

Trinity Dove

April 23, 2006 + Easter 2 + Receiving Thanks

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne, Pastor + Lyla Wettlaufer, President

Helen Toman, On Call & Visitation Pastor + Syd Hills, Pastoral Assistant

Gywin Murray, Director of Music + Lori Endress, Missionary in Thailand

23 Church Street + New Hamburg + Ontario + N3A 1J1

Phone (519) 662-1810 + Fax 662-4713 + Web www.telc.ca + E-mail mail@telc.ca

✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, May 21 ~ Easter 6

Sunday, April 23 ~ Easter 2

Victoria Day Weekend

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Gwen & Wilson Abraham.

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am.

Sunday, April 30 ~ Easter 3

Sunday, May 28 ~ Easter 7

Baptismal Sunday

Baptismal Sunday

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Rick & Janice Ritz.

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: The Ernie 'N' Andy Hour - Part Deux. The Later Years.

Sunday, May 7 ~ Easter 4

✚ *andré lavergne*

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Rick & Jane Trafford.

Sunday, May 14 ~ Easter 5

Mother's Day

- ✚ Worship at 9 am. (Parish Ministry update at 8:50 am.)
- ✚ Quilt draw following worship.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Sherri Morrison.

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✝ Pastor André ~ Receiving Thanks

Grace and peace to you.

I received a neat letter, the other day, from Bishop Pryse. He informed me that I have been chosen to receive a “2006 Eastern Synod Leadership Award for Outstanding Service to the Wider Church.” The award will be presented at the Eastern Synod Banquet in July. Wow! I’m not sure what to make of it. There is a sense in which I am not very good at such things.

Don’t get me wrong, I like affirmation as much as the next person. But my general temptation is to point elsewhere, to others, and to thank *them* for their partnership, good work, etc. I prefer the wings to centre stage, in that regard. In fact, having run off a listing of wider church involvements at Bishop Mike’s request —Paul Bosch prepared it for my ordination jubilee— I added the following: “I am grateful to the many people with whom I have collaborated and made common cause in all of these endeavours and to the communities of Saint James, Mannheim-New Dundee, and Trinity, New Hamburg, for supporting and encouraging my involvement in the work of the wider church.”

Earlier, I had thought that I might give this year’s Synod Assembly a bye. There is a lot on the parish plate, right now. We’re a little bit stretched, and I’ve been trying to steer clear of any additional stuff. At the same time, I know that it’s as important to accept thanks graciously as it is to proffer it; to honour the grace and good-will of those who say thanks as much as to give it. So I do plan to be there, one way or another, at the confab in July.

And I do mean what I wrote: I am very grateful to the people of Trinity for your generosity of spirit, over the years, and for all of the opportunities to spread my wings. Thank you.

✝ *andré lavergne*

✝ Call Process Update

Trinity’s Call Committee has been busy. Early in the process, Pastor Susan Johnson informed us that she would confer with Bishop Pryse and compile a list of pastors who might consider a move. On March 14, we met with Pastor Johnson, at which time she offered a number of names to the Committee. The principal criterion used by her and by the bishop had been “suitability for team ministry.”

Upon deliberation, the Committee requested that the bishop write the candidates to inquire as to their interest in participating in our call process and inviting them to send us a copy of their *Mobility Form*—a sort of standardized ELCIC resume. Trinity’s *Congregational Profile* was enclosed with the bishop’s letter. The prospective candidates have until April 30 to indicate their interest.

Members of the Call Committee are Lori Arnott (Council), Don Jardin (chair), André Lavergne (*ex officio*), Scott Malloch, Arlene Meyer, Sherri Morrison (Council), Rob Murray and Emily Ritz.

✝ *Don Jardin,*
chairperson, Call Committee

✝ Stewardship Update

As related here before, Council has struck a Stewardship task group with the following mandate: *To insure stable funding in connection with the call of a second pastor.* Council understands that the matter of stable funding must be placed in the context of good *stewardship*, broadly

understood. Council has therefore struck a *Stewardship Task Group*—and not a *fund-raising* task group—to assist our congregation as we move into a new era in our history, “a new place on our walk of faith.”

