Trinity DOVE

November 2026



Reformation Sunday

Welcoming New Members

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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ELCIC 40th Anniversary

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer

In 2026, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates 40 years since it's founding. The National Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, shared the following sermon on October 25th at the national worship service marking this important milestone.

Dear church. Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus. ~ Today we are marking 40 years in the life of our church. A milestone that not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church Living Out God's Grace and Unconditional Love.

I have chosen to mark this occasion at a Youth and Young Adult retreat at Camp Kinasao, Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan. This sermon was prepared for Sunday morning at the retreat, with youth and young adults in mind, mindful that we gather on Reformation Sunday and that we are a church always re-forming, mindful that in an increasingly fragmented world, we are called to unity in the one body of Christ, as we have heard from Ephesians 4.

One body rooted in the love of Christ, centered in the cross of Christ, united in service to God's creation, and to a way of living characterized by love, by humility, bound to peace and to justice.



Bishop Kochendorfer visits Trinity in September 2026

I first knew God's voice through my maternal grandmother's voice. She was twelve years old when she arrived with her family to western Canada from Scotland. Her voice had a musical quality—a lilt to it. You could dance to my grandmother's voice.

She and my entire family called me—and continue to call me—by a special name, Lar. It is a name not used beyond our family. It is a name that speaks of relationship, of intimacy, of knowing, of love.

I first knew God's voice through my grandmother's voice.

I grew up on a grain and livestock farm in northwestern Alberta, and I remember very clearly that treats of any kind were few and far between. My identical twin brother and I, and our three younger sisters loved candy and ice cream, and like most children we drooled over the chocolate bars at our local grocery store.

I remember that on one particular Sunday afternoon our mother's parents had come to visit and that sometime during the visit, Doug and I, who were five years old, noticed that our grandmother had a chocolate bar tucked away in the recesses of her purse. We saw her take the chocolate bar from her purse, break off a tiny square of dark, delicious chocolate and put it in her mouth. Immediately our saliva glands kicked into gear—and although I'm pretty sure that it was my brother's idea—we both plotted as to how we could sneak some of that dark, delicious-looking chocolate without getting caught.

Throughout the afternoon we planned, and we planned, and we planned but we could not come up with a full-proof scheme—one that would get us the melt-in-your-mouth chocolate and not a spanking at the same time. We were unusually patient that day—we waited, and we waited, and we waited—and finally we thought we had the perfect opportunity! Our grandmother had left her treasure-filled purse in our parent's bedroom just off of the kitchen —and we carefully stalked the bedroom—hoping no one would spot us—our saliva glands were working overtime! We reached into the dark, mysterious recesses of her purse and pulled out our hearts desire—the chocolate bar—thick and rich and dark. And carefully—and quickly—we each broke off a square of chocolate. The chocolate melted instantly in our mouths. It tasted so wonderful—better than we could have ever imagined. Can you taste it?

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And of course, it was so good that we broke off a second square and then a third square and so on, until finally, there were only a few squares and chocolate crumbs left. Well, we managed the rest of the afternoon just fine—but as the day continued the churning in our stomachs became pain-filled, until finally we approached our grandmother—you see we couldn't stand our sin any longer. She was alone at the kitchen table. She sat facing us as we entered the room. It was a large, farm table—the color of the chocolate bar —in the shape of a coffin. "We," we were unable to look at her—our eyes lowered—we glanced at each other. "Yes, what is it?" she asked. "I…well, you know the chocolate bar in your purse?" "Yes." "Well…yes...we ate most of it." "Ah," said my grandmother. "Did you ask permission? Did you ask me for a bite?" "No." "Ah, what did you do then?" "We…we snuck into the bedroom and took a few bites." "Ah, a few bites?" "Well…yes…most of it."

Slowly our grandmother rose from behind the chocolate, coffin-shaped, large, farm table. We didn't look at her. Slowly she rounded the far side and came toward us—heavy, dark print dress, severe grey-blue hair, stern wire-framed glasses. Judgement was coming. Punishment was on its' way. And I was prepared for the discipline. I lowered my head further into my chest. But I was altogether unprepared for what my grandmother did. In a beautiful musical lilt layered with grace and compassion and love she spoke my name, "Lar," and then she spoke my brother's name. And then, she knelt down in front of us, and she took us in her arms, and she hugged us—and as we cried and cried, she began to say over and over, "I love you, I love you, I love you. You silly boys."

