

Trinity Dove

September 18, 2005 + Pentecost 18 + Doors

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

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.

Sunday, October 2 ~ Pentecost 20

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am. Adults: Think Globally. Act Locally.

Sunday, October 9 ~ Pentecost 21

Celebration of Thanksgiving

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

Sunday, October 16 ~ Pentecost 22

Baptismal Sunday. New Members Joining.

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ SCS at 10:05 am. Adults: Think Globally. Act Locally.

Sunday, October 23 ~ Pentecost 23

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am. Adults: Think Globally. Act Locally.

Sunday, October 30 ~ Reformation (observed)

Confirmands' Witness

- ✚ Worship at 9 am; Parish Update at 8:50 am.
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- ✚ Sunday School at 10:05 am. Adults: Think Globally. Act Locally.

✚ *andré lavergne*

Inside TRINITY DOVE

Pastor Nicholds ~ ANSWER THE DOOR!	2
New "Mission" Series: Think Globally...	2
Sacraments & Seasons	3
Molly Wolf ~ I ~ GARDENS	4
Molly Wolf ~ II ~ DOORS	5
Tintinnabulations	6
Coming Soon: New Parish Photo Album	6
Bob Ruthig ~ Financial Update	7
TYGer Tales	7

✚ Pastor Nadine ~ Answer the door!

Greetings!

In June I bought a computer. My first one. I got myself all set up and I have high speed Internet. One thing that I find myself doing—for hours on end, it seems—is reading *blogs*. Blogs are kind of like on-line journals. People muse about things, rant at politicians or post interesting items from newspapers or books.

One blog that has inspired me for this article talks about hospitality. The *Rule of Saint Benedict*—the rule by which the Benedictine community is governed—Chapter 66 expands on the job of the porter. The porter is the guy who answers the door of the monastery.

At the door of the monastery, place a sensible person who knows how to take a message and deliver a reply, and whose wisdom keeps them from roaming about. This porter will need a room near the entrance so that visitors will always find someone there to answer them. As soon as anyone knocks, or a person calls out, the porter will reply “Thanks be to God.” or “Your blessings, please” then, with all the gentleness that comes with the reverence of God, provides a prompt answer with the warmth of love.

On the one hand it seems pretty weird to have a rule about answering the door, but, on the other hand, how we answer the door is the way we approach the other, how we welcome people. We can learn from St. Benedict. We can learn to “answer the door” with the warmth of love. We can learn to greet the guest with “Thanks be to God.” We can learn to be grateful and ready to receive a guest.

Joan Chittister says in her online spot “Insight for Living,” “The porter is to be warmth and welcome at all times, not just when it feels convenient. In the Rule of Benedict, there is no such thing as coming [at the wrong] time to the monastery. Come in the middle of lunch; come in the middle of prayer; come and bother us with you blessings at any time. There is always someone waiting for you.”

In God’s realm, isn’t this the way we ought to be? Always waiting for the *guest*, the *other*, the *embodied Christ*? I think so. Let us always answer the door with a resounding “Thanks be to God!”

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ 25th Anniversary of Ordination!

We will be celebrating Pastor André’s 25th anniversary of ordination on Sunday, September 25. Please join us for worship at 9 am and for fellowship thereafter.

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ 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, joins us for conversation to take up the question “Thinking globally. Acting locally: What is the church’s mission?” He is helping us to look at Trinity’s mission in the New

Hamburg community and the wider-world.

Future speakers will include 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.

Always Looking for New Ideas

We are always looking for new ideas for our Sunday Adult Learning sessions. We are contemplating a “valuing faith” stewardship series for January and some sort of faith and the arts series for Lent. Speak to any of Don Jardin, Judie Seltzer, Nadine Nicholds, André Lavergne, Wilson Abraham or Ray Merner if you have something to suggest.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Of Doors and Porters

The English word “porter” has two meanings derived from two different French words. From the French for “door” (*porte / portier*), the porter is the door-keep. From the French for “to carry” (*porteur / porter*) the porter helps to shoulder the load.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Sacraments & Seasons

Baptisms

We rejoice at the August 28 baptisms of Colin Christopher Jantzi, son of Kelly (Jardine) and Chris Jantzi, and of Sally Victoria Steinberg, daughter of Jane (Joyce) and Greg Steinberg. We welcome you into the Lord's family.

