

# ADVENTur



Advent Lutheran Church

May 2014

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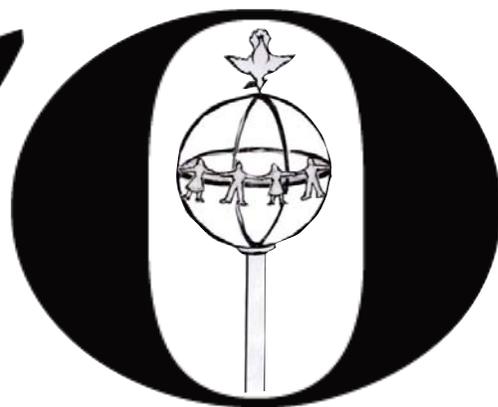
Sunday School classes will be held May 11 and May 25. Please bring your children.

### Worship Location Changes

We will worship in Cedar Hall on May 4 and June 8.

We will worship in Cedar Hall as well starting July 6 through August 31.

# Celebrating



## Years

## 1964-2014

# ELCIC Praise APPEAL 2014

The theme of the 2014 ELCIC Praise Appeal is Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly with Our God. It comes from Micah 6:8 and outlines what God requires us to do in a way that is both memorable and compelling. The Eastern Synod's Goal is \$60,000 and at our April Congregational Council meeting, we adopted a motion to set Advent's goal at \$500. The date for this year's special offering is set for July 20, the date the GWA will present Advent's worship service as Pastor Lisinski will be on vacation that Sunday. You may make your donation on that Sunday, or at any other time. Just mark your donation "Praise Appeal" on your offering envelope.

If we meet our Synod-wide goal, we will assist our national church to:

- Work in partnership with KAIROS and the Anglican Church of Canada in the areas of homelessness and affordable housing and responsible resource extraction;
- Support refugees around the world and work in many development and related programs with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran world Relief;
- Do ministry in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches;
- Deepen the discipleship of all our members and find new ways to reach out in faith to those around us;
- Build better relationships with other denominations and faiths here in Canada, through the Canadian Council of Churches, and around the world through the World Council of Churches.

In the past two years Advent has exceeded its goal for which we thank everyone. Please help us again to at least meet our congregation's goal for 2014. ♦

## Congregational Council Update

You will note again this month from our financial report that we have continuing concerns about our finances. We encourage everyone to consider increasing their offerings so that we can catch up.

We thank Brenda Kroeker for taking over the role of coordinating the use of our building. If you want to schedule a meeting or an event, please contact Brenda to ensure you get the space you need when you want it.

Five members from Advent attended the Synod Treasurer's Workshop on April 5 and found it very informative. CRA regulations are constantly changing, and we were brought up to date on many of the new regulations.

Congregational Council has approved the Men's Group offer to cover the costs of securing the loft in the sanctuary, and Heinz Weltner is building and installing the gate. (It will probably be in place by the time you read this.) The gate will be difficult for children to open and we ask as well that children be supervised and not allowed to go up to the loft. We've

spent a lot of money refurbishing the organ and it is necessary that it be secured.

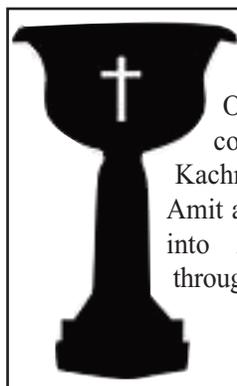
We now have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for readers. If you would like to read on a particular Sunday, please sign up.

We are still looking for volunteers to look after Advent's portion of the garden. Some serious weeding and pruning needs to be done and then continue with the regular work throughout the season. Please let me know if you can help.

Council has scheduled its regular meetings through our next annual meeting date. The meetings are:

May 12  
June 16  
September 15  
October 20  
November 10  
December 15  
January 12, 2015  
February 9  
February 15 – Annual Meeting

*Judy Baribeau*



### Baptism

On April 6, we welcomed Aaron Liam Kachru, infant son of Amit and Stacy Kachru, into Advent's family through Holy Baptism.

