



Trinity  
**DOVE**

FEBRUARY 2021



**Leanne Darlington**  
Trinity's Interim Visitation Pastor

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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# A Holy Lent

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THE REV. TANYA VARNER, PASTOR

Henri Nouwen once described Lent in the context of changing seasons. He said that winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance. (*Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey with Henri J.M. Nouwen*, p. 81) Cold, brisk air being asked to give way to warmer spring temperatures and gentle rain. The long days of winter darkness being cajoled to give way to the longer days of sunshine. In the life of the church, we go from Christmas celebrations and Epiphany light to a season that invites us into a time of self-discipline and repentance as we prepare for Easter celebrations. The church year, like the seasons of creation, is an ebb and flow of darkness and light, of preparation and receiving, of contemplation and action.

Lent is a six-week spiritual season which calls us to sit in God's presence, to have a greater openness to hearing God's Word become flesh in our lives, to let the light of Epiphany expose every corner of darkness in our lives and in the world, and allow the light to warm the bitterness and intolerance within. The season of Lent is an invitation to be stripped bare of all that holds us back from a full life in Christ: pride, greed, privilege, ignorance, insecurities, shame; everything that invites us away from God and God's love.

One of the ways we engage this process in the life of the church is by simplifying our worship spaces, keeping the space simple as a reflection on focusing on what is really important in our spiritual lives. And in the season of Lent we are called to the spiritual practices of simplifying our lives through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. So what might that look like for us in 2021?

**Prayer** – a time of conversation with God, is not only an opportunity for us to express to God the deepest desires and concerns on our hearts, it is also an opportunity for us to listen for God to speak to us. Prayer can also be a time to give thanks to God for the events of the day. This Lent, consider doing the 5-5-5 prayer: 5 minutes of sharing the desires or concerns of your heart, 5 minutes listening to God, and 5 minutes giving thanks to God.

**Almsgiving** – this past Advent, along with lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, the kids and I found a great resource

that allowed us to be mindful of the things we were grateful and privileged to have, like electricity, a fridge full of food, and smart phones. And each day, the Advent calendar we used encouraged us to add those things of gratitude up and put money in a jar that we then sent off to a local agency to support their ministry. So for Lent, I have created one that we will use, and I share it with you as a way of reflecting on abundance, gratitude and sharing. (Look for it as an insert in this issue of the Dove.)

**Fasting** – growing up, I always thought I had to give up my favourite food for the season of Lent: chocolate, chips, and pop. If I'm being honest, I hated this and was never really sure what the point was of refraining from these items. I've learned over the years that fasting is an opportunity to focus on what nourishment we take into our bodies. And while that includes food, I think there are other things we can be mindful of ingesting that might not be good for our bodies too, like too much news, and too much television and technology. These things in and of themselves are not bad things, however, when overused, (or misused, as in the case of fake news), they can cause levels of stress and anxiety within us, of which we might not even be aware. So this Lent, focus on the amount of time we ingest things, that don't make us feel healthy, and begin to develop new patterns of usage that sustain mind, body and spirit, rather than deplete them.

## Welcome, Pastor Leanne!

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Trinity's Church Council is happy to share that Pastor Leanne Darlington, who serves part-time at Zion Lutheran, Philipsburg, has agreed to come aboard as our interim visitation pastor. This contractual position will start on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will be reviewed periodically throughout the year. This allows both Pastor Leanne and Trinity to assess the needs of the community, as we continue to provide pastoral care to the members of Trinity during pandemic restrictions.

Look for some introductory remarks from Pastor Leanne on page 7 of the Dove.

## Boxed Offering Envelopes

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All 2021 offering envelopes have now been distributed. If we have inadvertently missed you, and you would still like to receive some, please contact the church office. We do have extras available.

Since we greatly reduced the number of offering envelopes we're sending out, it meant that almost everyone received a new offering envelope number. Please recycle any unused envelopes from 2020 or earlier.

During the pandemic, the need for a weekly envelope is not quite the same, but we look forward to a time when we can welcome you at Trinity each and every week.

## Rite of Confirmation

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Last May, we had hoped to be able to gather in worship to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of Reed Ricketts, Emma Van Schaik, and Aidan Treusch. With the state of things in a continued flux, and no certainty around a return to in-person worship for large gatherings, we have offered these families an option for confirmation in a special Zoom worship service on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm.

The congregation is invited to join us for this service! A Zoom link will be sent in the weekly emailer on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The link will also be made available to the extended family and friends of each of the confirmands.

## Offering Drop-Off

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Thank you to all those folks who continue to send in financial offerings in support of Trinity's mission and ministry.

