





# 60 Years of Faith, Friendship, and Camp

THE REV. DR. TANYA VARNER

For 60 years, Lutheran youth from across Southwestern Ontario have gathered for a week of worship, learning, friendship, laughter, and faith at what was once known as “Contract Confirmation Camp”. This year, we celebrate six decades of a ministry that has helped nurture generations of young people in their faith and encouraged them to discover their gifts for leadership and service.

The story began 60 years ago when Pastor Norman Lange of Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Waterloo took young people to Camp Edgewood for two weeks of confirmation learning. After several years, Pastor Norm invited Pastor Dick Holm of St. James Lutheran Church in New Dundee to join him. With his guitar in hand, Pastor Dick helped create the spirit of music, worship, community, and fun that became such an important part of camp. Before long, the invitation expanded to include youth from other Lutheran congregations throughout Southwestern Ontario.

Camp Edgewood was one of three Lutheran camps supported through the Eastern Synod's camping ministry, alongside Camp Lutherlyn in Ottawa and Camp Mush-a-Mush in Nova Scotia. For 51 years, Contract Confirmation Camp was held at Edgewood, bringing together generations of youth and leaders. In 2017, however, Camp Edgewood closed because of financial constraints and aging infrastructure.

The closure could have been the end of this ministry. Instead, those who had a passion for youth ministry searched for a new home that would continue the camp's important mandate of being an inclusive Christian community. They found that home at Camp Kintail, a Presbyterian camp on the shores of Lake Huron.

Over these 60 years, thousands of young people have experienced the gift of camp. They have worshipped together, asked questions about faith, learned from one another, played games, sung around campfires, made lifelong friendships, and discovered that faith is something we live together in community. Many of those young people have gone on to serve their congregations and their wider communities in countless ways.

None of this would have been possible without the many people who have believed in youth ministry and given their time and gifts to make camp happen: rostered

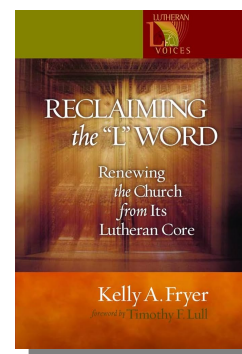
leaders and lay people who planned and led programs; counsellors who made the week fun and meaningful; nurses who cared for the health and safety of our youth; and families who made the commitment to get their young people to camp.

Most of all, this is a story about community. Dozens of congregations have come together over the years to create a place where young people can encounter God, build relationships, and discover their place within the wider church.

## Book Study: Rescheduled

PASTOR TANYA VARNER

Have you ever wondered what it really means to be Lutheran? Whether you are new to the Lutheran tradition or have been part of it your whole life, our upcoming four-week study offers an opportunity to explore the heart of our faith together.



This fall we will begin a conversation based on the book, ***Reclaiming the 'L' Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core*** by Kelly A. Fryer. Through this engaging and accessible book, we will explore the core ideas of Lutheran faith and how they shape our understanding of grace, discipleship, and life together as the church.

This online study via Zoom, was previously scheduled for earlier this spring, but has now been rescheduled at 10:30 am on four Thursdays: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you are interested in joining the study, please sign up with Pastor Tanya by October 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the book is \$26.00 and can be paid after signing up.

All are welcome as we rediscover and reflect on what it means to live as Lutheran Christians today.

## Join the Celebration

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As we are celebrating 60 years of youth ministry, we want you to be part of the celebration!

Join us on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Easthope Township (Perth East) for worship, fellowship, and a shared meal provided by St. James.

Come and remember old friends, share your camp stories, celebrate what God has done through this ministry, and make some new friends along the way.

*Pictured at right:  
Youth camp in 1966 and 2026*



## Endowment Fund Requests

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Trinity's Endowment Fund has a legacy of supporting projects that extend our mission and ministry into the wider community. At the annual meeting each February, the congregation votes to distribute the previous year's investment proceeds. Oftentimes it's thousands of dollars supporting a dozen or more causes and projects. As we begin to move towards the end of the year, the Endowment Fund Committee invites members of the congregation to submit potential proposals they would like to see supported by proceeds from the Endowment Fund. While it is unknown until the end of the year how few or how many dollars are available to distribute, the committee will begin assessing potential recipients in December.

Any suggestions should be submitted, in writing, to Pastor Tanya by the end of November.

## Changing MAID Legislation

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At an upcoming Lutheran-Anglican gathering, participants will discuss the development of current MAID (medical assistance in dying) legislation in Canada, with a focus on the three proposed expansions to MAID legislation in 2027: MAID by advanced directive, MAID for Canadians under the age of 18 years, and MAID for Canadians where their sole underlying medical condition is a psychiatric condition.

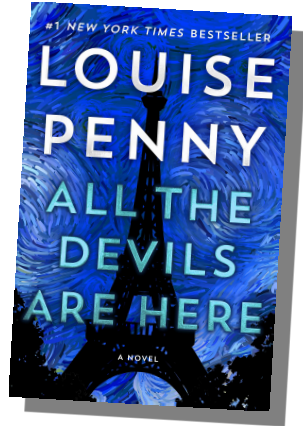
The event is being held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Waterloo. Discussion led by Dr. Peter Kuhnert, a medical doctor and Lutheran pastor.

