



Trinity  
**DOVE**

MAY 2026



**The disciples knew the Lord Jesus  
in the breaking of the bread.**  
*Easter antiphon, Luke 24:35*

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
23 Church Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J1  
519-662-1810 • [www.telc.ca](http://www.telc.ca) • [mail@telc.ca](mailto:mail@telc.ca)





# ELCIC Day of Action: Faith Lived Out in Love

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REV. TANYA VARNER

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) is inviting congregations across the country to take part in a **Day of Action**—a day rooted not only in awareness, but in response. It is an opportunity for communities of faith to live out what we proclaim each week: that God’s love is not passive, but active; not distant, but embodied in how we care for one another.

As Lutherans, we often speak about being “freed by grace to serve our neighbour.” A Day of Action gives us a tangible way to do just that. It is not about grand gestures or one-time efforts, but about intentional, faithful steps that reflect our commitment to justice, compassion, and community.

This year, Trinity will mark the Day of Action by continuing and strengthening our support of oneROOF.

For those who may not be familiar, oneROOF is a vital local organization that provides support, resources, and community for youth experiencing, and at risk of, homelessness. Their work is grounded in dignity and relationship—meeting young people where they are, offering safety, and walking alongside them as they navigate incredibly complex circumstances.

Homelessness, particularly among youth, is not always visible. It can be hidden, complicated, and deeply tied to issues of mental health, family breakdown, poverty, and systemic inequities. oneROOF reminds us that behind every statistic is a story, and behind every story is a person deserving of care, respect, and hope.

As a concrete expression of our commitment, Trinity will be working towards checking an item off the oneROOF wishlist with the purchase of **six Chromebook laptops**, at a total cost of approximately **\$3,100**. These laptops will be used by youth in the oneROOF program to support learning, build computer skills, and provide access to job applications and other essential resources. In a world where so much of daily life depends on digital access, this is a meaningful and practical way to support independence, opportunity, and dignity. To help us meet this goal, **please mark an offering envelope or etransfer as “laptops”**. Any additional funds raised beyond our

\$3100 goal will go to oneROOF to be used where needed most.

Our continued support of oneROOF—and this specific initiative—is one way we live into our calling as the church. It is a reminder that faith is not only something we believe, but something we practice.

In addition to supporting this project with financial contributions, consider how you might participate in this Day of Action on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This may look like:

- offering prayers for those experiencing housing insecurity,
- learning more about the realities of youth homelessness in our region,
- reflecting on how God is calling each of us to respond with compassion in our daily lives.

This is not about doing more for the sake of doing more. It is about being attentive—listening for where God is already at work and joining in.

In a world that can feel overwhelming, where the needs are many and the solutions are not always clear, a Day of Action reminds us that even small acts of care matter. That showing up matters. That choosing compassion matters.

Because this is who we are called to be.

A people shaped by grace. A people moved by love. A people sent into the world—not alone, but together.

## Mondays & Tuesdays

Our final Tuesday Bible Study before a seasonal break will be Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who have been coming to share and engage with scripture.

Our summertime Monday Morning Meetup returns on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Come for a cup of coffee and a social visit in the Katie Luther Room at Trinity. All are welcome.

# Church Council News

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PAT SCHMETZER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trinity's Church Council met in person on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Council member's portfolios for the next year are:

Congregational Life	Judy Hahn-Yutzi
Nurturing Faith	Brenda Grebinski
Mutual Ministry	Pat Schmetzer
Property	Suzan Deckert, Bob Pearson
Witness & Service	Kitch Radke
Worship	Jo-Anne Schwass
Visioning	Krista Straus

The Finance/Stewardship portofolio is presently open.

Property team members will be looking at the stair railings by the wood parking lot doors to try to improve safety of those few bottom steps.

Council reviewd current rental rates and approved a rental increase for the use of Trinity Hall. Starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, all groups renting the hall will pay a straight hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour with a minimum 2-hour period.

## Origami Doves

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Carolyn Heinze and Lillian Brubacher invite you to participate in an art project for the Day of Pentecost. We're in need of many origami doves! Square paper and instructions are available in the narthex. You're invited to fold a few at home and return them to the box in the narthex. Doves need to be returned by Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Sacraments and Seasons

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We offer congratulations to those celebrating milestone birthdays in May: Brian Eberschlag (80), Ron Lippert (85), and Ken Seltzer (85). Happy birthday, friends!

We also extend congratulations to Bonnie and John Jolic celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

# Red Dress Day

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DEE RADKE

May 5<sup>th</sup> is *Red Dress Day* in Canada, a day of remembrance for the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited individuals across the country.