New for 2021, we have a drop box located at Trinity. Just inside the main entrance (the glass doors on Church Street), you'll find a secure drop box for offerings or other correspondence. While the church office is closed to visitors during the provincial lockdown/stay-at-home order, the main entrance is unlocked during the day, Monday to Friday.

You may also continue to mail offerings to Trinity, or call the office to arrange for pick-up at your home.

## Sacraments and Seasons

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With joy, we welcomed Lois Smith, who became a member of Trinity via Affirmation of Baptism. In the picture, above, the Tuesday Bible Study group, via Zoom, welcomed Lois on behalf of our Trinity community.

We offer our congratulations to folks with milestone birthdays in January and February: Cliff Wootton (80), and Ken Hoffman (80).

We grieve with the Murray family on the death of Mark Murray (November 25<sup>th</sup>); with the Hammer family on the death of Ken Hammer (January 5<sup>th</sup>); with the Ridout family on the death of Cy Ridout (December 26<sup>th</sup>); with the Firetto family on the death of Joe Firetto (January 16<sup>th</sup>); and with the Coxson and Gravill families on the death of Rita Coxson (January 26<sup>th</sup>). Blessed are they who mourn.

# A Conclusion on Council

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LYNN THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

It is with mixed feelings that I write this final Dove article as Chair of Council. When I joined Council six years ago, I really knew very little about what it takes to keep an organization like Trinity healthy. I sang in the choir and attended the Annual Meetings, but really gave little thought to all that goes on behind the scenes. Keith and I chose Trinity as our home when we moved here because of the friendly atmosphere every Sunday. Everything else just seemed to fall into place, and I suppose I took it for granted that things would always be that way. When asked if I would consider joining Council, I recognized that it was my opportunity to take my turn, to pay back, and to do my part to help keep things running smoothly. Over my years on Council, I have learned that it takes many willing hands, and a variety of abilities, to get done all that is accomplished every year at Trinity.

My time began with Pastor Stephen serving as our interim pastor and it was he who guided me through the hoops. What a marvelous beginning for someone as green as I was! Being involved in the search for a new full-time pastor was a real privilege. I got to know several Trinity folks whom I had not previously known, but whom I very quickly learned to respect. As we narrowed the field, I recognized the importance of the recommendation this search committee was about to make. The steps involved were many and varied, and we worked diligently under the wise leadership of Lori Arnott. The friendly atmosphere that had drawn Keith and me to Trinity in the beginning was never more evident than when the search committee presented our recommendation to the entire congregation. Pastor Tanya was warmly welcomed with a resounding, positive vote, a testament to the work of the committee and to the congregation's trust in our recommendation and to Pastor Tanya's abilities. There were many changes over the years, but in my experience the Council has always worked as a cohesive unit, with us and Pastor Tanya supporting each other along the way. In the background, but always right there, was Jamie, parish administrator and minister of music extraordinaire. From the start his skills were a blessing, but never more so than when, almost a year ago now, COVID-19 hit the world over. Jamie quickly transformed his routines to

include Zoom and Be Live meetings, working long hours to keep all of Trinity connected. What a thrill when he and Pastor Tanya arranged a blessed Christmas Eve service for all to enjoy. While we could not gather in person in the sanctuary, they gave us a service of reverence and celebration.

Here we are in 2021, still meeting virtually, for who knows how much longer! Council has made the decision to go ahead, meeting the challenges with a Zoom Annual Meeting. This will be different for sure, but we encourage all who are able to participate, to experience this form of meeting with us. Those without access to a computer, have, hopefully, signed up with Jamie to join the meeting over the phone lines—another first!

I began this Dove entry by saying I write with mixed feelings. This is true. I pray that many of you will answer the call to take your turn on council. Do not wait to be asked—volunteer. The rewards are many. While I am happy to relinquish the chair, knowing the new chair will be amazing, (whoever it is who steps up), I will miss the companionship of fellow council members. I thank them for six wonderful years. My biggest regret is that I cannot hug every one of them, along with so many of you, members of the congregation. Thank you, Trinity, for your support, your encouragement, your conversation. Thank you for keeping Trinity strong. Consider this my virtual hug to each and every one of you.



## Emergency Pastoral Care

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With Ontario in lockdown, and adding the stay-at-home order on top of that, the church office is closed to all visitors. However, the work of the church continues!

If there is an emergency requiring pastoral care, please still call the church office, and follow the phone prompts to connect with Pastor Tanya: 519-662-1810.

## Youth News

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HEIDI VAN SCHAİK, YOUTH WORKER

### Monthly Online Games Night

For the past couple of months, Trinity has been hosting an online games night for the Youth. It has been fun to gather on Zoom, see each other, hang out and play some games. We have mastered playing *Among Us* together and are looking forward to adding more games into our rotation. We are also looking into doing an online escape room together. If you are currently in grades 5 to 12 and are not receiving our Youth emails, please email Heidi at [hvanschaik@rogers.com](mailto:hvanschaik@rogers.com) to get added to the email list.