The Stewardship Task Group has met a number of times and reflected and deliberated at length. Some preliminary ideas were shared with Council on March 15 and a general introduction was given to the congregation on March 26.

The Stewardship Task Group proposes an “every-member” parish visitation program to take place this fall. While complete details will be carried in future issues of TRINITY DOVE, here are our program goals.

1. To deepen participation in Trinity’s **worship and congregational life.**
2. To tell the story of our need for a **second pastor.**
3. To encourage people to look at their own **stewardship.**
4. To give people the opportunity to offer **feedback.**

The members of the Stewardship task Group are Steve Aho, Flex Bender (Council), Jo Knackstedt (Council), André Lavergne (*ex officio*), Bill Lindner, Roger Lindner, Brad Otterbein, Bob Povey (Chair) and Rick Ritz.

✝ *Bob Povey*
chairperson, Stewardship Task Group

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Death

We mourn the death of Gordon George Junker, March 13, at the age of 90. Blessed are those who mourn.

May Birthdays

1 - Bob Povey, Roy Bondy, Sharon Ziegler, Stephanie Bingeman, Derek Harrison; **2** - Marjorie Shantz, Janet Farr, Heather Faulkner; **3** - Sandra Schmidt, Karen Barnes, Tyler Medley; **4** - Ron Lippert, Mathew Lindner, Joseph Lass, Anna Knackstedt; **5** - Ken Seltzer, Sharon Bast, Rob Leu, Melissa Power, Owen Lass; **6** - Jessie Junker, Ben Ruthig, Abby Sostar; **7** - Don Coxson, Clarence Stever, Susan Arsenault, Anne Lindner, Austin McClenaghan; **8** - Wilson Abraham, Jade Boehler, Ava Lass; **9** - David Buehlow, Dieter Steinkraus, Robert McGlynn, Glen Brodrecht, Bryan Wettlaufer, Paul McInally, Matthew Riedel, Tyler Randerson; **10** - Jennifer Pearson; **11** - Marie Bender, Grace Wettlaufer; **12** - Brian Roth, Perry Danner, Bradley Livingston, Aimee Boutilier; **13** - Don Jardin; **14** - Marcia Ritz; **15** - John Bowman, Bob Zoeller, Mike Mueller, Shirley Bender, Paul Koehler, Ken Bender, Bobbie Jo Ruthig; **16** - Millie Rhem, Rose Mueller, Michelle Gravill, Tawnya Coffin; **17** - Sharon Hammer, Michelle Rogers; **18** - Antonia Danner, Dolores Hofstetter, Alyssa Roth, Casey Ingold; **19** - Larry Gravill, Sarah Riedel; **20** - Bill Ziegler; **21** - Jackie Buehlow, Jacquelyn Bean; **22** - Ray Straus, Lynn Bale; **23** - Bill Weichel, Linda Ferguson, Nicole Lindner; **24** - Stephanie Sostar, Kim Steinman; **25** - Grant McGregor; **26** - Doug Miller, John Hanson, John Jokic, Daniel Roth; **27** - Paul Holst, Dianne Parsons, Mary Seltzer; **28** - Charles Stock, Stefanie Mueller, Kai Wilson, Samantha Lowrie; **29** - Amy Hammer, Kiernan Campbell; **30** - Brandy Hillar, Grace Bender; **31** - Edna Haunn, Steve Aho, Karen Lorentz, Pete Buehlow, Barry Stock. Happy Birthday, all!

