

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

November/December 2017

Inside

Congregational Council Update	2
GWA Christmas Party	2
Meet Elaine Boone	3
Weekly News Updates	3
Ordination and Installation	4
From the Loft	4
Financial Update	5
Christmas Flowers	5
Anniversary Dinner	5
Our Sympathy	5
Egg Cartons	5
GWA Bake and Craft Sale	6
Pastor Sjujins Farewell	6
Meeting and Events	6
Volunteer Schedule	6



Advent and Christmas Worship

- December 3, Advent 1, 10:00 a.m.
 - December 10, Advent 2, 10:00 a.m.
 - December 17, Advent 3, 10:00 a.m.
 - December 24, 10:00 a.m. Advent 4
 - December 24, 7:30 p.m. Family Service with Holy Communion
 - December 24, 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- There will be no service on Christmas Day.
- December 31, First Sunday of Christmas

Choir Rehearsals

If you like to sing, please join Trevor Hicks and the choir as they rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the balcony. They are currently preparing special music for our Ordination, Advent and Christmas worship services. New voices are always welcome.

Thanksgiving



Congregational Council Update

Our New Pastor

The most newsworthy item for Advent is the congregation's approving the Call to Dr. Elaine Boone to become Pastor of Advent, and more important, her acceptance of the Call. The Call Committee met with Council on September 11 to recommend the Call, and the Council then held a Special Meeting of Council and the Call Committee on September 25 at which time Council carried a motion to call a Special Congregational Meeting on October 15 to recommend the Call to the congregation. The Call is for a full-time pastor for a two-year term. We are looking forward to her starting her pastoral work with Advent on December 1.

Pastor Skujins

At our September Council meeting, Pastor Skujins told us he is resigning as our Interim Pastor at the end of November. We thank Pastor Skujins for his work with us during the past year. His last service with us is November 26. We will hold a luncheon following worship on November 19 to recognize Pastor

Skujins' time with us and thank him for his work. We hope everyone can join us to say farewell.

Financial Picture

Our financial picture has improved this year with our paying off the parking lot and also because of less cost for a pastor. Council is now putting some priorities on property improvements. We are getting quotes for our much needed outdoor lighting and will be installing directional signs in our parking lot to make it safer for everyone entering and exiting our property. We plan other improvements as we can work them in. Please read Bill Wesioly's financial update.

Volunteer Changes

We recently received Mona Marcobelli's resignation from Congregational Council and Sonita Dillon-Rhodius' resignation as our Payroll manager. We thank them for their work on behalf of Advent.

With these resignations it becomes more important that we have members willing to volunteer to be part of our

Congregational Council and other volunteer areas. The ideal Council will include a cross-section of members (male, female, younger, more mature, new, experienced) to represent all the areas of work in which the congregation is engaged. We definitely need a few new people join our Council at our Annual Meeting or we will have difficulty continuing. Please say "yes" if asked, or volunteer your name. We also need volunteers to serve in other areas that are not Council positions. We have a small group of volunteers who do most of the work in the congregation, and more persons helping out will make it easier for everyone.

Other

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter the plans for our Annual Anniversary Dinner, Annual Bake Sale, Ordination and Installation of Dr. Elaine Boone, and Advent and Christmas worship.

Judy Baribeau

Mark Friday, December 8, on your calendar

Join us for the GWA CHRISTMAS party

Friday December 8

That's when GWA will be holding their annual Christmas party. Come and enjoy the fellowship with dinner and the fun gift exchange afterwards. Look for a poster and more information closer to the date.

*Advent:
A Season
of Hope
and
Anticipation*

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

Dr. Elaine Boone
beginning December 1

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

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

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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Welcome to Advent Elaine Boone



Daughters Leah (holding Poppy) and Maud, and Elaine Boone, with Wimsey in front.

Greetings. I would like to introduce myself to you. I am Dr. Elaine Boone, and I am thrilled to say that I will be your new Pastor. I am married to Ross Danaher and we have two daughters Leah and Maud. We also share our lives with three cats and two dogs. We have been living in Belleville for a little over sixteen years.

My BA is from the University of Waterloo in history and drama. My MA is from Laurentian and is in history. I did my PhD at the University of Toronto and it is in the History of Education. After my PhD I began my theological studies at Trinity College in Toronto. During this time I had a chance to do a placement as a University Chaplain and also took a year off to work as a chaplain at Albert College in Belleville.

Ross and I were blessed with a daughter as I completed my MDiv and we moved to Belleville. I focused on

Leah and Maud and being a stay-at-home mom. We began attending Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church about seven years ago. In conversations with the Pastor it became clear that it was time to re-examine my sense of call. I was endorsed for study, completed a couple of courses at Waterloo Seminary and then it was onto internship. My internship was at St. Mark's in Kingston. After my internship I wrote the Bishop's exam last

October and was successful and ready to enter the call process.

