

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

September/October 2018

Inside

Congregational Council Update	2
Canada Lutheran	2
In Memory	2
Pastor Elaine Writes	3
Our Sympathy	3
From the Loft	4
Financial Update	4
First United Church of Nazareth .	5
Patient Advocacy, Awareness and Support	6
Upcoming Meetings and Events .	6
Volunteer Schedule	6

We return to worship in our Sanctuary on September 2.

Choir Rehearsals

Please join Trevor Hicks in the loft on Sunday mornings at 9:00 for choir rehearsals. Rehearsals begin on September 9. If you play an instrument, please let Trevor know so you can arrange to provide occasional music at a worship service.



Congregational Council Update

Summer is normally a quiet time for Congregational Council. We held a special meeting in August to review our financial picture. Please read Bill Wesioly's report on Page 5. Traditionally, offerings are lower during the summer, and this year is no exception. However, we need to keep current with our commitments and ask everyone to do their part. Our facilities use is up this year and we are thankful for those who are regularly using our facilities.

If you haven't increased your regular offerings for some time, please consider doing it now. Our expenses go up each year for salaries, insurance, utilities, property items, and other responsibilities. You can give through PAR (regular monthly remittances from your bank account), through the "Donate" button on our website, and most important – worship regularly and give during our services.

At Council's August meeting we agreed in principle to allow Oriole Community Garden to use more of our property to increase the number of plots for gardeners. We are also discussing with them taking over the weed patch for their use as no one from Advent is willing to look after that area.

We thank Michael Lenzner for his work in clearing some of the brush and weeds from that area. It is a difficult area to work as it is very heavy clay. More volunteers are welcome.

We are also in discussion with a roofing company to determine the appropriate maintenance for the flat roof which is beginning to require fixing. Some patching was done this summer.

In the property area, we also need repair of some of our sanctuary window frames which are rotting. Hopefully our parking lot signs will be installed soon

to avoid the potential accidents we experience each week.

Plans are in the discussion stage for celebrating our anniversary this fall. They will be announced as available.

In addition to our regular fifth Sunday practices, on September 30 we will also focus on "Welcoming Back" our members and regular worshippers and recognize our volunteers at the service. Please plan to join us on September 30 – and stay, or return, for the blessing of the animals at 2:00 p.m. We will have a pizza/potluck lunch.

It is not too soon to start thinking about next year. We will need new Council members. If you would like to discuss becoming a Council member, please speak with me or another Council member. Remember we need a functioning Council to continue operation as a congregation.

Judy Baribeau

Canada Lutheran

You will notice in your envelope box an envelope for *Canada Lutheran* during September. If you would like to renew your subscription, or start a subscription, please enclose your subscription payment of \$20 in the special envelope, or include it with your regular offering and indicate the \$20 for *Canada Lutheran*. Your subscription will start/be renewed with the January 2019 issue.

This is the official magazine of the ELCIC and contains articles of topical interest, news about the Synods and other interesting articles. ♦

In Memory

We are celebrating one year of Alfred Khan's August 29, 2017, passing in Jesus' loving care. We are also celebrating the third year of Mom's (Delasia Khan) September 20, 2015, passing in Gods care.

From the Khan children and grandchildren

Our pets are a blessing to us...



...join us in blessing them!

Bring your pet (or a photo of your pet) to
A Blessing of the Animals
 Sunday, September 30, 2:00 p.m. in the Garden



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2800 Don Mills Road
 Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6
 416 493 1435 (church)
 Rev. Dr. Elaine Boone
 Pastor
 416 497 3636
 eadeleboone@gmail.com
 Worship Services Sundays
 at 10:00 a.m.

ADVENTURE... is produced for our
 members and friends.
 Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527
 judybaribeau@rogers.com
 Copyright ©2018
 Advent Lutheran Church
 www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Elaine Writes...

Prayer...we all do it. We pray together when we worship; we may pray before meals or when we are alone – at night or in the morning. But sometimes we have questions about prayer.

Our scripture is filled with instructions and advice about prayer.

■ “You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows” Job 22:27.

■ Rejoice always, pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5:16a.

■ “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” Ephesians 6:18.

■ “I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer” Psalm 17:6.

■ “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours” Mark 11:24.

Bishop Susan in her call for spiritual renewal has identified prayer as one of the seven parts of renewal.

