

Trinity Dove

December 12, 2004 + Advent 3 + A Joyful Giver!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, December 19 ~ Advent 4

Single Service with SCS Christmas Preparation

- ✚ Choral worship at 9 am; Ministry update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal at 10:05 am.
- ✚ Sunday School Christmas Program at 7 pm.

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- ✚ Holy Communion at 7 pm.
- ✚ Lights, Readings & Carols at 11 pm.

Saturday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- ✚ Festival of Lessons and Carols at 10 am.

Sunday, December 26 ~ St. Stephen's Day

Note the time for this single service.

- ✚ Worship at 10 am; Ministry update at 9:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 11 am.

Sunday, January 2 ~ Christmas 2

Note the time for this single service.

- ✚ Worship at 10 am; Ministry update at 9:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 11 am.

Sunday, January 9 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

- ✚ Worship at 9 & 11:15 am; Update at 8:50 & 11:05 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Amnesty International

Sunday, January 16 ~ Epiphany 2

- ✚ Worship at 9 & 11:15 am; Update at 8:50 & 11:05 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Interesting Lives

Sunday, January 23 ~ Epiphany 3

- ✚ Worship at 9 & 11:15 am; Update at 8:50 & 11:05 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Interesting Lives

Sunday, January 30 ~ Epiphany 4

- ✚ Worship at 9 & 11:15 am; Update at 8:50 & 11:05 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Interesting Lives

✚ *andré lavergne*

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✚ Pastor Nadine ~ A Joyful Giver!

The Eve of Advent 1

Advent Greetings!

It happens to so many of us.

When the First Sunday of Advent comes around we are surprised, even shocked. "Where did November go?" we ask.

But this year, for me, I was not caught off guard. I will, however, give the credit to one of my neighbours who put up his Christmas lights on November 14.

This year, I am looking forward to Advent and to the preparation for Christmas. I don't really know why and I don't know what changed, but this year I am very excited about the anticipation and expectation that advent brings.

As I was preparing my own Advent wreath I started to think about how I was going to celebrate Advent. I haven't made any decisions on exactly what I am going to do, but most of my options have something to do with outreach and giving.

Last year, I read a quote from John Chrysostom, who said, "If you give gladly, even if only a little, it is a big gift." These words made me think about how I could give of myself for others. We are fortunate at Trinity, because our opportunities for giving are many and various. I have taken an Operation Christmas Child box. There are hamper opportunities, from buying a gift, to putting the hampers together, to offering some financial help.

Even helping the church with a contribution of our time is a gift worth giving!

We are doubly blessed if we are in the position to give. Not only can we contribute our time, talent or money, but we also get to experience the joy of giving. I hope that all of us can remember that "a joyful giver, gladdens our hearts."

This season —on behalf of Pastor André, Ruth, John and myself— I would like to wish you and all your loved ones a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

With warmest affection,
may God bless you now and always.

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas Hampers

It's not too late to make a financial commitment to our Christmas Hamper Program. Every year, we include vouchers for turkeys and other meat and dairy products in the hampers so cash donations are most welcome. Offering envelopes should be marked "hampers."

Operation Christmas Child

Grace McGregor and Jean Cook have been pulling this project together. The response has been astonishing. Over 100 empty boxes have gone out! Do you still have a "straggling box"? Get it filled; get it in!

Christmas Blood Donor Clinic

On Monday, December 27, Trinity will be hosting our Second Annual Christmas Clinic at Waterloo-Oxford. Because of the shortage of blood over the Christmas season, we have been asked to do a clinic the day after Boxing Day. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time and/or giving the gift of life itself. Lyla Wettlaufer is coordinating the meal for staff (casseroles). Dave Mello is doing coffee. Others are helping with set-up and take-down. Terrific! Speak to Ken Seltzer re possibilities.

To schedule a blood donation in advance, please call 1-888-2-DONATE or 1-888-236-6283 to make arrangements. As always, walk-ins are welcome!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Trinity Endowment Fund

We are currently rounding out plans for Year 2005. As always, we welcome suggestions as to potential expenditures.

This year, we have done campus ministry in Waterloo, supported Lori Endress as she serves as an ELCIC missionary in Thailand, helped out with Community Kitchens, purchased pastoral care resources, affirmed the Interfaith Counselling Centre, underwritten *Affirmation! Ministry Camping* and much more. We welcome ideas.