And now I find myself called by Advent to be your Pastor.

My journey to call and ordination has taken longer than many people's, but it has been a rich journey and I hope has prepared me for the work ahead. My Clinical Pastoral Care instructor said that it is somehow fitting that I will begin at Advent in Advent because she said I know something about waiting. I have learned the lesson that God's time is different than mine.

We are at an exciting time – we have just commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, there are challenges and possibilities ahead for the larger Church and for us. We have an opportunity to ask what does it mean to be the Church in our society. We have a chance to say how can I show love of neighbour, how can I demonstrate radical hospitality? What can we as the people of Advent contribute to our communities? How can we care for one another and grow in faith? Oftentimes change comes with fear, but it can also be a time to say – my times are in your hands O God. A time to trust that the Spirit will guide us and that God is indeed with us.

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation. As we begin this new phase in the life of Advent may our time of waiting be one of peace and not anxiety. May this be a time of preparation for the work that God is calling us to do – together.

Together we are walking briskly into the fog.

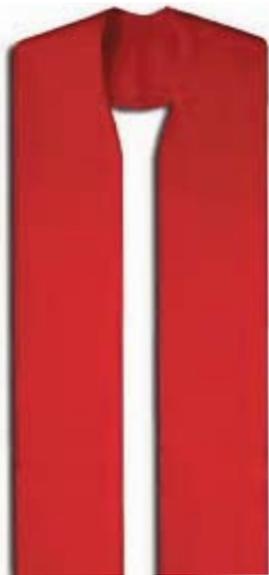
*Peace,
Elaine*

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 and not miss out on any news distributed weekly.

Judy Baribeau

Ordination and Installation Service of Dr. Elaine Boone



Please join us on Saturday, December 9, 4:00 p.m., at Advent for the Ordination of Dr. Elaine Boone and her Installation as Pastor of Advent. Bishop Michael Pryse will preside at the Ordination and Area Dean Christian Ceconi will install her as our Pastor. The service begins with a formal procession of a number of people significant in the life of the ordinand. It will include special music, and our choir is already rehearsing their contribution. The service will be followed by a reception.

We thank the Synod office, our Call Committee and Advent's Congregational Council for their work leading up to this important event in the life of Advent.

This is only the second time in Advent's history that we will host an Ordination service. If you have not had the opportunity to attend an Ordination service, please come and celebrate with us. Please say "yes" if you are asked to participate in any way.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing everyone on December 9 to welcome our new pastor – and on our continuing Sundays and services as well. ♦

From the Loft

Sending

In the past few installments of *From the Loft* I've chosen to focus on the various aspects of our liturgical practices. There are four main parts to our worship on Sunday morning – the first three being Gathering, Word and Meal. The fourth aspect of worship is the shortest of the four but to my mind one often misinterpreted – Sending.

"You're going to church today. You can afford to give God one hour of your time." Do those words sound familiar? Perhaps you received them when you were a kid and protested waking up on a weekend to go to church, or perhaps you were the giver of these words to your own children or grandchildren. Well-intended as they are, they do give the impression that we ought only give God one hour of our time at church and that the rest of our time we are free to do as we please. And it is that misconception that makes the end of our Sunday morning liturgy a bit misunderstood in our day and age.

From a liturgical and theological perspective, our worship doesn't really begin when the ministers enter the

sanctuary or even when the organ prelude starts. Worship begins every day when you first open your eyes when wake up. Likewise, worship doesn't end when the final hymn is sung or when the postlude is concluded. It continues on throughout the rest of your Sunday until you close your eyes to go to bed. It is because of this I really like – and think it's the reason behind – the title of *Sending* for the final quarter of our liturgy.

While our worship of God should never cease in our daily lives, the church service obviously has to end at some point. This is why the term *Sending* is so appropriate. After coming to His holy house to worship Him on a communal level, we are tasked to go out into the world and spread the good news. While our church service has limitations in time, our worship of God continues in many ways after we leave the church. Maybe it's discussing the service and the message with a friend who was unable to come to church that day. Perhaps it's through singing your favorite hymn that

was sung Sunday on your way to work on Monday morning. Maybe it's talking to someone going through a rough patch in life and offering them the consolation of God's Word. Maybe still it's through an impromptu choir rehearsal at the music director's home while his four-month old puppy is her adorable yet rambunctious self. No matter how worship continues beyond the holy ground on which the church is built, it is a fulfillment of our duty to continue worshiping God and to not just to tell of His love, but to show it. That is what we are tasked with when we are sent from divine worship on Sunday morning and after any worship service.

The last words spoken to us before the postlude are a command to "go in peace [and] serve the Lord." If there is anything to take with you as you leave divine worship, those six words are high on the list.

