



Summer Bible Study

with Pastor J.R. Bestvater

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
23 Church Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1J1
519-662-1810 • www.telc.ca • mail@telc.ca





Listening to Scripture, Listening to the World

REV. TANYA VARNER

June is a month filled with story, celebration, reflection, and invitation. As a church rooted in the rhythms of the Revised Common Lectionary (a standardized three-year cycle of Bible readings used by the vast majority of mainline Christian churches in North America and globally), we gather week by week around ancient texts that continue to shape our faith and our understanding of God's presence in the world. The lectionary keeps us grounded in a larger story, a story that moves through seasons of lament and joy, wilderness and resurrection, justice and hope.

At the same time, we do not read scripture in isolation from the world around us. The church is always listening with "one ear to the Gospel and one ear to the world," paying attention to the lives, celebrations, struggles, and realities of our neighbours and communities. Throughout June, that means acknowledging and engaging both Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month alongside the scripture readings appointed for worship.

June is Pride Month, a global movement celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, culture, dignity, and equal rights. Rooted in the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City, Pride Month is both joyful celebration and ongoing advocacy for justice and belonging. As Christians, we are continually invited to reflect on what it means to create communities shaped by hospitality, compassion, and the expansive love of God. Trinity will mark Pride Month during worship on June 14th as part of our ongoing commitment to being a welcoming and affirming community.

June is also National Indigenous History Month in Canada. This month honours the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and vital contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. It is also an important opportunity to deepen our understanding of the impacts of colonization and to continue the work of truth, justice, and reconciliation. These commitments are not separate from our faith life; they are deeply connected to the Gospel's call toward right relationship with one another.

Sunday, June 21st marks National Indigenous Peoples Day, taking place on the summer solstice. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the recognition of this day in Canada.

It is a time to celebrate and honour the traditions, cultures, languages, and contributions of Indigenous peoples across this land.

For those interested in learning more, I would encourage you to explore some of the resources available in the church library, including the Tanya Talaga series, and recommendations from the Eastern Synod's Circle for Reconciliation and Justice, including *52 Ways to Reconcile* by David A. Robertson and *Cree Pedagogy: Dance Your Style* by Angelina Weenie and others.

As we move through this season together, may we continue to be people who listen deeply — to scripture, to neighbour, and to the movement of the Spirit in our midst. And may our worship lead us not only into deeper faith, but also into deeper love for the world God so deeply loves.

Sacraments and Seasons



We were pleased to welcome Hunter MacLaren at the font for Holy Baptism on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 24th.

Adult Learning Follow-Up: Red Dress Day

NANCY DALE AND BARBARA SAFRI



50 dresses were displayed around Wilmot Township on Red Dress Day, May 5th.

Thank you so much for the invitation to present information regarding Red Dress Day at the Adult Learning session on Sunday, May 3rd. As members of the Wilmot Indigenous Relations Interfaith Working Group (WIRIWG), we were honoured to share our learning about and our efforts regarding Red Dress Day.

Following a land acknowledgement, basic information provided included:

WHAT – Red Day is a day where empty red dresses are displayed across Canada in highly visible public places to raise awareness to the thousands of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirited People (MMIWG2S), and is designed to pay respect to the victims and their families, and to call on governments at all levels to take action in bring these tragic cases to a just close.

WHEN – Tuesday, May 5th (coincides with the birthday of Lisa Marie Young who disappeared in 2002)

WHY – began with an art installation entitled REDress by Jaime Black-Morsette, a Red River Metis student at the University of Winnipeg, where 600 community-donated dresses were hung throughout Winnipeg in 2010.

In 2024, six churches in Wilmot participated in Red Dress day with 6 red dresses on display. This year more than 50 red dresses were ceremonially smudged and then lent to churches, businesses, and concerned citizens throughout Wilmot and neighbouring areas.

A special thank you to Dee and Kitch Radke and Barbara Safri for their extraordinary efforts to collect, distribute and even hang six dresses on the bridge in New Hamburg. A photo of the bridge with the dresses made the cover of the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and has had

more than 10,000 views on the "What's Up Wilmot" Facebook page.



The smudging bundle used in the smudging ceremony.

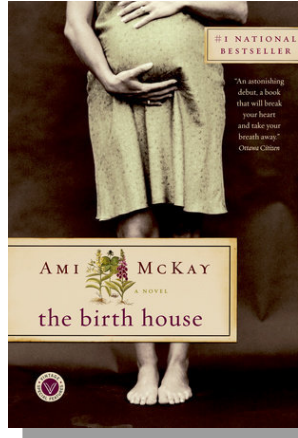
A special thank you also to the congregation of Trinity Lutheran church for:

- providing space for WIRIWG's regular meetings
- the use of a cupboard to store materials used at educational events
- generous financial support from the Endowment Fund to help support our educational events
- ongoing moral support and guidance

For more information, please contact Wilmot Indigenous Relations Interfaith Working Group (WIRIWG) at ecumenicalworkinggroup@gmail.com

Trinity Book Club

The June selection for the Trinity Book Club is *The Birth House* by Ami McKay. The group meets for its final gathering before a summer break at Scran & Dram Scottish Public House at 6:00 pm on June 16th. Interested folks should contact Dee Radke to confirm attendance. New members always welcome!