### CLAY Update

CLAY 2020 was postponed until August 2021 and has been moved to being an online event. CLAY is focused on providing ministry to youth between the ages of 14 and 19. This year's gathering (although very different from previous CLAY events) will be a great opportunity for youth from across Canada to experience some of what CLAY has to offer. Follow CLAY on social media or their website [claygathering.ca](http://claygathering.ca) for updates.



### Learn the Lord's Prayer

Are you thinking, "I already know the Lord's Prayer"? The youth thought they did too, but then they realized they could learn it in another language! Beginning in November, the youth have been busy learning how to say the Lord's Prayer in sign language and are excited to teach the congregation! Not only is this a great way to be more inclusive, it is also an excellent way for members to participate in the Lord's Prayer whenever we return to in-person worship! Stay tuned to Trinity's weekly emailer for links to the youth's videos and get ready to learn a new skill!

## PAR Contributions

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Thank you to those folks who've signed up for PAR during the pandemic! If you are already a PAR subscriber, and would like to increase contributions in 2021, contact the church office or visit [www.telc.ca/PAR](http://www.telc.ca/PAR).

## Church Council News

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JUDY GUEGUEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Council met on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via ZOOM.

Council would like to welcome Pastor Leanne Darlington back to Trinity as our interim visitation pastor. Leanne will begin as our visitation pastor on February 1<sup>st</sup> and spend approximately five hours per week connecting with our members in need. Trinity could not have asked for a better person to fill our interim position. We are indeed blessed.

This month there are many thank yous to be extended. First, thank you to Lynn Thompson, Jim Arbuckle, Carol Merner, and Bruce Wagler who are completing their terms on Council. Next we would like to thank Rob Murray as he completes his second term on the Endowment Committee, and Barry Kalbfleisch as he leaves the Mutual Ministry Committee after many years. Trinity is truly blessed that you all shared your time and talents with us, and for that we are grateful.

The final thank you goes out to all those who, even in the face of a pandemic, increased their financial givings in December, and gave so generously through the year. Your stewardship allowed Trinity to end 2020 in the black, exceeding budget. Your ongoing generosity and support is incredible.

## Financial Update

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CAROL MURRAY, CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

While we'd normally share an update on the congregational finances in the pages of the Dove, the timing of this issue coincides with the release of the Annual Report and accompanying financial statements.

So, for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, please refer to the year-end financial statements (in the weekly emailer), and the Finance portfolio commentary in the Annual Report.

We'll return to our usual financial reporting in the Dove with the March issue (where we give an update on January 2021).

## Year-End Tax Receipts

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2020 tax receipts have been prepared. Thank you to Holly McCurdy, our financial secretary, for signing them all before they could be distributed! For folks who receive a printed copy of the Dove newsletter, look for your tax receipt to accompany the delivery of this February issue.

For folks who do not receive a print Dove, your tax receipt has been mailed. When it arrives, please check for accuracy, and report any discrepancies to the church office.

## In-Person Worship

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The Return to Trinity Task Team continues to monitor advice from provincial and local public health authorities.

At the time of the Dove being printed, it's looking like new daily cases are levelling off and even decreasing somewhat. This is encouraging news!

It's anticipated that before we would recommend a safe return to in-person worship again, we would need to see a continued decrease in new cases, and Waterloo Region being moved to one of the lower colour-coded categories.

Continue to monitor the weekly email for any updates on a return to in-person worship.

## Annual Meeting

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Despite the pandemic, Trinity's Annual Meeting will proceed. However, since we cannot gather in person, Trinity's Church Council has elected to use the Zoom platform for hosting the meeting online. For folks without a computer, Zoom allows participants to phone in for the meeting. The meeting will be Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. If you would like to participate, either online or by telephone, please register with the church office by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Instructions for participating will be sent on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Annual Report has been in the weekly emailer the last couple of Fridays. To request a printed copy, please contact the church office.

## All Creation Sings

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JAMIE COURTNEY, MINISTER OF MUSIC



It's hard to believe, but it was 2006 when churches across Canada and the United States began using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, our current red hymnal and worship book. In those days, I worked for the Canadian division of the church's publisher, Augsburg Fortress. It was an exciting time, and we couldn't keep the books in stock!

Augsburg Fortress has just released a brand new hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*. This new collection is meant to be used alongside *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in a manner similar to how *With One Voice* (the blue book) was released in the 1990s to accompany *Lutheran Book of Worship* (the green book), published in 1978.

