





Celebrating the Season of Creation

THE REV. DR. TANYA VARNER

Each year Christians around the world are invited to celebrate the **Season of Creation**—a time to rejoice in God's gift of creation, reflect on our relationship with the earth, and consider how our faith calls us to care for our common home. The season begins with September 1st, the Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation, and concludes on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a saint especially associated with love for creation.

Since the late 1980s, the Season of Creation has been gaining a place in the Revised Common Lectionary. (The Revised Common Lectionary shapes worship and Scripture readings for many Christian denominations around the world). This new feast gives congregations an intentional opportunity to celebrate God's ongoing creative work and to consider creation not as a peripheral concern, but as part of our central Christian story.

Why is this important? Perhaps because we have sometimes treated creation care as something separate from our faith—as an environmental issue rather than a theological one. Yet scripture begins with God creating and declaring creation good. The biblical story repeatedly reminds us that humanity is part of creation, not separate from it. Caring for the earth, therefore, is not simply about being environmentally responsible; it is about how we live out our relationship with the Creator and with our neighbours, especially those most affected by environmental degradation.

What makes the Season of Creation particularly beautiful is that **it is an ecumenical movement**. Its roots reach back to 1989, when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I invited Christians to observe September 1st as a day of prayer for creation. The World Council of Churches helped expand this into a season, and in 2007 the Third European Ecumenical Assembly called for a period from September 1st to October 4th dedicated to prayer and care for creation. In 2008, the World Council of Churches encouraged its member churches to observe this time through prayer and action.

The addition of the Season of Creation to the Revised Common Lectionary is another chapter in that story of Christians learning and worshipping together. The process has involved Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran,

Anglican, Reformed, and other Christian traditions working together through ecumenical bodies.

This year's Season of Creation theme, "Living Water," draws us into the beautiful vision of Ezekiel 47, where a small stream flowing from God's sanctuary grows deeper and deeper until it becomes a river teeming with life. Wherever the river flows, Ezekiel says, everything lives. In the midst of exile, loss, and destruction, Ezekiel offers a vision of hope—not simply for people, but for the whole of creation. The waters are healed, the land becomes fruitful, fish return, and trees grow along the riverbanks, their leaves bringing healing. What a powerful image for our world today. God's life-giving presence is still flowing, but we are also invited to step into those waters and become part of the work of healing and renewal.

This Season of Creation, may we ask not only how creation sustains us, but how our lives might become part of God's living water—bringing healing, hope, and new life to the earth and to one another.

Adult Learning

Starting after Thanksgiving, Trinity's adult learning happens after worship on Sunday mornings.

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

- brainstorm topics and series ideas, (Pastor Tanya already has a list of ideas for the this fall)
- invite special guests and speakers,
- 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.

Vacation Bible School 2026

KATHARINE BORCH

Creation Care Quest is a wrap! What a week we had from August 17th to 21st.

- There were T-shirts.
- There was lots of singing led by Pastor Tanya – songs about hippos, songs about frogs, songs about God's love.
- There was digging in the sand for hidden objects – our Quest for the Day.
- There was science: bubbles, explosions, seed plantings, and sun photos.
- There were crafts: sun catchers, incredibly cute felt owls, finger and salt painting.
- There were outside activities – chats about God's creations, carrying seed and finding out how seeds spread throughout nature, sidewalk chalk pictures and endless games of Cross Canada.

On Monday afternoon we had a visit from Beth Martin, from *Be Energized* in New Hamburg, who led us through yoga exercises.

On Wednesday afternoon, Erika Roth from *Nith Valley Apiaries* brought a mini hive full of honeybees and told us all about the life of bees and how they made honey. She even brought honey and honeycomb for us all to sample. Delicious!

On Friday morning, Jen Ardon from CLWR led our opening story and talked about peace and conflict. She also led us in an exercise about having to flee our homes quickly as refugees – and what it means to go through check points and border control guards.

Every day there were snacks, and lunches consisted of kid favourites such as hot dogs, grilled cheese, pizza and a few other items.

As you can see, Creation Care Quest was a busy week. By all accounts the kids had an exciting time. There was singing, there were crafts, there were games – everyone had fun. And... there was learning! We talked about the Creation story; we learned about God's world – and we learned that we all need to work together to make our world a better place for everyone.

