

# ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

November 2013

## Inside

Congregational Council Update....	2
Special Congregational Meeting	2
Pastor Peter Writes .....	3
The New World .....	3
Advent's Giving .....	4
GWA Bake Sale .....	4
The Bishop's Visit .....	5
Fate, Fluke or "Divine Intervention"	6
Sweaters for Syria .....	7
Women's Fall Gathering .....	8
Wellness Series .....	8
Volunteer Schedule .....	8

## Bishop Pryse Visits Advent



Pastor Peter Lisinski (l), Bishop Michael Pryse, and Karen Harding with the new font.

On October 6, Bishop Michael Pryse visited Advent and participated in a number of activities. Please see additional photos on Page 5.

# Congregational Council Update

On October 6, we welcomed Bishop Michael Pryse to Advent. It was a busy day for the Bishop as well as for our members. He met with the English Circle, dedicated the new baptismal font, preached the sermon, and presented Pastor Lisinski with a pectoral cross and certificate in commemoration of his 25th anniversary of ordination. We presented the Bishop with Advent's Praise Offering of \$865 and a gift. Following worship the Bishop participated in a Table Talk discussion and then had lunch and a private meeting with the Congregational Council.

We thank Bob Schickedanz and Brenda Kroeker for organizing our clean-up day on October 3 and thank everyone who came to wash windows and help chase the dirt away.

We need to start making plans for our 50th anniversary year (2014). If you are interested in participating on the committee, or have ideas, please let me know as time is getting short.

We invite everyone to the concert on November 2. We will hear the choirs of the congregations who worship at Advent plus a demonstration of the refurbished organ.

Then on November 23 Trevor Hicks will present his new musical.

Please keep in mind our financial situation. Our current fund is considerably below expenses and we would like to end the year without being in a deficit situation. The Congregational Council is working on the 2014 budget and trying to keep it as lean as possible. Please consider what you can do to help our situation.

Please make a note to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on November 17 to make a decision on our Organ Fund.

Our Annual Meeting will be held following the service on February 16, 2014. More information will be available as the meeting date is closer. We will need to elect five persons to Congregational Council. We currently have three vacancies and two Council members' terms are expiring. They are both eligible for re-election. Please let me know if you would like to nominate someone for Council, or volunteer your own name.

We thank everyone for donating "Sweaters for Syria". Many other congregations are also collecting sweaters, and you will see in the photo that the students of Georges Vanier and other schools have also collected sweaters.

*Judy Baribeau*

## Notice of Special Congregational Meeting – November 17, 2013

At our October 21, 2013, Congregational Council meeting, we approved a motion to call a Special Congregational Meeting following the worship service on November 17, 2013.

The purpose of the meeting is to make a decision on covering the remaining costs of refurbishing our organ. The amount owing is \$7,185.56.

### Background

Earlier this year the men's breakfast group decided to make a commitment to cover the cost of refurbishing the organ. They wrote their commitments anonymously on slips of paper with a total commitment of \$9,570.

We then approved a quote of \$11,500 plus HST from Keates-Geissler Pipe Organs. The final billing came to \$11,950 plus HST equalling \$13,503.50. By the middle of September we received \$3,545 in the Organ Fund, well below the commitment. The men then recognized a clerical error in the commitment process

whereby an amount of \$1,000 was mistakenly read as \$7,000. Therefore, the actual commitment from the men was \$3,570 and not \$9,570.

### Options

Two options to pay the amount owing were discussed at the Congregational Council meeting:

1. A GIC, similar to the plan for the parking lot set up like a mortgage.
2. Members being asked to give additional funds and marking it on their offering envelopes.

With the first option, Advent would have to pay interest to those providing funds. With the second option no interest would be required.

If you have any additional alternatives for covering this cost, please provide them at the meeting.

Please remember we need a quorum of 32 members to hold the meeting and encourage all our voting members to attend.

We thank you for your help.