Please speak to Pr. André if you have a suggestion.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Births

On November 16, Christopher Carter was born to Leslie (Gordon) and Chris Gravill. Congratulations, friends!

January Birthdays

2 - Stephanie Anger, Pam Diebel; **3** - Cindy Harrison, Gerry Legare, Suzanne Preikschas; **4** - Nicholas Pearson, Kieran Johnston, Joseph Heise; **5** - Edward Faruzel, Logan Arnott; **6** - Steven Wettlaufer, Curtis Arsenault; **7** - Doris Langford, Bob Ruthig, Curtis Steinmann; **8** - Anne Hammer, Nathan Otterbein; **9** - Daryl Junker; **10** - Emma Giilck, Bob Cook, Fred Straus, Bradley Barnes, Samatha Junker; **12** - Kendra Mayer, Sarah Clarke; **14** - Caitlin Corkery, Amy Steinman; **15** - Leona Bingeman; **16** - Michael Hayes, Andy Knackstedt, Erika Mueller, Michaëla St-Pierre; **17** - Cliff Wootton, Joan Clements, Dagmar Otto, Ashley Sheard; **18** - Raimond Danner, Peter Kellendonk, Lisa Barker; **19** - Jeremy Burchatzki; **20** - Timothy Denstedt, Trisha McCormack; **21** - Liz Livingston, Brady Schmidt; **22** - Daniel Mueller; **23** - Winifred Steiner, Bob Anger, Cindy Hammer, Hilmar Hofmeyer, Dave Mueller; **24** - Hollice Stock, Mike Gascon, Matthew Parsons; **25** - Nancy Pauli, Peter Scheid, Tracy Klaassen, Alayna Bailey; **26** - Todd Diebel, Laura Shantz, Steven Jokic; **27** - Denis Hanson, James Anger, James Oldenbuerger; **28** - Clarence Schamber, Ken Hoffman, Larry Keller, Stephen Daniells, Mike Otterbein, Codie Arsenault; **29** - Norma Steinman, Jane Eichler, Leanne Snider; **30** - Ralph Becker, Noni Stewart, Shawn Burchatzki, Sophia Haffner; **31** - Jean Shantz, Serge Blaquiere, Jason Brodrecht, Mackenna Schaaf. Happy birthday, friends.

January Anniversaries

3 - Bruce & Debbie Jantzi; **13** - Dianne & Hugh Stere; **14** - Karen & Mark Jutzi; **16** - Serge Blaquiere & Traci Jutzi; **18** - Daryl & Ronald Junker; **19** - Jochen & Mildred Knackstedt; **22** - Crista & Steven Coughlin; **25** - Chris & Kendra Mayer; **26** - David & Julie Schroeder; **29** - Betty & Gerry Minnie. Happy anniversary, friends.

✚ *jill merner*

✚ Why Faith? ~ Young Adult Retreat

The Lutheran Campus Ministry group at WLU is working hard to put together a young adult retreat. Called "Why Faith?", the retreat will be held at Camp Edgewood from January 28 to January 30, 2005. We begin at 7 pm on Friday, January 28 and end at 2 pm on Sunday, January 30.

The event will give participants an opportunity to learn about their faith in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Guest speakers will lead us in a number of discussions on various topics. We will experience a variety of worship forms and have some time to simply relax and play games. The cost for the event will be underwritten by Trinity.

Pastor Nadine has registration information and would welcome further conversation. Questions, e-mail Joan Schroeder at crazy_joanavieve@hotmail.com.

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ Eternity for Today

The January through March edition of ETERNITY FOR TODAY is available in the narthex.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Why Lutheran? Why, indeed!

In the weeks to come, Trinity members will have two great opportunities to look at our own Lutheran heritage.

In an ecumenical and Interfaith age, why do we hold to the name "Lutheran"? What does it mean to be Lutheran? What is distinctive about us? Professor Bob Kelly will focus on the core meaning of the Gospel as the centre of Lutheran teaching in a four session (January 22, 29 and February 12, 19), 9 am to 12:30 noon, course to be offered at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. The cost is \$150 for this certificate course. Scholarships are available. See the pamphlets in the narthex or speak to a pastor for more information.