Weddings

Our community rejoices at the September 3 wedding of Shirley Morrison and Gordon Bender. Best wishes!

Funerals

Our community grieves the August 28 death of Cameron Shantz at the age of 83 and the July 28 death of James Miller at the age of 54. We grieve with all who mourn.

October Birthdays

1 - Joshua Stewart; **2** - Ruth Lindner; **3** - Nancy Hallberg, Maxwell Junker; **4** - Paul Diebel, Ted Seyler, Tara Keller, Geordie Campbell, Holly McNally, Meghan Otterbein, Zach Whittacker, Justin Steinman, Zach Winhold; **5** - Burt Flood, Tara Schaaf, Jessica Chester, Bradley Egerdee; **6** - Reta Ridout; **7** - Dave Pauli; **8** - Joan Cook, Dhana Clements, Kelly Jantzi, Jeff Malloch; **9** - Elaine McEllistrum, Tim Pearson, Patty Ingold, Patty Steinman, Jeremy Baan, Stephanie Rogers, Hailey Gingerich; **10** - Brett Witzel, Madison Erb, Olivia Farr; **11** - Shayna Dramnitzki; **12** - Kara Patton, Cody Klaassen; **13** - Virginia Schmidt, Ed Danner, Tim Junker, Trevor Steinman, Maxwell Hammer, Rowan Gravill; **14** - Mackenzie Leclaire; **15** - Barb Schwartzentruber; **16** - Lorraine Schroeder, Bev Yule; **17** - Jean Hammer, Rodrick Bender, Gailen Ludington; **18** - David Bast, Stephanie Morrison; **19** - Henry Simon, Pat Diebel, Kris Ferguson, Laura McCurdy, Ali Pearson, Taylor Becker; **20** - Ebba Petersen; **21** - Larry Roth, Chris Leu; **22** - Ivan Mohr, Lynn Prues, David Butz, Tim Bailey, Alexandra Glencross; **23** - Earl Cressman, Marjorie Forler, Penny Becker, Karen Jutzi, Laurie Bingeman, Sandra Cook; **24** - John Sippel, Eileen Miller; **25** - Jane Klem, Patti Becker; **26** - Frieda Mueller, Arlene Roth, Peter Klem, Gary Wilson, Lori Persaud, Kyle Power, Kaileigh Lindner; **27** - Joanne Randerson, Kyle Kaminska, Rochelle Becker; **28** - Lillian Sippel, Kathryn Eichler, Kim Pearson, Josh Brennan; **29** - August Popp, Joanne Snyder; **30** - Bruce Hammer; **31** - Otto Berg, Janice Junker, Amanda Morrison. Happy Birthday!

October Anniversaries

1 - Christine & Marty Normandean, Judy & Bob Hillar; **2** - Keith & Rachel Heise, Jo-anne & Dave Randerson; **3** - Karen & Rick Haffner; **5** - Stephanie & Kevin Price; **6** - Joyce & Verne Hammer, Melanie & Michael Eichler; **7** - Doug & Nancy Kaminska; **9** - Paula & Bob Povey, Matt & Valarie Ceccardi; **11** - Dorothy & Don Jardin, Kelly & Mark White; **18** - Diane & Bob Anger, Dorothy & Victor Hobbs; **19** - Pam & Paul Koehler; **20** - Keith & Nancy Ropp; **21** - Karen & Ken Barnes; **23** - John & Lou Sippel, Clarence & Marlene Schamber; **24** - Brenda & Edward Ingold; **26** - Brenda & Steven Mathewson; **27** - Muriel & Wilfred Greulich. Happy anniversary, friends.

✚ *jill merner*

✚ Israel ~ Latest Word!

