

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

September/October 2017

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Worship Schedule

We return to our Sanctuary on September 10 for worship. We thank everyone who assisted with the extra set-up and take-down required in Cedar Hall for our summer worship services.



Choir Rehearsals

Please join Trevor Hicks and the choir for rehearsals which will begin on September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the balcony. New voices are always welcome.

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Congregational Council Update

Our Congregational Council has not met since its June 19 meeting. Our next meeting will be on September 11.

At our June meeting Brit Missirlian gave Council an update on the Call process. Council members had some concerns about the Call, and the process was put on hold pending further information from Synod office. The Call Committee will meet again on September 17.

At the June meeting, Council discussed the future of Advent and the possibility that in time we may need to consider the likelihood of merger with another congregation. Committee members for any future discussions were suggested.

On June 19 I attended a presentation by Bishop Pryse and ELCIC Group Services in Waterloo to discuss proposed updates to the Letters of Call documents. The proposed changes bring together the various references to employment matters that the ELCIC currently has in constitutions, by-laws, call documents, policies and guidelines to form one document, consistent with employment law requirements, to provide a clear, transparent and complete capsule of this relationship. Following the presentation, comments were forwarded for updates to the draft and for final presentation to National Church Council at its September 2017 meeting. When approved, the new document will become effective January 1, 2018.

In July we received a letter from the Synod office related to the Synod "Policy for Disbursement of Congregational Assets" to help congregations nearing the end of their lives, but have not yet disbanded or been declared or deemed defunct. The policy was adopted by Eastern Synod Council at its April 2017 meeting. I have distributed the document to

Council members, and we will discuss it at our September Council meeting.

While I do not feel we are considering disbanding or becoming defunct at this time, two of the conditions caught my attention: We would need to let the Bishop know if the congregation has been unable to:

- a. hold regular congregational council or board meetings, and
- b. hold an Annual General Meeting or elect the required number of council members/directors.

Each year we find it increasingly difficult to encourage members to accept nomination to become Council members, and it has been a number of years since we were able to have a full Council (we need a minimum of six and can have a maximum of twelve members on Council). At our 2018 Annual Meeting three of our Council members will be leaving Council having completed two consecutive three-year terms. Only four members have continuing terms. We need more members willing to serve on Council. I am mentioning this now so that everyone can think about their commitment to Advent and its continuance. Please let me know if you would like further information.

Thank yous

We thank members of our congregation who volunteered to lead worship services during Pastor Skujins' vacation Sundays: Brit Missirlian and the GWA, Trevor Hicks, and Carol Peck.

I thank Gerard Baribeau for repairing all the chairs in Cedar Hall.

We also thank the women of GWA for weekly cleaning of our church kitchen – something members may not be aware of. Many people use our facilities during the

week, and not all of them wash their dishes, take out their garbage or do other chores necessary to maintain a clean kitchen or return the used areas to the way they were found. Our women have been quietly taking care of these duties for many years.

We thank Cynthia Stewart for coming in every Saturday to help set up the church for service on Sundays. We thank Rosemarie Gardow for faithfully looking after the plantings on the south side of our building (mainly outside Cedar Hall) and other areas for many years. She is unable to continue, and we would like someone to volunteer to take on that garden.

We can certainly use more volunteers: to prepare Sunday bulletins, post the hymn numbers on the boards in the sanctuary, set up the sound system, usher at the services, read lessons, sing in the choir, help with building maintenance, host our coffee hours... There may be something new you would like to do – just let us know.

On September 17 Pastor Skujins will be away, and we will welcome Elaine Boone as our guest preacher. We thank our volunteers – Carol Peck, Cynthia Stewart and Olga Cosburn who will provide a light lunch following the service.

Please plan to attend our special Reformation events: September 30 Prayer Service; LUTHERfest, and the all-congregations special Reformation service on October 29 (information on these events is elsewhere in this newsletter).

*Judy Baribeau
Council Chair*

Weekly News Updates

Each week I send an email including the readings for the upcoming Sunday and any other news items of importance that are applicable between newsletters. If I don't have your email, please give it to me so you can be included and not miss out on any news distributed weekly.

Judy Baribeau

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

From the Loft

The Liturgy of the Meal

As I discussed last time, Holy Communion is the single most important part of our liturgy. We are very fortunate in the Lutheran Church to have been descended from and inheritors of a rich liturgical tradition that I firmly and unwaveringly believe only adds to the power of the Eucharist. And music plays a vital part in this liturgical tradition.

The first major musical part of the Communion liturgy is the Offertory Cantic. While the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal only offers “Let the Vineyards” as the principal verse for the offertory, those of you who recall the *Lutheran Book of Worship* might recall a cantic entitled “What Shall I Render to the Lord”, a verse that is one of my all-time favourites. Over my years as a church musician, I’ve come to an understanding of the relationship between the offering and holy communion that I love: just as Christ offered himself to us, we therefore offer ourselves to him. Our offering, of course, doesn’t measure up to what God offered to us through his Son.

