**November 2025** 

Monthly Newsletter of All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church

# Connections

## From the Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends of All Saints:

As you read this, All Saints Sunday may be just around the corner—or perhaps it has recently passed. At the heart of this season stands our All Saints commemoration, framed by the secular celebration of Halloween (All Hallows' Eve). Historically, Halloween was simply the vigil before All Saints Day on November 1, which flowed naturally into All Souls Day on November 2. In earlier centuries, the church marked these days with a three-part observance beginning on the evening of October 31 and continuing through November 2.

Today, most North American churches have let Halloween belong to children in costumes and have combined All Souls with All Saints. Yet it remains good – indeed, healthy – for us as Christians to take seriously the deep meaning behind these days. Halloween, in its truest form, invites us to look death squarely in the face and laugh, knowing death has lost its power over us. All Souls Day calls us to remember with gratitude those dear to us who have died. And All Saints Day gives thanks for the faithful witnesses whose lives have inspired and guided our own. Together, these three days – sometimes called the *All Hallowtide Triduum* – offer a holy rhythm of naming death, giving thanks for life, and rejoicing in the hope of resurrection.

This observance matters because we seldom reflect on death except when it directly touches us. In the days immediately following the loss of someone we love, our hearts are heavy, and celebration can feel forced. Funerals, at their best, balance honesty about our grief with the promise of new life in Christ – but they cannot yet be joyful celebrations in the deepest sense.

210 Silvercreek Parkway North, Guelph, ON N1H 7P8
Phone: 519.821.7710 (24 hour voicemail)
Email: allsaints@allsaintsguelph.ca ~ Web: allsaintsguelph.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday ~ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

#### **Inside this issue:**

Treasurer's Report	2
Council Perspective	3-4
Reflections by Nigel	5
Hymnal, Tabs & Thanks	6
Weigel Wedding Apartment Hunting	7
Pet Blessing Thanksgiving Giving Tree	8
Ham Dinner Parish Workshops	9
Parish Care Ramblings	10- 11
All Saints Affirming People	12- 15

Rev. Brian Wilker, Pastor

Rev. Christine Clatworthy, Deacon

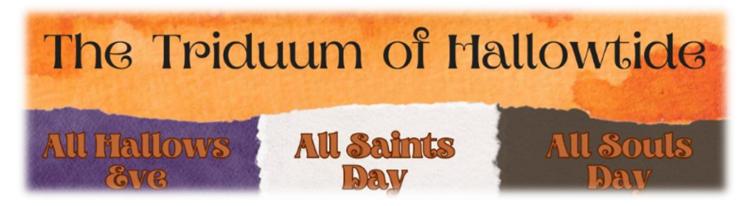
Rev. Canon Lucy Reid and Rev. Canon David Howells, Honorary Assistants

> Brian Janzen, Council Chair

Peter West, Music Director

Michele Altermann,
Administrative Assistant
Christine Morrison, Editor,
cjmorrison263@gmail.com

Page 2 Connections



All Saints Day, by contrast, comes with time and distance. It allows us to give genuine thanks: to remember those who shaped us, to celebrate the gifts they shared, and to acknowledge how their lives continue to ripple through ours. There may still be some tears, but they are joined by gratitude and even joy.

So, this All Hallowtide, laugh in the face of death on Halloween – because we worship the God who grants eternal life. Then, on All Saints Day, remember with thanksgiving those who have died this past year, and give thanks for the ways their love and faith continue to live on through us.

May you have a blessed All Hallowtide Triduum.

Peace, Pastor Brian

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

## Treasurer's Report by Suzanne Worthen at September 30, 2025

As at	September 2025	Year to Date
Offerings	\$14,480.00	\$158,305.68
Other Income	\$1,880.00	\$19,619.65
Transfers -Housing Fund	\$1,000.00	\$9,000.00
-Dowry Fund	\$625.00	\$5,625.00
Total Income	\$17,985.00	\$192,550.33
Total Expenses	<u>\$24,082.16</u>	<u>\$204,658.25</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(\$6,097.16)</u>	<u>(\$12,107.92)</u>

## **Council Perspective**

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." From Romans 12

It has certainly been a busy fall at All Saints and we are truly thankful for your discipleship to God's mission here. With our changing demographics, regular Sunday service attendance has been down, yet our faith and mission remain vibrant and strong. The Council too has been very active in maintaining and stretching God's mission into our community and beyond. At our last meeting, this feeling was evident even though we faced several challenges.