May Anniversaries

1 - Jessica & Tim Parkin; **3** - Larry & Trudi Smith, Kim & Tim Pearson, Angie & Peter Scheid; **4** - Cindy & Doug Hammer, Joanne & Syd Hills; **5** - Mildred & Ray Cook, Lyndsay & Mike Yost; **6** - Julia & Peter Kellendonk; **8** - Philipp & Sibylle Hofmeyer; **9** - Chuck & Charlotte Schiedel, Doug & Valerie Brenneman; **11** - Judy & Ron Ziegler, Laurie

& Dean Clarke, Kevin & Tracey Erb; **12** - Emilie & Erwin Faruzel, Sherry & Ron Wallace; **13** - Amy & Scott Steinman; **14** - Jim & Lyla Wettlaufer, Bonnie & John Jokic; **15** - Penny & Ralph Becker; **17** - Nancy & Carl Hallberg, Courtney & Gerry Legare; **18** - Gordon & Peggy Faulhafer, David & Millie Buehlow; **20** - Antonia & Arthur Danner, Judy & Paul Riley; **22** - Roy Lagace & Stephanie Roote; **23** - Ken & Sandra Schmidt, Eddy & Liz Livingston; **24** - Beth & Ken Bender, Dale & Rhonda Egerdee; **26** - Jean & Ken Hammer; **27** - Brian & Deb Roth, Shawn & Sonya Burchatzki; **29** - Doris & Howard Weicker, Corrie & Pete DeRuiter; **31** - Kathy & Flex Bender. Happy anniversary, friends.

May Special Anniversaries

David & Millie Buehlow (50 years)
Ken & Jean Hammer (50 years)
Erwin & Emilie Faruzel (55 years)
Gordon & Peggy Faulhafer (60 years)

✚ *jill merner*

✚ Adult Learning

After Easter, we're renewing our Interesting Lives series. Look for Gwen & Wilson Abraham (April 23), Rick & Janice Ritz (April 30), Rick & Jane Trafford (May 7) and Sheri Morrison (May 14).

On May 28, look for The Ernie 'N' Andy Hour - Part Deux. The Later Years. Back by popular demand, André Lavergne will reprise his role as straight man to Ernie Ritz. This should be good.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Property Matters

By the time this issue of TRINITY DOVE goes to press, we should have a new roof of the 1957 wing, and, with any luck, fewer water problems over the day care centre! This project was originally slated for the fall but foul weather prevented the scheduled start. Funds for this project were raised last year, so we're in good shape in that regard.

Our Trinity Hall washrooms have been refurbished. Henry Simon has put in a great many hours with the able assistance of Buck Roth, Ken Seltzer, Brad Otterbein, Darrin Gueguen, Kevin Durrer, Judy Riley and Flex Bender. All have contributed mightily! When you get a chance, say "thanks!"

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Molly Wolf's Sabbath Blessings

Each month, we download and reprint one of Molly Wolf's lovely essays. © 2005 Molly Wolf.

The following essays were crafted for Palm Sunday (*What they Wanted*) and Easter (*Between Death and Dawn*), 2005.

What They Wanted (Palm Sunday)

They knew what they wanted: someone who'd get rid of the Romans. Not everyone felt that way; there were many who rather liked the Roman rule—the good roads, the *pax romana*, the sense of being part of a sophisticated, civilized, international culture. But others had had their livings taxed out from under them or had suffered from the brutalities that Rome was quick to inflict when her rule was challenged. They knew that Rome's tolerance of their religion was a bare and sometime thing, and if Rome decided to set a statue of Caesar in the Temple, Rome could bloody well force that to happen. They dreamed of David's kingdom restored, and they waited desperately for the Chosen One, who would come and set David's people free.

And so, when he rode into Jerusalem, they turned out in numbers and spread his path with palms and their own cloaks and shouted "Hosannah! At last! they told each other, in fervent expectation. At last it's going to happen, this thing we've longed for and suffered for, for so many years. We will be free again. He's going to turn the soldiers out, them and the elite who collude with Rome. He'll drive them out in humiliation and we'll be our own people again. We'll restore the priesthood to what it should be. God's law will rule God's people. We will rise from the ashes and testify to all the nations that our God is THE God, the only one, and they will suddenly understand and turn from their ways. The very air was electric with excitement and longing.

