

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

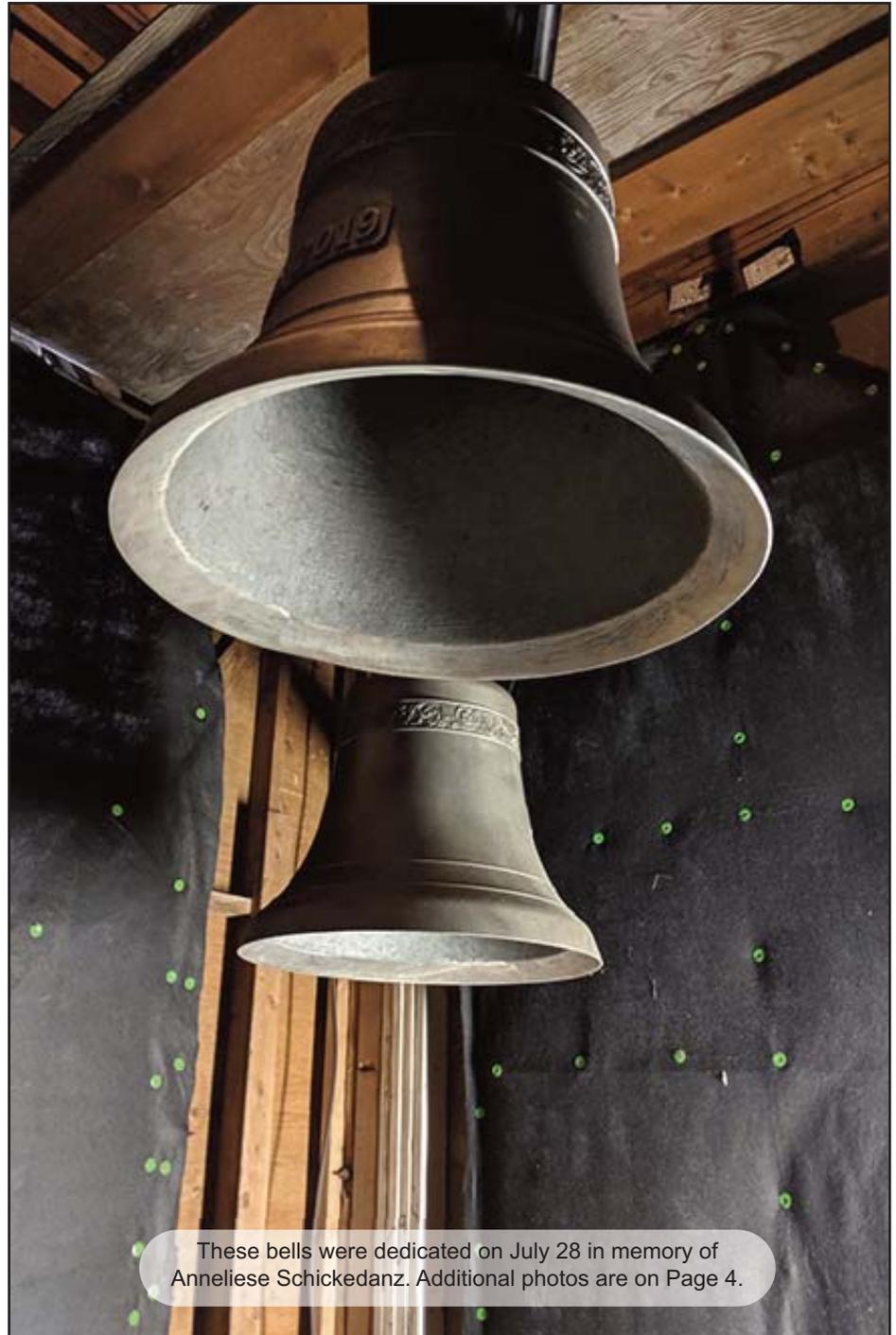
Fall 2019

Inside

Congregational Council Recap ..	2
Baptism	2
Canada Lutheran	2
GWA Update	2
ESO Events	2
Pastor Elaine Writes	3
Women of Faith Gathering	3
Gardening Opportunity	3
Installation of Bells Photos	4
From the Loft	5
Christian Education Fall 2019 ..	5
Fun Fair	5
Reflection on Isaiah 58:12	6
Fall Calendar	6
Financial Update	7
Volunteer Schedule	7

