

# ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

September 2014

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Help us celebrate  
Advent's 50th  
Anniversary Year

We worship in the Sanctuary  
starting September 7.

Join us on  
September 20  
when we  
Dedicate the  
Peace Pole



# Advent's Giving to July 31, 2014

Commitments	Received to 31/07/2014	Received to 31/07/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$52,166.46	\$40,796.62	\$11,369.84
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$52,166.46</b>	<b>\$40,796.62</b>	<b>\$11,369.84</b>
Facilities	\$39,064.52	\$41,989.00	-\$2,924.48
Regular Benevolence	\$5,099.00	\$5,667.00	-\$568.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$96,329.98</b>	<b>\$88,452.62</b>	<b>\$7,877.36</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>			
Global Hunger	\$1,940.00	\$2,495.35	-\$555.35
New Parking Lot Fund	\$5,215.73	\$7,974.66	-\$2,758.93

## 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-July was \$52,166.46, a significant increase of \$11,369.84 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 \$46,625.46, up \$7,716.84 from the 2013 total of \$38,908.62. This increase has actually more than offset the decline in Facilities revenue that has impacted us through 2014.

### Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-July was \$39,064.52, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a decline of \$2,924.48; however this is a marked improvement over the decline of \$9,036.28 as of June 30 2014. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are received; however, credit for the improvement

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-July 2014 decreased by \$568.00 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 July, 2014, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$5,215.73.

*Fred Roth  
Treasurer*



## Sunday School Classes

Sunday School classes begin on September 7 and will be held during the worship service. We thank Xiuyan Xu for coordinating the program again this year.

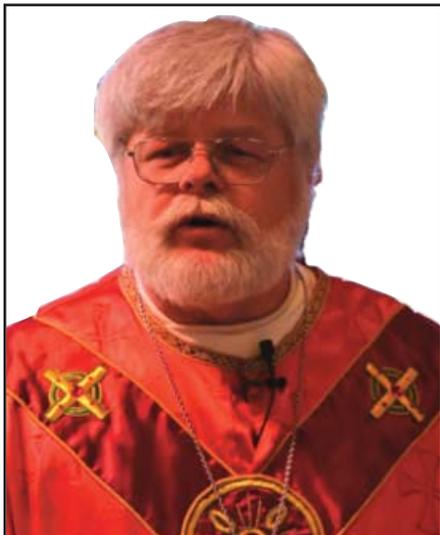
Classes will be held twice a month on the first and third Sundays of each month through next June.

Please bring your children, grandchildren, or neighbour children to participate in this important program of Christian education. ◆

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Pastor Peter Writes...



Dear Adventurers,

*Riddle me this: What's the smartest animal in the world?*

*Answer: A fish, because fish travel in schools. (Ha! Ha!)*

Though the mirror confirms that my school days are long gone, come Labour Day, my thoughts still reflect that good ol' back to school excitement. Like fish – the church's most ancient symbol of mutual recognition among Christians –

followers of Jesus travel in schools; we share our pilgrimage of faith in community with one another, knowing that there is strength for the journey, and spiritual safety in companionship with one another.

The fish is also the church's most ancient symbol of the Eucharist – the Holy Communion – reminding us that we not only celebrate, but constitute, the Body of Christ in our life together. As Christians we believe that following Jesus is the smartest way of learning, and surest way of sharing God's promise of abundant life. Our congregation offers a variety of opportunities for learning and sharing – Sunday worship primary among them.

In addition we offer bi-weekly Sunday School, led by our faithful teacher, Xiuyan Xu (see the schedule elsewhere in this issue of *Adventure*). The Good Women of Advent and the Advent Men's Breakfast Club meet monthly. The English Circle gathers around the committed leadership of Michaela Ehring every Sunday; and our parish choir rehearses every Thursday at Trevor Hicks' home – you

are most welcome at all, and no previous experience is necessary.

On alternating Sundays (apart from scheduled committee meetings) and on week nights bi-weekly Bible Study is offered. (This September, in keeping with our Golden Jubilee Anniversary theme, we will consider the book of Amos – watch the Sunday bulletin for dates and times; as well as the weekly bulletin for a lectionary of daily readings from Amos.) Also, if you know any children who have not yet been confirmed, please contact me to arrange an orientation for them and their parents at a mutually convenient time to be announced in the near future.

Make the new beginning of this September a new beginning in your spiritual pilgrimage of faith by deepening your involvement in our worship and learning, witness, service and support ministries of our congregation's school of discipleship.

*Bon Voyage,  
Pastor Peter*

## Synod Assembly Report

### Together for the Love of the World

*"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour."  
(Romans 12:9)*

I am delighted to share with you how happy I was to serve as your delegate for the Fifteenth Biennial Assembly of the Eastern Synod. It was a terrific experience for me. I met a lot of people I hadn't seen in a long time, and met many new people. Our members, Peter Buckley and Walter Rothenburger, served as stewards, and we thank them for volunteering their time.

