

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

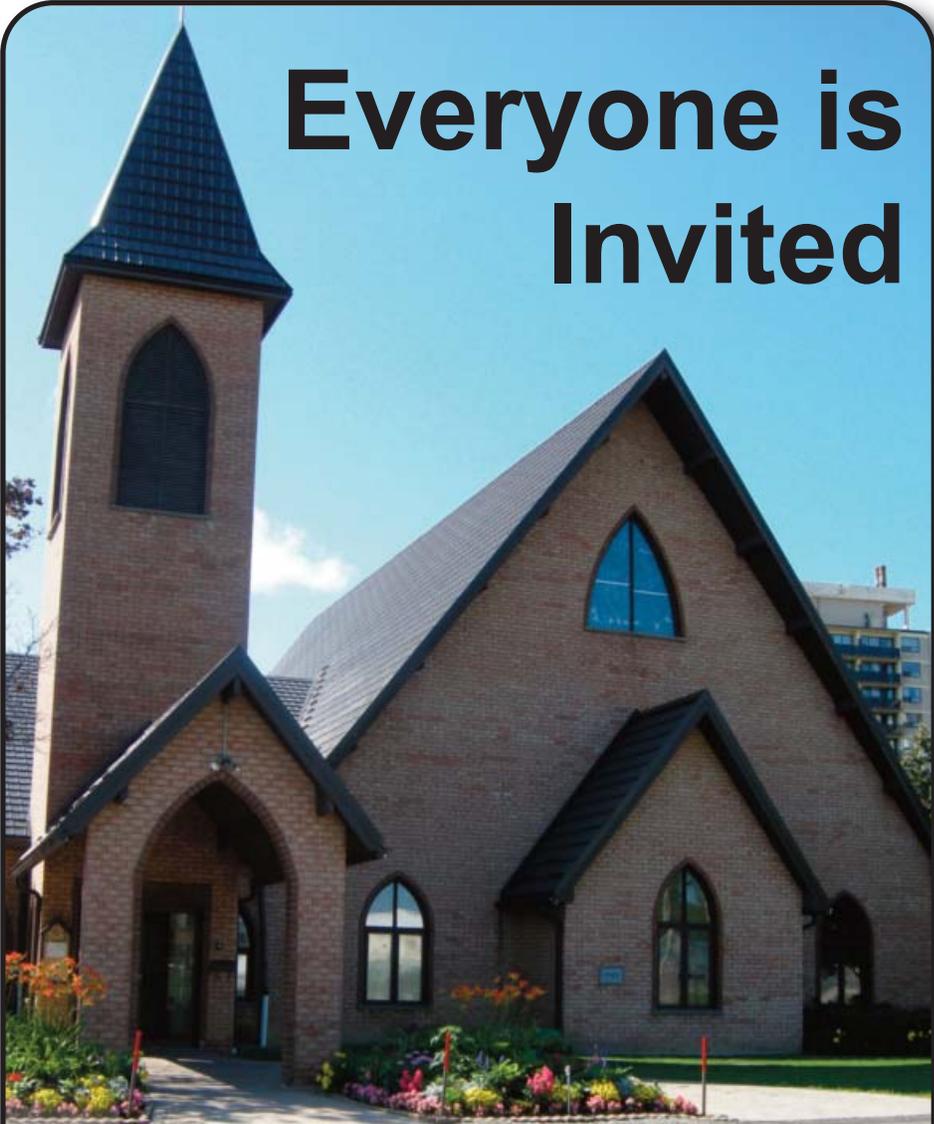
September 2013

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Back to Church Sunday – September 8

Please join us for worship, the beginning of a new Sunday School year, the start of the Children's Choir rehearsals and – following the service a barbecue hosted by the Congregational Council.



**Everyone is
Invited**

**Back to Church Sunday
September 8**

Congregational Council Highlights

Congregational Council did not meet during July and August; however, our work certainly continues. We're looking forward to a busy fall with continuing and new activities being planned. Our next meeting is on September 9.

Please note in particular our Treasurer's Report. Our offerings this year are considerably lower than last year at this time and we have decreased income from our users. Our Stewardship Committee has met to discuss our options.

