

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

October 2013

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Thanksgiving

If you would like to bring plants, vegetables or fruit to decorate the church for Thanksgiving, please bring them to church the Sunday before (October 6).

*Thanksgiving
Advent's Anniversary
Reformation Day*

Congregational Council Update

At our September Council meeting we began making plans for the rest of the year. I'll be giving you some of the information, and you will get more details in individual reports.

50th Anniversary

We need to begin making plans – we're late already – for our 50th anniversary year. Two of our Council members volunteered to work on the committee, but we need a few more people. Please let me know if you are willing to be creative and help with the plans.

Council Members

We accepted Carrol Pearson's resignation as a Council member. We now have only nine persons on Council. Council decided that we would not appoint anyone to fill the vacancies at this point, but we need to fill our vacancies and two other positions where Council members are completing their terms at our annual meeting. Both of these are eligible for re-election.

The Bishop's Visit

We are eagerly looking forward to the Bishop's visit on October 6 and hope as many members and friends of the congregation as possible will be able to join us for this special occasion. We will also be dedicating our replacement font at the service.

Musical Events

Musically a lot will happen this fall. On November 2 our congregation joins with the choirs of the other congregations who worship with us as well Trevor Hicks giving an organ recital to here the capabilities of our refurbished organ..

Trevor is also planning to present *The New World* on November 23. This is a highly ambitious undertaking on his part so we hope as many people as possible can be present to support him.

Clean Up Time

Please come and help us do some extra cleaning around the church, particularly

washing the windows, on Thursday, October 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This isn't just women's work – men are invited as well. We need to evict the spiders and other unnecessary items as well. This clean-up is very timely in anticipation of the Bishop's visit.

Outdoor Maintenance

The foundation planting around the church is in serious need of attention. The weeds have taken over and many of our shrubs are being strangled by weedy vines. You may remember that at the time all of this planting was installed, Advent agreed to maintain the foundation planting. This seems to have been forgotten. Somebody Else isn't around anymore. If you can give a few hours, please bring your tools and energy and help us clean up the area. The soil is difficult clay to work in (as very little if any good topsoil was installed) so the tools need to be quite strong. In some areas it's like chiselling concrete. Deadwood can be cut from the shrubbery, but it is too late in the season to do any serious pruning. Most of that will have to wait until spring. Weeds are the major problem and they can be eliminated, but it may take a couple years before they all get the message. If we can't maintain this area, we may need to consider replanting grass.

Bob Schickedanz and I met with the coordinator of the community garden plots and reviewed areas where they need attention. The coordinator is keeping detailed notes of the gardeners and how they are maintaining their plots. Any that do not meet the requirements will forfeit their plot.

Finances

On September 8 Fred Roth gave an update on our finances (the August 31 report is included on Page 5). Our giving is considerably lower than last year and we need to give serious consideration to being able to pay our bills so we do not

find ourselves in financial difficulty at year end. Please do what you can to help.

Committee Meetings

Our ESO, Worship and the Arts, and Stewardship Committees have met recently and their reports and decisions will be reported separately.

Your Concerns

Please let me know any other concerns that Congregational Council should review. Thank you for your support.

*Judy Baribeau
Council Chair*

FaithLife Chapter at Advent

Joanne Jehu from FaithLife has contacted Advent to see if we are interested in forming a chapter in our congregation. A major benefit would be matching funds for fundraising projects. We would need at least five FaithLife members to form a chapter. If you are a member (holding an investment account or RRSP) and are interested in discussing forming a chapter at Advent, please speak with Pastor Lisinski. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor

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

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Advent Lutheran Church

Pastor Peter Writes...

Dear People of Advent,

*The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.*

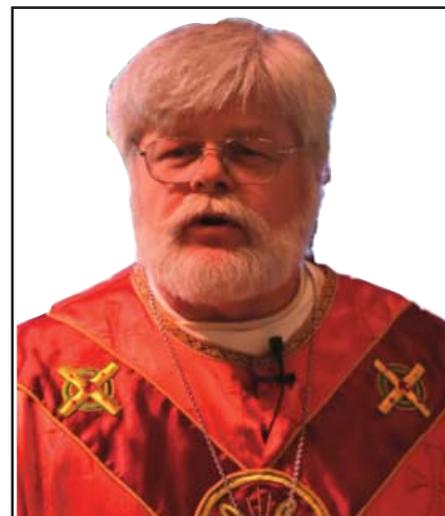
Today you and I, the people of Advent, stand together on the threshold of a most exciting year in our congregation's history. As we celebrate our forty-ninth anniversary this October, we begin our fiftieth year of ministry and mission in our Peanut Parish community. Our Council is establishing a task force to begin planning the theme and special events to be held during the twelve months ahead. We welcome your suggestions, invite your prayers, and encourage your participation.