Many from Trinity Lutheran and Zion United Churches have already committed themselves to the journey. The trip to Israel will take place January 23 - February 4, 2006.

Registrations, with a deposit of \$300, are required to secure a seat. Pastors Nadine and Bob Thaler are leading the expedition. Interested? Speak to Pr. Nadine and get your registration in! We'd love to have you on the trip!

✚ *nadine nicholds*

✚ 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*

✚ Property Matters

We will soon be resurfacing the flat roof over the 1950's addition at the back of the church. Work should be under way shortly. This will likely complete the major projects for 2005.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Molly Wolf's Sabbath Blessings

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

I ~ Gardens

Now that the heat and glare of high summer are ending, I'm getting out for walks as much as I can — at least once a day, preferably twice. It's a perfect time of year for walking; the colours are still vibrant, but the slight shadowing as the light's intensity dwindles only makes them richer. The air's mild and tender on my face. I never have a sense of mourning summer, perhaps because I see early fall as the real New Year — the effect of all those years of schooling, I suppose, a time of beginnings. Late August is a long, slow pause before the action starts.

I look at others' gardens as I walk. I am not a gardener; I can't take much sun, for starters, and I haven't the patience to weed (which, I admit, is weird because I do have the patience to spin). I tried to run a garden back at the old house, which had lots of gardens when we first moved there, but I rapidly got overwhelmed and defeated. There's a small strip out in front of my house with a few things that I've planted, but it's really pretty pathetic. As for the side and back yard — let's not go there. Literally. I feel guilty about this, but not enough to do more than keep the grass and weeds reasonably short, lest the city get shirty about the state of my lot.

But I can admire others' gardens. I most admire the gardens that manage a balance between order and wildness; they're clearly tended and loved, but there's a liveliness about them. Their creators have a plan, but the plants themselves co-create the beauty by the way they grow and blossom. Perennials make a framework for the brilliance of annuals. Shrubs become landmarks and add touches of shade, enriching the brightness. A tree ailed and had to be taken down; new shoots come up from the still-living roots, and the gardener regards them and decides how they might be worked in or not. It could be that one's stronger and the others should be cut back to foster that one's growth and give it space. This isn't a case of the gardener imposing a top-down order or pruning shrubs into unnatural shapes or punishing plants for being in the wrong place — which is what a weed is, really — but of working lovingly with what emerges.

A sermon by a wise priest (hi Perren!) reminded me of how this is God's way of working with creation. God isn't the clockmaker, pre-planning our lives and making things happen.

Destiny does not exist, only possibility. I have to believe this, or I have to believe that God is a sadist, given the depth and extent of human suffering. But God works with what there is, seeing possibilities I never could imagine, coaxing what's best out of what's least, if we'll only allow him. God might very well put two souls together, experimentally, as a gardener sets out lilies along the western wall, but whether or not those two souls make a holy union or a travesty is very much up to them. It depends on whether they can jointly work towards God's long-term loving purposes or whether one or both of them has other ends in mind. God might present a person with a vocation, but the person might refuse the vocation, or fail to fulfil it for whatever reason — and God knows, far better than we ever do, what underlies these failures.

We aren't lilies or lupines, after all; they have no choice in how they grow. Given decent conditions, they'll flourish. But we're such complex creatures, formed with definite temperaments (anyone who thinks that babies are blank slates hasn't had one) and talents and nurtured (or not) by parents who are good, bad, or indifferent at the job of parenting. We rub up against the world and it can be a bruising place. Our gifts get fostered or slapped down; we find a place in the world or we wander in the wilderness. Our experience shapes us towards confidence or lack of it, towards trust or fearfulness, towards flexibility or rigour. We can't often see what our assumptions are, much less question them, because our vision's so limited — and because we choose not to look too closely.

