

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

February 2014

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2014 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2014 are available. Please pick yours up. If you would like a box assigned to you and do not currently have some, please contact Brit Missirlan.

2013 Tax Receipts

Tax receipts for 2013 offerings are now available. If you have not picked yours up at church, it will be mailed to you. Please ensure we have your current mailing address.

Annual Meeting

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

Epiphany



Congregational Council Update

Council is preparing for our Annual Meeting which will be held following the service on February 16. Annual reports will be available by email and printed for those without email one week prior to the meeting. I encourage you to read the report and bring any questions to the meeting.

The 2014 proposed budget is included in this newsletter. Council unfortunately is presenting a deficit budget for 2014 and hopes that our income will increase during the year. We lost some users during 2013 who have been not replaced.

We need to be reminded that it is up to us as members to ensure our offerings cover the operating expenses and not to be dependent on our users to pay our bills. I encourage everyone to consider,

and then increase, our offerings by a percentage or two this year. We can't expect the person next to us to do our part.

We need to elect five persons to Congregational Council to have a full Council for 2014. Please consider volunteering your name or nominating someone. We all have something to contribute, and I encourage you to share your abilities in the operation of our congregation. Minimum requirements are to attend monthly Council meetings and take turns counting the offering on Sunday mornings. Council members are also expected to participate in one of the committees or task forces initiated by Council. The work is not onerous and is a great learning opportunity of how the congregation and ELCIC beyond Advent works.

The Synod is asking all congregations to approve a motion at our annual meetings affirming our covenant with the Synod. The motion will be presented at the annual meeting and the Covenant agreement will be included in the annual report.

Our 50th anniversary committee has been meeting to make plans for the year. We look forward to hearing their ideas. Please support their efforts.

Judy Baribeau

GWA Update

GWA served at the reception after the memorial service for Elizabeth Fox (Joan and Arie's daughter).

Our January meeting was very small, only four ladies, but we enjoyed a nice potluck supper and conversation. In February/March we are considering a theater outing. More details to follow.

Brit Missirlian

The English Circle

Another year has started for the English Circle. In 2014 we will continue to meet Sundays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

And as always we welcome not only newcomers from all over the world but also members of Advent and others interested in having a conversation about all kinds of topics.

Peter Buckley has thankfully been a steady companion for the newcomers participating/facilitating both in the Sunday morning sessions as well as in the mentoring component of the program. George Tang often comes in to join us for a cup of tea and conversation including translation help. Others drop in occasionally, and the members of the group always welcome any new face. It is good to interact with each other weekly.

The invitation is open to all from the congregation for any Sunday. And you don't have to be there for 8:30 a.m. If that is too early for you, we still welcome you to join in at 9:15. At times we are treated to something special by the members, like for instance a performance of an aria or duet from Chinese Opera, a short

dance lesson, or the celebration of someone in the group who has become a Canadian citizen. We can all learn from one another, whatever our country of origin, our mother tongue, our outlook on life, work, religion, etc.

Let's celebrate our diversity together in a small way on Sunday mornings. Come and join us in welcoming our neighbours from far and wide right here at Advent in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor you may talk to Peter and Adele Buckley about their experience. Mentoring involves meeting with a newcomer for an hour once a week or every other week (depending on your individual arrangement) to discuss anything that may be of interest.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to help out with facilitating the Sunday morning group, please speak to me. Also, if you know of any newcomers who might benefit from participating, please point them in our direction. They and you are welcome in the English Circle.

Michaela Ehring

Thank You

Arie and Joan Fox and family take this opportunity, to thank you for the many cards of condolence and attendance, at the Memorial service for our youngest daughter Elizabeth. This was greatly appreciated. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 Sisters and Brothers of Advent,
Happy New Year!

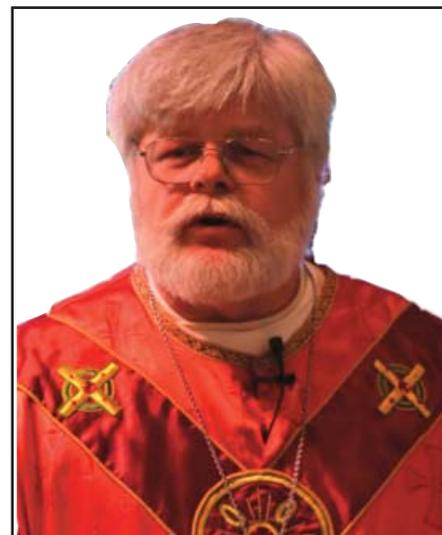
I know the ice storm that hit the GTA last December was a very difficult time for many of you. And I trust that the disruption of your life and Christmas celebrations will soon fade into thanksgiving for the grace of God who has blessed us to share life and companionship together.

