



June 2026

Don't Cry

(Senkbeil, Harold L. *Where in the World Is God?*
Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1999. pages 25-26.)

**When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."
(Luke 7:13)**

"Don't cry." Two little words that come very easily to our lips when we see someone in tears. The incident from which this text was taken involved wounded souls and broken hearts. "Don't cry" seems a trifle inadequate.

Jesus and his disciples came up to the village of Nain just as a funeral procession was making its way out of the village gates. It was a sad scene. The dead person was a young man. Somehow, the death of a young person always seems especially tragic. He was the only son of his mother, and that intensified the tragedy. She was a widow. That seemed like the last straw. Now she was all alone in the world. She had no husband to support her, and her only son was dead. But then along came another only son—the only Son of God.

"When the Lord saw her," St. Luke records, "his heart went out to her." That's a rough translation. Actually, it was a more visceral reaction. Jesus felt the pain of this widow. He saw that she was left totally alone in this world and helpless in her grief. It hit him hard, and he felt for her. So Jesus said, "Don't cry." But what Jesus said was more than just these words. That's the point. For, when Jesus had said this, he reached out and touched the burial cot. "Young man," Jesus said to the corpse, "I say to you, get up!" And the dead man sat up and began to speak. Jesus returned him to his mother.

When Jesus walked into the life of this widow at Nain, God came to call. When God walks in on your life, things begin to change. And we could use a change. That's for sure! The tragedy is that too many of us are content to muddle along through life under our own power, without repentance, and living in open rebellion against God. And that's a crying shame.

Yet in his Holy Word and sacraments, Jesus reaches out to every sinner. We do not feel the touch of his hand, but he reaches out to touch us, nevertheless. Into our ears he places his Word, and into our mouths he places his very body and blood, once given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We don't see these things, to be sure, but we have his Word on it. In that Word there is healing and hope. Jesus says don't cry to broken and contrite hearts. When the Spirit works on our hearts through the Word, we find healing. Hearts are brave to hope again, and arms are strong to love and serve.

Almighty and eternal God, the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer, let the prayers of your children who cry out in any trouble come before you, and to every soul who is distressed, grant mercy, grant relief, and grant refreshment through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Based on a Gregorian collect and Liturgy of St. Mark

Voters' Meeting on Sunday, June 28, 2026

Our next quarterly voter's meeting is scheduled for after next Sunday's worship/fellowship (at about noon). Physical attendance is highly encouraged. Please let me (pastor) know before the meeting if you need to attend via Google Meet so I can set it up.

Brief Bible Class

You are invited to join our summer Bible class Psalm 119. Each Sunday after worship we will spend 30 minutes looking at 2-3 sections of this grand Psalm, appreciated the hope, joy, salvation and guidance God gives us through His Word. We hope you can join us in our meditation on this wonderful Psalm.

Friday Fellowship Bible Class

We'd love for you to join us for supper and Bible Study at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month as we study the book of Leviticus – seeing how the regulations and sacrifices of God provided in that book prepared God's people for the coming Christ. We hope you can join us.

Bible Information Class

We just started a new Bible Information Class on Saturday morning at 10:00 am. It is for anyone who is either interest in what we believe or wants to review the core doctrine of our Christian faith. All are welcome.

In-person Worship Attendance

March – An average of 40 for Sunday worship and 27 for communion

(Ash Wednesday: 26 for worship and 16 for communion)

Wednesday Lenten worship average: 14)

April - An average of 47 for Sunday worship and 26 for communion (excluding Easter)

(Maundy Thursday: 26 for worship and 20 for communion)

Good Friday: 53 for worship

Easter: Early – 27, Late – 61)

May – An average of 47 for Sunday worship and 35 for communion

Daily Prayers

I continue sending out daily devotions, links to other devotional sites (included in Monday's messages), Bible classes, Communion registration reminders, and announcements.

If you or someone you know is not receiving the daily prayers and would like them, please let me know their email address, and I will add them to our email list.