Some of recent council discussions and actions include:

- Reaffirming a "Futures" group organized by Pastor Brian to lead both the congregation as well as various teams and individuals in conversation regarding our future mission and direction. These conversations will begin after Christmas. All of us will be involved.
- Looking at the growing issue of walkers and other mobility devices placed in aisles and exit paths. We will be running a trial in removing a couple of shorter pews to accommodate these worshippers and devices.
- An update with the HVAC system and project to replace it. We are very close to achieving our funding goal meaning only a small amount may have to be pulled from existing long-term funds. Please take note of the thermometer chart in the narthex! Through the donations of individuals, God has worked in our midst, and we are truly thankful. Last Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the

contractor brought in the heavy equipment to disassemble the main unit on the roof and replace it with the new one. The next phase of work which involves replacing the electronics portion of the system will start shortly. Until it is completed, we still may expect fluctuations of temperatures in the building.

- Due to our changing situation and demands on our building, a lengthy discussion was had regarding the upkeep and cleaning. The result of this was the decision to change our janitorial services. This new service has already started. Please be patient as they are brought up to speed on routines.
- Another lengthy discussion took place around the condition of the linoleum floors downstairs. The usual yearly strip and wax cycle was interrupted some 4 years ago. Due to increased use and traffic downstairs, they are in dire need of a deep stripping and sealing again. A couple of quotes were received for this larger task, and a decision was made to have it done as soon as possible depending on building use schedules. Of course, this is another draw on our funds.
- Age of building concerns continue to show themselves elsewhere. The two double set of outside doors downstairs; one exiting from the kitchen hallway and the other from the office hallway need replacing. Due to the settling and shifting of the building over the years, the frames and posts are "out of square" meaning that

Page 4 Connections

#### **Council Perspective Continued...**

adjustments and minor repairs to them will no longer keep the building secure. It's an expensive project and due to other strains on our funds, council decided to go ahead with replacement of the one set of doors that are in most need. It was determined that the office set of doors could last a little longer with some adjustments. However, the morning after our meeting, I received news that a very generous anonymous donor would cover the cost of these office doors. Again, we are truly thankful!

- Council also looked at the now open position of usher coordinator. One thing we looked at is simplifying the number tasks ushers regularly do. Perhaps this will encourage more to step into the usher role and make the coordinator position easier as well. As to the coordinator, we hope someone will still take this responsibility. Too often we can feel reluctant about our own abilities and confidence moving forward with the contributions each of us can make. I encourage you to think about this position. Thorough records have been kept and are available to help.
- Two major proposals for the use of our building were also presented. Although both these proposals agree with our outreach to the community, they would put a strain on the use and care of facilities as well as block out sections of the week where we could use our facilities for our ministry activities. Consequently, these proposals were turned down.

My thanks go out to all Council members for their attentiveness and focus to what turned out to be a longer meeting. A great deal of work was accomplished.

Trivia question of the month: Do you know off by heart the nine Council members you

elected? Before the snow flies (yuk) I challenge you to have a short conversation with each one. Spoiler: Look at the picture posted in the narthex. Let's connect!

Peace, Brian Janzen Chair/Council



Heavy equipment used to disassemble the main unit on the roof and replace it with the new one.



## Reflections by Rev. Nigel Bunce

The gospel readings for November (and December) in each year of the 3-year lectionary cycle all suffer from the same problem: the date of Christmas. Nobody knows the actual date when Jesus was born. Unlike kings and emperors, Jesus was a nobody when he was born, so his birth date was not recorded. The date December 25 was proposed by a Roman Christian historian named Sextus Julius Africanus. He claimed that God had created the world at the time of the spring equinox (which was celebrated in Roman times on March 25<sup>th</sup>). Therefore, he argued, the second era (Christ's) must have begun on the same date as the first, with his conception by the Virgin Mary, and his birth nine months later, on December 25<sup>th</sup>. [https:// www.britannica.com/story/ why-is-christmas-in-december].

Since Pentecost, we have been



following Jesus' ministry through Luke's gospel. We ended October with chapter 18. Now with an interruption for All Saints Day, we find ourselves at Luke 20: 27-38 on November 9, deep into Holy Week with the Sadducees posing Jesus the ridiculous trick question about a woman who successively marries seven brothers. In the Resurrection, they ask, whose wife will she be?