I first knew God's voice through my grandmother's voice. Her voice had a musical quality—a lilt to it—dance-like: an inflection of grace, a tone of compassion, a rhythm of love.

Let the church be like this…grace, compassion, love…living out God's grace and unconditional love. Let the church be like this.

In "The Gospel of the Wild Messiah," Jon Swales, a pastor, writes of this vision of the church as he speaks of Jesus:

He did not come robed in safety. He did not come crowned in gold. He came with dust on his sandals, blood in his future, and fire in his bones.

Not to keep the peace— but to break it open.

The penniless preacher from Nazareth walks towards the pain, kneels where no king kneels, calls friends what the world calls waste.

The mission of the wild messiah is madness to the market and mercy to the margins.

Here is a man. Exiled flesh. Olive skin cracked like parched land. No one hugs lepers.

But he does. No ritual. Just reach.

Let the church be like this—touching what others avoid. Body of Christ, move your hands.

Here is a man. Dropped through a broken roof. They say his legs are cursed, but Jesus says, "Friend." Forgiveness before healing. Wholeness before walking.

Let the church be like this— tearing open ceilings so mercy can get in.

Here is a man. Sworn to Caesar. A soldier's posture, a servant's pain. Faith speaks from strange lips. Jesus listens. Heals.

Let the church be like this— wide-lunged enough to breathe in foreign hope.

Here is a woman. Tears on feet, perfume in air, shame in the room. They call her sinner. He calls her forgiven.

Let the church be like this— welcoming the shamed. Less pointing. More tears. Less tally.

Here is a man. Naked in tombs. Self-harm scrawled across skin. Unclean, unkempt, unloved. Jesus asks one thing: What's your name? And the demons tremble.

Let the church be like this— naming the silenced, holding the haunted.

Here is a woman. Twelve years of blood. Invisible in a crowd. She dares a touch— and it stops him. He says: "Daughter." A word that heals more than wounds.

Let the church be like this— interruptible. Alive to power in the unnoticed.

Here is a man. Short in stature, tall in corruption. Collaboration money stacked in a crooked house. Jesus

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ELCIC
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

ELCIC 40th Anniversary

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invites himself in. No lecture. Just presence. And something changes.

Let the church be like this— hosting grace before repentance, feasting with the fallen.

Here is a man. Blind and begging. Shouting louder than the crowd's comfort. Jesus halts. Sees what others pass by. And lets light in.

Let the church be like this— attentive to inconvenient cries. This is not a clean gospel. It smells of spit and soil, rupture and resistance. It weeps in alleyways and whispers beside beds. It eats with the wrong people and sings in the dark.

The kingdom is not far. It is falling like a tear from the face of God. And still he walks. Still he calls. Still he touches the untouchable and invites the forgotten home.

Let the church be like this. Let us be wounded, wild, and faithful. (Amen. And amen again.)

I first knew God's voice through my grandmother's voice. Her voice had a musical quality—a lilt to it—dance-like: an inflection of grace, a tone of compassion, a rhythm of love. Let the church be like this…grace, compassion, love…living out God's grace and unconditional love. Let the church be like this.

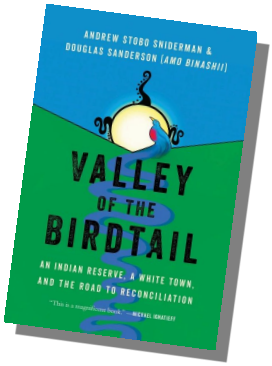
This is my hope for the ELCIC. Youth and young adults let the church be like this—youth and young adults, brothers and sisters—siblings in Christ, let's be this kind of church together. Thanks be to God.

An Invitation to Sing

Love to sing? Have some time on Thursdays and Sundays for a few weeks?

Trinity Choir extends an invitation to folks to join our ranks for a short-commitment engagement for the Sundays of Advent (starting November 29th), plus Christmas Eve. We'll rehearse this music on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm starting November 19th. Need to miss a Sunday, or out of town Christmas Eve? No problem! Speak to Minister of Music Jamie Courtney for more details.