Register online at: [bit.ly/4dOK4w9](https://bit.ly/4dOK4w9).

## Trinity Book Club

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The October selection for the Trinity Book Club is *All the Devils are Here* by Loise Penny. The group meets next at 7:00 pm on October 20<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!

## Church Council News

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PAT SCHMETZER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Trinity's Church Council met in person on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Council heard that Kim Schmidt has agreed to join Carol Murray and Rick Ritz on our Finance Committee. Welcome Kim, and thank you for helping out with our financial management.

Council also heard that Katharine Borch has volunteered to help with our adult learning starting this fall. Thank you, Katharine, for helping with this very important learning ministry.

Look for Sunday School programming, confirmation classes, Tuesday Bible Study, and Adult Learning to begin in October. A book study is expected to start in November.

Council discussed and approved the positioning of a new hand rail at the base of the stairs by the wooden entry doors.

Council approved a proposal from Minister of Music Jamie Courtney for a Spring Concert Series in support of the Trinity Music Fund. Look for details on dates and artists soon!

## Welcome Back, Musicians

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Our music ministry is in full swing this October with rehearsals resuming for Trinity Handbell Ensemble and Trinity Choir.

Our at-capacity Handbell Ensemble meets starting on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The group rings 6 or 7 times in worship from October through May.

Trinity Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Our mixed voices ensemble (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) has singers of all ability levels; there's always room for one more! Speak to Minister of Music Jamie Courtney for more information.

## ELCIC Celebrates 40 Years

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As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates 40 years in 2026, members and congregations from across the church are invited to come together for a special National Worship Service on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Led by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the service will be livestreamed from Camp Kinasao at Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan, where youth from across the Saskatchewan Synod will gather for a weekend retreat. Watch the weekly emailer for a link to this online event.



## Visioning Dispatch

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REV. HANS BORCH, VISIONING TASK TEAM

Looking at the calendar as I write this piece, it's three weeks into September and many of us are wondering where summer has gone. The summer weather seems to have fled all too quickly and now we must focus back on our 'regular' schedules.

Fall is a time of transition, not only for us but for creation as well. The lush greenery of the trees seems to fade and autumnal colours begin to emerge. Our children and grandchildren move from the freedom of summer vacation to a return to learning. The outside air loses its warmth and is replaced with brisk winds and the threat of colder weather. It's a time of transition for all of us. Your Visioning Task Team is also in a moment of transition. We have also had opportunities to have some 'down-time', allowing our bodies and minds to be refreshed. We have advised our design team of our decision to explore a more detail a 4-storey apartment building with 30 residential units, while retain the existing sanctuary but to undertake some renovations to improve the functionality for our present renters. And now we're asking, **"Where do we go from here?"**

Our design team has provided us with a road map of which direction needs to be followed. This document includes a multi-phased approach to achieve the end result. The Visioning Task Team will meet to discuss the document which we received and will also meet with the design team before the end of the month to get some clarification on the questions we have related to their document.

We look forward to bringing you more information in the future once we review the necessary steps that need to be completed in order to make our project a physical reality.

## Altar Guild

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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.

## Monthly Soup & Service

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From October through May, outside of Advent and Lent seasons, we host a monthly simple soup supper followed by a short evening worship service.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We meet for soup at 5:30 pm, followed by a half hour service at 6:30 pm, which include scripture, silence, and song.

If you care to contribute soup or bread for the meal, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex at Trinity.

Note that during the seasons of Advent and Lent we continue our practice of having *weekly* gatherings for soup suppers and evening worship. Those weekly gathering return in December for Advent.

## Fall Offering Statements

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As we head into the final few months of the year, we are grateful to all our Trinity members and friends who give so generously of their time, talents, and treasure. In early November we will mail out offering statements reflecting financial donations made from January through October of this year.

Please take this opportunity to review if your tithes and offerings have met your intentions for 2026. All gifts, whether directed to the General Fund, Capital Fund, or other Trinity endeavours, are used carefully so that we may continue faithfully in our mission and ministry.

## Flowers for Worship

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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.

## Eternity for Today

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Eternity for Today is the daily devotional from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, featuring writers from across the country.

The final issue for 2026 (October, November, December) is now available and may be picked up in the narthex at Trinity. One of the writers in this issue is Pastor Brad Mittleholtz, son-in-law of Trinity member Lynn Perrin.



## Helping Our Neighbours

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## Welcoming New Members

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On Reformation Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, Trinity will receive new members. If you're new to Trinity, or have found your way to us after a time away, you'd be most welcome to take up your place in our mission and ministry in a simple Affirmation of Baptism rite.

Please speak to Pastor Tanya if you would like to join our membership rolls, or if you have any questions.

