

ADVENTur



Advent Lutheran Church

November/December 2016

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November 13 Worship

The men of the congregation will lead our worship service on November 13 and Jim Doak will give the sermon.

Christmas Worship

On Christmas Eve we will hold a family service with Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. we will have a service of Lessons and Carols without Communion. On Christmas Day, being a Sunday, we will have a worship service with Communion at 10:00 a.m. Please worship with us this Christmas.

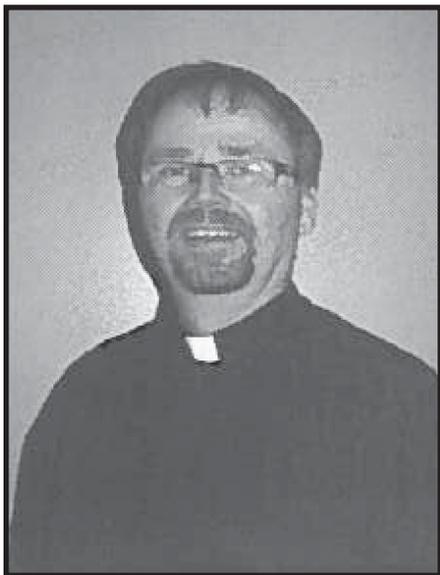
Choir Rehearsals

Advent's choir rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. If you like to sing, enjoy music and would like to join our choir, please speak with me. No musical knowledge is required. All are welcome.

Trevor Hicks



Welcome Pastor Ernie Skujins – Interim Pastor



Greetings to the people of Advent. I just wanted to say hello as we begin our journey together and to give you a bit of my personal history so that we can get to know one another better.

I was born and raised in Toronto. St. Andrew Latvian is my home congregation. I completed my BA at U of T (majoring in Sociology and Religious Studies with a minor in Philosophy). I then studied at Wilfrid Laurier University and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and received my Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work degrees. I served the parish of Baden-Philipsburg-St. Agatha for five years before returning to Toronto to pastor the people of Faith (Downsview) until 2003. I have served as Chaplain at several long term care facilities (nursing homes) as well in the hospital setting.

Since 2004 I have been employed by the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and am currently a Child Welfare Floater (that means I fill in where there is an unexpected vacancy until it is filled – a lot like interim ministry). I have also served as Interim pastor at Augsburg, Brampton, and St. Paul, Richmond Hill. I have served the larger church as Conference Dean and on the Committee for Stewardship.

I am married to Annette for 33 years and have two adult children – Matthew and Danielle. My favourite past time is curling.

Now that you know a little about me, I look forward to getting to know a little about you as we walk the path of faith together for the next while.

*Peace,
Pastor Ernie*

Baptisms

■ On September 4 we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Christian John Sgro, son of Anthony and Ashley Sgro.

■ On October 30 we welcomed three generations of the Amirhamzeh family as members of Advent through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Seyedmohsen, his wife Hoori Amini, two of their daughters Mina and Mobina; and Mina's daughter Diana. The family was raised as Muslims in Iran and all but Mobina came to Canada as refugees several years ago. Mobina arrived this past September. May God bless the Christian companionship we are blessed to share with them.

Memorial Service for John Gangadeen

On October 22, the family of John Gangadeen held a memorial service for him. John died five years ago.

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to Jim Hicks on the death of his brother William Hicks. His funeral was on September 14.

Canada Lutheran

You will notice in your envelope boxes a pink envelope for *Canada Lutheran*. If you wish to continue your subscription next year, or begin a subscription, please make your donation in either the pink envelope or in your regular envelope and indicate "*Canada Lutheran*". The cost for the subscription is \$20 for a year. This is the ELCIC's national magazine that contains many interesting topical articles as well as a section of news for each of our five Synods. ♦

Men's Breakfast Group

All men in the congregation are invited to a good breakfast, conversation and fellowship the first Saturday every month, 9:00 a.m. at Rosemary & Thyme Restaurant, southwest corner of Van Horne and Victoria Park. Please speak with Jim Doak for further information. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Ernie Skujins
Interim Pastor
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Email: ernieskujins@hotmail.com

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

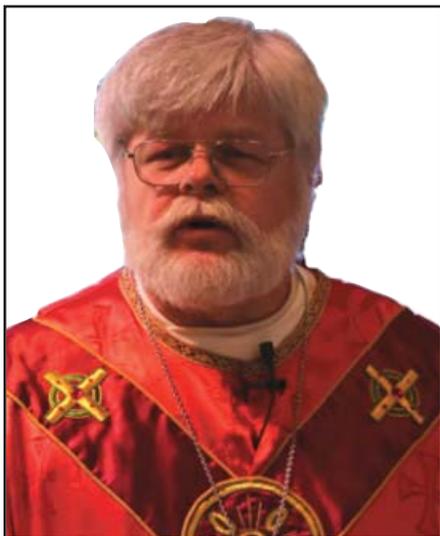
ADVENTURE... is produced for our
members and friends.