During the weeks of Easter, Trinity's pastors will be offering a Sunday Adult Learning series called Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core based upon Kelly Fryer's book of the same title. Books will be made available to all who want one in January.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Molly Wolf's Sabbath Blessings

Each month, we download and reprint one of Molly Wolf's lovely essays. © 2004, Molly Wolf. —*André Lavergne*

Big Water

You can go about your daily business for weeks in this town with your back turned towards it; you can shop downtown and head back to the suburbs, do your banking, attend your meetings, go out for dinner or a movie, and never once pay it a moment's notice. It's just a matter of which streets you take. I do the same myself.

But yesterday, for no particularly good reason, I turned left instead of right on my way home and drove along King Street, past the university dorms and the hospital, and there it was: a sheet of gleaming pewter laced with silver under a snow-grey sky. Water and cloud met in a crisp horizon, one that suggested large distances. Which in fact they are. This may be the smallest of the Great Lakes, but it's still big water.

It's odd, how we can live alongside something this important and substantial and still, most days, forget it's there. Not that it has no influence on our lives: far from it. I'm only an hour and a half by highway from the town I used to live in, but the climate here is markedly different—different enough to make for subtle shifts in flora and fauna. It's a maritime climate because of big water, one marked by damp mild winters and cooler summers. I'm learning the hard way that black ice is normal here—the climate again, the high humidity and just-barely-freezing temperatures.

For that matter, the water's important to this city because that's why the town is here: the site was chosen to overlook the junction of the lake and the St. Lawrence, first by the French and for military purposes. We still have fortifications to prove it, too—lots of 19th-century British stonework.

But especially in winter, when you're not drawn to walk by the water's edge, you can ignore the lake for weeks at a stretch. I'm sure some people hardly set eyes on it at all for years.

Just like God's love and grace, in fact.

There are, of course, important problems with this comparison. For starters, we can reject the whole notion of God, whereas the lake's existence, realistically speaking, isn't up for discussion. A sane and normal person wouldn't actually reject the lake, refuse to have anything to do with it, tell it to go away. And the lake is not relational; it's just a large body of fresh water, not a living, loving Being. The lake may influence our lives, but it doesn't enter into them the way God entered into ours in a strange, particular manner all those years ago—and does so again and again, and will continue to do so until the definitive End.

But what struck me as I drove along the shore was how the lake is simply *there*, whether or not I give it any attention. It's just that we're too preoccupied with what's immediately in front of us to pay it any mind at all, especially when the days are short and darkness sets in well before supper's on the table. Especially at this time of year, when there's so much else going on.

It's funny, isn't it, how Christmas can lead us away from the love of God, rather like the city's system of fast one-way streets that gets you to and from downtown with hardly a glimpse of water. Christmas does this by appealing to everything in us that cries I WANT—I want a good time; I want a close and loving family; I want food and drink, lots of it and damn the calories; I want goodies, for my culture tells me that possessions will make me happy and I want to be happy; I want beauty and richness and tradition and lots and lots of decoration. It draws us away from the love of God this by tempting us to pack it all in—the performance of Messiah, the parties, the travel, the feasting.

And it draws us away from the love of God by systematically letting us down—by reminding us that in fact I WANT usually doesn't get answered, or at least not as fully and completely as we want, and all the frenetic activity just leaves us hollow and tired.

But God's love is in the stillness and the emptiness, out in the snowy fields turned electric blue at dusk, out at the water's edge, where the lacy fingers of ice have begun to crawl across the quiet water. God's love is in the waste places of this earth, and in the waste places of our lives. God's love is in that clear mysterious boundary between heaven and earth that I could never reach, sail out over the big water as confidently as I might. It's there, as quietly *there* as this lake—but infinitely larger.

I must remember more often to turn left instead of right: away from the fast one-way network and down here to the water's edge, even in winter, when the walking is none too pleasant and the ducks have all vanished south for the season. I must remember to come down and simply look out over the big water and remember what it's all about.

✝ *molly wolf*

✝ Sunday Adult Learning

Look for several new Adult Learning series in the new year.

1. Interesting Lives: My Life as a Christian - Epiphany series exploring the intersection of Christian faith and life. 2. Celebrated Lives: The Death of a Christian - Lenten series exploring the time leading up to the death of a Christian. 3. Getting on with Life - Tuesday evening Lenten series which focuses on how Christians have dealt with adversity. 4. Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core - Led by Trinity's pastors, an Easter series based on Kelly Fryer's book of the same title. Copies of the book will be made available to all who want one in January. We will ask for a small donation to help defray costs.

