

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

November/December 2015

Inside

Treasurer's Report	2
New Paraments Dedicated	2
Pastor Peter Writes	3
Canada Lutheran	3
Craft and Bake Sale	3
What Did Martin Luther Eat? `	4
Congregational Council Update	5
Volunteer Schedule	5

Pastor Lisinski Vacation Dates

Pastor Lisinski will be on vacation Sundays November 8 and 15. On November 8 Jim Doak will give the sermon, and on November 15 Dr. Ivan Khan will give the sermon.

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Linda Douglas (Zion Lutheran Church, Maple) at 905 669 9842 or 905 417 0519.

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

■ **Advent 3, December 13** – Lester McLean and his friends will provide a jazz liturgy.

■ **Christmas Eve, December 24** – services with Holy Communion at 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.

■ **Christmas Day, December 25** – 10:00 a.m.



Treasurer's Report – January 1 to September 30, 2015

Current Fund Balance Summary:

Bank Account at CIBC	Beginning Balance 01-01-2015	Receipts	(Payments)	(Transfers) & BS Adj.	Ending Balance 30-09-2015
Chequing Account	\$22,031	\$119,808	\$(129,329)	\$1,215	\$13,725

This report is overly simplistic. However, it shows that Advent's cash in the Current Fund at the bank has been reduced by \$8,306 (119,808-129,329+1,215=\$8,306). This is substantially due to the fact that the payments for current operating expenditures are higher than the current receipts.

It is of extreme importance that Advent implement strategies that will increase receipts and reduce costs for the rest of the year to restore its cash position. Failing this will only continue to erode the remaining current cash balance.

These strategies will become an important tool to set assumptions in preparing its 2016 Annual Budget.

Restricted Fund Balances

The focus here is on the Parking Lot Fund which has \$26,417 and the Capital Reserve Fund which has \$22,664. The total of these two Funds is \$49,081.

The Parking Lot Fund \$26,417 and approximately \$14,000 (a sum of \$40,417) will be used to repay two promissory notes plus interest, relating to the Parking Lot debt. Once these transactions are completed, the Parking Lot debt will be reduced from \$85,000 to \$50,000 at December 1, 2015.

Remaining funds in the Capital Reserve Fund will be approximately \$8,664. The use of this Fund is restricted to capital expenditures.

At Advent, let us work together in partnership. The benefits will be greater than working alone. Remember, "It is not enough to make progress; we must make it in the right direction".

*Respectfully submitted,
Jai Sahadeo
Interim Treasurer*

New Paraments Dedicated



On October 25, Advent's 51st Anniversary Sunday, we dedicated our new red paraments. The altar parament is on the cover, and to the left is the pulpit parament. We thank Carol Peck for donating these to Advent.

On the First Sunday in Advent, November 29, we will dedicate the blue paraments which will be used during Advent.



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road

Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6

416 493 1435 (church)

905 424 7649 (residence)

The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor

Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com

Worship Service and Sunday School –
10:00 a.m.

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

Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527

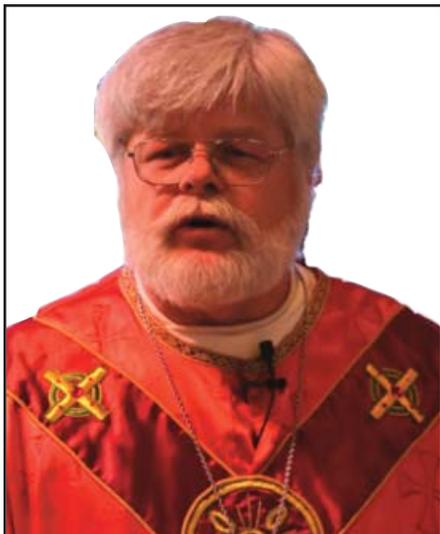
judybaribeau@rogers.com

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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Peter Writes



In recent months, our Congregational Council has become increasingly concerned about Advent's declining worship attendance and financial stability. The reasons are unclear. We are an aging congregation, with an increasing number of members experiencing health restrictions which may make it more difficult to leave home to attend Sunday worship. Or it may simply be a matter of the growing gap between the fixed incomes of retirement and the rising cost of living. There

Advent Renewal

may not be much we can do to turn around either of these trends, apart from attracting new members. A third plausible factor may be that our *Peanut Parish* has evolved from our predominantly Christian neighbourhood of our congregation's origins some fifty years ago into the predominantly non-Christian community around us today.

Apart from such "obvious" factors, there are the perennial issues of dissatisfaction that have plagued congregational life since New Testament times – most of which boil down to the "My way or the highway" approach to the church's internal ministry and external mission. And, of course, we must allow for the possibility that God has decided that the institutional identity of the Christian church in western civilization, and our congregation particularly – along with many others – no longer serves the purpose for which God first established us, and may now be calling and leading God's faithful people in new directions of ministry and mission. God has done so before.

Certainly I can see the writing on the wall for my time as pastor of Advent. After all, I will be sixty-two years old on my next birthday. So as the horizon of change relentlessly approaches, Advent needs to begin the process of assessing its future expectations and possibilities – the very orientation of our congregation's God-given name – now, immediately, to use the Gospel of Mark's favourite word.

To kickstart this process of Advent's renewal, I have planned two weekly opportunities for renewal during Advent this year. On the four Wednesdays prior to Christmas, beginning on November 25 and concluding on December 16, there will be mid-week gatherings of worship and learning – one in the morning, one in the evening. Those who prefer to meet during daylight hours will assemble for a Liturgy of Word and Prayer at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Pastor's Class focused on "Lutheran Basics". Those who prefer to meet in the evening will assemble at 7:00 p.m.

