

# ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

June 2013

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### Pastor Lisinski's

#### June Office Hours

Tuesday – 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday – 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday – 1:30-3:30 p.m.

To make an appointment,  
please call 416 493 1435

### Meetings and Events

- The **Youth Movie Nights** are on hold until further notice.
- Everyone interested in being involved in the new **Property Committee** is invited for a meeting on Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.
- The **GWA** will hold its annual barbecue on Friday, June 21, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Carol Peck, 4 Delverton Place.
- The **Seniors** meet on Tuesdays, June 4 and 18 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Join Trevor Hicks on Wednesday, June 12, at 8:00 p.m. for a night of musical comedy at Advent Lutheran Church.



# Pentecost

## Congregational Council Highlights

The coming months will be a busy time for Council members. We are now planning events into the Fall. Bishop Pryse will come to Advent on October 6 to preach and meet with us to discuss our vision. Peter Reble is working out the details for this visit. The Bishop's visit follows months of Council discussions related to the inclusive ministry task force.

Changes in our Property management are taking place. With Fran Brandes' departure on July 31, we have scheduled a meeting for June 13 at 7:30 p.m. with her and would like as many people from the congregation as possible to meet with us to review the various areas of property management. Our plan is to have a number of people look after the different areas so that no one is overwhelmed with a big job.

All of our plans are part of our stewardship activities. You will note that our offerings are lower than last year and we need to catch up. We also need everyone's stewardship of time not only in the property area, but in all our ministry areas. Think about where you would like to help and then volunteer.

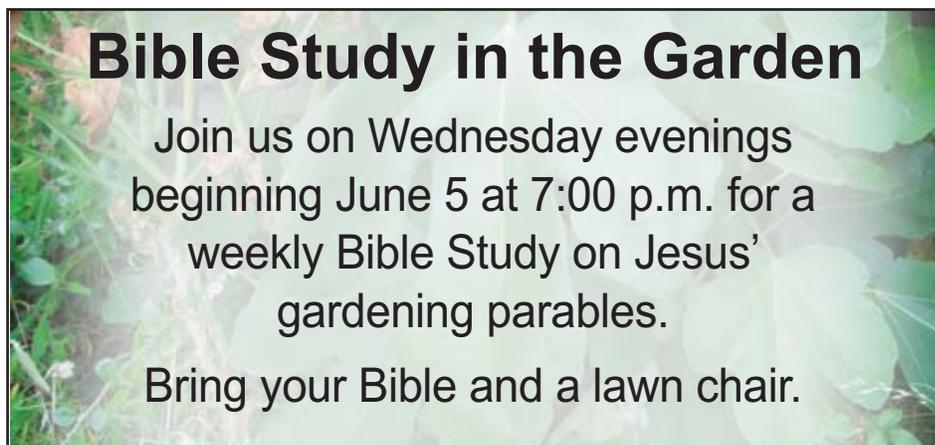
Following the positive feedback after the joint Good Friday service, Pastor Lisinski has met with the various clergy and they are discussing holding an ecumenical Christmas Day service, a choir night around Thanksgiving, and a back to church barbecue in September.

They are also discussing a pulpit exchange during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please give Council members your feedback on these ideas. We are also looking for closer fellowship with the Mandarin and Romanian ministries.

The Mutual Ministry Committee met recently and outlined a number of suggestions for improved administration in the congregation.

The Worship and the Arts Committee will be meeting soon to make plans for the coming months.

Pastor Lisinski has given us the dates he will be away. He will be away on July 7 which is the end of the joint



## Bible Study in the Garden

Join us on Wednesday evenings beginning June 5 at 7:00 p.m. for a weekly Bible Study on Jesus' gardening parables.

Bring your Bible and a lawn chair.

## Stewardship

*"I have held many things in my hand, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." – Martin Luther*

As someone relatively new to Congregational Council and brand new to the stewardship role, I did what anyone in my position would do – I googled "definition stewardship". After some research, I figured out that I still have a lot to learn. My first lesson, from [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com), was that stewardship is the "management of something". Everyone is familiar with the saying "many hands make light work"... and we could certainly use some more hands in the *management* of Advent. While the traditional areas of volunteering (assisting, council, ushering, etc.) are obvious, there are many other opportunities at Advent to contribute. Many of them may align with a passion that you have (anyone for an afternoon of gardening?) or not (did you know that someone cleans and waxes all the pews every year?).

