

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

January/February 2016

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Notice of Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held following the service on February 7. Annual Reports will be available prior to the meeting for your review. The draft budget is included in this newsletter. We need to elect at least two new Council members. If you would like to volunteer, or nominate someone, please contact Judy Baribeau.



A Special Congregational Meeting will be held following the service on Sunday, January 17, to discuss and vote on Council's recommendation to change Pastor Lisinski's Call from 100% to 50% effective August 1, 2016. Details have been sent to all members.



New Paraments Dedicated



The blue paraments which are used during Advent, were dedicated on November 29, the First Sunday in Advent. Judy Baribeau donated the Advent paraments.

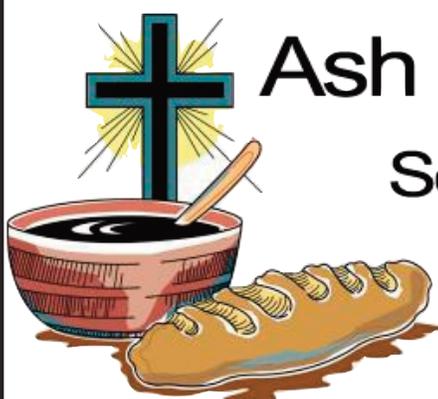
Our Sympathy

■ **John Krause**, a long time member of Advent, passed away on October 31 and his funeral was held at Dixon Garland Funeral Home in Markham on November 4. Our sympathy goes to his wife Erna, their sons and families.

■ **Fred Roth**, another long time member of Advent passed away on December 15

and his funeral was held at Advent on December 19. Our sympathy goes to his wife Enni and sons Jonathan and Eric and their family. Fred served Advent most recently as Treasurer for eleven years and previously for many years on Congregational Council as Chair and on various committees. ♦





Ash Wednesday

Soup Supper

February 10

As usual, the ESO will host a soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on February 10. We start eating at 6:00 p.m. and finish around 7:00 p.m. to give us time to clean up the kitchen before the service. Everyone is invited.

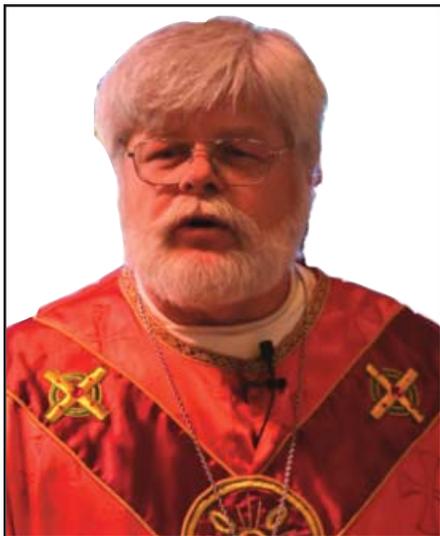
ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2800 Don Mills Road
 Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6
 416 493 1435 (church)
 905 424 7649 (residence)
 The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor
 Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com

Worship Service and Sunday School –
 10:00 a.m.

ADVENTURE... is produced for our
 members and friends.
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Pastor Peter Writes



Dear Sisters and Brothers of Advent,
As I reflect on the year past, and wonder about the challenges that will greet us in this new year of our faith journey in God's grace, two other words that begin with the letter 'G' – as in God's grace – guide my thoughts: gratitude and generosity.

Both words are, in fact, responses to the grace of God. And the inspiration of my current sense of personal gratitude is a conversation I recently had with our dear sister in Christ, Shirley Camick, around the time of the American Thanksgiving holiday in late November. I don't wish to embarrass her, but after some persistent coaxing, Shirley gave me permission to share what we talked about with you all.

Shirley celebrated her eightieth birthday this past October. She told me about how deeply thankful to God she felt for reaching such a milestone, and wanted my opinion about whether making a special offering in the amount of \$2,000 to reduce our congregation's parking lot debt might be a fitting gift to mark the occasion. Thank you, Shirley.

Speaking of the letter 'G', our sister in Christ, Gladys Ammatil, who celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday last April – and whose permission I also have to tell it – made a similarly generous contribution to

support of our church's nationwide Syrian Refugee Appeal out of the same sense of gratitude for God's lifelong grace. Thank you, Gladys.

The same spirit of generosity is at work among God's people in Christ – in our congregation, in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and among the people of God in Christ, around the world and around the corner – in many and various ways, expressed in our offerings of time and talent, as well as treasure. Generosity and gratitude are profoundly counter-cultural manifestations of God's Holy Spirit, who overcomes the evil spirit of greed and globalization – speaking of G-words – that has, quite literally, possessed our globally warming village in recent years.