A limited number of red dresses are available for parishioners to borrow to mark this solemn occassion. Each dress will be smudged by Elder Nina de Shane of the Wilmot Wellesley Resource Centre in accordance with Indigenous protocols. The dresses are provided with a photo and short biography of one of the missing persons.

The red dress may be placed in a prominent place on May 5<sup>th</sup> in honour and in remembrance of those who should be alive to wear them. Consider hanging a red dress in a tree, in a window, or on your porch.

Please contact Dee Radke at [kitch.radke@sympatico.ca](mailto:kitch.radke@sympatico.ca) to reserve your smudged red dress.

## Visioning Dispatch

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NANCY DALE, VISIONING TASK TEAM

April was another quiet month for the Visioning Team as the consultants (Nith Valley Construction, SRM Architects ad Urban Design and Tim Welch Consulting) continued their work on updating the conceptual drawings. Nith Valley Construction continues work on the preliminary costing for each option while potential funding models and strategies also continue to be explored.

A meeting date of April 28<sup>th</sup> has been set for the consulting team to share all that they have been working on over the past few months; our team is very excited to be meeting with the consultants again.

When this next phase of the work is finished, the Visioning Team will host an Adult Learning session and use other communication methods to share key findings and progress for further discussion.

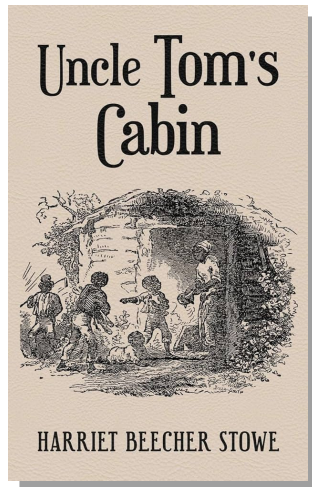
Thank you again for your continued support and interest in this exciting project.

## Trinity Book Club

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The May selection for the Trinity Book Club is *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The group meets next at 7:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> 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!



## Trinity VBS Partners

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Do you remember attending Vacation Bible School as a child? Remember the games, the stories, the songs – the fun?

This summer, Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting a Vacation Bible School here in our building! We have a curriculum provided by Canadian Lutheran World Relief challenging us to think and learn more about our environment and how we can help take care of the wonderful world around us. The opportunities for games, stories, songs and fun continue!

We plan to invite families from our partner churches in New Hamburg as well as families from churches in the Nith Valley Ministry Area to join us.

In order to accomplish this, we will need congregational ministry partners to help us. We will need teachers, story tellers, craft people, kitchen helpers, and anyone who wants to have fun at VBS. Teenagers, here is a fun way to earn some volunteer hours! There are even free t-shirts, and snacks and lunch provided every day.

Please think about this, ponder and pray about whether you can contribute in some way. We already have some exciting plans and it would be a great community building project for Trinity and New Hamburg.

If you can help, please speak with Pastor Tanya, Jo-Anne Schwass or Katharine Borch. Thank you for helping us with this important children's ministry!

For families looking to register their children for VBS, please visit [telc.ca](http://telc.ca). Registration opens May 1<sup>st</sup>. (Details on page 5.)

## Easter Feaster: Thanks!

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Thank you to those in our Trinity community who were able to support our Easter Feaster food drive in support of the Food Bank at Wilmot Wellesley Resource Centre. Together we collected **408 pounds of food and raised \$1,090.**

Please remember that food insecurity is an ongoing issue in Wilmot Township, and Trinity keeps our donation baskets out all year long; every bit helps.

Currently, the most needed items are:

- Kraft Dinner
- cereal
- fruits (canned, cups)
- chunky soups; chicken noodle soup
- canned beans in sauce
- canned meat (tuna, ham, chicken, salmon)
- pasta sauce; diced tomatoes
- nut-free granola bars; school snacks
- peanut butter
- rice
- canned pasta with meat
- pudding cups

## Summer Flowers

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Consider signing up for a Sunday to bring flowers to worship this spring or summer. Flowers can be given in remembrance of an occasion either solemn or joyous, or simply to brighten our worship space! Please fill in your name on the chart in the narthex if you care to contribute. Flowers from your garden or from your favourite florist are most welcome.