Trinity Book Club



The November selection for the Trinity Book Club is *Valley of the Birdtail* by Donald Sanderson. The group meets next at 7:00 pm on November 17th 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

Pat Schmetzer, Council Secretary

Trinity's Church Council met in person on Wednesday October 21st.

Rick Ritz presented September financial reports from the Finance Team. The reports show that our income is above budget and our expenses are below budget at this point in the year. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation and very diligent staff.

Council listened to a presentation by the Visioning Task Team about the information meeting planned for November 1st and the congregational meeting scheduled for November 8th. Council will conduct the congregational meeting and confidential voting on November 8th.

Council approved the schedule for AED and CPR training for the congregation and our partners for Saturday, January 16th. Watch for more details soon.

Wildfire Recovery Fundraiser

The community is invited to a fundraiser or Namaygoosisagagun First Nation following devastating wildfires. Featuring live muisc, artwork and craft auctions, with baked good and food, the event happends on Saturday, December 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Kitchener. Further details on the poster in Trinity's narthex.

Visioning Dispatch

Nancy Dale, Visioning Task Team

The Visioning Task Team recently met with our experts from Nith Valley Construction, SRM Architects and Tim Welch Consulting; this team has been very busy on our behalf over the past few months. We are now ready for our project to move from the feasibility stage to a possible implementation stage! Exciting … we're moving closer to shovels in the ground.

Before moving forward, our team needs approval from the congregation; therefore, two important meetings have been planned and approved by council. The first will be held on Sunday, November 1st. This will be an Informational Meeting taking place after worship at 10:45 am. Ryan Hicks from SRM Architects, Bob Zehr from Nith Valley Construction and Tim Welch from Welch Consulting will be present to help answer questions. An information package will be shared at the meeting which you will be able to take with you. A proposal regarding the next steps on for this project will be presented at this meeting; this proposal will require a congregational vote. We want everyone to have time to reflect, inquire and pray about this proposal. The meeting will be live streamed.

Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 8th at 10:45 am. Council will ask you to confidentially vote for the proposal on November 8. Please plan to attend. In accordance with the Trinity constitution, members must be present in-person to participate in the voting process. As per Article VIII, Section 6 of Trinity's constitution – "Proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the congregation".

Please save these important dates – November 1st and November 8th – and plan to attend.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before heading to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Daylight saving time officially ends for another year in the wee hours of Sunday, November 1st.



November Soup & Service

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 19th. 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.

Legion Chaplain



We offer prayers and support to Pastor Tanya as she assumes the chaplaincy at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 532 (New Hamburg). She was received as Chaplain in a brief ceremony in October, and takes over duties from the Rev. Bob Thaler.

Sacraments and Seasons

We offer birthday greetings to Lynn Thompson, celebrating 80 years in November. Happy Birthday, Lynn! We also offer congratulations to Otto and Renate Berg, celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

We greive with the Pastor Helen and Keith Toman and extended family on the death of Edna Stroh who died October 1st. Blessed are they who mourn.

Trinity's Annual

Season of Giving

Gifts for Holiday Hampers — Due December 6

in support of Wilmot Family Resource Centre

Help us prepare gifts for families in need. All items need to be brand new and unwrapped. Here are a few ideas for all ages:

Children and Youth: books, craft kits, colouring books, small toys, stuffed animals, bubble bath, puzzles, candy, board games

Adults: bath or lotion gift sets, adult colouring books, card games, puzzles, hard candy, chocolates, nuts, coffee or tea gift sets

Warm Woollies — Due December 6

in support of Wilmot Family Resource Centre

Keep folks warm in our community. We're accepting new or homemade hats, mitts, gloves, and scarves. Children, youth, and adult sizes welcomed.

Men's Socks — Due December 13

in support of House of Friendship

Keep feet dry and warm this winter! We're accepting new men's socks... consider purchasing bulk packages for maximum impact.

All items can be dropped off at Trinity in the bins in the stairwell at the main entrance on Church Street starting November 15th

TRINITY
Lutheran Church
New Hamburg

Financial Update

Rick Ritz, Finance Committee

The financial position of the parish as of September 30th was quite strong. Donations to the General Fund were $10,463 ahead of budget. This is unexpected for this time of year. We experienced some extremely generous giving in the month of September, which pushed us over our budgeted donations for January through September.

