

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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October 13, 2003
Thanksgiving Monday

TO THE PEOPLE OF TRINITY CHURCH

Dear friends,

Grace be yours and peace.

In June, I wrote you about what was going on in the life of our family. I then updated you a little in August. With this letter, I want to bring you up to date and to offer some continuing words of thanks.

When I wrote you in August, Kim had begun chemotherapy at Grand River Hospital. As I write today, she has completed four three-day courses, at three-week intervals. She now receives her treatments in the new Grand River Regional Cancer Centre. It's quite a place! The building is beautiful and the staff is extraordinary. If you haven't had occasion to visit, you might drop by and take in the lovely new facilities. You might especially look for Stuart Smith's sculpture just off the main entrance. (He's the New Hamburg sculptor who did Trinity's WELCOMING CHRIST. Fabulous!)

In September, prior to Kim's fourth course of chemo, they did a CT scan and took stock of Kim's progress. They concluded that her tumors had not grown; they were pretty much the same size. Given the realities of such things, as Dr. Campbell explained them, this word came to us as "good news." So we persevere with the chemo taking things day by day and little by little. And there are good days and there are hard days.

This past weekend, we had much to celebrate: I had the Dobbin-White wedding on Saturday, and Kim and I got to take in the reception. We sat with Dan and Vicki Fisher. It was wonderful! On Sunday, following morning worship, we celebrated Thanksgiving *en famille* —just the four of us. Ruth was home from Toronto and John had a long-weekend break from KCI. Everyone pitched in. It was lovely!

As I've mentioned before, we've benefitted from a terrific circle of parishioners, family, friends and colleagues who have helped us and supported us in all manner of ways. As well, I mentioned earlier that I have taken a break from all of my non-parish responsibilities. This week, Council meets to take up the matter of a possible compassionate leave from parish duties were that to appear helpful. The Mutual Ministry people are up to steam.

Within the parish, I continue to enjoy the terrific support of Pastors Nadine and Syd together with the generous and careful attention of our Mutual Ministry people, Congregational Council and staff. In the extended parish community, people have been unfailingly generous with food, flowers and various gifts of time and assistance. For all of these, we are very grateful.

Over the coming week, there'll be bits of medical stuff of one sort or another. Next Tuesday, following lab-work on Monday and visits to Doctors Campbell and Bezanson, and all else being equal, Kim will begin her fifth course of chemotherapy.

For my part, beginning this weekend, I'll be taking one of my remaining two weeks of vacation so that I can be with Kim and focus a little on our journey together.

That's about where we stand. Thank you for your many kindnesses and good wishes. We are much blessed and very grateful.

This morning, when Kim and I were leaving the MDS lab in Kitchener, one of the techs ventured a parting "Take good care of each other." It seemed such a lovely thing to say.

Friends, indeed, take good care of each other.

(Signed) André Lavergne,
pastor in the Trinity community.

Some Parish Stuff ~ Preparing for Christmas

Advent Mitten Tree

It's time to get knitting, friends. On the Reign of Christ, November 23, the Advent Mitten Tree will appear in the nave. It will be decorated into December. By Advent 3, the collection of warm winter woollies will be placed in our community Christmas hampers.

Display of Christmas Books

Look to the side-altar in the Katie Luther Room for an extensive collection of worthwhile Christmas books and the locations of specialty book stores where they may be ordered.

Operation Christmas Child

Barb Honderich has the material ready. See the stacks of boxes in the narthex and plan to participate in this worthwhile endeavour. We have more boxes than ever to fill!

Festival of Lessons and Carols

We'll offer a Festival of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Morning with leadership from our Trinity Choir and lots of congregational singing. Would you like to sing with the choir for this special event? Rehearsals take place on Thursdays, at 7:45 pm, for 7 weeks, beginning November 6. Join us!