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www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Peter Writes



Dear People of God at Advent; Advent People of God:

In recent months I have had many conversations with concerned parishioners in our congregation about your future life and mission following the conclusion of my pastoral ministry with you on All Saints' Sunday, November 6. While I lament that our congregation's outreach in our neighbourhood seems to have been less effective than I had hoped initially, I remain convinced that a renewed commitment to our ELCIC's Gospel call to be "In Mission For Others" – which Jesus promises is the surest way to ensure our own survival (Mark 8:35) – will produce a harvest of living faith out of the seeds

of God's word we have sown and nurtured together. Though our respective futures as God's people is today unclear, it remains certain that God's purposes unfold in God's time, and do not depend on us. Our joy is simply to witness what God is doing among us, and to follow where God is leading in the world. As I have learned within the other three congregations I have served – and have discovered again as pastor among the people of Advent – the work of ministry is blessing abundant enough, and to spare.

Nonetheless, our six years of companionship have yielded much fruit for which to be thankful. Top of mind is the significant milestone of Advent's Fiftieth Anniversary in AD 2014. To participate in our "Golden Year of Jubilee" was a singular pastoral privilege, and the enthusiasm of those who helped plan, host and support the various community outreach events and congregational activities associated with our Peace Globe (designed by Karen Harding) and Jubilee Banner (crafted by Walter Rothenburger, and since stolen) will be a memory I long treasure. The relationships initiated with other congregations who live within our four walls, as well as the tentative partnerships explored with our neighbouring schools and social service organizations, and the friendship extended to the many

newcomers within our Peanut Parish who have ventured into our midst, have been wonderfully gratifying.

But above all, I give thanks for our daily walk of faith with all who have invited me into your more intimate companionship of home and family life – especially during times of crisis, celebration, or transition. The spiritual growth we have shared around kitchen table or baptismal font as God's living word spoke to us in scripture, prayer and conversation, have been mutually faith renewing and life affirming.

This necessarily brief recap of the past six years (and any fond personal memories arising in you) is, of course, the evidence in our lives of God's Holy Spirit, whose primary work of generating and sustaining faith is accomplished in the church's ministry of Word and Sacrament, for which God's people are called to assemble (the Greek word for 'Church') for Holy Communion with the crucified and risen Jesus Christ in corporate worship our primary personal and congregational vocation. And this is where hope for our future direction will be found as well. As my cherished faith-and-life companion, Rosarie, often reminds me when I fret over what the days ahead may, or may not, have in store for us and our family: "All we need to do is renew our commitment to Jesus Christ, and trust the Holy Spirit to keep us faithful and heading in the right direction." And what my dear wife says about the two of us, is also true for you, my dear people of God at Advent; my dear Advent people of God.

Veni Emmanuel,

Pastor Peter



Join us in the fellowship hall following worship on November 27 for the GWA's annual Craft and Bake Sale.

Please price your items and bring them to the Fellowship Hall before worship. We will also have some items for sale that weren't sold at the Annual Dinner. Proceeds will go to the Parking Lot Fund. There are some great bargains – so you can do a lot of your Christmas shopping here.

Please join us following the service on November 6, the last Sunday Pastor Lisinski will serve as our Pastor, for a sandwich luncheon in the Fellowship Hall to wish him and Rosarie Godspeed.

Congregational Council Update

This year at Advent seems to be a big revolving door. We've had Council members resign and new ones appointed; our Interim Treasurer resigned and a new Treasurer appointed; our Sunday School coordinator is resigning and we need a replacement; property management responsibilities have been re-aligned; Pastor Lisinski's call is terminating on November 6 and Pastor Skujins is appointed Interim Pastor effective November 7.

Waveney Kanhai resigned as a Council member in September. At our October meeting, Nalini Beekie was appointed as a Council member and as Secretary to serve until our 2017 annual meeting.

On October 12, members of Council and the Mutual Ministry Committee met with Pastor Christian Ceconi, Area Dean, for an Exit Interview related to Pastor Lisinski. Pastor Lisinski declined to attend the meeting; however, the members present held a good discussion and passed on comments through Pastor Ceconi to relate to Pastor Lisinski at a later discussion between the two of them.

At our October Council meeting we discussed a letter received from a congregational member suggesting we discuss with Synod our options for moving forward – are there other congregations in our area with similar situations? Should we look at possibilities of merger with another congregation? What about our property? We need to be realistic about our future looking at our demographics, the community, willingness of our members to volunteer to support various needs, etc. To that end, Council will meet with Pastor Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, on November 30 to begin discussions about our future. Now that we are in an interim period, it is a very good time to start looking at our options.

