

ADVENTur e

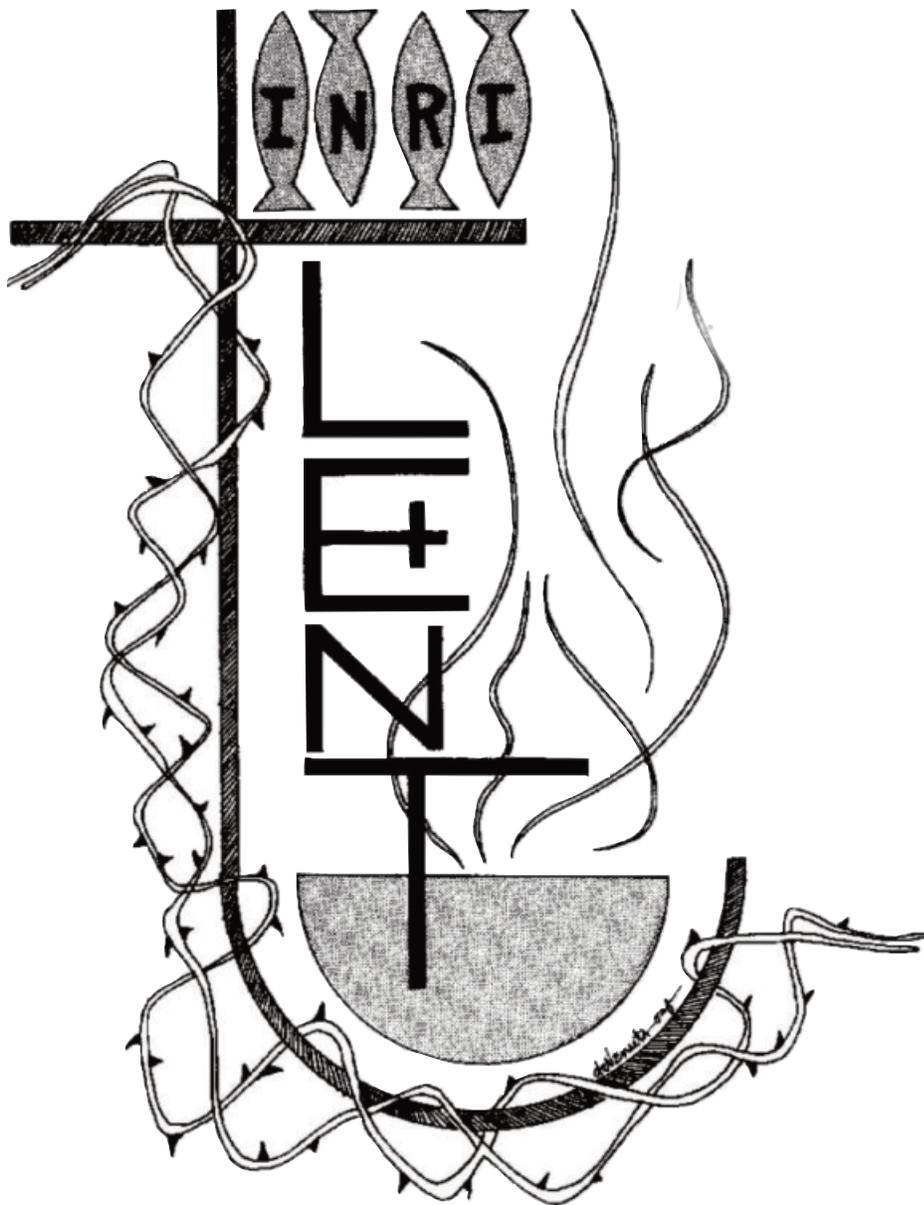


Advent Lutheran Church

March 2014

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This month's newsletter is rather brief. Most of our updated information is in the Annual Report. If you missed the Annual Meeting and have not picked up a copy, reports are still available at church.

**Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday,
March 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Annual Meeting Highlights

Advent's Annual Meeting was held following the service on February 16. The major concern is our financial situation. Our income from users was down about \$8,000 in 2013 because two major users have left and have not been replaced. Our Benevolence was down \$984 from our commitment to Synod and this amount was transferred from our Current Account to meet the commitment. We are incurring a major expense for snow plowing and salting this winter.

