



Trinity Dove

November 23, 2008 + Christ the King + Change
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✦ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, November 23 ~ Christ the King / Baptisms

- ✦ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: Social Justice with Dr. Harold Remus
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

Sunday, November 30 ~ Advent 1

Captive Free / Advent Choir Concert

- ✦ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: Social Justice with Dr. Oz Arnal
- ✦ Captive Free Family Program & Pot-Luck at 5 pm
- ✦ Advent Choir Concert at Steinmann at 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 7 ~ Advent 2

- ✦ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: Social Justice with Wilma Marie Bindernagel

Sunday, December 14 ~ Advent 3

- ✦ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ F/A Christmas Program rehearsal at 10:45 am.
Adults: Social Justice with Mark Yantzi

Sunday, December 21 ~ Advent 4

- ✦ Anchor Worship with celebration of Advent-Christmas church music at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Faith Adventures Christmas Program at 11 am.

Wednesday, December 24

- ✦ Family Holy Communion with the Affirmation Singers at 7 pm
- ✦ Lights, Readings & Carols with the Trinity Choir at 11 pm.

Sunday, December 28 ~ Christmas 1

- ✦ Anchor Worship with celebration of Aspects of Love at 9:30 am. Sharla and Charlene Nafziger join us for worship. Parish update, 9:20 am.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.

✦ *andré lavergne*

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✝ Pr. Anne ~ Change

Grace and peace, friends.

It's almost Advent and change is certainly coming!

As I sit and write this note I can feel the little one moving around and getting ready to introduce him/her-self to the world. Change is certainly coming for us as we await the arrival of baby Anderson.

We want to say thank you to everyone who has supported us in so many ways. The baby shower was a wonderful celebration with great food and fun and very generous gifts! Trevor and I said to each other at the end of the day that this little baby is surely set and is very much loved. Thanks so much again for all your love and support. We appreciate it so much.

Things will change at Trinity while I am on parental leave. You will still see us—Trevor, me and the babe— but we will be joining you in the pew or welcoming you to our home. Although we won't be doing the regular routine we will be quite visible! In this regard, a great group of people will join us in our ministry here to help cover the bases so that we can take time to be with our baby. I am thankful to them. See the enclosed pastoral letter for some details. Change is coming to Trinity by way of a child. I kind'a like that!

This fall, a dedicated group has been working its way through the Inquirer's material and talking about Luther and the beginnings of our church. For Luther, change was inevitable. *Ecclesia Semper Reformanda*, is how Luther put it. "The church... ever reforming... changing!" Luther saw a need for people to hear the good news of Jesus in contemporary terms—loud and clear!— and to face the day's realities with a resilient and relevant Gospel. The change he looked for was to help people get that word out. Still, change wasn't always smooth or easy. Some agreed with him. Others did not. In the end, we hold that the world is richer for the challenges and the experience: Luther's and ours!

Trevor and I and little Anderson look forward to moving through the upcoming changes with you. With the grace, and care, and the love we have experienced, we know we are on a faithful journey together! Thanks again!

Blessed Advent!

✝anne anderson

✝ Wallace Memorial

In connection with the recent death of Lorene Wallace, Trinity was presented with a 19th century Filipino statue—a sculpture in wood— of Christ. A gift of Barry Wallace, the statue is a fitting addition to the artwork which already adorns our facilities. For the time being, the sculpture will find a home in the Katie Luther Room and we will offer a dedicatory prayer at such time as John Wallace might be able to join us. John is currently relocating from Waterloo to the Nithview Apartments. At a later date, the statue might be afforded a niche—like Trinity's Good Shepherd—in a Second Century project.

✝ andré lavergne



✝ Adult Learning

Currents in Social Justice I

In this two-part (Advent & Lent), 9-session Sunday-morning series we look at the intersection of social justice and Christian (personal) / Church (corporate) life.