Paradoxically, we are creatures of compulsion who also exercise free will — but our wills are only really free if we understand what compels us. The more we turn away from self-understanding, the less likely we are to be able to turn our wills in the way God hopes for and the more likely we are to frustrate God's desires for us. There are, I know, people out there for whom acting Godward seems to be purely natural, but I don't know too many. The rest of us are sinners, after all, never wholly aligned with the Creator's purpose — but through that knowledge lies liberation. If I can see where I'm failing to become all the person I'm meant to be, then perhaps I can consciously turn my will in a more fruitful direction and try to be a better creature of my Creator.

It's mostly a matter of trusting that God *will* work things out and being willing to do my own part — which means having the humility and common sense to examine my own soul and to ask for God's help. I know that God's love for me is boundless and hopeful, and that God wants only my best flowering, nothing more. This knowledge gives me the courage and energy I need to get on with becoming whom I'm

meant to be.

Maybe in time I'll be able to break through my own laziness and resistance and make better use of the bit of garden I've been granted to work with. Two new perennials next year, at least, and maybe I'll set out a few annuals as well.

Note from Nadine - I'm frightened at thinking of myself as a garden. It always comes back to dirt, doesn't it? From now on I think I'll make it my mission to try to come up with a new analogy for those of us who aren't too good with the spade, or any other garden implement.

|| ~ Doors

There are a number of Christian phrases that irritate the bejaysus out of me: "This must be in God's plan for you," or "count it all joy", or "when one door closes, another opens". They irritate me because they seem to deny the reality that sometimes gawdawful stuff happens to people who have done nothing to deserve it, and cheap comfort is not an adequate response. Cheap comfort is walking away from the grief instead of sitting with it patiently and companionably while it works its way through, one bit at a time.

That being said, sometimes one door *does* close and another opens — I have to admit that, rather ruefully (good ol' spiritual pride taking a small licking there). On Wednesday, I found that I wasn't going to get a job I very, very much wanted and would have been good at — no funds, alas! Briefly, my lower lip was out into the next county, especially because my potential boss made it exceedingly clear that she was as disappointed as I was.

Drat. (Useful word. Needs to be revived.)

But on Thursday, thanks to my agent (hi Linda!), another door opened. It looks as though three of my books that I'd consigned to the literary graveyard (two out of print, one on permanent hold) may, in fact, be given back to me, and that I may be able to put them out in a new way. Another writing project that I'd half given up on also looks viable, one that has important personal, as well as professional, ramifications. And yet another book of my own lurks on the horizon, waiting to be started, this time with a strong sense of direction. My vocational life has got back its purpose. I am no longer sitting here spinning in the breeze, wondering how to fill my days. It feels very good.

And so I am willing to go back to those "cheap comfort" phrases that irritate me so, and ask if perhaps I've been looking at them wrong. I still have trouble with "this must be in God's plan for you", because that implies that God is a puppet master or clockmaker, a control freak and micromanager, inflicting pain and awarding joy deliberately, for whatever purpose. I cannot imagine that God's plans include tsunamis and murderous terrorists and babies who die at birth. That God-view died at Auschwitz and we've been crawling out from under the corpse for the last 60 years. The

God of my believing does not inflict suffering but sits with us and shares it. What I can believe, however, is that it's in God's will for me to make what best I can of my experiences, the bad ones as well as the good ones, to go on learning. Maybe not getting the job I wanted should remind me not to be too attached to outcomes. It should remind me not to fall in love with the future but to hold hope lightly, cupped in the palm of my hand — and to go on hoping, even when I'm faced with disappointment. There may be funding for that job next year, after all.

As for "count it all joy" — that sends me back to the epistle in question. James writes that trials produce endurance and endurance makes the believer mature and complete, and that's where the joy is. It's one of those places where context is everything. James says to take the long view, and I have no trouble with that. On the other hand, he also writes that doubt is out of the question; those who doubt are "double-minded and unstable" and mustn't expect anything from God. Well, maybe that's where my problem is, because I do struggle with doubt at times. But again, I have trouble with a God who doesn't see where my doubt is coming from and who can't forgive my frailty.

