

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

April 2014

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Easter Flowers

If you would like to bring Easter flowers for our Easter worship service, please bring them to church on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Thank you for your donations.



Easter

Congregational Council Update

Our Congregational Council is starting another busy year of activities. We look forward to everyone's support as we plan special activities throughout our 50th Anniversary year.

Council members were installed during the worship service on March 23. Their names and responsibilities are on the right.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is making arrangements to produce an updated Congregational Photo Directory, and more details will be available regarding appointments for photographs.

Brenda Kroeker has taken on the responsibility for reserving space for meetings and for arrangements with the various users of our property. Please contact her if you want to schedule a meeting or event in the building. We thank Carol Peck for looking after the arrangements in the interim.

Our finances continue to be a concern. Since we have fewer regular users, our members must take greater responsibility for covering our costs. The Council encourages everyone to increase their offerings. It is not just the responsibility of the person sitting next to us – it is up to everyone.

We also need more volunteers to help in all areas. We particularly need volunteers to help take care of our garden area. If we are not able to do it, we will have

Advent Congregational Council 2014

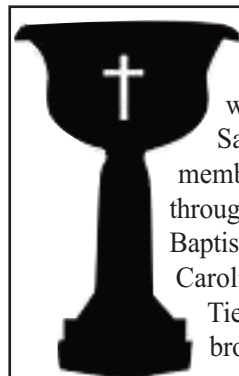
Chair	Judy Baribeau
Vice Chair	Brit Missirlian
Secretary.....	Nalini Beekie
Treasurer.....	Fred Roth
Christian Education	Elyas Yousefi
ESO	Brit Missirlian
Financial Secretary	Claus Brandes*
GWA	Brit Missirlian
Finance/Stewardship	Erika Schurr
Mutual Ministry	Sonita Dillon-Rhodium
Property	Bob Schickedanz
Worship and the Arts	George Tang
Youth	Pastor Peter Lisinski
CNT Relationship Task Force	Mona Marcobelli
Newsletter	Judy Baribeau
Website	George Tang

*Appointed, not a Council member

to give serious consideration to returning the area to grass. Please let me know if you can give a few hours a week to maintain a section of the garden.

George Tang has completed the work on our website. Please check it out. It is at <http://adventlutheranchurch.ca/>. The website will be kept current, so please check it frequently for information about Advent. Thank you, George, for doing a wonderful job.

Judy Baribeau



Baptism

On March 30 we welcomed Andrew Samuel Tiegs as a member of Advent through the Sacrament of Baptism. His parents are Caroline and Travis Tiegs and his older brother is Jacob.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road
 Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6
 416 493 1435 (church)
 905 660 7780 (residence)
 The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor
 Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com
 Worship Service and Sunday School
 at 10:00 a.m.

ADVENTure... is produced for our members and friends.
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www.adventlutheranchurch.ca



- **Palm Sunday**, April 13 –
Palm Sunday worship, 10:00 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 17 –
Worship at 7:30 p.m.
- **Good Friday**, April 18 –
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- There will not be an Easter Vigil this year
- **Easter**, April 20 –
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Peter Writes...

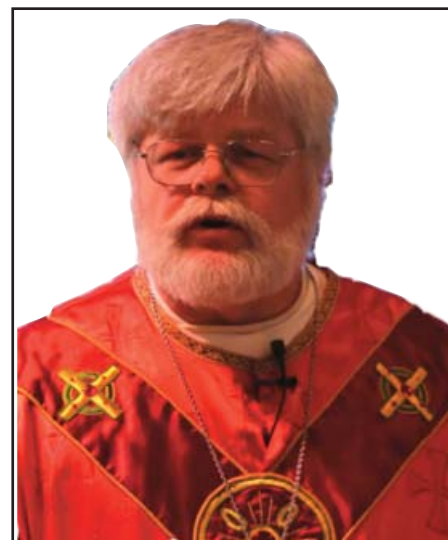
Dear Advent Pilgrims,

At our recent meeting of Toronto Conference Lutheran pastors, we explored the topic of spirituality. Apparently polls and surveys reflect that a rapidly increasing number of people claim to be “spiritual”, while at the same time expressing no interest in “organized religion”. Declining membership and worship attendance statistics confirm that many Canadians are turning away from the church – or synagogue or mosque – to satisfy their spiritual needs. Yet it seems to me that so much of popular spirituality is focused not on one’s consciousness of God, but on one’s consciousness of self. In other words, it focuses inward, rather than outward – which is Martin Luther’s basic definition of sin.

It’s a complex subject, and I’m by no means an expert; but I find myself

confronted by the recurring question: Is spirituality something each person does “by myself, within myself, and for myself”? Or is spirituality a process in which the individual “I” grows in relationship with God, others and creation. I believe that Jesus’ call to take up the cross and die to self directs our spirituality beyond the limited wisdom and narrow vision of so-called “enlightened self-interest”. Jesus’ death and resurrection proclaim that spiritual fulfillment – which is God’s ultimate will for us and all human beings – is more fully realized as we become less concerned about it. “Those who lose their life will find it,” Jesus promises.

