (Nov. / Dec.)

+ *nadine nicholds, claire otterbein & friends*

+ Trinity on the Web www.telc.ca

Trinity maintains a great web site at www.telc.ca. It's terrific for snow birds to visit and keep up to date! Take a look!

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Getting Married in 2002?

If you're planning a wedding, call your pastor and pick up a copy of **BLESSINGS** from the narthex.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Sabbath Blessings

Writing from Prescott, Ontario, Molly Wolf offers another SABBATH BLESSING. Her first series was published under the title HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: SABBATH BLESSINGS (Liturgical Press). Her second series, is called A PLACE LIKE ANY OTHER: SABBATH BLESSINGS (Image/Doubleday). SABBATH BLESSINGS are published weekly to the Internet community. Each month, we download and reprint one essay. © 2001 Molly Wolf.

Mud Season

A few leaves hang in there, still green, mostly on the willows and some shrubs, and the grass is still green underfoot, but we are clearly on our way into Mud Season, that longish interseason between the glory of Fall and the advent of real Winter. As I have said often, this part of Canada has six seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Mud Season, Winter, and Mud Season again; and sometimes the two Mud Seasons put together feel as though they occupy more than half the calendar.

This was actually a pleasant day, if you don't mind mild, wet and windy. But this Fall Mud Season is different from all the others I've been through. Even on the mild and open days, there's that sense of bedouedness, and it's an occlusion of the spirit, not the sky. Oh, I know we're well off: we're too small a target, too unimportant for any terrorist to bother with. I talk to the people I know in New York and I know that they're lying when they say they're fine, although I'm not sure who they're lying to, me or themselves. I hear from California and northern New York, from Minnesota and New Jersey, from Virginia and Massachusetts, of the general unassuageable sense of grief and unease. North of the border we're not so badly affected, but we're still all a bit wonky. It's much more Mud Season of the soul right now than of the landscape, and it's Mud Season in places where natural Mud Season does not exist.

This is a time for beef stew and other creature comforts. In Mud Season, creature comforts are especially important. Not luxury; luxury feels all wrong right now, maybe even a bit obscene. This isn't a time for Malpeque oysters and champagne but for meatloaf and mashed potatoes —for tastes, scents, sounds, sights that remind us of peaceful and comforting times.

For me, it's not meatloaf and mashed potatoes or the scent of burning leaves or lilac, much as I love these. No: for me, at

this sad season, it's the new guitar. I played guitar when I was young, but I never got past a certain level (and probably never will); and that level wasn't quite good enough for the people I was hanging out with, so eventually I gave up. Up till the beginning of October, I don't think I'd touched a guitar for almost 30 years. But then my kid sister got herself a guitar (she is a much, much better guitarist than I ever was), and I started feeling wistful and impulsive. So I borrowed a friend's guitar and sat on the sofa holding it and putting it back into tune and fumbling for some basic chords, and that was that. Now my own bottom-of-the-line Yamaha classical guitar sits on its own stand in the living room, next to a straight chair with a music stand and footrest, and I noodle away at it whenever —and especially whenever the greyness seems to get right into my soul.

The aim isn't to escape from reality; the aim, instead, is to get your toes deeper into it, turning from the talking-heads unreality of CNN and the fear-filled whisperings in the supermarket lineup back to the reality of this life. Come what may in Afghanistan, the frogs and other

hibernatory critters are shutting down for the winter here, and it's good to think of that — to remember that we are not the only species around the joint, and that our troubles are transient compared to the great cycles of carbon and water and such. However nervous-making the news is, tortoiseshell Maggie-cat still slips between my hands like some heavy liquid when I let her flow down from my arms to the floor after a mutually satisfying fuss. Whatever will befall us next month or next year, supper still has to be got and the dishes done. And this is a very good thing.

Doing these things, or simply sitting and noodling at the guitar, I find myself not so much reassured, as taken into a place where reassurance isn't important. Who was it said that the future doesn't really exist? It doesn't; all that truly exists is the present moment and the past. And of those two, the present is the important one, because it is where God and I are working things out. With my soul in this present moment, I can succumb to reason, not to panic. Yes, there is a chance that my next bank statement or gas bill will have anthrax spores; there is also a chance, although quite a small one, that I might wake up tomorrow as a pretty pink toad with a ruby in my forehead. I believe in the selective ostrich approach: if there's not a damn thing you can do about a particular situation, at least you can refuse to worry about it. Much more soberly, the proper thing to worry about is the flu, which we can do something about.