This transition would be less abrupt if we were to celebrate All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>, the actual date, rather than on the next Sunday (November 2<sup>nd</sup>, in 2025). The

gospel text for that Sunday is Luke 19: 1-10, the story of Zaccheus, the short man who climbed a tree better to see Jesus. By adding verse 28, 'After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem', it would be clearer that Jesus was now entering the last phase of his ministry (and his life). However, I doubt that we would attract many parishioners to come out for All Saints Day on a Saturday! On Sunday November 16, we will read the prediction of the destruction of the Temple and the coming end of the age [Luke 21: 5-19]. By the time that Luke wrote his gospel, the Temple had already been destroyed.

Then, on November 23, we shall celebrate the Reign of Christ. We will read the account of Jesus' death at the Crucifixion, with its reference to Jesus being mocked as the King of the Jews. To me, this sarcasm seems antithetical to the idea of Christ the King ruling over a world where God's kingdom is not only

'near' [Mark 1: 15] but actually present.

And suddenly, on November 30, we are in Advent again, this time in Year A, when we read principally from Matthew's gospel. We begin with Matthew 24: 36-44, with its

exhortation to "Keep awake". You (the reader) must be ready because the Son of Man is coming unexpectedly. This makes Advent an ambiguous season: what are we waiting for? The Incarnation, the birth of the Christ Child? Or alternatively for the Second Coming of Christ?

What are we waiting for?

Page 6 Connections

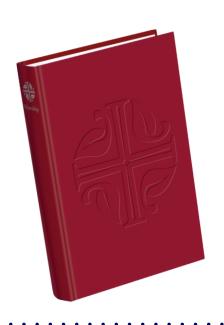
## **Missing My Hymnal**

I have had my own red hymnal for many years.

On the front is a sticker of a small animal. Inside are several book marks. One in particular is a paper my son doodled on several years ago during a sermon. It is filled with lines "I love you mom".

If you find my book during the service, I would really like to have this special book back.

Laura B. Mann





Crack a can, and take the tab.

Bring your saved tabs to church and give them to David Maguire.

Every contribution helps support wheelchair purchases for those in need through the Legion.

## A Message from Joan Hicks

Thank you All Saints congregation for the prayers cards, calls and hugs I have received after my cornea transplants on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Had some set backs but am on course again!

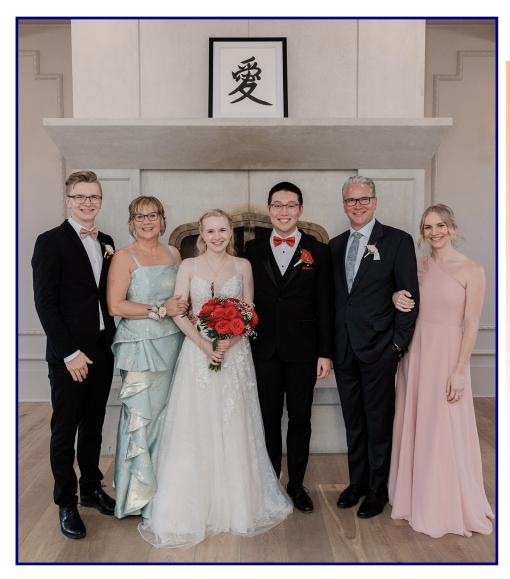
A special thanks to my angel, Marisella, for coming 7 am and 7 pm to put cream in my eye, and isn't over yet.

Joan





## **Weigel Family Congrats!**



Congratulations to Natasha and Tim on their beautiful wedding — May 18, 2025!

Natasha is the daughter of Mark and Janet Weigel.

Logan and Ethan were in the wedding party.

Wishing the newlyweds a lifetime filled with love, happiness, and cherished memories.

## **Help Please!**

I am seeking assistance in finding a clean and wellmaintained one-bedroom apartment for rent, with a budget of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

It is important that the apartment is located on the

ground floor, as I prefer to avoid stairs, and that it is in a safe neighborhood.

Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards, Connie Shaw



Page 8 Connections

## **Prayers, Paws and Purrs**

On October 4th, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a heartwarming pet blessing, recognizing the joy and companionship that our beloved animals bring to our lives.

Photo Credit: Dennis Kunze





## **Thanksgiving Sunday—October 12**



We would like to express our gratitude to the October Altar Guild, Laura F. Mann and Ella Bubenik, for their work in creating a bountiful display for Thanksgiving Sunday.

