

Advent Journey

June 2011

Beloved Friends,

I was deeply moved and honoured by last Sunday's goodbye party. The liturgy, choir, special music, sermon, tributes, and extravagant gifts touched me deeply. You hold a special place in my heart and in my prayers.

With love & blessings,

Pastor Michael

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Advent Journey is the newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church
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Carol's Spring Synopsis

June has been a month of farewells and also topics requiring discussion, voting and ongoing decisions to be made. The Call Process continues as Mutual Ministry and the Call Committee complete their tasks following the resignation of Pastor Michael Mills. The Worship and the Arts committee have been dealing with the search for a Music and Choir Director following the resignation of Kevyn Dawe. The parking lot is another area of concern as we meet to discuss the future of that problem.

This past month has also been a very social month at Advent. We don't always need a special occasion to gather to eat but the feast was put before us and gather we did.

At the end of May we said our farewell to Pastor Michael Mills who has been with us for the past fourteen years. Pastor Mills, Chloe and Jonah joined us for the Rite of Farewell during the Church Service and then for a luncheon which followed in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Mills spoke briefly after the announcements in the morning mentioning the highs and lows over the past years and although he has served three congregations he said that Advent felt the most like home. June 13 marked 20 years of ordination for Pastor Mills. During the luncheon Pastor Mills was presented with a family membership to the Art Gallery of Ontario and a gift certificate to Henry's Photo Store which will allow him to further invest in his latest passion – photography. Pastor Mills, in turn, presented the congregation with a gift of three framed photos titled Sunset I, Sunset II and Sunset III which were taken during a recently stormy sunset. These were done by Pastor Mills and are certainly evidence of his photography skills.



In June we also said goodbye to Kevyn Dawe, our Music and Choir Director for the past 20 years – how time flies. Choir members Sonja Brown, Peter Buckley, Mona Marcobelli, Brit Missirlian, Carol Peck, Gabi Schickedanz, Erika Schurr and Hildegard Weltner gathered at the home of Peter and Adele for a pot luck supper and final choir practice. On June 12 the congregation enjoyed another luncheon and presented Kevyn with a gift certificate to Mountain Equipment Co-op which was appreciated as Kevyn said that he enjoys hiking. He was also presented with a stuffed penguin as we had learned that he likes this character but I don't think we will see him in the movie, Mr. Popper's Penguins. Enjoy more family time Kevyn.

Thank you to the ESO Committee and other members of Advent for all the work and hours that went into organizing both of these luncheons. We don't always

need a special occasion to gather to eat but the feast was put before us and gather we did.

The month of June culminated in the final stage of the Call Process. This has been ongoing for the the past months following the resignation of Pastor Mills. More detailed information of this entire process was given to those present in Church on June 26. Council has had the support of Bishop Michael Pryse, Rev. Riitta Hepomaki who is Assistant to the Bishop and Rev. Linda Douglas who is Dean of the Toronto Conference in our wish to extend a call to Pastor Peter Lisinski. The Mutual Ministry Committee (Jim Doak, Carol Peck and Elizabeth Lancia) met with Pastor Peter Lisinski. The Call Committee (Adele Buckley, Gabi Schickedanz, Sonita Dillon-Rhodus, Lester McLean, Qi Cheng, Priyan DeSilva and Erika Schurr) then gathered for a prayerful meeting of discussion followed by a meeting with Pastor Lisinski. After this meeting the Committee sent a report and recommendation to Council that the congregation extend a call to Pastor Lisinski. On June 26, a called congregational meeting was held to approve the motion "that the Congregation of Advent Lutheran Church, Toronto, extend a Call to Pastor Peter Lisinski to serve as the Pastor of our congregation, starting when this Call is accepted". This was unanimously approved by those in attendance. As Pastor Peter and Rosarie Lisinski returned to the sanctuary they were greeted by a round of applause and congratulations which continued in the Fellowship Hall. We now wait for Bishop Pryse to formally extend the Call and then we can plan for the installation service.

As summer arrives we seem to slow down with social functions but not with attendance each Sunday as we worship together. Come mid-September we start up again with Sunday School and the welcome back BBQ hosted by your Congregational Council. Have a safe and healthy summer but remember to support Advent each week.



Goodbyes

Dear Friends in Christ,

In recent weeks, the people of Advent have known the sweet sorrow of parting company with two dearly beloved servants of God and church. For nearly fifteen years as Pastor, Rev. Michael Mills, and for over twenty years as Director of Music, Kevyn Dawe, have each had a profound impact on your pilgrimage of Christian faith and spirituality. With thanks to God for their respective and distinguished ministries; with thanks to their families for sharing their lives with us, and with thanks to each of them for the gift of their companionship, we say a bittersweet "Goodbye!"