This new collection contains two liturgies of Holy Communion with new musical settings, more than 75 new prayers and liturgical forms for diverse occasions and circumstances, and about 200 hymns and songs, many of them newly penned in the last 15 years. Pastor Tanya and I pre-ordered some of the resources, and have started using some of the material in worship already. We've used a couple of new hymns, some with familiar tunes, as well as material from Holy Communion Setting 12. The composer of much of Setting 12's music is Anne Krentz Organ, from whom Trinity commissioned a choir anthem to commemorate Pastor Stephen Larson's retirement.

As we look forward to the day when we can all meet at Trinity to worship and sing again, it's my hope that we'll purchased copies of *All Creation Sings* for our pews. Look for more information in the coming months on how you might donate a copy in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a joyous occasion, or... just because!

The most important detail of this new resource, like so many before it, is the colour. Purple!

# Interim Visitation Ministry

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REV. LEANNE DARLINGTON, INTERIM VISITATION PASTOR

How wonderful it is to be back at Trinity, New Hamburg!

Some of you may remember me as a placement student from Martin Luther University College at Trinity in 2017/18. My time at Trinity as a student was informative for me. Not only did my worship leadership and pastoral care skills grow under the mentorship of Pastor Tanya and Pastor Helen, but my faith grew as well!

October 2019 was a busy month! I graduated from Luther, passed the Bishop's Exam and was called to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Philipsburg all within a week and a half. I was humbled and overjoyed to be Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and was then installed as the Pastor at Zion by the Nith Valley Ministry Area Co-Deans Pastor Tanya and Pastor Rick Brown on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. I am thankful that I was able to be ordained and installed before the pandemic shuttered our churches! On January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I also began an interim call at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Linwood, Ontario.

I continue to reside just outside of Tavistock with my husband Greg, where we raised our 3 children. Our oldest son Thomas lives in Amherstburg and works as a Weld Technician programming and testing welding robots in manufacturing facilities. Clayton is in his final year at the University of Guelph studying Software Engineering, and Heather is in her second semester of Construction and Renovation Technology at Conestoga College in Waterloo.

In my spare time, I like to cook and tend my garden, along with canning and preserving produce from my garden and local markets.

As Trinity's Interim Visitation Pastor, much of my time during the pandemic will be spent making phone calls and sending

emails and texts to the congregation. As restrictions lift, I will be making some home visits and long-term care visits. I look forward to reconnecting with the congregation and building new relationships along the way!

## Ash Wednesday

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On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Trinity will host a Synod-wide online Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm. Bishop Michael Pryse will lead the service from our worship space.

Regarding the usual imposition of ashes, you'll be invited to use some water, or just your finger, to trace a cross on your own forehead. It will be an Ash-less Wednesday!

The service will be broadcast on Facebook, the same as our Sunday morning worship services.

## Lent Evening Prayer

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Traditionally, our Trinity community would have gathered for a simple soup supper and Evening Prayer service each week during Lent.

This year, we will gather online for a short meditative Evening Prayer service on the Wednesdays of Lent, from February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us at 6:30 pm each of these evenings for a live broadcast on our Facebook page.

Join us for a time of quiet and reflection with candle lighting, scripture, and song.



Lynn Thompson, president ▪ Tanya Varner, pastor  
Leanne Darlington, interim visitation pastor ▪ Heidi Van Schaik, youth worker  
Jamie Courtney, parish administrator & minister of music ▪ Brian Racho, sexton  
Ron Leonard, honorary assistant pastor ▪ Gywin Murray, emerita director of music

# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 am Prayer Circle 10:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	3	4	5	6
7 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Online Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting (Zoom)	8	9 10:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	10	11	12	13
14 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Online Worship 11:00 am Fellowship (Zoom) 11:00 am Confirmation Class (Zoom)	15 FAMILY DAY Church Office Closed	16 10:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	17 6:30 pm Synod-Wide Ash Wednesday Service  Dove Deadline (March Issue)	18 9:30 am NVMA Rostered Leaders Meeting	19	20
21 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Online Worship 11:00 am Adult Learning with Tim Louis, MP (Zoom) 2:00 pm Rite of Confirmation (Zoom)	22 7:00 pm TRC Task Team via Zoom	23 10:30 am Bible Study via Zoom	24 6:30 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	25	26	27
28 2nd Sunday in Lent + Diaconal Sunday 9:30 am Online Worship 11:00 am Fellowship (Zoom) 11:00 am Confirmation Class (Zoom)	<h3>Annual Meeting</h3> <p>Don't forget to sign into Zoom on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am for Trinity's Annual Meeting. Details will be sent on February 1<sup>st</sup> to all those who pre-registered by January 3<sup>1st</sup>.</p>		<h3>Lenten Journey</h3> <p>Our journey through Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Join us on Wednesdays through Lent for Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm. All services streamed on Facebook.</p>			