November 23 - Harold Remus: The Bible

November 30 - Oz Arnal: The Church

December 7 - Wilma Marie Bindernagel: GHDA & KAIROS

December 14 - Mark Yantzi: Restorative Justice

✝ andré lavergne

✝ TRINITY DOVE Online

A number of Trinity families have elected to view TRINITY DOVE online rather than to receive a hard-copy. Simply supply us with an e-mail address and you'll receive notification of the latest issue as it goes to press.

✝ andré lavergne

✝ There Will Be Cake!

January 4, 2009, shall be observed as Christmas 2 and celebrated as Rose & Mike Mueller Sunday.

April 5, 2009, shall be observed as Palm Sunday and celebrated as Ken Seltzer Sunday.

✝ andré lavergne

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Births

Our community welcomes the births of Carlee Rose Mohr, September 23, a daughter for Mike Mohr & Cheryl Dupuis; and of Iris Mae Wettlaufer, October 14, a daughter for Anesa (Mason) & Bryan Wettlaufer.

Confirmations

On the Sunday of All Saints, following their earlier witness on the Sunday of Reformation, the following young people were confirmed: Travis Gerber, Shayne Grebinski, Ryan Gueguen, Heather Kienapple, Joshua Otto, Zachary Thompson, Christian Thomson, David Trafford, Emma Weichers and Brandon Stewart. We wish this terrific group of young people well!

Deaths

Our community grieves the death of Lorene Wallace. She died October 15 at the age of 85. We grieve with John and with all who mourn.

December Birthdays

1 - Scott Leu, Brandon Morrison; **2** - Wendy Chapman, Kathy Bingeman; **3** - Wendy Schwartz, Carol Ann Weichel, Alexander Buehlow, Madison Yost, Tanner Snyder, Sara Rundstedler; **6** - Brendan McCutchen, Brandon Stewart; **7** - Susan Rogers, Ruby Farr; **9** - Todd Schroeder, Chantelle Junker, Emma Wiechers; **10** - Kathy Bender, Eric Noseworthy, Paige Gingerich; **11** - Krystalyn Johnston, Jordan Steinman, Tia DeRuiter, Hawkins Becker; **12** - Doris Weicker, Tony Beavis, Kathy Scheerer, Murray Ludington, Brad Becker, Trevor Deckert, Stephanie Martin, Kaden Eichler; **13** - Carl Hallberg, Ron Schaaf, Wally Mueller, Doug Hammer, Crista Coughlin, Stephanie May, Kendra Danner; **14** - Doris Doering, Ross Eichler, Susan Danner; **15** - Heather Kienapple; **16** - Lotus Hammer, Kimberley Murray, Greg Steinberg, Christianne Mann, Justin Arnott, Mason Runstedler, Ryleigh OBrien; **17** - Betty Minnie, Earl Nickolas, Bruce Jantzi, Marcus Scheid; **18** - Lorraine Zoeller, John Hillar, Travis Deckert, Joshua Otto, Zachary Becker; **19** - Betty Ritz, Ken Barnes, Brenda McCutchen, Rachel Gueguen; **20** - Kaye Pauli, Megan Clarke; **21** - Catherine Deckert; **22** - Grace Nauman, Tracey Erb, Sherri Keller, Andrew Hatchwell; **23** - Greta Mello, Holly McCurdy, Charlotte Speers, Kristal Preidt; **24** - Holly Koehler; **25** - Kay Hofstetter; **26** - Florence Sebert, Sheila Zoeller, Joe Ziegler, Katie Murray; **27** - Roger Lindner, Shannon Snyder, Lucas Haffner,

Shayne Grebinski; **28** - Jean Schaaf; **30** - John Parsons, Kylie Becker, Alyson Lockie, Tricia Hammer; **31** - Jennifer Barnes, Sydney Ferguson. Happy birthday, friends!

December Anniversaries

7 - Ron & Terralene Johnston; **23** - August & Margot Popp; **28** - Joyce & Lyle Roth; **29** - Dee & Kitch Radke; **31** - Anita & John Hanson, Ann & James Patton, André & Barbara Lavergne. Happy anniversary, friends.