Note: Please let me know before unsubscribing if you do not wish to receive the Daily Prayer. The 'Unsubscribe' feature at the bottom of the daily email would remove your name from all congregational emails, including urgent ones.

Evangelism Notes

By: Jordan Alves

There will be a 1 day VBS this year on Saturday August 8th from 9-12 the theme will be the Olympics. The church picnic/corn boil will be held on August 9th after worship with a tie-in to the VBS theme, a sign up sheet for the potluck will be posted closer to the event date.

The evangelism committee will be running a food drive throughout the summer from July 5th until the end of August/early September when the items will be dropped off at the food bank. A list of items and boxes will be posted, and there will be boxes at the back of the church for donation.

The next evangelism meeting will be on July 19th following worship.

Trustee Notes

By: Doug Morton

No report.

Youth Education Report

By: Jason Pfothhauer

Sunday school finished up for the year on June 7th with some fun games and the opening of the time capsule. Attendance remained steady at 4 children/young adults for most of the year.

A big thank you to all the teachers who make the youth education program possible throughout the year, it would not be possible without you.
Sunday School will get underway again in the fall on September 13th, the Sunday after Labour Day. Have a wonderful summer!

Elders' Notes

By: Jeremy Doherty

Elder program framework:

Review periods are every 3 months, straying members who have not been in attendance will receive either a letter or a letter and a phone call at various steps in the program. Letters are designed to be a balance of encouragement and concern for the individual. If a member who is on the program attends church, they are removed from the program and monitored like anyone else. If after 12 months there has been no change in their status, they may be recommended for removal. Reinstatement can occur following participation in a course that has yet to be determined. Elders and the Pastor may choose to hold someone at a particular step if special circumstances exist. An attendance tracking software app is being investigated to assist the Elders with tracking and creating quarterly reports. A communications plan for this program still needs to be developed to ensure that the membership have a proper understanding of the program and it's goals. Our expected launch of the program will be the fall. Regular follow ups with straying members continues in the interim.

of contacts with straying members this quarter = 12

Bylaw review:

We continue to look at the templates provided by the District. There are three templates that are each meant for a different church make-up/size of church. There are desirable elements from each template and we are looking to merge into one document that works best for Divine Word.