Did you know that the word 'goodbye' has roots in the earliest evolution of the English language. Its original meaning is best reflected in the phrase, "God be with you." Thus, whenever people end a telephone conversation or take leave of one another, saying goodbye offers a prayer for, and speaks the promise of God's abiding presence with them. Indeed, the word 'goodbye' is a parable for the whole of life! All human beings



live – consciously or unconsciously – in and by the grace of God. But those who actively and deliberately seek God's presence in life's comings and goings, learn to live thankfully for all God's gracious gifts, and inspire one another to share the abundant blessings God has created all people to enjoy – in this world, and throughout eternity.

As we move into the vacation season of rest and renewal in the weeks ahead, many of us may not cross paths as often as we normally might. So, as we say our mutual "Goodbyes", Rosarie and I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer. Until we meet again, God be with you, one and all!

Aufwiedersehen!

Pastor Peter

From the Editor

Last month I had the opportunity to visit Lunenburg County in Nova Scotia when attending an annual gathering of Lutheran church types within our Eastern Synod called Luther Hostel. Lunenburg is the site of the oldest worshipping Lutheran congregation in Canada and traces its history back to the arrival of German settlers in 1753. Nova Scotia was home to Canada's oldest cohesive German settlement, which developed between 1750 and 1753 when 2400 Protestant southwest German farmers and tradesmen landed with their families in Halifax. They were recruited by British agents to strengthen Britain's position in Acadia vis-à-vis the French. Handbill advertisements had been posted throughout central Europe, and 'Foreign Protestants', mainly from agricultural communities along the Rhine River corridor, responded to the offer and emigrated to Nova Scotia. In 1753, 1400 of these Germans started the nearby community of Lunenburg. Although arriving with no marine skills, they became expert fishermen, sailors and boat-builders by the next generation.

From the establishment of the first Lutheran church in Lunenburg, others quickly followed as the colony grew and people moved farther out from the immediate area. I was told that up to 30 congregations (there are 17 Parishes remaining) were established along the South Shore of Nova Scotia becoming a mainstay of community life in this corner of the country.



Sitting here in my own corner of the Lutheran world at Advent, I take note of its own story of origins in making sense of where it finds itself now. How it is a descendent of post-war settlement patterns in Canada and the great population shift from country to city and 3rd World to 1st. It was and still is a world that is particularly attracted to Toronto and its numerous cultural enclaves that serve as grounds of familiarity for people in transition. Advent has been just such a place up to now but its dwindling membership is perhaps telling that fewer newcomers to Toronto are instinctively drawn to the particular “culture” we have had on offer up to now.

Change though is inevitable and these are certainly new times for our congregation and how we see ourselves in this most dynamic of places, smack centre in the heart of the great metropolitan intersection called Toronto. I hearken us to consider, though, just how auspicious this location may be in view of the reading from Matthew we heard last Sunday. In it Christ calls his disciples to spread his message of the Kingdom come to all the nations of the world. If this is something we affirm as Christians as the principle tenet of our faith, I could not imagine a more propitious place to be.

Peter Reble



Inclusion - a Divine Challenge

**by Judith A. Snow, MA
June 18, 2011**

Globally, in this culturally stressful time, we are exploring a new approach to diversity. Before the close of the “Dark Ages” no one would question that people of dissimilar cultures, languages and faiths might react to each other with conflict.

Similarly human communities have always experienced some diversity in individual ability but few people with unusual minds or bodies survived in times before antibodies and psychotropics. Those that did had a place – shaman, storyteller, court jester. New technology has brought new exclusions. The label of “disabled” now sets people apart with places for “those people” being made available – resource rooms, segregated homes, specialized workplaces.

Today's society creates encounters that cause us to choose – resist or include! Resistance is natural. Inclusion requires a different approach. The sacred words now stand out with uniquely modern meaning. “Love your neighbour” and “Love your enemy” have a newly relevant value for today's Christians.

Three distinct states of Inclusion exist. I am calling the three B, M and X. The reference to sport cycling is somewhat intentional as skilled Inclusion can be as awe inspiring as extreme sports!

At State B (Basic) the presence of people with diverse characteristics is permitted. State B Inclusion is being expressed when a country alters its immigration laws so that individuals from a country formerly not welcomed get “processed” in a unique effort to provide some relief to a burdened population. The principal quality of State B is that presence is shared but no other changes are anticipated or offered. The includers like their community as it is, expect no major shifts, and the included are expected to adopt the ways and means of the includers and to get along as best they can. Typically the included are happy to do so, expressing gratitude and working hard to not cause difficulties.