BIG Days!

Look for the following "Wow!" wedding anniversary: John & Anita Meredith (November 28 - 55 years)

✚ *jill merner*

✚ Aspects of Love

On Sunday, December 28, during the Christmas lull, at 9:30 am, Barbara and I are inviting the congregation to celebrate the gifts of love and our recent marriage at a festive Anchor Community service featuring soprano Sharla Nafziger and accompanist Charlene Nafziger. The theme "Aspects of Love" will be explored in word and music in the context of a Christmas liturgy with lots of carols. Coffee and cake will follow.

It has taken the better part of a year to arrange for Sharla to join us from New York City where she makes her home and where her vocal career is based.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Time-Capsule Contents

In connection with the likelihood that we will observe some congregational anniversary celebration over the next two or three years, a time capsule was recently recovered from beneath the 1910 cornerstone, briefly opened, and then placed in the vault.

The contents give evidence of (at least) four aspects of the life of previous generations: a bible witnesses to their devotion; a worship book witnesses to their piety; a newspaper witnesses to their time; and a synod minute book witnesses to the larger church of which they were a part. Council will seek guidance as to what we might place in a time capsule as we move ahead in the months to come.

✚ *andré lavergne*



✚ Dear Kim, This is what I believe...

Explaining Christian Faith Today

Each month, by kind permission, we publish an extract from Bill Loader's book, Dear Kim, This is what I believe...

Chapter 5: What About Right & Wrong?

What About Sex?

What about sex before marriage and sex among people not or no longer married? The history of human thinking about sex is very complex. Most ancient religions have special rules about sex. Partly these are to prevent unwanted pregnancies and to keep society stable by having children born into families where they can be cared for. Partly they are about protecting male property rights over women against other males. Partly they have to do with ancient taboos relating to sex and the sacred. Sex brings people into close connection with major life and death issues. Menstruation, childbirth, male ejaculation, marriage were all seen to be connected in some way with holy things and there were usually special rituals associated with each. There were many taboos connected with sex; probably Paul's concern about women's head covering in Church goes back to an established taboo. In some ancient religions, at the same time, sexual intercourse, itself, was used as a sacred rite, a way to be in contact with the gods.

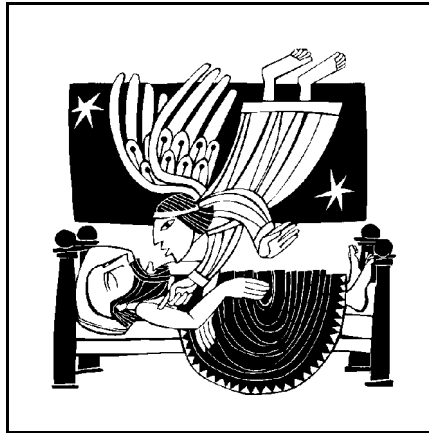
The Bible and sex

The people of Israel, whose attitudes are preserved in the Old Testament and strongly reflected in the New Testament, shared many of these understandings. In their earlier traditions they show that it was not uncommon for men to have more than one wife (not vice versa!) and to sleep with their slave women. Later we find having one wife was becoming the norm. On the negative side, they came to draw the line strictly at prostitution and at the use of sex as a religious rite. They were strict in forbidding sexual intercourse before and outside of marriage.

By the time of Jesus and the New Testament the norm and rule was that sex belonged in marriage. In the world of New Testament times there was even a tendency among popular moral teachers, both Jewish and non Jewish, to play down sexual pleasure as an unworthy concern and to argue that sex should be engaged in primarily for the purpose of bringing children into the world. This was the noble way to live. In this respect it is, therefore, interesting that Paul did not conform to this trend. Although not married and also sharing some of this

reluctance about sexuality, Paul is happy to support those who, as he puts it, were 'burning' with sexual passion. He says that for them to go ahead and find fulfilment in marriage is a good thing. He affirms that marriage partners need to respond to each other's sexual needs. His view was obviously not as narrow as many of the moral teachers of his time, even though it still remains bound by common values and assumptions.

