

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

January/February 2015

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Upcoming Events

■ Saturday, January 17

Confirmation Class at 3:00 p.m.

KAIROS Workshop on Canada's First Nations at 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Vigil for Peace at 6:00 p.m.

■ Sunday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Northeast Toronto Ecumenical Service
at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church,
3817 Lawrence Avenue East (south
side, just east of Scarborough Golf Club
Road).

■ Sunday, February 15, Advent's

Annual Meeting following worship.
We will worship and hold the meeting
in Cedar Hall. Annual Reports will be
available at least one week prior to the
meeting.

■ February 18, Ash Wednesday

We will again hold our annual soup
supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. The
worship service will begin at 7:30 p.m.



Epiphany

Advent's Giving to December 31, 2014

Commitments	Received to 31/12/2014	Received to 31/12/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$96,876.77	\$83,438.62	\$13,438.15
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$96,876.77	\$83,438.62	\$13,438.15
Facilities	\$65,214.22	\$70,805.00	-\$5,590.78
Regular Benevolence	\$10,862.00	\$9,516.00	\$1,346.00
Total Received	\$172,952.99	\$163,759.62	\$9,193.37
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$3,356.00	\$4,028.35	-\$672.35
Parking Lot Fund	\$12,301.34	\$15,496.60	-\$3,195.26

Current, Festival and Loose Giving and Received from Other Charities

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. Received from Other Charities are essentially Current donations to Advent from members that are received through another charity. Our total for these items for 2014 was \$96,876.77, a significant increase of \$13,438.15 over 2013.

However, it should be noted that the 2014 amount includes Received from Other Charities of \$5,541.00, whereas the 2013 total was only \$1,888.00. Our Current, Festival and Loose giving was therefore actually \$91,335.77, up \$9,785.15 from the 2013 total of \$81,550.62. This increase has actually more than offset the decline in Facilities revenue that has impacted us through 2014.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for 2014 was \$65,214.22, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a decline of \$5,550.78, a marked improvement over the decline of \$9,036.28 as of June 30, 2014. Given the loss of regular users such as Alcoholics Anonymous and the Iranian Women's Group, with combined rentals totaling \$653 per month = \$7,836 per annum in 2012, this result is relatively good.

Credit for the improvement in our Property position belongs to Brenda Kroeker, who has worked diligently to bring our Property finances in order. Excellent organization by Brenda has resulted in recovered outstanding user fees.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for 2014 increased by \$1,346.00 from 2013, with a substantial sum of \$2,569 in December. Total for the year is \$10,862.00, in excess of the \$10,500 commitment made for 2014, requiring no transfer from regular

funds to "top up" the amount remitted to Synod.

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

Parking Lot Fund

To the end of 2014, receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$12,301.34. This included an October 2014 donation of \$200.00 from Working Women's monthly parking, which is expected to continue.

At the beginning of 2014, a refund of part of the HST specifically for the cost of the parking lot construction of \$7,190.84 was received. Combined with the donations of \$12,301.34, all totaling \$19,492.18, will go toward future repayment of GIC principal and interest used to fund the construction.

Fred Roth, Treasurer

Christmas Baskets



The Good Women of Advent (GWA) prepared seven baskets for our shut-in members over the Christmas holidays. They filled these baskets with baked goods and trinkets which the GWA members donated.

Our sincere thanks to the GWA members for their dedication and hard work.

Olga Cosburn

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road
Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6
416 493 1435 (church)
905 660 7780 (residence)

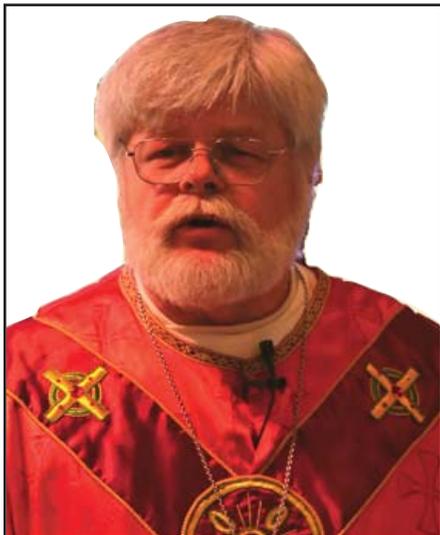
The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor
Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
ADVENTURE... is produced for our
members and friends.