*Congregational Council*



### 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.

Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527

judybaribeau@rogers.com

Copyright ©2013

Advent Lutheran Church

# Pastor Peter Writes...

**M**artin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress* – a favourite among Lutherans – is based on Psalm 46, which begins, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

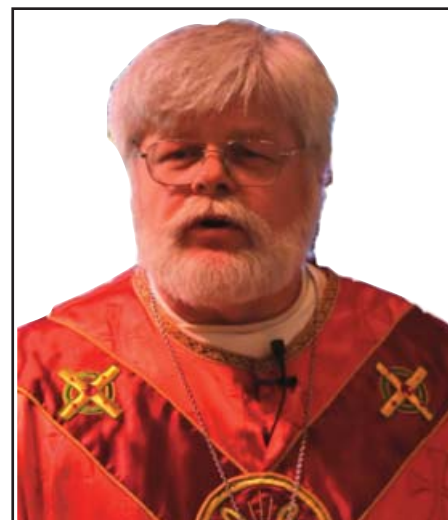
And Saint Martin certainly had his share of trouble. As a public figure, he was often involved in conflict. As a parish pastor, he was a frequent target of criticism. As a husband, he struggled to balance the responsibilities of a church vocation with the responsibilities of marriage and family. As a parent, he endured the grief of his daughter Magdalena's death. As a mortal, he suffered lengthy bouts of depression. As a convicted heretic, he faced the daily possibility of imprisonment and, perhaps, execution.

Like Pastor Luther, we too sometimes feel overwhelmed by life's stress and



strain. At such times he would often say, "I have so much to do today, I had better spend twice my usual time in prayer." That's the sound advice offered in Psalm 46's best known verse, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). In a hectic life that often exhausts us, in a restless world that often frightens us, we have the psalm's promise: "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold" (Psalm 46:7, 11).

As the waves of chaos rage in the world around us, and when the winds of confusion roar in the world within us, the voice of God's Holy Spirit calls us into holy communion with Jesus Christ. In our weekly discipline of public worship; in our daily discipline of private prayer, Jesus speaks to calm the tossing sea of our troubled hearts and worried minds. In



word and sacrament Jesus renews our energy to meet life's many challenges; he restores the faith we have lost while facing life's various tragedies; and he strengthens us to carry out our own unique purpose in God's salvation of the world.

Speaking of favourite hymns, take a moment to write down yours and give it to me, and we will include it in our Sunday worship in the weeks ahead.

See you in church.

*Pastor Peter*

**THE NEW WORLD** Book, Music & Lyrics by:  
**TREVOR HICKS**  
**A NEW MUSICAL**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2013 7PM** For tickets:  
ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2800 DON MILLS RD. TORONTO [tnw13@outlook.com](mailto:tnw13@outlook.com)  
**TICKETS: \$20 416-660-7005**

Please join me on Saturday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. for the world premiere of my original musical at Advent. Since December 2002 I've been working on this large-scale project, and I am thrilled that it will finally make the jump from page to *stage* and honoured that this will happen at Advent.

*The New World* began as a large ensemble musical production, but after my own voice began to take the shape that it

has today I decided to rewrite it as my own foray in the theatre world that I love so much. I couldn't be more proud of the result, but of course, the opinion of the composer doesn't hold weight to that of the audience. It's impossible for any composer to see their work from the point of view of the audience.

And that is one of most important things that will come out of this production – feedback.

After this production, I hope to take *The New World* to the Toronto International Fringe Festival; and I can't

do that without the opinions and suggestions of a live audience. If you've ever wanted to be a theatre critic, this is your golden opportunity to take on that role.

Not only am I the only performer in addition to the creator of *The New World*, but I am also ambitiously taking care of all the other requirements to creating a theatrical production – sets, props, costumes, lighting, sound and anything else you can think of. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it most certainly is a labor of love that I cannot wait to present.

Tickets are \$20 and are available for reservation via email, phone or in person. Feel free to invite other aficionados of the performing arts to what I hope will be a wonderful night of theater. I look forward to welcoming you and entertaining you on November 23 at 7:00 p.m. Get caught in the magic that is live theatre.

*Trevor Hicks*



# Advent's Giving to September 30, 2013

Commitments	Received to 30/09/2013	Received to 30/09/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$50,729.50	\$54,914.82	-\$4,185.32
Sunday School	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Sub-total	\$50,729.50	\$54,914.82	-\$4,185.32
Facilities	\$54,883.75	\$60,515.10	-\$5,631.35
Regular Benevolence	<u>\$7,332.00</u>	<u>\$7,145.00</u>	<u>\$187.00</u>
Total Received	\$112,945.25	\$122,574.92	-\$9,629.67
<b>Other Giving</b>			
CLWR (Global Hunger)	\$3,137.35	\$2,919.70	\$217.65
Parking Lot Fund	\$9,293.83	\$10,253.00	-\$959.17
Organ Fund	\$3,625.00	\$0.00	N/A

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 indicated from a specific member or envelope. Our total for these items for January – September was \$50,729.50, a decrease of \$4,185.32, a somewhat disconcerting drop. Please note that offerings in our pink envelopes from Good Friday totaling \$784.25 were donated to the Oriole Food Bank, comprising part of the difference for 2013 versus 2012.