In the meantime, please remember to continue, or increase if possible, your offerings. As Fred Roth notes in his report, we thank you for your support of special appeals; but remember that these contri-

butions should be above your regular giving to support Advent's day to day operation.

Advent's 50th Anniversary year will take place next year. Please let us know if you are willing to assist in planning events, or suggest events to celebrate our half century of being together.

We thank George Tang for arranging the replacement of our baptismal font. We will dedicate it at a suitable time this fall. It is similar to the previous one.

Organ repairs have been ongoing through the summer and we look forward to hearing our refurbished organ.

Looking ahead, Bishop Michael Pryse will be with us on October 6 to meet with the ESL class, preach and meet with the

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.

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

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Advent Lutheran Church

Congregational Council following our fellowship time. Please plan to come and greet our Synod Bishop.

Judy Baribeau



Come to our "GWA" meeting

September 18, 2013,

6 p.m.

at Carol Peck's house:

4 Delverton Place (416-502-0362)



We will gather for a potluck supper,
discuss and plan the program for 2013-2014.

Pastor Peter Writes...

Together for the Love of the World

For the fourteenth time in our twenty-seven year history, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) gathered for our biennial convention from July 3 to 8. It was the fourth time I had been elected a clergy delegate, and the first time Rosarie decided to accompany me. We met in Canada's historic capital city of Ottawa for a truly historic occasion. The Anglican Church of Canada's (ACC) General Synod met in the same place, at the same time – and for the first time in modern church history, two independent and distinct Christian denominations gathered in “Joint Assembly 2013”.

In the cavernous monument to opulent wealth known as the Ottawa Convention Centre, we gathered with a collective uncertainty about our respective churches' futures. Yet in spite of its unnecessary length and outlandish expense, the next five days inspired in us an equally certain faith that God's Holy Spirit is calling us and leading us to a deeper Full Communion partnership.

I was disappointed, however, that our obvious enthusiasm in worshiping and meeting together failed to ignite an overt movement toward the full structural unity I believe would make our Christian witness more effective. Nonetheless, the prayer and praise we shared, the resolutions we considered, the reports we received, but primarily the guest speakers we heard, revived my hope for the survival of our mission in our increasingly secular society, and renewed my personal commitment to proclaiming the good news of God's love with the congregation and “Peanut Community” of Advent.

Guest Speakers

The first to address us was Elder Annie Smith-St. Georges, who welcomed us in the name of her Algonquin First Nation, on whose territory Ottawa is located. Hers was the first of several moving

testimonies about the plight of Canada's aboriginal peoples.

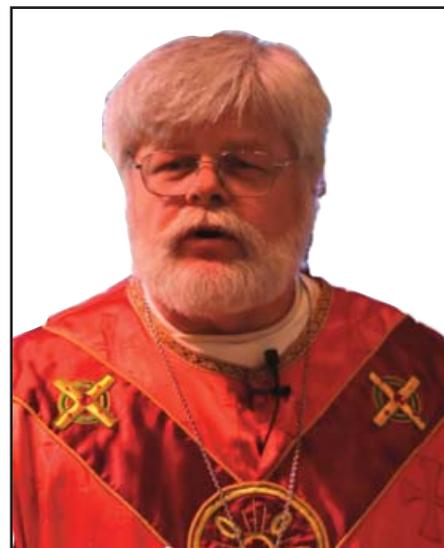
Particularly moving was the story of Terry Audla, President of the Inuit organization, Tapirlit Kanatami. He told us that, in spite of the role churches played in implementing our federal government's Residential Schools policy, the Inuit people remain committed Christians. He then introduced Father Jonas Allooloo who, in partnership with the Canadian Bible Society, spent thirty-four years translating the Bible into the Inuktitut language.

Wednesday evening concluded with the keynote address delivered by Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh, a professor at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass. Speaking about the Holy Spirit's role in the book of Acts, he identified mission as the vital mark of the church, and defined baptism as a call for Christians to “nurture and nourish an alternative consciousness, inviting us to join with Jesus in a solidarity plunge into the anguish and aspirations of God's people.”

This theme of courageous public action and advocacy on behalf of the world's poor and oppressed was reiterated on subsequent days by our Lutheran guests – Rev. Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Norwegian pastor, and distant cousin of ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson, currently serving as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; and Rev. Dr. Martin Junge of Chile, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation – as well as several other ecumenical partners, including Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal (Anglican) Church, USA.