*Until then...
Pastor Peter*

Canada Lutheran

You may recall seeing a pink envelope in your offering envelope boxes recently for *Canada Lutheran*. This is our national ELCIC publication. We thank everyone who has responded. Forms are also available from the ushers to request subscriptions.

The subscription is \$20 per year. Some of you have made contributions, but not the amount required, so we would ask you to increase your contribution to \$20.

Please speak with Peter Buckley to ensure your subscription. The subscription information must be forwarded to the ELCIC office in Winnipeg shortly.

Thank you.



**Sunday
November 29**

The GWA will host its annual bake and craft sale following worship on Sunday, November 29. Please bring your donations, priced for the sale. Proceeds will go to the Parking Lot Fund.

What did Martin Luther Eat?



On October 25, 45 members and friends of Advent joined for a dinner and silent auction to celebrate our 51st anniversary and to raise funds for the parking lot.

Over the next two years, the ELCIC is promoting the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, and as a start for Advent, we planned the dinner to include items that could have been on Martin Luther’s menu. We thank Brit Missirlian and the GWA for cooking and serving all the delicious food. We also had a visit from Katie Luther who told us what it was like living with Martin. She had some interesting anecdotes. We thank Michaela Ehring for representing Katie.

During the evening we also held a Silent Auction. You can see from the photos that we had many items donated. Bidding was heavy on some items. The final amounts are not in, but a preliminary count is \$2,258 realized from the Silent Auction and about \$1,000 from the dinner ticket sales. We thank everyone who donated food and sale items. We also thank Allan Greve for providing some of the photos used in this article.



Congregational Council Update

We spent a lot of time at our October Council meeting reviewing Advent's financial situation. At the meeting we appointed Jai Sahadeo as Interim Treasurer and a member of Council to serve until our annual meeting in 2016. Jai has generously volunteered his time and expertise to take us through the transition until we appoint a new Treasurer. As you can see from his report on Page 2, our Current fund has a serious deficit. We are hoping to make up some of it by year end but need to make some serious decisions going into 2016. To help the situation, we are only spending what is absolutely necessary for the remainder of the year, even though some additional items may be in the budget. We encourage everyone to do what we can to decrease this deficit.

At the meeting we also appointed Sonita Dillon-Rhodium to take responsibility for payroll and for making interim invoice payments.

We have had a gradual decline in average Sunday attendance over the past four years from 62 per week in 2012 to 54 in 2015. Our congregation is aging, more of our members are on fixed incomes, and some members are no longer able to worship regularly. We have not been able to increase our membership. We certainly encourage everyone to worship regularly and participate wherever they can.

We thank Bob Schickedanz for organizing two church clean-up days. We had a good turnout on October 3 for the outdoor portion. A lot of the plant material in the gardens has died and weeds have

taken over. Bob hauled away two truckloads of debris and we bundled and bagged a considerable amount of material for city pick-up. We held an indoor cleaning session on October 15 which was not well attended. However, we did what we could. We thank everyone who attended either or both of these sessions to spruce up our building and property.

We raised \$420 towards the Praise Appeal this year (there may be some additional funds contributed), which is short of the \$750 goal set by Council.

I know this report seems rather negative, but we look forward to the Advent and the Christmas seasons and a time for celebration with families and friends.

We thank everyone for their support this year and look forward to a more positive new year.

Judy Baribeau, Council Chair

Volunteer Schedule

Please contact Olga Cosburn if you would like to serve as coffee host on a particular Sunday. On Sundays where we provide "Coffee Only", volunteers are needed to help with the cleanup after coffee. Also, any offerings of goodies are welcome.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
November 1 Rosarie Lisinski	Adele Buckley	Bill Wesioly Indira Beekie	Mona Marcobelli	George Tang Judy Baribeau	Karen and Jim Doak
November 8 Elizabeth Lancia	Elias Yousefi	Lester McLean n/a	Peter Buckley	Brit Missirlian George Tang	Coffee Only
November 15 Judy Baribeau	Joe Hunt	Nalini Beekie n/a	Bill Wesioly	Nalini Beekie Bob Schickedanz	Mona Marcobelli
November 22 Elizabeth Lania	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Lester McLean Judy Baribeau	Indira Beekie	George Tang Bob Schickedanz	Coffee Only
November 29 Rosarie Lisinski	Indira Beekie	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck	Judy Baribeau Elias Yousefi	Xiujan Xu
December 6 Judy Baribeau	Elias Yousefi	TBA Jim Doak	Peter Buckley	Brit Missirlian Bob Schickedanz	Coffee Only
December 13 Rosarie Lisinski	Jim Hicks Ted Winslow	Bill Wesioly Olga Cosburn	Indira Beekie	George Tang Bob Schickedanz	Theresa Ajodhia
December 20 Judy Baribeau	Mona Marcobelli	Nalini Beekie Judy Baribeau	Mercy De Silva	Judy Baribeau Elias Yousefi	Elias Yousefi
December 24 (7:30) TBA	TBA	Nalini Beekie Sonita Dillon-Rhodium		Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	N/A
December 24 (11:00) Brit Missirlian	TBA	TBA			N/A
December 25 TBA	TBA	TBA			N/A
December 27 TBA	Cynthia Stewart	TBA Indira Beekie	Elias Yousefi	George Tang TBA	Tracey Walther Astrid Walther