

Trinity Dove

May 22, 2005 + Holy Trinity + Mission and More

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne & Nadine Nicholds, Pastors
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✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, May 29 ~ Pentecost 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 with Verne Hammer.

Sunday, June 5 ~ Pentecost 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 with Cy Ridout.
- ✚ Susan Salmon Students' Recital at 2 pm.

Sunday, June 12 ~ Pentecost 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 with Jim and Nancy Arbuckle.

Sunday, June 19 ~ Pentecost 5

Church Music Sunday and Father's Day

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

Sunday, June 26 ~ Pentecost 6

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

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Wow: 33 Layettes!

The ELW forwarded 33 full layettes to Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Isn't that terrific? We are grateful to all who made a contribution of whatever kind. Thank you!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ E-mail Addresses

We have recently installed an upgrade to our congregational membership program. Enclosed in this issue of TRINITY DOVE is a request for family e-mail addresses. We have the facility to e-mail individuals and groups such as Sunday School classes, ELW members, TYGers, etc. Please fill in the form and drop it on the offering plate. Thanks!

✚ *jill merner & andré lavergne*

Inside TRINITY DOVE

Pastor André ~ MISSION AND MORE	
Sacraments & Seasons	3
Molly Wolf ~ WHITE CHINA <i>and</i> WAITING	4
Tintinnabulations	6
Bob Ruthig ~ Financial Update	7
TYGer Tales	7

✚ Pastor André ~ Mission and More

Grace and peace to you!

A Word of Thanks

On Sunday, May 1, at a spring barbecue, Trinity's pastoral staff was honoured with some terrific fun and the presentation of certificates of thanksgiving. It was a lovely afternoon, made all the more fun by its having been a surprise.

Together with pastors Syd and Nadine, I want to express my thanksgiving for wonderful day and for the love and caring which were woven throughout. This is a great place to do ministry and a marvelous community in which to share in all of the joys and sorrows, the sadnesses and celebrations of life. Thank you!

Looking Ahead: Second Service?

For some 20-30 years, Trinity's second service has seen a steady decline in attendance. In my early years, the community which gathered at the later service was older. Most of my funerals, in the 80's and 90's celebrated the lives of 11 o'clock folks.

We are now at a place where people are inviting us to consider whether it might be well to bring the holding of a later service to a close and to concentrate our efforts on the earlier service. This possibility has been the subject of conversation for some years at Council, during the Sunday coffee hour, at choir practice and out in the wider community. Trinity's pastors have been pledged to support the later service so long as a community wished to meet. It would appear that we may have reached a place where calling it a day would be the significant desire of our people.

Do you have any thoughts on the question? One service? Two? Same time? Different time? A second service at some other time (midweek, Saturday...)? Speak to a pastor or to our Council President, Don Jardin. In any event, we will continue the later service into June (as usual) and hold a single, early service, during the summer. Thereafter, we shall see... Council is interested in your views.

Already, some have ventured various ideas as to the reconfiguration or preservation of our existing Sunday program. As well, some have expressed concern for the impact on Sunday School and Adult Learning. Whatever we do, we would likely do it on a trial basis for the next program year and reevaluate in the Spring of 2006.

Looking Ahead: Trinity's Mission?

A few weeks ago, Trinity's Adult Learning team had an interesting discussion about Trinity's mission. What is our mission? ...among our people? ...in the New Hamburg community? ...in the larger church and wider world? Are there areas of ministry where we would do well to place more emphasis? Already, we've heard some interesting comments.

We've noted how the older segment of our community has grown in recent years with the advent of Morningside, Foxboro and Stone Croft and with the expansion of Nithview (Trinity has the largest number of congregational members at Nithview!) These communities have seen a significant influx of people from near and far.

We have heard concerns about younger, single-parent, blended and other families: that they not fall between the cracks with the shift in local demographics

We've heard that numbers of volunteers seem to be falling in the community. Some hold that younger people are less able or apt to volunteer in community programs. In

any event, it's clear that we've much to ponder!

