

Trinity DOVE

OCTOBER 2025



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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The Myth of Scarcity, the Gift of Grace

THE REV. TANYA VARNER, PASTOR

I used to think Thanksgiving was about having everything just so—the house scrubbed from top to bottom, the table set with perfect place settings, every dish arranged as though it belonged in a magazine spread. I chased that picture-perfect vision, believing that if everything looked right, then somehow the celebration itself would feel right. But I would always be left wondering, was it enough?’

Over time, priorities shifted. Life brought new demands, expectations loosened, and I began to see that what truly mattered wasn’t the spotless house or the flawless meal—it was the people gathered around the table. The laughter, the stories, the presence of loved ones: these became the true markers of abundance, far richer than any centerpiece or polished silverware.

And we begin to think about another Thanksgiving right around the corner, I still wonder and ask, why do we live as if there is never enough? There is a tension for humans to live in this constant state of flipflop between scarcity and abundance. Am I enough? I am enough! Do I have more to give? I have given what I can! It’s the scarcity vs. abundance mindset.

A scarcity mindset is something I think we all can understand: the fear of not having enough, needing to work and struggle for more, keeping up with our neighbours, pretending to be something or someone we are not. Scarcity functions from a place of fear. It can also be the inability to trust that what we have is in fact enough. This fear we experience tells us we need more money, more time, more love, more success. This fear tells us that when someone does well, instead of being happy for them, we are afraid it means less for us.

The scarcity mindset isn’t new to us in the 21st century. Recall the story of the Israelites in the wilderness. Having been freed from slavery by God (a moment of abundance), they set out on a journey in the wilderness, that quickly shadows abundance with the scarcity of food. So, God promises them manna enough for each day, but they’re not hoard it for the next day, because God will provide. But they did forget God’s daily provision – fearful that maybe God would not keep God’s promises.

Scarcity breeds within us anxiety, mistrust, and self-protection. Because somewhere along the journey, we have told ourselves the lie that we are in control. And this lie is seductive—it promises security, certainty, and order. But in truth, it weighs us down. It convinces us that if things go wrong, it’s all on us. It blinds us to God’s grace and makes us clutch tighter to our plans, our possessions, our power. The lie of control leaves little room for trust, for wonder, for surrender.

But Jesus unmask the lie with an abundance mindset. He reminds us that real life is not secured by control, but by letting go. By entrusting ourselves to God’s care, by leaning into God’s abundance, we discover freedom. What looks like loss—the giving up of control—becomes the doorway into peace, joy, and life that no amount of planning can manufacture.

Abundance is gospel and good news for us. The gospel of abundance is that God, as Creator, offers plenty, in fact more than enough, more than we could ever ask of God. Let’s recall the many times Jesus showed or taught his followers about abundance. Jesus fed the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish when they gathered on the mountainside to hear him preach. He reminded the adults to let the little children come to him; his message wasn’t just for adults but was for all people. He spoke about his own life being an offering for us, to know and to trust, so that we to might have life - have life abundantly – this life was one of abundance, not fear or scarcity.

Abundance, God’s true abundance, isn’t about material excess, or making sure we have a fair share, rather it is about sufficiency rooted in God’s grace:

- I have enough, because God has given me what I need
- I can trust God for tomorrow, instead of hoarding anxiously today
- I can share what I have, even when I don’t feel like I have much
- I know my worth doesn’t come from how much I produce, earn, or own

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Grace... continued

As we enter these months of giving and thanksgiving, let us remember that Thanksgiving isn't just a one-day-holiday—it's a spiritual discipline that trains our hearts away from scarcity.

And as Thanksgiving Day approaches, let us try and delight in simple meals, laughter with friends, or quiet moments of prayer. And ask yourself: where do I see abundance? For God's table is always full; and God's love is always enough.

Sacraments and Seasons

We offer congratulations to folks celebrating milestone birthdays in October: Anne Lauridsen (80), John Yausie (80), and Larry Roth (80). Happy birthday, friends!

We bid farewell to Deacon Sherry Coman who transferred her membership to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kitchener.

Church Council News

PAT SCHMETZER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trinity's Church Council met over Zoom on Wednesday September 17th, 2025.

Council approved a motion from the Worship Committee that a service without communion and led by lay leadership of the congregation will be an option if a pastor is not available for an occasional Sunday service.