I would like to encourage everyone to consider their gifts and ask themselves: What can I do to make a difference in my church community? What do I have to offer? The commitment you make doesn't have to be large or monetary (but that certainly helps) to make a difference. If you feel that you can help in any way, please contact me or any other member of Congregational Council.

*Erika Schurr*

ELCIC/Anglican Church of Canada Assembly in Ottawa. Pastor Lisinski was elected a Toronto Conference clergy delegate last year. His vacation Sundays are: July 14, July 28, August 4 and October 20.

George Tang has been working on Advent's website structure. We all look forward to the time it will be active. The website will give us the opportunity to post events and news in a timely manner.

Our calendar is posted on the bulletin board and is updated as events are scheduled. Please check it for items of interest.

Please give me any items you would like discussed at Congregational Council meetings.

*Judy Baribeau*

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship Service and Sunday School  
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*ADVENTURE...* is produced for our  
members and friends.

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Advent Lutheran Church

# Pastor Peter Writes...

## Our Gardening Life

As I mowed the lawn for the first time a few weeks ago, I noticed that winter's last heavy snowfall had apparently snapped a large branch of our cedar tree, bringing it to rest on the delicate lilac bush next to our driveway. A few days later our landlord spent several hours with his trusty chain saw filling five huge recyclable garden bags with debris. Gardening is hard work.

As one whose chronic back pain limits the exercise of my own green thumb to basic lawn care, I am particularly thankful for the faithful gardeners who trim the trees and plant the flowers around our church property. By the way, they could use some help. If you are willing, they meet each Wednesday between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., weather permitting.

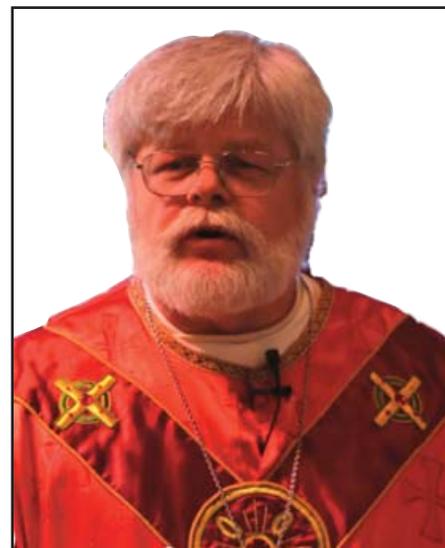
Many gardeners describe their experience as spiritually inspiring, not just physically demanding. But beyond tilling soil, planting seeds, or pruning hedges, gardening is a parable of life lived in faithfulness to God. I often refer to it as "the world's oldest vocation" (See Genesis 2:15-24).

Human beings are created and called to be God's partners in caring for creation – which includes animals, air and water, as well as land. God created us, quite literally, to be environmentalists. And the most important aspect of our environmental stewardship is caring for one another – especially the most vulnerable.

The tiny Peanut Island our church inhabits, and around which our lives orbit, bears witness to the many and various ways in which God's partners fulfill our vocation: two schools, a community centre that includes a food bank, a shopping centre to provide access to life's basic necessities and social services, and of course, our church which houses five congregations dedicated to glorifying God and provides a community garden to serve the common good of all our neighbours.

This summer, I encourage you to spend some time in our garden. Whether working alongside our congregational gardeners, or browsing among our community gardeners, reaching out with a word of welcome or a hand offering a glass of water – or lemonade – is a simple and effective way of nurturing our common humanity toward the shared life of peace and prosperity God wills and provides for all his children.

Another way to participate would be to join the "Lawn Chair Gardeners" on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., beginning on June 5, for a weekly Bible Study



of Jesus' gardening parables. All you need to bring is your Bible – and, of course, a lawn chair. See you there.

*Pastor Peter Lisinski*



**Christine Carlsen was confirmed on May 26**

## Where are you Facing While Praying?

Where are you facing while you are praying? Different religions may have different answers. An old tradition which lasted for several thousand years if not longer is to choose facing the rising sun. Other religions may choose facing a holy place in their belief. For us Christians, we would most preferably choose facing a cross which best represents Christ our Lord.

However, for us Christians, there is another direction we can choose, especially when no cross is nearby. That is, facing yourself inwardly, towards your heart.

When Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God should come, Jesus answered them in these words:

*The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:20, 21 KJV)*

The Kingdom of God is Within You. Many of us take this metaphorically, as this is difficult to comprehend for our human minds. However, what if we are all wrong and the Lord actually meant it literally?

