

Trinity Dove

August 21, 2005 + Pentecost 14 + Love Your Neighbour

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, August 28 ~ Pentecost 15

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.

Sunday, September 4 ~ Pentecost 16

Labour Day Weekend

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.

Sunday, September 11 ~ Pentecost 17

Sunday School ~ Rally Sunday

- ✚ Worship with the Blessing of the Back-packs and Installation of Sunday School staff at 9 am; Parish Ministry Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am.

Sunday, September 18 ~ Pentecost 18

Missions: Think Globally - Act Locally
Pastor Bob Kelly Begins New Series

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am.
- ✚ Adults at 10:15 am. Bob Kelly: "Thinking globally. Acting locally: **What is the church's mission?**"
- ✚ Opening Service for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, at 7 pm.

Sunday, September 25 ~ Pentecost 19

Celebration of Pr. Andre's 25th Ordination

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am.
- ✚ Ritz family reunion at 12 noon.

✚ *andré lavergne*

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✚ Pastor André ~ What I Said...

During the recent ELCIC national convention, it was my honour (by happenstance) to deliver the first speech on the question of same-sex blessings. Speakers were limited to 3 minutes. The following is what I had written. To keep myself within the allotted time, I shortened my speech slightly when I delivered it. As has been reported in the press, the motion failed in a 55% / 45% split. My guess is that there will be more to hear on the issue in the weeks and months to come.

Bishop Schultz; brothers and sisters:

My name is André Lavergne. I serve in a team ministry at Trinity Church, New Hamburg. I speak in favour of our National Church Council's *local option* motion. I see it as a middle way; a middle course.

First, I'd like to express a word of thanks to the people of National Church Council for their work on our behalf. They are people of goodwill and their way has not been easy. I want to thank, as well, the theologians of our church —and our seminary teachers especially— who took time to reflect on this matter out of the depths of their expertise and experience and who wrote some very fine papers to aid us in our deliberations.

Our theologians are telling us some important things. They're saying that there are two theologies broadly reflected around this issue in the hearts and minds of our people. Both take the Scriptures seriously. Both are true to our Confessions in their own way. Both are held by committed Christians and by people of grace and goodwill. Both can cite Martin Luther as a partisan and exemplar. Both are Lutheran. And each yields a different response to the question of blessing couples in committed same-sex relationships.

I support our National Church Council's local option motion because it represents a middle course. I support NCC's motion because thereby neither theology, neither legitimate view —whether to bless or not to bless— is suppressed.

I was asked to preside at the blessing of a gay couple in my parish seven years ago. Committed Christians. Active Christians. I declined. We were not of a mind. But we've studied the matter. We've done countless hours of Bible study. We have prayed unceasingly. And our parish might be willing to cross the threshold if the question were to arise again. But please... let *us* decide.

Please do not vote to suppress our Bible-based, confessional theology. Please do not vote to impair my ability to respond

to the pastoral needs of my people. I urge you to support our National Church Council's middle way. Thank you.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ 25th Anniversary of Ordination!

People have asked... And, yes, Pastor André knows. Pastor André knows that we will be celebrating his 25th anniversary of ordination on Sunday, September 25. But... *Pastor André doesn't know how*. And we have told him: "Don't ask any questions. Don't ask your spies. And keep your nose out of things." (This is proving to be an unbearable burden, for which we take great delight.) Please join us in the celebration and please help us to keep the secrets!

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Assisting in Our Ministry

Stefanie Mueller has volunteered to assist in the shepherding of our Jacob Street neighbourhood. She will be delivering TRINITY DOVE and other items to those unable to retrieve them at worship. We are very grateful! Heather Leu has volunteered to assist in the delivery of Sunday service tapes to Lanark Place in Kitchener. That's a great help! Thank you!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Adult Learning: New "Mission" Series

We have an exciting new adult learning program on the agenda for fall. We'll be focusing on "Mission" for the next few weeks. The caption reads "Think globally. Act locally." What does this mean. What does it mean for Trinity Church?

On September 18, Dr. Bob Kelly of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, will join us for conversation. He will take up the question "Thinking globally. Acting locally: What is the church's mission?" He will help us to begin our look at the church's mission and Trinity's mission in the New Hamburg community and the wider-world.

Thereafter, week-to-week, a variety of people will give leadership to the program including Pastor Steve Weber (Dean of the Kitchener/Waterloo Conference); Dr. David Pfrimmer (Principal/Dean of WLS); Ms. Trisha Robinson (Administrative Coordinator at the Wilmot Family Resource Centre; and Pastors André and Nadine.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Births

We rejoice at the July 8 birth of Maddux Robert, a son for Shannon (Roth) and Jared Snyder. Congratulations!