These revenues, and, in large part, the revenues from Facilities pay our every day operating costs, including Pastor's

salary and benefits, organist and music costs, and property costs such as utilities, repairs, and indoor and outdoor supplies and maintenance. At the same time, we are committing to specific capital projects such as the parking lot and organ upgrade, and other benevolence such as the Vanier and Woodbine Breakfast programs, and the National Church Praise Appeal. When choosing the direction of our donations, we can't lose sight of the current, festival and loose component, as this portion "pays the bills", while capital projects and benevolence are one time undertakings. Although important work of the church, capital projects and benevolence should be "additional" to what we direct to current, festival and loose.

Continuing reduced current, festival and loose revenues could lead Advent into financial difficulty at year end.

Facilities revenue for January-September was \$54,883.75, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a decrease of \$5,631.35. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received. Unfortunately, we have lost the Alcoholics Anonymous group that met for many years at Advent, due to declining numbers, as well as Church Without Limits.

*Fred Roth  
Treasurer*



*Sunday, December 1*



*Please bring something to sell...and buy something to take home.*



The Bishop's day at Advent began with him sitting in and visiting with the English Circle participants.



The Bishop preached the sermon.



The Bishop dedicated the new font. Karen Harding donated the original font in memory of her parents, Frank and Madeleine Harding. The original font was accidentally broken earlier this year, and we thank Eric Wong and Dale Mark who generously created and donated our new font.



The choir sang a number of special pieces. Lester McLean also provided music.



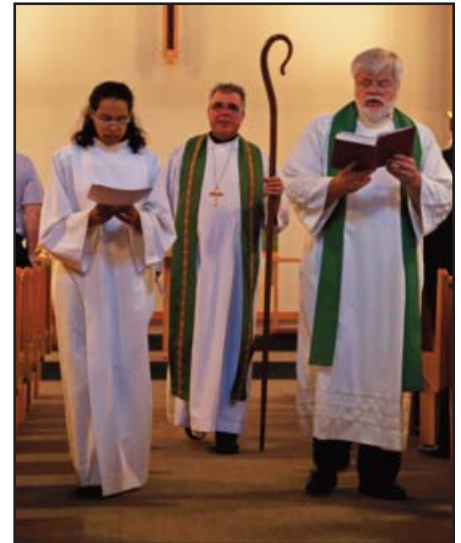
We thank George Tang, Jai Sahadeo and Anne Sim for providing the photos.



Judy Baribeau, Congregational Council Chairperson, presented Bishop Pryse with Advent's contribution of just over \$865 for the ELCIC's Praise Appeal.



Pastor Lisinski presented Bishop Pryse with a gift from the congregation. The Bishop in turn presented Pastor Lisinski with a pectoral cross and certificate commemorating his 25th anniversary of ordination last year.





# Fate, Fluke or “Divine Intervention”

To all of you who congregate here, break bread, share stories, support one another, drink coffee and sing either on or off key like myself...

I value sitting with you in these seats. We share smiles, hellos, simple civilities. We share the same sermon with the Reverend motivating and enlightening us, like a kind friend. I often feel special, like he is speaking directly to me but take pleasure in knowing that his words are being shared by all.

In 2010 my prognosis was three months up to possibly two years dependent on various factors. I weighed 120 pounds down from a one time high of 190. I had been suffering for three years and remember thanking God for making the pain end and for the peace that would follow.

In 2003 my life was beautiful. I had my two children with me, a woman and her family whom I adored became “my extended family”. Even my job at a military college was great. But in 2007 during a military exercise I fell off a 35 foot tower. I lost my vision and fractures ran from head to toe. I suddenly became “Mr. Glass”. I lost custody. I was moved to Victoria while my Ngu family remained in Ontario. The pain hammered me physically and mentally daily with some days rendering me incapable of raising a coffee mug. I (we) existed three years like this until one day my spouse had enough and severed the relationship. Days later immediately prior to a surgery, I was informed there were indications of cancer and I required an immediate and “proper diagnosis”.