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Ask the Pastor...



At a recent Mutual Ministry meeting, we discussed that there are questions members may have about some of our practices, traditions, and other elements of worship. We decided to start a "Ask the Pastor" column in the newsletter and Pastor Lisinski will answer the questions we have. Please give me any topics or questions you would like Pastor to address and we'll include the responses in future issues of the newsletter.

Judy Baribeau

Upon entering Advent's sanctuary observant worshippers will see our baptismal font. Next to the font stands the *paschal* candle. The candle gets its name from the ancient Hebrew word *pesah*, which means "passage", commemorating the ancient Jewish festival of Passover when the paschal lamb was sacrificed and the

Paschal Candle

enslaved children of Israel were liberated from slavery in Egypt to form an alternative community in a "promised land" of freedom, justice and peace, reflecting God's grace and mercy. For Christians, Passover remembers Jesus of Nazareth whose sacrificial death on the cross reveals the self-giving love of God who liberates all people from this mortal world's slavery to sin, evil and death, and promises God's faithful children eternal life within the Holy Communion of God's new creation established in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, "our Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7), slain from the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4; Revelation 13:8).

The paschal candle proclaims the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the source of eternal life, which begins not at the moment of our conception as an "immortal soul", nor at the moment of our physical death, but at our baptism. In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we are joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus – we die and rise with Christ (Romans 6:3-5). To represent our new life in Christ, a new paschal candle is lit for the first time at the Great Vigil of Easter. From this liturgical new beginning, the new light of the paschal candle stands next to the pulpit during the seven-week Easter season, reflecting the presence of the risen Lord among his

followers during the forty days prior to his ascension. Extinguished following the reading of the Gospel on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the candle is transported to its proper place next to the baptismal font, where it will remain until the following Palm Sunday (a newly-inspired personal innovation of mine to be implemented this year).

Although it could not be considered inappropriate to light the paschal candle for every worship liturgy, the most common practice is to light it only on occasions when the death and resurrection of Jesus are intentionally and thematically central – specifically on Sundays when the liturgical colour is white, to reflect the festive quality of our celebration; also for every celebration of baptism, regardless of liturgical colour; and of course, for all funeral services which are proclamations of the church's common faith, as well as the dearly departed believer's hope in the ultimate triumph of God over all the forces of sin, evil and death in the cross of Jesus.

Thus the light of our baptismal candles, together with the light of our personal lives, carries the sanctuary light of the paschal candle to illuminate the darkness of this mortal world, and enlighten all people with the hope of God's incarnate word: "Jesus Christ is the light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome."

Pastor Peter

Baptisms

■ We welcomed **Aileen Chen** into membership through adult baptism on November 30.

■ On December 28 we celebrated the baptisms of **Kristen Otilia** and **George Alexander Naghi** through Holy Baptism. Their parents are Juliana Schickedanz and Alex Naghi.



Congratulations to **Hildegard Weltner** who celebrated her 90th birthday on November 23.

New Member

On November 30 we welcomed Karyne Holgate-Lemieux into Advent's membership.

Advent's 50th Anniversary Photo Directory

Directories are now available – one per household for those who had their pictures taken and consented to include them. Please sign the list at the back of the sanctuary when you pick up your copy so that we may have an accurate record of distribution. If you are not in church, please contact Pastor Lisinski to arrange to receive your copy.