Prayer can be organized into the following types:

1. Contemplative-meditative prayer, i.e. worshipping God, reflecting on the Bible.

2. Ritualistic prayer, i.e. repeating statements.

3. Petitionary prayer, i.e. asking God for things.

4. Colloquial prayer, i.e. thanking God for things.

5. Intercessory prayer, i.e. praying for others.

Prayer has proven health benefits from decreasing depression, stress and anxiety to increasing our lifespan and maintaining a positive outlook on life.

So prayer is good for us. But sometimes we have questions about prayer. How should I

pray? What type

prayer should I use?

Do I need to be kneeling or standing

or sitting? There are many, many answers to

these questions just as there are many, many ways to pray.

In October I will be offering a program on prayer. We will focus on some practical ways of praying. Some of these prayer practices may be new to you, perhaps some will resonate with you and you may choose to add something to your prayer life. We will have an opportunity to walk a labyrinth; try out centering or contemplative prayer; a prayer wheel worksheet; compassion practice; biblical spirituality; prayers in the Psalms and the Lord’s Prayer.



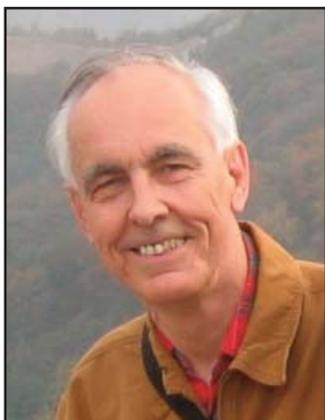
Jesus’s life was an example of praying persistently. He prayed alone, he prayed in public and he prayed unceasingly. (See Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Matthew 11:25 Matthew 6:9b-13 – the Lord’s Prayer.)

Jesus was asked to teach the people to pray. He responded with what we call the Lord’s prayer. A prayer that is very much focused on what we need for our lives now, in this world. At the heart of the prayer is the petition for the coming of God’s kingdom on earth – it is not about heaven. It is a prayer for enough food. (Marcus Borg)

Prayer is important in our faith, it is important as we follow the way Jesus showed us and as we work to make the kingdom of God here and now.

Let us pray...

Our Sympathy



Alfred Schurr

Our sympathy goes to Jean, Erika and Ingrid Schurr on the death of husband and father Alfred Schurr. Alfred was born August 17, 1936, and died August 17, 2018. His funeral was held at Advent on August 22. Memorial donations in Alfred’s memory can be given to Advent Lutheran Church. ♦

Dave Danaher

Our Sympathy goes to Pastor Elaine, her husband Ross Danaher, and their families on the death of Ross’s brother Dave on August 23. The funeral is being held at Advent on September 7. ♦



From the Loft

Onward Christian Soldiers

On September 2, I decided to preach about a topic that is dear to my heart. We live in a very divisive period on earth, and sometimes, our divisions can lead us astray, even in church. To help with this problem, my sermon focuses on the idea of “Opining Biblically,” that is, a way of holding and sharing opinions from a biblical standpoint.

- These three rules are first, to not only have our own opinion, but also to listen to those who disagree with us;
- The second is for us to examine the way we react to people who have differing views from us and how we are not to judge them, ridicule them or disband them from our groups.
- Finally, the third rule, applying possibly more to religious contexts, is that

our opinions should seek to please God, and not the world and what it wants.

In my sermon, I lament that today the Church (meaning the Church as a whole) sometimes moves in a direction where it aims to please the world and not God, and used as an example of this, one of my favourite hymns, “Onward, Christian Soldiers.” This hymn is not often sung and is widely misunderstood in its meaning. The hymn is completely biblical, borrowing from scripture in many places, but has been removed from many hymnals of many denominations for what I conclude is nothing more than fear of causing offense. The practice of making church “politically correct” is one that in my eyes amounts to idolatry, for it contradicts the scripture of

John 3:30: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” This scripture means that we are to constantly elevate God and Jesus, and lower ourselves to Him. Therefore, my changing His Word, by ignoring a great hymn of faith that celebrates inclusiveness, thanks God and Jesus for their protections as we combat evil in this world., we are elevating what the world wants over what God has commanded us to do.

While I’m sure that some people might disagree with my standpoint, it amounts to what any sermon does: it’s an opinion. I’m happy to discuss it with anyone and I hope that those of you who hear it enjoy hearing it.