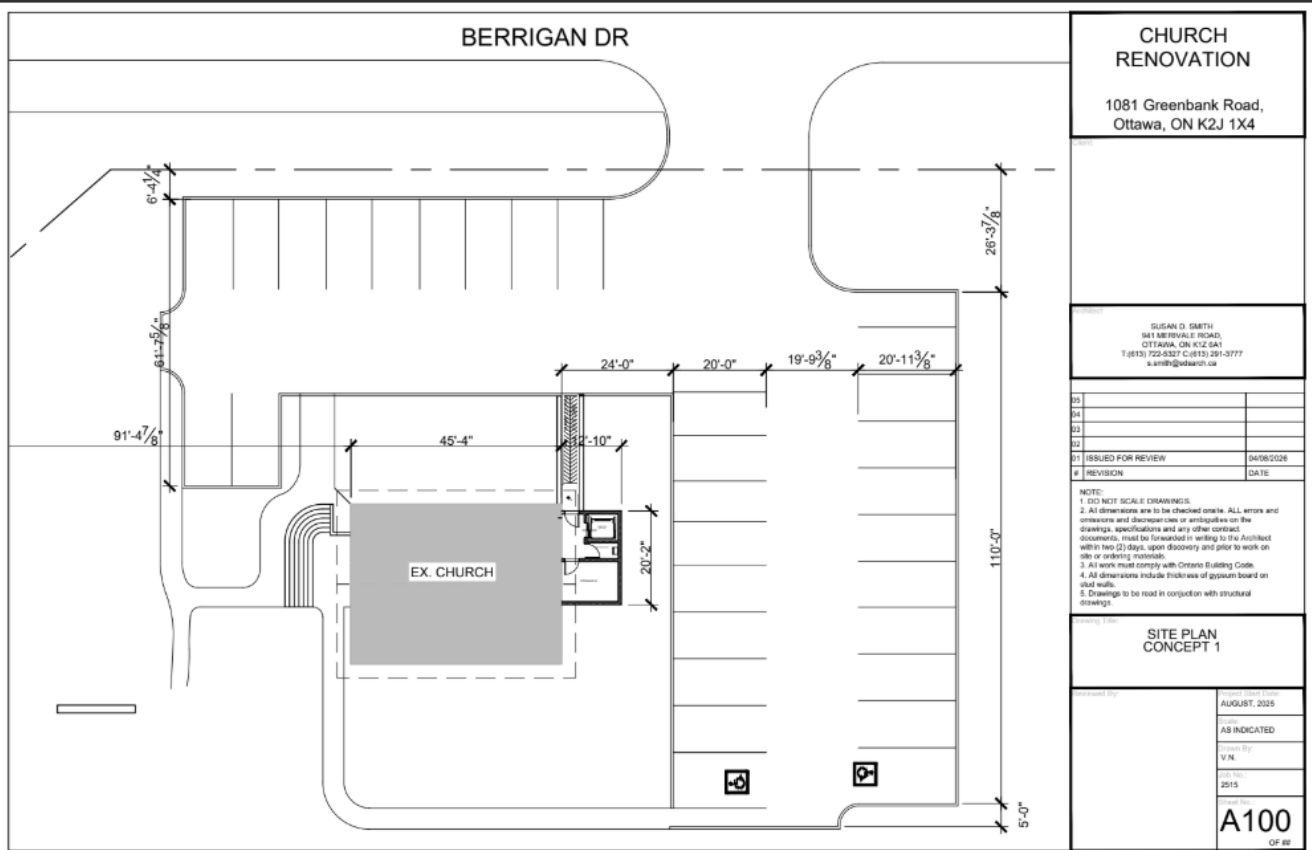
Lay led services:

