

ADVENTur



Advent Lutheran Church

October 2014



Peace Pole Dedication September 20, 2014

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Reformation Worship October 26

Rev. William Huras will be guest preacher at our 50th Anniversary worship service. There will be a special coffee hour following the service. Please join us.

Advent's Giving to August 31, 2014

Commitments	Received to 31/08/2014	Received to 31/08/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$57,880.56	\$44,638.42	\$13,242.14
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$57,880.56	\$44,638.42	\$13,242.14
Facilities	\$41,353.52	\$48,278.00	-\$6,924.48
Regular Benevolence	\$5,604.00	\$6,236.00	-\$632.00
Total Received	\$104,838.08	\$99,152.42	\$5,685.66
Other Giving			
50th Anniversary	\$1,825.00	\$100.00	\$1,725.00
Parking Lot	\$6,180.73	\$8,363.66	-\$2,182.93

Current, Festival and Loose Giving and Received from Other Charities

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 specifically indicated from a specific member or envelope. Received from Other Charities are essentially Current donations to Advent from members that are received through another charity. Our total for these items for January-August was \$57,880.56, a significant increase of \$13,242.14 over 2013.

However, it should be noted that the 2014 amount includes Received from Other Charities of \$5,541.00, whereas the 2013 total was only \$1,888. Our Current, Festival and Loose giving was

therefore actually \$52,339.56, up \$9,609.14 from the 2013 total of \$42,730.42. This increase has actually more than offset the decline in Facilities revenue that has impacted us through 2014.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-August was \$41,353.52, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a decline of \$6,924.48, a marked improvement over the decline of \$9,036.28 as of June 30, 2014. However, this is somewhat misleading as some of our user cheques were processed late. Outstanding cheques which were or are to be deposited in September total \$5,673.00, so that the actual decline was only \$1,251.48.

Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental

payments are received. Credit for the improvement in our Property position belongs to Brenda Kroeker, who has worked diligently to bring our Property finances in order. Excellent organization by Brenda has resulted in recovered outstanding user fees.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January-August 2014 decreased by \$632.00 from 2013. Global Hunger giving is forwarded directly to Synod, and does not affect Advent's financial position. The amounts are included for information only.

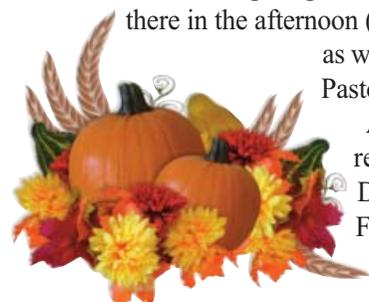
Parking Lot Fund

To the end of August 2014, receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$6,180.73.

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*

Thanksgiving – October 12

Would you like to bring some of nature's bounty (flowers, fruit, vegetables) to decorate the church for Thanksgiving? If so, please bring it on Saturday (October 11). I will be there in the afternoon (from 3-4 p.m.). The church is open earlier in the day as well and you can leave your donation in the hallway by Pastor's office. Or bring it *early* Sunday morning.



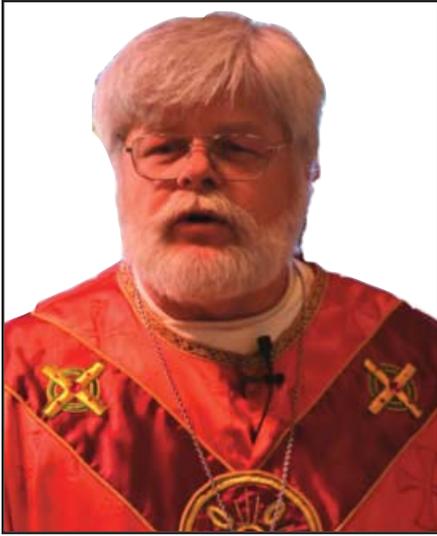
Also, as we give thanks for our blessings, please remember those in our community who struggle. Donations of non-perishable food will go to the Oriole Food Bank.

*Thank you.
Brit Missirlian*

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Peter Writes...