As the days went by, the buzz continued. He was making his presence felt. He went into the Temple and made a scene about the commercialism he found there. He zapped a fig tree whose only offence had been *failing to bear fruit out of season*. He refused to say by what authority he was acting. He told stories that seemed to make no sense. He taught and healed and said outrageous things about the forthcoming apocalypse and the destruction of the Temple and the coming of the Son of Man and the judging of the nations. But all his apocalyptic talk said nothing about what they wanted—the restoration of political independence.

But what (they murmured) about getting rid of the Romans? His answer, when he was asked about the payment of taxes, was unsatisfying, equivocal. "Give to God what is God's" (what's that, anyway?) and give to Caesar what is Caesar's. Does he mean that paying taxes, getting ripped off by tax collectors, is a good thing? Some murmured and turned away. Whoever this guy was, he wasn't giving the right answers. All he seemed to predict was still more suffering, and they'd had enough of that.

The religious leaders found all this talk about the destruction of the Temple disturbing. His attack on the Temple businesses—honest people, just making an honest living—was unseemly and threatening. Worse still, another Messiah wannabe was also going to stir up the Romans, and stirred-up Romans had a habit of retaliating with disciplined brutality, and who needed that?

And so (just as he'd predicted) the people turned from adulation to puzzlement to anger. Like us—like humans everywhere—they knew what they wanted and thought they needed, and they wanted it in the here and now, not later. "Later" meant truly enduring in hope, and enduring in hope was something of which they'd had much too much. "Now" is a selfish word; it means I don't have to plan for the future, because there is no future, and therefore the consequences of my acts are irrelevant, at least to me. "Later" requires patience and endurance and trust and staying engaged with life as it really is, all of which comes hard.

Enduring in hope was, however, what he was teaching: it was the message that the next week would proclaim not only in words but in acts of the flesh: endure in hope, trust God. Don't try to force your way out of the situation; stay with it, and trust. He said, no one knows when the longed-for day will happen. Don't count on it being ten years off; it might be tomorrow. But don't count on it being tomorrow, either. No one knows, only God. It will happen in God's good time. Be sure of that.

He offered them God's gift of reconciliation and grace, but not political victory and revenge upon their enemies. It was not what they wanted. Confused and angry, some turned away; some turned against him. He sorrowed for them, but he knew it was inevitable. And he knew that, whatever befell him in the next few days, in the end, it would all go according to Abba's will.

Of that, he was quite certain.

Between Death and Dawn (Easter)

We can manage the unmanageable —standing with his mother in her agony by the cross, watching the tormented, bloody man as death mercifully releases him— because we already know how the story turns out. We know that this defeat is only momentary. We know that it isn't even three whole days before he sits up, sets his feet on the cool stone floor, shrugs off the linen wrappings, and strides forth into the dawn, the pure air cool on flesh that has come out the other side of mystery. We know this, and it lets us bear the intolerable burden of knowing that he suffered *this* much for *us*, because there was no other way to turn us around to face God's love. And we've never done a fool thing to earn this extraordinary love, except to be human.

So Easter Saturday is quiet and ordinary, for us who were standing in spirit by the cross yesterday. It wouldn't have been that way for those who'd stood there in reality: his mother and the other women, in their despair. His friends and followers scattered, suffocated by their grief and terrified of what might happen to them; who'd be next? They had no way of knowing what lay on the other side of that Sabbath day. Even if someone else had his own power to raise the dead, that someone had no way of getting near the body, not with the guard and the rock. He was dead, and their world was crashing around them.

Worlds crash around our ears too. Hopes collapse, marriages fail, careers implode, health crumbles, beloveds die: it happens. Sometimes it's our own fault; sometimes it's the fault of others; sometimes it's sheer bad luck. Often it's a mixture of causes. Each of us has his or her personal cross-time, and it feels endless. We see no possible peace, much less joy: only the suffering stretching out into time, indefinite. For him, those hours between dawn and death must have seemed eternal. But he'd accepted his job in this, trusting that if there would be agony between dawn and death, there would be hope between death and dawn.