Please give these matters some thought. Council will be talking about Sunday morning and we expect some lively Adult Learning conversation, this fall, about our mission.

We welcome your voice!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Luther Hostel at WLS

Imagine a week filled with uplifting worship, inspiring speakers and breathtaking opportunities to spread your spiritual wings. Imagine early summer evenings filled with laughter, music and the scent of barbecue and you will have some idea of what you can expect when you choose to become part of the Luther Hostel experience.

Dr. Kelly Fryer (whose book we've been studying) will be the keynote speaker in this inaugural year of Luther Hostel. Luther Hostel will take place June 13-17, in Waterloo. A great faculty has been assembled for the event. Complete details are carried on the narthex board. Financial assistance available. Speak to either Pastor Nadine or Pastor André.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Births

We congratulate Krista (Bean) and Darcy Ayre on the January 13 birth of Peyton Mackenzie; Shelley (Mello) and Steve Hayden on the April 25 birth of Alicia Paige; Jane (Joyce) and Greg Steinberg on the April 28 birth of Sally Victoria; and Jane (Hamilton) and Andy Knackstedt on the May 4 birth of Anna Kate Lindsay.

Baptisms

We rejoice with David and Holly Bast upon the baptisms of Lucas Clayton-Peter and Lauren Amelia-Mary; Alison Burchatzki upon the baptism of Owen James; Krista & Darcy Ayre upon the baptism of Peyton Mackenzie. These four baptisms took place on May 15, the Feast of Pentecost.

June Birthdays

1 - Betty Bondy; **3** - June Schmidt, Margot Popp, Kim Dahms, Scott Diebel, Julie Steinberg; **4** - Russell Strickler; **5** - Christine Normandeau, Mackenzie Preikschas; **6** - Susan Nickolas, Keith Ropp, Jim Meyer, Maggie Racho, Natasha Lindner; **7** - Ken Pauli, Gisela Magnus, Mary Beatty, Christel Mueller, Colin Farr; **8** - Aiden Anger; **9** - Nancy Butz, Natalie Eichler, Jeff Wallace, Jeffrey Kropf, Breanna Firetto-Gross, Verne Hammer; **10** - Bernice Briand, Brodie Schroeder, Emily Ritz; **11** - Bob Gingerich, Ryan Hillar; **12** - Elaine Schmidt, Karen Firetto-Gross, Sandra Junker, Chad Gravill, Sophia Bailey; **13** - Chris Ritz, Bill Lindner, Brad Otterbein, Dianne Hillar, Steve Lippert, Tristen Ellis; **14** - Peyton Boehler; **15** - John Mueller, Andrea Merner, Jake Straus, Jessica Leu, Andrew Sheard; **16** - Mary Trussler, David Farr, Shelly Hayden, Alexander Lake, Kirsten Livingston; **17** - Stan Leis, Carol Murray, Rhonda Egerdee; **18** - Lauren Bast; **19** - Doris Bast, John McCurdy; **20** - Joanne Hills, Jane Bean, Nicholas Preikschas, Sadie Hammer; **21** - Emilie Faruzel, Tom Wallace, Ryan Yost; **22** - Betty Murray, Dale Hillar, Val Schaaf, Emily Morrison; **23** - Elva Trussler, Sarah Mueller; **24** - Marilyn Moore, Régis St-Pierre; **25** - Gordon Faulhafer; **26** - Gwen Abraham, Brandon Danner, Justin Danner; **27** - Jim Brennan, Corrie DeRuiter, Kevin Bean; **28** - Richard Gerber, Ann Patton, Becca Klooster; **29** - Jean Cook, Eddy Livingston, Dave Rogers, Kerry Livingston, Tanya Witzel, Tara Witzel, Kyle Schwartz; **30** - Robert Lindner, Chris Jantzi, Jason Daer, Craig Hammer, Kate Bender, Bethana Bechtel. Happy birthday, friends.