“To proclaim the year of God’s jubilee” (Luke 4:19)

November 1, 2013, marked the official beginning of Advent’s fiftieth year of ministry and mission in our Peanut parish and neighbourhood. In the Bible, the fiftieth year is a time for restructuring and renewing community life. Debts are forgiven, slaves are released, land is shared, wealth is redistributed, and social relationships are reformed (read “Reformation”) in a new covenant reflecting the righteousness of God – that is, God’s will to unite all people and creation in love, justice and peace. (See Leviticus 25, Jeremiah 33 and Luke 4.)

Known as the “Year of God’s Jubilee”, the vision was adopted as our Golden Anniversary theme, and it has guided our Jubilee Task Force in planning many of the special events we have celebrated in the previous eleven months. Beginning on Saturday, November 2, with JUBILATE – An Evening of Choir and Organ Music, we initiated new relationships with our Christian sisters and brothers who share Advent’s building: Fairview Church of God; Grace Communion International, Salvation (Mandarin) Church, and St. Dumitru Romanian Orthodox Church. Building on this foundation, we shared Christmas

A Year of Jubilee – A Year to be Thankful For

Day, Good Friday, and Vigil of Pentecost worship with Fairview and Grace. In Holy Week we observed a bi-lingual Maundy Thursday liturgy with our Mandarin-speaking friends. During the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, more than a hundred Christians from more than 20 congregations throughout northeast Toronto gathered – on the stormiest night of the winter – in commitment to healing divisions within the one church of Jesus Christ.

In May, some eighty households of Advent had their pictures taken by IPC Photographers in preparation of our Golden Jubilee Photo Directory (which should be available by Christmas). In June we were blessed by the presence of Rev. Earl Albrecht’s family – wife, Sandy; children, Elizabeth and Stephen, and grandchildren, Maggie and Robert Bissett. Although Pastor Earl was unable to be present, for Trinity Sunday, June 15, he wrote a wonderful sermon, remembering their time among us, as well as encouraging us in our future ministry and mission. Sadly, our beloved previous pastor died less than a month later, and his glorious memorial service was fittingly held at Advent in August.

The centrepiece of Advent’s Year of Jubilee was the commissioning of a sculpture by Karen Harding, and a banner by Walter Rothenburger – both dedicated on September 20, during a joyous community celebration which attracted a large crowd of neighbours – including Mayoral candidate Olivia Chow and Ward 33 Councillor Shelley Carroll.

These two masterpieces of visual art were made possible by generous

donations from many of our members, enhanced by two fund-raising musical events: the first offered in March by our Minister of Music, Trevor Hicks; the second at our “Peanut Peace Project Pizza Party” on August 4, by rock band, Sang Freud (see other articles in this issue of *Adventure...* for more details). We also want to thank Bob Schickedanz and his partners at Farsight Homes for providing the foundation for our Jubilee Peace Globe.

As a public witness to our congregation’s commitment to “peace on earth through community service” these new monuments will stand as a beacon of light and hope in our dark and fearful world, inspiring our congregation as Advent continues our ministry and mission over the next fifty years.

October 31, 2014, marks the official end of Advent’s fiftieth anniversary celebrations. And while our former pastor Rev. Michael Mills was not able to accept our invitation to preach on September 21, our first pastor Rev. Dr. William Huras will be with us to deliver the sermon for our Golden Anniversary Worship Service as the year concludes with a festive worship liturgy of thanksgiving on Reformation Sunday, October 26 – preceded on Saturday evening, October 25, with a congregational dinner at Frankie Tomatto’s (see Mona Marcobelli or myself for tickets).

Plan to celebrate, together with many former members, in the Spirit of Jubilee – the year soon ending; the year soon beginning – truly a year to be thankful for.

*Thankfully yours,
Pastor Peter*

Peace Pole Dedication – September 20



George Tang Photos

The Peace Pole Dedication

On September 20 we celebrated Peace Day with many activities and festivities prior and after the unveiling of the Jubilee Peace Globe. Lester McLean and Colin Campbell opened the event and entertained everyone as they gathered in the garden for music and conversation. Other performers who participated in this festive event were the Angel Choir and the band from Woodbine Junior High.