We don't always follow his example of patience and hope. We don't want to spend cross-time; it *hurts*. Sometimes the letting-go seems so intolerable that we fight it with everything we've got, fight bitterly, even hysterically, to avoid our personal passions. We think that by sheer force of will, we can force the cup of suffering back into God's hands: "Here, God, my will, not yours, be done." But if we've taken the time to think about the Christian way, that's not it. That's not what Christ showed us.

The Resurrection lies on the other side of Good Friday. If we can trust in that, we can stand by our own suffering as we stand by Christ's on the cross: not denying it, not fleeing from it, but bearing it patiently and expectantly, in trust that we will, in fact, move from death back into dawn. Maybe not in any way we can visualize now, any more than his friends and followers could expect that empty tomb. But maybe we could remember that God has God's ways, and we could have some faith in that.

And so Easter Saturday is quiet, but it's not the silence of the tomb; it's the silence of quiet breathing, renewed after it had stopped, but in ways that we can't begin to imagine. Not now, not till we get there —until we've done the death and seen the dawn.

✚ *Molly Wolf*

✚ WLS ~ Luther Hostel

Imagine days of uplifting worship, inspiring speakers and breathtaking opportunities to spread your spiritual wings. Imagine early summer evenings filled with laughter and music. This is what you can expect when you choose to join the Luther Hostel experience. This year's keynote speaker is Timothy Wengert, the renowned expert in Reformation theology. The whole event takes place at Waterloo Seminary from June 12-16, 2006. Look to the narthex bulletin board for information.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ For Good Measure

Based on Paul's CKCO radio meditations.

I have a friend named Jon Nelson, and he's a delight: always smiling, full of good humour and funny stories; one of the most compassionate men I know. Jon has been arrested in the States a couple times —he's an American— in protest there over the nuclear arms race. He's been jailed because of his opposition to the building of the Trident submarine, for example, in his home town.

A friend asked him one day "Jon, after all you've been through, how can you keep smiling, how do you stay so cheerful? Jon's a Christian, and he said, "Because I know how the story ends."

✚ *paul f. bosch*

✚ Tintinnabulations

April 24 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

The New Hamburg Lioness & Lions Clubs are sponsoring a 2-8:30 pm clinic at W-O. Call 1-888-2-DONATE to donate.

April 30 ~ Great Ride & Stride to Beat Cancer

Registration takes place at the Magnussen Centre, Hincks St, at noon. Participants leave at 1 pm. As always, Gywin Murray, the Thomson-Hagen clan & others will be seeking pledges. Important stuff! Please lend your support. Info: 886-8888.

May 1 ~ ELW Gathering

The ELW gathers for a "Walking by Faith as Leaders & Mentors" Bible Study at 7 pm. Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, has info.

May 2 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau meets with Pastor André at 9:30 am. The update is ready, thereafter, for circulation in the parish.

May 6 ~ Conference Meeting

The K/W Conference will meet at Camp Edgewood.

May 6 ~ Spring Parish Work Day

Henry Simon will be leading the charge for our annual Spring Parish Work Day. We'll gather at the church at 8:30 am. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We'd be grateful for ay and all participation!

May 15 ~ TOTS Gathering

The TOTS group gathers over a bag lunch at 11:45 am. Watch for details. Rides available. Contact Pr. Syd Hills, 662-4919, for information.

May 16 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends gather at 7:30 pm, at the home of Kathryn Ritz, 39 Hunter St. This month, we're reading THE BOOK OF RUTH by Jane Hamilton. Copies are on reserve at the library. Contact Kathryn, at 662-2960, for information.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ A Few Notes About Pastoral Care

1. Pastor Helen Toman is on call when Pr. Lavergne is off or is otherwise out of the parish. From noon on Friday and through Saturday, Helen fields any emergency calls on her cell phone at 240-0416.

2. Pastor Toman is also assisting with visitation. She is providing us with about a day a week of visiting in nursing homes and among those less able to get out and about.

