

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

July/August 2017

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Bunch of Bears



See story on Page 5

Summer Worship Schedule

As in past years, starting July 2 through September 3, we will worship in Cedar Hall, and the Romanians will worship in the Sanctuary. We will not serve coffee during July and August unless someone volunteers to be a coffee host. We thank our hosts who have been providing coffee on Coffee Only Sundays, and now they have some well deserved time off.



Congregational Council Update

On June 19 the Congregational Council held its last regularly scheduled meeting until September. However, with some ongoing work, there may be a special meeting or two called during the summer.

Members of St. Ansgar invited our members to join them at a joint congregational picnic on June 18. Unfortunately, only two members from Advent attended. Our Council has agreed that we should be in dialogue with St. Ansgar to begin talking about doing things together. Any decision to formalize a relationship is not currently planned. However, it is a start to an informal joining together for some events. We all realize that the day has passed when all congregations are able to work independently and we need to work together in some areas. I encourage you to consider participating when the next planned event of our two congregations, or more, takes place.

In conjunction with our current Call process, some conversation has taken place about our future. Over the next few years we will need to make some changes. We are aging, have little or no growth, our financial situation is getting iffy and our property needs greater attention as it ages. We need everyone's ideas and support to continue.

Financial Situation

You will read separately that we have paid off our parking lot debt and thank everyone for their efforts over the past five years. We will now be able to address other property priorities that have been put on hold.

At our May Council meeting, Council adopted motions to set up two restricted funds. One is for memorials received in memory of Anneliese Schickedanz. The family will advise Council on how they

decide to use this fund. A second fund was approved in memory of Heinz Weltner. All monies donated to this fund will be used for tuning, upkeep, repairs, and possible extension to the pipe organ in our sanctuary.

Volunteers are Needed

We thank everyone who came out to help with our indoor and outdoor clean-ups. Indoors we focused on the kitchen, sanctuary, fellowship hall windows and in Cedar Hall the chair storage area. However, there is still a lot of indoor work pending.

Unfortunately our turnout for the outdoor clean-up was very poor with only three people. We invited students from Georges Vanier to come to get community hours but no one showed up. Our garden area is severely neglected and there appears no interest from our congregation to use or maintain it. We've had the suggestion to go back to grass. If you have ideas, please let Council know. In the meantime, if you have a few hours to spare, please bring your shovels and other garden tools to do some cleanup.

We are still looking for volunteers to prepare the weekly bulletins, put the hymn numbers on the boards and look after the sound system. If you are able to help in any of these areas, please let me know.

We would also like to have more people volunteer as ushers, host our coffee hours, and serve as readers.

With regret we accepted Glory Christian's resignation as Sunday School teacher. Council has decided not to pursue a replacement at this time due to lack of children attending.

Call Committee Update

Brit Missirlian and some members of the Call Committee attended the June

Council meeting to give an update. The Committee has conducted interviews and is waiting for further information from Synod office before presenting a candidate to the Congregational Council; and then if approved, to call a Special Congregational Meeting to present the candidate for Call.

In closing, please remember to worship with us regularly and continue your financial support. If you are unable to attend worship, you may make your donations through PAR and also now through CanadaHelps on our website.

Judy Baribeau

Baptisms

We welcome the following children through the Sacrament of Baptism:

- On May 7 **Amelia Cassandra Doak**, daughter of Stephen Doak and Yuxin Tu.
- On June 11 **Travis Daniel Jelinski**, son of Ty and Cindy Jelinski.

May the Holy Spirit of God be with them in their lifelong journey of faith.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals have concluded for the summer and will begin again on Sunday, September 10, at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in singing, please speak with Trevor Hicks.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road

Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6

416 493 1435 (church)

The Rev. Ernie Skujins

Interim Pastor

Phone: 647 388 4024

Email: ernieskujins@gmail.com

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

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

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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Weekly News Updates

Each week I send an email including the readings for the upcoming Sunday and any other news items of importance that are applicable between newsletters. If I don't have your email, please give it to me so you can be included as well and not miss out on any news distributed weekly.

