



*You crown the year
with your bounty*

Psalm 65:11





The Church Year: November Festivals

THE REV. TANYA VARNER, PASTOR

In November, the church will celebrate two “feast days” on the calendar. On November 7th we observe All Saints Day, and on November 21st the church will celebrate the Reign of Christ, the final Sunday of the church year. This month’s article is a reflection on the importance of both these festivals in the life of church.

All Saints Day, which falls on November 1st each year, is a feast day that has been celebrated in Roman Catholic and Protestant churches for several centuries, and is often transferred to the first Sunday in November. It’s an occasion to remember saints (*members of the company of heaven, one of God’s chosen people*) and martyrs (*a person who is put to death for refusing to renounce a faith or belief*), both known and unknown throughout Christian history. Also known as All Hallows’ Day or Halloween (*hallow meaning ‘to make holy’*) it is preceded by **All Hallows’ Eve** (Halloween!). While dedicating a specific day each year to saints and martyrs has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD, it wasn’t until 609 AD that Pope Boniface IV decided to remember *all* martyrs. Originally, May 13th was designated as the Feast of All Holy Martyrs. Later, in 837 AD, Pope Gregory IV extended the festival to remember *all* the saints, changed its name to Feast of All Saints, and changed the date to November 1st of each year.

On November 7th at Trinity, we remember these saints who died during the past 12 months: Mark Murray, Cy and Reta Ridout, Joe Firetto, Rita Coxson, Arlene Roth, Ken Hammer, Janet Boshart, Marjorie Shantz, Harold Danner, and Jordan Brambell. On every All Saints Day we join together as one family — past, present, and future — in the one faith, one mission of God: to love, to serve, and to commune together. “It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling” (The Augsburg Confession, Article XXI).

Just couple weeks later, we will gather again, online and in person, to celebrate the **Reign of Christ**, also known as Christ the King Sunday. This festival day is a relatively new addition

to the liturgical calendar, added in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Wanting this day to be for the whole church, he wrote, “if to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all [people], purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all [people], it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God.”

In 1970, the Roman Catholic Church moved the observance to the final Sunday of the church year. It is on this day that we recall the stories of Jesus as a compassionate ruler who calls us to be compassionate to our neighbour.

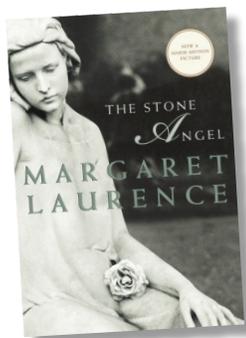
The week following Reign of Christ Sunday, we start a new church year with the First Sunday of Advent. Happy New Year!

Statements and Envelopes

Offering statements reflecting donations made from January through October will be sent out in early November. Please review this record of your donations carefully and contact the church office with any discrepancies.

Offering envelopes for 2022 will be available in late November or early December. While the need for a weekly offering envelope in 2021 was muted by the pandemic, hopefully the need increases again as pandemic restrictions ease in 2022.

Gentle Readers

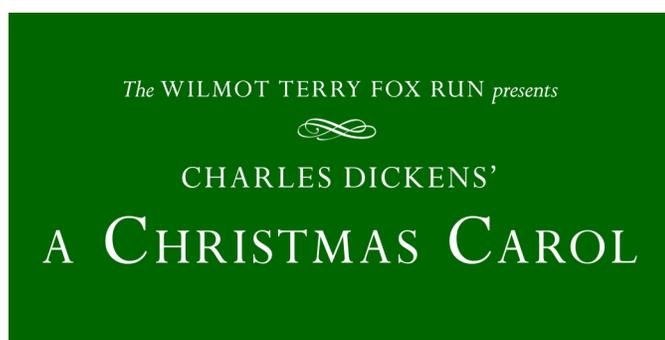


The November selection for the Gentle Readers book club is *The Stone Angel* by Margaret Laurence. The group meets again on November 16th at 7:00 pm in the Martin Luther Room at Trinity.