Advent Preliminary Budget for 2015

	1-Jan-14 to 31-Dec-14	(unaudited) 2014	(unaudited) 2015
	Actual	Budget	Submitted
	\$	\$	\$
General expenditures			
Pastor			
Salary	45,752	45,752	46,667
Housing allowance	25,857	25,857	25,857
Books/education	1,000	1,000	1,000
Travel Allowance	2,000	2,000	2,000
	<u>74,609</u>	<u>74,609</u>	<u>75,524</u>
Pension, retirement and group benefits	8,097	8,097	8,198
Health and dental premiums	5,376	5,376	5,328
Employer's portion of payroll taxes (CPP & EI)	3,633	3,705	3,783
Workers compensation premiums	650	635	657
	<u>92,365</u>	<u>92,422</u>	<u>93,490</u>
Property			
Janitorial service	10,080	10,200	10,400
* Utilities	9,840	9,500	10,000
Outdoor maintenance	16,038	15,500	16,000
Insurance	4,373	4,500	4,500
Supplies and indoor maintenance	3,850	4,250	5,100
Non-structural building repairs	1,117	6,000	5,000
Flower beds	-	-	-
	<u>45,298</u>	<u>49,950</u>	<u>51,000</u>
Music and worship			
Organist	7,621	7,621	7,697
Bulletins	1,144	1,150	1,150
Communion supplies (wine and cups)	427	500	725
Pulpit supply	250	300	300
Other	1,530	1,980	1,735
	<u>10,972</u>	<u>11,551</u>	<u>11,607</u>
Parish administration			
Toronto Conference Successor	-	-	100
Communications	1,680	1,940	2,563
Convention delegate	1,288	1,300	1,350
WebPage	-	60	30
Advertising (Incl. Comm. Bldg. Task Force)	-	-	-
Bank service fees	200	175	200
Ministerial Association North Toronto	100	-	100
Other expenses	1,620	1,660	1,700
	<u>4,888</u>	<u>5,135</u>	<u>6,043</u>
Total general expenditures	<u>153,523</u>	<u>159,058</u>	<u>162,140</u>

* Heating total of Utilities is based on \$900 allocated for December and `Still awaiting final Bank Statement`.

Current Fund Appropriations (net of revenues)

Sunday School & adult education	-	140	200
Evangelism Social Outreach (E.S.O.)	225	875	775
Stewardship and Finance	(70)	250	250
	<u>155</u>	<u>1,265</u>	<u>1,225</u>
Total Current Fund expenditures	<u>153,678</u>	<u>160,323</u>	<u>163,365</u>

Continued on Page 5

	1-Jan-14 to 31-Dec-14	(unaudited) 2015
	Actual	Submitted
	\$	\$
Contributions		
Envelopes		
Regular benevolence	10,862	10,500
Festival services	4,122	4,000
Remaining envelopes	88,253	89,530
Total Envelopes	103,237	104,030
Loose	4,502	4,500
	107,739	108,530
User Fees	65,214	66,535
Income from Other Sources	424	800
	173,377	175,865
Operating expenses		
General expenditures (Schedule 1)	(153,523)	(162,140)
Current Fund appropriations net of revenues (Schedule 1)	(155)	(1,225)
	(153,678)	(163,365)
Distributions		
Regular Benevolence	(10,500)	(10,500)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses		
	9,199	2,000
Interfund transfers		
Interfund transfers from Current Fund		
Reserve Fund	(2,000)	(2,000)
Youth Fund	-	-
	(2,000)	(2,000)
Surplus/Deficiency after Interfund Transfers		
	7,199	-

Congregational Council Update

Happy New Year to everyone. Our Council is now preparing for our Annual Meeting including finalizing the 2015 budget. We have included it in this issue, but at the annual meeting any final changes can be made and voted on. We need nominations for Council members. Three Council members are eligible for re-election. We only had 10 members this past year but can have 12 on Council. If we are able to fill all positions, it will mean less work for the remaining members.

Judy Baribeau, Chair

GWA Update

The GWA ladies have been collecting and putting together Kits for CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). In the first round, we concentrated on "Learning and Living" kits and have so far completed ten. We are planning to continue with this throughout the rest of winter and spring/summer.

And now we are inviting you, the Advent congregation, to participate as well. If you feel this is something for you, we are looking for the following items for each kit: three Lined Notebooks, ten unsharpened pencils with erasers, one metric ruler (30cm), one pencil sharpener, one eraser, one pack of crayons, one small and simple toy (not requiring batteries), one bar of soap, one tube of toothpaste and one toothbrush.

