



# Trinity Dove

October 21, 2007 + Pentecost 21 + Faithful Journey II  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ✦ Sabbaths & Celebrations

### Sunday, October 28 ~ Reformation / Witness

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am. Confirmation youth offer their witness. (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.  
Adults: In Mission with Others: Creative Beginnings Day Care
- ✦ Halifax TYGers gather with their parents and Pastor Anne at 11:45 am for a lunch meeting.
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship with Bethany's Parable Players giving us the Word at 5 pm.

### Sunday, November 4 ~ All Saints /Confirmation

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)  
Affirmation Ministry youth are confirmed this morning.
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.  
*No adult learning this morning.*
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

### Sunday, Nov. 11 ~ Pentecost 24/ Remembrance Day

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.  
*No adult learning this morning.*
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

### Sunday, November 18 ~ Pentecost 25

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.  
Getting ready for the end *aka* "Crossing Over" with lawyer Randy Thomson.
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship with the Captive Free travelling players based in Minneapolis, MN at 5 pm.  
Sanctuary Pot-luck at 6 pm.

### Sunday, November 25 ~ Christ the King

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.  
Getting ready for the end *aka* "Crossing Over" with financial planner Jeff Harris.
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

✦ *andré lavergne*

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TYGers... Join the rest of the TYGers on Facebook.  
Contact Pastor Anne [anderson@telc.ca](mailto:anderson@telc.ca) for an invitation!

## ✚ Pastor Anne ~ Faithful Journey II

Grace and peace, friends.

There are always so many interesting things to read and now with everyone talking about the *emergent church* or similar realities, the book choices seem endless!

Recently, I found a great Lutheran read that has really encouraged me in light of what is going on here at Trinity. *Emerging Ministry* was written by Nathan Frambach, a professor at Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. Frambach writes "Mission is nothing but the one church of God in motion. Our church in motion is the mission of God."

Frambach speaks of how we are both rooted in our tradition and yet move toward new frontiers. Rooted in the gospel, we have a profound sense that we are saved by God's grace alone; that we are to express our deep commitment to God's Word; that as God's children we are both saint and sinner; and that we are all called into ministry through baptism. It is in these theological insights that we demonstrate our being connected to our tradition.

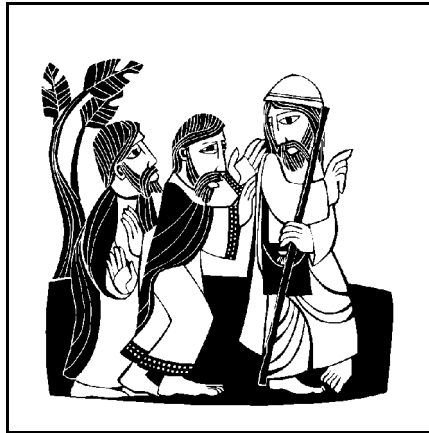
At the same time, every generation must venture into new territory on our faith journey, our *faithful journey*. We are a people *in motion* in the same way that those who came before us to Canada lived their faith on a new frontier. We, too, are living our faith on a new frontier. We don't live in an age where Christianity is the norm or in a place where Anglo-Saxon Christianity is the norm in the church. Our world is changing! Frambach speaks of the need to navigate this new landscape as our church's new mission. How do we do that? Frambach suggests four ways:

1. Learn how to do theological reflection in new ways. We need to look for God in popular culture. Films, poetry, novels, politics and culture all connect with God and we need to explore these territories with eyes of faith.
2. Rather than seeing *others* as *outsiders* we are called to be humble servants welcoming all. We are not an exclusive club. Rather we try to live out the gospel in all we are and all we do.
3. We need to talk with one another, unafraid of hard questions but rather welcoming them. As we learn how to engage one-another in conversation, we reconnect with the heart of the gospel.
4. We need to ask honest questions about the purpose of "church". We need to ask ourselves "why we do

what we do?" and respond with a hard look at the answers which may move us in new directions.

So... How might these four points apply at Trinity?