Photo Credit: Laura F Mann

## The Mary Guse Giving Tree

The Mary Guse Giving Tree will be in the narthex on November 2nd.

Please take a ticket(s) from the charity indicated and return the unwrapped gift(s) under

the tree with the ticket(s) attached.

The last date for receipt of gifts will be November 30th.

Laura B.



#### Ham Dinner Fundraiser



Laura, Ray, Marilyn, Sheila, Marilyn, Ann, and Val

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the meal and socializing with family and friends!

Also, thank you to all of the terrific ladies and men who helped to set up, cook, bake, carve the ham, serve and clean up! It was a labour of love!

Marilyn S., Ena and Marilyn C.

Almost 80 guests attended and we heard many positive comments. The best one was from a guest who said, "Those scalloped potatoes taste just like the ones my mother used to make!"

With expenses off, we made \$1945 from the ham dinner and bake table. The money will go towards the church deficit.







## **Parish Care Workshops**

It will return!

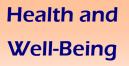
Marilyn and I decided that we would start the meetings in January. Still on the third Tuesday, that would make January on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Topics and speakers are being lined up. We welcome any suggestions that you may have. Come to learn, come for fun, come for community.

Stand by for more information.

I am still looking for one or two people to help with hospitality at the meetings or other practical needs.

Connie Shaw (cshaw@sentex.net)





Page 10 Connections

## Parish Care Ramblings

Some bright soul, asked recently if I had booked a winter getaway for this season. My first reaction was to equate "booking" with insanity.... or at least partial insanity. Maybe they read my mind, as I have been actively engaged, hour after hour, day after day, desperately trying to accomplish just that!

See, my "favourite" son (also known as my only son) lives in Western Canada with his family. They have proposed a "family" holiday somewhere in the sunny south for March Break. Nice thought, for sure. The nightmare unfolded as I tried to book, or at least research, a good place for smaller children to spend some fun time, that was all inclusive (a request from the kids) and not a long flight, but preferably a direct flight. The problem I encountered was that many flights are direct from Calgary, but not from the preferred city of Edmonton with a lay-over time of 4-12 hours...challenge #1. And for us, flights that were not direct, routed us from Toronto, thru Houston, Washington, Chicago, etc. Why don't I take a tour with my vacation?

Then, there was sorting thru the ever growing list of resorts. At the beginning of your search, you click all the amenities that are your

preference.... then scroll down the results only to find out that Edmonton departure has changed to Toronto. Your preferences are not in the listed resorts. I am looking for, not just a resort with a pool, stuck in the middle of a larger populated area, but something on or near the beach. So, is this too much to ask? Well. apparently it is, if you "talk" to the AI chatbot!! My biggest nightmare was finding something that seemed suitable for all of us, but disappeared immediately if I clicked on one more item on the screen. Or the price

changed by hundreds of dollars. My head hurts and I am not amused.

Something that you may not know, is that

Sigi and I met while singing in a choir. Both us love music, and love to sing. So it is not unusual to find us at the symphony, or a concert, or volunteering at River Run Centre so we can take in a free concert. A few years back, we also joined a group in Kitchener that gets together weekly for a "sing along" of old popular songs. It is a fun experience. It is also a research project by the Waterloo's Laurier University, that looks at the relationship of music and

Universal Language

the brain, as well as the interconnectedness of high school students and singers.

Because of my lifetime passion for music, the impact of music on brain function and emotions, has fascinated me. Some 25-30 years ago, Music Therapy began to be offered at hospitals and institutions as a way to improve "wellness", reduce pain and promote physical health. They then found that these music sessions were extremely beneficial in patients with long stays in hospital. It retrains impaired brain circuits, either

thru damage or with areas that are underused. It is the old "use it or lose it" strategy when you have a long-term condition, such as coma, accident or stroke.

Music is a universal language that invokes profound emotional and cognitive responses. There is an intricate relationship between the brain and music, which is decoded by the nervous system to its therapeutic potential. Music creates transformative changes in the brain, reshaping neural (nerve) pathways that carry information, like thoughts, recognition, memory. It has been said that your voice is your identity.

#### Ramblings Continued...

The process of deciphering sound, involves several brain areas working together. The sound that is heard is transformed into electrical waves which are sent thru the auditory nerve to the brain stem (the "heart" or control centre for all of our functions).