In State M (Mechanical) the includers are willing to make “accommodations”. The included move beyond being grateful for coexistence and advocate for support. Resources and services are made available so that members of the included group can function more like typical members of the including group. ESL classes and job coaching are examples of such accommodations. This stage is “mechanical” in that the process is utterly non-personal. If it's good for one it's good for all and every refugee is expected to participate in ESL classes and every “disabled” child gets a ticket to the circus.

Underneath this busyness the fundamental boundary between includer and included does not shift. The included are still expected to participate in the includers' world just like the includers do, and no significant cultural or structural shift is expected or offered.

In State X (Crossover) both the includers and the included recognize that another world is possible – a world that benefits from the gifts and contributions available in the cultures, characteristics and experiences of both the including and the included. The perception fades that there are two sides and a distinct boundary. People take on creating something together that has never existed before.

For example in high schools that have academically diverse students in all classrooms and where all students are supported to learn from each other academic achievement goes up for all students. More importantly, violence at such a school disappears. The bully is no longer needed to enforce a clear separation between “us” and “them”.

Inner spiritual and outer journeys meet and nurture each other when people actively seek to build from difference rather than keep it in its place. Once a local pastor welcomed a young man with Down Syndrome to be an altar servers. This boy had a deep appreciation of food and so approached the Eucharistic moment with a simple, focused reverence. These moments renewed the pastor's understanding and commitment to bring Christ's total sacrifice to his congregation as an essential moment of spiritual regeneration. In so doing he found himself healed and empowered. Christ's love manifested!

Jesus is calling us to offer Basic and Mechanical Inclusion everywhere. These are simple requirements for people to get along. Beyond this Christ is profoundly calling each and every one of us to live "X". When I receive your uniqueness and you receive mine we can create something new together. Then we have moved beyond a simply human experience and begun to create the New World we entered at baptism.

Judith Snow's vision, since she could remember, was to communicate the fact that in people there really is no disability. "People are always contributing something. The work is to see the value and potential in what they are contributing and build that through relationships into community and economic opportunities." Her life's work on behalf of people whose gifts are often not recognized will ably be displayed at an upcoming exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum starting the end of August and running through December.



Baptism of Marian Xing

**"Why I chose to
be baptised"**

English

1. God listens to my prayers.
2. God knows everything about me.
3. Without God in my heart my life makes no sense.
4. Baptism strengthens the relationship I have with God.

Indonesian

1. Tuan mendengar doa saja.
2. Tuan tahu semua keadaan saja.
3. Tidak ada Tuan dihati saya Berahampa.
4. Pembalisin untuk meperkuatkan hubungan Tuhan sama saya.



A Note of Thanks

Praise the Lord.

I just want to give Thanks to the Lord Jesus first and then to all members of Advent Lutheran Church for such wonderful greeting to me during my small stay in Canada.

I was new to this country and was looking for a church to attend for Sunday prayer.

One day on the way to my office I saw our church and thought to attend it for Sunday worship.

On my first visit to the church, I was pleased with the welcome given by the church members to me which made me very much comfortable to lord's house and because of which I started attending the worship almost every Sunday during my stay in Canada.

I am thankful to everyone I meet in church for making me part of the church family, I never felt away from my hometown church.

I am leaving back to India with lots of blessings and good memories with me.

God Bless you all, please keep me in your prayer.

Thanks,
Nitin Ingle
June 21, 2011

ALL ABOUT OUR HOUSE – JUNE 2011

We are 6 months into 2011 and I am happy to say that we have for all intents and purposes maintained the status quo although “times are a-changin”. By the time you are reading this article you will be beginning to see some of the changes which are mainly out of doors. One of the programs that is in conjunction with the Community Gardens is called “Art In The Garden.” Here art is taught and shared by the community. This summer and fall a major project will be patio stones depicting a river running through the meditation garden. This “river” will replace some of the pathways which have been notoriously overrun by weeds. Originally all of the pathways were to be flooded by this river but unfortunately city budget cuts became an issue. These patio stones are being crafted by professional local artists at no cost to Advent. We are fortunate indeed to be the beneficiary of such talent.

While we are on the subject of the Community Gardens another change will be the construction of a small greenhouse planned to stand adjacent to the garden shed. This will enable the growing season for the gardeners to begin earlier. The construction of the greenhouse is completely funded by various grants and will be maintained by a special contingent of gardeners all under the supervision of our garden co-ordinator. Not only will this greenhouse prolong the growing season but it will provide a great opportunity for young people to learn many growing skills.