On most questions of sexual morality the Bible is quite unambiguous. For some, especially fundamentalists, that settles the issue once and for all. People are still the same; the rules are still the same. But, quite apart from not wanting to treat the Bible in this way, I also believe that there have been some changes which mean we must look at many of these issues in a new way.



Has anything changed?

One major change is that human beings have discovered far more effective means of contraception. There need be no fear of unwanted pregnancies where contraceptives are available and effective. If such contraceptive capacity had been available in these ancient cultures, would their rules about sex before marriage have been different? I suspect they would have been. We are in a different situation and I no longer consider it appropriate to carry over into our own time without question such rules developed for a largely non-contraceptive society. We are the first generations living in a contraceptive society and I think we must make our own discoveries about boundary setting and do so, as far as possible, without the guilt and fear which has so often accompanied sex in our western society. Our understanding of sacredness has also changed and the notion of male rights over women in matters of sexuality have rightly been challenged.

We now have another major aspect to our caring in the area of sexuality. The arrival of AIDS has curbed the sexual euphoria of the seventies and early eighties. People have rightly become more cautious again. A healthy fear has its place here, but so does care and compassion. Both in our own personal interests and in the interests of the community as a whole we need to prevent the spread of AIDS and to show compassion to those who have contracted it, however that may have happened.

Are there any guidelines?

But apart from the obvious concern about protecting ourselves from the AIDS virus and the behaviour which should flow from that, are we otherwise now all at sea without any directions to help us in relation to sexual

behaviour? I don't think so. It was, after all, not only fear of pregnancy that concerned the ancient world and determined the biblical teachings. There were some factors which remain just as relevant today. One was the concern for stability of society. Marriage and the family were seen as an important context for bringing up children and for protecting women, especially, against sexual exploitation. Then there was the feeling that sexuality was a sacred area where taboos were especially appropriate. Sex connected them with very deep parts of their own being and the being of the universe.

If biblical laws were based largely on fear of unwanted pregnancy, we could suggest that in the age of safe contraception all we really need is for people to make contracts to give stable parenting to children during their formative stages; we wouldn't need anything like marriage. But if we didn't have marriage, my hunch is that it would soon be invented. People would find some way of making public that they wanted to be a permanent couple and of asking others to recognise and respect the fact and not to interfere. The challenge of making it permanent, secure and fulfilling would be a matter for the people concerned and the ground rules would probably end up looking much like the traditional values we associate with marriage. The best marriages, to my mind, are the ones which operate something like this and are not the ones which give highest priority to claiming obligations based on formal rites. I suspect we are moving more and more away from understanding marriage as conferring rights and on to seeing it much more as a voluntary partnership of respect of equals.

Sex is powerful and connects us with life and vitality. It links us with creativity and God, not just when it leads to the creation of new human beings. It is a way of being intimate and close to another human being and out of that shared love many other things are born and created, too. Love and life reproduces love and life. The joy of sex is very close to the joy of being one with God. But what does that mean about the decisions we make about sex in an age of safe contraception?

People often say today that the most important sexual organ is the brain. In redefining our sexual practices there is one overruling guideline: care and respect for persons. Anything which depersonalises others, exploits them or treats them as things runs contrary to such loving. Whatever decisions we make, we need to make them in a context of openness and honesty and concern both for our own good and the good of others. If fear is in our thoughts we need to ask why; perhaps it is groundless and based on an irrelevant disapproval we feared once and

should long since have given up; perhaps it is well-founded; we can learn from our intuitive fears. The best decisions are often those made in consultation with others who can help us keep our feet on the ground.

