



Trinity Dove

December 16, 2007 + Advent 3 + Hospitality
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, December 23 ~ Advent 4

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- ✚ Holy Communion with the Affirmation! Singers at 7 pm
- ✚ Lights, Readings & Carols with Trinity Choir at 11 pm

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- ✚ Sanctuary Community Christmas at 9:30 am featuring readings & carols. Keith Thom is our guest musician.

Sunday, December 30 ~ Christmas 1

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish Update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Sunday, January 6 ~ Epiphany

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Faith Adventures Family Event (swimming or skating) at 2 pm
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm
- ✚ Congregational Pot-Luck Supper at 6 pm

Sunday, January 13 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ There Will Be Cake: Don Jardin Sunday
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Sunday, January 20 ~ Epiphany 2

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults: Caring & Coping (Lavergne)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Sunday, January 27 ~ Epiphany 3

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults: Caring & Coping (McKinnon)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

✚ *andré lavergne*

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✚ Pastor Anne ~ Hospitality

Grace and peace, friends.

Hospitality — a word that seems to have come up a lot this past little while!

Our church recently hosted a group of young people from the US called *Captive Free*. They were hosted, fed, given countless supplies and a very generous free-will offering —about \$1,000! The team joked with me that if they ever had a need they knew that Trinity Church was the place to be! I agreed as I gazed upon their jam-packed van as it pulled away. It was through the eyes of the *Captive Free* team that I experienced my latest glimpse of the hospitality of our congregation.

André just passed on a newly-released book published by our sister congregation, Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Kitchener. (There's a copy in the church library.) *See You Next Week* is a collection of stories reflecting on the ecumenical community ministry spear-headed by St. Mark's. It is certainly a book worth reading. St. Mark's has had a community meal on Wednesday nights for ten years. Many positive things have emerged from these gatherings. Many acts of hospitality have arisen from this community.

St. Mark's eventually spread it's wings to serve the next-door high school community through a breakfast program. Volunteers serve a quality meal to students before they head off to class. One of the most meaningful stories came from a breakfast held close to Christmas when some of the breakfast volunteers brought small gifts and wrapping supplies so that after breakfast the students could wrap gifts to take home to family, friends and teachers. Wow! This simple act of hospitality connected deeply with the students. Student comments included "I can't believe it!" and "Why are you doing this?" Isn't *that* a part of hospitality? ...the unexpected gift?

Hospitality is a big part of any Christmas celebration. We are often welcomed into the homes of friends or family to celebrate together. We welcome others into our spaces, making room for young and old. We give to others who may be in need of basic things such as food, shelter or warm clothing. We live out hospitality in our actions to serve one another at Christmas and always.

Hospitality is also a key part in our faith story. Our Faith Adventures children are reminding us of that again this year in their Christmas program. Mary and Joseph are looking for a place to stay. Mary is *beyond* ready to give

birth and Joseph is desperately seeking a place to rest. What's finally offered them is not fancy and it's certainly not the choice room. It's the stable, the animals' home. At least it will be warm. *Hospitality*.

This Advent-into-Christmas season I pray that Trinity will offer a place of welcome for the stranger; a place where they might receive the *unexpected* gift; a place where it is warm and safe. Hospitality is everywhere. At least, it can be! It may be offered in Bethlehem; in a church hall in Kitchener; or in the community of Trinity Church, New Hamburg. It is my hope that hospitality will be lived out in all our lives this season.



While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

— Luke 2:6-7

✚ anne anderson

✚ Pr André ~ We Promise...

In 2004, Trinity adopted an *Affirmation of Welcome*. Copies are posted around the church. It's also available at www.telc.ca. It reads, in part,

Trinity Lutheran Church is committed to being a loving and welcoming community centred in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Seems to me that Pastor Anne is inviting us to live out our *Affirmation of Welcome*. How might that be? Our *Affirmation* continues....

In faithfulness to the Christian Gospel, in reflection of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and in celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we promise to enter into ministry with all who seek God here.

What shape might our ministry take this Christmas? Is there something that needs doing that otherwise might not get done? Are there people in need whose needs might otherwise not be met?

Loving and welcoming... We promise...

From your parsonage families — Anne and Trevor, Syd and Joanne, André... and Barbara too! — we extend Christmas blessings and best wishes for a Happy & Holy New Year to you and to those whom you hold dear.