Adult Learning Team

We are looking for a small team of creative and curious people to help plan our Sunday morning Adult Learning offerings for the coming 2026/2027 program year.

This team will help:

- brainstorm topics and series ideas,
- invite special guests and speakers,
- explore timely and meaningful conversations,
- and offer hospitality by welcoming and thanking participants on Sunday mornings.

You do not need to be an expert—just someone interested in learning, conversation, and helping create meaningful opportunities for faith formation and community connection. If you would like to be part of the planning team, please speak with Pastor Tanya.

ELCIC Day of Action

As part of the ELCIC Day of Action on May 31st, Trinity committed to raising \$3,100 to purchase 6 new Chromebook laptops for our friends at oneROOF to assist youth who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, in finding jobs and other essential resources. We're glad to say that we reached our goal on Sunday, May 24th! Any additional funds raised will go to support oneROOF where needed most.

Thank you to all who supported this effort. Our friends at oneROOF are most grateful.

Church Council News

PAT SCHMETZER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trinity's Church Council met in person on Wednesday, May 20th, 2026.

Council accepted a motion from the Mutual Ministry Team to establish a Sunday every fall as a Staff Appreciation Day. On this day we will recognize all of our Trinity staff members and acknowledge any particular milestones and achievements. We plan to celebrate with a congregational lunch or a special cake fellowship.

Council selected a vendor and approved a motion to re-lamp our sanctuary with new LED bulbs. We are hoping to get a grant from Charitus, who manage our endowment fund investments, to help with the costs.

Council also approved a vendor recommended by our Property Committee for re-paving our parking lot.

Due to some changes in government rules about who can apply for Canadian citizenship, we have been getting some requests for notarized baptismal records. Council has affirmed a recommendation from staff that we charge a fee of \$225 to cover the costs for this service.

Council approved a request from the Wilmot Indigenous Working Group to use our greenspace off of Peel Street for an evening service on Orange Shirt Day, Wednesday, September 30th.

Offering Statements

Thank you to all those who support Trinity's mission and ministry through gifts of time, talents, and treasure.

At the end of June, Trinity will send out statements reflecting all financial offerings for the first six months of 2026. Please review your statement when it arrives and report any discrepancies to the church office.

For those who give via Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), and who might like to update their giving amounts, you can use the simple PAR change form at telc.ca/donations.

Visioning Dispatch

NANCY DALE, VISIONING TASK TEAM

On May 5th, the Visioning Task Team met with representatives from Nith Valley Construction, SRM Architects, and Tim Welch Consulting where a high-level overview of each of the three design options for our possible building project was presented. Their team created three design packages showing us costs, risks, opportunities, and recommendations related to each option.

Our next step in our process is to share this information with the congregation at an Informational Meeting on Sunday, June 14th at 10:45am after worship. Ryan Hicks from SRM Architects, Bob Zehr from Nith Valley Construction, and Tim Welch from Welch Consulting will be at the meeting to help share their work and answer questions. This is an *information* presentation, and not an official congregational meeting where any voting would take place. The session will be available on Zoom for those at home.

Fellowship time will take place following the meeting with a catered lunch in Trinity Hall. The lunch is offered as a "pay what you can" meal. A basket will be available for cash donations on June 14th. Reserve your spot for lunch by clicking the link provided in the weekly emailer or sign the list in the narthex. Dietary restrictions should be specified. Please sign up by June 7th so that we can confirm numbers with the caterer.

Team members Rick Ritz and Hans Borch met with church council on Wednesday, May 20th, and presented a summary of the information for the June 14th meeting. Council was supportive and positive and asked great questions

Please note – at this point the information shared with the vision team and council is confidential until the meeting on June 14th. We look forward to seeing you then!

Summer Bible Study

We're pleased to invite folks to a summer bible study with Pastor J.R. Bestvater. Join us at 10:30 on Tuesdays starting June 2nd.

There Will Be Cake!

Earlier in the year we announced that Pastor Tanya had successfully her thesis, and on June 19th she will receive her Ph.D.

To mark this milestone, Trinity's Church Council invites you to join us for cake after worship on Sunday, June 21st. We look forward to celebrating with Pastor Tanya – and her family who will be in-town from Nova Scotia to mark the big day!