Baptisms

We rejoice in the June 26 baptism of Alicia Paige Hayden, daughter of Shelley (Mello) and Steve Hayden. We welcome you into the Lord's family.

Weddings

Our community rejoices in a number of celebrations: James Anger and Aimee Gole (July 8), Kevin Bingeman and Kathy Shaw (July 29), Michael Jones and Celia Hayes (August 6), Tristen Ellis and Scott Diebel (August 6), Julie Steinberg and Troy Ferguson (August 13). Best wishes, all!

Funerals

Our community grieves the June 21 death of Karl Pauli at the age of 74; the July 18 death of James Pearson at the age of 25; and the July 25 death of Levi Nicklas at the age of 96. We grieve with all who mourn.

September Birthdays

2 - Connie Forler, Maria Baumgaertner, Stacy Medley; **3** - Ken Bean, Cara Scheerer, Stacey Holst; **4** - Steve Malloch, Mark Godfrey, Alec Merner; **5** - Ruth Jones, Sheila Snyder, Vicki Lass, Judy Gueguen, Tamara Bakker; **6** - Marilyn Barrow, Brian Wettlaufer, Sarah Hunter; **7** - Gerald Eichler, Mark White, Jennifer Becker, Bailey MacKenzie; **8** - Rick Whittacker, Christopher Millar; **9** - Mildred Cook, Ralph Pauli, Judie Seltzer, Laura Von Farra; **10** - Florence Herman, Joey Brennan, Mykaela Erb, Aspen Kienapple; **11** - Mark Hagen, Rick Long, Ryan Danner; **12** - Joyce Snyder, Alison Burchatzki; **13** - Hugh Stere, Aimee Anger, Stefanie Bender; **14** - Marcus Buehlow, Darrin Gueguen, Leanne Barrett; **15** - Kathy Weicker, Melanie Jahn, Brody Lagace-Roote; **17** - Nancy Arbuckle, Ruby Straus, Meredith Hagen, Shelby Ingold; **18** - Bill Lahn, Mike Schiedel, Benjamin Knackstedt; **19** - Don Zarnke; **20** - Ray Merner, Cindy Holst, Kevin Power, Dale Egerdee, Laura Daer, Chazen Snyder; **21** - Peggy Faulhafer, Marion Linseman, Earl Genrick, Andrea Aho; **22** - Michelle Jokic; **23** - Don Shaw, Caitlin Pearson,

Jake Ritz, Dylan Firetto-Gross; **24** - Denise Kienapple, Travis Bondy; **25** - Marlene Schamber, Denise Gingerich, Claire Otterbein, Rick Trafford, Jim Eichler, Alexandra Smith, Lucas Bast; **26** - Claudia Danner, Sheri Morrison, Barry Kienapple, Matt Aho; **27** - Joyce Hammer, Nicole Parsons; **28** - Mim Miller; **29** - Dianne Stere, Carolyn Witzel, Jane Murray, Steve Walker, Patricia Bruce, Ethan Daniels; **30** - Lorrie Power, Chad Prues, Brett Bakker, Anne Aitken, Michelle Hammer. Happy birthday, friends.

September Anniversaries

1 - Marcus & Edna Buehlow, Neil & Reta Klaassen, Dolores & Neil Hofstetter, Linda Bjerre Danner & Perry Danner; **2** - Earl & Kathryn Genrick; **3** - Carl & Norma Steinman; **4** - Brad & Jennifer Becker; **5** - Carol & Rob Murray; **6** - Hans & Joyce Lass, Dan & Janet Boshart; **7** - Debbie & Tom Linseman, Jody & Patty Steinman; **8** - Chris & Leslie Gravill, Bev & Robert Yule; **9** - Earl & Susan Nickolas, Mary & Todd Seltzer; **10** - John & Lorene Wallace; **12** - David & Wendy Schwartz, Lisa Hagen & Randy Thomson; **13** - Paul & Sheri Morrison; **14** - Jim & Leanne Snider; **16** - George & Marlene Mueller; **17** - Kathryn & Bill Ritz, Cindy & Walter Briner, Christine & Mike Gascon; **19** - Richard & Valerie Gerber, Gerry Baan & Doreen Lindner Baan; **20** - Cy & Reta Ridout, Marion & Ron Linseman, Millie & Stuart Rhem; **21** - Christine & Mark Lass; **22** - Dave & Susan Rogers; **23** - Mary Beatty & Mark Hammer; **24** - Myrtle & Ralph Pauli; **25** - Don & Rita Coxson, Dave & Greta Mello; **26** - Michelle & Chad Gravill; **27** - Kelly & Russell Strickler; **28** - Elaine & Ivan Mohr. Happy anniversary, friends.