On Sundays during the offering, we are offering more than just our financial gifts to God’s house – our very presence and participation in Divine Worship is in and of itself an offering. Anything we do in preparation for Sunday service to our participation in the service is an offering to God, and it is this act of offering that

prepares us to receive Jesus Christ in the bread and wine of communion.

The next musical elements are really one: the Great Thanksgiving, Preface and Sanctus (Holy Holy Holy). Here I’ll focus on the Holy Holy Holy. To borrow a theatrical term from the world of musicals, if any one congregational song in

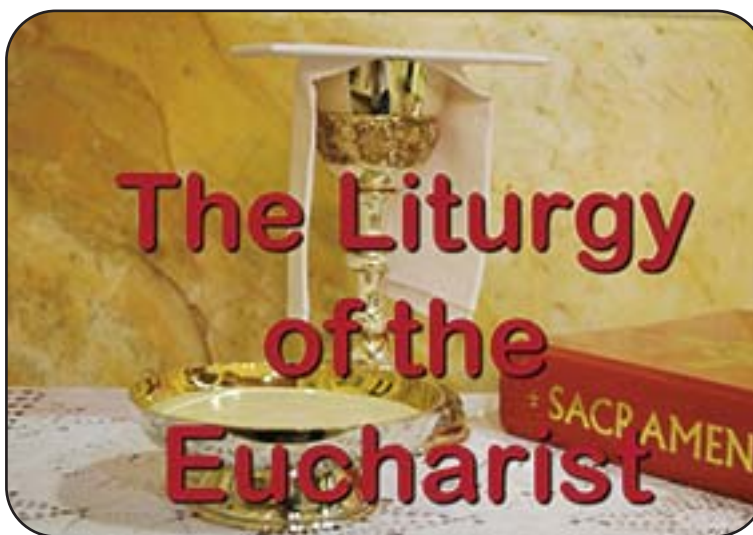
celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in more detail, but singing this song of triumph every Sunday allows us to recount it, even subliminally, each week as we reflect on Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice.

Finally, we sing the cantic “Lamb of God”, which compliments the Easter theme of Communion. In it, the imagery of Jesus Christ as a sacrificial Lamb, the Lamb of God, who through God’s grace and mercy was offered in forgiveness of our sins is prayed to for mercy and peace. I don’t believe it is a coincidence that just as the Kyrie has three prayerful petitions, Lamb of God follows suit with its own three petitions. As I mentioned in my previous article, partaking in Holy Communion is not something that one should tread into lightly, and it is fitting to sing this prayerful cantic before we head up to the altar.

As we head into Autumn and the four festivals that take place before the beginning of the season of Advent, and we return to using the organ as our main accompaniment, I encourage you to pay close attention to the words and music of our liturgy. You never know what will speak – or sing – to you when you dig deeper into its meaning.

Until next time, from the loft and musically yours,

Trevor Hicks



our liturgy could be described as the “eleven o’clock number”, that honour would go to the Sanctus.

The Sanctus, which means Holy, is a song of ultimate praise and is meant to be the focal point of the service. While I could write a whole article alone on the Sanctus, let me bring up what I think is one of the most important aspects of our faith that it conjures up. Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is very vividly symbolized as we sing the words “Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Of course, we

Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy goes to Karyne Holgate-Lemieux and her family on the death of her 24-year old son, Nigel Lemieux. A memorial service was held on August 20.

*Rest eternal grant him, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

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

BISHOPS' COMPANY FOR MISSION PRESENTS:

Oktober 14. 2017



LUTHER Fest 5000

with MICHAEL COREN



award-winning
author, radio
and TV-
personality,
columnist
and speaker

WELCOME!

6:00 pm gathering, 6:30 pm dinner

ENTERTAINMENT

Tickets \$50,
purchase at
easternsynod.org



Venue: Holiday Inn
30 Fairway Road S.
Kitchener

Financial Update

Hello to all and greetings from the Finance area of Advent.

2017 Status Check – running solid with 2017 Revenues vs. 2017 Budget

As at July 2017 Year to Date (YTD), our Current Contributions are at 58.3% of our annual 2017 budget forecast. We are maintaining a good showing, however two sobering points of note: Our August contributions are down somewhat, and we are only tracking at 52.1% when comparing to July 2016 YTD. Please continue your contributions and also reach out to invite guests to attend our Sunday services.

As for the rest of the major Revenue items as at July YTD: Facilities Rentals income is at 61.1% of the annual budget and Benevolence contributions have picked up, running at 56.5% of the annual budget. Strong showings in both instances relative to our 2017 Budget.

Again, the Parking Lot Fund has been paid off! Extra funds

As noted in our previous newsletter, our 2012 Parking Lot Fund has now been eliminated. We do have some extra contributions designated for the Parking Lot Fund, and these will be reallocated to other building and property items that are in dire need of repair/replacement.