Such is the paradox of the cross, which the season of Lent invites us to trust more deeply, and which the hope of Easter sends us into the world to make visible in our deeds, to make audible in our words,



and to make desirable to our spiritually hungry neighbours, whom we are called – indeed, commanded – to love as we love our “self”.

Your wilderness companion,

Pastor Peter

GWA Update

The GWA meeting in March was cancelled due to heavy snowfall (when will winter end?). We are tentatively re-scheduling the planned program for our May meeting. Our next meeting will be a Bible study on April 23, led by Mona Marcobelli. It will be held in her home. Please contact Mona (416-773-1168) for details and to let her know you are coming.

Brit Missirlian

ESO News

The Ash Wednesday Soup Supper was enjoyed by 28 people and \$220 was collected in the free-will offering. The money goes to support the Breakfast program at Georges Vanier School.

Volunteers are Needed to Assist at Eastern Synod Assembly

The Eastern Synod Assembly will be held June 26-29 at the International Plaza Hotel (near Pearson Airport), Many volunteers are needed to assist throughout the Assembly. I’ll put up a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you may speak to me if you are interested in assisting in one of the areas: Stewards (they help with the “paper flow” during the sessions); Ballot counters (needed Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning); Greeters (Thursday, Friday and Saturday

evening); Hospitality desk personnel (various shifts); and Set up/Breakdown (two shifts Wednesday and Sunday). No volunteers will be required to be there for the whole Assembly.

The organizers are also looking for donations and sponsorships for the five breaks during the sessions.

This Assembly is a significant one in the life of our church and probably the final one in our current church structure. Updated information will be posted on

the Synod website <http://www.eastern-synod.org/content/assembly-2014>.

Pastor Lisinski will be attending the Assembly and Rosarie Lisinski is Advent’s lay delegate. Please sign up for times you are available or speak with me.

Thank you for your help.

Judy Baribeau

Advent's Giving to February 28, 2014

Commitments	Received to 28/02/2014	Received to 28/02/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$13,143.95	\$9,877.66	\$3,266.29
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$13,143.95	\$9,877.66	\$3,266.29
Facilities	\$8,338.83	\$13,825.75	-\$5,486.92
Regular Benevolence	\$1,447.00	\$1,561.00	-\$114.00
Total Received	\$22,929.78	\$25,264.41	-\$2,334.63
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$472.00	\$552.00	-\$80.00
Parking Lot Fund	\$1,272.00	\$1,981.23	-\$709.23

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-February was \$13,143.95, a significant increase of \$3,266.29. It should be noted that the 2014 amount includes a one-time donation of \$2,853.00, although even

deducting this sum, we are still ahead of 2013 by \$413.29.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-February was \$8,338.83, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show an alarming decrease of \$5,486.92. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received. However this is not a one-time occurrence, our property revenue has declined drastically.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January-February 2014 decreased slightly by \$114.00 from 2013. Global Hunger giving is forwarded directly to Synod, and does not affect Advent's financial position. The amounts are included for information only.

Parking Lot Fund

To the end of February, 2014, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totalled \$1,272.00.

Fred Roth, Treasurer

Leaving a Legacy

All of us will leave a legacy. The question is: what kind of legacy do you want to leave? It's difficult to think about the future this way, but everything we do today contributes to the legacy that we will leave behind. By acting today, we ensure that we will make a difference in the world that will be remembered tomorrow.

There are many ways to leave a legacy. One option available to the members of Advent is the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was set up many years ago for the express purpose of building a legacy for the community of Advent. But like any initiative, it needs your support to develop and thrive. Any contributions made to the fund are invested in low risk assets to ensure that the principal remains intact. Currently, any realized gains from the investments are reinvested back into the fund.

Giving is a fundamental aspect of Advent and giving generously brings its own rewards. The easiest way to contribute to the fund is to set aside a portion of assets in your will or purchase a policy or annuity with Advent Lutheran Endowment Fund as the beneficiary. Regular contributions can be made over time to the Endowment Fund to build up your legacy. You could also contribute on behalf of someone else to ensure their legacy. Whatever option you choose, your contribution, no matter how small, will play an important role in sustaining our community now and in the future.

Erika Schurr



Has Christ Been Divided?

“That all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you” (I Corinthians 1:10)

On a very cold, snowy and wintery night in January, a group of Christians from various denominations came together at Advent Lutheran Church for the annual Service of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service was a deeply spiritual time when differences were set aside and our common faith in one God takes precedence.

In spite of the cold, wintery night, the attendance was very good. Members of Advent made the evening a welcoming time with their many delicious goodies and their efforts in providing for our neighbours. Their hospitality was very much appreciated.