Music engages all the senses. It is an essential part of human life. Many of us experience excitement and emotions listening to chords, rhythms and melodies. the Greeks long ago had gained insight into brain function when Plato characterized it as a "guide towards goodness that touches the soul".

Besides listening to music, playing or creating sound has its own added benefits. Repetitive training with learning an instrument, causes structural changes to the brain, fostering cognitive and motor skills. In general, music enhances cognitive function, improving memory, attention, and learning. It definitely plays a role in pain management by promoting physical health. It fosters communication and social bonding.

Research has found that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, pain, as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness and memory. It has also been

shown that seizure activity is diminished with listening to music. In an effortless way, it triggers memories, awakes emotions and intensifies emotional bonding. It retrains impaired or damaged brain circuits. I have learned and seen in my medical career, the propensity for the brain to rewire itself.

Understanding how music affects the brain, opens up new avenues for music-based interventions in healthcare, well-being, and education.

As some of you have already noticed, an article appeared in the Kitchener Record, Saturday October 4, on this very topic of how music affects the brain. We have heard from many of our friends, family and neighbours that it was a very touching story. The reporter who authored the article had a grandmother who he cherished. Her life impacted his life leaving a lasting impression. This is a tribute to her journey with Alzheimers. The article is also personal for Sigi and I in many ways. We were asked to participate and did it with the hope that this might help to allay some of the misperceptions and darkness of this neural disease. Dementia in every form is not something that comes up in everyday conversation. It is real. It is devastating.



But I feel there is also much HOPE. In years gone by, we never dreamt that someone would find a treatment for diabetis, heart disease and cancer. We often treated the symptoms, but not necessarily understanding the root cause and truly beneficial ways to improve quality of life... or even irradicate. However, with time and further research, maybe there will be major advances that mitigate dementia as well. Each day we put our hands in Gods and trust him with our lives.

Blessings Marilyn

#### The Associates:

October 28—2PM November 24—2PM

#### Chi Rho Fellowship:

November 13—1PM Speaker: Guelph Police -Fraud and Scams

December 11—12:30PM Christmas Dinner and Carols—catered Page 12 Connections



## **All Saints Affirming People**

## November is a big month for Trans awareness.

The first Sunday in November is dedicated to parents of Transgender folk. This day was first established in 2009 and is a day to celebrate and honour transgender parents instead of the traditional Mother's or Father's Day. Today the day also includes parents who have transgender children. This day typically involves small celebrations and gift-giving to one's parent or caregiver.

HAPPY
TRANSGENDER
PARENT DAY!

November 20 is the Transgender Day of Remembrance honouring those who



have been lost due to violence & transphobia. This day was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honour Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998, kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — has yet to be solved.

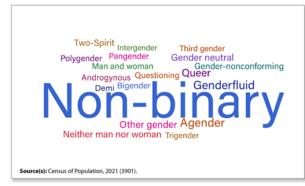
The Transgender Day of Remembrance serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people; it is a day to publicly mourn and honours the lives of members of our community who might otherwise be forgotten. It is preceded by Transgender Awareness Week which is the second week in November.

#### Did you know?

° Canada is

the first country to provide census data on transgender and non-binary people! (The following information is summarized from the Stats Canada website – the link will be included at the end. My comments appear in this font, StatsCan data are in Arial. Hope that's clear!)

#### Filling gaps in gender diversity data in Canada



Canada is the first country to collect and publish data on gender diversity from a national census. (Other countries will report some data but it is not collected systematically or for the whole population and relies on self-reporting, crowd sourcing or surveys etc.)

Of the nearly 30.5 million people in Canada aged 15 and older living in a private household in May 2021, 100,815 were transgender (59,460) or non-binary (41,355), accounting for 0.33% of the population in this age group.

Prior to the 2021 Census, some individuals indicated that they were not able to see themselves in the two responses of male or female on the existing sex question in the census. Following extensive consultation and countrywide engagement with the Canadian population, the census evolved—as it has for more than a century—to reflect societal changes, adding new content on gender in 2021.

Beginning in 2021, the precision of "at birth" was added to the sex question on the census questionnaire, and a new question on gender was included. As a result, the historical continuity of information on sex was maintained while allowing all cisgender, transgender and non-binary individuals to report their gender. This addressed an important information gap on gender diversity.