Pastor Lisinski led the ceremony by thanking all of those who were involved in making this event possible including the men's group for supplying the hot-dogs and refreshments and the 50th anniversary committee members. A big thank you goes to everyone who manned and contributed to this event – Fred Roth and Jerry Missirlian for barbecuing and serving the hotdogs, Brit Missirlian, Cynthia Stewart, Indira Beekie, Rosarie Lisinski, George Tang for photographing the event, along with many other volunteers who helped with the event's many tasks.

Walter Rothenburger was thanked for his intricate and delicate work painting a weather proof oil cloth that contained eight intertwined circles each encompassing eight symbols of the major world religions: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism, Unitarian, Buddhism, and Native Spirituality. The circles echoed the circular patterns in Karen Harding's sculpture. The circles signify, what everyone is looking for in

life regardless of what gender, race, color or creed they belong to or come from: Love, Peace, Health, Happiness, and Abundance.

Karen Harding spent a large amount of time designing, creating models, overlooking the progress of the sculpture project and hand painting the figures in the five colors of the human race; white, black, red, yellow, and brown. Karen

Ancient Chinese Proverb

If there is light in the soul,
then there will be beauty in the person.
If there is beauty in the person,
then there will be harmony in the house.

If there is harmony in the house,
then there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
then there will be peace in the world.

being a sculptor by trade, and an over 30 years member of the sculptors society of Canada, has designed this Peace Globe with 20 figures, that are male, female and child, all holding hands in unity and understanding around the globe. The Dove of Peace is hovering above bringing blessings to our world. Karen's objectives with the latter were met both ways, the Christian and non-Christian way; as to non-Christians the Dove is a Peace symbol, but for Christians the Dove has a dual understanding, Peace and also the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Karen Harding unveiled the Peace Globe and delivered a beautiful Chinese proverb complementing the event.

Many of the attendees wore the blue t-shirt to further emphasize and celebrate the event.

If you didn't get your t-shirt and would like one, please see Pastor Lisinski as we have them in many sizes. The shirts are \$15 each. Donations are also welcome in lieu of a t-shirt.

We hope that you have marked your calendars for our 50th Anniversary Congregational dinner on October 25 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Frankie Tomatto. Tickets are now on sale. Please see Pastor Lisinski to purchase yours. The cost of each ticket is \$35 for the buffet which includes tax and gratuities. There will be a cash bar extra. A wonderful service is planned on Sunday, October 26, with hymns and music performed by Advent's choir and guests. Bishop William Huras will preach the sermon and a luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

We raised about \$700 from the sale of t-shirts and donations, and thank all of those who attended and contributed to the event.

On behalf of the 50th Jubilee task we would like to thank you for all of your support.

*Mona Marcobelli, Chair
50th Anniversary Committee*

Upcoming Monthly Candlelight Vigils at the Jubilee Peace Globe

World Food Day

Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Remembrance Day

Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

St. Nicholas Day

Saturday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.
25th Anniversary of the 1989 Montreal shootings at L'Ecole Polytechnique

Each vigil will be followed by an educational workshop on the topic.

Fun in the Garden

Bishop Michael Pryse, in his report to the Eastern Synod convention in June told the assembly, “We need to learn how to grow the church again, by engaging in new ways of reaching out.”

This year, for our Golden Jubilee Anniversary celebration, the Jubilee Task Force has planned many activities which will engage our church and the community around us by reaching out and, hopefully, bringing people to our congregation.

I would especially like to mention our Peanut Peace Project Pizza Party and the Rally for Peace. They were two great days for those who attended. On Simcoe Day, August 4, our son Jonathan, and his friend, Mike Povey – members of the band Sang Freud – played some of their *heavy metal* music for an appreciative crowd of about 60 people gathered in the community garden. Our friends from Pizza Pizza at the Peanut Plaza donated the pizza for the event. We thank them for their generosity.

The Rally for Peace on September 20 gave us the long-awaited opportunity to unveil the Jubilee Peace Globe by Karen Harding along with the Jubilee Peace Banner by Walter Rothenburger. We thank both Karen and Walter for their talent and artistic skill in producing fine works of art that the church and community around us will enjoy for many years to come.