Praise be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Yours from the loft,
Trevor Hicks*

Financial Update

Hello, and summer greetings.

The June 2018 YTD revenues for Advent continue to show a downward trend relative to the Budget and to last year at this time. There also has been a corresponding drop in attendance as the people who regularly attend can attest to. While the situation is not perilous, and while we know that almost all churches are going through the same situation, we on Council are continuing to closely monitor the financials and discuss different ideas and possible solutions. We thank those who continue to contribute and call the church their home.

There are some positives with the financials. Our rental income is continuing to trend positive which is the largest part of our overall revenue. And this rental income will continue to grow into 2019 and beyond.

Some other quick highlights on some of the other variance items: Relative to the Parking Lot, we had some large contributions last year to give us the final push to pay off the Parking Lot. Relative to Memorials, we had some very large

REVENUES	2018 June YTD	2018 Budget	% to Bud.	2017 June YTD
Current Envelopes	\$31,608	\$79,200	39.9	\$35,969
Other Current - Loose, Festivals, Other Charities	2,356	15,090	15.6	6,629
Sub Total Current	33,964	94,290	36.0	42,598
Benevolence	5,727	10,500	54.5	4,746
Facilities	42,218	105,100	40.2	39,790
Interest Revenue on GICs	820	1,640		820
SUB TOTAL REVENUE	82,729	211,530	39.1	87,954
Designated				
Parking Lot Fund/				
Outdoor Lighting	2,793			7,470
Memorials	1,545			5,693
Other—Endowment, Stewardship, Carpet, Vanier	1,035			2,904
TOTAL REVENUE	88,102	211,530		104,021
EXPENSES				
Payroll (Pastor)	40,924	82,820	49.4	10,268
Property	29,990	49,730	60.3	28,322
Music and Worship	5,065	10,643	47.6	4,530
General Admin	2,283	7,550	30.2	1,555
TOTAL EXPENSES	78,262	150,743	51.9	44,675

designated contributions for people who had passed away in 2017. And Expenses are trending to what we budgeted for.

Continue to have a safe and healthy and blessed summer.

*Bill Wesioły
Treasurer*

First United Church of Nazareth

Pastoral Evaluation Report from Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC)

Pastor Elaine felt you might find this article interesting.

Over the past three weeks, the PCRC has asked congregation members to submit pastoral evaluations as we seek to provide accountability to our pastor and strengthen our congregation's ministry in the community. We appreciate all who took the time to fill out an evaluation. The PCRC will be working with Pastor Jesus in the coming weeks to establish a professional growth plan. Below you will see a summary of the responses we received along with representative quotes from individual surveys.

Preaching

Many congregation members feel that Pastor Jesus is inconsistent both in length and quality of his sermons. Several people would like to hear sermons that are more "encouraging" and less of "a downer." There is also some concern that listeners without a deep knowledge of scripture might not fully understand his preaching.

"That sermon he preached on the mountain was way too long."

"His messages can be a bit heavy-handed. 'Take up your cross.'

'Gouge out your eye.' Not really seeker-friendly sermons."

Administrative Leadership

Some lay leaders feel that Pastor Jesus expects too much of them – his request that they feed over 5,000 people at a recent public gathering was cited several times. Many have sensed that he is impatient with them when they do not

immediately understand his guidance, and one key leader claims that Pastor called him a name (Satan) in front of others. On a positive note, leaders who frequently travel with Jesus appreciate his ability to find hospitable accommodations and good wine.

"I would say that Pastor Jesus doesn't seem particularly organized, but things seem to work out."

"Sometimes I hear him mutter under his breath: 'How long must I be with them?'. It kind of hurts my feelings and I'm thinking of resigning from the executive board."

Biblical Knowledge and Teaching

There is general agreement that Pastor Jesus knows scripture very well, though there is some concern that he may be twisting its meaning to fit his own theological ideals. Many note that he is a dynamic teacher, but admit they often do not fully understand what he is trying to say.

"Jesus' teachings can be contradictory. Are we supposed to honor our parents or hate them? If someone isn't for us, are they against us or not? I honestly don't know what he's saying half the time."

"I don't get the parables. Just. Nope. No idea."