**AUGUST  
17-21**

**FULL DAY!  
9am - 4pm**

**outdoor activities • crafts  
science • music • and more!**

**\$50**

**includes lunch,  
snacks & t-shirt!**

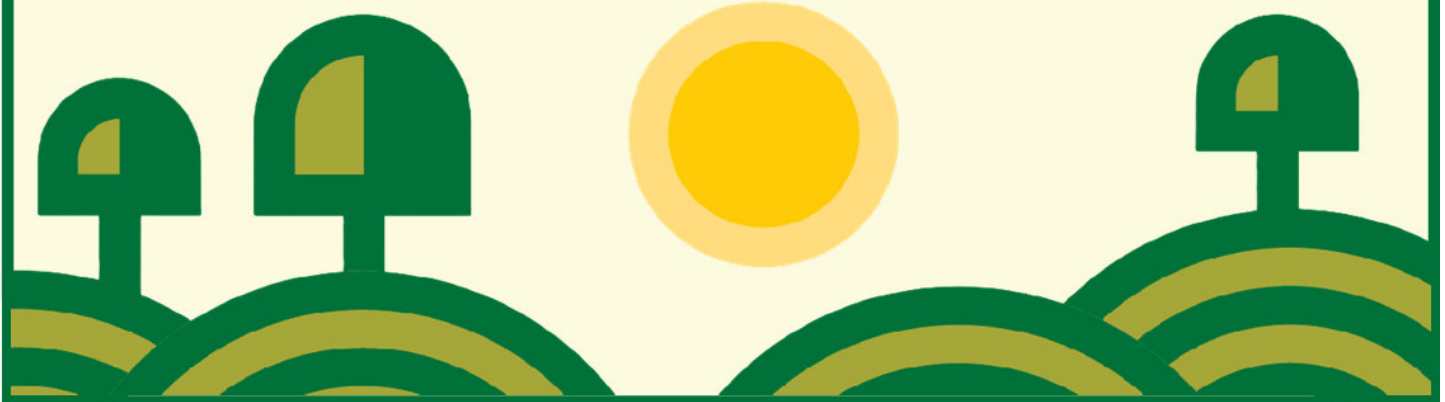
**ages 5-11  
as of Dec. 31, 2026**

**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
New Hamburg**



**registration  
opens May 1  
closes June 30**

**telc.ca**



# Trinity Joins Advocacy for Refugees from Liberia

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REV. REBECCA LARSON & RICK RITZ

This is an advocacy story. It is a human story. It is a faith story.

You may remember that on November 8, 2023 Trinity (NH) and four other Lutheran churches, together with Canadian Lutheran World Relief, submitted a claim to the Canadian government to sponsor two families from Liberia as refugees. Those churches are:

- Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo
- Trillium Lutheran Church, Waterloo
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Hamilton (the legal sponsor and location of settlement)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Tavistock

Together we raised the necessary money required. We knew it would take time. But alarmingly, it is now almost three years since we began this process and we have heard nothing more about the application.

The files that went to the government had case numbers. We know those numbers represented two father-headed, multigenerational families, the names and locations of which are protected for security reasons. The families are now living in a third country and trying to survive as they wait for a decision about whether it will be possible to come to Canada. There has been much difficulty and illness in the family (malaria). Our five-church group has supported modest and necessary school fees for the children, and helped them purchase a motorbike for transportation. They have no regular income of any kind. This is unsustainable over both the short and long term if they will eventually not be approved to come to Canada.

At the recent meeting of our five-church group, we decided to undertake a coordinated advocacy approach to the Canadian government. As a first step, a common letter was drafted to be sent to the different MPs of each of the five congregations.

During Holy Week a letter was sent to The Honourable Tim Louis, Member of Parliament for Kitchener–Conestoga. Trinity New Hamburg is in his riding.

The letter went out under the signature of Pastor Tanya Varner, Kitch Radke (chair of the Church Council), Rebecca Larson and Rick Ritz (our Trinity representatives on the five-church group).

The letter noted:

- Our increasing and significant concern about the safety and well-being of these two families.
- Our recognition of the immense pressures on the Canadian refugee system and the complexity of global displacement crises.
- Our appeal to the humanitarian commitments that have long defined Canada's response to those at risk.
- The wide network of support already existing in Hamilton where they will be settled, as well as the additional support from the five congregations.
- The many assets, both personal and professional that these two families would bring to life in Canada.
- **Our request that the necessary eligibility interview take place as soon as possible so they, and we, can determine if their application will be considered.** (This interview is important. Normally it takes place early in the process and determines whether the file will be denied, or moved forward for further consideration. This designation will help us work with the families to consider next steps.)