There are many others the task force would like to thank for making this day so special: Lester McLean and his friend, Colin Campbell, entertained us with excellent jazz music which kept us groovin’ and energized. The Angel Children’s Choir, which rehearses at Advent on Friday evenings, sang so sweetly for us – under the direction of Matthew Jaskiewicz; and the Woodbine Junior High School band, conducted by Tyler Gmyrek, impressed everyone with their enthusiasm and musical ability.

We also sold *Peanut Peace Project* T-shirts. Those who bought one looked great in the Advent-blue colour. We have more shirts available for those who would like to purchase one at a cost of \$15 each. Expert chefs, Fred Roth and Jerry Missirlian, barbecued more than ten dozen hot dogs, generously donated by our Men’s Breakfast Club; and Brit Missirlian helped to keep the hungry crowd fed. We thank all of them for their help and support.

Last but not least, Pastor Peter took responsibility to serve as MC for the schedule of events, which helped make these two days in the garden very successful ones. Stay tuned. There are more anniversary events coming up.

Rosarie Lisinski

Jubilee Task Force member

We also thank Mona Marcobelli for her work as Chairperson of the 50th Anniversary Committee. Ed.

Generosity

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

It’s hard to be a generous person. Some people are generous by nature but the rest of us probably need reminders. We need to consciously strive to be better and undo the cynicism that we are unwittingly taught throughout our lives. Case in point: when is the last time you gave money to someone begging on the street? I know what happened to me. At first, I felt lucky that I was not begging on the street, that I had a job and a home, and gave whatever change I had...then I started to become cynical.

■ *The Toronto Star* uncovered a woman living in a nice condo but begging on the street every day.

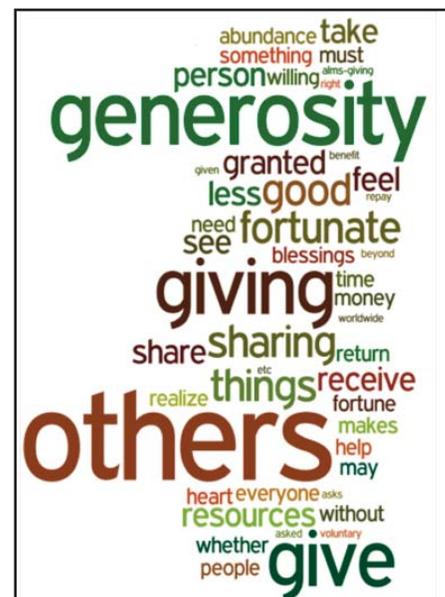
■ The homeless guy was disappointed when I gave him a coffee outside a coffee shop instead of my change.

■ The guy who sits there smoking with a sign saying he needs money for food –

if I had a choice between cigarettes and food, I know what I’d pick.

But the point of being a generous person is to do it with a clear conscience. To not make judgments or to assume. I had to unlearn all my biases. There is a TV commercial from Thailand that I will never forget. It really helped me prioritize. I watch it now and then to remind myself of what it means to be a truly generous person and maybe it will resonate with some of you too. It’s here: <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uaWA2GbcnJU>.

I’m still far from being the “unsung hero” but the point is to try. When we give with our whole heart, we give of ourselves and we are not rewarded with riches or fame. We receive something indefinable. When we give to our church, we continue to support our beliefs and our community. We support a place for us to gather every



Sunday, for choirs to sing, for new immigrants to learn English, for our seniors to meet, for people in apartments have their own little green space in an increasingly urban jungle.... It’s amazing what our little church has done, and will do, to better the world and all it takes is a little bit of generosity from each of us.

Erika Schurr, Finance and Stewardship

Congregational Council Update

At our September Council meeting, we spent time catching up on items that arose during the summer.

As you can see, the Peace Pole was completed, delivered, and then dedicated on September 20 along with the banner. We thank Karen Harding and Walter Rothenburger for their artistry on these projects. Please see the photographs in this issue. We thank Bob Schickedanz and his associates for preparing the base for mounting the pole. We also thank those who helped make the afternoon a celebration – with food and music.

