

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

December 2013-January 2014

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If you would like to bring plants to decorate the church for Christmas, please bring them on Sunday, December 22.

Annual Meeting

Advent's Annual Meeting will be held following the service on February 16, 2014. Annual Reports will be available one week prior to the meeting. We encourage all voting members to attend the meeting.



Advent

Congregational Council Update

New Members

We were pleased to welcome Siavash Gholampur, his wife Sohar Samiei Abkenari, and their daughter Sarah as members on November 17. Sarah was then baptized on November 24. We also welcomed Terry Spence as a new member on November 17.

Finances

We are approaching the end of 2013 and are starting to prepare for the new year. Council is finalizing the draft budget for 2014. A major concern is that we have to present a deficit budget unless we are able to increase our offerings. As of the end of October we have a deficit of over \$9,000 in our current account. Part of the reason is less revenue from our users. The other part of the reason is increased expenses and lower offerings from our members. We encourage everyone to do what they can to help balance the budget by year end.

We are reminded that we are regularly asked to participate in other fund raising for special appeals. These donations should be additional to what we give for our regular offering. To that end, Council has decided that individuals will not

approach members for miscellaneous donations unless there has been prior approval from Council.

We are pleased that the organ fund has been fully paid thanks to an anonymous donation from one of our members. We thank the donor as well as all the other who have contributed to the fund and we are now able to enjoy the improved quality of our organ.

Covenant Agreement

We received a letter from Bishop Pryse asking all congregations to approve the "Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC" at their annual meetings. A number of drafts have been prepared, and the final draft will be included with our annual report. It is available on the Synod website as well. The agreement is a commitment to re-affirm our relationship with the Synod.

The motion that Council has approved, and will be presented to the congregation is: That the Congregation Council and officers are authorized to sign the "Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC" on behalf of the congregation.

50th Anniversary

We are beginning our 50th anniversary year and welcome volunteers to work on the planning committee for events. The first meeting will be following the service on December 1. The current proposed theme is "Golden Jubilee" with the motto "Proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour". Please let Pastor Lisinski know if you would like to be on the committee, or have ideas for projects and events.

Judy Baribeau

2014 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2014 will be available at church on Sundays beginning December 1. If you would like a box assigned to you and do not currently have some, please contact our Financial Secretary, Claus Brandes, or Brit Missirlian.

GWA January Meeting

The meeting will be held at Brit Missirlian's home (217 Cassandra Blvd, TH 1106, on Wednesday, January 15, starting at 7:30 p.m. We will have a discussion based on Spiritual Reflections.

Nurturing Generous Giving

In October, Judy Baribeau, Pastor Peter, and I attended a seminar called "Nurturing Generous Giving". The speaker was Jeff Pym. He was very passionate about encouraging giving in general and within the Lutheran church specifically. When I agreed to attend, I had no idea what to expect. I did not expect to be inspired. One of the most important things that I learned is the importance of saying thank you. You can check out his website at: <http://easternsynod.org/ministries/stewardship-and-resource-development/welcome/>.

So, I would like to thank you on behalf of Advent Lutheran Church and Congregational Council for the generous donations that have been made recently to the parking lot fund and the organ refurbishment fund. I would like to thank everyone who donated a sweater to help refugees in Syria. I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to help with the cleaning and maintenance of our church.

Everyone has something to give. During the upcoming holiday season, we will all receive many gifts. It is my hope that everyone will take to heart the message of Paul in Acts 20:35: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Erika Schurr

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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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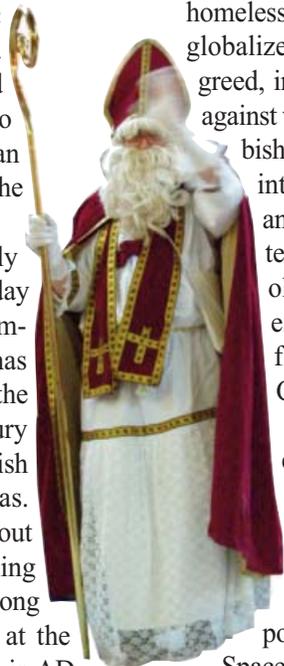
Advent Lutheran Church

Pastor Peter Writes...