By finding news ways to share the gospel—whether it be the use of familiar secular-school models for kids to learn faith stories in our new Faith Adventures Sunday School program or the use of popular film clips to get the Affirmation classes talking about faith—I believe that we are continuing to help our people to see and experience God in our everyday world.



All are welcome at Trinity. Still, we all live in "communities" beyond our "church community". We are the church as we serve food at the Poor Boy's Lunch. We are the church as we wrestle with current issues over coffee on Third Thursdays at Meme's.

It is okay to have questions about our faith; to wrestle, to seek and to wonder. Last fall's *Heart of Christianity* study took many people on an interesting journey of faith. This fall's *Living the Questions* will continue to move us in new, interesting and challenging directions.

We are carefully reflecting on the needs of our community, whether of our Sunday morning Anchor Community, of our evening Sanctuary Community, or of our community "out there". We offer all a place to contemplate the question, "why do we do what we do?"

We are a church in mission. We are a church in motion. Movement is not always easy and there are sometimes bumps along the way. At the same time, a church in motion—God's church—wouldn't have it any other way!

Thanks for being a part of our continuing faithful journey!

✚ anne anderson

## ✚ Faithful Journey ~ 2007-2008

Enclosed in this issue of TRINITY DOVE is Trinity's **Faithful Journey ~ 2007-2008** stewardship kit. We have 4 goals:

1. To celebrate our faithful response...
2. To deepen our faithful response...
3. To set personal stewardship goals...
4. To make PAR a priority...

Take a look and join the rest of the Trinity community in reading, reflecting and responding.

✚ andré lavergne

## ✚ Sacraments & Seasons

### Marriage

On September 22, Dennis Jahn & Odessa LeBrument were wed. Congratulations & best wishes!

### Death

Our community grieves the death, October 6, of Elaine Wolff at the age of 87. Blessed are those who mourn.

### November Birthdays

1 - Katherine Deckert, Dan Fisher, Paul Ziegler, Becky Kaminska, Elesha Ludington; 2 - Lynn Pauli; 3 - Dennis Jahn, Amy Chiduck, Adam Preidt, Katie Schwartz; 4 - Sherry Pearson; 5 - Judy Ziegler, Carl Steinman, Murray Deckert, Riley Stewart; 6 - Rick Ritz, Mary Cook-Glencross, Mike Junker, Scott Bingeman; 7 - Tammy Junker, Laura Lindner, Jenna Legare; 8 - Bill Ferguson, Hunter Becker; 9 - Larry Godfrey, Kathryn Ritz, Marty Normandeau, Ian McCurdy; 10 - Chris Medley; 11 - Donna Medley; 12 - Millie Buehlow, John Murray, Kara Cook; 13 - Jim Murray, Danielle Long; 14 - Elaine Mohr, Jody Steinman, Jacquelyn Campbell, Mary Aitken, Tyler Johnston, Noah Steinman; 15 - Jim Arbuckle, Greg Ropp, Christy Racho, Ryan Speers; 16 - Carol Merner, Ryan Burchatzki, Carter Gravill; 18 - Brad Martin, Cortney Legare, Ben Klooster, Sapphire Linseman; 19 - Joan Beavis; 20 - Dorothea Butz, Mary Snider, Cindy Briner, Krista Straus, Cassidy Stewart, Tanner Arnott, Dayton Arnott; 21 - Rick Haffner, Jeff Schmidt, Jeff Pauli; 22 - Nolan Eichler; 23 - Steve Hayden, Andrew Racho, Danita Fisher, Adam Aho, Christopher Lindner; 24 - Cy Ridout, Philipp Hofmeyer, Janet Boshart, Robert Stefansson, Jessica Schiedel; 25 - Bonnie Jokic, Valerie Breneman, Sam Winhold, Trent Otterbein; 27 - Lori Stewart, Melanie Eichler, Christina Baumgaertner, Nicole Pfohl, Morgan Schaaf; 28 - James Ingold, Chris Gravill, Brooke Kienapple, Jason Drexler; 29 - Ray Cook, Betty Stock, Randy Thomson, Kory Steinmann; 30 - Reta Klaassen, Émile St-Pierre, Abigail Steinman. Happy birthday, friends!