I have very great respect for what many in the present generation have to grapple with in the area of sexuality. In many ways I believe we could be moving to a much healthier attitude to this area of our lives. I respect that some will want to remain on the conservative side of decision making. I have the same respect for others who in care and openness explore new boundaries. Sex belongs within the context of human intimacy and caring. It is part of enjoying the way God made us. Like any other gift we can use it for good or ill, for wholeness or destruction in others and ourselves. Jesus' own teaching shifts our focus from concern with acts to concern with attitudes, which is more radical. He shifted the focus from murder and adultery to the attitudes which led to such actions. This is more radical. Whereas in the ancient world adultery automatically destroyed a marriage and any reconciliation was considered impossible and often illegal, today we recognise that many things can destroy a marriage relationship, whether actual adultery is entailed or not and, conversely, that marriages can survive adultery and relationships can be renewed and developed in ways that were once thought to be out of the question.

Next... Re-inventing the Wheel

✚ *bill loader*

✚ The Privilege Is Ours!

We are privileged to have in our midst some terrific scholars. You may have observed in the recent *Eastern Synod Lutheran* (pages 6-7) that four—Yes, four!—Trinity youth have received 2008 scholarships. They are Andrea Aho, Jeff Malloch, Erika Mueller & Emily Ritz. Wonderful!

You may also have read, in the latest issues of *Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's Clarion* (pages 2-3), that Sherry Coman took the Rev. Arnold Conrad Prize in New Testament Studies in connection with Spring convocation. Sherry will be pursuing doctoral studies in Hebrew at the University of Toronto's Regis College. Terrific!

✚ *andré lavergne*



✚ Tintinnabulations

November 30, 9 am ~ Advent Choir Concert

Our annual Advent Choir Concert takes place at Steinmann Church at 7:30 pm.

December 1 ~ ELW Advent Adventure

We'll meet at 12:30 pm over a brown-bag lunch. Info: Mildred Knackstedt, 662-3739

December 2 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am, one day later than usual.

December 3 ~ Congregating Dining

Community Care Concepts offers a lunch & program for seniors and adults with a disability. Details in the narthex. Gather at Zion United, 11:30 am. Reservations: (519) 669-3023.

December 8 ~ Trees Down/Up

Advent Mitten Tree comes down; Christmas tree goes up. Give Bill Lindner, 625-8022, a shout to assist. Decoration at 7 pm.

December 9 ~ Hampers Prepared

The Priscillas prepare Christmas Hampers at 9 am. You may assist by participating in the gifts program, giving to the mitten tree or by making an offering to "hampers."

December 13 ~ CCC Breakfast

Come to Trinity Hall, 8-11 am, for a great breakfast sponsored by Trinity & the Optimists. Community Care Concepts benefits. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3.75/kids; \$15/family. Neil Klaassen, 662-1641, has tickets.

December 15 ~ ELW Cheer Boxes Prepared

The ELW prepares cheer boxes at 9:30 am. Contact Mildred Knackstedt (662-3739) for information.

December 16 ~ Gentle Friends

We gather, 7 pm, in members' homes. This month, we're reading THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER by Kim Edwards. Info: Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960.

December 18 ~ Dove Preparation

The DOVE Preparation Team gathers at 9 am.

December 20 ~ Sebert Open House

Come, honour Florence's 85th, 2-4 pm, in Trinity Hall.

December 22 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Trinity hosts its Christmas clinic on Monday, 2 to 7:30 pm clinic at W-O. Ken Seltzer, 662-2432, is looking for a number of volunteers to help with set-up, take-down...

✚ *andré lavergne & jill merner*



✚ Second Century Update

On Wednesday, October 15, Trinity's Council received a comprehensive Second Century Project Reference Plan from the Second Century Project Task Group. The Plan includes 1. a set of five concept drawings; 2. five pages of detailed Reference Plan notes; 3. a schedule of preliminary cost estimates.