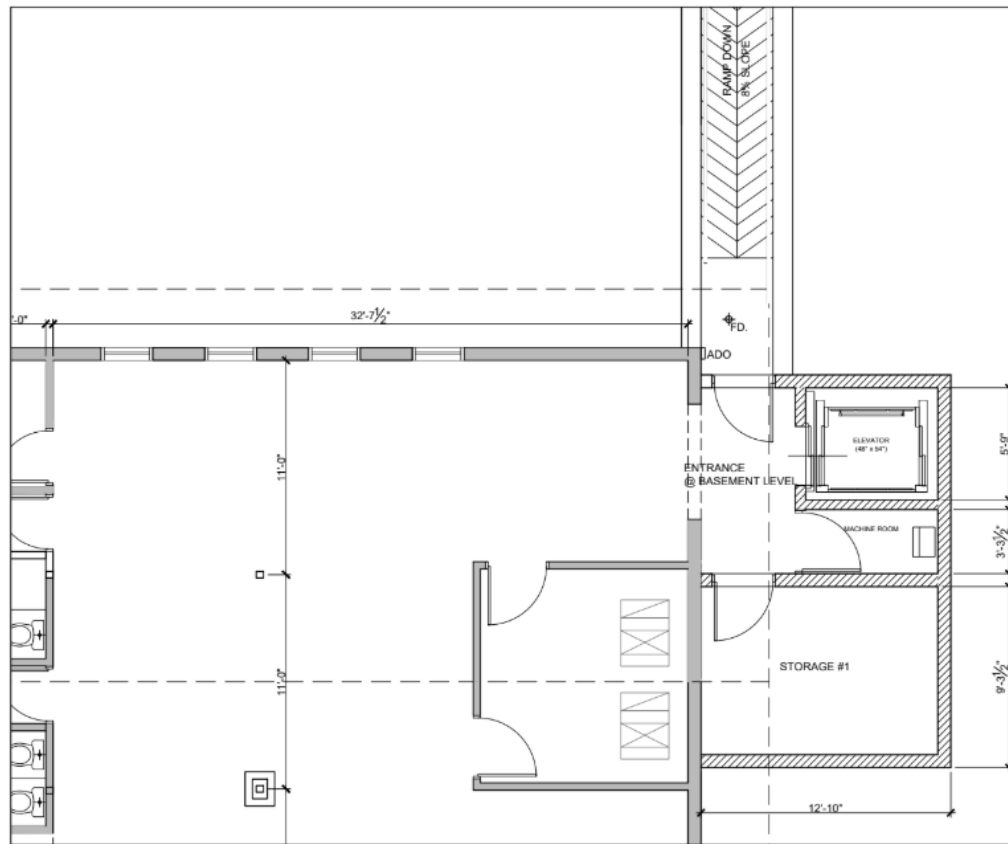
July 26, Aug 23

New business

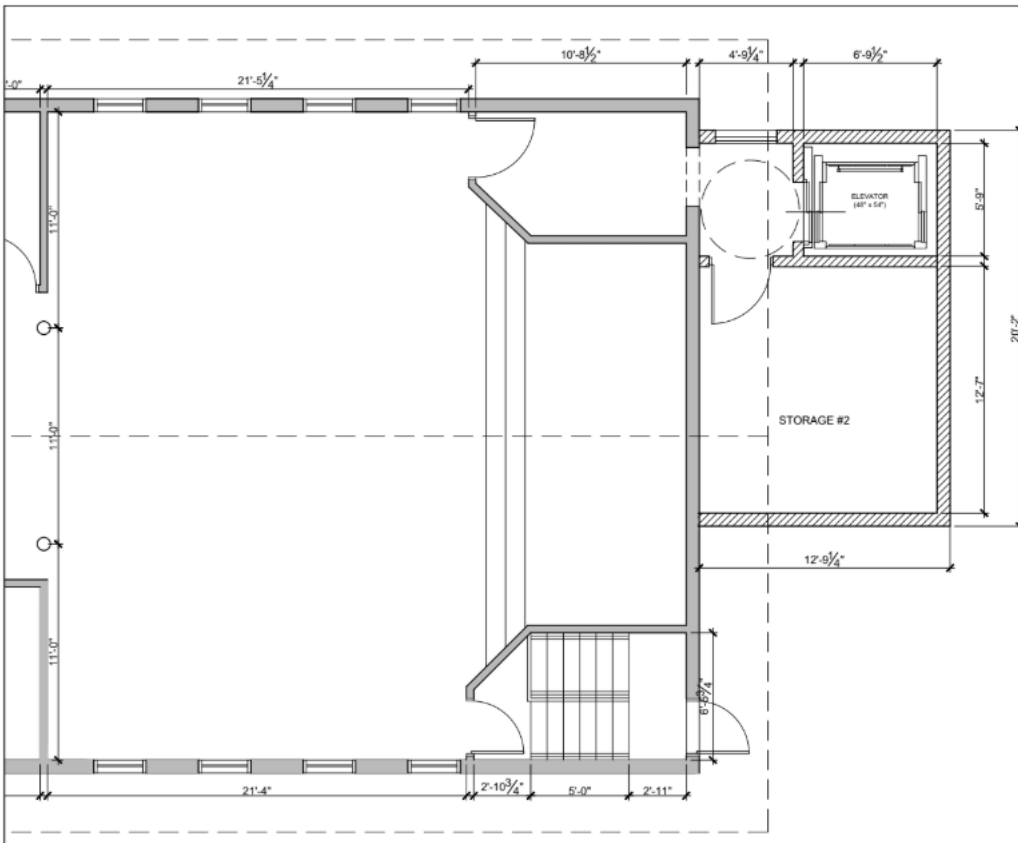
Elevator project, please see the draft drawings from the architect. I have already provided feedback, there should not be a need for a mechanical room based on the type of elevator we are considering.