All are welcome! If you've not attended a meeting of Gentle Readers, do give it some consideration. Simply come to the meeting having read the selection in advance.

Please note that under current provincial COVID-19 rules, proof-of-vaccination is required to attend.

A Wilmot Tradition Continues



Trinity is happy to lend support to the Wilmot Terry Fox Run fundraiser, "Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol." This longstanding Wilmot tradition is going virtual this year with the readings and music being recorded here at Trinity and broadcast via Facebook on December 11th at 7:00 pm. You are invited to make an online donation and enjoy local, professional performers, including our own Reid Spencer and Jamie Courtney. Lisa Hagen and Rick Ritz will be working behind the camera as performers read the classic story and sing some Christmas favourites. Makes a great private family and friends watch party, where we'll supply a digital copy to your door or computer. (Wilmot area only between December 1st to 30th or by download anywhere.)

Contact nigel@commonsensedesign.net to arrange delivery and donation at least two weeks prior to your event.

Church Council News

JUDY GUEGUEN, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Council met on Wednesday, October 20th via Zoom.

Council received notification that the Wednesday AA group has folded. The group had not been meeting at Trinity since the start of the pandemic. We're pleased that the Saturday AA group will continue meeting at Trinity.

After many years serving as Trinity's very capable treasurer, Bob Ruthig has indicated that he would like to retire from this role. As such, Council has begun a process to identify a suitable replacement, with the goal of having someone new affirmed at the Annual Meeting in February. Thank you, Bob, for your dedication and hard work over the years!

The online prayer vigil organized by Sister Anne Keffer and Carolin Heinze for the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was a success. It was well attended by the wider ecumenical community and was meaningful for all participants. Thank you for your hard work organizing this important and necessary event.

The season of Advent is quickly approaching, and pandemic uncertainty is still a part of our lives. We are unsure at this point what all our Christmas activities at Trinity will look like, but are confident we will find a way again this year to make the season of Advent and Christmas special. Stay tuned for updates in the weekly emailer and the December issue of the Dove newsletter.

Canada Lutheran

The ELCIC's awarding winning magazine, *Canada Lutheran*, is available via subscription through the Trinity office. By grouping our orders together, we qualify for bulk rates.

If you are interested in receiving *Canada Lutheran* in 2022, 10 issues, please contact Jamie in the church office. Final pricing for 2022 should be available by mid-November, and it's usually in the \$20 to \$25 range. If you currently subscribe, Jamie will in touch with you once 2022 rates are available.

Update on Congregational Visioning

PASTOR TANYA VARNER & REV. DR. MARK HARRIS, CONSULTANT

Over the past 18 months, as our community has navigated its way through this global pandemic, we have all been aware of the immediate challenges that we face as individuals, families, and communities. What is also becoming apparent, in congregations across the Eastern Synod, is that many of the forces that have concerned our congregations for some time, such as declining membership and income, have been accelerated by the prolonged period of remote worship and community diaspora prompted by the pandemic. Even as we take the first, tentative steps to return to in-person worship and ache for a return to the normalcy of life together, the realities are hitting home. It will be a long time before things return to our pre-pandemic experience, if they ever do.

Both as a congregation and a Synod, we stand at a crucial point in time. God is calling us into an unknown and uncertain future, even as we long for the familiar certainties of the past. As a church, we are a bit like the children of Israel, having passed through the chaos of the Red Sea. We pause on the far shore, looking forward into an unknown wilderness. Even as we long for the security of the past, we hope for a new and Promised Land that lies beyond the

horizon. While our future is in God's hands, it is difficult to know the way forward.

The process that we are beginning to engage in will consist of a small, working group in our congregation, working through a future directions process over the next 6 to 8 months. This will be a collaborative process that takes stock of the assets within and challenges faced by our congregation and needs of our wider community. The outcome will be the development of a congregational Mission, Vision, and Values statement that will be brought back to Church Council and the congregation for discussion, refinement, and eventual approval. This will then provide direction for the congregation's next steps into the future.