This year represents an important milestone in the history of our congregation, as we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, under the theme "Proclaiming God's Jubilee".

Since the beginning of the Advent season, you may have noticed, our Sunday bulletin has included a lectionary of daily scripture readings. These are intended, first of all, to deepen our familiarity with the Bible – an urgent need among God's people today. Second, they are intended to remind us of our daily call to worship and service. Third, they are also intended

as a spiritual extension of the physical companionship we share each Sunday in our holy communion with one another around God's word and sacrament, and as a reminder to pray for one another between Sundays.

In this year of Advent's Golden Jubilee, our devotional readings are also intended to nourish our common vision of God's will and promises for the world embodied in the divine humanity of Jesus Christ. With the growth of poverty – in Canada, as well as developing nations – due to the economics of globalization and its careless destruction of earth's natural resources in the name of corporate profit, God's Spirit of Jubilee is calling Christians to exemplify repentance for humankind's sins of violence and greed, and to renew our humanity in relationships that exemplify the love for God, without which love for neighbour is, at best, an elusion – at worst, a delusion.



Let us get our Golden Jubilee celebration off to an inspired beginning by making a personal "new year resolution" to immerse ourselves in the promise of God announced by, and fulfilled in, Jesus Christ: "The Spirit of God has anointed me to proclaim the year of God's jubilee!" (Luke 4:18-19)

*Jubilare Deo
Pastor Peter*



Pastor Peter with former Maple Leafs player, Bob Nevin, at the annual "Skate With The Leafs" event sponsored by Purolator...



...and, at the same January 5 event held at the Air Canada Centre, with another guy that talks for a living, play-by-play announcer from Leafs TV, Joe Bowen.

Advent's Giving to December 31, 2013

Commitments	Received to 31/12/2013	Received to 31/12/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$81,550.62	\$80,702.58	\$848.04
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$81,550.62	\$80,702.58	\$848.04
Facilities	\$70,805.00	\$78,995.85	-\$8,190.85
Regular Benevolence	\$9,516.00	\$10,500.00	-\$984.00
Total Received	\$161,871.62	\$170,198.43	-\$8,326.81
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$4,028.35	\$3,920.70	\$107.65
Parking Lot Fund	\$15,496.60	\$17,895.51	-\$2,398.91

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 – December 2013 was \$81,550.62, an increase of \$848.04. December was a welcome change from January to November, where we were \$2,000 + below 2012 levels.

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 committed 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. These commitments likely had an impact on our regular giving.

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.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-December was \$70,805.00, comprised of revenue

from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a decrease of \$8,190.85. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received. Unfortunately, we have lost the Alcoholics Anonymous group that met for many years at Advent due to declining numbers, most of our income from the Iranian Women's Group, as well as Church Without Limits.

Our over-reliance on Facilities income in the past has led us to the point where a decline in this revenue has a significant impact on our financial health. Hopefully, over time, we can replace these revenues with other users, however our budgeting for 2014 will have to be reflective of this decline.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for 2013 at \$9,516.00 was below our annual commitment of \$10,500.00 by \$984.00. A transfer from our regular giving of \$984.00 is therefore necessary to meet our commitment.

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

New Parking Lot Fund

To the end of 2013, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totalled \$15,496.60, down \$2,398.91 from 2012.

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*

Are you a \$20 Christian?

To know the answer to that question, you need to know what is a "\$20 Christian"? This is someone who commits to giving \$20 in their weekly donation. Usually, some personal budgeting is considered when making this decision – Can I afford to give \$20/week to help support my community? That's over \$1,000 a year. But maybe instead of buying a \$5 caramel macchiato at Starbucks every day (close to \$1,300 annually), I'll just get a regular coffee and then I can afford it (...and possibly lose some weight, too. Who knew donating to Advent would be good for my waistline?). Once I decided that I'm a \$20 Christian, I was surprised when I looked at my annual tax receipt. Why isn't it over \$1,000? The answer lies in my schedule. I just don't make it to church every week, plain and simple. This is where the PAR system can show its benefit. My donation would come out of my bank out every week even if I don't. I would like to ask everyone to think about their commitment for 2014 and make sure that commitment reaches Advent. If all of our members committed to be \$20 Christians, we could easily afford our budget. So, are you a \$20 Christian?

