



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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In response to the recent posting of White Lives Matter posters in New Hamburg:

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, condemns the posting of White Supremacist Posters in the Wilmot Township, announcing a White Lives Matter rally on May 8th, in an undisclosed area in the Township. The posting of these flyers was done in contravention of the Township's sign bylaw, and elicit hate propaganda and divisiveness. White Lives Matter is a racist response to Black Lives Matter, claiming that the Black Lives Matter and anti-racism groups are 'sentencing (white people) to extinction.' (this from the WLM_Canada website). This is false information and fake news. The Black Lives Matter movement was not intended to imply that other lives do not matter. In a world where Black people are stigmatised, marginalised, and discriminated against, Black Lives Matter simply recognises Black lives matter, too. In the last year, we have seen that Black, Brown, and Indigenous lives are not treated with the same dignity and equality that White people have been able to take for granted, and we have much work to do to bring real and long-overdue change to our communities.

Trinity Lutheran Church is committed to being a loving and welcoming community centred in the Good News of Jesus Christ, good news that is built on and sustained in God's love, not hate; Good News that works toward building one another up, not tearing each other down; Good news that speaks out for real and lasting justice and peace for all people of colour, and not continuing the misbelief that only white lives matter.

Our Wilmot community is one of inclusivity and openness, and we stand up and speak together with the community on issues of racism and white supremacy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya Varner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Rev. Tanya Varner, Pastor
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church