June Anniversaries

1 - Denise & Bob Gingerich; **8** - Karl & Pat Ruthig, Brad & Sandy Martin, James & Patty Ingold, Shelley & Steve Hayden; **9** - Ken & Marilyn Hoffman, Launi & Pat Eichler, Ray & Ruby Straus; **12** - Kaye & Ken Pauli, Jessica & Mike Schiedel, Holly & Paul McNally; **13** - Cliff & Anne Wootton; **17** - Fred & Marianne Leu, Larry & Mary Ann Keller; **20** - Gwen & Bob Ruthig, Dianne & Murray Ludington; **22** - Dana & Greg Martin; **23** - Barb & Stan Otterbein, Arthur & Jeanette Long, Jean & Ross Shantz; **25** - Darla & Peter Hammer; **26** - Rick Whittacker & Barb Schwartzentruber; **27** - Gywin & Jim Murray; **29** - Jane & Ross Eichler; **30** - Grace & Grant McGregor. Happy anniversary, friends.

✚ *jill merner*

✚ A Word of Thanks

On Saturday, May 14, a large number of people turned out to help with our Spring Work Day. As always, Henry Simon gave leadership to the work. The day came together very well indeed! We extend a word of thanks to all who gathered, to those who helped with lunch, and to those who help with countless property items from day to day and week to week between formal work days. Thanks, all!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ ELW Cradle Roll Gathering

Trinity's ELW is hosting a fifth annual gathering of cradle roll infants and toddlers and the invitations are in the mail! Of course, all family members —moms, dads, omas, opas, brothers and sisters— are welcome! There will be stories and music with Susan Salmon followed by a snack. The gathering will last about 45 minutes or so and will serve as a great opportunity to meet other Trinity families having children at a similar place in their development. It's also a great opportunity for a mid-morning getaway!

The gathering will take place on Wednesday, June 1, at 10 am, in Trinity Hall. You may enter by the kitchen door or the main entrance near the parking lot. Someone will be in touch during the week of May 22 to confirm participation. As well, further information is available from me, Shirley Unrau, at 662-1515. We look forward to greeting you on June 1.

✚ *shirley unrau*

✚ Molly Wolf's Sabbath Blessings

For many years, Molly Wolf has been a regular contributor to TRINITY DOVE. Years ago, I wrote her and asked permission to download and reprint an essay each month from the Web. These days, I just get them directly in my e-mail.

Over the years, we've shared in her lovely *take* on the world that she encounters from day-to-day. Often, she is joyous, taking delight! She has also hinted, at times, at some of the hurt and pain in her world —pain that seems familiar and not-unlike that with which we are familiar in our own worlds.

Anyway, with this issue, we get to rejoice, a little, with Molly Wolf. She has recently published her latest book. It's called *WHITE CHINA: FINDING THE DIVINE IN THE EVERYDAY* (Forward by Phyllis Tickle. Jossey-Bass, an imprint of Wiley: 2005; ISBN: 0-7879-6580-4).

The title, *WHITE CHINA*, appeared on her December, 2001, essay in TRINITY DOVE. The essay was, in fact, a sermon preached at St. James Anglican Church, Kemptville, Ontario, on Christmas Eve, 2000. A lovely piece!

Anyway, here is her latest and a bonus! We rejoice with Molly. © 2005, 2004 Molly Wolf. —*André Lavergne*

The Box

The cardboard carton sits in the front hall, right by the steps where I set it when the UPS man delivered it on Thursday.

I touch it lightly with my foot every time I walk past it. It's a box of books. More specifically, it's 22 copies of the same book. (There were 25, but I've already given two away and the 25th sits on my desk.) I really should put it in the TV room closet with the other boxes of books, but not yet. Not for a few days.