Erika Schurr

Advent Lutheran Church Budget for 2014

	1-Jan-13 to 31-Dec-13	(unaudited) 2013	(unaudited) 2014
	Actual	Budget	Submitted
	\$	\$	\$
General expenditures			
Pastor			
Salary	44,855	44,855	45,752
Housing allowance	25,350	25,350	25,857
Books/education	1,100	1,100	1,000
	-	-	2,000
	71,305	71,305	74,609
Pension, retirement and group benefits	7,722	7,722	8,097
Health and dental premiums	5,256	5,488	5,376
Employer's portion of payroll taxes (CPP & EI)	3,604	3,604	3,705
Workers compensation premiums	623	623	635
	88,510	88,742	92,422
Property			
Janitorial service	10,053	10,000	10,200
Utilities	8,680	9,000	9,500
Outdoor maintenance	17,727	14,000	15,500
Insurance	4,509	4,700	4,500
Supplies and indoor maintenance	3,829	3,500	4,250
Non-structural building repairs	5,636	5,000	6,000
Flower beds	-	-	-
	50,434	46,200	49,950
Music and worship			
Organist	7,545	7,545	7,621
Bulletins	1,170	1,050	1,150
Communion supplies (wine and cups)	422	600	500
Pulpit supply	-	300	300
Other	544	2,100	1,980
	9,681	11,595	11,551
Parish administration			
Travel Expenses	2,243	1,500	-
Communications	2,298	2,380	1,940
Convention delegate	1,843	1,300	1,300
WebPage	30	60	60
Advertising (Incl. Comm. Bldg. Task Force)	87	180	-
Bank service fees	184	100	175
Educational Workshop	-	600	-
Other expenses	1,922	1,560	1,660
	8,606	7,680	5,135
Total general expenditures	157,231	154,217	159,058

Continued on Page 6

Advent's 2014 Budget Continued from Page 5

	1-Jan-13 to 31-Dec-13	(unaudited) 2013	(unaudited) 2014
	Actual	Budget	Submitted
	\$	\$	\$
Current Fund Appropriations (net of revenues)			
Sunday School & adult education	-	240	140
Evangelism Social Outreach (E.S.O.)	715	1,200	875
Stewardship and Finance	239	250	250
	954	1,690	1,265
Total Current Fund expenditures	158,185	155,907	160,323

ELCIC National Bishop Participates in and Encourages Monthly Day of Fasting for the Climate

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Bishop Susan C. Johnson invites church members to join a Monthly Day of Fasting for the Climate on the first of each month.

“This fast is a simple, regular and spiritually renewing expression of solidarity with those most vulnerable to climate change and prayerfully connects me to the global Lutheran family,” says Bishop Johnson.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), together with many other global organizations, launched a Monthly Day of Fasting for the Climate on January 1, 2014. The LWF encourages member churches to be advocates for climate justice in the context of climate change and says the fast is a way for Lutherans to express their common faith, spiritual and ethical values.

“For me, fasting is something new,” says Bishop Johnson. “As I participate in the fast on the first of each month, I will be learning what it means to embark on this discipline in the name of prayer and solidarity. By focusing on this new practice for spiritual renewal, it will serve as a reminder to me of the importance of climate justice issues.”

The fast takes place on the first day of every month until December 1, 2014, when the COP 20 meetings begin. To follow and support the campaign, use the hashtag #fastfortheclimate.

For more information on the Monthly Day of Fasting for Climate, visit: <http://www.lutheranworld.org/news/lwf-launches-day-fasting-climate> production and redistribution by recipients in whatever manner they may find useful. ♦

Coffee Hour



We have a long-standing tradition at Advent called Coffee Hour. It gives us an opportunity to meet socially over a cup of coffee and goodies and to connect socially with old friends and to meet new ones.

We have an aging congregation. Members who have done coffee hour so many times in the past are no longer able to do so. They deserve a pass.

This leaves the rest of us. Currently, your turn will come up twice in a year. Two out of 52. This is an appeal to everyone to take their turn so we can keep this tradition alive.

Olga Cosburn

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
February 2 Walter Rothenburger	Joan McLean	Fred Roth Judy Baribeau	Fred Roth	Bob Schickedanz Nalini Beeki	Aileen Chen Xiuyan Xu
February 9 Carol Peck	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean Jim Doak	Karen Doak	Judy Baribeau Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Beekie Family
February 16 Roasrie Lisinski	Olga Cosburn	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Indira Beekie	George Tang Bob Schickedanz	Michael Lenzner Brenda Kroeker
February 23 Judy Baribeau	Peter Reble	Lester McLean Carol Peck	Michaela Ehring	Brit Mssirlian Mona Marcobelli	Walter Rothenburger Leslie Rohini

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