I keep coming back to the will to believe, the desire to trust: these I can always manage. I can choose over and over again to believe that God is somehow at work in my life, even if I can't see how, and that for that reason, I should take the long view. Maybe a door closes and stays closed; it looks, in fact, as though it had been boarded over and nailed shut. Then maybe instead of resenting the fact that no new door seems to be anywhere in sight, I can trust that somehow, something will present itself when the time comes. Not necessarily today, but maybe that's a thing that I can work with.

For the moment, I'll rest in a small pool of real and pleasurable hope, and it feels good indeed. We'll see how it all turns out.

✚ Tintinnabulations

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 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 3 ~ ELW Meeting

Trinity’s ELW will gather on Monday, October 3, at 7:30 pm for a meeting with a Thanksgiving theme. We’ll gather in Trinity Hall. All women of the parish and community are welcome. Contact Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for information.

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.

October 17 ~ TOTS

The “TOTS” will gather in Trinity Hall for a pot-luck lunch with an Octoberfest theme.

October 18 ~ 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 October meeting, we’re reading *A BELL CANTO* by Ann

Patchett. Copies are on reserve at the library. Contact Kathryn, at 662-2960, for information.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ New Parish Photo Album

At last count, over 280 families and individuals had signed-up to be photographed. Wow! About 40% of the photos were taken between September 7 and September 10. The remainder will be taken between September 21 and September 25. Buck Roth and Cy Ridout have been making calls and appointments. Not aboard? Give Cy a shout at 662-3838 or call Buck at 662-1717.

We’re also looking for digital parish photos —and people to take them!— for possible inclusion at the front of the album. Photos should be clear, with lively action. Got something you’d like considered? E-mail the file to us or put it on a disk. We’d be especially grateful for any people willing to take pictures on Sunday, September 18 or Sunday, September 25.

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*

✚ Retirement from Trinity Choir

Barb Otterbein is retiring as a member of Trinity Choir. We are grateful for her many years of service even as we would be grateful for any who would care to join!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

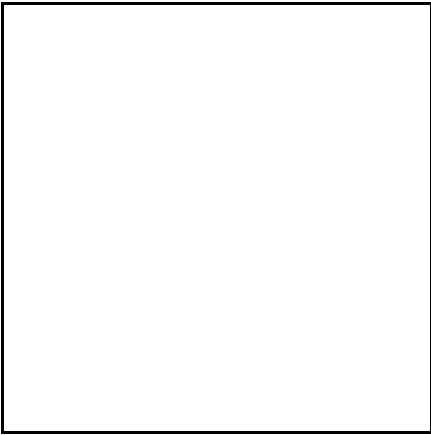
✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to August 31, 2005

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 154,678	\$ 14,506	\$ 14,593
Outgo	176,962	6,970	13,197
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Balance	- 22,285	7,535	1,396

The Year to Date

The year advances with a General Fund deficit of \$22,300. This is an ongoing concern. Envelope receipts are ahead of last year by \$2,700 while expenses are up by about \$5,700. Utility and insurance costs have been atrocious. 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 \$7,500. In fact, it is ahead of budget! 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

I'm happy to report that Sunday School got off to a great start. Our first ever *Blessing of the Backpacks* went really well and we had quite a mountain of school bags at the front of the church. I am really happy to see so many young people ready to learn all about Jesus. I think you guys are awesome!

At the time of writing, we are still in need of one teacher for the grade 1 & 2 class. Are you interested? Please speak to me or anyone on the Discipleship Committee.

✚ nadine nicholds

✚ Affirmation! Ministry

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

✚ Tuesday, Sept. 20 (7-8 pm) - Gr. 8 Affirmation! Class.

✚ Wednesday, Oct. 5 (1-4 pm) - Gr. 3 half day. While a snack is provided during the afternoon, lunch is not. Please feed you children before you drop them off in Trinity Hall.

✚ 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 8 are invited to participate and lend their ideas.

New this year is a senior youth group for the high school youth. Lisa Hagen is leading the charge. Come on the 24th to express your interest. I can't wait to see your smiling faces and get excited about all the fun stuff we're going to do!

✚ nadine nicholds