✚ andré lavergne

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Birth

We rejoice at the November 9 birth of Isabella Rose Ceccardi, a daughter for Val (Fisher) & Matt Ceccardi.

Baptism

On November 18, Brooke Elizabeth Medley, daughter of Anthony & Stephanie Medley, was baptised. Welcome!

January Birthdays

2 - Stephanie Price, Pam Diebel; **3** - Cindy Harrison, Gerry Legare, Suzanne Preikschas; **4** - Mike Speers, Nicholas Pearson, Kieran Johnston, Joseph Heise, Brooke Medley; **5** - Edward Faruzel, Logan Arnett; **6** - Steven Wettlaufer, Raelyn Cook; **7** - Doris Langford, Bob Ruthig, Curtis Steinmann; **8** - Anne Hammer, Nathan Otterbein; **9** - Daryl Junker; **10** - Emma Giilck, Bob Cook, Fred Staus, Bradley Barnes, Samantha Junker, Ada Bender, Joseph Durrer; **11** - Krista Durrer; **12** - Kendra Mayer, Sarah Clarke; **13** - Peyton Ayre, Owen Burchatzki; **14** - Amy Steinman; **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 Livingston, Jacob Durrer; **20** - Trisha McCormack; **21** - Liz Livingston, Brady Schmidt; **22** - Daniel Mueller; **23** - 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, Joseph De Sapio; **26** - Laura Shantz, Steven Jokic; **27** - James Anger, James Oldenburger; **28** - Clarence Chamber, Ken Hoffman, Larry Keller, Stephen Daniels, Mike Otterbein; **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; **7** - Charlotte & Mike Speers; **13** - Dianne & Hugh Stere; **14** - Karen & Mark Jutzi, Sheila & Stan Leis; **16** - Serge Blaquiere & Traci Jutzi; **18** - Daryl & Ron Junker; **19** - Jochen & Mildred Knackstedt; **22** - Crista & Steve Coughlin; **25** - Chris & Kendra Mayer; **26** - David & Julie Schroeder; **29** - Betty & Gerry Minnie. Congratulations, friends.

✚ jill merner

✚ There Will Be Cake!

Jane Trafford & Don Jardin Celebrated!

Sunday, December 16, 2007, shall be observed as Advent 3 and celebrated as Jane Trafford Sunday while Sunday, January 13, 2008, shall be observed as the Baptism of Our Lord and celebrated as Don Jardin Sunday. As always, there will be cake!

✚ andré lavergne



✚ Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas Hampers

During Advent, we invite people to sign-up for a gift for our Christmas Hamper Program or to make a cash donation toward food items. Hampers were put together on December 11. Every year, we include vouchers for turkeys and other meat in the hampers so cash donations are very important and welcome. Envelopes should be marked "hampers." Please give generously.

Christmas Blood Donor Clinic

On Friday, December 28, from 1:30 to 7:30 pm, Trinity will be hosting our fourth annual Christmas Clinic at Waterloo-Oxford. Please consider volunteering a few hours and/or giving the gift of life. We will need help with set-up and take-down. Speak to Ken Seltzer. To schedule a donation, please call 1-888-2-DONATE to make arrangements. As always, walk-ins are welcome!

✚ andré lavergne

✚ Edgewood Looking for Camp Staff

Edgewood Camp is looking for positive, energetic persons, willing to share their Christian faith in these summer camp staff positions: Program Co-ordinator, Admin Assistant, Leadership Training Coordinator, Special Needs Integration Counselor, Day Camp Coordinator, Head Lifeguard, Head Cook, leadership positions in crafts / nature / music / low ropes / outdoor rec., cabin counselors, life guards, kitchen & maintenance staff.

Pastor Anne sits on the Board of Directors for Camp Edgewood. You can speak to Pastor Anne for details about jobs. Also, Cass Lindner has served on staff. You can talk to her about her experience.

✚ andré lavergne

✚ 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 2 (Continued): What About Jesus?

Jesus and the light shining through

When I look over the rug for signs of God shining through in human history, for me the brightest spot is the life of Jesus. All of the others are important, but, for me, it's at this point where I see something unique and special. I use Jesus as my major clue for understanding God and the universe. When I say 'Jesus', I am really referring only to a short period of his life just before his death, three years or perhaps even less than a year, the period covered by the gospels. And I am referring to the impression he left on those around him, especially as it is preserved in what they remembered about him. The data base is fairly small, but big enough to get an overall picture. It is a composite picture about remembered history but painted in the colours and style of people living two generations later.