This discernment process will be commenced under the guidance of EDGE, the Network for Ministry Development. EDGE is a resource of the United Church in Canada and a partner with our Eastern Synod's office of Congregational Redevelopment Services. The process will also be undertaken collaboratively with a similar working group from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Kitchener.

Worship Reservations

On October 22nd, the provincial government made an announcement about expanded capacity at some indoor venues, proof-of-vaccination requirements, and an eventual end to mask mandates next spring, provided new COVID-19 case counts track as they're anticipating. Our Return to Trinity Task Team is meeting in early November to review our current practices and will make a recommendation to Church Council whether to change things up somewhat, or stay the course.

For the time being, an RSVP is required to attend in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, with attendance limited to those who can be seated with 2 metres of physical distancing between households. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office by Tuesday to attend the following Sunday.

Endowment Fund Requests

Trinity's Endowment Fund has a long history of supporting projects that extend our mission and ministry into the wider community. As we begin to move towards the end of the year, the Endowment Fund Committee is inviting members of the congregation to submit potential ideas of projects or causes 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 the church office by the end of November. The Committee then prepares a list for the congregation's consideration at the Annual Meeting in the new year.

Youth News

HEIDI VAN SCHAİK, YOUTH WORKER

PRIZES...PRIZES... and more PRIZES!



Our youth love a friendly competition and they love winning! At CLAY 2021, youth competed in an online scavenger hunt and two of Trinity's youth won top prizes. Lillian won a set of books from the keynote speaker, Sarah Bessey, and Isaac won the top prize: one free registration for CLAY

2022! A big congratulations to both of them! But the prizes don't end there... all Trinity Youth have the chance to win a prize. At the end of October, we sent out a survey to hear your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and feedback regarding youth events at Trinity. If you are in grades 5 to 12, we want to hear from you! If you haven't taken the short survey yet, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us. If you are currently in grade 5 to 12 and did not receive the survey, please email Heidi at hvanschaik@rogers.com to be added to the email list. Each youth who completes the survey will be entered to win a prize!

CLAY 2022

This coming August, CLAY 2022 will be held in Waterloo! Youth from across Canada will be arriving in Waterloo to spend a weekend filled with faith, learning, and lots of fun! Youth currently in grades 7 to 12 will be eligible to attend. The theme for the gathering will be *Ashes & Embers!* If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Heidi.

National Youth Project

One important portion of CLAY is the commitment to learning about issues which impact our country. A specific issue is chosen for each gathering to focus on. Over the years we have focused on learning about a variety of issues: the right to water, homelessness, poverty, and many more. The goal is to spend the time in between gatherings educating

ourselves, raising awareness, engaging with local agencies and, most importantly, empowering our youth. Our 2022 National Youth Project is called *More Precious* and will focus on the issue of human trafficking. Many assume that this is a problem outside of Canada, but the reality is, it is happening here on our shores. And it's happening to Canadian youth. As



we learn about this issue, youth will walk through topics like identity, self-worth and confidence, shared humanity, consent and healthy relationships, internet safety, gender inequality, gender-based violence, rape culture, female hyper-sexualization, sex trafficking, forced labour and child slavery. The goal is for groups to learn more about the issues of human trafficking to be agents of change in their own lives and community, and to be able to identify the warning signs to protect themselves. "Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you." Isaiah 43:4

Sacraments and Seasons

We offer our congratulations to Otto and Renate Berg, celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in November. Happy anniversary, friends!



Daylight Saving Time Ends



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before heading to bed on Saturday, November 6th. Daylight saving time officially ends for another year in the wee hours of Sunday, November 7th.

A Little Hospitality — Canadian Style!