Judy Baribeau

From the Loft

To Commune or Not to Commune – That is the Question

If you were asked what the single most important part of the liturgy is, what would you say? If you said the sermon, you would be giving what I imagine the most popular answer would be; but, no offense to pastors everywhere, the sermon is not the most important part of our liturgy. Do you give up? The most important part of the liturgy is the celebration of Holy Communion. It is the climax of the service, the focal point of the service, the center of the service and as such, everything that goes on in the service ends up contributing to the celebration of Holy Communion.

Now that that's been established, the question that I'm thinking you will ask me next regards services where we don't have communion. What is the point of those services if the main focal point isn't even there? I'm very glad that you asked.

While it's our tradition at Advent to celebrate communion weekly, not every church celebrates communion weekly. Some churches have a monthly communion, some do it bi-weekly and others might have any alternative cycle you can think of. The opposite is true too – some churches have multiple weekly services in which communion is celebrated. The presence of Holy Communion in every church service is not mandated by the rubrics and despite its centrality to our Christian life and worship, sometimes being deprived (for lack of a better word) of it adds rather than subtracts from its divinity and importance.

Furthermore, and most important, is that eating the bread and drinking the wine of communion is not something that should be looked at as just a ritual we use in church. As I mentioned above, everything we do in worship leads to and stems from the celebration of the Eucharist, which means, that it's something that takes preparation to receive and reflection upon receiving it. It isn't intended to be

taken just because it's there and just because it's offered. Therefore, services without the celebration of Holy Communion are just as important as services with Holy Communion, for the absence of Holy Communion allows for even more preparation and offers even more to reflect on the next time we are blessed with it.

I admit, that as a child, I was often tempted to use the "but it's only the service of the word" excuse in an attempt to sway my family to just let me watch cartoons on Sunday morning rather than go to church. It is this memory that I always think of when I hear these words from the scriptures: "*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I*

reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me." (1 Corinthians 13:11, NIV) In retrospect, I'm glad that my reasoning never swayed my family from ensuring that, communion or no communion, I was in that pew Sunday after Sunday. And if any of you have that same feeling, I only ask that you consider the spiritual possibilities that might enrich you at such a service.

Now that I've discussed the importance of the Eucharist, the next installment of From the Loft will focus on the liturgy of the meal and how we use the liturgy to enhance our sharing of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Trevor Hicks

Treasurer's Report

Excellent News – the Parking Lot Fund is no more

To start with some excellent news – our 2012 Parking Lot Fund has now been eliminated. Referencing our 2016 Year End Financial Statements report, we showed that, as at December 31, 2016, we had \$30,000 of Debt outstanding related to the Parking Lot but we also had a reserve of \$24,652 available towards that Debt. With our offering collections over the past few months, we now have enough of the reserve to pay off the outstanding debt which we are now in the process of doing. Thank you to all who have contributed to the pay down of this debt since 2012.

2017 Status Check – mainly on target with our revenues

Great news on the new memorial funds. As at May 2017 Year to Date (YTD), our Current Contributions are at 45.5% of our

annual 2017 budget forecast. This is a good showing; however, we have the summer months coming up and contributions tend to be lighter during that time. Please continue your contributions and of course your Sunday attendance during July and August.

As for the rest of the major Revenue items, as at May YTD – Facilities Rentals income is at 44.0% of the annual budget. Our Benevolence is running a little lower at 35% of the annual budget. As noted above, we received a lot of contributions to eliminate the Parking Lot fund but we have also received over \$5,000 for the newly set up restricted memorial funds for Anneliese Schickedanz and Heinz Weltner.

Thank you to all for your support and we look to connect again in the early fall for our next update.

Bill Wesiolý

Congregational Membership

One of the responsibilities our Council reviews annually is our congregational membership. We are required to keep as accurate as possible statistics for our annual Parochial Report as well as for our own membership list. Our Constitution defines Membership as:

“ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. The membership of this congregation consists of those baptized persons who

- a. have been baptized in this congregation or
- b. having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received either by
 - i. Transfer from another Lutheran congregation,
 - ii. Confirmation, or
 - iii. Affirmation of faith.