### November Anniversaries

1 - Chris & Donna Medley, Jeff & Krista Schmidt; 2 - Bonnie & Rick Long; 3 - Otto & Renate Berg, Diane & Andrew Hatchwell; 4 - Mathew & Suzanne Lindner, Michael & Jessica O'Donoghue; 5 - Jean & Kim Ruthig, Jason & Tiffany Ropp; 7 - Jeremy & Sandra Cook; 8 -

Margaret & Victor Flood; 11 - Heather & Robert Leu; 12 - Jane & Peter Klem, Rick & Susan Pearson, Fred & Linda Straus; 14 - Murray & Suzan Deckert, Larry & Diane Godfrey, Dale & Dianne Hillar, Robert McGlynn & Jane Murray; 19 - Betty & Hollice Stock; 20 - Betty & Roy Bondy; 21 - Doug & Mim Miller; 22 - Theresa & Dick Bakker; 25 - Bruce & Sharon Hammer, Kevin & Kylie Becker; 28 - Anita & John Meredith, Mark & Tricia McMaster, Amy & Gary Becker, Jeff & Shelley Lindner; 29 - Betty Lou & Paul Ramseyer, Mike & Rose Mueller, Wally & John Mueller; 30 - Ruth & Bill Lindner, Becky & Rodrick Bender. Congrats!

✚ *jill merner*



## ✚ Getting to Christmas...

### Advent Mitten Tree

We've begun to receive yarn to make warm winter woollies. Time to knit! Have any yarn to spare? Bring it in to church!

### "We Care" Christmas Bags

Have you seen the bright yellow "We Care" bags at church? This is an initiative of Trinity's Nurturing Faith team. We're encouraging people to take a bag home and fill it according to the list provided. The bags will be sent out through Canadian Lutheran World Relief to children all over the world who are in need. We give in the spirit of Christmas knowing that the bags will go to children regardless of their faith or culture of origin. Please consider taking a bag as part of your fall ministry. Please return it to the church by Sunday, November 25 — Christ the King. A contribution of \$5 (cheque made out to Trinity) should accompany each bag to cover shipping. Join us in making our faith real in the global community!

✚ *anne anderson*

## ✚ ELW's Magnificent Cradle Roll

Did you know that our ELW offers an amazing program at Trinity? Every child on the cradle roll receives a monthly newsletter together with a CD called *Splash*. The *Splash* newsletter contains information about faith and child development to help support our young families. Betty Ritz sends out the materials which are generously provided by Trinity's ELW through funds received in connection with funeral lunches. When a family makes a donation "to the kitchen" for a reception upon the death of a loved-one, that person's memory lives in the renewal of our ministry among the very youngest in our parish. Neat, huh? Let's all say thanks for this important ministry!

✚ *anne anderson*

## ✦ Dear Kim, This is what I believe... *Explaining Christian Faith Today*

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

### Chapter 1 (Continued): What About God?

#### Love: making room and staying in touch

I prefer to think of God as having set the universe free to evolve and develop in its own way and that the magic of the universe is that forms of intelligence have evolved which can have an active part in shaping that development. To picture it in a mythical way, God has chosen not to take up the whole space, but has made room for others and made room for them to develop and evolve in their own way. God gives the world this freedom. Love means making room for others to be, giving them space and staying in touch. God stays in touch with the universe.



But how does God stay in touch with the universe? At one level I want to answer: I do not know and cannot know. Maybe we are encountering God not only in enjoying the universe, but also when we suffer the backlash of treating it badly, like it is a giant organism capable of repelling danger. Is that God or is that simply reaping the fruit of our own actions?

On the other hand, I find it absurd to think of God as just a kind of spectator, sitting in a heavenly grandstand, as it were, biting his or her nails in anxiety and compassion, hoping good wins on the playing field of life. God might as well not exist, if God is only to be thought of as the one who started the ball rolling and then left it to its fate.