Council set rent increases for 2026 for our Wilmot and Peel houses and lease rates for Interfaith Counselling for 2026 and 2027.

Pastor Tanya and Bob Pearson will be visiting a couple of Kitchener churches to view work that has been done to improve safety and accessibility in their chancels.

Council learned that our church sign is in bad shape and the masonry is unstable and a safety issue. The issue has been referred to the Property Consulting Team to review options.



Fall Concert Series

Penderecki String Quartet

Friday, October 10, 7:30 pm

Tickets on sale now at telc.ca or church office

Ian Sadler, concert organist

Sunday, November 2, 3:00 pm

Tickets on sale now at telc.ca or church office

Local Vocals' DIY Christmas

Friday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Tickets on sale at Trinity on October 19,
then on telc.ca starting October 20



Visioning Dispatch: October Edition

LOIS SMITH, ON BEHALF OF VISIONING TASK TEAM

And we are off and running!

As you may have heard, the Visioning Task Team issued a mini-Request-for-Proposal (mini-RFP) to solicit bids from four potential bidders who had earlier expressed interest in our redevelopment efforts. The focus of the mini-RFP is to generate three design alternatives for our redevelopment on Trinity's four adjacent properties. We received three bids and after careful examination, we requested clarifications and additional information from all three of the firms who had submitted a bid. We received responses to our queries and set about reviewing the bids a second time. It was clear that one bidder was the right choice for Trinity. That bidder was Nith Valley Construction (NVC) who partnered with Tim Welch Consulting (TWC) and SRM Architects & Urban Design.

Our recommendation to engage these parties to provide three conceptual design alternatives was approved by Council and we have since awarded the contract. NVC and partners TWC and SRM have already initiated a request to schedule our first meeting. Their proposal indicated a 12-week process to produce three design alternative packages. We also requested that they provide recommendations, along with their preferred design and a high-level outline including risks, mitigations, and opportunities. The 12-week timeframe will be, in part, determined by our ability to provide the information they request, as well as how fast we can answer their queries or make decisions. We will keep the congregation informed as to our progress and will consult the appropriate committees or individuals within Trinity as necessary. Keeping in mind we are a volunteer team, this will be an intense period of consultations, chasing answers and preferences, and participating in meetings. We are all very excited to start this stage of work, as it will result in actual concept design alternatives with visual models of what is possible.

Those visual models will be shared with the congregation so we can understand the reality of constraints and also the possibilities of design. Our strong hope and intent are that the results of this work will show us a manageable path forward with an acceptable design, all of which meets Council and congregational approvals. At minimum, even if the results are not favourable, the process and results will

identify our constraints, risks, and obstacles which require resolution before we move forward. Either way, overall, Trinity will benefit hugely from this important step.

Our recommendation to Council was sent via email for review, discussion, and vote. Given the approval at the February Annual Meeting for \$50,000 spend, and the selected bid is under that, Council was able to approve the recommendation. It should be noted that it is the team's preference to provide recommendations at an in-person Council meeting in order to enable more effective question and answer discussions. In future, that will be our approach unless otherwise necessary. Upon receiving the approval from Council, we have now notified all bidders as to whether they were selected or not.

As noted last month, the demographic statistics have clearly shown that there are many children who enter our facility on any given week. Since we are looking for people to view Trinity as a community hub, there is work afoot by Nancy Dale and Dee Radke to "spruce up" the bulletin boards in Trinity Hall to reflect things that go on in our space. Perhaps this bit of creativity and elbow grease will generate interest in other activities, both church-related and community-related!

The Visioning Task Team members recently sat down with Katja Brittain, the Interim Congregational Redevelopment Services Advisor of the Eastern Synod. In that meeting, we shared our process and Katja in turn asked probing questions to ensure we had done due diligence. She seemed satisfied with our discussion and answers to her questions and left with promises to share information and to be available for support. We will also connect back with Katja at major decision points. Although the Synod does not govern our activities such as this redevelopment, Katja has experience and insights we believe will be useful for our efforts.

If you have suggestions, questions or concerns, we encourage you to approach any team member, or to swing by the Vision Corner at coffee hour sometime.

We are planning a congregational update and discussion at Adult Learning on November 9th.

Eternity for Today



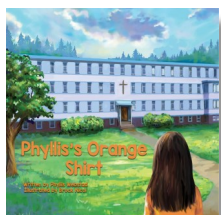
Copies of the October-November-December issue of *Eternity for Today* have arrived. *Eternity for Today* is the daily devotional published by the ELCIC, featuring lay and rostered leaders from across Canada. Copies are available for pick up in the narthex at Trinity.