Section 2. Members of this congregation may also be classified as confirmed and voting.

- a. Confirmed members are baptized members who have been
 - i. Confirmed in this congregation
 - ii. Received by adult baptism,
 - iii. Received by transfer as confirmed members from another Lutheran congregation.
 - iv. Received by affirmation of faith as baptized adults.
- b. Voting members are those confirmed or otherwise designated members who are members in good standing and have attained the age of 18 years.

Section 3. United in one Lord, one faith and one Baptism, the members of this congregation are to be constant in worship and in the study of the Holy Scriptures, regularly nourishing their life in Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, presenting their children for Holy Baptism and providing for their Christian instruction.

The members are called by the Spirit to lead godly lives, to promote the unity and welfare of the congregation in the bond of peace, to proclaim the Gospel and to renounce the evil one. The

commitment of each baptized member to this call is to be expressed through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, its synods and this congregation by a life of repentance, faith, prayer and the sharing of resources.

Section 4. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death,
- b. Resignation,
- c. Transfer or release,
- d. Dismissal,
- e. Inactivity.

Section 5. A confirmed member who does not, for a period of one year, partake of Holy Communion, support the church with offerings and participate in the life and worship of the congregation shall be visited by the pastor and the congregation's officers and be encouraged by them to active membership. If, during the second year, the confirmed member does not actively participate, the member's name may be removed from the membership roster of the congregation, but it shall be retained on a responsibility list as one who is in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern.”

The part we struggle with most is our Responsibility List. Since we don't keep Communion records, the most accurate indication of active membership, which is needed to determine quorum for congregational meetings, is our members' recorded contributions and the pastor's acknowledgement of who does and doesn't commune.

However, just because a person has attended worship for a considerable period of time and has made recorded contributions, but has not formally joined the congregation in one of the designated ways,

is not counted as a member and does not have voting rights. Also, some members leave for any number of reasons and have been determined inactive and may be removed from membership. For that person, he or she would need to formally rejoin to be considered a member. Just attending, communing or contributing is not a determining factor.

We also maintain a list of Active Non-Members. You worship regularly, contribute and commune. However, you are not counted in determining quorum or can vote at a congregational meeting. We would like to add your names to our Active Membership list. If you are interested in joining Advent, please speak with the pastor.

Occasionally we welcome a “visitor” only to be told, “I am a member,” the person not realizing that because of inactivity, he or she may have been removed from our membership list. Quite often as well, we may not have current contact information.

If you have questions about your status as a member, please speak with the Pastor or me. Our intent is to keep our records current. Please help us.

Judy Baribeau



Egg Cartons

Thank you for bringing your empty egg cartons to church. The food bank receives eggs in bulk and uses the cartons for their distribution to families. The cartons are “gold” to the food bank and they thank everyone, and please continue bringing your empty egg cartons.

Judy Baribeau

Bunch of Bears

Some of the GWA ladies have been busy knitting up a storm of Teddy bears this winter. Then some more of us got together and stuffed them, embroidered faces and finished them off with a colourful scarf. These bears will be sent to CLWR as part of their "We Care" program.

They in turn will send them off to be given to children in refugee camps or in other distressing situations.

If any of you would be interested in contributing to this by knitting more bears, please talk with me.



Brit Missirlian

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to:

- Joan Fox and family on the death of Arie Fox who passed away quietly on June 25 at Orchard Villa Long Term Care.
- Michaela Ehring whose mother died recently in Germany.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Lutherans Toronto Events

Please mark your calendars for the following two events being held in Toronto as part of the Reformation 500th Anniversary:

September 30 Common Prayer with Cardinal Collins and Bishop Pryse

Lutherans and Roman Catholics will gather for a Joint Common Prayer Service in Toronto. Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins and Bishop Michael Pryse will lead us in worship. They follow the good example of Pope Francis and Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation, who will pray this liturgy in Lundh/Sweden on Reformation Day 2016 together. Location and Time will be announced soon.