So it makes sense to me to think of God as deeply involved with the universe, but not as someone looking on from outside and occasionally switching the controls when the right message comes in. Rather God is inside, within us, among us, seeking to bring life, love and peace to us and our world. We can know ourselves to be sharing in that life and love. We are partners with God in the ongoing development of the universe - in our own minute but significant way. Praying means deliberately seeking out this connection with God, taking time and making space in our lives to open our lives to God, soaking up the love energy from the roots up. God is in there with us - in joy, in struggle, in pain, in adventure, in creativity.

It also makes sense to me to think of praying for others as being a channel of God's love and energy for others. I

think of this less as my trying to persuade God to do something and more as my opening myself to God's persuasion, to be part of God's loving to others. I'm not really sure how this works, but sometimes there seems to be a connection between a praying person and the person or persons prayed for which is beneficial and I find this a way of understanding what happens when we pray.

Underlying everything I have said so far is an important assumption: that God (whatever it or he or she is) is good and not bad. It is possible to imagine a bad god, like one of those evil monsters of science fiction: some hoary evil genius on a distant planet having fun with humans, kidding them there is hope when there is no hope. Life is just one big, bad joke. Many people's experience of life is not far from that.

But nor is God an old doting grandpa or grandma sitting on a golden throne up in the sky. That's all part of the problem in thinking of God as a person. When we think of God as a person, we inevitably think of God in human imagery. Thinking of God as a wise old man or woman isn't too bad an image! But mostly what has happened is that people have thought of the highest and best human being they can think of and then used that as the image for God. This can be enlightening or quite misleading. Let me illustrate what I mean.

#### Human images of God: good news and bad news

In most societies the most honoured person was usually the ruler, the most powerful, and, inevitably, male. Therefore people thought of God as king. A king sits on a throne; people bow before a king; a king should be obeyed without question, if he is a good king. And in families the most honoured person, the head of the house, was the father. Therefore people thought of God as a father. It is all very male oriented and very power oriented.

As people thought of God in these ways, two things happened simultaneously. The human models of what was important affected people's understanding of God and, in turn, people's understanding of God reinforced the human models of power in society and in the family. People were quite happy to picture God as king and father of the universe. If their understanding of kings and fathers was cruel and destructive, they happily attributed these qualities to God.

One of the more common models for thinking about God as a king and father, which reflected people's ideals of human kings and fathers, was that of the benevolent dictator. This king retained his power and honour, but

provided ways for his subjects to regain favour when they had wronged him and his rules. If they came to him and were truly sorry and perhaps offered some other guarantees, they could be forgiven.

If we use the model of God as a benevolent dictator, we can produce an account of the gospel which sounds something like this. God the king had disobedient subjects who had offended him by transgressing his laws and so by his rules ought to face punishment, but in his generosity he looked for a way of giving them a second chance. That had to mean finding a way around the rules. Jesus is pictured as the king's own son. He offered the king a way out which didn't compromise the king's dignity and his laws. In an act of voluntary obedience, he allowed himself to become a substitute for others and to take the punishment due to them. This transaction then freed the king to forgive people without compromising his strict laws of reward and punishment.

This system and its benefits applied however only for an interim period. In the long term the king would subject those who crossed him or rejected his system to everlasting torment. The father would shut the door on these children forever.

This king's violence was justified, however, because he was 'god' and because his laws by which all were judged were just. Seen from the perspective of the whole, the act of compassion in making forgiveness possible was only a temporary measure and an exception to the king's normal behaviour.

### Images of power & violence or images of compassion

Many people have drawn up the message of Christianity on the basis of this model. It is meant to be 'good news', but, on the other side of the coin, it is really bad news: it teaches that human beings are ultimately dispensable; in the long run they can be written off; it teaches that violence is justified against people if my cause is right, because 'God' is like that in the end; and it teaches that ultimately forgiveness is only a concession without surrender of power. God's highest priority on this model is not love, but keeping the integrity of his rules intact. In the long run God is not really loving at all. Jesus figures in this model as an exception in the life of God, not as a revelation of the way God is.