Orange Shirt Day Reading

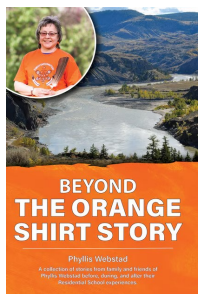
In Canada, September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Trinity's library contains many books on Indigenous issues, including these two "must read" selections:

Phyllis's Orange Shirt

The Orange Shirt symbolizes Phyllis Webstad's residential school experience. She started residential school as a 6-year-old in Williams Lake, BC wearing her pride and joy: a new orange shirt. Her shirt was immediately taken away never to be seen again and her residential school experience began.



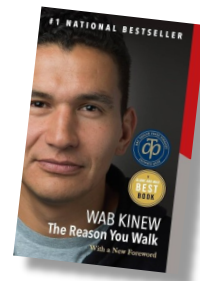
Beyond the Orange Shirt Story



This book explores Phyllis's family relationships and her experience with her favourite teacher, Lynn Eberts. The interview with Miss Eberts is especially interesting when she explained her motivation to teach at a residential school and her experiences and reflections.

Trinity Book Club

The October selection for the Trinity Book Club is *The Reason You Walk* by Wab Kinew. The group meets next at 7:00 pm on October 21st in the Martin Luther Room at Trinity. Simply come to the meeting having read the book in advance.



If you have any questions regarding the book club, please contact Dee Radke. New members always welcome!

Vigil Service

*National Day for
Truth and Reconciliation*

PRAYER ▪ MUSIC ▪ REFLECTION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

5:30 PM

**Steinmann Mennonite Church
1316 Snyder's Rd W, Baden**

**All are welcome for this
service of lament
hosted by the
Wilmot Indigenous
Relations Interfaith
Working Group.**

**Please bring a lawn chair.
Attendees are invited
to wear orange shirts.**

Interesting Lives: Monika Kraemer

INTERVIEW BY DEE RADKE

"Interesting Lives" has been a recurring series during Trinity's adult learning sessions over the years, wherein our church community can learn a little more about one of our own. Dee Radke brings this idea in print form to the pages of the Dove.

Monika (pronounced Moe-ni-ka) Kraemer nee Calder is named after her mother's favourite aunt in Germany. Monika currently works at Nithview as a PSW (personal support worker.) She met Pastor Tanya and Pastor Leanne there and was impressed with how they interacted with their parishioners. She was raised a Roman Catholic in Simcoe Ontario, but was searching for a faith community here in New Hamburg. She liked seeing the female leadership in the Lutheran Church. Monika attended Trinity a few times and requested envelopes Ash Wednesday of 2024. Earlier this year she joined Trinity as a new member. In 2024, Monika attended the Eastern Synod Lay Retreat in Niagara with Bishop Michael Pryse and attended again this year with Bishop Carla. Both retreats helped her to continue her education on death and grief which is part of her current Masters program in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College.

At 18, Monika joined the group "Up With People" for 6 months along with 160 students from 22 countries. While touring 40 cities in 15 states, the students stayed with host families, did community service activities, and performed a Broadway-style musical called "A Common Beat." The 'common beat' was meant to represent the beat of our hearts which unites all of us in all cultures as human beings.

Monika graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with an Honours BA in 2005. She worked as a salon/spa coordinator while attending university. On September 22nd 2007, she married Bob Kraemer, who she met in youth group while living in Simcoe. They moved to Kitchener to be closer to Bob's work and his extended family. Monika attended Mohawk College for one year, completing a Human



Resources Certificate. She quickly realized it was not for her and when she found out she was pregnant with their son David, she decided to take an easier job at National Sports in Waterloo which allowed her to follow her passion for sports. They had both of their children, David (currently in grade 12) and Morgan (currently in grade 9) while Monika was employed with National Sports. She chose to take a job in New Hamburg to be closer to home as her children were growing up so she became a Manager at Anytime Fitness and got a certification for personal training.