As a prelude to this year's celebration, we have invited The Rev. Michael Pryse, Bishop of our Eastern Synod, to join us on Sunday, October 6. He will visit our English Circle prior to worship; he will preach the sermon at our 10:00 o'clock service – which will also include the

dedication of our newly furnished baptismal font – then join our customary Table Talk session before having lunch with our Council members. Please plan to be present and invite a friend or neighbour to join you.

On Anniversary Sunday, October 27, Council encourages all of us to attend the Toronto Conference's Reformation Service at Agricola Lutheran Church, at 3:00 p.m. Th Swedish Lutheran Church will host the service.

Our own congregational anniversary celebration will take place the following Saturday evening, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. Our Worship and Arts and our Evangelism and Social Outreach committees have jointly planned "JUBILATE – An Evening of Organ and Choir Music." Our Minister of Music, Trevor Hicks, will offer a recital featuring our newly refurbished organ, interspersed with choral selections by the choirs of the



other Christian congregations who call Advent home. A free will offering will be collected on behalf of a worthy neighbourhood charitable organization, agreed upon by the respective pastors. Come, rejoice, give thanks, and sing together with your sisters and brothers in Christ!

I look forward to your presence and companionship. Until then, God bless you all.

*Faithfully,
Pastor Peter*

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 honored 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 theater 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 the 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 theater 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 theater.

Trevor Hicks

News from the English Circle

With the 2013 budget, Advent Congregational Council granted the funds for a specific outreach to community gardeners and others interested in ESL.

The weekly classes ran on Wednesday evenings from June 26 until August 28. Classes were held outside in the garden whenever weather permitted. This provided additional opportunity to interact with the people in the community garden as the participants regularly spoke to gardeners about their gardens and other things.

Feedback from students during and after the program was very positive.

Although the formal part of the program was finished, it was decided that the group would continue to meet about once a month and continue their learning and conversation on various trips such as a trip to the Toronto Music Garden, Toronto Botanical Garden, AGO and Allen's Gardens.

These trips will be advertised and are open to all, so that they will continue to serve the outreach of Advent Lutheran Church.

The next scheduled outing is the on Wednesday, October 9. We will meet at 6 p.m. at the AGO. Visiting the Art Gallery of Ontario is free on Wednesday nights (not free for special exhibits). <http://www.ago.net/how-to-visit-for-free>.

The AGO is on 317 Dundas Street West, a short walk or one streetcar stop west of St. Patrick subway station. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the front lobby. From the church you walk or take the

bus to Don Mills Station. From there you take the subway to Sheppard-Yonge. Then take the subway southbound all the way to St. Patrick.

English Circle

Everyone is most welcome to join us.

In connection with the English Circle, there are another two things that I would like to mention:

1. We (Peter Buckley, who has become the steady co-host, Michaela and the whole group) welcome anyone from the congregation to join us for a cup of tea and conversation any time on Sunday mornings between 8:30 and 9:30.

2. We are still looking for mentors for the participants of the English Circle. This involves

meeting one-on-one for an hour once a week or every two weeks (schedule is completely up to mentor and mentee) to talk. You could go for a walk, meet for a coffee at Tim Horton's, or come up with your own ideas. Not only would you be helping a newcomer to practice his or her English but you would also have an opportunity to learn about another country and culture.

If you have any questions, please speak to me.

Michaela Ehring

ESO Activities

Eva's Place is very grateful for our donations. They are specifically looking for TTC tokens, new running shoes, new single bed sheets and blankets, liquid soap and shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. As winter is approaching; please donate hats, mitts, scarves, and socks. And they very much would like volunteers to help with homework, cooking clubs and music and art classes.

Advent's Anniversary

Our Anniversary dinner this year will have a different format. Since the Toronto Conference are having its service on October 27, we will celebrate our anniversary on November 2 in a combined celebration with the other users of our church. There will be an organ recital by Trevor Hicks and combined choirs singing. We will also be inviting the other users to partake of refreshments (provided by Advent) during the intermission. The event will be held from 7 - 9 p.m.

Brit Missirlian

Good Women of Advent

The GWA held its Potluck supper and Planning meeting on September 18. Our next event will be the Walk for Cancer on October 20 in memory of the members of our group who we have lost to this illness. We walk in Edwards Gardens and gather there right after the church service. Please join us, or if you would like to make a monetary contribution in support of the Cancer Society, contact Brit.

Advent GWA are also planning the Fall Event for the Toronto Conference Lutheran Women to be held on November 9. More details will follow.