3. Recently, Helen has agreed to provide vacation relief as well. She will be on call when Pastor Lavergne is on vacation and will be presiding and preaching on vacation Sundays when her schedule at St. Matthew's, East Zorra, allows. During much of the year, East Zorra's service begins later than ours so that Helen will sometimes be able to do double duty!

4. Recent repercussions of federal privacy legislation mean that pastors no longer have access to lists of in-hospital members of the parish. In other words, we have no way of knowing that people are in the hospital unless we are told by family members. This can be especially frustrating when seniors are hospitalized and are unable to communicate their reality to the parish.

Please... don't keep us in the dark. Let us know when a member of your family is in the hospital.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Scholarships & Jobs

Eastern Synod Scholarships

2006-2007 scholarship application forms are available in the narthex for new and returning college/university students. The deadline is May 15, 2006. A pastoral reference is required. Let me know early!

Edgewood Applications

Application forms for Camp Edgewood summer positions are available from the church office. Further details are available on-line at www.edgewood-camp.on.ca.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to March 31, 2006

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 54,920	\$ 3,656	\$ 2,311
Outgo	58,396	889	1,986
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Balance	- 3,476	2,767	325

Our first quarter shows a \$3,500 deficit in the General Fund and a surplus of \$2,800 in the Capital Fund. Our General Fund expenses reflect our current decreased staffing. In other words, our deficit would have been somewhat higher had we been fully staffed.

✚ *bob ruthig & andré lavergne*

✚ Full Serve Fund-Raising

Fund-raising for FULL SERVE, this summer's Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering, is well under way.

Full Serve Mother's Day Quilt (Draw May 14)

The Trinity Quilters have prepared another beautiful quilt to be raffled by Trinity's Full Serve youth. The draw will take place on Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day. All Full Serve youth have tickets. The contact person for this effort is Sandy Martin, 662-3516.

Full Serve MESH Sale (May 7 & 14)

Patricia Bruce is arranging for a sale of hand-loomed MESH items from India to help support the fund-raising effort. This is the first MESH sale to take place here in some years. It's time to replace those things you bought "way back when"!

Full Serve Golf Tournament (June 3)

Bill Lindner is hosting a Full Serve Golf Tournament in Tavistock. The package includes golf, mid-way snack, lunch and door prizes. The day begins at 8 am on Saturday, June 3. The cost is \$75. There is a poster and sign-up sheet in the narthex. So far, some 40 people have signed up! Speak to Roger Lindner (393-6805) or Jim Murray (662-1429) to participate. Cheques should be made out to "Trinity TYGers" and forwarded a.s.a.p.

✚ *anne lindner & friends*

✚ Discipleship ~ Children & Youth

2006-2007 Sunday School

Attention all parents: The Discipleship Committee will soon be starting to plan for 2006/2007. We want you to seriously consider helping with Sunday School. There are opportunities in all areas. We need teachers and helpers who offer support in the classroom. The Discipleship Committee plans Sunday School events and keeps supplies & materials organized. We need your help! Please consider offering your time to this very worthwhile ministry. Speak to Carol Murray, 662-3479 or to any other Discipleship team member.

Affirmation! Camp

Youth entering grade 7 or 8 attend Affirmation! Camp at Edgewood. This year, camp will run from Sunday, August 20 to Friday, August 25. Every year, we look for volunteers to assist with camp. As a volunteer, you would be responsible for

co-teaching the confirmation material in the mornings. Naturally, you won't be alone in this endeavour.

We are asking parents of all children currently in grade 6 or 7 to consider being a volunteer. It's a great experience and lots of fun. Questions? Please speak with Pastor André.

Affirmation! Ministry

Some important Affirmation! Ministry dates... Please transfer them to the family calendar or post them on the fridge!

Wednesday, April 26 - Affirmation! Information meeting for parents of grade 6 students. 7 pm in the Martin Luther room.

Tuesday, May 16 - Grade 7 & 8 Affirmation Service event.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ ELW Layettes for CLWR

The ELW will gather in May to put the layettes together for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. While, a lot of material has already come in, we still need more sweaters! Anything you can do will be much appreciated.

✚ *shirley unrau*