Bishop Pryse to Visit Advent

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 29, when Bishop Michael Pryse will visit Advent and preach. It is one of our “Fifth Sundays” so we will not celebrate Holy Communion, and our worshippers will suggest all our hymns. We will also thank our volunteers for their service. We will follow the service with a pizza lunch. Please join us as we welcome our Synod Bishop.◆



These bells were dedicated on July 28 in memory of Anneliese Schickedanz. Additional photos are on Page 4.

Congregational Council Recap – Fall 2019

Just to give you some updated information with regards to Council, we did not meet in the summer months, other than a non-standard meeting in July. This was a brainstorming session as Council starts the conversation to vision about Advent's future. We also discussed the Dashboard report prepared by Pastor Christian Ceconi (Toronto Conference Dean).

Our next meetings are scheduled for September 17, October 22, and November 19. I hope this information is helpful.

Gabi Schickedanz
Council Chair

Baptism – July 28



On July 28 we celebrated the baptism of Carter John Jelinski, son of Cynthia and Ty Jelinski. Sponsors were David and Jeannine Schickedanz. Carter is the youngest great grandson of Anneliese and Dani Schickedanz and grandson of Richard and Patricia Schickedanz.

ESO Events

ESO will meet on September 8.

Hymn Sing and Thank You to Volunteers

Sunday, September 29, will again be a hymn sing service and a recognition day of all our volunteers. We are especially looking forward to having Bishop Pryse with us on that day. The service will be followed by a pizza lunch and – if you need cutlery, plate, cup/glass, please bring your own.

Thanksgiving, October 13

For Thanksgiving we will again collect food for the North York Harvest Food Bank. A box will be set up by the pulpit for your donation.

Anniversary Lunch, October 27

Last year this was quite successfully changed to a luncheon right after the church service, and we will do the same this year. To reflect our multicultural congregation, the theme will be International Food; a small flag depicting the country it comes from and the name of the dish is always good. And, if you have one, wear your national dress/costume. Look for further information closer to the date.

Brit Missirlian

GWA Update

GWA will start up their activities with a planning meeting; and we are definitely open to, and looking for, ideas for our gatherings. The first meeting, as usual, will start with a potluck dinner and Judy Baribeau has kindly offered to host us on Wednesday, September 11. If you are interested in joining, please speak with me or Carol Peck. All are welcome.

Brit Missirlian

Canada Lutheran

In September you will notice an envelope for *Canada Lutheran* in your offering envelope box. Please use the envelope to re-subscribe, or begin a subscription to the ELCIC national magazine. The cost is \$20 per subscription. ♦

Thank You

Thank you to whoever repaired the interlock by the front entrance to the church. Some of the blocks were getting dangerously wobbly and your work is much appreciated.

Eternity for Today

Copies of *Eternity for Today*, the ELCIC's quarterly devotional booklet for October-December are available at church. Please pick up a copy.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road
Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6
416 493 1435 (church)
Rev. Dr. Elaine Boone
Pastor
416 497 3636

eadeleboone@gmail.com

Twitter: [PastorElaine3](#)

Worship Services Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.

ADVENTURE... is produced for our
members and friends.

Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527
judybaribeau@rogers.com

Copyright ©2019

Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Elaine Writes...

*"To choose what is difficult all one's days,
as if it were easy, that is faith." W. H. Auden*

I came across this quote some time ago, and it has been on my mind. It sounds like an easy answer to a difficult question. What is faith and then the follow up questions like how do we express faith? How do we demonstrate faith? How can we measure or understand faith? Does faith look or feel the same for everyone? Difficult questions indeed.