Many thanks to:

- all those who generously donated snacks, fruit and vegetables, and cookies.

- our teen volunteers who were team leaders for our kids.
- all the volunteers who assisted with science, crafts, kitchen help, and outside time.

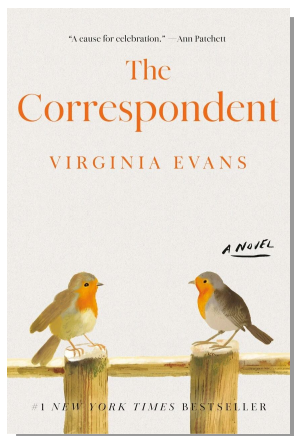
We could not have done this without your help. There are already a number of kids who want to come back. Might we do this again next year? With your support, it will definitely be possible!



Trinity Book Club

The September selection for the Trinity Book Club is *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. The group meets next at 7:00 pm on September 15th 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!



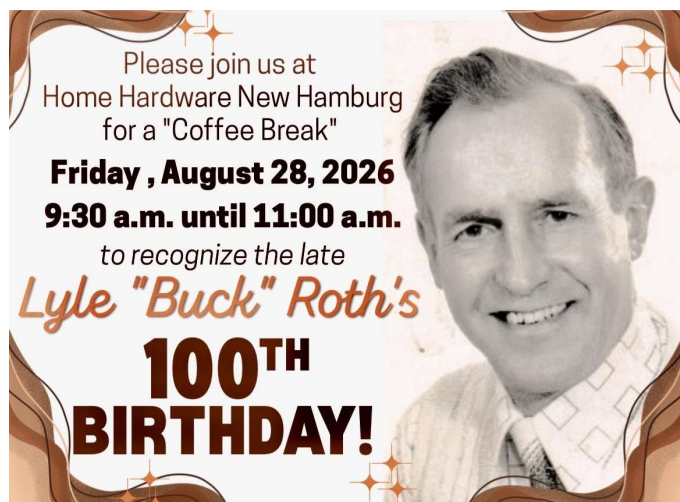
Altar Guild

Trinity's worship committee is looking for one or two new helpers for Sunday morning Altar Guild duties. Folks arrive before worship to put out the bread and wine for Holy Communion, and clean up afterward. In our current format, Altar Guild members take two months per year.

If this is a ministry you could assist with, please speak to Pastor Tanya.

Remembering Buck Roth

The family of longtime Trinity member Buck Roth invites our church community to a "coffee break" at Home Hardware on August 28th.



Care Card Ministry

Are you someone who enjoys helping people feel remembered and cared for?

We are looking for folks who would be willing to participate in Trinity's Care Card Ministry. This ministry is a simple but meaningful way of staying connected with members of our church family by sending cards for: birthdays, wedding anniversaries, sympathy and bereavement, and other significant occasions when a note of care would be meaningful.

The role would involve keeping track of these important dates (provided by staff), selecting cards, and then writing and mailing cards on behalf of Trinity. Trinity covers all costs for cards and postage.

This could be a wonderful ministry for **one person or a team of two**, and it does not require a large time commitment—just a willingness to help maintain those small connections that can mean so much.

Interested in helping with this meaningful ministry? Please speak with Pastor Tanya or Parish Administrator Jamie Courtney.

Confirmation Classes

To prepare our young folks for the Rite of Confirmation, Trinity offers classes through the school year for those who are attending Grade 7 and Grade 8 in school.

As we prepare for our fall confirmation programming, please contact Pastor Tanya for more information if your child or grandchild is of age to attend classes.

Sunday School

This fall, Trinity looks to restart Sunday School learning ministry for our youngest folks. Together we aim to fulfil the promises made as a congregation in Holy Baptism to support children "in their new life in Christ".

We will offer Sunday School twice per month starting in October, and would share leadership duties among a team of helpers. Please speak to Pastor Tanya if you are interested in assisting with this important ministry.

Church Council News

PAT SCHMETZER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trinity's Church Council met over Zoom on Wednesday August 19th.

Council learned that our new bike rack is here and was well used during this week's VBS.