This approach has had a major influence on society with destructive outcomes. It is not surprising that where it has held its sway, many forms of violence have flourished: international, institutional, domestic, interpersonal. Unfortunately, within the stream of Christian tradition over the ages this current of thought has nearly always been present. Yet, to me, it is a gross misrepresentation and

distortion of what I understand the gospel to be. Even on the side of the coin where it is supposed to be good news, it remains bad news. In fact, I would claim, that the good news is that I can abandon this way of thinking about God. There are two reasons why I say this, one modern and one ancient.

First, our understanding of kings and fathers has changed. Our understanding of what are the best human models has changed. To begin with, why use a male image? Why not a female? God is not a 'he' or a 'she'. But, more than that, we are learning to see power in a new way. No one has the right to do violence to another person. That is not because everyone has their faults and only a perfect person would have such a right (like a god). It is the violence itself which we have learned is wrong. The most enlightened legal systems penalise only with a view to learning, deterrence and rehabilitation.

These days we see government less in terms of rulers who have a right to power because of their strength or their virtue or their breeding and more as people elected to act for the interests of all. Compassion and caring is their agenda

and we rightly complain when it is not there and when people seem to be in politics just for the sake of power. We look on compassion and caring as the norm to be expected, not as some hoped-for concession to be bartered from the ruler by transaction or special pleading. It is the people whose lives are marked by generosity and compassion whom we have learned to honour, not those with claims to self importance on the basis of aristocracy, wealth and power.

This also affects the way I understand prayer. In ancient society rulers were largely preoccupied with their own interests. If you wanted something done for yourself or for someone else you needed to petition the monarch; otherwise the monarch is not likely to take any interest or undertake any initiative. This has influenced people's understanding of prayer: 'God' needs to be distracted from 'his' own interests and concerns to give attention to human beings. When, however, I start thinking about God as being always attentive and loving, I start seeing prayer in a different way. It has less to do with getting God to tune in to me and more to do with my tuning in to God and being available to be a channel of God's continuing love and compassion in the world.

*In next month's TRINITYDOVE: Forgiveness: a **concession** or a **form of loving**?*

✚ *bill loader*



## ✝ Tintinnabulations

### October 22 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

The Lions & Lionesses will host a clinic on Monday, October 22, 2:00 - 8:30 pm at W-O. Speak to Ken Seltzer for information or please call 1-888-TO-DONATE.

### November 5 ~ ELW Gathering

Trinity's ELW will gather on Monday, November 5, 7:30 pm, in Trinity Hall for their regular program. All women of the parish and community are welcome. Contact Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for information.

### November 6 ~ Adult Learning

We gather at 8:30 am.

### November 6 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

### November 20 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends Reading Group gathers, 7:30 pm, at members' homes. Information from Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960. This month's pick: *Consolation* by Michael Redhill.

### November 15 ~ DOVE Prep Team

The DOVE Preparation Team gathers at 9 am.

### November 15 ~ TT@MM!

Prof. Kris Lund is on at 7 pm for Third Thursdays at MeMe's. You should be there too!

### Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A

A/A —Alcoholics Anonymous— meets Saturdays, 8 pm, for an open meeting in Trinity Hall.

### Mondays, 8 pm ~ CLEAN

CLEAN —Community Link Empowered Against Narcotics— meets in the Martin Luther Room.

### Tuesdays, 7 pm ~ TOPS

TOPS —Taking Off Pounds Sensibly— meets in the Martin Luther Room.

✝ *andré lavergne*

## ✝ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures

Can you believe that Christmas is coming soon? Our children do! With Sherry Coman, they are getting ready for our Christmas program.

This year we look forward to many new possibilities as Sherry works with the kids to develop the program together. The children will work to express the birth of Jesus in song and story. I can't wait to see what they create! We are grateful to Sherry for taking this on! The program will take place on Sunday, December 17 following the 5pm Sanctuary gathering and a 6 pm potluck. Everyone's welcome!

✝ *anne anderson*



## ✝ Nurturing Faith: Adults

Beginning November 18, we're offering a four-session Sunday morning series called "Getting Ready for the End" aka "Crossing Over".