Holding my guitar (a cuddly sort of instrument), gently fingering the strings, searching out chord progressions, learning some new fingerpicking patterns —these help me enter a sort of quiet presentness. I used to feel this way holding a child: that all that exists is this one moment in time, and that I could wrap this moment as though in amber and put it away in my jewelry box, preserving it for later. It's not just that my anxiety drops for the small time I'm sitting and noodling; it drops for a space after that as well.

This is a good time for dancing with the baby in the kitchen, if you have a baby around, or for walking through a yarn or fabric store, intently fingering the wares, or for polishing silver, if you like that sort of thing. It's a good time for the sort of cooking that takes all afternoon and two dishwasher loads of pots and pans. It's a good time to refinish furniture.

The point is to immerse yourself in something sensual and happy, because as C.S. Lewis put it, God "wants [us] to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which [we] call the Present. For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity." (Screwtape, 15).

For me, at the moment, I can dive into that Present through six strings stretched tight across a beautiful spread of wood. I've got a new song to work on, a good tub-thumper, gotta work out that chord progression:

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

+ *molly wolf*

+ Memories of Mom's Kitchen

I am writing a cookbook in memory of my mother, **Virginia Stever**, and all mothers who have gone before us: a cookbook filled with favourite recipes mothers made and special memories that relate to the dish. The proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the Grand River Hospital's Cancer Care Unit. Please contact **Jennifer Troupe**, if you can assist, at 743-5306 or <momskitchen@sympatico.ca>.

+ *jennifer troupe*

+ Millennium Fund at 80%!

Thanks to a great effort by **Ken Bender, Don Coxson and Brad, Devon and Adam Otterbein**, the last lights are in. They look wonderful! As well, financial support from Trinity members has been terrific. To the end of October, we have 80% of the \$84,000 in anticipated costs in hand. See TRINITY DOVE, page 7. Well done, friends! Thank you!

Have you made your family's financial contribution toward our Millennium Project? It all helps. Please get your Millennium Fund contributions in a.s.a.p. and encourage family and friends to do the same. Our investment today helps us to keep faith with generations past and generations yet to come.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Millennium Photo Album

Photography is now completed with some 325 families photographed. We are very grateful to **Buck Roth** for his direction and encouragement. All families should receive their photos in plenty of time for Christmas. We expect a first proof of our new parish album by the beginning of December.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Advent Mitten Tree

It's that time of year! The Advent Mitten Tree will be up on November 25 for decoration on the first 2 Sundays of Advent. Every year, Trinity people donate dozens of pairs of mittens, scarves and other warm woollies. Items are then enclosed with the Christmas hampers. Can you assist?

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Christmas Hampers

During Advent, we invite people to sign-up for a gift for our Christmas Hamper Program or to make a cash donation toward food items. Look for the narthex display and plan to participate. **Doris Weicker** (662-2224) is organizing our program. Hampers will be put together on December 11, for delivery on December 13.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Tintinnabulations

November 25 - Mark Jutzi Memorial Service

Mark Jutzi will host his annual service of community remembrance at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 2 pm.

December 2 - Community Advent Choir Service

Local churches are gathering for our annual Choir Service, 7:30 pm, here, at Trinity Church. Terrific event!

December 3 ~ ELW

The ELW will gather, 7:30 pm, for its regular meeting. Call **Shirley Unrau**, 662-1515, for further information.

December 5 ~ Sacred Circle

The Sacred Circle will be on hiatus for December and January and will resume activities in February. For details, call **Chris Ritz**, at 662-1798.

December 7 ~ Tree of Light

Have you a button? Join the crowd at the foot of Peel for the lighting. 7 pm start.

December 11 ~ Hampers Prepared

The Priscillas prepare Christmas Hampers at 9 am. You can assist by participating in the gifts program, giving to the mitten tree or by making an offering to "hampers." Contact **Doris Weicker** (662-2224) for information.

December 15 ~ CCC Breakfast

Come to Trinity Hall, between 8 & 11 am, for a great breakfast sponsored by the Optimists and Trinity Church. Community Care Concepts benefits. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3.75/kids; \$15/family. **Cy Ridout**, 662-3838, has tickets.

December 17 ~ Cheer Boxes Prepared

The ELW prepares cheer boxes, 9:30 am, for delivery in the parish. Contact **Shirley Unrau** (662-1515) for information.

December 17 ~ Christmas Trees Go Up

On Monday, 6 pm, a crew will erect the sanctuary Christmas trees. Give **Deb Roth**, 662-3238, a shout if you can help.