Dear Adventurers,

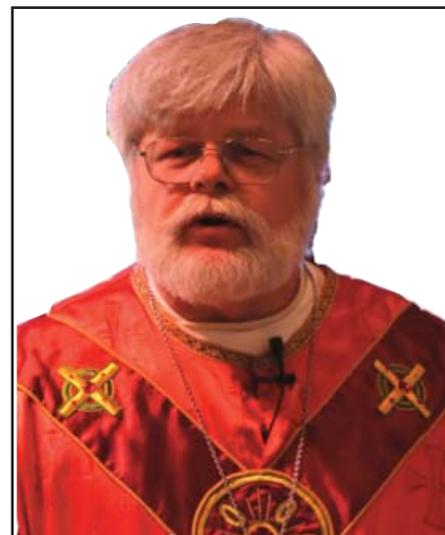
For several years now our family has begun our Christmas festivities by watching the Hollywood movie, *Miracle On 34th Street*. It tells the tale about a kindly old gentleman, named Kris Kringle, determined to convince a skeptical woman and her daughter that he is the “real” Santa Claus.

For the record, the roly-poly figure in a red suit, who today symbolizes the rampant commercialism of the Christmas season, traces his origins all the way back to a fourth century Christian bishop in the Turkish city of Myra named Nicholas. Little is known for certain about his life – although a charming legend claims that he was among the bishops who convened at the ecumenical council of Nicea in AD 325 to compose the Nicene Creed, enshrined in our church’s worship liturgy.



However, Nicholas is best remembered for his reputation as a generous servant of the poor, defender of the powerless, and provider of shelter for the homeless. Sixteen centuries later, in our globalized modern world of corporate greed, in which violence – particularly against women and children, the ancient bishop’s primary beneficiaries – and intolerance for economic, ethnic, and even religious outcasts is intensifying, reclaiming the mythology of Saint Nicholas seems especially urgent for our reflection and celebration of Christmas’ true meaning.

Our congregation has a well established tradition of giving generously to uphold the Gospel ideals of compassion, hospitality and justice Saint Nicholas epitomizes. Our support for Eva’s Place, Oriole Food Space, the Breakfast Clubs at Georges Vanier and Woodbine schools, and our recent Sweaters for Syria Appeal – as



well as the financial emergencies present within our congregation – are indeed worthy of Saint Nicholas’ legacy of faithful ministry and mission to which we are called as followers of Jesus Christ.

Thank you all for the generosity you have shown this past year. And as we look forward to the Golden Jubilee Year of Advent’s fiftieth anniversary, may we all aspire to giving, as well as receiving, the peace and joy of a truly “Merry Christmas.”

Ho! Ho! Ho

*God bless us. Every one.
Pastor Peter*

Celebrate
the Birth
of Jesus
with us



December 15, Advent 3, 10:00 a.m. – Lester McLean and his friends provide special Advent/Christmas music. Worship with Holy Communion

December 24, Christmas Eve, 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. – Worship with Holy Communion

December 25, Christmas Day, 10:00 a.m. – The congregations of Advent, Grace Communion and Fairview Church of God will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with A Service of Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion



English Circle to Visit Toronto Christmas Market

The English Circle and friends will be going to the Toronto Christmas Market (in the Distillery District) on Friday, December 6. We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. and take the TTC. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Michaela Ehring