✚ *jill merner*

✚ Property Matters

Things have been happening. Really happening! There is new carpet throughout the balcony. The gate on the day care yard has been reversed for safety and ease of access. The front porch at the parsonage has received a new coat of sealant. Shrubs have been removed and some replaced at the main church entrance. Trees were trimmed and a lot of brush removed. Our main sign has been refurbished. Wow! We are grateful to Gywin Murray (Really grateful!), Carl Schroeder, Henry Simon, Bill Lindner, Ken Hammer, Bruce Hammer, Doug Bilinsky, Michael Hayes, Celia Jones and Ken Seltzer for their participation in these projects.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Molly Wolf's Sabbath Blessings

Each month, we download and reprint one of Molly Wolf's lovely essays. (She is writing from Kingston, Ontario.) Two things come to mind, this month, in connection with Molly Wolf's piece. Actually, three things.

First: We recall that Jesus "commanded" his disciples to love one another as if it were not something that came easily or naturally. They had to work at it. We have work to do.

Second: in New Hamburg, you can tell the people who have just arrived off the boat from those who've been here a bit. The new folks are a little bit taken aback—some are utterly astonished—when they are greeted aloud on the street by someone coming the other way. I say "howdy" to most everyone. It is, in fact, infectious...

And third: I think the Harry Potter Festival and Bridging the Gap thing were terrific events. Kind'a like knitting groups.

© 2005, Molly Wolf.

—André Lavergne

A Matter of Choice

Is it because the long spell of horrible, hot, muggy weather has finally broken (thank God!) or is it just my perception, but are people being a little friendlier these days?

Normally people in my neighbourhood don't make eye contact or speak to each other, but these days, we're nodding at each other and saying "Isn't this a nice day?" It's a pleasant change.

It's as though we need extremes of weather to drive us together, because the default is apartness, separation, even alienation. I'm not entirely sure why this is. It's just the way this town tends to operate. Perhaps it's because there are so many communities that don't communicate with each other (university, military college, community college, prisons, bureaucracy, military, commercial, Aboriginal). Perhaps it's rooted in the city's Loyalist and Victorian British history, with its emphasis on reticence and stiff-upper-lipping it. Perhaps it's because there are significant numbers of the walking wounded—former convicts, ex-psychiatric hospital patients, the unemployed, the marginalized—roaming the streets downtown. It takes years to find community here; the city knows it and sighs over the knowledge, but it shrugs and accepts that this is just the way things are.

But that acceptance makes me cranky. I keep wanting to say to this town "Smile! It won't break your face." I keep remembering the yarn store where I spent much of my vacation, in a little town named Fergus. The yarn store had a friendly floating community of knitters who promptly wrapped me in, making me immediately at home. The group chooses to be friendly and accepting. It's a choice people make, to be welcoming or unwelcoming, to be friendly or cool, to smile or be frozen-faced. We can choose to go with the prevailing culture or we can choose to challenge it. When I make eye contact with my neighbours and smile at them, I'm

choosing to challenge the neighbourhood culture. I can't be attached to the outcome; I may or may not get a smile back. But the choice I've made is a Godward one.

Love is a choice. It's not a feeling; it's a decision. I can choose to see the best in you or the worst. I can choose to put a positive spin on your words or a negative one; I can choose to read the light in your soul or the darkness. I can choose to accept you or to judge you. I can choose to regard you as a beloved "thou" or as a mere "it", to be used and abused for my own selfish purposes, and that choice is something God will take very seriously in weighing what I've done

with my life.

Of course my choices have to be realistic; idealizing you isn't loving either, and if I have a problem with you, I've got to be honest about it. But I can still make the choice to love or not-love, and it's a choice for which I will be answerable to my Creator.

To be conscious of these choices and to take them seriously—this is the way in which we point our lives towards God or in some other direction. Choosing not to examine our choices is also a choice, and not a good one. We can turn towards or away from self-awareness, but it's clear in which direction Jesus calls us.

I can't necessarily change the local culture, but I can certainly choose not to go along with it.

And so a small group of knitters has formed and intends to meet in the downtown coffeehouse on Monday nights, with the aim of drawing other knitters in and building a community in which people do make eye contact, do smile, do share their stories, do encourage each other. We've chosen to do that. It's a good choice. And darn it, I'm going to go on smiling at my neighbours. It won't kill anyone, me included.