December 17 ~ Bits & Pieces Buffet

The group will gather at 6 pm for their Christmas buffet. **Arlene Meyer** (662-3843) has details.

December 18 ~ Trees Decorated

The Priscillas gather, 9 am, to decorate Trinity's Christmas trees. **Reta Klaassen** (662-1641) has details.

December 18 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends gather, 7:30 pm, to discuss *A STOLEN LIFE* by **Rudy Wiebe**. Copies available at the New Hamburg Library. **Kathryn Ritz**, 662-2960, has information.

December 23 ~ Sunday School Christmas Program

The program gets under way at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. Families are asked to contribute squares or cookies for the fellowship afterward. Mark the date. Join us!

Council Christmas Gathering

Council's Annual Christmas Gathering will be held *after Christmas* when our schedules are lighter and we can take time to enjoy one-another's company. Watch for details!

Continuing Community Calendar

CLEAN (narcotics) ~ Mondays, 8 pm.
 WALC (seniors' exercise) ~ Tuesdays, 10:30 am
 Jolly Losers (weight loss) ~ Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
 Trinity Quilters ~ Wednesdays, 9 am
 A/A ~ Saturdays, 8 pm
 Bits & Pieces Crafts ~ Third Monday, 7 pm
 Parent Support ~ Fourth Monday, 7 pm
 Reading Group ~ Third Tuesday, 7 pm
 Day Care ~ Weekdays, 7 am to 6 pm
 Interfaith Counselling ~ By appointment.

Need information? Call 662-1810.

+ *andré lavergne & friends*

+ Finances to October 31, 2001

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 180,734	\$ 13,800	\$ 12,143
Outgo	202,444	8,359	9,588
Balance	- 21,710	5,441	2,555

	Millennium Fund	Memorials
Income	\$ 67,402*	\$ 290
Outgo	81,884*	-
Balance	- 14,482*	290

*Millennium combines 2000 *and* 2001.

General Fund Update

As the chart above indicates, in October we gained considerable ground in our Millennium Fund while we lost ground in our General Fund. In fact, in our General Fund, we have a fair bit of catching-up to do by year's end. Other funds are healthy and reasonably on-track.

Direction for November and December

Our General and Millennium Funds represent our first priority. Can we move these into the black by year's end? We think so! We hope to collapse the Millennium Fund by the end of the year so that it is not hanging over us in 2002.

Please take Trinity's needs to heart! Your third-quarter offering statement (September 30) contained an all-purpose offering envelope. Please use it to best advantage.

2002 Offering Envelope Sets

Offering Envelope sets for next year have been prepared and are available in the Katie Luther Room. Please take yours and help to deliver to friends and neighbours.

Please Recycle

Please bring portions of unused offering envelope sets to the church. As usual, we will have them re-imprinted for use at Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc. This is good stewardship!

+ *laurie clarke & friends*

+ TYGer Tales

December 1 ~ TYGers Planning Meeting

The next planning meeting for TYGers (and especially for all Cry Out! families, including youth and one or both parents) will take place on Saturday, December 1, at 9:30 am.

At this meeting, we will receive any outstanding registration forms and the \$200 deposit; bring families up to date on any available current travel information; review our TYGers Program Plan to September, 2002, with a view to making any additions or adjustments.

December 8 ~ Christmas Shopping

Gather, 9 am, at Trinity for this mentor-friendly event. Pr. Nadine will be leading the charge. Leadership also offered by Marlene, George & Sarah Mueller, Sandy, Brad & Erin Martin, Leanne, James & Brittany Snider.

December 16 ~ Christmas Bake Sale

The 10 am Bake Sale will support the TYGers' trip to Vancouver. Contributions welcome from all. Leadership provided by Joanne, Steve & Mary Aitken, Cornelia, Klaus & Melanie Jahn, Robb, Bert & Jayla Kirkey

December 21 ~ Family Christmas Carolling

We gather at 6:30 pm at Trinity Church for this family and mentor friendly event. Leadership is offered by Cornelia, Klaus & Melanie Jahn, Sandy, Tim & Chantelle Junker, Joanne, Steve & Mary Aitken.

+ *andré lavergne, nadine nicholds & friends*

+ Trinity Endowment Fund

We are currently rounding out plans for Year 2002. As always, we welcome suggestions as to potential expenditures. This year, we have done refugee work, supported Community Kitchens, purchased pastoral care resources, underwritten *Affirmation! Camping* and much more. We welcome ideas. Speak to Pr. **André** if you have a suggestion.

+ *andré lavergne*