I think that Auden is saying that faith is not passive. Faith is not something that we just put on or off like a coat. Faith is a deep part of our being. Perhaps something that we just take for granted? Perhaps something that we do not think very much about? Is it just "there"?

When Auden says that to choose what is difficult, that is a reminder that faith is active. Faith is a choice. To choose what is difficult as if it were easy, a reminder that what God asks may not be easy. Jesus warned that it would not be easy for his followers. But we have a choice. We can choose to follow Jesus. We can choose to listen to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. We can choose to love God and neighbour as ourselves. God does not make us do anything. We choose. We choose to lead a life that demonstrates faith. Loving God and neighbour, praying, reading and listening to scripture, attending worship, working for justice, caring for those who are in



need and speaking for those whose voices are silenced. Working for reconciliation. Welcoming all. Those are choices of faith.

*Peace
Pastor Elaine*

Women of Faith Gathering

The weekend of May 23-25, Carol Peck and I attended a retreat for women; and this year Michaela Ehring joined us.

This is a continuation of the programs that ELW had. When they closed their national office, the various Synods continued in their spirit. Eastern Synod renamed themselves Women of Faith and at Advent we became GWA, Good Women of Advent or Gorgeous Women of Advent as Jerry thought it stood for.

Every two years the various Conferences arrange a weekend gathering. This year it was the Niagara conference and we met at Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The theme was "Joy in the Journey", and that is what these gatherings are. It makes me happy and is nourishment for the soul to renew friendships and make new friends with women from all over Eastern Canada.

This year we again had Indigenous women "Strong Water Women" as part of the program. It hurts to hear them tell their stories of forced moves to schools

far away from their home, their culture and language being erased. But it heartens to hear and see how they, as many, become stronger and are able to get past their sufferings. We need to hear their stories and assist them in going forward. Advent is on Indigenous Land and is included in Treaty 13, First Purchase/Toronto Purchase.

Our main speaker was also very inspiring, telling us of her battle with mental health and manic depression; but in such a way that it made you laugh rather than cry.

Our pastor for the weekend was a constant bubble of optimism and happiness in bringing us together for devotions and communion service.

Niagara College is a teaching winery and brewery institute so of course we had tours, and tasting, of both products. If you are in that area, I would definitely recommend a visit and do go to the Benchmark Restaurant for a meal; delicious food (we shared an appetizer of Tempura Fried Butternut Squash – yummm) and excellent service.

This was altogether a wonderful weekend. The next one will be in 2021. I don't know where yet, but start thinking about attending.

Brit Missirlian

Gardening Opportunity

This will be my last year to take care of the garden beds at the entrance to the church. I've done it for about the past 14 years. If anyone is interested in taking over, please speak with me.

The advantage of these three beds is that they are weed free and have good soil. You will need your own tools and supply the plants – your choice. The work takes a few hours a week.

These beds are completely separate from the community garden plots and those that are the congregation's responsibility.

Judy Baribeau

Installation of Bells



From the Loft

It's that time of year again: summer is unfortunately nearing its end. As I've gotten older, the summers seem to be getting shorter. It seems like just yesterday spring was in the air after the long, cold winter.

With the end of summer, the immediacy of a return to routine becomes abundantly clear. Just as the end of summer came upon us seemingly without warning, Christmas will be upon us sooner than we think, too.

I captured your attention when I mentioned Christmas, didn't I? Yes, it is four months away; but it will show up quicker than we imagine, and no, I'm not referring just to Christmas tree displays in the mall in November.

This is the perfect time, actually, to start thinking about it and the upcoming

Fall season that leads up to it. In my case, as your music director, it's my job to plan along with Pastor Elaine and our steadfast colleagues.

To start, choir rehearsals will begin on September 8 at 9 a.m. in the organ loft. I've given considerable thought this summer on our repertoire, and we will continue to bring a balanced repertoire of old and new favourites to divine worship. Remember, new members are always welcome to join us. No choral experience is required, nor is the ability to read music. All are welcome.