I pray that in the year of our Lord AD 2016, gratitude and generosity in

response to the radical grace of God will become as contagious as the fear that currently dominates our nation's political imagination (or lack thereof) and disrupts the tranquility of our personal lives. That we may heed the advice of the Christmas angels and give "glory to God in the highest", and with the Bethlehem shepherds, receive the gifts of God's peace and good will around the manger of our Holy Communion table and return to our daily lives to share God's gifts with one another and with all our neighbours – around the corner and around the world.

Rosarie joins me in wishing all of you a blessed, happy and healthy new year. With gratitude for your generosity, in the love and name of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Peter

Farewell to the De Silva's

We said good-bye to Mercy and Krish De Silva on December 20. They have been active members of Advent for many years and are moving to Whitby. In saying farewell, Mercy read a poem she wrote as follows.

Life is all about...

Isn't life all about sharing your moments with other people
Forming relationships and enjoying them.
Learning to give unstintingly to others and being able to receive gracefully,
Getting over the hurdle of being judgmental,
And not being bothered by others judging you.
Be filled with thankfulness for the blessings we receive daily,
To be able to enjoy self, knowing yourself.
Is it not for me to be a child, a parent, a sibling and a neighbour?
Or is life about incarcerating yourself into a vortex
devoid of any feelings like anger, resentment, envy, love and hate?
As the river of life flows one's time on earth draws nearer to the end of
one's physical existence.
Does it matter how and when we transcend, I think it matters that
We, love, hate, give, take and then leave to be part of this limitless Ocean.

Mercy De Silva

Interim Treasurer's Report

Current Fund

Current Fund Financial Background

Prior to my last report ended September 30, 2015, as you are aware, the financial situation at Advent slowly deteriorated in 2015 to the point where there was a serious shortfall of cash in the Current Fund.

We started 2015 with a balance of approximately \$22,031 which was gradually used up during the year. The reason being that our offerings continued to be lower than our expenses. We also approved a 2015 deficit budget anticipating offerings would increase during the year, but they had not. We have very little flexibility on our budgeted items.

Late this past summer, Council realized that Advent's finances were at a critical stage and advised that only necessary expenses can be paid on due date or at a later date. These include expenditures such as, salaries, utilities, insurance, etc.

The Congregation was alerted of our financial shortfall in our November/December *Adventure...*, together with verbal communication at the November 15, Worship Service.

Current Fund Update of Finances

Since September 30, 2015, and with your support, Advent implemented cash strategies that will hopefully increase receipts and reduce costs for the rest of the year in order to restore its cash position.

Members continue to give generously. However, normal weekly Current contributions continue to be overshadowed by Current operational costs (meaning that normal weekly revenues are lower than costs). At the same time Advent is managing its Current cash balance on a daily basis to ensure that bills are paid on time. In addition to the humble, generous and regular giving of every member, there were a few givers of one-time substantial amounts, together with memorial amounts during a four week period (November and December). All these gifts increased the cash balance, and will assist Advent to pay its bills in the short term.

Our rental income has been steady and is usually on track. Our regular Renters provide post-dated cheques to ensure their payments are received on a timely basis.

The current cash balance is estimated to be approximately \$15,000-\$18,000 at the end of December 2015. However, this is subjected to how much Advent will receive in the next two weeks in December. Also, if it were not for the one-time giving, etc., the cash balance would have been far lower.

Restricted Fund Balance: Parking Lot

Historical Background

Improvement and expansion to the current Parking Lot was approved and work started in 2012 and continued into 2013 at a total cost (net of HST) \$149,898. To raise this money, Promissory notes (loans) of \$105,000 were provided by congregational members. The Capital Reserve Fund provided \$32,499 and the Parking Lot Fund provided \$12,399.

Current and Projected Loan Balance: Parking Lot Loan

■ Advent paid off \$35,000 of Parking Lot loans in December 2015. After such payment, the balance of Promissory notes is currently \$50,000.

■ Advent will pay another \$10,000 of loan (plus interest of Parking Lot loan) in January 2016. After this payment, the loan balance will be \$40,000.

Going from a balance of \$105,000 to a projected \$40,000, i.e. from June 2012 to January 2016, is excellent. I personally congratulate every person in our church's community for this achievement.

■ Wouldn't it be a wonderful blessing if Advent can pay off the total loan balance in one and one-half to two years? But then again, every gift, small or large is a Blessing. This is ambitious, but it can be done.

■ Renewal of Promissory Notes to mature in December 2017 is in the works.

Conclusion

Remain hopeful, stay positive, love one another, be of good cheer, and let us continue to give generously.