We will continue to keep our Trinity community updated. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for these vulnerable people, and the many, many other people for whom resettlement is now a diminishing option within a global system in crisis.

With thanks for your prayers and generosity in ministry.

# Financial Update

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RICK RITZ, FINANCE COMMITTEE

2026 General Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	80,891	80,977	(86)
Expenses	89,824	94,884	(5,060)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$8,933)</b>	<b>(\$13,907)</b>	<b>\$4,974</b>

2026 Capital Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	4,176	6,250	(2,074)
Expenses	0	5,698	(5,698)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,176</b>	<b>\$552</b>	<b>\$3,624</b>

*Receipts and expenses for General and Capital Funds through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.  
Capital Fund carry-over from 2025, not included above, is \$54,045.*

Major Capital Expenditures	
2022 to 2025 Income	150,615
2022 to 2025 Expenses	274,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$124,347)</b>

*Receipts and expenses for Major Capital Expenditures through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.  
The General Reserve Fund is being used to finance the deficit from Major Capital*

Finances to the end of March show a congregation committed to the mission and ministry direction established at the Annual Meeting of the congregation in February 2026.

The **General Fund** income is running right on budget for the first three months. Most of this can be attributed to G.I.C. interest and fundraising income for the upcoming Local Vocals concert. Envelope/PAR donations are below budget by about \$3,000. On the expense side, we have spent approximately \$5,000 less than budgeted for the first three months. Overall, we have a deficit of \$8,933 in the General Fund. However, our budget plan was to be in a deficit of \$13,907, so we are ahead of the projection. It's still a deficit, but quite normal for this point in the year.

The **Capital Fund** numbers reflect the fact that we haven't begun spending any money on the items identified for upgrades in 2026. Even though Capital Fund offerings are \$2,000 less than budget, we ended the first quarter with a surplus of \$4,176. As expected, this surplus will be affected once we start our 2026 capital spending.

The Capital Fund numbers in the chart include a small amount of donations made to Major Capital Expenditures deficit in 2026. Because the approved spending has been completed, we are not going to continue tracking this as a separate fund in 2026. Any donations will continue to reduce the Major Capital Expenditures deficit though.

We are thankful for all those who have responded to the request made at the Annual Meeting to prayerfully consider the 2026 budget increases in your financial stewardship goals for this year.

Your support and commitment are truly appreciated here at Trinity and by all those served by our ministries.

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Kitch Radke, president • Tanya Varner, pastor  
Jamie Courtney, parish administrator & minister of music  
Brian Racho, sexton • Gywin Murray, emerita director of music

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# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship <b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:45 am</b> Adult Learning <i>Wilmot Indigenous Relations Interfaith Working Group</i>	<b>4</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Karate <b>6:30 pm</b> Handbells	<b>5</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Prayer Circle <b>10:30 am</b> Bible Study <b>3:30 pm</b> "L" Word Book Study <b>4:15 pm</b> Karate <b>RED DRESS DAY</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5:15 pm</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> Confirmation	<b>7</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Music Together	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>7:45 am</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> AA
<b>10</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship <b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship <b>10:45 am</b> Adult Learning	<b>11</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Karate	<b>12</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Bible Study <b>3:30 pm</b> "L" Word Book Study <b>4:15 pm</b> Karate	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Wilmot Indigenous Working Group <b>2:30 pm</b> Mutual Ministry <b>5:15 pm</b> Music Together	<b>14</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Music Together	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>7:45 am</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> AA
<b>17</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship <b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship <b>2:30 pm</b> Nithview Worship	<b>18</b> <b>Victoria Day</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>19</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Bible Study <b>3:30 pm</b> "L" Word Book Study <b>4:15 pm</b> Karate <b>7:00 pm</b> Trinity Book Club	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am</b> NVMA Rostered Leaders at St. James, New Dundee <b>5:15 pm</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council	<b>21</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Music Together <b>9:00 am</b> Dove Deadline (June Issue)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7:45 am</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> AA
<b>24</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> <b>+ Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship <b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Monday Morning Meetup <b>5:00 pm</b> Karate	<b>26</b> <b>4:15 pm</b> Karate	<b>27</b> <b>5:15 pm</b> Music Together	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 am</b> Music Together <b>5:30 pm</b> Soup Supper <b>6:30 pm</b> Evening Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:45 am</b> Music Together <b>7:00 pm</b> AA  SLYC Training at All Saints, Guelph

**31**  
**The Holy Trinity**  
**9:30 am** Hybrid Worship  
**10:30 am** Fellowship