## Thank You

We thank to everyone who helped make our Holy Week and Easter services special – altar care, choir and musicians, those who donated flowers for the Easter service and all of the other volunteers who assisted.

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road  
Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6  
416 493 1435 (church)  
905 660 7780 (residence)  
The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor  
Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com  
Worship Service and Sunday School  
at 10:00 a.m.

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

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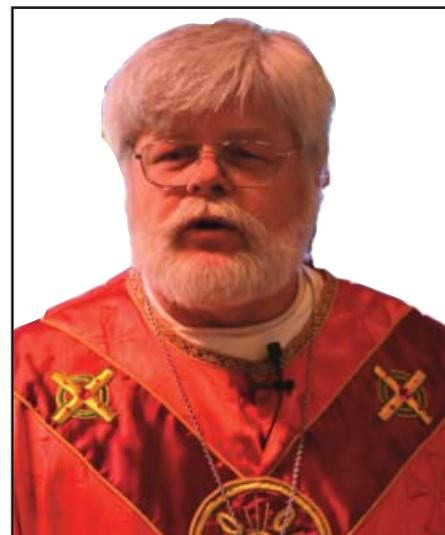
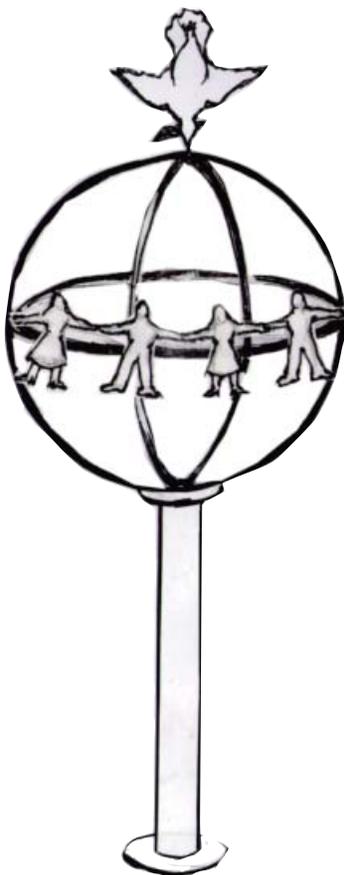
# Pastor Peter Writes...

Dear Adventurers,

**T**oronto is among the most ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse cities in the world. “The Peanut” neighbourhood we share in Don Valley Village presents us with a unique opportunity – and challenge – to build a truly “global village” reflecting the Gospel hope of peace on earth common to all authentic religion and shared by all people of good will. As a sign of Advent’s commitment to God’s mission, we have adopted the biblical theme of Jubilee for this year’s celebration of our Fiftieth Anniversary.

To extend God’s mission into our community Karen Harding, a long-time member of our congregation, has designed a sculpture we plan to install in our church’s community garden on September 21, 2014 – the United Nations’ Day of Peace.

To realize our vision, we need your generous financial support for our anniversary project. Consider it not only your thankful response to the grace of God in your own life, but also an



investment in the future of our congregation and the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

Indeed all donations that exceed the actual cost of the project – estimated between \$6,000 and \$8,000 – will be forwarded to neighbourhood charities, such as the breakfast programs at Georges S. Vanier Secondary, and Woodbine Junior High Schools, Oriole Community Food Space, or Eva’s Place.

Please be sure to designate your offerings for “Fiftieth Anniversary Project”.

*Pastor Peter*

## **T** **GETHER** for the *love* of the world

### **Fifteenth Biennial Convention**

of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

### **Volunteers are Needed to Assist at Eastern Synod Assembly**

The Eastern Synod Assembly will be held June 26-29 at the International Plaza Hotel (near Pearson Airport). Many volunteers are needed to assist throughout the Assembly.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you may speak to me if you are interested in assisting in one of the areas: Stewards (they help with the “paper

flow” during the sessions); Ballot counters (needed Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning); Greeters (Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening); Hospitality desk personnel (various shifts); and Set up/Breakdown (two shifts Wednesday and Sunday). No volunteers will be required to be there for the whole Assembly.

The organizers are also looking for donations and sponsorships for the five breaks during the sessions.