Kitch Radke reported that 36 grocery cards worth \$35 each have been distributed to the Pfennigs workers. Also, Trinity collected over 40 backpacks filled with school supplies and a further \$800 for the Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre. This amounted to almost 50% of their backpack goal for this year. During the same time frame our congregation made a lot of donations through CLWR for the Venezuela earthquake relief. Thank you everyone for being such a giving community!

Council heard that ICC is looking for an additional space for counselling. Council is okay with Pastor Tanya and Jamie meeting with ICC to try to come up with a solution.

Jo-Anne Schwass is working on a plan to provide training on our AED equipment (defibrillator) and on CPR for interested members of our congregation and our building partners. She will also make sure that a naloxone kit is available in our building.

Suzan Deckert and Pastor Tanya are working on a plan to provide little hospitality baskets in our church washrooms. These would be outfitted with emergency sanitary products for the women and men using our washrooms.

ELCIC Conversations

You are invited to join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer for *Conversations Across the Church* – an hour-long online gathering bringing together members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) from coast to coast. The focus for the third Conversations Across the Church for this year will be on Season of Creation, which takes place September 1 to October 4 and is a time to come together in prayer and action for creation. ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will be joined by three speakers on why this is a priority for our church.

Look for Zoom invitation links for these events in future Trinity emailers.

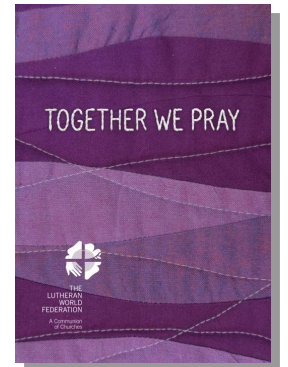
Sacraments and Seasons

We offer birthday greetings to those celebrating milestone birthdays in September: Judie Seltzer (80), Connie Forler (85), and Ruth Jones (95). Happy birthday, friends! We also offer congratulations to Ken & Sheila Snyder, celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary.

We grieve with the families of Nancy Brodrecht who died August 1st, and Muriel Weichel, who died August 17th. Blessed are they who mourn.

Women's Prayer Book

A new prayer resource from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is sharing the voices, experiences and theological reflections of women from across the global Lutheran communion – with significant contributions from members of the ELCIC. *Together We Pray* brings together prayers written by lay and ordained women, theologians, leaders, students and activists from LWF member churches around the world.



ELCIC contributors to the women's prayer book resource include Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Rev. Katherine Gohm, Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund, Rev. Dr. Mary Philip and former ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Johnson, who served as ELCIC National Bishop from 2007 to 2025, says the collection offers an opportunity for the wider church to experience prayer through new perspectives.

"This is a fabulous new resource," she said. "It gives us new and fresh voices and ways to intercede with God."

This new resource is available to download for free in English, Spanish, German, and French. For more information, visit elcic.ca/2026/06/10/together-we-pray-womens-prayer-book/

Anne Krentz Organ to Visit

THE REV. DR. STEPHEN LARSON



On Sunday, September 13th, Trinity welcomes visiting musician, Anne Krentz Organ.

From 2003 to 2011, I was lead pastor within a team ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in a Chicago suburb. Anne Krentz Organ was the full time

music director working with Melinda Hoiland, the part-time children's music director. Together they directed 13 ensembles: 7 vocal and 6 instrumental, including an orchestra with strings, brass, and timpani for Christmas and Easter!

Anne is a gifted and prolific composer. Jamie has often played her music for preludes in our worship. Back in 2016 Trinity commissioned Anne to compose an anthem for my retirement – *The Healing of the Nations*. Anne came to Trinity for that retirement service to accompany the choir's singing of her anthem. The anthem was then published; a recording is available on YouTube. (On YouTube, search "The Healing of the Nations Anne Krentz Organ")

For the past several summers, Anne has served on the faculty of Lutheran Summer



Music, a program to support and encourage high school and university students on a career path toward church music ministry. This summer, she was the LSM Composer in Residence.

Anne is the composer of Holy Communion Setting 12 in *All Creation Sings* which we will use in our worship this autumn. What an opportunity to have the composer of our worship music be present that Sunday in our worship on September 13th. Not to be missed!

And how can you not love a church musician named Mrs. Organ?