A large choir of about thirty voices uplifted us with two anthems, “Make Us A City Of Refuge” and “Talkin’ About Hope”. These two songs spoke about living with hope in the city of God where we find refuge and purpose in life.

We learned that the name “Canada” means “village” in the Iroquois language.

The best part of the evening was our speaker, The Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada. He had a very inspiring sermon that started with an Ojibwa greeting which means, “Greet everyone as a relative.” He told us that Native people pray in four directions. They believe the scriptures to be true, living and very active. The revelation of the word of God is our destiny and is revealed in Jesus Christ. The “Medicine Wheel”, which represents the four Gospels, provides faith in the truth, which is greater than the mind can comprehend. When we encounter the Great Spirit, our knowledge is tentative, so always be humble in the presence of God. Jesus gives us the whole image of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to people.

He also spoke about life in Alaska. Living in such a cold and challenging environment, suddenly the mystery of Christ becomes clear. In Canada people are tempted to put their trust in things,

which is a form of idolatry and is praised in our society. Facing such poverty of spirit can lead us into a deeper relationship with God and each other. I am just remembering a few of the things Bishop Mark said, and I am sure he said a lot more. I only know he was very uplifting to listen to.

In last September’s newsletter I wrote an article about the water issue among the indigenous communities in Canada. I was very happy that Bishop MacDonald’s “Water Project” was a concern for the Ministerial Association of North East Toronto, who sponsored the service and were raising money to support this project.

This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service was the most meaningful of the many I have attended over the years. Has Christ been divided? Not at this event. We all went home uplifted, inspired and ready to do the work of Christ.

*Your Sister in Christ,
Rosarie Lisinski*

God’s Jubilee

The Congregational Council has approved preparing an updated photo directory of Advent’s members. The photographs will be taken by a professional photographer coming to Advent.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board shortly and we ask everyone to put their names down for a convenient time. Each appointment will take approximately 15 minutes, and you will be able to choose your photo immediately and order any to purchase for your personal use. There is no charge to have your photo taken.

The dates will be:

- Wednesday, May 14
from 3:00-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21
from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

■ Monday, May 26
from 3:00-8:30 p.m.

■ Tuesday, May 27
from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

If you aren’t in church to list your preference, someone will phone you to schedule your appointment. We hope to include all members in this new directory. The directory and photos will be available in the fall.

Moreover, we need your help, as we need a few volunteers to help us in manning the above sessions to ensure that they will go smoothly.

Please contact me or Pastor Lisinski to offer your most appreciated help.

Watch for information on other events being planned.

Thank you.

*Mona Marcobelli
416 773 1168*

**Help us
celebrate
Advent’s
50th
Anniversary
Year**



Visit Advent's Updated Website

Dear fellow members of Advent Lutheran congregation,

Our website, www.adventlutheranchurch.ca, was revised and updated recently. Several new pages are added to the new website including: Our Worship, Sermons, The History of the Congregation, Lift up Our Hearts, Photo Collections, etc. On the left is the screenshot of the new home page of the website. We invite every member to visit the website and tour around these pages. Suggestions and comments are most welcome.

George Tang

The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

The Toronto Conference will hold its Spring Meeting on Saturday morning, May 10, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill. Everyone is welcome and each congregation is entitled to two lay delegates for voting. We will elect Conference clergy to be delegates for the 2015 National Convention. There will be

no Conference Council elections due to the new structure that is expected to be in place later this summer.

You may have noticed that the Conference websites have been removed from the Synod website. The Bishop and his Assistant Rev. Riitta Hepomaki are meeting with the Toronto clergy toward the

end of April, and we look forward to a report from Pastor Lisinski following the meeting. The Bishop will be appointing "Deans" to lead each of the new Areas in the Synod. Most likely the *Lutheran Connection* will be ending and some sort of new communication structure will be developed. ♦

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
April 6 Carol Peck	Cynthia Stewart	Nalini Beekie Olga Cosburn	Nalini Beekie	Brit Missirlian George Tang	Mona Marcobelli Michaela Ehrling
April 13 Walter Rothenburger	Joan McLean	Erika Schurr Carol Peck	Indira Beekie	Bob Schickedanz Judy Baribeau	Erna and John Krause
April 17 (Maundy Thursday) Walter Rothenburger		Fred Roth Judy Baribeau			
April 18 (Good Friday) Walter Rothenburger		Lester McLean		Erika Schurr Bob Schickedanz	
April 20 Walter Rothenburger	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Mona Marcobelli	Bob Schickedanz George Tang	No Coffee hour
April 27 Rosarie Lisinski	Olga Cosburn	Gabi Schickedanz Judy Baribeau	Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau	Hannelore Matthews and Erika Day

Please check the Usher sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and volunteer for Sundays you are available.