Resolutions Passed

Two resolutions were presented to the Joint Assembly, and passed virtuously



unanimously with little comment or debate. The first concerns homelessness and affordable housing; the second concerns safeguarding the environment and protecting vulnerable Indigenous communities from the negative impact of mining and energy production projects.

In addition to committing our churches to learn, act, advocate and pray, delegates voted to send the resolutions to Prime Minister Harper, and respective cabinet ministers, encouraging our federal government to responsible action in solving these urgent social issues. (I have the full texts available for anyone interested in reading them.)

Structural Renewal

The proposed “Structural Renewal” of the ELCIC first presented two years ago, returned in revised form after four of our five synods – the Eastern being the only exception – rejected its original proposal that they merge into two synods. Notwithstanding, first readings of constitutional amendments pertaining exclusively to the national church's ministry (i.e. revision of terms for National Bishop from four years to six; national conventions every three years, instead of two) were presented and adopted in anticipation of ratification at the 2015 convention.

The most exciting moment on the floor came during discussion of the five-year “Strategic Plan”. Presented under a cloud

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Together for the Love of the World

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of doom and gloom about the ELCIC's dwindling membership and financial resources, Pastor Victoria Mwamasika – originally from Tanzania, currently serving a congregation in Saskatchewan – got up to remind delegates of the abundance of God's grace, and the abundant wealth of spiritual, as well as financial resources, with which God has blessed our church. Her bold and provocative words, enlightened the darkness of our dimly-lit meeting hall, and warmed the hearts – if not the fingers and toes – of those huddled in the cool, air-conditioned air of our inflated anxiety.

Other Presentations

Also extremely worthwhile were the presentations by Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and its Anglican equivalent, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund; and that of Kairos, an ecumenical non-governmental organization dedicated to issues of justice and peace. All of these church-sponsored agencies are facing reductions in government funding as responsibility for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is shifted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of International Trade and Development – a rather

ominous prospect, I fear. (Remember Government Minister Bev Oda adding the word "not" to a CIDA report recommending that support for Kairos be maintained?)

Rosarie and I both found the Saturday morning Prayer Service on Parliament Hill very meaningful, and I encourage you to read her feature report on the event elsewhere in this issue of *Adventure*.

It is a joy to serve with and among you, the people of Advent – together for the love of the world.

*Shalom
Your pastor and companion,
Peter*

Convention Closeup The Right to Water

How often do we think about the role water plays in our lives? Without it we could not survive. These are the reflections our church's youth delegates challenged us with in their "Right To Water" worship project on Parliament Hill during the "Together For The Love Of The World" convention.

I loved this part of the convention. A whole assembly of people walked up to Parliament Hill on a beautiful Saturday morning. We were led by the youth, and our two Bishops, Susan Johnson of the ELCIC, and Fred Hiltz of the Anglican Church of Canada. The youth led us in worship with scripture readings, group discussion, prayers in four directions, and in remembrance of our baptism.

The time spent there was both spiritually uplifting and educational for me and the others present. It was great to see so many young people involved and concerned about our Indigenous communities' lack of clean water. The water crisis in some parts of Canada is appalling. I was shocked to learn, for instance, that a case of bottled water, which they need and we don't, costs us \$2 a case, and costs \$100 per case in many aboriginal communities.



They are surrounded by many fresh water lakes, yet have no access to safe, clean water. I think, as fellow Canadians and Christians, we need to encourage our leaders in government to correct this problem. For instance, to reconsider our hydro development and resource extraction policies, which are some of the causes for the pollution in our waters.