Randy Thomson (lawyer), Jeff Harris (financial planner) Trevor Jutzi (funeral director) and André Lavergne (pastor) will each offer their perspectives on the matter of "crossing over".

✝ *andré lavergne*

## ✝ Nurturing Faith: Affirmation!

### Grade 7

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7-8 pm, regular session

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7-8 pm, regular session

### Grade 8

Wednesday, October 24, 6-7 pm, regular session; note the time change to an earlier slot for this session only.

Wednesday, November 27, 7-8 pm, regular session

### Grade 9

Sunday, October 28 (Reformation), 9:30 am, Witness

Sunday, November 4 (All Saints), 9:30 am, Confirmation

✝ *anne anderson*

✚ **Finances to September 30, 2007**

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 179,570	\$ 11,124	\$ 14,413
Outgo	188,527	2,478	12,387
Balance	(\$ 8,957)	\$ 8,646	\$ 2,027

**Fund Balances**

We are in not-bad shape for the end of September with a bit of General Fund catching up to do by year-end.

At the same time, the Capital Fund will soon be depleted as we undertake the capital items mentioned below.

**Offering Statements**

Third-quarter offering statements are out. Please review yours as you plan your faithful response to this year's Faithful Journey stewardship program. Complete Faithful Journey materials are enclosed with this issue of the DOVE. Remember... from the perspective of good *financial* stewardship, joining PAR is one of the best things you can do!

✚ *bob ruthig & andré lavergne*

✚ **Property**

In addition to the installation of a new kitchen counter (October 23) and furnace (October 25) at the Peel Street parsonage, Council has authorized the replacement of basement windows at the Wilmot Street parsonage and kitchen area windows on the main church. We hope to have that work completed soon. By the time this issue of TRINITY DOVE is out, we also expect to have completed a great deal of painting around the church.

✚ *bill lindner & andré lavergne*

✚ **Ponderable**

Religion points to that area of human experience where in one way or another we come upon mystery as a summons to pilgrimage. — *Frederick Buechner, quoted by Dennis Hendricksen.*

"...the mystery at the heart of life we call 'God'" —*Margaret Laurence, quoted by Harold Remus.*

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ **The TYGers' Den**

**Junior TYGers (Grades 6-8)**

On Saturday, October 27, at 6 pm, the Junior TYGers will gather for a Mystery Dinner. Time to sign-up!

**Senior TYGers (Grades 9 and up)**

The Senior TYGers gather at 7 pm on Friday, October 26, in Trinity Hall for a session of Fear Factor. Time to sign!



There will be a planning meeting for Halifax-bound TYGers and parents on Sunday, October 28, at 11:45 am (after Nurturing Faith). We'll meet over lunch to review fund-raising and to plan for our trip to Halifax in 2008.

The Senior TYGers gather at 6 pm on Thursday, November 15 to go to Fiddler on the Roof at Centre in the Square. Time to sign!

**Junior & Senior TYGers**

Our first annual TYGers' Fall Retreat is approaching. We will be heading to Edgewood for the weekend of November 16-18 for some fun with youth from St. James, New Dundee! The theme is "Let go!" and is based on Matthew 11: 28-31. There will be loads of games, hang-out time, music and a challenging message. Come on out! Get your registration form from Pastor Anne and sign up! The cost for the weekend is \$80. If you can't swing the 80 bucks please talk to Pastor Anne. We want everyone to come!

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ **Sanctuary Community**

Over the next few weeks, the Sanctuary Community can look forward to the following:

Sunday, October 28 ~ The *Parable Players* from Bethany Missionary Church, Kitchener, will join us for our 5 pm gathering. All are invited. All welcome. Not been to Sanctuary before? Give it a try!

Sunday, November 18 ~ *Captive Free*, a young-adults music team will join us for worship. The six members—two girls and four boys—are based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and come from all over the world. We're looking for host-families. Can you assist? We'll gather with them for a pot-luck supper after worship.

✚ *anne anderson*