CLWR are supplying canvas bags for the items and are asking for \$5 per bag to cover shipping costs. Don't feel you have to supply everything – every item helps to put a kit together. For more information, speak with me, Brit (Missirlian).

Brit Missirlian

New Year's Resolutions to Volunteer

I hope everybody had a good Christmas holiday and now to look forward to a brand new 2015. Did everyone make a new year's resolution? How about a resolution to not make any resolutions because we never keep them anyway? Life has a way of sneaking up on us and interfering with the best laid plans of mice and men. Unless we're forced to change, usually we don't. Change is difficult. Inertia can be a powerful thing.

The same applies for our church. We show up on Sunday assuming that a greeter will welcome us, the ushers will hand us folded bulletins, the altar and flowers will be set up, readers and assistants will help the pastor conduct the service; and after service we can get a cup of coffee and spend a few minutes catching up with other members. Pretty picture. And that's just the one we see every Sunday. People count the offering, keep records, manage bank accounts. People look after the building, book users and collect rent. An army of little elves works so that I can show up on Sunday morning and participate in worship.

Unfortunately, things change. Last year we saw the biggest change to the

usual routine. Olga Cosburn went around and asked for coffee hosts and probably most of us turned her down. I know I did. I had never hosted coffee. Turning her down wouldn't change anything I told myself. Except it did. Last year Olga couldn't find enough coffee hosts so she instituted a "coffee every other Sunday" policy. I can see why she did it. Doesn't mean I like it. So that's my first New Year's resolution. I will host coffee one Sunday this year. My parents used to host coffee once a year and I'm going to hold up the tradition.

It took a while for me to realize it but our church exists because of the efforts of our members who volunteer. Without them, our church doesn't function. Hence my second resolution is to thank the people who choose to volunteer their time and effort. So here goes... (I'm going to forget someone so it's everyone else's job to call out the people I forgot so I can thank them properly).

Thank you to:

- Judy Baribeau and all the members of Council for handling the business side of church and counting offerings and taking the deposit to the bank each week;
- Fred Roth for being Treasurer;

- Claus Brandes and now Peter Buckley for being Financial secretary;
- Lester McLean not only for his music but organizing the assistants;
- All the assistants – Lester, Gabi Schickedanz, Nalini Beekie, Peter Buckley, Fred Roth;
- Bob Schickedanz and Brenda Kroeker for their work keeping up the property, getting users and collecting rent;
- Cynthia Stewart for the parking lot and folding bulletins;
- Peter Buckley and now George Tang for preparing and printing the bulletins;
- Joan McLean for organizing ushers ;
- Olga Cosburn for organizing coffee hosts and scheduling readers;
- All the altar care helpers – Brit Missirlian, Judy Baribeau, Carol Peck, Walter Rothenburger, Elizabeth Lancia, Rosarie Lisinsk
- Mona Marcobelli for the greeters;
- Mona as well for chairing the jubilee committee.

My third resolution is to listen when someone asks for help. They're asking for help because they actually need it. I may not be able to step up every time but I'm a big believer in "many hands make light work" and I can do my small part to keep our church going.

Erika Schurr

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
January 18 Carol Peck	Joan McLean	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck	Bob Schickedanz Elias Yousefi	Coffee Only
January 25 Judy Baribeau	Adele Buckley	Victoria Gangadeen Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Mercy De Silva	Mona Marcobelli Bob Schickedanz	Coffee Only
February 1 Rosarie Lisinski	Olga Cosburn	Nalini Beekie Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau Bob Schickedanz	Beekie Family
February 8 Carol Peck	Joe Hunt	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Indira Beekie	Brit Missirlian Elias Yousefi	Coffee Only
February 15	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Mona Marcobelli	Nalini Beekie Bob Schickedanz	Teresa Ajodhia Olga Cosburn
February 18 (Ash Wednesday) Volunteer names not available at time of printing					
February 22 Judy Baribeau	Indira Beekie	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Jai Sahadeo	George Tang Sonita Dillon Rhodium	Coffee Only

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