

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

March/April 2019



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Palm Sunday – April 14
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 18
Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Easter – April 21
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday – April 19
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

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Annual Meeting Highlights

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 17 and 27 voting members were present. The Agenda was adopted as presented and the minutes of the Annual Meeting February 18, 2018, were adopted as distributed.

There were no updates to most of the reports printed in the annual report.

I had some comments to my Chairperson's report. Our Council has received the Advent Dashboard report prepared from our Dean, Pastor Ceconi. Council will review it and comment on any action they feel may be required.

For the new Council I suggested that we need functioning committees as much of the work in many areas has been done by one person rather than a group of people who could make the work lighter. I am suggesting a Finance Committee be reinstated to assist with the Treasurer's responsibility and ensuring that we are getting our user payments in a timely manner and assist with budgeting. We also need a Communication Committee to look at better communication with the congregation and community.

Elections

Tracy McPherson was re-elected to Congregational Council and Erika Schurr accepted a nomination. No other nominations or volunteers came forward, and they were elected by acclamation. Council can appoint up to three additional persons to Council for a one-year period. Sonita Dillon-Rhodus was re-elected the congregation's representative to the Mutual Ministry Committee. There were no changes to the Endowment Fund Committee.

Financial and Budget

Bill Wesioly led us through a detailed review of the financial statements. He noted that our income continues to trend lower similar to our attendance figures. Our user fees are at capacity and cannot go higher.

In discussing our 2019 budget, Bill noted that our congregational revenue continues to go down, but our expenses have increased as well as our anticipated user income. We are making assumptions for income in our 2019 budget and there

is a risk. He said that our Pastor's remuneration is as close to the Synod guidelines as we can offer. We have no control over our property expenses. In the Music and Worship area we may be able to provide a bonus at year end, but that depends on our income. We are still working at getting proper Internet access so that figure is a guesstimate. The congregation approved an operating expense budget of \$171,247.

Summary

In closing Bill Wesioly thanked Brit Missirlian for her work in taking over the Payroll function. I thank everyone on Congregational Council for their work this past year and wish them all the best for the next year. Copies of the Annual Report are available at church for anyone who has not received one. Congregational Council plans its next meeting for March 18 at which time the officers and committee chairpersons for next year will be appointed.

Judy Baribeau

Past Congregational Council Chair



Building Security

Over the years many people have received keys to enter the church, and they have not always been returned when they are no longer needed. This is a security risk and also presents an insurance risk to the congregation. Our Congregational Council decided to change the entrance lock to one with more security features. The change-over date will be April 1.

Each person/group receiving a key will need to make a \$25 deposit which will be refunded when the key is returned.

To prepare for this change, please let

Judy Baribeau know by March 10 if you require a key. New keys will be distributed by the end of March so everything will be in place for April 1. You can arrange for a time in the later part of March to meet with her to make your key deposit and get and sign for your new key. You may make your deposit by either cheque payable to Advent Lutheran Church or cash.

We thank you for your assistance in making Advent a safer place for everyone.

Judy Baribeau

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Worship Services Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.

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members and friends.
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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Elaine Writes...

Pease be with you. We are now well into our new lectionary year – year C where we focus on the Gospel of Luke. Our Christian education program during February was a brief overview of the Gospel including discussion on what is unique to the Gospel of Luke. I thought it might be of interest to include some of that material in our newsletter.

Let's Look at Luke

The Gospel of Luke is the longest of our synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The editors of the New Testament separated Luke from the Book of Acts. Luke/Acts was probably written around the year 83 – give or take five years.

Luke has been attributed in the past to a physician named Luke – this was probably not the case. The author was probably an educated gentile from Antioch. The author relied on eyewitness accounts but could not have been an eyewitness himself (or herself). It is possible the Gospel was written by a woman – but not probable as the author's attitude toward women is somewhat negative.

Luke/Acts is a narrative written by a believer to encourage belief. It details the spread of the Christian movement from Jerusalem to Rome. Luke is often called the Gospel of the poor. The Gospel of Luke contains material about women that is found nowhere else in the Gospels. Luke highlights women as followers of Jesus – but they are always subservient.

This was an effort on the part of the author to legitimize male dominance in the Christianity of the author's time ... it was successful. There are 23 passages about women that are unique to Luke. In this Gospel women are nurturers.