For many people, their gender corresponds to their sex at birth (cisgender men and cisgender women). For some, these do not align (transgender men and transgender women) or their gender is not exclusively "man" or "woman" (non-binary people).

The strength of the census is to provide reliable data for local communities throughout the country and for smaller populations such as the transgender and non-binary populations. Statistics Canada always protects privacy and confidentiality of respondents when disseminating detailed data.

These modifications reflect today's reality in terms of the evolving acceptance and understanding of gender and sexual diversity and an emerging social and legislative recognition of transgender, non-binary and LGBTQ2S+ people in general, that is, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit, or who use other terms related to gender or sexual diversity. In 2017, the Canadian government amended the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the Canadian *Criminal Code* to **protect individuals from discrimination and hate crimes based on gender identity and expression.** 

These data can be used by public decision makers, employers, and providers of health care, education, justice, and other services to better meet the needs of all men and women—including transgender men and women—and non-binary people in their communities.

The bolded text above is my emphasis. It is an important part of the fabric of Canadian society – that we do place value of lives that include diverse lifestyles and gender choices, not to mention it is also the law. Important enough that the census was modified to include getting accurate and reliable data to use to inform policies and regulations in the future. But if you think this means the battle for recognition and equality had been fought and won, think again. We just need to look at the situation in Alberta where the government is willing to use the Not Withstanding clause to take these rights away – especially in gender affirming health care for the Trans community. Look at the province of New Brunswick that made using pronouns an issue. School boards that want to 'ban books' because they may show a non-traditional family or a child choosing to use different pronouns. Consider writing letters to our elected officials expressing your concerns about targeting the Trans and Queer community. It is not impossible to envision a time when Trans people from the USA may be fleeing to Canada as refugees. How welcoming will we be?

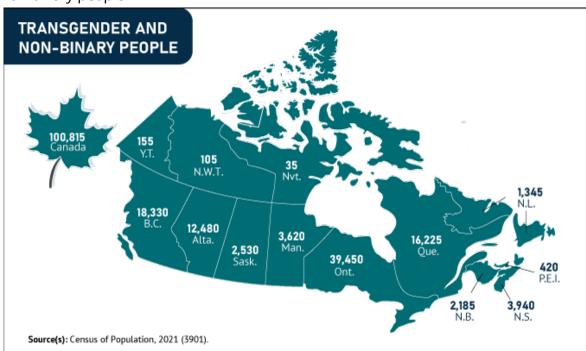
Here are some more of the results that I found interesting:

Among provinces and territories, Nova Scotia, Yukon and British Columbia show the highest proportions of transgender and non-binary individuals.

Although transgender and non-binary people lived in every province and territory in Canada, they were concentrated in certain areas. Almost 2 in 5 transgender or non-binary people (39.1%) called Ontario home in 2021 (39,450), and this corresponds to Ontario's share of Canada's population aged 15 and older (38.8%).

Page 14 Connections

**Map 1:** Canada's most populous province, Ontario, is home to the highest number of transgender and non-binary people



Gender diversity varies by region. Provincially, almost 1 in 200 people living in Nova Scotia (0.48%) and British Columbia (0.44%) were transgender or non-binary, proportions above the national average of 0.33%. Although counts were lower, Yukon (0.47%) also had one of the highest proportions in Canada. Among the provinces, Quebec had the smallest proportions of transgender (0.14%) and non-binary (0.09%) people, followed by Saskatchewan (0.16% and 0.12%, respectively).

#### The vast majority of non-binary individuals in Canada live in an urban setting

Urban living was more popular among non-binary individuals than among transgender and cisgender individuals. In 2021, over 9 in 10 non-binary people aged 15 and older in Canada (92.5%) lived in an urban centre of over 100,000 people, also called a census metropolitan area (CMA), or a mid-sized urban centre of over 10,000. This proportion was higher than for the Canadian population as a whole (84.1%).

#### Nearly 1 in 6 non-binary people live downtown

Living in a downtown core was also more popular for non-binary people than for transgender and cisgender people. Nearly 1 in 6 non-binary people aged 15 and older in Canada (15.5%) were living in the downtown of one of the country's 41 CMAs, and 7.3% lived in the downtown of 1 of the 6 largest CMAs. The proportion of non-binary individuals living in one of the CMA downtowns was over twice that of transgender (7.0%) and cisgender (4.7%) individuals.