In the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 12, when Jesus was asked the question which is the first commandment of all, he answered:

*The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:29, 30 KJV)*

If you look at this commandment very carefully, you may notice the order starts from heart, then soul, then mind, and lastly strength. Why here the heart is placed ahead of the soul?

Traditionally, our Christians have a saying: our body is a temple of God. If our body is a temple of God, then what shall our heart be?

Meditate on this; you shall find the answer, for God is within everyone of us.

Therefore, next time when you pray, and can't find a cross nearby, you may simply calm down yourself, clean your thoughts, focus all your attention to Lord, and pray.

*For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew 7:8 KJV)*

George Tang

## Christian Education

Christian Education is the ministry that engages people in the understanding of Jesus' commandments to love God and to love neighbour. It is any activity that has the goal of enlightening the church. It attempts to help persons experience life in Christ, and as a result persons transmit a witness of love to the world.

At Advent this ministry is provided through Sunday school for ages three to eleven, Confirmation classes starting at age twelve and latter for those who are new to the church, Bible study for all ages, and occasional table talks after service on Sundays.

A Bible study will start this summer on Wednesday evenings beginning June 5 starting at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the garden just outside our building weather permitting. Table talks, open discussion on topics of interest within the Church and Christianity, will be held after service on Sundays, dates to be announced.

Peter Reble

### Summer Worship

We will begin worshipping in Cedar Hall on June 23 and return to the sanctuary after Labour Day.

## Advent's Giving to April 30, 2013

Commitments	Received to 30/04/2013	Received to 30/04/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$25,110.46	\$27,222.19	-\$2,111.73
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$25,110.46</b>	<b>\$27,222.19</b>	<b>-\$2,111.73</b>
Facilities	\$27,334.25	\$28,107.35	-\$773.10
Regular Benevolence	\$3,285.00	\$2,941.00	\$344.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$55,729.71</b>	<b>\$58,270.54</b>	<b>-\$2,540.83</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>			
Global Hunger	\$1,336.00	\$1,585.70	-\$249.70
New Parking Lot Fund	\$4,206.53	\$4,888.00	-\$681.47

Fred Roth  
Treasurer

## Refurbishing and Upgrading Advent's Pipe Organ

**Y**ou probably have heard that our pipe organ has been in need of repairs, and in fact it has been tuned and has undergone minor repairs over the past winter. This triggered a serious discussion at a Men's Group breakfast before Christmas resulting in a request to Council for approval for the Men's Group to undertake a refurbish and possible upgrade to the organ. This approval was granted.

The technical proposal was started early December 2012 when Jens Geissler of Geissler Pipe Organs wrote a letter after his company tuned our pipe organ. A discussion started within Worship and the Arts members, and a meeting was held with his company around the pipe organ on March 1. By March 15, the scope of work was written and timing of the refurbish and upgrade was established. Geissler Pipe Organs provided a

formal contract proposal which was taken to Council on March 18 for signature.

What is to be done? Certain pipes can no longer be tuned and they need to be either repaired or replaced. The difference between notes, such as C to D, should be made consistent across all the pipes in the organ so that it will sound like one big instrument, not just a group of parts of an organ (musical temperament). Tuning components (sleeves) of the pipes and their seating within the organ, their volume and their tones, and the air flow from air chest to pipes, is to be made consistent across the ranks (stops) of the organ. This, along with a thorough inspection and cleaning of all the parts of our organ, is the refurbish.

There is set of big metal pipes against the north wall of the sanctuary, behind the organ, that no longer work. They are to be replaced with wooden pipes called a

Bourdon that has a big, full sound and that will give more midrange and bass to the organ. Within the organ frame, there is a set of quite small pipes called a Tierce and currently they are not tuneable, so they are to be replaced. These are the upgrades to our pipe organ.

As agreed months ago, the Men's Group has assumed financial responsibility for this work. The total bill is expected to be in the range of \$12,000 + HST (Treasurer claims HST back). An initial payment has been made and work is scheduled over the summer, probably starting the last week of July. It should take about two weeks. Payments will be made at both the start and end of work, and final payment is due 30 days after completion. The Men's Group is making their contributions now.

There is more to be said about this instrument, but for now this article should provide a perspective of the current initiative to refurbish and upgrade Advent's pipe organ.

*Jim Doak*

## Toronto Conference Spring Meeting Highlights

The Toronto Conference held its Spring meeting at Epiphany Lutheran Church on May 11.