Council accepted eight Second Century Project Task Group recommendations:

1. Approval of September 23 Concept Drawings as part of "Reference Plan."
2. Approval of Oct. 7 Notes as part of "Reference Plan."
3. Additional Project Goal: "Address concern for the reduction of Trinity's environmental footprint".
4. Opening, storage in vault and eventual replacement of time capsule. The capsule was opened on Sunday, October 19, in connection with the Anderson shower.
5. Beginning conversation with Ernie Ritz re publication.
6. Council to take a month to review materials for conversation in November. Council will meet with the Task Group over supper on Wednesday, November 19.
7. Task Group to look at fund-raising possibilities for November reporting. Task Group chair Rick Ritz is working on this aspect of the project to help gauge support.
8. Task Group to continue to review plans, monitor market and refine preliminary costing.

Our 2CP Reference Plan seeks to address : ① the need for a new sanitary sewage line; ② the issue of the settling floor in Trinity Hall; ③ the need for a more hospitable and serviceable kitchen; ④ the need for additional program space; ⑤ the need to mark the 100th anniversary of Trinity's sanctuary (2010); ⑥ —New!— the concern for the reduction of Trinity's environmental footprint.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to October 31, 2008

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 195,333	\$ 12,997	\$ 14,865
Outgo	215,623	2,687	13,001
Balance	(\$ 20,290)	\$10,310	\$ 1,864

General Fund Deficit

Expenditures outstripped receipts in the early part of the year. The reasons are unclear. While we are currently holding our own, our deficit is staying relatively the same. All tolled, General Fund offerings are off by 3% over last year. Behind in your contributions? Please help us to get caught up!

In the Capital Fund, we've completed the replacement of our computers which was delayed from last year. We anticipate a major furnace repair soon.

PARTicipation

We receive about \$11,000 monthly from 81 PAR families. Please review your PAR contributions for 2009 and please consider joining if you are not aboard.

✚ *bob ruthig & andré lavergne*

✚ Affirmation Ministry

Our Affirmation program has come to a close for the 2008-2009 school year. Grades 3 through 6 had a half-day program in November while the grade 7's and 8 's have had three full-day Saturday classes. We will resume Grade 6 and 7 classes with camp, the last week of August, 2009. Watch for information next spring.

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ Nurturing Faith ~ Children & Youth

Please, join us for some Advent fun! Christmas program practices will take place at the regular Faith Adventures time (10:45 am) in Trinity Hall on Sundays, November 23 & 30 and December 7 & 14. The program itself will unfold on Sunday, December 21, at 11 am. Emma Wiechers, assisted by her sister, Caroline, and the Faith Adventures Team, are putting it all together!

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ The TYGers' Den

Captive Free

Back by popular demand, Captive Free will be at Anchor Community Worship on Sunday, November 30 (Advent 1). They will also offer a Family Program, followed by a potluck, at 5 pm. A free-will offering will be taken to support their ministry.

We are very, very grateful to our 2008 host families —the Grebinski, Ritz & Ramseyer families and Anne Hammer— for taking one or more young people for the week of November 23-30.

Christmas Carolling!

Also back by popular demand... Our third annual Christmas caroling event will be taking place Friday, December 19, at 7:30 pm. Come for singing in the Trinity neighbourhood, and for hot chocolate and a movie in the Bruce Hammer Theatre afterward. The Scheid family is in charge.



Facebook Group

All TYGers: Don't forget our Facebook Group. To participate, e-mail anderson@telc.ca with your Facebook info. I'll get you signed-on.

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ Mitten Tree Prep

With great thanks to the late Mme Claudette Gascon, Mike's mom, we have received a large bag of yarn for redistribution. Mitten Tree knitters, it's time to do your stuff! The First Sunday of Advent is November 30. We'll be looking for an abundance of warm winter woollies.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ TT@MM's

We are completing our current Third Thursdays at Meme's series this December. We meet for coffee and conversation at Meme's Café, 7-8:30 pm. All welcome!

Our December 18 event is called "Light & Hope at Christmas". Brea Good, a house mom at Sarah's House (Stratford), care-giver, listener, bearer of light and bringer of hope will offer glimpses of the incarnation.

✚ *anne anderson*