What do I see in Jesus? Before I answer that, let me recap: what am I looking for? I am looking for what God is like, what life is all about. I am wanting to get in touch with what lies behind the universe, what makes sense of it, what ultimately matters. These are all God-type questions. What do I see when I look at the data we have on Jesus?

The first thing that I see is that Jesus taught that God is loving and compassionate towards all people. Nothing stands in the way of that love and respect for people, not their race, their religion, their sex, their age, not even if they are people who are the worst rogues under the sun. Nothing indicates that Jesus was blind to all these differences or naively pretended everyone was good and therefore deserved loving. On the contrary his love was honest and straight. He came face to face with an immoral swindler, but was not prepared to write him off. He wrote no-one off. Contrary to the attitudes of many in his day, he treated women as equals, he welcomed outcasts, he valued people considered small and insignificant, including children.

Jesus lived what he taught

In other words, Jesus lived out in his life what he taught and what he believed about God. Without making a big thing of it, he claimed to be reflecting God's own attitudes in what he said and did. You can see that in the stories he told. One

tells of a father. This father had a son who wheedled out of him the share of his father's fortune which he would have inherited when his father died. He went off with all this money, made a right mess of his life and then had the audacity to turn up again at his father's homestead. What did the father do? Shut the door on his son or, at least, make sure first that he had mended his ways? No. The father did what any decent father would do: when he saw his son coming, he was filled with compassion, got up, ran down the road and embraced him. That's how we ought to think of God, said Jesus. Jesus' portrait of this father is provocative, because it broke the cultural norms according to which fathers should be seen to act with dignity and reserve. For Jesus, God does not play the power games of dignity and reserve.

Jesus used stories of human love and compassion like this as his model for God. God is not like an offended father or mother who says: 'I never want to see you again'; or: 'I'll only accept you back if you make amends!' Nor is Jesus' picture of God one of a king or ruler obsessed with getting everyone to bow and scrape before him. Jesus does use the traditional language of king to refer to God; he even lives by a vision of a day when God will

reign over all in the universe. But the picture of this reign is a picture not of subjugation to a tyrant, but of human beings living in a loving community, eating and drinking together in peace, enjoying each other and enjoying oneness with God.

The vision and the reality

Jesus appears to have used a common vision of how things could be when God reigns, as a blueprint for his own lifestyle. This makes sense because if you live by a picture of how it will be when God reigns, then that is the same as letting God reign in your life now. And letting God reign or rule in your life now is just another way of saying: living in a way that is in touch with God. Or we could say: letting God's energy and spirit have its way in your life. In that sense we are also talking about what it means to live fully as a human being. Being truly human means letting the love and compassion of God that is within and behind the universe flow through your life.

You can see the way this works out when Jesus talks about various aspects of human life. People were concerned about what was right and wrong. He changed the direction of their thinking. They looked at the commandments. Jesus looked beyond them. So instead of just saying, 'Don't murder', Jesus said: 'Don't write people off at all, not even by your thoughts.' Similarly instead of talking about adultery, he taught that any sexual exploitation of women is wrong, whether it is in your action or just in your attitude. He attacked the divorce system of the day which drove many

women into poverty. He called for straight honesty in relationships and went so far as arguing that no situation justifies your writing anyone off, not even if the person is your worst enemy. The attitude of treating others as people of worth runs through everything he said and did.

Putting this kind of radical love at the heart of his thinking about God and at the heart of his practical living brought Jesus into conflict with many of his contemporaries. He was a practising Jew, but sat lightly to many of its ritual and cultic rules, especially where human need was concerned. He wasn't anti religious, but he saw rites and rituals as an aid to what was the central thing: helping people become one with God and live at one with others.

Jesus' lifestyle and God's lifestyle

Jesus probably had his own characteristic rituals and practices. One of them seems to have been giving meals a special significance as times of sharing and belonging together. The church's practice of Holy Communion stems ultimately from Jesus' own practice. He seems to have openly shared meals with all sorts of people, from the pious and respectable to the rogue and outcast. These were occasions of acceptance and celebration flowing from his strong belief in God's love for all. Another of his characteristics was his simple lifestyle: he had a small band of women and men who travelled around with him and they all shared a common purse for daily needs. Jesus declared that when God's reign comes it will be good news for the poor. People who were poor would have found acceptance and support in his company. His vision was of a changed society with no discards; what he hoped was also what he lived.