Looking Ahead

We are currently in a transition period for the Treasurer's responsibilities. We will be drafting the 2016 budget and plan to have it ready for review by January 1.

Our annual meeting will be held on February 12, 2017. At the meeting we will elect new Council members. Sonita Dillon-Rhodius will be completing two terms on Council and is not be eligible for re-election. We can elect up to eight persons to fill the 12 positions. It has been a few years since we have had a full Council. Please consider volunteering to serve on Council, or be prepared to say "Yes" if you are asked to accept a nomination. We need more people to do the work of our congregation.

Judy Baribeau

Sunday School Coordinator Needed

With regret we accepted Xiuyan Xi's resignation as coordinator of our Sunday School program. She has faithfully carried out this important role for the last four years. Her family is moving to Burlington at the end of the year, and we need someone to replace her at the beginning of January. If you are interested, please speak with Yan or Judy Baribeau. ♦

Volunteer Opportunities

A congregation cannot survive without its members being generous with their time, talents and gifts. We have a number of opportunities available. Please check your schedules and volunteer where you can help. Here are some needs. If you would like to do something not listed below, please let me know.

- **Bulletin Preparation:** George Tang has been filling this role and is resigning. If you are interested, please speak with George or Judy Baribeau. We have a photocopier at church that can be used for reproduction.
- **Coffee Host:** We have been unable to provide coffee fellowship as in the past because of lack of volunteers. If you would like to provide coffee and refreshments on a particular Sunday, please speak with Olga Cosburn.
- **Altar Care:** We have a small but dedicated group of people who make sure that the altar area is cleaned and set up for each Sunday. We need more volunteers to help in this important function. If you are interested, please speak with Brit Missirlian.
- **Church Maintenance:** Just as in our homes, there are things in the church that need fixing from time to time. If you would like to help in this area, please speak with Bob Schickedanz or Judy Baribeau and let them know in what area you can help (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, general fixing, outdoor, etc.).
- **Ushers:** We have a few dedicated people who serve as ushers, but we could use more volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please put your name down for Sundays you are available.

Judy Baribeau

sharewithmona.blogspot.com

I come to you with a new and very interesting topic about comparisons of the different methods of energy production based on cost and safety.

I encourage you to read the article that has a very intricate report by professor Michael McNamee a nuclear physicist whom I had the pleasure of meeting recently.

I also encourage you to read more of my blogs as I write about many different topics that could be of interest to you. Moreover, please feel free to comment, share, or like my blogs. We are stronger together, and that would also encourage me to keep on bringing new topics to my readers.

Mona Marcobelli

From the Loft

The Road to Sunday

There is a common misconception about exactly what a church musician's job is. I've often been asked what I do for a living, and as soon as the term "church music director" enters the conversation, the response usually takes some form of the question "what exactly is that?" Now, to church going folks, the term is deceptive – congregants usually only see the results of what we do in church and don't realize what goes on behind the scenes. In this installment of "From the Loft," I hope to offer you a glimpse of what goes on before the prelude starts on Sunday morning.

The most important aspect of a church musician's job is planning. I like to have things planned far in advance, so as you are reading this, I'm planning the music ministry for Holy Week and Easter – while Christmas is still just under two months away. This enables me to be prepared for our Worship and Arts meetings and choir rehearsals.

The flip side of the coin is that church musicians need also be prepared for the unexpected. While relatively rare in my experience at Advent, there is always potential for a last minute change to a part of the service: a hymn may be substituted for something more suitable to the sermon of the day, for instance. Technical issues with the organ might require a last minute register change, or parts of a choir anthem need to be quickly redistributed because one of our members is ill and cannot sing, let alone make it to church.

Yes, church musicians plan for the unplanned moments, too, and very often have a set of contingencies in the back of our mind at all times.

Once plans are made and discussed with the Worship and Arts Committee, if germane to our meeting (instrumentals, solos and the like aren't discussed, but an idea for a liturgical setting change and the like must be collaboratively discussed, worship planning must never be a unilateral decision) the next step is preparation.

Preparation doesn't just mean rehearsing; it means more administrative duties as well: calling to organize organ tuning, ordering supplies such as sheet music, composition, putting compositions on paper and copying them for distribution to the choir, writing email reminders of upcoming events and rehearsals, discussing hymn suggestions and proposals for worship etc., etc., etc.