*Your's from the loft,
Trevor Hicks*

*Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

Financial Update

Hello and greetings in this beautiful autumn season from the Finance area of Advent.

2017 Status Check of Revenues – Running slightly behind Budget projections but still expected to meet Year end Target

As at September 2017 Year to Date, Total contributions to the Current Fund totalled \$58,900, which is annualized to \$78,600. This is tracking below the budget of \$84,800.

This usually happens with softer donations coming in during the summer months, and heavier donations coming in during the fall and Christmas seasons.

We ask everyone to continue this trend and help us exceed the annual budget totals.

Our benevolence contributions as at September YTD amounted to \$7,400, which is annualized to \$9,800. This is also slightly behind the budgeted projections of \$10,500.

Again, we request everyone to help exceed these budgeted amounts.

The other key part of our Revenues are revenues from the other church users. Our Facilities rentals came in at \$59,500 at September Year to Date.

We fully expect these revenues to meet the Budget of \$84,000.

Funds set aside for Property upgrades

Over the past 12 months, we have accumulated excess funds in our Current Account. This is mainly due to the savings from having an interim pastor vs. a full-time pastor.

We have invested \$50,000 of the excess funds into a flexible GIC which will be designated for Property upgrades. Bob Schickedanz will lead in prioritizing where to best spend this money.

Once again, a warm thanks to all for your support, and we will connect again in the December/January timeframe for our next update. We also are preparing now for our 2018 budget which will be presented to the congregation in February of 2018.

Bill Wesioły
Treasurer

Christmas Flowers



This Christmas the Worship and the Arts Committee has again arranged for Christmas flowers for the church. We invite you to donate the amount you would spend on a Christmas plant and designate your donation “In Memory of”, “In Honour of” or other. Please pick up a special donation envelope on Sundays November 26, December 3 or 10 and place your

completed envelope in the offering plate. Those donating plants will be listed in our Christmas bulletin. ♦



Our Sympathy

■ Our sympathy goes to the family of **Alfred Khan** who died unexpectedly on August 29. His funeral was held on September 2 at Agricola Lutheran Church.

■ Our sympathy goes to Erika Scheufler and her family on the death of **Helmut Scheufler** on September 6. His funeral was held at Highland Funeral Home on September 10.

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

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. ♦

Advent Lutheran Church
Celebrating our
53rd Anniversary




Chili & Lasagna Dinner
Sunday, November 5, 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to our
Outdoor Lighting Fund

Tickets – \$15
See Brit Missirlian or
Judy Baribeau
to purchase tickets




GWA Annual Bake and Craft Sale

Please donate your baked goods and purchase items to take home

Sunday November 26 following worship



Pastor Skujins Farewell

Pastor Skujins will complete his time as Interim Pastor of Advent on November 26. We thank him for leading us during this past year while we discerned our future and called a new pastor.

To honour and thank him, we invite everyone to stay following worship on November 19 for a luncheon. ♦

Meetings and Events

- November 12 and December 13, 7:30 p.m. Congregational Council Meetings
- November 19, Farewell luncheon to honour Pastor Skujins
- December 8, GWA Christmas Party
- December 9, 4:00 p.m. Ordination and Installation of Dr. Elaine Boone.
- Christmas services – see front cover.

Volunteer Schedule

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for the Sundays you wish to read and usher. Please check the bulletin for coffee hour hosts.

	Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister Communion Assistant	Counters	Coffee
November 5	Judy Baribeau	Elias Yousefi	Gabi Schickedanz	Carol Peck Judy Baribeau	No Coffee
November 12	Carol Peck	Elizabeth & Samantha Walther	Lester McLean Karen Doak	Nalini Beekie TBA	No Coffee
November 19	Walter Rothenburger	TBA	Bill Wesioly Judy Baribeau	Carol Peck Bob Schickedanz	Farewell Luncheon
November 26	Elizabeth Lancia	Cynthia Stewart	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie Bob Schickedanz	Bake and Craft Sale
December 3	Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Lester McLean	Bob Schickedanz TBA	Janet Singh
December 10	Carol Peck	Adele Buckley	Bill Wesioly Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Nalini Beekie Bob Schickedanz	No Coffee
December 17	Brit Missirlian	Olga Cosburn	TBA Judy Baribeau	Carol Peck Bob Schickedanz	Coffee Only
December 24 10:00 a.m.	TBA	Joe Hunt	Gabi Schickedanz Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	No Coffee
December 24 7:30 p.m.	Judy Baribeau		Nalini Beekie Indira Beekie	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	<i>Merry Christmas</i>
December 24 11:00 p.m.	Brit Missirlian		Erika Schurr	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	
December 31	TBA	Yvonne Cumberbatch	TBA Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau Bob Schickedanz	No Coffee