Advent's Giving to October 31, 2013

Commitments	Received to 31/10/2013	Received to 31/10/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$57,469.32	\$62,126.02	-\$4,656.70
Sunday School	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Sub-total	\$57,469.32	\$62,126.02	-\$4,656.70
Facilities	\$59,875.50	\$64,840.10	-\$4,964.6
Regular Benevolence	<u>7,843.00</u>	<u>7,573.00</u>	<u>270.00</u>
Total Received	\$125,187.82	\$134,539.12	-\$9,351.30
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$3,421.35	\$3,257.70	\$163.65
Parking Lot Fund	\$11,067.83	\$13,962.00	-\$2,894.17

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 indicated from a specific member or envelope. Our total for these items for January – October was \$57,469.32, a decrease of \$4,656.70, a somewhat disconcerting drop. Please note that offerings in our pink envelopes from Good Friday totaling \$784.25 were donated to the Oriole Food Bank, comprising part of the difference for 2013 versus 2012.

These revenues, and, in large part, the revenues from Facilities pay our every day operating costs, including Pastor’s salary and benefits, organist and music costs, and property costs such as utilities, repairs, and indoor and outdoor supplies and maintenance. At the same time, we are committing to specific capital projects such as the parking lot and other benevolence such as the Vanier and Woodbine Breakfast programs, and the National Church Praise Appeal.

When choosing the direction of our donations, we can’t lose sight of the current, festival and loose component, as this

portion “pays the bills”, while capital projects and benevolence are one time undertakings. Although important work of the church, capital projects and benevolence should be “additional” to what we direct to current, festival and loose. Continuing reduced current, festival and loose revenues will lead Advent into financial difficulty at year end.

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*



Sunday, December 1



*Please bring something
to sell...and buy
something to take
home.*



Themes of Advent

Each Sunday in Advent carries a special theme which we note when we light the candles on the Advent wreath.

1. **God's People – The Candle of Hope**

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

2. **The Old Testament prophets – The Candle of Peace**

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

3. **John the Baptist – The Candle of Love**

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

4. **Mary the mother of Jesus – The Candle of Joy**

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath itself is made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life. Four candles stand in the circle and each one represents one of the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is a fifth candle, the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. The flame of this candle reminds us that Christ is the light of the world and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness but will have the true light of life. The circle reminds us of God, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that Christians have in God – the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. ♦





GWA Christmas gathering
Friday, December 13, 2013
6:30 p.m.

At Advent Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

The main meal will be provided (ham and potatoes)
 So please bring a vegetable or a salad or a dessert.
 And of course; bring a small wrapped gift for the gift exchange
 and a donation to the North York Food Bank.

Space is limited.

*It is very important that you sign up if you will be attending,
 also that you indicate your food contribution*

**Sign up on the poster at church or contact
 Brit 416-447-6895 (brit-m@rogers.com)**

Volunteer Schedule

Blanks below indicate that names were not available at deadline.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
December 1 Elizabeth Lancia	Cynthia Stewart	Jonah Mills Jim Doak	Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau Peter Reble	Olga Cosburn and Rosemarie Gardow
December 8 Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Erna Krause	Sonita Dillon-Rhodus Erika Schurr	Brit Missirlian and Cynthia Stewart
December 15 Carol Peck	Adele Buckley	Nalini Beekie Karen Doak	Erich Lisinski	Mona Marcobelli	Fred and Enni Roth
December 22 Walter Rothenburger	Joyce Tadege	Fred Roth Indira Beekie	Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau	Elyas Yousefi and Forazon Pourrasoul
December 24 (7:30 p.m.) Walter Rothenburger		Sonita Dillon-Rhodus Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Erich Lisinski	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	
11:00 p.m. Brit Missirlian			Carol Peck	Carol Peck	
December 25 Rosarie Lisinski				Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	
December 29 Elizabeth Lancia	Peter Reble	Elizabeth Lancia	Jai Sahadeo		Gangadeen family
January 5	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Sonita Dillon-Rhodus		Nalini Beekie	
January 12	Indira Beekie	Erich Lisinski		Brit Missirlian Judy Baribeau	
January 19		Judy Baribeau		Judy Baribeau	
January 26 Judy Baribeau		Olga Cosburn		Peter Reble	

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