Motivate yourselves as in Proverbs 3: 9-10: "Honour the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your produce, Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

Advent's Preliminary 2016 Budget which is published in this *Adventure...* (pages 5 and 6) is subject to change, which is dependent on the giving and costs for the remaining weeks of December 2015. This Budget incorporates Advent's goals and cash strategies.

My humble thanks to everyone for their dedicated support.

Jai Sahadeo, Interim Treasurer



Volunteers Needed

■ **Treasurer** – We appreciate Jai Sahadeo stepping in to serve as our Interim Treasurer following Fred Roth's resignation. We do need someone with accounting skills to volunteer to take over this position. If you are interested, please speak with Jai. He is willing to train the right person in the responsibilities.

■ **Council Members** – Please consider volunteering to be part of our Congregational Council. Two members will be leaving at the Annual Meeting who are ineligible for re-election. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Judy Baribeau.

■ We need someone to monitor the programmable thermostat in the Sanctuary. Please speak with Judy Baribeau or Brenda Kroeker if you are interested.

■ **English classes** – We need a facilitator to lead the weekly English speaking sessions on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please speak with Peter Buckley. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH.
SCHEDULE 2 - PRELIMINARY-Current Fund 2016 Budget Submission and Comparatives
UNAUDITED
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2016

	(Unaudited) Jan 1-2015 To Dec 31-2015 Projection \$	(Unaudited) 2015 Budget \$	(Unaudited) 2016 Submitted \$
EXPENSES:			
General Expenditures:			
Pastor:			
Salary	46,667	46,667	36,945
Housing allowanc	25,857	25,857	22,086
Books/education	1,000	1,000	792
Travel Allowance	2,000	2,000	1,583
	<u>75,524</u>	<u>75,524</u>	<u>61,406</u>
Pension, retirement and group benefits	8,198	8,198	6,490
Health and dental premiums	5,328	5,328	4,218
Employer's portion of payroll taxes (CPP & EI)	3,783	3,783	2,995
Workers compensation premiums	657	657	520
	<u>93,490</u>	<u>93,490</u>	<u>75,629</u>
Property:			
Outdoor maintenance	17,013	16,000	18,286
Utilities (Heating, Hydro & Water-including sewer & garbage)	12,119	10,000	12,107
Janitorial services	10,178	10,400	10,178
Supplies and indoor maintenance	4,481	5,100	4,452
Repairs & maintenance-washroom, windows etc.	-	-	2,500
Non-structural building repairs	424	5,000	5,024
Insurance	4,304	4,500	4,583
Flower beds	-	-	-
	<u>48,519</u>	<u>51,000</u>	<u>57,130</u>
Music and worship:			
Organist	7,697	7,697	7,697
Bulletins	1,437	1,150	1,177
Communion supplies (wine and cup)	650	725	725
Pulpit supply	300	300	300
Other (Candles etc.)	984	1,735	1,012
Organ-maintenance & repairs	734	-	500
	<u>11,802</u>	<u>11,607</u>	<u>11,411</u>
Parish administration:			
Toronto Conference Successor	100	100	100
Communications	3,470	2,563	1,800
Convention delegate	2,035	1,350	1,085
WebPage	-	30	-
Bank service charge	204	200	250
Ministerial Association North Toronto	-	100	-
Office supplies	978	-	1,000
Other expenses	100	1,700	147
	<u>6,887</u>	<u>6,043</u>	<u>4,382</u>
Total general expenditures	<u>160,698</u>	<u>162,140</u>	<u>148,552</u>
Current Fund Appropriations (net of revenues)			
Stewardship and finance (net of revenues)	250	250	250
Sunday school and adult education (net of revenues)	200	200	50
Evangelism Social Outreach (E.S.O.) (net of revenues)	200	775	100
Fund raising expense	-	-	-
	<u>650</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>400</u>
Total current fund expenditures	<u>161,348</u>	<u>163,365</u>	<u>148,952</u>

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH.
SCHEDULE 3 - PRELIMINARY-Current Fund 2016 Budget Submission and Comparatives
UNAUDITED
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,2015