I never thought this would happen. I thought I'd dried up completely, that I'd never be able to write God-stuff with the authority and integrity and the lightness of touch that God-stuff needs. For a long, painful time God seemed too remote, too unfaithful — my head knew better, as my head usually does, but belief isn't the same as faith, and for a long time my faith was sore and aching. My editor was incredibly patient with me (thank you, Sheryl!) but we were both worried. The person who should have been most supportive of me kept murmuring into my doubts "What if you can't write again? What will you do then?"

But then, in June, it all came together: I found enough bits and pieces, and wrote more, and sometimes the words hesitated and stammered and had to be yanked onto the screen one phrase at a time, but sometimes (blessedly) they flew and I had that old and beloved feeling of simply letting the God-stuff pour out without the slightest effort. After a month of intensive work, I printed everything out and tossed the print-outs into piles on the TV room floor: this piece goes with that one, this one belongs here.... The sorting and organizing process took about half an hour. I did a word count. I had a book. I don't think I've had a more richly satisfying moment than when I hit SEND and the files went flying off to San Francisco.

Then it was into *The Process*. I've done everything in book-making from writing proposals to indexing — everything except design and actually setting the type. I've been an editor far longer than I've been a writer. I know *The Process*. Edit, review, copy edit, page proofs, legal check, permissions (an experienced writer arranges matters to avoid permissions as much as humanly possible — I learned that one!) One thing was different: each time I saw the thing, I liked it better. Usually,

writers learn to hate the book by their third time through it.

On Thursday I held the book for the first time, my first book in three and a half years. I hadn't expected to be this delighted. I'm wary of expectations now; I've learned (painfully) a fair bit about the publishing world, and I keep my expectations low. Even when the book got a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*, I wasn't going to get my hopes up. I'm still being cautious.

But holding a new book is, very slightly, like holding a new baby, although considerably less messy. There is that moment when the cover's still unblemished and the pages sit with that special virginal compactness, pressed close by the binding and the packing, unruffled by anyone's exploring fingers. Part of me wants to keep one copy aside, unopened, just to hold onto that moment.

Much more than that: this particular book is a victory of faith over experience, of trust over deep hurt. It says that when times get dark, you can choose to go on believing: belief, like love, is an act of will, not of emotion. And yes, that can carry you through to the other side, where faith becomes a possibility once again.

Hello, *WHITE CHINA*. Thank you, God.

✚ Molly Wolf II

Waiting

Darn-it, I want *green*.

Yes, I know, I know. Look at any tree or shrub in the neighbourhood and you'll see buds or emergent young leaves or the awkward dangle of tree-flowers. The local willows have turned that peculiar pre-leaf bronzy chartreuse. And it's only May 1st, which (in these parts) is a bit early for full leaf-out. I know. I've lived in Canada for more than 30 years now, and I should be used to this.

And there are places where it's worse. In Halifax, for example, leaf-out doesn't happen until about 2:30 in the afternoon of May 29th, and lasts for about 15 minutes. I know, because I timed it; when I went for my coffee break the city was still late winter and when I came back, it was summer.

But I still want green, and I want it now. Not next week, which is when we'll probably see it. Now. Instead, I see only what looks like the infinitely-stretching-out tail end of Mud Season, the trees still grey-brown against a sullen sky.

I think everybody feels more or less the same way around here. There's a sort of collective held breath as we wait for the shimmer of colour to erupt overhead. People are out tentatively poking at their gardens, looking down the street, expectant, yet hesitant. We don't *think* it's going to snow again, but you can't be absolutely sure. No point planting anything yet, unless it's something hardy.

Christians feel the same way about the coming of the Kingdom, but the wait has gone on so long that the prospect seems to stretch right over the horizon and into the indefinite future, for most of us at least. I don't know many Anglicans with bumper stickers saying "In case of Rapture, this car will be empty!" which, in any event, seems just a little presumptuous for Anglican tastes. The world continues in its usual (and at the moment particularly) dismal ways. Hopes rise and fall, just as the seasons cycle. I know for sure that spring *will* come, but I know with equal certainty that the muggy heats of August will follow, and we'll cycle inevitably back into winter again. I wish I had the same certainty about the cycle of good and evil in this world, but sometimes Mud Season really does seem to stretch on for years.