Her favourite uncle recognized and admired her gift for helping older people since she helped with the care of her grandparents, and had been encouraging her for 15 years to investigate a profession in this field. During Covid, Monika earned her PSW certification from Westervelt College (now Anderson College). Monika's placement was at Nithview from December 2021 to January 2022, after which she was officially hired by Nithview on February 14th, 2022 to work in long term care. Every day presents different challenges, joys, and heartbreaks and she feels called to serve residents spiritually. She has endeavoured to learn some phrases in multiple languages to help out the residents who have reverted to their native languages. Monika tries really hard to see the person and not the disease of her residents. Loved ones are often surprised by how well she knows their family member. She feels called by God to provide end of life support, and with her Master's Degree plans to further investigate this vocation.

Monika finds Trinity to be very welcoming and enjoys being an assisting minister. She has been playing guitar and singing since she was a child and hopes to do more with Jamie regarding the music at Trinity. She values the many good friends that she has made at Trinity.

We are indeed blessed to have Monika in our midst.

Financial Update

RICK RITZ, CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

2025 General Fund

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	192,038	202,252	(10,214)
Expenses	225,943	230,408	(4,465)
Total	(\$33,905)	(\$28,156)	(\$5,749)

2025 Capital Fund

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	14,931	16,667	(1,736)
Expenses	22,656	23,667	(1,011)
Total	(\$7,725)	(\$7,000)	(\$725)

*Receipts and expenses for General and Capital Funds through August 31st, 2025.
Capital Fund carry-over from 2024, not included above, is \$59,040.*

Major Capital Expenditures

Total Investment Approved: \$272,000

2022 to 2024 Income	148,386
2025 Income	5,571
2022 to 2024 Expenses	274,962
2025 Expenses	0
Total	(\$121,005)

Receipts and expenses for Major Capital Expenditures through August 31st, 2025.

The **General Fund** to the end of August is still in a deficit position. However, we are making significant progress at reducing the deficit! Whether that generosity is “extra mile” giving or “catching up” on your personal financial stewardship goal for the year – we are **truly thankful** for your commitment to the mission and ministries enabled by your support. The September numbers are not finalized at this point but we are thrilled to report that we have received two large donations which will reduce our deficit even further.

General Fund expenses continue to be under budget. Your Council and the staff are working diligently to keep expenses in line even though prices are increasing on almost everything we purchase.

The **Capital Fund** is slightly behind the budget as well. However, the largest expenses are behind us so regular offerings to the Capital Fund for the rest of the year should see us finish the year in a good position.


We continue to ask you to consider your personal donations goal for the year and make October the month to “catch up” if necessary. This year has been a particularly good year for investments so perhaps you are in a position to make an “extra mile” gift to help support our congregation and the many worthwhile ministries in our community and around the world. The recent backpack drive and the ongoing Lake Chad initiative are great examples of that.

Your Church Council thanks you for your financial contributions to the congregation and the many outside programs supported through your generosity!



Al Junker, president ▪ Tanya Varner, pastor
Richard Schwass, interim visitation pastor
Jamie Courtney, parish administrator & minister of music
Brian Racho, sexton ▪ Gywin Murray, emerita director of music

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Bible Study Returns October 21</p>			1 5:15 pm Music Together	2 8:45 am Music Together	3	4 8:45 am Music Together 7:30 pm AA
5 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Learning: Season of Creation — Climate + Economy	6 5:00 pm Karate	7 9:30 am Prayer Circle 4:15 pm Karate	8 3:30 pm Wilmot Indigenous Relations Working Group 5:15 pm Music Together 7:00 pm Confirmation	9 8:45 am Music Together	10 7:30 pm Trinity Concert Penderecki String Quartet	11 7:30 pm AA
12 Day of Thanksgiving 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	13 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	14 8:30 am Departure Trinity Bus Trip	15 5:15 pm Music Together 7:00 pm Church Council	16 8:45 am Music Together 9:00 am Dove Deadline (Nov. Issue) 7:00 pm Trinity Choir	17	18 8:45 am Music Together 7:30 pm AA
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Learning 2:00 pm Nithview Worship	20 5:00 pm Karate 6:30 pm Handbells	21 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Worship Committee 4:15 pm Karate 7:00 pm Book Club	22 5:15 pm Music Together 7:00 pm Confirmation	23 8:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm Trinity Choir	24	25 8:45 am Music Together 7:30 pm AA
26 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Adult Learning	27 5:00 pm Karate 6:30 pm Handbells Pastor Tanya on vacation	28 10:30 am Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate	29 5:15 pm Music Together	30 8:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm Trinity Choir	31	