At this point it would be very appropriate to say a big thank you to our Advent gardeners for their work and dedication. These thanks go to Rosemarie Gardow, Sonya and Dave Brown, Elyas and Forazon Yousefi, Aleena Chen, Sherry Wang, Heidi deBond, Astrid Walther, Sam Paravatana, and Peter Reble. A special word of gratitude to Judy Baribeau for her efforts in the gardens at the church entrance.

Deferring from the garden but still in the gratitude vein a huge thank you is for Carol Peck and Brit Misserlian’s professional refurbishing of Pastor’s office. It looks so “smart” with the taupe walls and the sparkling white trim. These ladies also painted the meeting room as well. Thanks also to the Men’s group for funding this endeavour.

Approximately a month or so ago I sent out a letter to our Congregation regarding the condition of our parking lot outlining what needs to be done and a possible cost that might be involved. Subsequently a Congregational meeting was held on June 19, 2011 to discuss this matter. The outcome of this meeting is as follows. A base allocation of \$10,000 was authorized to cover costs for surveys etc. Dani, Bob and Rick Schickedanz have graciously volunteered to take the lead on this project. Their aim is to maximize the result and to minimize the cost. This is not to say that the final cost will not be on the expensive side but I feel assured that they will do everything in their power to ensure the work is

done professionally and at the best price possible. During the summer months the necessary surveys will be secured and final drawings made ready along with firm costing figures. These findings will be presented to the Congregation in the Fall, Sept/Oct, for approval. I will attempt to keep everyone abreast of any progress as it unfolds. Please keep this very necessary project in your prayers.

Thanks for reading,
Fran Brandes, Property Mgr.



Oriole Community Garden

Despite a wet and soggy spring, our community gardeners are out in full force and our gardening season has gotten off to a great start. Thanks to a donation from Home Depot, we were able to redo the garden. Step number one was to haul away all of the junk that had piled up over the years, and to install landscape edging around each garden. We resized the gardens to make sure there were enough pathways everywhere. We were also able to add about ten new garden plots, which were given to very happy folks on our waiting list. Another exciting development is the two rows of strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and rhubarb that we added to the East edge of the garden—feel free to help yourself to these communal fruit patches! Thanks to the tireless effort of our many gardeners and volunteers, the Oriole Community Garden is looking much more organized and beautiful this season.

We are looking forward to lots of exciting developments this season. We just hired a summer student, Rachel, who will be coordinating a Youth Apprenticeship program, where youth in the neighbourhood will gain skills in leadership and community gardening, and teach workshops for kids in the neighbourhood. If you know of any youth who would be interested in joining our program, or if you have a skill you'd like to share with our youth, please email Rachel at oriolegardenyouth@gmail.com.

We hope you'll join us for our first Summer Festival in the Garden, on Wednesday July 6th, from 5:30-8:30, rain or shine. The youth will be running a fruit and vegetable market, and there will be kids activities, music, dancing, and more!

As always, I would love to be in touch with you. Feel free to reach me by email: sresnick@workingwomenc.org, or by phone: 416-750-9600X280.

Best,
Sarah Resnick—Garden Coordinator



ADVENT'S FINANCIAL POSITION 31st May, 2011

Our Revenues

The January to May, 2011 totals for Advent's Giving are summarized below:

ADVENT'S GIVING TO 31/5/11

Commitments	Received to 31/05/2011	Received to 31/5/2010	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$32,921.29	\$32,442.73	\$478.56
Mortgage	\$2,118.00	\$1,651.50	\$466.50
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$35,039.29	\$34,094.23	\$945.06
Facilities	\$30,394.40	\$27,331.78	\$3,062.62
Regular Benevolence	<u>\$4,073.00</u>	<u>\$3,191.50</u>	<u>\$881.50</u>
Total Received	\$69,506.69	\$64,617.51	\$4,889.18
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$1,528.00	\$1,426.50	\$101.50
Furnace Fund	\$1,949.00	\$460.00	\$1,489.00

Current, Festival and Loose Giving

Current giving corresponds with the "Current Budget" line of your offering envelopes, Festival donations are those from the pink envelopes at Easter, Christmas, etc., and loose are miscellaneous funds not specifically indicated from a specific member or envelope. Our total for these items for January-May was \$32,921.29, an increase of \$478.56 from 2010, however the increase declined year over year from \$2,374.90 at the end of April.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-May was \$30,394.40, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show an increase of \$3,062.62, or about 11%. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue

fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received. Overall, we are well ahead of last year.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January-May, 2011 increased by about 28% from 2010, an excellent effort so far.

Global Hunger giving is forwarded directly to Synod, and does not affect Advent's financial position. The amounts are included for information only, and indicate a good increase over 2010.