The staff and your Church Council continue to monitor expenses very closely and have been doing a great job on the spending side of the ledger. Our General Fund expenses are $13,734 below budget after 9 months. The combination of the increased donations and lower spending means that the General Fund is about $24,000 ahead of budget!

The Capital Fund is slightly behind budget on the donations side, but we are also under spent on the projects budgeted for this year. We have a significant carryover of funds from last year to ensure we can complete all the budgeted projects for this year.

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of the Trinity stakeholders, members and others who believe in the mission and ministry being undertaken here at Trinity, New Hamburg. That work starts in parish and extends to the local community and beyond, both directly and indirectly through our support for the wider Church.

In early November, Trinity will send out offering statements to those who made financial contributions so far this year. Please take this opportunity to review if your tithes and offerings have met your goals for 2026.

In this season of thanksgiving, we have so much for which to be thankful regarding our finances and the underlying financial stewardship principles within our people. With two months left in this calendar year, the Finance Committee and your Church Council are confident that these trends will continue and we can finish the year within our budgeted numbers.

2026 General Fund			
	Actual YTD	**Budget YTD**	**Variance**
Income	260,467	250,004	10,463
Expenses	251,102	264,836	(13,734)
Total	$9,365	($14,832)	$24,197

2026 Capital Fund			
	Actual YTD	**Budget YTD**	**Variance**
Income	12,687	18,750	(6,063)
Expenses	13,200	17,093	(3,893)
Total	($513)	$1,657	($2,170)

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

Endowment Fund Requests

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.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Day** **9:30 am** Hybrid Worship **10:30 am** Fellowship **10:45 am** Visioning Update	**2** **5:00 pm** Karate **6:30 pm** Handbells	**3** **10:30 am** Bible Study **5:00 pm** Karate	**4** **10:00 am** Wilmot Indigenous Working Group **5:15 pm** Music Together	**5** **8:45 am** Music Together **9:30 am** NVMA Leaders (St. Luke's, Kit.) **10:30 am** "L Word" Book Study (in-person) **7:00 pm** Trinity Choir	**6**	**7** **7:45 am** Music Together **7:30 pm** AA
8 **24th Sunday after Pentecost** **9:30 am** Hybrid Worship **10:30 am** Fellowship **10:45 am** Sunday School **10:45 am** Special Congregational Meeting **2:00 pm** Nithview Worship	**9** **5:00 pm** Karate **6:30 pm** Handbells	**10** **9:30am** Prayer Circle **10:30 am** Bible Study **5:00 pm** Karate	**11** **5:15 pm** Music Together **7:00 pm** Confirmation	**12** **8:45 am** Music Together **10:30 am** "L Word" Book Study (Zoom)	**13**	**14** **7:45 am** Music Together **7:30 pm** AA
15 **25th Sunday after Pentecost** **9:30 am** Hybrid Worship **10:30 am** Fellowship **10:45 am** Adult Learning *Justice & Letter Writing* with Peggy Nichols	**16** **5:00 pm** Karate **6:30 pm** Handbells	**17** **10:30 am** Bible Study **7:00 pm** Trinity Book Club	**18** **5:15 pm** Music Together **7:00 pm** Church Council	**19** **8:45 am** Music Together **5:30 pm** Soup Supper **6:30 pm** Evening Worship **7:00 pm** Trinity Choir	**20**	**21** **7:45 am** Music Together **7:30 pm** AA
22 **Reign of Christ** **9:30 am** Hybrid Worship **10:30 am** Fellowship **10:45 am** Sunday School **10:45 am** Adult Learning *Refugee Resettlement* with CLWR's Jennifer Ardon	**23** **6:30 pm** Handbells	**24** **10:30 am** Bible Study	**25** **5:15 pm** Music Together **7:00 pm** Confirmation	**26** **8:45 am** Music Together **10:30 am** "L Word" Book Study (Zoom) **7:00 pm** Trinity Choir	**27**	**28** **7:45 am** Music Together **7:30 pm** AA
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **9:30 am** Hybrid Worship **10:30 am** Fellowship **10:45 am** Adult Learning *Advent: Preparing for Christ's Coming*	**30** **6:30 pm** Handbells					