This Assembly is a significant one in the life of our church and probably the final one in our current church structure. Updated information will be posted on the Synod website <http://www.eastern-synod.org/content/assembly-2014>.

Pastor Lisinski will be attending the Assembly and Rosarie Lisinski is Advent’s lay delegate.

Please sign up for times you are available or speak with me.

Thank you for your help.

*Judy Baribeau*

## Advent's Giving to March 31, 2014

Commitments	Received to 31/03/2014	Received to 31/03/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose and Recd' Other Charities	\$21,987.65	\$22,105.00	-\$117.35
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$21,987.65</b>	<b>\$22,105.00</b>	<b>-\$117.35</b>
Facilities	\$12,934.75	\$22,230.00	-\$9,295.25
Regular Benevolence	\$2,349.00	\$2,750.00	-\$401.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$37,271.40</b>	<b>\$47,085.00</b>	<b>-\$9,813.60</b>
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$789.00	\$1,059.00	-\$270.00
Parking Lot Fund	\$2,333.73	\$3,311.43	-\$977.70

### Current, Festival and Loose Giving and Received from Other Charities

Current giving corresponds with the "Current Budget" line of your offering envelopes. Festival donations are those from the pink envelopes at Easter, Christmas, etc., and loose are miscellaneous funds not specifically indicated from a specific member or envelope. Received from Other Charities are essentially Current donations to Advent from members that are received through another charity. Our total for these items for January-March was \$21,987.65, a slight decrease of \$117.35.

However, it should be noted that the 2014 amount includes Received from

Other Charities of \$5,541.00, whereas the 2013 total was only \$1,888. Our Current, Festival and Loose giving is therefore actually \$16,446.45, down \$3,770.56 from the 2013 total of \$20,217.00. Easter was in March in 2013 and is in April in 2014, which hopefully will account for the decrease.

### Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-March was \$12,934.75, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show an alarming decrease of \$9,295.25. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received, however this is not a one-time

occurrence, our property revenue has declined drastically. Additional revenue from users during the Easter season could help us out a bit.

### Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January-March 2014 decreased by \$401 from 2013. Global Hunger giving is forwarded directly to Synod, and does not affect Advent's financial position. The amounts are included for information only.

### Parking Lot Fund

To the end of March, 2014, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$2,333.73.

*Fred Roth, Treasurer*

## Make an Appointment to have Your Photo Taken

As you already know, we are celebrating our 50th anniversary this year; and we are producing a photo directory for this occasion.

Some of you who were in church on Sunday, April 27, received a pamphlet for the photo opportunity and were asked to sign up for a date to have their photo taken.

For those who haven't signed up yet, please note that the dates available are the following:

■ Wednesday, May 14, and Monday, May 26, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm.

■ Wednesday, May 21, and Tuesday, May 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please note that the photo shoots are scheduled in 15 minute increments and will be done in the Fellowship Hall.

For those who can't make it on the above listed dates, please see Pastor Lisinski to arrange for another date elsewhere.

To book your spot please contact Mona Marcobelli asap at 416-773-1168.

Thank you,

*Mona Marcobelli  
The 50th Jubilee task force*

## Bataa Eldakan Becomes Canadian Citizen



Bataa receives her Canadian citizenship certificate

Some 10 years ago, the Advent congregation set a goal of “40 for 4” (\$40,000 for our 40th anniversary over four years). It was decided \$30,000 would go to help build affordable housing in the Newtonbrook Project (NUC-TUCT) and \$10,000 to go to CLWR Refugee Sponsorship Program. We did reach the goal of \$30,000 but not quite the \$10,000. However with extraordinary support, both financial and practical from Terry Gudmundsson and Bob Doucet, in January 2010 we welcomed Bataa Eldakan with her two youngest adult children to Canada.

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, Bataa took the citizenship oath and became a Canadian. Carol Peck and I were there, and it was quite moving.

Now, just a little update on where all three of them are.

After living at Terry and Bob’s great basement apartment for the first year, the family moved to their own apartment in Oshawa. About a year later another of Bataa’s sons with family, sponsored by a group in Kitchener, arrived in Canada and settled in Kitchener. So Bataa, Hussein and Suha decided to move to Kitchener as well and have been living there the last two years.