## Bible Study Returns

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Our weekly Tuesday Bible Study returns for the fall on October 13<sup>th</sup> in the Katie Luther Room. Folks of all abilities and experience are welcome at these 10:30 am discussions, as together we explore the scripture texts for the upcoming Sunday over a cup of coffee.

With Thanksgiving around the corner, we invite folks to remember Trinity's ongoing collection for the Food Bank at Wilmot and Wellesley Resource Centre. In a time of rising costs, food insecurity in our own community is a growing concern.

Food donations can be left in the baskets at Trinity entrances. The most needed items are:

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

Monetary donations are also most welcome. Simply mark an offering envelope or etransfer as "Food Bank".

Thank you to all those who support the food bank all year long. (And, a special thank-you to our Trinity helpers who take our collected items to the Wilmot & Wellesley Resource Centre each and every week!)

# Financial Update

RICK RITZ, FINANCE COMMITTEE

The General Fund has remained in good shape throughout the summer. We ended the summer with a small deficit, but far lower than the budgeted deficit for the end of August. The General Fund is currently \$21,000 better than expected at this point in the year. The generosity of stakeholders is responsible for the comfortable position we have in our General Fund going into the fall.

The Capital Fund is also in a reasonable position at the end of summer. Donations are a little behind the budget but we also have a large carryover from previous years to draw on when needed. Expenses are as anticipated in the 2026 budget with the projects being completed as planned.

Your Church Council is thankful for the faithful financial stewardship of Trinity members and others who support our mission and ministry.

| 2026 General Fund |            |            |          |
|-------------------|------------|------------|----------|
|                   | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance |
| Income            | 215,285    | 207,553    | 7,732    |
| Expenses          | 223,683    | 237,321    | (13,638) |
| Total             | (\$8,398)  | (\$29,768) | \$21,370 |

| 2026 Capital Fund |            |            |            |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                   | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance   |
| Income            | 11,394     | 16,667     | (5,273)    |
| Expenses          | 21,000     | 15,193     | 5,807      |
| Total             | (\$9,606)  | \$1,474    | (\$11,080) |

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

# Vigil Service

*National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*

**PRAYER ▪ MUSIC ▪ REFLECTION**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> ▪ 5:30 PM**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
23 Church Street, New Hamburg  
*This is an outdoor event on Trinity's Peel St. lawn.*

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.**



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

# October 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | MONDAY                                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                                                                        | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                                                            | FRIDAY                                       | SATURDAY                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                      | <b>1</b><br><b>8:45 am</b><br>Music Together                                                                        | <b>2</b>                                     | <b>3</b><br><b>7:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>AA  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>4</b><br><b>Season of Creation</b><br><b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship<br><b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship | <b>5</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br>Karate                                                                           | <b>6</b><br><b>9:30 am</b><br>Prayer Circle<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br>Karate                                                                              | <b>7</b><br><b>5:15 pm</b><br>Music Together                                                                        | <b>8</b><br><b>8:45 am</b><br>Music Together | <b>9</b>                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                     |                                              | <b>10</b><br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>AA                                     |
| <b>11</b><br><b>Day of Thanksgiving</b><br><b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship<br><b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship<br><b>2:00 pm</b> Nithview Worship                                                                                                                                                    | <b>12</b><br><b>Thanksgiving</b><br><i>Church office closed</i>                                      | <b>13</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br>Bible Study<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br>Karate                                        | <b>14</b><br><b>5:15 pm</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Confirmation Class                                                                | <b>15</b><br><b>8:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>5:30 pm</b><br>Soup Supper<br><b>6:30 pm</b><br>Evening Worship | <b>16</b>                                    | <b>17</b><br><b>7:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>AA |
| <b>18</b><br><b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship<br><b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>19</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br>Karate<br><b>6:30 pm</b><br>Handbells                                 | <b>20</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br>Bible Study<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br>Karate<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Trinity Book Club | <b>21</b><br><b>5:15 pm</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Church Council                                                                    | <b>22</b><br><b>8:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>9:00 am</b><br>Dove Deadline<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Trinity Choir | <b>23</b>                                    | <b>24</b><br><b>7:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>AA |
| <b>25</b><br><b>Reformation Sunday + Welcoming New Members</b><br><b>9:30 am</b> Hybrid Worship<br><b>10:30 am</b> Fellowship<br><b>10:30 am</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:45 am</b> Adult Learning: <i>Leadership in a Changing Church</i><br><b>4:00 pm</b> Youth Camp<br>60 Year Celebration | <b>26</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b><br>Handbells<br><b>5:00 pm</b><br>Karate                                 | <b>27</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br>Bible Study<br><b>4:00 pm</b><br>Karate                                        | <b>28</b><br><b>9:30 am</b><br>NVMA Rostered Leaders<br><i>Woodstock</i><br><b>5:15 pm</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Confirmation Class | <b>29</b><br><b>8:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>Trinity Choir                                    | <b>30</b>                                    | <b>31</b><br><b>7:45 am</b><br>Music Together<br><b>7:00 pm</b><br>AA |