He appears also to have had the ability to heal people. Miracle stories are often legendary and it is always hard to tell fact from pious fiction. Some stories, like those about Jesus walking on water and stilling storms, probably reflect pictures people drew of Jesus after the event rather than actual occurrences. They are powerfully symbolic. But there is probably a kernel of stories that go back to Jesus' activity as a successful faith healer.

The primary thing about Jesus was his claim to be living out the way God wants us to be. It was precisely because Jesus was truly human in this sense that we say he was truly God. He never said anything like: I am God. But it is not wide of the mark when people said that to meet him was like meeting God. After all, he was a window on what God is like. That is what they believed and what I believe. The earliest Christian writer, Paul, said: 'God was in Christ'; and later Church shorthand simply said: he was God. But they never meant for one moment that he was not an ordinary

human being like you and me.

Jesus' public execution

Jesus stuck with his conviction about God. His life ended in a gruesome public execution. The Romans killed him by their usual method: crucifixion. They nailed him up on a wooden cross along with others they considered criminals, with the charges against them hung over their heads for all to see. It was a common method of deterring crime. For them he was probably just another statistic. Crucifixions were common.



The Romans had probably been fed information by the temple authorities in Jerusalem that Jesus should be considered dangerous. The present accounts of Jesus' trial and death in the gospels are so much shaped by the Christians' own later encounter with Jewish and Roman courts that it is almost impossible to reconstruct what really happened in Jesus' last days. Maybe the Romans considered any movement that was growing in momentum as suspicious. The Jews had been producing a number of popular movements, many of which were directly anti-Roman. Perhaps Jesus'

rather confrontational approach to the hierarchical temple system in Jerusalem, where the rich and powerful held sway, tipped the scales against him. The Romans would have seen any destabilising of the temple as an action against their own interests.

It was a mixture of political and religious concerns that removed Jesus. Jesus and his message of love had the capacity to transform people's attitudes, to offer individuals new hope and to set the agenda for a just and peaceful world. But he was snuffed out - almost by accident, a victim of the political and religious fears of his day. It is hardly fair to say the Jews as a people killed him; it was the political and religious authorities

Next month: The cross, a symbol of love

✚ *bill loader*

✚ Thank you, Shepherds, Dove Team!

Trinity's shepherds do a remarkable job of getting our newsletter, offering envelope sets and other items into the hands of our parishioners. To you, we say, "thank you." And to the "Dove Team" —the people who, once a month, assemble TRINITY DOVE—we also express a word of thanks. Great stuff!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Tintinnabulations

December 20 ~ TT@MM!

Bob & Nancy Kelly are on at 7 pm for Third Thursdays at MeMe's. You should be there too!

December 28 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Trinity will host its annual Christmas clinic on Friday, December 29, from 2 pm to 7:30 pm clinic at W-O. Ken Seltzer, 662-2432, is looking for a number of volunteers to help with set-up, take-down and regular hosting duties.

January 7 ~ Annual Reports Due

Council members and others: Annual reports are due by 9 am.

January 7 ~ ELW Gathering

Trinity's ELW gathers, 2 pm, to receive annual reports and more. All women are welcome. Contact Mildred Knackstedt, 662-3739, for information.

January 8 ~ Adult Learning Team

We'll gather at 8:30 am in the Martin Luther Room.

January 8 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

January 15 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends Readers gather, 7:30 pm, at members' homes. Information from Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960. This month's pick: *River Thieves* by Michael Crummey.

January 17 ~ DOVE Prep Team

The DOVE Preparation Team gathers at 9 am.

January 17 ~ TT@MM!

Bec Abbott: Contemporary Music! Contemporary Faith? That's Third Thursdays at MeMe's at 7 pm.

February 10 ~ Annual Meeting

The date is Sunday, February 10, 10:45 am. Note the deadline for annual reports indicated above.

Mondays, 8 pm ~ CLEAN

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

Tuesdays, 6:45 pm ~ TOPS

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

Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A

A/A —Alcoholics Anonymous— meets for an open meeting in Trinity Hall.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Thank you, Sherry!

We are grateful to Sherry Coman for directing this year's Faith Adventures Christmas program. It's been a big adventure with lots of participation by young and old alike. People take to the stage on Sunday, December 16, at 7 pm, following our Sanctuary gathering and a pot-luck supper.