Through working together in prayer and action we need to solve this crisis, so

all people will have a share in the essential resources that provide the basic needs to live with dignity. Everyone deserves a quality of life that Jesus envisions for us. Revelation 22:17 he says, "Let everyone who is thirsty, come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

*Yours in Christ,
Rosarie Lisinski*

Advent's Giving to July 31, 2013

Commitments	Received to 31/07/2013	Received to 31/07/2012	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$38,908.62	\$41,525.25	-\$2,616.63
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$38,908.62	\$41,525.25	-\$2,616.63
Facilities	\$41,989.00	\$47,162.60	-\$5,173.60
Regular Benevolence	\$5,667.00	\$5,423.00	\$244.00
Total Received	\$86,564.62	\$94,110.85	-\$7,546.23
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$2,495.35	\$2,330.70	\$164.65
New Parking Lot Fund	\$7,974.66	\$9,002.00	-\$1,027.34

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 specifically indicated from a specific member or envelope. Our total for these items for January – July was \$38,908.62, a decrease of \$2,616.63, 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*

Music Ministry at Advent

Choir Rehearsals Begin

♪ **Adult Choir** – The adult choir will meet on Thursday evenings beginning September 5 (8:00 p.m.) at Trevor Hicks' home. Existing members of the choir will receive an email with directions and other relevant information. If you are interested in joining the adult choir, please contact Trevor directly. All are welcome.

♪ **Children's choir** will meet in the organ loft on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 8. All children are welcome participate.

Upcoming Musical

Our music director, Trevor Hicks, will premiere his new and original musical at Advent on Saturday, November 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to pass this information on to people you know who may be interested in attending. Tickets are \$20. Please speak with Trevor in person, email or phone for tickets and more information.

Trevor Hicks



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).

The ELCIC Beyond Advent's Doors

■ **Nurturing Generous Giving Workshop – October 5, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Jeff Pym will host the workshop at St. Philip's, Toronto. Those who have attended from other Conferences have spoken very highly of the event. It is open to clergy and lay members, and lay members are encouraged to attend – to learn and bring something back to their congregations. We hope to have at least three members from each congregation attend the workshop. Registration is \$20 per person to a maximum of \$100 per congregation. The registration deadline is September 20. Please contact Judy Baribeau to register.

■ **ELCIC Praise Appeal,** We received a letter from Bishop Pryse thanking us for our generous support for the 2012 Praise Appeal. Last year the Eastern Synod raised almost \$125,000. The theme for the 2013 appeal is "Let the peoples praise you, O God" from Psalm 67.

In the letter received from the Bishop, he says: "Through your gift to the Praise Appeal you support our ministry with

international and ecumenical partners. You reach out through Lutheran World Federation as the second largest provider of refugee services in the world, serving one and a half million refugees on a daily basis. You support ministry we are doing in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches. You work to achieve better relationships with other denominations and faiths here in Canada, through the Canadian Council of Churches, and around the world through the World Council of Churches. You support the National Church in its call to Spiritual Renewal, working to deepen the discipleship of all of our members and learning new ways to reach out in faith to those around us. Your financial support of the National Church through the Praise Appeal helps us to accomplish all these things."

The Eastern Synod challenge for 2013 is \$55,000. At our June Council meeting we approved a motion to support the appeal and set \$500 as Advent's goal. We thank everyone who has contributed and invite those who have not contributed to help support this appeal.

■ **Canada Lutheran** – You will see a pink envelope in your offering envelope boxes during September for donations for our national ELCIC magazine. Please subscribe, or resubscribe, to get regular news about our church and its activities.

■ **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. More details will be available in early Fall.

■ **Toronto Conference Restructuring Meeting, Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket. An afternoon session has also been scheduled at Toronto Chinese Lutheran Church beginning at 2:30 p.m.** We encourage both lay and clergy to attend to attend either of these meetings to discuss concerns about the proposed ELCIC restructuring. ♦



Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
September 1 Baribeau	Joyce Tadege	Fred Roth Soita Dillon-Rhodus	Michaela Ehring	George Tang Brit Missirlian	Pastor Peter and Judy Rosarie Lisinski
September 8 Rosarie Lisinski	Peter Reble	Gabi Schickedanz Carol Peck	Brit Missirlian	Judy Baribeau Erika Schurr	George Tang and Sophia Liu
September 15 Rosarie Lisinski	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	George Tang Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Walter Rothenburger Bill Bartlett
September 22 Brit Missirlian	Indira Beekie	Lester McLean Karen Doak	Carol Peck	Judy Baribeau Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Carol Peck and family
September 29 Judy Baribeau	Mona Marcobelli	Nalini Beekie Jim Doak	Erna Krause	George Tang	Ruth and Steve Wesioly

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