Bishop Pryse attended the meeting and presented the Syod Report. He began by telling about the Synod's newest companion church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. A number of people from the Eastern Synod were in the Holy Land to witness the document signing. He highlighted the significance of our work with this church and the Middle East.

He told us that the Synod is increasing its support of the National Church by 1% a year and encouraged congregations to increase their Benevolence offerings. He said the question often raised is "What do we get for our Benevolence offerings?" When we support the various church events we get a fuller experience of what it means to be a disciple. He noted the LWF is one of the largest humanitarian

aid organizations in the world as an example of our benevolence dollars in action. He said this year's Praise Appeal will be launched later in June and the Synod goal is \$55,000.

He went on to review the "Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod ELCIC". This covenant describes the congregations' relationship to the Synod. The aim and hope is that the Assembly gives assent to this document in 2014. He emphasized that this is not a legal document.

Rev. Ron Ewert then gave a presentation on Collaborative Ministries. He noted that the proposed Areas will not replace existing groupings within the Conference who do special work. The Area concept gives the opportunity for intentional networking among congregations. This relates to the restructuring document included in the Bulletin of Reports. Things that will remain are quarterly

clergy gatherings, the annual Reformation service and a Conference newsletter. This fall the Dean will send a questionnaire for each congregation to complete. The results of the questionnaires will be discussed at the first meeting of the proposed Area groups. The pastor and two to three laypersons from each congregation are expected to attend the various Area group meetings.

Four Council positions were up for election: Pastor Roy Thakurdial, Rev. David Tin, Esther Au, and Rev. Susan Climo. They accepted re-nomination and with no further nominations from the floor were elected by acclamation. This will be the last year we are holding Conference Council elections. The current Council members will continue until restructuring is in place next year.

Nineteen Toronto Conference congregations were represented at the meeting: 17 clergy, 26 lay and four visitors. ♦

## The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

### ■ Anglican-Lutheran Joint Assembly will meet in Ottawa July 3-7.

Pastor Lisinski is one of the Toronto Conference clergy elected to be a delegate. If you would like to follow the information leading up to the Assembly and during the Assembly, please subscribe through [www.jointassembly.ca](http://www.jointassembly.ca). You can also get information on the ELCIC website [elcic.ca](http://elcic.ca).

### ■ Nurturing Generous Giving Workshop – October 5.

Jeff Pym will host the workshop at St. Philip's, Toronto. Those who have attended from other Conferences have spoken very highly of the event. It is open to clergy and lay members, and lay members are encouraged to attend – to learn and bring something back to their congregations. We hope to have at least three members from each congregation attend the workshop. Detailed information on registration will be available soon.

### ■ Word and Sacrament Ministry Survey

The ELCIC's Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee is developing a study guide on Word and Sacrament ministry. This is a reminder to you to offer your early input for the development of this study guide.

An initial survey draws together concerns expressed about the realities of geographical isolation, the lack of available pastors to provide Word and

Sacrament ministry, and how an increasing number of small congregations cannot afford full-time Word and Sacrament ministry. You are invited to provide your initial thoughts through this survey to help frame the study guide. The survey response to date has been heartening.

By request, the deadline for this initial survey has been extended to June 30, 2013.

Visit [www.elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/default.cfm](http://www.elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/default.cfm) for details.

Please review the hard copy version of the survey and then follow the survey link to participate. The publication of the study guide (winter, 2013-2014) will provide the whole church a much more in-depth opportunity for reflection and participation in this important work. ♦

### ESL for Gardeners at Advent Lutheran Church



Level 1 – 3

All welcome! (It is free 😊)

Start

Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Registration

Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

at the church in the Community Garden

## Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
June 2 Elizabeth Lancia	Indira Beekie	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Eric Lisinski	Judy Baribeau George Tang	n/a
June 9 Carol Peck	Mona Marcobelli	Peter Buckley Olga Cosburn	Fred Roth	Carrol Pearson Peter Reble	Olga Cosburn, Eika Day Hannelore Matthews
June 16 Judy Baribeau	Cynthia Stewart	Lester McLean Nalini Beekie	Eric Lisinski	Erika Schurr George Tang	Khan Family
June 23 Brit Missirlian	Joan McLean	Peter Reble Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Peter Reble	Nalini Beekie Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Fred and Enni Roth
June 30 Brit Missirlian	Adele Buckley	Nalini Beekie Judy Baribeau	Brit Missirlian	Bit Missirlian Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Mary Hassan and Martha Beharry

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