We approved an operating budget of \$160,623, which is a deficit budget. We have cut as many costs as we can and hope our members can increase their contributions to make up the expected shortfall. When you look at it, if everyone who attends worship every Sunday would add \$1 to their offering (approximately \$70 a week), we could balance by the end of the year. Everyone is asked to consider what they can do to help.

We reviewed the various reports. Pastor Lisinski added that he is gratified with the amount of commitment to

ecumenical events being held at Advent and hopes to build on it. He thanked the many members for their service.

Peter Reble commented that we need additional support for the Christian Education program. We also would like more people to volunteer to help the English Circle on Sunday mornings, either taking part or becoming a mentor to one of the participants to help them learn English.

This year we are planning more use of our gardens – but we need a lot of help to get the planting area in shape. The garden needs serious weeding and the shrubbery needs major pruning. It will be hard work for a year to two to give the weeds the message, but it can be done. If you are willing to coordinate the work, or would like to work on an assigned part of the garden, please let me know. An early start in the spring will make the job a lot easier.

Elections

Brit Missirlian led the election process. There were five positions on Congregational Council to be filled. Sonita Dillon-

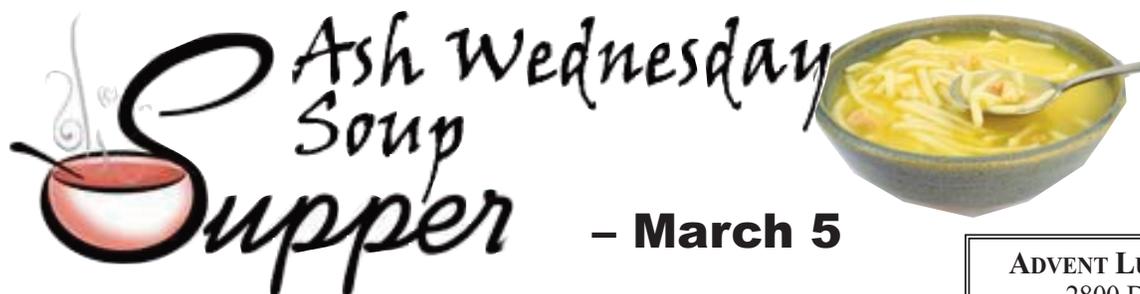
Rhodus, Fred Roth and Elyas Yousefi were elected by acclamation. Two positions are still vacant, and Council has the option to appoint persons during the year to serve until the next annual meeting. Council will meet March 10 and will select its officers and committee chairpersons at that time.

Gabi Schickedanz was re-elected as the congregation's representative to the Mutual Ministry Committee. Rosarie Lisinski was elected as the congregation's lay delegate to the 2014 Eastern Synod Assembly to be held in June. We did not elect a person to the Endowment Fund Committee due to lack of information.

Eastern Synod Covenant

The congregation adopted the following motion requested from Synod office and presented by Congregational Council: That the Congregational Council and officers are authorized to sign the "Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC" on behalf of Advent Lutheran Church."

Judy Baribeau



As usual, the ESO will host a soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on March 5. 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.

GWA Update

At the GWA's next meeting March 12 will be a book presentation by Olga Cosburn. She will talk about *Godless Morality – Keeping Religion out of Ethics*, a book written by Reverend Richard Holloway, former Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Edinburgh.

We will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Olga's home. Please speak to Olga or Brit if you are interested in attending.

Brit Missirlian

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ADVENTURE... is produced for our
 members and friends.
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 Advent Lutheran Church

Pastor Peter Writes...

Dear Adventurers,

This year, as the month of March comes “in like a lion” – and, hopefully, goes “out like a lamb” – the season of Lent comes in with it. The word ‘Lent’, in fact, comes from an old English word that means ‘Spring’.

And after the long, cold and snowy winter we’ve had, all of us are no doubt ready to welcome the annual renewal of lengthening hours of daylight and increasing warmth of the sun and its promise of new life.

Renewal is also the primary purpose of our annual Lenten pilgrimage toward Holy Week, culminating in the liturgical remembrance of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. The forty days of Lent invite us into a symbolic participation in, as well as spiritual reflection on, Bible stories in which the number forty is significant –

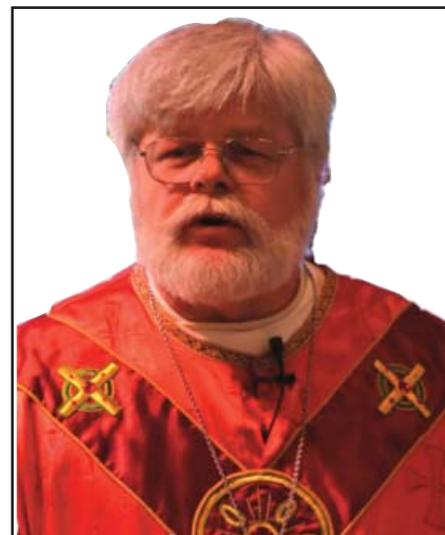
for example, Noah’s Ark (coming soon to a theatre near you), and Jesus’ forty days of temptation in the wilderness.