Flowers for Worship

We invite folks in our Trinity community to provide flowers for our Sunday morning worship services. Flowers can mark an occasion, either solemn or joyous. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We welcome flowers from your favourite florist, or from your garden.

Feather and Cross Bingo

As we enter National Indigenous History Month in June, the congregation is invited to participate in the Circle for Reconciliation's *Feather & Cross Bingo* initiative throughout the summer months.

This is an opportunity to engage individually, as families, or together as a congregation in meaningful acts of learning, reflection, and relationship-building on the journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. Activities include reading Indigenous authors, attending a powwow, learning about Indigenous history and culture, and exploring ways to walk more intentionally alongside Indigenous communities.

The challenge continues through the summer, with a final opportunity to complete cards in September as we prepare to observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). We hope many will join in this invitation to learn, listen, and participate in the ongoing work of reconciliation with open hearts and minds.

Bingo cards are printed and available in the narthex at Trinity, with activities beginning June 1st.



AUGUST 17-21

FULL DAY! 9am - 4pm

Creation Care QUEST
Vacation Bible School

**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 open until June 30
telc.ca



* Financial assistance available. Please contact Pastor Tanya Varner (varner@telc.ca) prior to registration.

Financial Update

RICK RITZ, FINANCE COMMITTEE

At a glance, the Financial Reports to the end of April show a solid position compared to our budget for the same period. Zooming in on the details reveals a slightly different reality.

The General Fund is in a small deficit (\$5,678) compared to our budgeted deficit of \$18,823. This puts us ahead of budget by 13,145 year-to-date which is a significant amount for this time of year. However, 3 large GICs matured and provided over \$9,000 interest and we received almost \$2,000 in rental revenues that was over budget. In addition, the expenses for the January to April period were \$10,000 less than we budgeted. This is all good news, but we know that the expenses will catch up to budget at some point in the year and we won't be seeing much investment income for the rest of this year. We have only two small GICs coming due before year end to provide more investment income.

All of these details point to a "reasonable" financial position for this time of year, but certainly not the celebration that the present bottom line might initially suggest.

As is almost always the case, the generosity and commitment to our mission and ministry by Trinity stakeholders is what ensures our longer term financial stability. Wise use of the financial contributions we receive, (including investments proceeds) will help achieve our budget while maintaining and even expanding our ministry.

The Capital Fund numbers still reflect the fact that we haven't begun spending significant funds on the items identified for Capital upgrades in 2026. Even though Capital Fund offerings are \$2,000 less than budget, we ended the first quarter with a surplus of \$5,303 because we have almost nothing from our Capital budget spending. Obviously, this surplus situation will change once we start our 2026 capital spending in earnest.

2026 General Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	110,786	107,826	2,960
Expenses	116,464	126,649	(10,185)
Total	(\$5,678)	(\$18,823)	\$13,145

2026 Capital Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	6,243	8,333	(2,090)
Expenses	204	7,597	(7,393)
Total	\$6,039	\$736	\$5,303

Receipts and expenses for General and Capital Funds through April 30th, 2026. Capital Fund carry-over from 2025, not included above, is \$54,045.

The Capital Fund receipts include a small amount of donations made to Major Capital Expenditures. Because the approved spending has been completed, we are not going to continue tracking this as a separate fund in 2026. Also, as noted on the financial report, the Capital Fund has a carryover of \$54,045 from 2025.

We are thankful for 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.

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

June 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup 5:00 pm Karate	2 9:30 am Prayer Circle 10:30 am Summer Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate	3 1:30 pm Mutual Ministry 5:15 pm Music Together	4 8:45 am Music Together	5 9:00 am Spring Work Day	6 7:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm AA
7 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship <i>RSVP deadline for June 14th luncheon.</i>	8 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup 5:00 pm Karate	9 10:30 am Summer Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate	10 10:00 am Wilmot Indigenous Working Group 5:15 pm Music Together	11 8:45 am Music Together	12	13 7:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm AA
14 3rd Sunday after Pentecost + Pride Sunday 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Visioning Task Team Presentation 11:45 am RSVP Lunch	15 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup 5:00 pm Karate	16 10:30 am Summer Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate 6:00 pm Trinity Book Club (Scran & Dram)	17 9:30 am NVMA Rostered Leaders at Zion, Stratford 5:15 pm Music Together 7:00 pm Church Council	18 8:45 am Music Together 9:00 am Dove Deadline (Summer Issue)	19	20 7:00 pm AA
21 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 2:30 pm Nithview Worship There will be cake! <i>Together we celebrate Pastor Tanya receiving her Ph.D.</i>	22 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup 5:00 pm Karate	23 10:30 am Summer Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate	24	25	26	27 7:00 pm AA
28 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	29 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup 5:00 pm Karate	30 10:30 am Summer Bible Study 4:15 pm Karate	