Hussein was badly injured in a car accident some time ago (a 90+-year old

driver missed a red light and struck his car hard enough to knock off one of the wheels). He is suffering severe back pain, swelling around one ear, walks with a cane and has been off work since. He had some health/accident insurance through his employer (Linamar) that has helped cover some of his expenses, but the effects on his health have been devastating.

He recently developed a chest infection that a round of antibiotics didn’t resolve,

so a second was prescribed which (not for the first time) resulted in stomach bleeding, vomiting blood, etc., and he had to spend a couple of days in hospital. He continues to see specialists trying to help his situation, and he is trying his hardest to maintain a positive attitude. But the stress is taking its toll. Hussein only recently achieved the minimum competence level in English to start his citizenship process (having resumed his studies following the accident).

In the summer of 2012 Suha (the daughter) got engaged to a man in Jordan and around a year later went to Jordan to get married. She lived with her husband in Jordan and Saudi Arabia before she came back to Canada early this year. She is working on papers for her husband and they are expecting their first child in August.

Suha is ready for her citizenship process, and is waiting for paperwork.

Bataa is also looking after one of her grandchildren, a boy, Hasan, who has

more or less been abandoned by his mother (because of her second husband).

His father, Bataa’s son (she has 11 children) Mohammed Abukhousa, is presently in Chile with his second wife and their young daughter. The daughter was born in El Hol, (refugee camp in Syria where “our family” also was), but the family, with help from UNHCR, went to Turkey when the situation in Syria became unsafe. From there, they managed to get a visitor permit to go to Chile, and they are presently staying with another brother there.

While they were still in El Hol, Lutheran Friends with Refugees and Immigrants, undertook sponsorship for Mohammed, wife and child. Just recently it was learned that they have had their interview with the Canadian Embassy in



Brit Missirlian, Bataa, Suha and Carol Peck

Chile, and it appears that their refugee claim has been accepted. God willing, they will eventually (maybe even before too long) be able to join Mohammed’s mother (Bataa), four brothers and two sisters in Canada.

I will continue to keep in touch with the family, even though visiting in Kitchener is a bit more of an undertaking than going to Oshawa.

*Brit Missirlian*

## The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

### Toronto Conference Spring Meeting

The Toronto Conference will hold its Spring Meeting on Saturday morning, May 10, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill (10131 Bayview Avenue). Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will close with a special Eucharist marking the dissolution of the Toronto Conference and the beginning of the Area function of the Eastern Synod.

Everyone is welcome and each congregation is entitled to two lay delegates for voting. We will elect Conference clergy to be delegates for the 2015 National Convention. There will be no Conference Council elections due to the new structure that is expected to be in place later this summer.

Pastor Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop, will present the Synod

Report. Camp Edgewood and the Rhenish Church will also make presentations. We will have a discussion on communication under the new Area concept.

After about 12 years I will no longer be serving as Secretary and *The Lutheran Connection* will be discontinued. I have served as editor of it for almost 15 years.

### Eastern Synod Lutheran

You may have noticed when you received your Spring issue of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* that it is the last issue of the printed newsletter.

It is being replaced by *ENotes* available online. The new format will be available eleven times a year. If you would like to receive it, and I hope you do, please subscribe to it by sending your name and email address to [ezehr@elcic.ca](mailto:ezehr@elcic.ca).

Judy Baribeau

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



## Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
May 4 Elizabeth Lancia	Peter Reble	Peter Reble Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Erich Lisinski	Erika Schurr Elyas Yousefi	Judy and Gerard Baribeau
May 11 Rosarie Lisinski	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Fred Roth Indira Beekie	Peter Buckley	Sonita Dillon-Rhodium George Tang	Samiei Family
May 18 Cynthia Stewart	Indira Beekie	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Nalini Beekie	Judy Baribeau Nalini Beekie	Adele and Peter Buckley
May 25 Carol Peck	Elyas Yousefi	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Fred Roth	Brit Missirlian Mona Marcobelli	Latchman Family

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