	(Unaudited) Jan 1-2015 To Dec 31-2015 Projection	(Unaudited) 2015 Budget	(Unaudited) 2016 Submitted
	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT FUND REVENUES:			
<i>Contributions:</i>			
Current envelopes	89,611	85,530	77,157
Festival services	2,955	4,000	2,955
Loose	3,887	4,500	3,887
Received from other Charities	3,804	4,000	1,141
	<u>100,257</u>	<u>98,030</u>	<u>85,140</u>
Envelopes-Benevolences			
Regular (Synod)	9,671	10,500	10,500
Other Benevolences (Non Budgeted)	6,412	-	-
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>116,340</u>	<u>108,530</u>	<u>95,640</u>
<i>Other Revenues</i>			
User fees	68,334	66,535	66,944
Income from other sources	86	800	168
	<u>184,760</u>	<u>175,865</u>	<u>162,752</u>
EXPENSES:			
<i>Operating expenses:</i>			
General expenditures (Schedule 2)	160,698	162,140	148,552
Current Fund appropriations net of revenues	650	1,225	400
	<u>161,348</u>	<u>163,365</u>	<u>148,952</u>
<i>Distributions</i>			
Regular (Synod)	10,500	10,500	10,500
Other Benevolences (Non Budgeted)	6,412	-	-
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses and fund distributions</i>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,300</u>
<i>Interfund transfers</i>			
Interfund transfers from Current Fund (Note 8) (Reserve Fund)	-	2,000	3,300
<i>Surplus (Deficiency) after interfund transfers</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**May God continue
to bless you during this year.
Prayers are answered.
When you let Christ into your life,
God grants you a happy year.**



Congregational Council Update

We thank everyone for their extra work during November and December – the GWA and ESO for the successful craft and bake sale that netted over \$600 for the parking lot; their annual Christmas Party, Gerard Baribeau for getting and setting up the Christmas tree and Walter Rothenburger for decorating it; Lester McLean and his band for the jazz liturgy and concert on December 13; Trevor Hicks and the choir for all their special music during the season; and the altar care people for their extra work for the Christmas services. All of your work is greatly appreciated.

We thank Karen Doak for making the altar cloth cover. The new cover will protect our altar cloth during the week.

November and December were busy months for Congregational Council. We thank in particular Jai Sahadeo for the financial research required to prepare the

draft 2016 budget. Our finances became very strained toward the end of the year and we thank those in the congregation who gave extra donations to help cover our costs to year end. We certainly encourage those of you who are able to increase your offerings in the New Year. Please review the proposed budget in light of the discussion at our Special Congregational Meeting to be held January 17.

Various Council committees – Finance/Stewardship, Property, Mutual Ministry, Worship met to review their various responsibilities.

Major work was done by the Mutual Ministry Committee which resulted in a recommendation to Congregational Council that a Special Congregational Meeting be held to discuss and decide on changing Pastor Lisinski's Call from 100% to 50% effective August 1, 2016. This change is recommended

because of our financial situation. All congregational members received a letter with details of the rationale for the recommendation. The Special Congregational Meeting will be held following the service on January 17. We encourage all voting members to attend to vote on Council's recommendation. In addition, please review the proposed 2016 budget and commentary to become more familiar with Advent's financial situation. We are not bankrupt; but we need to pay our Current expenses, and our contributions are not meeting our expenses.

We were saddened to hear of Fred Roth's death. We will miss him and appreciate all the work he has done in various capacities for the congregation over the years. Our sympathy goes to his family.

Please attend our Annual Meeting on February 7. Annual Reports will be available prior to the meeting for your review.

Judy Baribeau

Volunteer Schedule

Please contact Olga Cosburn if you would like to serve as coffee host on a particular Sunday. On Sundays where we provide "Coffee Only", volunteers are needed to help with the cleanup after coffee. Also, any offerings of goodies are welcome.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
January 3	Joan McLean	Lester McLean Judy Baribeau	Carol Peck	Judy Baribeau Brit Missirlian	Coffee only
January 10 Judy Baribeau	Adele Buckley	Gabi Schickedanz Karen Doak	Judy Baribeau	Brit Missirlian George Tang	Erika Schurr
January 17 Walter Rothenburger	Olga Cosburn	Victoria Gangadeen Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Brit Missirlian	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Coffee only
January 24	Joe Hunt	Bill Wesioly Waveney Kanhai	Bill Wesioly	Erika Schurr George Tang	Brit Missirlian & Cynthia Stewart
January 31 Judy Baribeau	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Carol Peck	Brit Missirlian Elias Yousefi	Coffee only
February 7	Indira Beekie	Victoria Gangadeen Jim Doak	Mona Marcobelli	Bob Schickedanz Erika Schurr	Hannelore Matthews & Erika Callon
February 10 (Ash Wednesday)		Jim Doak			
February 14	Elias Yousefi	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Carol Peck	Judy Baribeau George Tang	Coffee only
February 21 Walter Rothenburger	Jim Hicks & Ted Winslow	Bill Wesioly Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau	Bob Schickedanz George Tang	Beekie Family
February 28 Judy Baribeau	Karyne Lemieux	Lester McLean Waveney Kanhai	Jai Sahadeo	Bob Schickedanz Erika Schurr	Coffee only

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