LOIS SMITH

Over the past several weeks, many of us were busy planning and then holding our respective turkey dinners and rejoicing that we could be together with family or friends for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Right down the street, right here in our very own New Hamburg, 46 men and women have been living a long, long way from home and the warm hugs that happen on holidays. These migrant workers labour hard for Pfenning's; planting and harvesting organic vegetables, and performing all kinds of work that goes into their seasonal crops.

For the past few years, a group of Trinity parishioners have coordinated and provided a hearty Thanksgiving meal for these folks who are so far from home. This year, the meals were delivered hot (and smelling amazing, I might add) to four different housing locations on Sunday, October 17th. Smiles were big, full boxes were well-received, ice cream for dessert was celebrated, and there were lots of thank yous in the air. Take a look at these photos to see Trinity in action!



Financial Update

CAROL MURRAY, CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

2021 General Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Receipts	197,015	205,616	(8,601)
Expenses	210,972	220,916	(9,944)
Total	(\$13,957)	(\$15,300)	\$1,343

2021 Capital Fund			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Receipts	13,307	12,750	\$557
Expenses	7,657	12,750	(\$5,093)
Total	\$5,650	\$0	\$5,650

*Year-to-date figures updated through September 30th, 2021.
Capital Fund carry-over from 2020, not included above, is \$12,692.*

Over the last few months, Trinity has been applying to the Canada Revenue Agency for a monthly COVID wage subsidy. In September, we received five cheques for a total of \$5,838. With this additional income, our General Fund receipts for the month were \$26,284. Our September General Fund expenses were \$23,301. So, for the second month in a row, we have a surplus for the month of \$2,983! We continue to run an overall General Fund deficit of \$13,957 which is a little better than the deficit we had budgeted for at this time of the year of \$15,300. As the end of the year draws closer, please consider your financial support. With your help, we hope to eliminate the deficit by the end of December.

As of the end of September, our Capital Fund has received income of \$13,307 and shown expenses of \$7,657. With the carry forward from last year of \$12,692 we are sitting with a balance of \$18,342.

Thank you for your continued financial support.

Blood Donor Clinic



Trinity is pleased to once again host a blood donor clinic this year, our second one during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The blood donor clinic will be held on Monday, December 13th from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Steinmann Mennonite Church. Again this year, everyone donating blood must have an appointment. You can book an appointment by calling 1-888-2-DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or you can book online at blood.ca.

We could use a few of volunteers to assist with the hosting duties. Please contact Ken Seltzer or the church office if you are interested. Volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and show proof-of-vaccination documentation. Personal protective equipment (masks, gowns) will be provided to all volunteers. Volunteer hours are available to high school students.

Thank you, Ken, for spearheading this important initiative in our wider community!



Al Junker, 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

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:00 pm TOPS	2 9:30 am Prayer Circle 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Karate	3	4 9:30 am Music Together	5	6 7:30 pm AA Daylight Saving Time Ends
7 All Saints Sunday 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 11:00 am Adult Learning (Zoom) "Yes in My Backyard" 11:00 am Confirmation Class (Zoom)	8 6:00 pm TOPS Pastor Tanya starts study leave	9 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Karate	10	11 9:30 am Music Together Remembrance Day	12	13 7:30 pm AA
14 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 11:00 am Fellowship (Zoom)	15 6:00 pm TOPS Pastor Tanya returns from study leave	16 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Karate 7:00 pm Gentle Readers 7:00 pm Visioning Task Team	17 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting Dove Deadline (December Issue)	18 9:30 am Music Together	19	20 7:30 pm AA
21 Reign of Christ 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 11:00 am Adult Learning (Zoom) <i>oneROOF</i> 11:00 am Confirmation Class (Zoom)	22 6:00 pm TOPS	23 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Karate	24	25 9:30 am Music Together	26	27 7:30 pm AA
28 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Hybrid Worship 11:00 am Fellowship (Zoom) 11:00 am Confirmation Class (Zoom)	29 6:00 pm TOPS	30 10:30 am Bible Study 5:00 pm Karate				