Furnace Fund

Although the furnaces in the old portion of the building were replaced starting in January, 2010, donations were received toward the cost in December, 2009 of \$980. To the end of December, 2010 donations to the Furnace Fund totaled \$6,273. The additional funds raised from 1st January to 31st May, 2011 of \$1,949 brings the total to \$9,202.

Furnace replacement cost was \$14,962 plus additional costs of \$1,312.50 for a total of \$16,274.50, which was funded through member GIC's issued, as paid down through donations. A total of \$15,000 was initially received in GIC's, of which \$6,000 plus \$75 interest has been refunded to 3 members, leaving 2 outstanding notes totaling \$9,000 for 2011.

Our day-to-day bottom line income and expense position, prior to Reserve Fund, Youth Fund, etc. allowances, is as follows at 31st May, 2011:

ADVENT INCOME AND EXPENSE - TO MAY 31, 2011

Category	1-1-10 to 31/05/2011	1-1-10 to 31-5-10	Variance
Income			
Current, Festival, Loose	\$32,922	\$32,443	\$479
Mortgage	\$2,118	\$1,652	\$467
Expense Recoveries	\$1,791	\$30	\$1,761
Facilities	\$30,394	\$27,332	\$3,062
Total Received	\$67,225	\$61,456	\$5,769
Expenses			
Administration	\$3,615	\$4,315	-\$700
Building	\$21,335	\$15,451	\$5,884

ESO	\$0	\$23	-\$23
Music	\$3,204	\$4,183	-\$979
Pastoral Services	\$34,050	\$33,574	\$476
Stewardship & Finance	\$19	\$275	-\$256
Sunday School	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$62,223	\$57,821	\$4,402
Net Position	\$5,002	\$3,635	\$1,367

The item of particular note is Building costs for 2011 and 2010, which indicates a \$5,884 increase year-over-year. This cost increase is mainly attributable to increased snow ploughing and sanding due to the much harsher winter this year than last. Outdoor maintenance in 2011 totalled about \$7,500 for January to March, 2011.

Administration costs and Music have decreased year-to-year. Photocopier cartridge costs and travel expenses fluctuate throughout the year as the cartridges come due for replacement, and are ordered in bulk, and mileage claims are submitted by the Pastor. Wine purchases, palms, etc. also fluctuate and could increase to last year's levels with a single order.

Fred Roth,
Treasurer



On the Agenda: National Convention

The National Convention of the ELCIC will be held in Saskatoon from July 14 – 17 with the theme, Covenant People: In Mission for Others and celebrating the ELCIC's 25th Anniversary. I'm your elected delegate who will be attending. There are many motions coming forth from the National Church Council (NCC) which will create a lot of debate and discussion. The following items are on the agenda:

1. The Structural Renewal Task Force has presented their report. The NCC adopted the following motion: That the National Convention approves the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Task Force in principle and authorizes the NCC to move forward with the implantation process.
2. The Human Sexuality Task Force has presented the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality to the NCC who in turn approved and recommends it for adoption by the delegates.

3. Motion on the Unity of the Church – An affirmation Concerning the Unity of the Church.
4. Motion on Presiding at or Blessing Marriages.
5. Motion on Standards for Ordination and Consecration.
6. Bishop Susan Johnson’s first term as National Bishop is ending and will be up for re-election.

To read more details about the motions one can go to the ELCIC website at www.elcic.ca and click onto ELCIC National Convention and then go to Bulletin of Reports –Section F’s.

I’m looking forward to an exciting convention. Thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Respectively submitted,
Walter Rothenburger

The Path Ahead

Date	Greeters	Readers	Altar Care	Assisting	Coffee Hosts
26-Jun		Karen Doak	Walter Rothenburger	Peter B.	Rosemarie Gardow & Rosarii Lisinski
3-Jul		Erna Kraus	Carol Peck	Peter R.	Gladys Ammatill, Fran & Claus Brandes
10-Jul		Peter Buckley	Rosarie Lisinski	Nalini	Erika Day & Hannelore Matthews
17-Jul		Peter Reble	Cynthia Stewart	Natasha	Brenda Kroeker
24-Jul		Mona Macrobelli	Mercy daSilva	Sean	
31-Jul			Mercy daSilva	Lester	
7-Aug			Brit Missirlian	Jonah	
14-Aug			Brit Missirlian	Fred	



Congratulations



Congratulations to Pastor Peter and Rosarie Lisinski for twenty-five years of ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church. And praise to God in their acceptance of the Call to Ministry to Advent Lutheran Church.

Artwork and layout provided by Sherry Wang.