January 9 ~ Amnesty International

Joyce Roth has invited a team from Amnesty International to join us to explore their terrific work around the world. Nancy Bernhart and Nikki Proctor will be with us and will tell the story of Amnesty International's global efforts on behalf of prisoners of conscience. Come out and learn how you can do your part!

January/February ~ Interesting Lives

We begin a new Adult Learning series in January. Over a period of four weeks, we will hear from a number of Trinity members about their lives as Christians. We have asked them to give a brief biographical overview and then to tell us how their faith has been and is reflected in their lives. The series begins on January 16.

We will hear from Buck & Joyce Roth (January 16), Peter & Virginia Schmidt (January 23), Dagmar Otto (January 30) and Vern & Joyce Hammer (February 6).

✝ *andré lavergne*

✝ Fire & Safety Issues

Work is under way on items brought to our attention in a late September fire audit. All local churches are being brought up to the ever-stricter standards of the Ontario Fire Code.

The first significant action was the placement of 16 emergency-lighting power packs and/or lighted exit signs in stairwells, the worship area, Trinity Hall, Sunday School halls and windowless washrooms. In earlier years these had not been required. However, the Ontario Fire Code now makes these mandatory. Work was completed by Boshart Electric.

A larger and more complicated matter is that a fire alarm system with heat and smoke detectors and main-entrance annunciator panel is now required by the Code. We have been in conversation with the Day Care Centre as much of the remedial action is related to the number of day care children in our facility. We have confirmation that the Day Care Centre will be eligible for a one-time funding grant

toward the project based upon an 80/20 funding split. Trinity's portion will be something in the order of \$4,000-\$5,000. On November 17, Council accepted a quote from JEM Fire Systems for a project that will begin during the week of January 10, 2005.

The *entire* Trinity facility will be outfitted with smoke and heat sensors, emergency call stations and alarms. An annunciator panel at the main entrance will relay information to our existing security system and then to a remote monitoring station for an immediate response in case of fire.

✝ *henry simon & andré lavergne*

✝ Getting Married in 2005 or 2006?

We already have seven-and-a-half weddings on the docket. If you're planning a wedding, call your pastor to reserve the date and pick up a copy of **BLESSINGS** from the office.

✝ *andré lavergne*

✝ Trinity on the Web

Come visit Trinity on the Web at < www.telc.ca >. Each month, we post TRINITY DOVE online. Right now, you'll also find several series of interesting photos.

✝ *andré lavergne*

✚ Tintinnabulations

December 12 ~ Christmas Trees Go Up

On Sunday, 2 pm, a crew will erect the sanctuary Christmas trees. Give Henry Simon, 662-1629, a shout to assist. The trees will be decorated at 7 pm on Monday, December 13. (Not the 16th as reported in last month's TRINITY DOVE.)

December 14 ~ Hampers Prepared

The Priscillas prepare Christmas Hampers at 9 am. You can still assist by making an offering to "hampers." Contact Lisa Hagen (662-9573) for information about the gifts program.

December 18 ~ CCC Breakfast

Come to Trinity Hall, 8 to 11 am, for a breakfast sponsored by Trinity & the Optimists. Community Care Concepts benefits. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3.75/kids; \$15/family. Tickets: Brian Roth, 662-3238.

December 19 ~ SCS Program

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

December 21 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends gather, 7:30 pm, at the home of Kathryn Ritz, 39 Hunter St. We're looking at DEAFENING by Frances Itani. Kathryn, 662-2960, can provide additional information.

December 27 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Sponsored by Trinity, the clinic takes place from 2:30 to 8:30 pm at the W-O gym. Ken Seltzer, 662-2432, has information.

January 3 ~ ELW Gathering

The ELW gathers, 2 pm, to receive annual reports, to celebrate the year gone by, and to look forward to the new year to come. Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, has further details.

January 4 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau meets with the pastors at 9 am. The monthly update will be ready, thereafter, for circulation in the parish.

January 17 ~ TOTS Gathering

The TOTS group gathers over a bag lunch at 11:45 am for conversation about plans for February through May. Rides available. Contact Pr. Syd Hills, 662-4919, for info.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The tentative date is Sunday, February 6, 10:15 am.