In early Christianity, Lent was a period of intense Christian education during which new converts to the faith prepared for baptism at Easter. At Advent we will

share a similar learning opportunity on each of the five Sundays in March following worship (watch the Sunday bulletin for details).

Lent also encourages the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and charitable giving – the subjects addressed in the

traditional Gospel for Ash Wednesday, for which we will gather at Advent on March 5 with our customary “Bread and Soup” Supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:30 p.m. Mandarin Salvation Church will join us for this liturgy which will include a rite for Anointing and



Prayers for Healing, as well as the customary Imposition of Ashes.

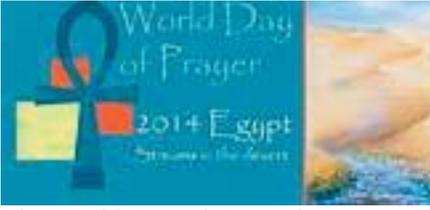
In the spirit of Jesus, our charitable giving will consist of a free will offering, inaugurated at the Ash Wednesday supper, in support of Georges S. Vanier Secondary School’s Breakfast Club.

During Lent our fasting will be symbolized by our use of communion wafers instead of baked bread in our weekly sharing of the Lord’s Supper; and prayer will be the focus of a sermon series on the Lord’s Prayer. I hope you will plan to share Advent’s pilgrimage in Lent, and I encourage you to invite a friend, neighbour, or family member to join us.

*Faithfully,
Pastor Peter*



- **Palm Sunday**, April 13 –
Palm Sunday worship, 10:00 am.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 17 –
Worship at 7:30 p.m.
- **Good Friday**, April 18 –
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- There will not be an Easter Vigil this year
- **Easter**, April 20 –
Worship at 10:00 a.m.



The World Day of Prayer in our area – always the first Friday in March – is hosted by St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church. The service this year is written by the Women of Egypt, the theme is “Streams in the Desert”. The service starts at 2:00 p.m., March 7. St. Timothy is located at 21 Leith Hill Road, North York.



God's Jubilee

The planning committee for Advent's 50th Anniversary celebration events has decided on the theme "God's Jubilee". Some events currently scheduled are:

- March 22 – Trevor Hicks' Concert in the sanctuary
- September 20 – UN International Peace Day. Karen Harding and Walter Rothenburger are designing a peace pole to be erected in our garden area. We will also screen the movie *The Strangest Dream* followed by a panel of nuclear disarmament experts.
- October 25 – Anniversary dinner at Frankie Tomato's.
- October 26 – Anniversary worship service with Bishop Huras as guest preacher.

The committee is also in discussion to prepare a photo directory of Advent's members. Plans are being made for an art exhibition in November and a Christmas concert. The committee welcomes your comments.

Mona Marcobelli

**Help us
celebrate
Advent's
50th
Anniversary
Year**



Concert at Advent

Please join me on Saturday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. for my newest concert here at Advent. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit our peace pole as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Hope to see you there.

Trevor Hicks

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
March 2 Carol Peck	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Mona Marcobelli	Judy Baribeau George Tang	Sonja and David Brown
March 9 Rosarie Lisinski	Indira Beekie	Ferd Roth Judy Baribeau	Jim Doak	Brit Missirlan Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Karen and Jim Doak
March 16 Judy Baribeau	Elyas Yousefi	Nalini Beekie Olga Cosburn	Fred Roth	Bob Schickedanz Nalini Beekie	Mary Hassan and Martha Beharry
March 23 Walter Rothenburger	Jim Hicks and Ted Winslow	Gabi Schickedanz Jim Doak	Jai Sahadeo	Nalini Beekie Mona Marcobelli	De Silva family
March 30 Brit Missirlan	Mona Marcobelli	Lester McLean Indira Beekie	Peter Reble	Judy Baribeau Erika Schurr	Rosarie and Peter Lisinski

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