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ Wilmot Community Lunch

Community Care Concepts has organized a monthly lunch for seniors and for adults with a disability. It's really more than a lunch —It's a full dinner with entertainment! A poster with current details is posted in the narthex. In general, meals will be served at Zion United Church. with doors open at 11:30 am, lunch at noon, and entertainment at 1 pm. The next date is Wednesday, January 9.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Christmas Offerings

Worshippers are invited to designate their Christmas offerings however they wish (General, Capital, Pastors' Discretionary, etc.). *Undesignated* offerings are placed in the *General Fund*.

To be eligible for a 2007 tax credit, contributions should be *forwarded to the Church by Monday, December 31*. We will keep our books open for a few days to take account of any offerings caught in the mail. Thank you for playing your part in keeping Trinity financially healthy!

✚ *andré lavergne*



✚ Finances to November 30, 2007

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 222,559	\$ 13,523	\$ 18,839
Outgo	235,006	9,615	16,353
Balance	(\$ 12,447)	\$ 3,908	\$ 2,486

Fund Balances

We've made progress in our General Fund. However, our Capital Fund will be completely depleted as we complete the replacement of windows on Wilmot Street and in the 1910 wing. Please review your offering statement and help us to enter the new year without debt.

✚ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

✚ Nurturing Faith

Faith Adventures for January 6

Reminder for Faith Adventures families: on Epiphany (Sunday, January 6), we will all come together for crafts, storytelling, music and time in the movie theatre. Our theme will be "Celebrating Christmas & Epiphany." We hope to see you there!

On the same day, we'll also hold our first **2008 Family Event**, inviting families to choose between an afternoon of swimming (2 to 4 pm; family of 4 \$11.86 plus \$1 for each additional child) OR skating (2 to 3:45 pm; \$5 per family). Afterward, we'll gather at the church for hot chocolate. Children are encouraged to bring their favourite Christmas toy to play with during free play until our Sanctuary service at 5 pm. A **potluck** is planned after worship. Come and enjoy some time with your Trinity family!

There's a **refresher training session** for teachers and shepherds planned for January 9 at 7 pm. The Faith Adventures Team will meet afterward.

Affirmation! Grades 7 & 8

There are new dates out for our 2008 program. Please check online and mark your calendars!

Grade 7: Tuesday, January 15, 7-8 pm, regular session in the Martin Luther Room.

Grade 8: Tuesday, January 22, 7-8 pm, regular session in the Katie Luther Room.

✚ krista durrer & anne anderson

✚ The TYGers' Den

Junior TYGers (Grades 6-8)

On Saturday, December 22, we're going to do some Christmas Gift Scrap-Booking. What's that? Come, find out! We'll meet from 1 to 3 pm in the Martin Luther Room. Please bring a Twoney to help with costs. Don't have a couple of bucks? Don't worry... You're always welcome!

On Saturday, January 12, 1-3pm, we'll gather for an afternoon of games and snacks. How many of you think you can beat Trevor at Killer Bunnies? "What's that?" you ask. Come, find out! We'll meet in the Faith Adventures Art Room.

Senior TYGers (Grades 9 and up)

We'll meet at the church on Friday, Dec. 21, 7 pm, for Christmas carolling followed by hot-chocolate and *Hairspray* in the Bruce Hammer Theatre. All welcome!

We'll gather on Sunday, January 20, 6-8 pm. Do you know all the words to *High School Musical 2* yet? Likely, Scott Malloch does! Come out for Sanctuary service at 5pm and stay for pizza and a night of crazy sing-along in the Bruce Hammer Theatre. Don't sing? Come and laugh at the rest!

Halifax-Bound TYGers

We'll have many opportunities for TYGers to get ready for their trip to Halifax. In January we'll have an Elmira Poultry Sales fund-raiser. Families are asked to check in with Val Gerber or Tracey Erb for forms and pick up/drop off dates.

✚ anne anderson

✚ Extra Eastern Synod Scholarship \$\$\$

Additional 2007-08 funds for first-time applicants! Applications are due Feb. 14. Pr. Anne has forms.

✚ anne anderson

✚ Sanctuary Community

For the first time, our Sanctuary Community will host the Christmas Day service. We'll gather, 9:30 am, for readings, carols & communion under the leadership of soloist/guitarist Keith Thom and Anne Anderson.

✚ anne anderson