Mission Leadership and Involvement

People are appreciative of the preaching and healing ministry that Pastor Jesus has in the community and in other parts of the

country as well. However, there is some concern that his focus on mission detracts from his ability to give proper attention to the congregation.

"He spends too much time with people who aren't even part of the church. And don't get me started on how much he talks to women and kids."

"He doesn't have enough office hours.... Come to think of it, I'm not sure he even has an office."

Denominational and Ecumenical Work

This is noted as a particular area for improvement. Many congregants are disturbed that Jesus seems to be developing distinctly antagonistic relationships with other leaders of our own faith while being far too friendly with people of other faiths.

"I heard that Jesus went through Samaria. On purpose. And talked at length with a Samaritan woman there. Very troubling behavior."

"I don't understand why he has to cause problems with the other pastors around here. Just go along to get along – it's not that hard. I'm tired of getting dirty looks from people when they figure out that I go to 'that church with the crazy pastor-Jesus Christ.'"

Rev. Joanna Harader serves as pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, KS, where she is overdue for her three-year pastoral evaluation. You can find her blog at SpaciousFaith.com.



Happy Thanksgiving

Patient Advocacy, Awareness and Support

Pastor Elaine forwarded the following article for your information.

Good morning. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Julia Towe. I am a fellow Lutheran (ELCA). In 2017, I answered the Lord's call to become a Patient Advocate serving the needs of those who are living with chronic illness and their families. The result, in part, is an inspirational blog.

Approximately 133M Americans live with a chronic illness. Millions of Canadians do, too. Globally, 95% of our population is sick. A third of them live with five or more chronic or acute illnesses. Awareness and support is essential. It can be a physically and emotionally draining battle. These individuals need to have a level of normalcy within their lives. We all do. Often times, a patient struggles to communicate his/her feelings with those around them. It can be frustrating, lonely and isolating. Caregivers can also face equally trying circumstances – physically and emotionally. These individuals are all around us. They are in your church, mine

and others. They are children, spouses, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Unfortunately, their numbers are growing. And the need is real.

I hope, you will take a moment to visit my blog at <https://livinginthegardenofoptimism.com>. New posts are published, every Friday. Additional posts, as on 9/11, will occur. All are written to be informative, uplifting and motivating, with Christians in mind. The topics vary, but all are related to chronic illness in some way. They can also be accessed on Google, Facebook and Tumblr. Comments are always welcome. Like it, if you do. Follow, if you prefer. Advice is equally appreciated via email.

Most importantly, I hope you will share the site with those who need this added support. Consider it as an addition to your church's monthly newsletter, or weekly service program. Perhaps, an added tool for your health ministry? Or keep it as a resource to draw from and

pass along in the future. We are in this journey called life, together Dare to care.

Julia Towe

Upcoming Meetings and Events

September 9 – Mutual Ministry Committee following worship

September 16 – ESO Committee following worship

September 17 – Congregational Council

September 30 – “Pick your Hymn” Sunday (no Communion); pizza/potluck lunch following worship

September 30, 2:00 p.m. – Blessing of the Animals. See Page 2.

October 12 – Community Garden Festival

October 13 – Community Garden Closing

October 15 – Congregational Council at 7:30 p.m.

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 2 Labour Day	Elias Yousefi	Joe Hunt	Bill Wesioly	Carol Peck Nalini Beekie	Coffee Only
September 9	Carol Peck	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Gabi Schickedanz Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie Judy Baribeau	
September 16	Brit Missirlian	Indira Beekie	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck Gabi Schickedanz	Coffee Only
September 23	Elizabeth Lancia	Elias Yousefi	Bill Wesioly Jim Doak	Brit Missirlian Michael Lenzner	
September 30 Fifth Sunday	Judy Baribeau	Elizabeth & Samantha Walther	Gabi Schickedanz N/A	Nalini Beekie Carol Peck	Potluck/Pizza Lunch
October 7 Thanksgiving	Carol Peck	Cynthia Stewart	Erika Schurr Jim Doak	Judy Baribeau Nalini Beekie	Coffee Only
October 14	Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Gabi Schickedanz Karen Doak	Brit Missirlian Carol Peck	
October 21	Brit Missirlian	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie Brit Missirlian	Coffee Only
October 28 Reformation	Elizabeth Lancia	Olga Cosburn	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Michael Lenzner Gabi Schickedanz	