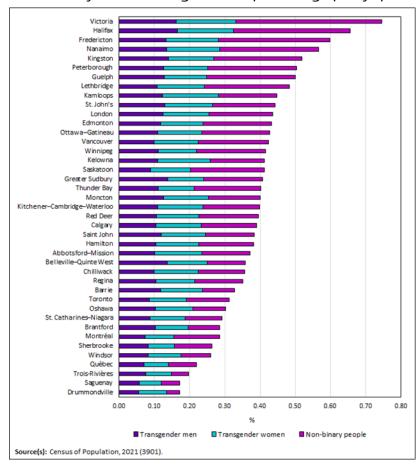
Several factors could explain the larger share of non-binary people living in downtown cores. First, over one-third of individuals living in a CMA downtown were aged 15 to 34 (37.4%), and gender diversity was

more common among people in this age group than among older people. Second, the concentration of numerous postsecondary educational institutions within downtown cores, combined with a more cosmopolitan atmosphere and the greater availability of social spaces and specialized services for transgender, non-binary and LGBTQ2S+ people more broadly, may also explain the higher presence of non-binary people in the heart of large urban centres.

**Infographic:** The largest proportions of transgender and non-binary people in large urban centres are observed on the Canadian east and west coasts

What I found interesting in the infographic is how close to the top Guelph is (seventh). While half of all non-binary people live in the six largest cities in Canada, there is obviously a large non-binary population in Guelph. That may be because of the University – which makes our support of ECM especially important. But it also means that we need to continue our work of being welcoming and inclusive.

Other not surprising stats reported included that people identifying as non-binary are largest among the youngest generation and steadily decrease as you move through the older generations. This reflects how our society has become more open and accepting (slowly) over time. I don't remember events like Pride in the Park when I was a child, but I do remember being friends with people who were openly gay at university – even though off campus being openly queer was not acceptable. By the time I was



nearing the end of my teaching career we were asking students for their preferred pronouns and using them in class. Being queer had become much more normalized for the "younger" generation(s). It still makes me choke up when I think of one student who trusted me to know they wanted to be called they/them in class but to use she/her if I was talking to their parents. But things are still not perfect. We need to continue the work of creating safe spaces for everyone. That's why the little things we can do, like remembering to wear our nametags and showing our pronouns, can mean a lot to someone. Being an ally is an intentional and ongoing commitment.

If you want to check out the rest of this data, here is the Stats Canada link:

<a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.htm?HPA=1">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427b-eng.htm?HPA=1</a>

Respectfully submitted Michele Altermann

## All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church

Monday	No	November 2025	Thursday	Fridav	Saturday
uses tha	i repeat weekly all year	r long (unless otherwise r	Below are the regularly scheduled room uses that repeat weekly all year long (unless otherwise noted). Please check here <i>first</i> when looking for available space.	ringay rst when looking for av	Saturday vailable space.
6:00 – 8:30 pm Rm, Gamblers Anonymous st 1st Tuesday of 4:00 pm – Rose Hall, Order of th Eastern Star 2" of the month	- Choir udy group the month a Head he	9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 – 5:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 10:00 – 11:00 am – Good Morning Al Anon, Choir Rm 6:00-8:00 pm – Nave, Guelph Male Choir 7:00-9:00 pm – Choir Room, Guelph Al-Anon Family Group 7:30-9:30 pm – RRH, AA Helbing Hands	9:00 am – 1:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 5:45- 8:00 pm – Rose Head Hall, TOPS 7:00 – 8:00 pm – Choir Room, Tri-County Recovery	9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 – 5:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 9:00 am – Rose Head Hall, Tai Chi (Sept-Jun)	
					1
4	IO.		6 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – RHH, Silvercreek Community Market 7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice, Nave	7	8
£	12		13 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – RHH, Chi Rho Fellowship 7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice, Nave	14	15 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Rental, Rose Head Hall
18 5:00 p.m. – RHH, Men's Fellowship		19 12:00 p.m. – Parlour, Women of Faith Executive Meeting	20 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – RHH, Silvercreek Community Market 7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice, Nave	21	<b>22</b> All day rental – Rose Head Hall
25 2:00 p.m. – Parlour, The Associates 7:00 p.m. – Parlour, Church Council	The	<b>26</b> 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Confirmation Class, Pastor's Office.	27 7:00 p.m. – Choir Practice, Nave	28	29