Later in September, the Worship and Music Committee will meet to plan for the autumn season as well as the trio of festivals that fall between now and Advent: Reformation, All Saints and Christ the King. We will also touch on

Advent and Christmas before having yet another meeting to solidify our plans closer to the time.

I've always considered myself a planner. Be it planning a concert (stay tuned for news on a potential concert on September 28 in memory of my grandfather), planning a vacation (in which I am notoriously detailed), or planning the music ministry at Advent. Planning is something that I take pride in.

Yes, the dog days of summer and Christmas spring up on us, but planning in advance allows us to enjoy these periods without furiously putting things together at the last moment. And aren't these times about enjoyment rather than stress?

*From the loft,
Trevor Hicks
Music Director*

Christian Education Fall 2019

Have you ever wondered how the Bible was put together or why it is in the order that it is in?

This fall and winter why not find out? In the fall we will look at the formation of the Old Testament. Warning. The Bible might not say what you think it does; might not have been written by who you think it was; and it might not have been written in the order in which we know it.

The Bible is not an eyewitness account of ancient history. No eyewitness wrote any of the material. It was not revealed directly by God to anyone, nor was it dictated by God to a willing earthly scribe or channel.

Scripture becomes scripture when it is used in liturgy.

The Bible was written by humans over a long space of time – written from a long history of oral tradition – stories passed down from generation to generation. The Bible is more like a library – filled with myth and legend, stories, songs, a little bit of history and a lot of political propaganda.

The Bible – formation, creation and authorship

- Fall – six weeks – the Old Testament
- Winter – six weeks – the New Testament
- Spring – three weeks on Why? What? How? of Scripture

Week 1 – Formation of the Torah – October 16 and 20

Week 2 – Prophets – October 23 and 27

Week 3 – The Writing Prophets – October 30 and November 3

Week 4 – The Minor Prophets – November 6 and 10

Week 5 – Job and Ruth – Protest Literature – November 13 and 17

Week 6 – Psalms and Wisdom Literature – November 20 and 24

This study will be based on material by John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, Bart Erhman and others.

We will meet in Pastor Elaine's office after Worship on Sundays or at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Pastor Elaine Boone

FUN FAIR



Each month the community gardeners have an event where at least 100 members of our community gather at Advent. August 14 was the Fun Fair. It was exceptionally well attended. Highest numbers yet.

Reflection on Isaiah 58:12

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

This verse from the Book of Isaiah was written in the last years of the sixth century, around 515-510 BCE. Scholars now divide the Book of Isaiah into three separate sections, written over a period of about three hundred years. We have all three combined into one piece. But it did not start that way. As material was added to the sacred Jewish scriptures, it was added where there was space on a scroll.

This verse comes from what is called III Isaiah. We do not know the name of the author or much about who wrote the material. It was written at least a generation after the material that came immediately before it (Chapters 40-55). This verse was written probably sixty or more years after the return of the Jews from Babylonia. They had returned from exile full of hope and expectation that once more the Jewish nation would be powerful. But they returned to desolation, drought, crop failure and the city of Jerusalem a pile of rubble.

The author of this section of the Book of Isaiah felt the dismay of the people and shared in their sorrow. But then the author chose to write about rebuilding and share a hope for the future.

Bishop Susan Johnson, our National Bishop has now been re-elected for a fourth term as Bishop. Bishop Johnson has spoken and written often about spiritual renewal, and she plans to re-work her earlier material and share new insights and material.

Perhaps this verse from III Isaiah can be a guide for us. There has been discussion and anxiety in the Church about the future. Not only the Church as a whole as we live more and more in a secular world, but also the individual congregations. We hear the numbers: declining congregations, some closing or merging or just holding on. Some are choosing new directions and paths. There are decisions to be made and discussions to hold. What will the Lutheran Church in Canada look like in five or ten years? What will our ministry area look like? Will we still have 20 separate congregations? What will Advent look like? What does the Lutheran Church want to be? Where are our strengths? What can we offer?