✚ molly wolf

✚ Will You Teach?

At the time of writing, we are still short-staffed for our new Sunday School year. We have three teaching vacancies: one for the kindergarten class, one for grades ½ and one for grades 5/6.

Our school year runs from mid-September to mid-June with approximately 34 teaching Sundays. As two teachers are assigned per class, each teacher teaches about half this number. Our staffing is set up so that each teaching team includes the two teachers to help share the load, a supply teacher and, in some grades, helpers as well. The Discipleship Committee tries to stress that, as teachers, you are well supported!

We need your help! Please consider joining this essential ministry. Teaching our children the basics of faith is an important stepping stone for our children's faith development.

Please talk to Pastor Nadine or anyone on the Discipleship Committee — Val Gerber, Carol Murray, Nancy Brodrecht or Sherri Morrison— if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering for this valuable ministry.

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Israel Trip ~ The Latest Word!

Many from Trinity Lutheran and Zion United Churches have already committed themselves to the journey. Several more have expressed interest. Space is limited, but there is still room for more. We would love to travel with you!

The trip to Israel will take place January 23 - February 4, 2006. In July, an information evening was held for people from both churches. Registrations, with a deposit of \$300, are required to secure a seat and to give us a clear indication of numbers. Both Pastors Nadine and Bob Thaler will be leading the expedition. Interested? Speak to Pr. Nadine and get your registration in!

✚ New Members Joining October 16

We are inviting people to consider making Trinity their church home. A large number of people will be joining our congregation on Sunday, October 16. Want to be among them? Speak to a pastor. We'd like to welcome you among God's people at Trinity.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ New Parish Photo Album

Back in June, we got word that the Morningside community was doing a new album as it had been 4 years since their last one. "Would we be doing one too?" asked Cy Ridout, as we'd done our last one at the same time. We knew we were due as the number of changes has been dramatic in that time. Lots of new faces in our community. Lots of once-familiar faces now gone. Long story short: we're doing a new album and at last count, over 150 families and individuals had signed-up to be photographed. What a terrific response! This will likely be one of our biggest and finest albums to date!

Buck Roth has done a terrific job overseeing the project. He and Cy Ridout have been making calls. Photos will be taken in two stages beginning Wednesday, September 7, and again, beginning Wednesday, September 21.

We're also collecting parish photos for possible inclusion at the front of the album. Photos should be clear, with lively action.

Got something you'd like considered? Put identification on the back and drop it in to the office.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Parish Directory Update

We have been working hard to bring our parish listing up to date. More families have moved or been reconfigured this summer than at any time in our history! Please check your family listing in the narthex directory to make sure that we have correct spellings for names and accurate addresses and phone numbers. We also need the addresses for any young people who have left home and are now on their own. Revisions to the parish listing will be reflected in our new Parish Photo Album.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Thank You!

We are grateful to Nancy Brodrecht and Val Gerber for cleaning the Sunday School rooms over the summer and helping to prepare us for the 2005-2006 season.

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Tintinnabulations

August 29 ~ ELW Meeting

Trinity's ELW will gather on August 29 at 7:30 pm to hear Paula Povey speak on being a grandparent to a hearing-challenged grandchild. We'll gather in Trinity Hall. All women of the parish and community are welcome. Contact Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for information.

August 31 ~ SCS Teachers Gather

The Discipleship (Children and Youth) Committee will gather at 6 pm. Sunday school teachers will gather at 7 pm.

September 10 ~ Nith Clean-Up

The river runs through it... Let's celebrate our community: Help clean up the Nith! The Interfaith Community Counselling Centre is organizing a clean-up day from 9:30 am to 1 pm. The Ministry of Natural Resources will be on hand with an aquarium containing fish from the Nith and a demonstration of the fish lift at the dam. There'll be a BBQ and more. See the narthex board for complete details!

September 19 ~ TOTS

The "TOTS" (Syd's Kids) will gather for a BBQ at noon on Monday, September 19, at Joanne & Syd's summer place at Holiday Beach. All are welcome. Invite a friend or neighbour to join us! Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Let's car-pool as parking is rather limited.

September 20 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends gather at 7:30 pm, on the third Tuesday of the month, at the home of Kathryn Ritz, 39 Hunter St. For the September meeting, we're reading *A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES* by Ruth Rendell. Ten copies are on reserve at the library. Contact Kathryn, at 662-2960, for information.

September 28 ~ WLS Women's Auxiliary

The Seminary Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo will gather at 9:30 am for its annual meeting at St. John's, Waterloo, with guest speaker the Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, newly-appointed principal-dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Millie Faruzel has details.