Brit Missirlian



Choir Rehearsals

Just a friendly reminder that our adult choir meets at my home on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. Please speak to me on Sunday, call me at 416-660-7005, or send me an email a trevorlovesny@yahoo.ca for directions. The children's choir meets before the service at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. New members are always welcome to both choirs.

Trevor Hicks

Advent's Giving to August 31, 2013

Commitments	Received to 31/08/2013	Received to 31/08/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$42,730.62	\$46,616.40	-\$3,885.78
Sunday School	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Sub-total	\$42,730.62	\$46,616.40	-\$3,885.78
Facilities	\$48,278.00	\$53,589.35	-\$5,311.35
Regular Benevolence	<u>\$6,236.00</u>	<u>\$6,242.00</u>	<u>-\$6.00</u>
Total Received	\$97,244.62	\$106,447.75	-\$9,203.13
Other Giving			
CLWR	\$2,753.35	\$2,639.70	\$113.65
Parking Lot	\$8,363.66	\$9,388.00	-\$1,024.34

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 – August was \$42,730.62, a decrease of \$3,885.78, 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.

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*

Back to Church Sunday – September 8



The Congregational Council hosted a barbecue following the worship service on September 8. We thank Fred Roth for cooking the hotdogs and various members of the Council for providing the other supplies. We thank Jai Sahadeo for taking the photos. And we thank everyone for staying and enjoying the great food.

The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

■ **Toronto Conference Meeting – September 28.** Interested Toronto Conference clergy and laypersons met on September 28 at either Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket in the morning, or at Toronto Chinese Lutheran Church in Scarborough in the afternoon, to discuss the pros and cons of breaking the Toronto Conference into Areas. Nineteen congregations were represented. We had a lot of discussion and realized there was no real reason for breaking up. By remaining the Toronto “Area”, congregations have the flexibility to work with each other on special projects, with neighbouring Anglican and other faith groups for community activities, and as a whole for major events.

We will keep the congregations informed as more information becomes available.

■ **Friends of the Seminary Dinner.** Friday, October 4, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo. The guest speaker is The Hon. Catherine Fife, MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo. She will speak on the question: “What can faith groups contribute to higher education and the wider community?” Please see the poster on the bulletin board for ticket information.

■ **Toronto Conference Reformation Service.** The Toronto Conference will host a joint Reformation Service on Sunday, October 27, 3:00 p.m. at

Agricola Lutheran Church, 25 Old York Mills Road (at Yonge Street). (The Swedish Lutheran Church is leading the service.) A mass choir will sing. If anyone would like to join the choir (music will be provided and rehearsals scheduled), please let Judy Baribeau know and she will contact the Dean for further information. We are asking those who attend to bring food to share with coffee and refreshments following the service.

■ **Bishop's Company.** This year's gathering will be on Saturday, November 2, at the Dundee Country Club. The guest speaker will be Erin Anderssen, a senior features writer at the *Globe and Mail*. We will receive more detailed information during October. ♦

New and Gently Used Sweaters Urgently Requested

CLWR has placed an urgent call to the ELCIC members to donate new and gently used sweaters for Syrian refugees facing yet another harsh winter.

Advent is partnering with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and other Lutheran churches across Canada to collect sweater donations nationwide.

The sweaters will be distributed to Syrian refugees living in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. About 125,000 people in the camp are bracing for another cold, wet winter. Many still live in tents and lack warm clothing after

having fled their communities with little more than the clothes on their backs. The harsh weather conditions in the desolate Jordanian desert are another hardship on top of the traumas suffered through the brutal civil war.

“Every bit of warmth we can provide will make a difference,” says Robert Granke, executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief. The sweaters will go to the people in the camp who are in the most need.”

Men's, women's and children's sweaters of all sizes are needed.

The goal is to collect 10,000+ sweaters and dispatch them to Jordan in time for winter.

Please let me know by October 12 if you have any sweaters to donate, and we'll arrange for you to get them to the church to be packaged and forwarded.

All sweater donations need to be in transit to CLWR's Winnipeg warehouse no later than October 31. For more information, please visit www.clwr.org.

Thank you for supporting this appeal.

Judy Baribeau

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
October 6 Carol Peck	Cynthia Stewart	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Adele Buckley	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Ruth and Steve Wesioly
October 13 Cynthia Stewart	Joan McLean	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Eric Lisinski	Nalini Beekie Bob Schickedanz	Gerard and Judy Baribeau
October 20 Brit Missirlan	Adele Buckley	Gabi Schickedanz (no communion)	Nalini Beekie	Mona Marcobelli George Tang	Mark and Phyllis Munro
October 27 Rosarie Lisinski	Joyce Tadege	Fred Roth Nalini Beekie	Indira Beekie	Bob Schickedanz George Tang	Mona Marcobelli and Peter Reble

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