The author was probably writing for a gentile audience that had been evangelized directly or indirectly by the Pauline mission. Luke is more nuanced in his treatment of the Jews in the Passion than the other Gospels. The writer of Luke/Acts wants his audience to know

that the story they got about Jesus was correct. They are part of God's plan.

There are some very important parts of the Gospel that are unique to Luke – perhaps some of your favourite stories?, i.e. the birth and infancy narratives of Jesus and John the Baptist, the parable of the good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son? Perhaps the Road to Emmaus? Much of the teaching material unique to Luke occurs in what is called Luke's special section and covers Chapters 9:51-18:14.

Healing in Luke

In this Gospel Jesus heals people in 13 episodes. The power to heal is not limited to Jesus. There are two passages where Jesus empowers his followers to heal people. You can read the stories of healing in these chapters and verses: 4:31-37, 4:38-44, 5:12-16, 5:17-26, 7:1-10, 7:11-17, 7:21, 8:26-39, 8:40-56, 9:37-45, 13:10-17, 17:11-19 and 18:35-43.

Parables in Luke

There are 18 parables unique to this Gospel. Jesus taught using parables because they were easy to understand and they encouraged people to reflect on God's perspective and to make good ethical decisions. We must be careful not to reduce them only to moral lessons. They are meant to provoke questions and they offer a look at how the Kingdom of God really is compared to our world view.

Parable Themes

Luke has two themes for his parables. One focuses on the renewal of Israel and the nations and the second on the money economy and social justice.

The Ending of Luke's Gospel

Luke begins and ends his Gospel in the temple in Jerusalem and he sets out to give "an orderly account". For the Passion narrative Luke relies on Mark and a special tradition. Luke re-orders the material to suit his story. Luke's description of the Last Supper is twice as long



as Mark and Matthew. Luke has no prediction that the disciples will be scattered or lose faith and they do not abandon Jesus when he is arrested. Only in Luke does Jesus speak at the moment of crucifixion and he dies with a cry of faith in a loud voice.

In Luke faith is based on the appearances of Jesus. In Luke Jesus does not appear to the women. For the author of Luke their witness is not essential to the Christian faith. Their tale of the empty tomb is called "nonsense" or "idle talk". In Luke only Peter goes to see for himself.

The Lucan Narrative 24:13-53

This part of the Gospel sets the scene for the Book of Acts. This part of the Gospel is one of the most vivid and dramatic accounts of Jesus. Hope is renewed. For Luke's readers the road to Emmaus gives reassurance about the resurrection. This story shows us that Jesus shows up in the most unexpected places. Christ reveals himself in the opening of the scriptures and in the breaking of the bread.

Luke is the only evangelist to portray Jesus' departure to heaven. With the ascension Jesus greets with peace and leaves with a blessing. Luke 24:52 is probably the first mention of worshipping Jesus.

As we work our way through the Gospel of Luke this year in worship I hope that you will find things that strike you anew or that resonate with you.

*Blessings
Pastor Elaine*

Lent



During Lent we are encouraged to examine ourselves and our relationships with one another and with God. This might be a good time to take on a project or to make a commitment to a daily devotion or prayer practice. Perhaps Bishop Susan Johnson's guide to spiritual renewal is of interest – pray, read, worship, love. Some people see Lent as a time of denial, a time to “give something up”. It may be more of a challenge to take on something new. New “good” habits take time and practice. At Advent there will be an opportunity for a new Christian Education program and an opportunity to respond to a lifestyle challenge.

Consumerism

Our Christian education program during Lent is on Consumerism. This program will be offered on Wednesday mornings and directly after the service on Sundays during

Lent. This six-week program will begin on March 10 and 13. Please plan to attend after church or on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

The topics are:

1. “Stuff love” Scripture reading Luke 12:13-21.
2. Mastering Mammon Scripture reading Matthew 6:19-34.
3. Who are the meek? Scripture reading Matthew 5:1-12.
4. Discovering our true identity Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.
5. More like Mephibosheth Scripture reading 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13, 16:1-4 and 19:24-30.
6. Beyond Candy Cane Lane Scripture reading Psalm 96.