February ~ Winter Blahs Craft

No craft at Christmas... Instead, we are looking at gathering to do something to help beat the winter blahs down the road. Details: Millie Rhem, 662-2727.

February ~ Garden Club Pot-Luck

Members of the Garden Club will gather for their annual pot-luck in February. Details: Maria Baumgaertner, 662-4310.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ A New Council

In February, Deb Roth, Earl Nicholas, Ray Merner and Cy Ridout will be completing terms on Council. All have served well and blessed us with excellent ministry! Deb Roth, who is completing six years on Council is not eligible to return. Deb has served with distinction and we are grateful. The other three have expressed their willingness to serve for an additional three-year term. One other nomination is therefore being sought for someone with expertise in the area of finance. We'd welcome your suggestions.

✚ *deb roth & andré lavergne*

✚ Trinity's Secret Sisters

Our ELW hosts one of Trinity's most helpful and wonderful of ministries. It is the Secret Sister program in which women are paired with one another as "secret sisters." During the year, each secret sister sends birthday and anniversary greetings, seasonal cards and small gifts to another participant in the program. The latter does not know the identity of the former. Participants gather for an annual pot-luck supper, at which identities are revealed, in February. If you are a current participant, terrific! If not, consider joining in February! Contact Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, to express interest.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to November 30, 2004

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 221,271	\$ 71,382	\$ 13,723
Outgo	237,579	72,080	10,979
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Balance	- 16,308	- 698	2,744

The Year to Date

We have had a remarkable year, all things considered. Our General Fund deficit stands at \$16,308 and our Capital Fund deficit at \$698. These figures take into account a substantial (receivable) GST rebate to come in after December 31. Given the unanticipated nature of a large portion of our Capital work, we've experienced great community, financial and property stewardship, all around!

We anticipate a major year-end expenditure on emergency lighting in the amount of about \$3,200. Mandated by the ever-revised Ontario Fire Code, the new safety equipment was installed in November. You'll find it in the worship space, washrooms, stairwells and corridors. As well, as described on page 5, we expect a new alarm system to be in place by the end of January. However, that will be a 2005 expenditure.

2005 Offering Envelopes

2005 sets are out. If you've been issued a set that you do not need, simply return it to the church office. As well, we invite everyone to recycle any unused 2004 envelopes. There's a bin in the narthex. More great stewardship!

PAR ~ Pre-Authorized Remittances

It's time to review annual contributions via PAR.

PAR —Pre-Authorized Remittance— (automatic debit) is very helpful in evening-out Trinity's offerings. PAR mirrors the way parishioners already pay their own bills. Each month the bank transfers a "pre-authorized" amount from members' bank accounts to Trinity's account. People can designate their choice of funds and causes: General, Capital, Global Hunger, Seminary Appeal, ELW, etc. Please speak to Jill Merner or to Pr. Lavergne about revising your contributions for 2005 or about joining for the new year. Even more great stewardship!

✚ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

✚ Discipleship ~ Children & Youth

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Things are going well for our Sunday School. Preparation for the annual Christmas pageant is well under way. Parts have been distributed to the classes and kids are learning their parts even as you read this. The date for the pageant is Sunday, December 19 at 7 pm. It should be a great evening for all. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday School Thank You

I would like to offer a word of thanks to all involved in running the Sunday school. Things have gone very well since September. Everyone has done just a fantastic job guiding our young people along their faith journey. Thanks to all teachers, helpers and the Discipleship committee for their time and dedication. We appreciate your efforts!

Affirmation! Ministry

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

Tuesday, January 11 - Grade 7 Affirmation class – 7- 8pm.
 Tuesday, January 18 - Grade 8 Affirmation class – 7- 8pm

The grade 8 class is invited to the Adult Learning session on Sunday, January 9 to hear about Amnesty International. The letters we wrote back in May were to support the Amnesty International effort.

Affirmation! Mentoring Schedule

Yellow Team - "Vocational Direction" Share sheet

Indigo Team - "Where Am I Going in Life" Share sheet

✚ nadine nicholds

✚ TYGer Tales

Saturday, January 22 - Snow Tubing

Look for details soon. I'll visit your Sunday School class with a sign-up sheet.

✚ nadine nicholds