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Again, thank you all for your support, and we look to connect again in the November/December timeframe for our next update.

*Bill Wesioły
Treasurer*



Toonies for Trees



Gathering of Toonies for Trees continues with \$195.25 received to date. In the fall the total collected will be submitted to the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC to be donated to the Environmental Education Centre in Beit Jala, Palestine, to plant olive trees. If you have not contributed to this project, we encourage you to do so.

Carol Peck



Canada Lutheran

You will notice an envelope for *Canada Lutheran* in your offering envelope box. If you wish to re-subscribe, or take out a new subscription, please include \$20 as your subscription amount. The new subscriptions will begin in 2018. This is the ELCIC's official news magazine and contains various articles about what our church is doing as well as sections for each of our Synods. ♦

Lutherans Toronto Events

Please mark your calendars for the following two events being held in Toronto as part of the Reformation 500th Anniversary:

September 30, 2:00 p.m. St. Ansgar Lutheran Church Common Prayer with Cardinal Collins and Bishop Pryse

Lutherans and Roman Catholics will gather for a Joint Common Prayer Service in Toronto. Bishop Michael Pryse and Archbishop Cardinal Collins will preside at this ecumenical service which brings together Christians from Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. It is a milestone in ecumenical dialogue. Come and celebrate that we are one in Christ and have more in common than what divides us. The service will be followed by a reception.

October 29, 2:00 p.m. Lutherans Toronto Reformation Service

On Sunday, October 29, at 2:00 p.m. all Lutheran congregations are invited to gather at St. James Anglican Cathedral, 65 Church Street, Toronto, to celebrate a Reformation service. We will emphasize social justice, one of the concerns of the Reformation. The service will be followed by a procession to First Lutheran Church where the celebration concludes at about 4:30 p.m. ♦

Coffee Hours

Our regular coffee hour will resume in September. Due to the shortage of volunteers willing to host, coffee will only be available on the first and third Sundays, and on special occasions.

Coffee has always been a tradition at Advent. It provides us with an opportunity to socialize with our church friends and to make new ones. But we need wider participation. The people that have volunteered for coffee this past year are the same people who are also performing the many and varied tasks that make our church function. If you want this tradition to continue, and if you are willing to make a once-a-year commitment, please let me know.

*Respectfully
Olga Cosburn*



September 2

All men are invited to a good breakfast, conversation and fellowship on September 2, 9:30 a.m., at Rosemary & Thyme Restaurant, southwest corner of Van Horne and Victoria Park. Please speak with Jim Doak for further information. ♦

GWA Dinner and Planning Meeting

The Good Women of Advent will hold their first meeting on September 6. As usual, we start with a potluck supper, so we will gather at 6:30 p.m. at Brit Missirlian's home (#1106-217 Cassandra Blvd). Please consider joining this small but active group of women. Ideas and suggestions for the 2017/2018 program are very welcome. We usually meet once a month for diverse activities and have a joyful time together. Please let me know if you will attend the potluck meeting and what you will bring (I will supply a main dish).

Brit Missirlian

Meetings

- Worship and the Arts, following worship on September 10.
- Congregational Council, 7:30 p.m., September 11 and October 16.
- ESO, following worship, October 15 (date subject to change).

Volunteer Schedule

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for the Sundays you wish to read and usher.

| | Altar Care | Greeter | Assisting Minister Communion Assistant | Counters | Coffee |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| September 3 | Brit Missirlian | Elizabeth & Samantha Walther | Bill Wesioly Sonita Dillon-Rhodium | Carol Peck Mona Marcobelli | No coffee |
| September 10 | Carol Peck | Mona Marcobelli | Erika Schurr Judy Baribeau | Judy Baribeau Carol Peck | No coffee |
| September 17 | Elizabeth Lancia | Cynthia Stewart | Bill Wesioly | Mona Marcobelli TBC | Luncheon |
| September 24 | Walter Rothenburger | Joan McLean | Lester McLean Olga Cosburn | Judy Baribeau Nalini Beekie | No coffee |
| October 1 | Elizabeth Lancia | Adele Buckley | Gabi Schickedanz Judy Baribeau | Judy Baribeau TBC | Coffee only |
| October 8 | Carol Peck | Olga Cosburn | Nalini Beekie Sonita Dillon-Rhodium | TBC TBC | No coffee |
| October 15 | Judy Baribeau | Joe Hunt | Lester McLean Olga Cosburn | Carol Peck Nalini Beekie | George Tang |
| October 22 | Elizabeth Lancia | Yvonne Cumberbatch | Bill Wesioly Indira Beekie | Judy Baribeau TBC | No coffee |
| October 29 | Brit Missirlian | Indira Beekie | Erika Schurr Olga Cosburn | Mona Marcobelli TBC | Coffee only |