Perhaps Isaiah does give us direction – perhaps even a mission statement of sorts. Perhaps we can be the repairer? Perhaps we can build up the foundations of many generations. Perhaps we can be the restorer of the streets to live in. I believe that we have a great deal to offer and that we can make our world a better place. We are a people of great faith – people who care for neighbour and the planet. We will continue to talk. We will continue to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to live as Jesus modelled. And we will find our way to be viable and vibrant and vital to our community. We know the peace of Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Elaine



Fall Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- **September 8** – ESO Meeting
- **September 11** – GWA Meeting
- **September 15** – Mutual Ministry
- **September 17** – Congregational Council
- **September 20** – Garden Event
- **September 22** – Worship and Music
- **September 29** – Bishop Pryse’s visit. Hymn sing combined with volunteer appreciation pizza lunch.
- **October 6** – 2:00 p.m. – Blessing of the Animals
- **October 11** – Harvest Festival, Garden
- **October 22** – Congregational Council
- **October 24** – Ministerial
- **October 26** – Lunch and Learn
- **October 27** – Anniversary Lunch

Please see Page 2 for more information of GWA and Anniversary Lunch.

Please see Page 5 for the schedule of Christian Education dates and times.

Details of these and other events will be published as plans are available.

OCTOBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Financial Update

	2019 June YTD	2019 Budget	% to Budget	2018 June YTD	% to 2018 June YTD
Current Envelopes	\$33,176	73,000	45.4	31,333	105.9
Other Current/Loose, Festivals, Other Charities	3,548	15,025	23.6	3,055	116.1
Sub Total Current	36,724	88,025	41.7	34,388	106.8
Benevolence	6,925	10,100	68.6	5,727	120.9
Facilities	38,857	94,800	41.0	42,818	90.7
Sub Total Revenue	\$82,506	192,925	42.8	82,933	99.5
Designated					
Outdoor Lighting	2,253			2,794	80.6
Memorials	7,010			1,570	446.5
Other – Endowment/Stewardship Vanier, etc.	547			465	117.6
	\$92,316	192,925	47.9	87,762	105.2

Hello all.

Good news. As per the June 2019 Year to Date Revenues, we are tracking ahead of where we were last year at this time.

Though Facilities Revenues is low, there was a large deposit that came in during July from one of our main church partners that has put the Facilities financials back on track.

As we head into the autumn, the revenues generally tend to increase over the last four months so we look to be in good standing for the rest of 2019. And we will need these increased revenues to help with our building refurbishments.

All the best until next time.

Bill Wesioly, Treasurer

Volunteer Schedule

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for the Sundays you wish to read and usher. Please speak with Olga Cosburn if you would like to host a coffee hour.

	Altar Care	Assisting Minister Communion Assistant	Counters	Coffee
September 1	Judy Baribeau	Jim Doak	Carol Peck Adele Buckley	Coffee Only
September 8	Brit Missirlian	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck Gabi Schickedanz	No Coffee
September 15	Brit Missirlian	Lester McLean Elizabeth Lancia	Brit Missirlian Erika Schurr	Coffee Only
September 22	Monica Ramdowar	Nalini Beekie Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie TBA	No Coffee
September 29 Fifth Sunday	Walter Rothenburger	Gabi Schickedanz N/A	Michael Lenzner Gabi Schickedanz	Pizza Lunch
October 6	Monica Ramdowar	TBA Olga Cosburn	Nalini Beekie TBA	Coffee Only
October 13 Thanksgiving	Brit Missirlian	Erika Schurr Elizabeth Lancia	Erika Schurr Gabi Schickedanz	No Coffee
October 20	Carol Peck	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Brit Missirlian Gabi Schickedanz	Coffee Only
October 27 Reformation	Judy Baribeau	Gabi Schickedanz Jim Doak	Gabi Schickedanz Erika Schurr	Congregational Potluck Lunch