Maybe we're looking for the wrong *parousia*. We want God to speak up, to make big splashy miracles in order to prove to us that God really is in charge. We want God to intervene actively, thrusting a stick in the hamster wheel that we're racing on so that we'll be tumbled off and forced to stop.

But God doesn't seem to work that way, or not reliably (and what use is an unreliable God?) For every cancer that miraculously vanishes overnight, at least one other runs to its mortal conclusion. And it's childish to think that somehow we're being rewarded or punished when, in fact, the guilty often thrive while the innocent suffer.

But that's just experience talking, and over against experience I set my faith — a faith that still keeps jumping me even after all these years and will not seem to leave me alone for very long.

Faith says that once I look past my own postage-stamp-sized bit of reality, there *is* change in the air. It's a change in the atmosphere. While some things (public manners, for example) seem to have slid badly, there are new forms of awareness.

We have begun to understand something about living better with this planet if we're going to live at all. Even if peace, freedom, equity and justice aren't universal, the awareness of the need for them has grown in my lifetime. We no longer accept the propriety of oppression, even if oppression still exists. We no longer shrug over the casualties of war. And their casualties have begun to matter to us, if not as much as our own.

I don't know about the long run, of course; maybe the *parousia* people are simply more long-sighted than I am. But in my lifetime, maybe the Kingdom coming will have nothing to do with bodies being snatched up or left behind; maybe it will be a rise in human consciousness, an acceptance of our need for love and our need to share it — God's love, always, but transmitted by human hands and voices. Not a matter of angels blowing trumpets and mighty battles between Good and Evil, but a quiet greening underfoot, so quiet that we may not even know it. Grace prevenient, going before us and preparing the way.

When I walk down to the village for the Saturday papers, the neighbourhood trees still lift bare branches against the jostling breeze, grey-brown in the dull late-morning light. But the grass under my feet is lush and verdant, and very, very green.

✚ Tintinnabulations

June 1 ~ Cradle Roll Gathering

The ELW gathers at 10 am to host their annual cradle roll gathering. Complete details are carried on page 2.

June 7 ~ Prayer Circle Update

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

June 10 ~ Women's Night In

Trinity will host a WOMAN'S NIGHT IN jointly sponsored by the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Community Counselling Centre. The evening is designed to "celebrate women in our community" and will take place on Friday, June 10, from 6 to 10 pm.

The event will offer women the opportunity to "discover local talents and services" and will provide participants with "an enjoyable, affirming and exciting occasion supportive of positive relationships and focused on women's health and well-being." To register or to express interest, please call Margaret at 662-3092. See the narthex board for details.

June 27 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Hillcrest Mennonite Church is hosting a 2:30 pm - 8:30 pm clinic at Waterloo-Oxford DSS. Please join your sisters and brothers in giving the gift of life!

TOTS on Summer Hiatus

The TOTS group usually gathers at 11:45 am for lunch and fellowship. They will be on hiatus for June, July and August and will resume activities, on September 19, with a barbecue out at Holiday Beach. Rides are always available. Contact Pr. Syd Hills, 662-4919, for information.

Gentle Friends on Summer Hiatus

The Gentle Friends normally gather at 7:30 pm, on the third Tuesday of the month, at the home of Kathryn Ritz, 39 Hunter St. We're on hiatus until September. The August TRINITY DOVE will carry news of our upcoming reading. Contact Kathryn, at 662-2960, for information.

✚ *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 hospitalized for even a single night, let us know. These days, *no one* is kept over-night without significant reason! We currently have 8 people in and out of various hospitals so we try to visit twice a week. Please help us to offer the quality of ministry our people expect. Please call.