Within days the term “riddled” was brought up. The diagnoses were followed by options and probabilities. I elected to

shorten my pain and accept fate. I quit nearly all medication and refused treatment. I said my goodbyes, had quite a few cries and waited. Still alive months later, I found an older doctor who took a sincere interest in me and identified numerous problems with my treatment. He changed my over 2400mg daily dosage of “poison” to 8mg of another with immediate results. Although not a cure, I began to walk and move and sleep with significantly less pain. The reduction of pain plus the peace of acceptance allowed me to increase my mobility. Not wanting to torment my families, I simply kept wandering, enjoying the peace of nature and waiting. I crossed France then Canada five-six times, swimming and fishing every body of water I found enticing. One night I ended up in a church parking lot on Don Mills, “camouflage camping”. Wondering where to go next, I met a very sweet and humble stranger (who has since become my very best friend) and she invited me to attend “her” church.

I attended a few times that summer and before returning to Victoria for follow ups, she said she would pray for me. Someone would pray for me...

As I lay on the gurney in pre-op, the surgeon reviewed my files and after some poking and prodding, he asked me if I wanted to continue. When I questioned him what would he do if in my position, he said, “continue doing whatever you’ve been doing”, to which I replied “sounds good to me.” So I got dressed and started driving back to Toronto.

On my return, I met and became friends with many of you, listening to your stories and histories. Stories recounted with the wisdom of experience

and with such humility, that you graced me with “your peace” and made me feel “at home”.

So here I am, one year later, still here, no longer alone, aimlessly wandering waiting for my demise, but with new family, friends, and more peace in my heart and like so many of you, a renewed hope.

We all experience the gamut. Loss of loved ones to adoration from others. I’ve dined with academics, astronauts, politicians, generals, sports and movie stars, even a few billionaires. All self proclaimed “Pinnacles” of the community, yet, the truth is this; their company does not entice me at all. I feel blessed and choose to spend my Sunday mornings here at Advent with all of you, basking in the grace which only humble people emit. I believe the grace of God placed me here, among you and that being around your goodness has helped to heal me. At Advent, I feel surrounded by people I admire, courageous, honest, humble and compassionate. You welcome everyone and it’s like we all share this hope for a better tomorrow.

Tuesday, September 10, my blood work came back “near” perfect. The “orange” sized mass in my liver has shrunk by three quarters, with numerous other growths having disappeared all together. The doctor asked if I was religious and to thank whichever God I pray to. I have and now I’m thanking those of you who shared your grace with me. I now have hope.

So although profound, it’s just another story from someone exactly where he wants to be, sitting among you in the pews.

*Terry Spence*

# Sweaters for Syria



Staff and students at Georges Vanier Secondary School combined efforts with six other schools in the Toronto District School Board to collect over 700 Sweaters in the Sweaters for Syria Campaign.

On September 30 the ELCIC congregations received a news release from CLWR asking the congregations to support the emergency sweater drive for Syrian refugees. CLWR's goal is 10,000+ sweaters.

We thank you for your response and we are forwarding seven boxes packed with sweaters donated by members of Advent.

Many more boxes of sweaters from Conference congregations were brought to the Toronto Conference Reformation Service on October 27.

Thank you everyone for your support.





THE TORONTO CONFERENCE  
 LUTHERAN WOMEN'S  
 FALL GATHERING  
 ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
**FRIENDS**



Saturday, November 9, 2013

9:30 am - 1 pm

Registration \$15.-

For more information and to let us know if you will be attending, please contact Brit by Nov.4<sup>th</sup> (416-447-6895 [brit-m@rogers.com](mailto:brit-m@rogers.com))



We continue with our Wellness Series. Come and learn more about Diabetes. The presentation will be held on Monday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Advent.



## Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
<b>November 3</b> Brit Missirlian	Peter Reble	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Mercy De Silva	Erika Schurr Brit Missirlian	Martin and Alice Hubbes
<b>November 10</b> TBA	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Nalini Beekie Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Nalini Beekie	George Tang Judy Baribeau	Rosemarie Gardow and Olga Cosburn
<b>November 17</b> Judy Baribeau	Indira Beekie	Peter Reble Carol Peck	Peter Reble	Bob Schickedanz Peter Reble	The Carlsen family
<b>November 24</b> Elizabeth Lancia	Mona Marcobelli	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Indira Beekie	Brit Missirlian Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Peter and Adele Buckley

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