Graphics below:





CHURCH RENOVATION 1081 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2J 1X4	
SUSAN D. SMITH 841 MERVILLE ROAD, OTTAWA, ON K2Z 5A1 T: (613) 722-5327 C: (613) 261-3777 s.smith@sdsearch.ca	
01 ISSUED FOR REVIEW # REVISION	04/08/2026 DATE
NOTE: 1. DID NOT SCALE DRAWINGS. 2. All dimensions are to be checked onsite. ALL errors and omissions and discrepancies or ambiguities on the drawings, specifications and any other contract documents, must be forwarded in writing to the Architect within two (2) days, upon discovery and prior to work on site or ordering materials. 3. All work must comply with Ontario Building Code. 4. All dimensions include thickness of gypsum board on stud walls. 5. Drawings to be read in conjunction with structural drawings.	
BASEMENT PLAN CONCEPT 1	
AUGUST, 2025 AS INDICATED V.N. 2015 A200 OF 88	



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GROUND FLOOR PLAN CONCEPT 1	
AUGUST, 2025 AS INDICATED V.N. 2015 A300 OF 88	

Updates from the Board of Stewardship and Treasurer / Financial Secretary.

By: Jim Neubauer

I. E-Transfer Process

We continue to use the e-transfer process in 2026. More than 14 people use the etransfer process and send offerings weekly or monthly. Let me know if you would like to use this process. The etransfer email is divinewordetransfer@gmail.com

II. Regular Offerings and Budgets

Regular Offerings: Please find below the financial summary as of March 15, 2026 of all regular offerings collected to date being applied toward our Current Church Offering Income budget requirement of \$140,000 for 2026 decreased from \$142,500 for 2025.

As of June 21, 2026

Offerings Received – \$68,700

Offerings Budgeted - \$68,461

As of March 15, 2026

Offerings Received – \$24,150

Offerings Budgeted - \$30,096

After 25 weeks we are basically on target for our weekly budget projection. This number is ***slightly overstated*** by approximately \$5,000 since we have received some annual donations. However, at this point in the year it is too early for any panic alarms. All members just need to continue to make their regular offerings.

It is important to note as well, that we have received over \$21,500 in offerings designated for “Special Projects”, to be used as the Council and Voters decide. This is great news for our Long Term Planning – accessibility initiatives.

So overall, I am giving us an A- rating for the first 25 weeks. In Sept, if we are still on target I will raise the rating to an A.

Investments:

Sunlife - Value \$358,442 (1 yr growth 11.27% - wow) – **Funds 100% available**

Scotiabank - \$59 K – High Interest Savings – approx. 2.5% - **Funds 100% available**

Scotiabank - \$60 K – 2 year GIC @ 3.85% (Funds available Nov 25, 2026)

Scotiabank - \$110 k – 2 year GIC @ 3.05% (Funds available March 24, 2027)

Scotiabank - \$62 K – 4 year GIC @ 3.2% (Funds available November, 27 2029)

Overall Scotiabank – Approx. \$291 K

As always if you have any questions – don’t hesitate to contact me.

Jim

Thank you

I want to thank all the volunteers quietly working in the background at church by doing things like helping with the social media, setting up the altar, watching over our finances and member offerings, keeping on top of administrative paperwork, teaching our children, providing dinners and snacks, making necessary facility repairs, maintaining the property in order, beautifying the sanctuary, helping me organize for services, giving fellow members an encouraging note or call, inviting people to worship, and upholding DW's ministry in prayer. Know that your work is not in vain. I thank God for all of you and all that you do.

Are You Struggling?

Are you or someone you know struggling spiritually? If so, do not hesitate to contact me (Pastor). *Our conversation will be kept confidential.*

Pastor Sullivan's Contact Information

Home address: 81 Upminster Way, Ottawa, ON, K2J5G2

Email: pastor@divinewordottawa.ca

Primary (Mobile) Phone Number: (613) 255-2317

May the LORD continue to bless you.

In Christian love,

Pastor Michael Sullivan