October 15 ~ K/W Conference Fall Event

Join us at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 15, 2005, for a work day and K/W Conference meeting at the Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre in Eden Mills. We'll be painting and staining and doing minor repairs.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Great News from Waterloo Seminary

On Sunday, September 17, at 7 pm, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, will host the opening service for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. There is much cause for celebration. Five people will be installed in a variety of positions: the Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer as Principal/Dean and Professor of Systematic Theology and Ethics; the Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson as Assistant Principal (Advancement) and Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology; the Rev. Dr. Robert Kelly as Assistant Dean (Academic); the Rev. Dr. Marsha Cutting as Associate Professor, Pastoral Counselling and the Rev. Dr.

Kristine Lund as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Pastoral Counselling. Wow! Word on the streets is that enrollment continues to be up in the context of the church's new emphasis on discernment and vocations. Great stuff!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Hospital Emergencies

Because of recent privacy legislation, unless we are told by family members, pastors have no way of knowing that our people are in hospital. Sometimes we learn by accident what people have assumed we knew. Please, friends: if anyone is in hospital, let us know. Please help us to offer the quality of ministry our people expect. Please call.

✚ *andré lavergne & nadine nicholds*

✚ Flowers for Worship

We are always grateful when Trinity's people put flowers in the chancel to honour the memory of a loved one or to mark a special occasion (anniversary, birth, baptism...). There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Flowers may be ordered locally or simply brought to the church. Contact Jill Merner, 662-1810, to make sure the church is open at the time of delivery.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to July 31, 2005

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 137,593	\$ 13,370	\$ 13,994
Outgo	157,903	6,970	12,573
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Balance	- 20,310	6,400	1,421

The Year to Date

The year advances with a General Fund deficit of \$20,310. This is a big concern. Utility costs have been atrocious. At the same time, General Fund envelope receipts are exactly even with last year's. As was related at the annual meeting, a substantial increase in General Fund offerings is required to offset rising costs over which we have no control: insurance, utilities and some pension items. Please help us to address our serious General Fund deficit.

Elsewhere, the Capital Fund is in the black by \$6,400. In fact, it is right on target. The next major Capital item will be this fall's work on the flat roof over the 1957 wing. As budgeted, we expect to cover the costs for this work via regular Capital Fund offerings.

Transfers are ahead of last year's, even when we factor out the Tsunami Relief efforts. Well done! Clearly, our major focus, therefore, should be on the General Fund.

Consider PAR for Fall!

Please consider joining Trinity's PAR program. We currently receive about \$91,000 per year from 56 PAR families. Some \$77,000 of this sum is earmarked for the General Fund. This represents about one-third of our \$245,000 General Fund envelope requirements for the year. PAR applications are available from the church office.

✚ *bob ruthig & andré lavergne*

✚ Tape Ministry Needs

Rose Mueller reminds us that we could use two more people in the tape-duplication end of our Tape Ministry operation. Can you assist? Please speak to Rose Mueller, 662-3814.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Discipleship ~ Children & Youth

Sunday School

Sunday, September 11, is the first day of Sunday School. I can't wait to see everyone in their new school clothes ready to have fun and learn a little about our Lord. We're doing something new this year. I want all Sunday School students to bring their school bags to church with them, because at the worship service we are going to have a "Blessing of the Backpacks" rite. It will be really cool to pile up all our bags at the front of the church. Let's see what we can do! See you on September 11!

A reminder for staff: We will have a planning and training meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 7 pm in Trinity Hall. Please make every effort be there!

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Affirmation! Ministry

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

- ✚ Wednesday, Sept. 7 (7-7:15 pm) - Grade 3 Introductory Meeting and time to pick up your forms.
- ✚ Wednesday, Sept. 7 (7:15-8 pm) - Grade 4-8 Affirmation! form pick-up time.
- ✚ Tuesday, Sept. 13 (7-8 pm) - Gr. 7 Affirmation! Class
- ✚ Tuesday, Sept. 20 (7-8 pm) - Gr. 8 Affirmation! Class

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ TYGers

FULL SERVE, the 2006 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering, will be held in Winnipeg, August 17-20, next summer. We are going to have a *mandatory* planning meeting on *Saturday, September 24 at 9 am* in the Martin Luther Room. We will make plans for more fund-raising and we will determine our numbers and what form of transportation we will use.

On that same Saturday, at 10:30 am, we will switch modes and start planning TYGers events for the fall and into winter. Everyone in grade 7 and up is invited to participate and lend their ideas. I can't wait to see your smiling faces and get excited about all the fun stuff we're going to do!

✚ *nadine nicholds*