✚ *andré lavergne & nadine nicholds*

✚ Trinity Church Library

Trinity maintains one of the finest—if not *the* finest—parish libraries around. The library contains many volumes from the pastors' personal collections and, in fact, we're running out of shelf space! Currently, there's a terrific sample of parenting and related books on display in the narthex. Take a look! As always, you're on your honour. Take what you wish and return the material when read!

And, too: Do you have any library books at home? Finished with them? Is one of Trinity's volumes holding up the fourth leg on that old sofa? Bring the stuff back!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Adult Learning at Trinity

Interesting Lives

We are resuming our *Interesting Lives: My Life as a Christian* Sunday adult learning series on Sunday, May 29. Verne Hammer will be on deck. In the following weeks, we will hear from Cy Ridout and from Jim & Nancy Arbuckle. Thank you, friends, for your witness!

Adult Learning Ideas

We've begun planning for the 2005-2006 adult learning season. We plan to focus on "Mission." We already have a few ideas percolating, including a September 18 visit from Dr. Bob Kelly of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. As always, we'd welcome ideas for Sunday morning or Tuesday evening (as in Lent) sessions. Speak to Don Jardin.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to April 30, 2005

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 78,185	\$ 6,340	\$ 11,094
Outgo	95,764	4,075	10,223
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Balance	- 17,579	2,266	871

The Year to Date

The year advances with a dramatic General Fund deficit of \$17,579. This is a major problem. Our hydro and, especially, our heating costs have been atrocious. That's not news to anyone who pays the bills at home! At the same time, receipts are running just slightly ahead of 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.

Elsewhere, the Capital Fund is ahead by \$2,266 with the new alarm system fully paid for. As reported at the annual meeting, the next major Capital item will be 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.

Please help us to address our General Fund deficit. One of the most helpful things we can do is join PAR.

Consider PAR for Summer & Always!

As the lean summer months approach, please consider joining Trinity's PAR program.

PAR contributions fluctuate from month to month as people join and leave. We currently receive \$7,616 per month or \$91,392 per year from 57 PAR families. Some \$77,748 of this is earmarked for the General Fund. This represents about 32% of our \$245,000 General Fund envelope requirements for the year. That's one third! Please help us to improve!

A PAR application was enclosed with your 2004 income tax receipt. PAR applications are also available from the narthex or church office. Please take to heart the request to join Trinity's very helpful PAR program. PAR is great stewardship!

✚ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

✚ Discipleship ~ Children & Youth

Sunday School

Sunday, June 12, is our last day for Sunday School. What a fantastic year we have had. We owe a huge "thanks" to all our wonderful teachers and helpers that have offered so much of themselves to make this year such a success. THANK YOU!!!!

I would also like to say thanks to our wonderful Discipleship Committee. They have worked hard all year behind the scenes to help make our Sunday's go smoothly. We couldn't do it with out you.

Our next Sunday School season starts again in the fall —on Sunday, September 11. See you then!

Affirmation! Ministry

Affirmation Classes are finished for the season. I look forward to camp this summer with the kids going into grade 7 &

8. Camp dates are August 21 - 26. Remember, registration forms are due back to me by June 5.

Affirmation! Mentoring Schedule

Yellow Team - "Community" Share sheet

Indigo Team - "Me, a Liar?" Share sheet

✚ nadine nicholds

✚ TYGers

Attention all youth! Mark Saturday, June 11, on your calenders for *THE AMAZING RACE - TYGER STYLE*. I know that all youth will be super-excited about taking part in this terrific adventure. Youth from grade 6 and up are eligible to go on this trip. This is the introduction for the grade 6 kids to youth group. Friends are welcome. Space is limited: only 20 spots. Sign up a.s.a.p. to confirm your participation!!!!

FULL SERVE, the 2006 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering, will take place in Winnipeg, August 17-20, next summer. Anyone who has completed grade 8 by June, 2006 (through to age 18) is eligible to attend. We'll begin fund-raising shortly. Please sign up as soon as possible to indicate interest.

✚ nadine nicholds