Buy Nothing New

As we consider our approaches to consumerism and as we examine our buying and spending habits, consider buying

nothing new. I am inviting you to take up the challenge to buy nothing new during Lent. Perhaps you can have an item repaired instead of discarding and purchasing something new? Perhaps you can shop in a friend's closet for a special outfit? Perhaps its time to clean out your closet, basement, attic, kitchen and donate or sell some items? We know that we have too much stuff. We know that we purchase too much stuff. We know that our planet cannot continue to sustain our ravenous consumption of resources. This Lent I encourage you to join the challenge to buy nothing new. As we journey through Lent be mindful of your purchases and consider alternatives. Have a look at this site from our Anglican sisters and brothers <https://t.co/09EKthAo3r>. This is a complementary challenge to reduce your use of plastics during Lent.

Pastor Elaine

From the Loft

This past month I had the pleasure of teaching Advent's confirmation class of 2019 one Sunday morning about church music: what I do as Advent's music director, how the organ works, and how music is used in worship.

I've written and preached about the various duties that a music director at a church does and the importance of music in our worship. In the process I've also given my perspectives about church music and highlighted my own understanding of why, how and what music enriches our worship of God.

In the process of teaching our young people about church music, I came to a very important realization: our duties in the worship of the one true God are elevated only by sharing the reasons we do what we do and educating others.

When we enjoy something, be it singing hymns or listening to the organ

or the choir, our appreciation of it is greatly enhanced by understanding its purpose. This is no different than appreciating plants, and how that appreciation grows exponentially when we understand how they are nurtured to grow and how they contribute to a great garden.

I don't need to say that education is important. We all know this. From shortly after we're born as we learn language and traditions, to the formative kindergarten days through to post-secondary education that prepares us for our careers, and even beyond the formal education years, we are constantly learning, and learning is a very good thing.

These articles that I've been contributing to our church newsletter and my previous sermons are a form not only of my commitment to my craft, but also my commitment to enrich the practical part of what I do. That

enrichment is in making you, the people who hear the music that I and Advent's marvelous choir and soloists present, know and understand that there is more to it than a nice sounding melody. There is a reason why music is a part of our worship and every single note needs to fulfill that purpose.

I hope to have more educational opportunities in the future for members of Advent to participate in that will enrich your enjoyment of music. And I hope that your enjoyment of church music will be exponentially expanded through such opportunities. If I can plant the seed, together we can make the plant grow.

*Musical blessings,
Trevor Hicks*



*Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
March 6, 6:00 p.m.*

Please join us on March 6, 6:00 p.m. for our annual Soup Supper. This is an informal meal of soup, bread, and dessert. We will finish by 7:00 p.m. to give time to clean up the kitchen and prepare for our Worship Service which will begin at 7:30 p.m. A freewill offering at the supper will be given to the breakfast program at Georges Vanier and Woodbine Jr. High Schools.

Easter Flowers



Beginning March 24 through April 7 we will again provide donation envelopes for you to donate for Easter flowers for the church. We invite you to donate the amount you would spend on an Easter plant and designate your donation "In Memory of...", "In Honour of" or other. Please pick up an envelope for your donation from an usher on Sunday mornings and place it in the offering plate. Following the Easter service, those who donated may take a plant home with them. A list of those who donated will be included with the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please help beautify our church for Easter. ♦

Volunteer Schedule

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for the Sundays you wish to read and usher. Please speak with Olga Cosburn if you would like to host a coffee hour.

	Altar Care	Assisting Minister Communion Assistant	Counters	Coffee
March 3	Monica Ramdowar	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Brit Missirlian	Coffee Only
March 6 Ash Wednesday	Elizabeth Lancia	TBA Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	TBA	
March 10	Judy Baribeau	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Gabi Schickedanz Nalini Beekie	No Coffee
March 17	Walter Rothenburger	Nalini Beekie Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau Michael Lenzner	Coffee Only
March 24	Brit Missirlian	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Gabi Schickedanz Adele Buckley	No Coffee
March 31 Fifth Sunday	Carol Peck	Nalini Beekie N/A	Tracy McPherson Adele Buckley	No Coffee
April 7	Elizabeth Lancia	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Gabi Schickedanz Michael Lenzner	Coffee Only
April 14 Palm Sunday	Carol Peck	TBA Jim Doak	Tracy McPherson Nalini Beekie	No Coffee
April 18 Maundy Thursday	Brit Missirlian	TBA	Carol Peck Olga Cosburn	
April 19 Good Friday	Elizabeth Lancia	TBA N/A	TBA TBA	
April 21 Easter	Judy Baribeau	TBA	Brit Missirlian Adele Buckley	
April 28	Elias Yousefi	TBA Indira Beekie	Tracy McPherson Nalini Beekie	No Coffee