October 29 Lutherans Toronto Reformation Service

In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's bold stand for integrity and justice in the posting of his 95 Theses, all Central Toronto Area Lutheran pastors and congregations are encouraged to come together for a service of celebration, commitment and praise. This event will be held at St. James Anglican Cathedral at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by a procession to First Lutheran Church to post the "Theses" for our time that echo Luther's: *Salvation not for Sale, People not for sale, Creation not for sale.* ♦



St. Ansgar Vacation Bible School

Summer is now upon us.

St. Ansgar's Vacation Bible experience this year is Hero Central, where children will learn that God's Heroes have Heart, Courage, Wisdom, Hope and Power.

Hero Central will run daily during the week of Monday, August 14, to Friday, August 18, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. There will be science and drama classes, crafts, and games for everyone from age 3 to grade 6. Mad Scientists will be conducting a workshop mid-week, and we'll have a park outing at the end of the week.

Everyone is welcome. There is still time to register, so spread the word to join us to family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances.

Registration fees are \$25 per child, with a maximum of \$40 per family for the week. You can register children at any time in person through the forms in the Narthex, or by calling Anna in the office, or online at stansgar.ca. If you have any questions, please contact either Anna McRae in the church office 416-783-3570 or me.

Get ready to have fun at Hero Central. Do good. Seek peace.

Louise Clunas,
St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
VBC Coordinator
416-245-9970

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
1498 Avenue Road, M5N 2J1
(416) 783-3570, <http://stansgar.ca>

Toonies for Trees



Gathering of Toonies for Trees continues with \$195.25 received to date. In the fall the total collected will be submitted to the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC to be donated to the Environmental Education Centre in Beit Jala, Palestine, to plant olive trees. If you have not contributed to this project, we encourage you to do so.

Carol Peck



Men's Breakfast Group – July 8

All men in the congregation are invited to a good breakfast, conversation and fellowship on July 8 this month, 9:30 a.m. at Rosemary & Thyme Restaurant, southwest corner of Van Horne and Victoria Park. Please speak with Jim Doak for further information. Delaying tJuly's breakfast one week will give everyone the opportunity to enjoy the holiday weekend with their families. In August, the breakfast will be on Saturday, August 5. ♦

Thank You

Thank you to Jim and Karen Doak for hosting the GWA's annual spring barbecue on June 16.

Pastor Skujins' Vacation

Pastor Skujins will be away on Sundays July 2 and 9. We will hold a special music-themed service on July 2 and the GWA will lead the July 9 service on the Praise Appeal theme.

Pastor Skujins will also be on vacation August 6, 13 and 20. The Worship and the Arts Committee will plan the services in his absence.

Volunteer Schedule

We will not have coffee fellowship during July and August. If anyone would like to volunteer for a particular Sunday, please let Olga Cosburn know. The Assisting Ministers will read the lessons. If anyone would like to read on a particular Sunday, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board.

	Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister Communion Assistant	Counters
July 2 (No Communion)	Brit Missirlian	Mona Marcobelli	Erika Schurr	Judy Baribeau Erika Schurr
July 9 (No Communion)	Carol Peck	Cynthia Stewart	Nalini Beekie	Carol Peck Nalini Beekie
July 16	Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Erika Schurr Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau Erika Schurr
July 23	Walter Rothenburger	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau Mona Marcobelli
July 30	Brit Missirlian	Olga Cosburn	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Nalini Beekie Erika Schurr
August 6 (No Communion)	Carol Peck	Joe Hunt	TBA	Carol Peck
August 13 (No Communion)	Judy Baribeau	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Lester McLean	Judy Baribeau
August 20 (No Communion)	Carol Peck	Indira Beekie	Bill Wesioly	Carol Peck Tracy McPherson
August 27	Walter Rothenburger	Elias Yousefi	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Mona Marcobelli Judy Baribeau