Rehearsals of course play a vital role in ensuring that the music ministry at Advent sounds its best. Our hardworking choir meets weekly to rehearse choral music, and I'm very often at the organ at home, playing through hymns and pieces suitable for interludes to use in divine worship. Oftentimes, festive introductions, whether composed by other composers or myself, are added to hymns as I play them at home and used at Advent the Sunday the hymn is sung.

Next comes the execution of the planning and preparing: the service itself. While I am up in the organ loft, I am

carefully considering a vast multitude of factors that affect the music of the church: is the organ too loud? If I use this keyboard will it be too soft? Would a key change here confuse the congregation? Will the cold temperature affect the solo stop I wanted to use? Have I played too long again and people are waiting for me to gracefully end the prelude? The list goes on.

And my job doesn't end when I lift my hands and feet after the final chord of the postlude. I reflect on what went well in the service, what didn't work out as expected, and how to better enhance the musical experience on Sunday mornings. Very often, on the way home in my vehicle, I'll get an idea that could work the following Sunday, in a particular church season, or even for the same service a year later.

Church music is always on my mind, and my service to God and the people of Advent is the foremost of my day to day thoughts. If you have any comments or questions about our music ministry at Advent, please get in touch with me and I will discuss with you. If God is tugging at your heart to participate in our music ministry at Advent, I encourage you to answer His call and join us for choir rehearsals.

Let us all together praise God through song. Alleluia!

*Yours from the loft,
Trevor*

International Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction



On October 30 members gathered to celebrate Advent's 52nd anniversary and hold a silent auction. The theme food was "Meatballs" and we sampled many varieties with their accompanying side dishes. Proceeds from dinner ticket sales and the silent auction amounted to approximately \$1,300 which will go towards paying off the parking lot debt. Some of the items that were unsold will be available at the Craft and Bake Sale on November 27. The donors will be asked to take home any unsold items after the November 27 sale.

We thank Brit Missirlian, Carol Peck, Cynthia Stewart and Karen Doak for their work in organizing the dinner and everyone who donated the food, set up and cleaned up. We also thank the many people who donated the wonderful items for sale. ♦

GWA Christmas Party

The GWA is hosting its annual Christmas Party on December 9. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at the church at 6:30 p.m. The main meal will be provided, but we will look for you to bring a salad, vegetables or dessert. And, as usual, bring a little gift for the “Kris Kringle” exchange and non-perishable items for the North York Food Bank. For more information, contact Brit Missirlian (416 447 6895). A sign-up poster will be available in mid-November.



lutheranstoronto.org Now Available

LutheransToronto website is now available and contains information about the 21 Toronto Area congregations. Please check it out and get information on upcoming events.

Of major note is the September 30, 2017, Common Prayer with Cardinal Collins and Bishop Pryse. This will be a joint Roman Catholic-Lutheran Prayer

Service in Toronto, The location and time will be determined soon.

You will notice that, as they are updated, photographs of the area surrounding the congregations, rather than photos of the churches, will be posted. This gives an idea of the various communities where our churches are located. ♦

Christmas Flowers

This Christmas, the Worship and Arts Committee agreed to arrange 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...”, or “In Honour of...” or other. Please pick up a donation envelope from an usher beginning the first Sunday of Advent through December 11. Place your completed envelope in the offering plate. ♦

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.

Judy Baribeau

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	Counters	Coffee Hosts
November 6	TBA	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Bill Wesioly Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Sandwich Lunch
November 13	Walter Rothenburger	Indira Beekie	Lester McLean	Bob Schickedanz Erika Schurr	Mona Marcobelli & Elizabeth Lancia
November 20	Brit Missirlian	Elias Yousefi	Lester McLean Judy Baribeau	Bob Schickedanz Mona Marcobelli	Walter Rothenburger & Rohini Leslie
November 27 Advent 1	Walter Rothenburger	TBA	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Bob Schickedanz Erika Schurr	Karen & Jim Doak
December 4 Advent 2	Judy Baribeau	Karyne Holgate-Lemieux	Victoria Gangadeen Jim Doak	Bob Schickedanz Mona Marcobelli	Coffee only
December 11 Advent 3	Carol Peck	Cynthia Stewart	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau Bob Schickedanz	Xiuyan Xu & Dani Li
December 18 Advent 4	Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Nalini Beekie Erika Schurr	Coffee only
December 24 Christmas Eve	TBA 7:30 p.m.		Erika Schurr Indira Beekie	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	None
December 24	Brit Missirlian 11:00 p.m.		Bill Wesioly		None
December 25 Christmas Day	TBA	Adele Buckley	TBA	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	Elias Yousefi
January 1 New Year's Day	TBA	Olga Cosburn	TBA Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau	TBA

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

The Assisting Ministers will read the lessons. If anyone would like to read on a particular Sunday, please contact Olga Cosburn.