Upcoming events to continue our 50th Anniversary year are the dinner at Frankie Tomatto's on October 25. We are pleased that Bishop Huras will be with us on October 26, Reformation Sunday, to preach at our Anniversary/Reformation service. We will follow the service with a special luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Other events planned are listed on Page 5.

Claus Brandes is resigning as Financial Secretary at the end of this year, and

Council has appointed Peter Buckley as the new Financial Secretary. We thank them both for their work. Peter is resigning from doing the weekly bulletins, which he has done for many years. We have appointed George Tang to take over this responsibility and thank George for volunteering for this role.

Pastor Lisinski will be on vacation October 17-24. We thank Dr. Ivan Khan who will preach on October 19.

We thank the Albrecht family for designating memorial donations for Pastor Albrecht to the Peace Pole.

Council will be drafting our 2015 budget in the next few weeks. At our recent Finance/Stewardship meeting, we noted that we still need donations to cover the cost of the Peace Pole and the continuing donations to pay for the parking lot. Council has also set \$500 as Advent's goal for this year's ELCIC Praise Appeal. Please consider supporting these items.

And dare I mention an other item? Included in our offering envelope boxes is

a pink envelope for *Canada Lutheran*. This is our national church's magazine that gives news about our church across the country. All of these donations are above our regular contributions to cover our regular expenses.

As in our private lives, there never seems to be an end to the request for donations in the church. We encourage you to do what you can to help us cover our obligations.

It seems to be more my agenda than that of the congregation, but I continue to be concerned about the lack of interest in cleaning up our garden area. Our curb appeal is pretty bad. The weeds and wild growth are out of control. We quite possibly will be looking at having most of the growth removed and return the area to grass. I'd appreciate it if you could pick an area and take responsibility for cleaning it up.

Judy Baribeau

The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

As you are aware, the Toronto Conference was dissolved at this year's Synod Assembly and the "Area" concept took its place. The Conference Council was dissolved and the monthly newsletter is discontinued.

The former Toronto Conference has been divided into four Areas. Pastor Ilze Kuplens-Ewart has been appointed Dean of the Toronto Centre Area, which is the largest group.

The clergy met on September 18 and their next meeting scheduled for November 20 at the Rhenish Church.

At the September meeting, the group decided to invite congregational leaders (lay and ordained) to an "Open Space" as a way to make an initial connection and

to see what speaks for future joint work. Pastors Christian Ceconi, Jun Gao, Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and David Tin will work together to arrange a date, location, and content. This will probably be in early 2015 after most congregations hold their annual meetings.

Pastors Carey Meadows-Helmer and Brian Wilker-Frey are working on a joint confirmands day. Further details will be announced.

The customary Reformation Day service will not be held this year.

The Central Area has set up a Facebook page. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/torontocentral>. If you are interested, send a friend request to Pastor Jun Gao.

The group has been invited to explore the *Study Guide on Word and Sacrament Ministry*.

The Global Justice team at Holy Cross, Newmarket, has made a wonderful start on the Biennium Reconciliation initiative that was adopted at Synod Assembly this past June.

St. Andrew's Latvian and the Estonian congregations will be saying goodbye to its building on October 31. The congregations have used this location for 63 years. The space is going to be used by another congregation, Grace (Toronto) who have developed a wide-ranging inner-city mission and need a visible location as their "home". ♦



GWA Walk

The Good Women of Advent are doing their annual walk on October 19 at Edwards Gardens. We meet there right after church. You are welcome to join us. *Brit Missirlian*

Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
October 5 Brit Missirlian	Indira Beekie	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Nalini Beekie	Judy Baribeau Mona Marcobelli	Erna & John Krause
October 12 Rosarie Lisinski	Elias Yousefi	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Erich Lisinski	George Tang Judy Baribeau	Karen McDonald and Martin Gangadeen
October 19 Walter Rothenburger	Jim Hicks and Ted Winslow	Nalini Beekie N/A	Judy Baribeau	Brit Missirlian Erika Schurr	Judy and Gerard Baribeau
October 26 Judy Baribeau	Mona Marcobelli	Fred Roth Olga Cosburn	Martin Gangadeen	Bob Schickedanz Nalini Beekie	GWA (Congregational Luncheon)

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