For a fuller biography, visit: lsmacademy.org/anne-krentz-organ

Grocery Card Delivery



On Sunday, August 2nd, some Trinity folks delivered \$35 No Frills grocery gift cards to the 35 Jamaican guest workers at nearby Pfenning's Organic Farm. Trinity's Endowment Fund has been generously supporting this important outreach for over 10 years! We told the workers that they are welcome in our community and that we appreciate the important work that they do in Canada.

The workers were most welcoming and deeply appreciated Trinity's generosity. We hope to continue this gesture other years and welcome any Trinity people who would like to join our annual delivery team.

**Canadian Blood Services**
BLOOD PLASMA STEM CELLS ORGANS & TISSUES

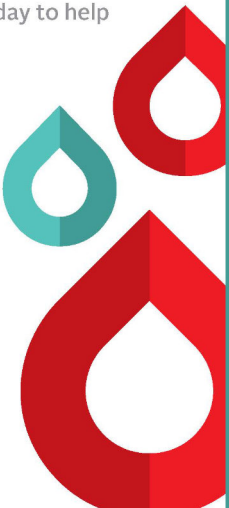
Your donation matters
It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

Steinmann Mennonite Church
1316 Snyder's Road West
New Hamburg

Monday, September 14
12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



Financial Update

RICK RITZ, FINANCE COMMITTEE

The General Fund continues to be in good shape after a summer where donations exceeded expenses, resulting in a lowering of the deficit during the July/August period. That is an unusual event and a testament to the generosity of stakeholders who support our mission and ministry with their offerings. It is also a symbol of a Council and staff who are careful with spending in spite of increasing prices on so many things.

Our General Fund deficit sits at approximately \$8,500 which is well below the year-to-date budgeted deficit of \$27,000. This is thanks in part to so many people utilizing PAR to help equalize revenue throughout the year.

The Capital Fund is in reasonable shape for this period in the year as well. The property team has completed a number of the budgeted Capital projects for 2026, which puts the Capital Fund in a small deficit of \$3,500 as of July 31st. At this point we still expect to end the year with a small surplus in the Capital Fund, after the rest of the Capital projects get completed.

As a reminder, the Capital Fund Financial Report does not include the \$54,054 carried over from 2025. With this carry-over included, we continue to have a cushion to cover any unexpected Capital issues.

These financial reports normally focus on the General and Capital Funds. It is also noteworthy to report that donations for Mission work beyond our congregation total \$13,327 for the period ending July 31st. This includes support for the important work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, oneRoof, Wilmot & Wellesley Resource Centre, ELCIC special appeals and the Food Bank. This equates to an extra 10% of what we receive as General Fund offerings being shared with ministry partners, which further enhances the work of God in our community and across the globe.

Thank you to all who contribute their time, talents, and treasures so generously.

2026 General Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	187,983	183,052	4,931
Expenses	196,469	210,074	(13,605)
Total	(\$8,486)	(\$27,022)	\$18,536

2026 Capital Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Income	9,901	14,583	(4,682)
Expenses	13,404	13,294	110
Total	(\$3,503)	\$1,289	(\$4,792)

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

New Principal Dean

Martin Luther University College in Waterloo announced that Rev. Dr. Daranne Harris has accepted the position of Principal-Dean. Her appointment follows an international search that drew qualified applicants from across North America.



Harris brings to the role more than 25 years of leadership experience across congregational ministry, humanitarian aid and development, healthcare, and education organizations. An ordained ELCIC pastor, Harris served as pastor in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Director of Communications and Education at CLWR, and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and pastoral care faculty at the Saskatoon Theological Union.

An service of installation is in the planning for September. Watch the weekly emailer for updates.

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

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 10:30 am Wilmot Indigenous Working Group	3	4	5 7:00 pm AA
	6 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	7 Labour Day Church office closed	8	9	10	11
13 16 th Sunday after Pentecost + Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	14 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup	15 12:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Trinity Book Club	16 7:00 pm Church Council	17 9:00 am Dove Deadline (October Issue)	18	19 7:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm AA
20 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	21 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup	22	23 9:30 am NVMA Rostered Leaders St. Paul's, Moserville 5:15 pm Music Together	24 8:45 am Music Together	25	26 7:45 am Music Together 7:00 pm AA
27 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	28 10:00 am Monday Morning Meetup	29	30 5:15 pm Music Together National Day for Truth and Reconciliation			