The worship experience was very uplifting. The saying, "When we sing we pray" was so true, for we sang a lot. Our National Bishop Susan Johnson taught us

a spiritual renewal phrase that was repeated throughout the event. It goes like this: "Pray, worship, read, study, serve and give" – a reminder of our mission for God and others.

One of the most significant events of the convention was the re-election of Bishop Michael Pryse for another four years, and Pastor Wendell Grahlman as synod secretary, also for a four-year term. In the Bishop's report he emphasized "the need to learn how to grow the church again", by engaging new ways for reaching out. He also encouraged right

relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

Dr. Marie Wilson, one of the three "Truth and Reconciliation" commissioners, reflected on her experience working as a journalist among the aboriginal people. She said that in Canada we need an ethical space where truth, love and honour are present. She described truth as "the sound you make when you speak from the heart."

There were many motions passed relating to various topics. One motion was a resolution calling on all levels of government in the Eastern Synod area to address homelessness and to develop affordable housing strategies to alleviate poverty. Another motion was related to the environment. We are to participate in local municipalities to support efforts to

*Continued on Page 4*

## Synod Assembly Report Continued from Page 3

reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote environmental sustainability. We need to prayerfully consider ways of reducing personal energy consumption. The care and nurture of God's creation is a part of God's eternal plan.

A motion was also passed that the Synod Assembly call on our Federal Government for public policy support of an expanded system of basic income in Canada, to guarantee a basic annual income to all Canadians that is above the poverty line. Local congregations are also encouraged to find ways to support and nurture families within their communities. Other motions discussed were resource extraction, the care of veterans, the Criminal Justice and Corrections system, and solidarity with the people of the Holy Land.

A very important issue was the Biennium Reconciliation Initiative. It relates to our church's commitment to encourage right relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. We acknowledge the injustices of the residential school system on aboriginal peoples and are asked to pray for and walk with Indigenous people who are on their healing journeys. Collective efforts from all people are necessary to revitalize the

relationships between First Nations and Canadian society.

We had many worship services highlighting this theme. One was Kairos' (an ecumenical coalition for justice and peace sponsored by several Canadian churches) "Blanket Exercise" – an object lesson that was intended to demonstrate how Indigenous People's land was systematically taken away from them. A group of native women called *Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak* (which means, "Good-hearted Women Singers") performed a drumming circle and sang beautiful songs of their culture. They also led the whole assembly in a community dance which was a lot of fun and exercise.

Our Eastern Synod Vision for Mission over the next two years has adopted four mission priorities:

1. We will pursue compassionate justice;
2. We will strive to be a healthy synod;
3. We will build effective partnerships;
4. We will engage, cooperate with and support our National Church, and deepen our relationships with our companion synods.

Rev. Moses Prashad, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana brought greetings and reflected on our synod's mission support and partnership.

Robert Granke, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, brought us an update on global refugee status. The

Lutheran World Federation, of which our church is a member, is the second largest refugee relief agency in the world, next to the Red Cross.

Treasurer Keith Myra presented the revised budget for 2014 and the proposed budget for 2015-2016, which were adopted. We also enjoyed two Bible Studies presented by Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Doug Reble, which helped to keep us focussed and centred on why we were there.

On Saturday evening we attended the Eastern Synod Leadership Banquet, where awards were given to various recipients and milestone anniversaries of ordination were recognized. The closing worship service of the convention concluded with Holy Communion and the installation of Synod Council and Deans of our newly constituted ministry areas. Bishop Michael Pryse presided, and Bishop Susan Johnson preached an emotional sermon that expressed her deep love for the church.

Serving as your delegate, I learned a lot about how the church operates. As a child of God in Christ, I will strive to *pray* daily, *worship* weekly, *read* scripture, *study* to deepen my faith, *serve* in my church, *give* generously and *tell* my story of faith.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Rosarie Lisinski*



The theme of the 2014 ELCIC Praise Appeal is *Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly with Our God*. It comes from Micah 6:8 and outlines what God requires us to do in a way that is both memorable and compelling. The Eastern Synod's Goal is \$60,000, and at our April Congregational Council meeting, we

adopted a motion to set Advent's goal as \$500. The date for this year's special offering was set for July 20, the date the GWA presented Advent's worship service. You can still make your donation. Just mark your donation "Praise Appeal" on your offering envelope.

If we meet our Synod-wide goal, we will assist our national church to:

- Work in partnership with KAIROS and the Anglican Church of Canada in the areas of homelessness and affordable housing and responsible resource extraction;
- Support refugees around the world and work in many development and related programs with our partners in the

Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran World Relief;

- Do ministry in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches;
- Deepen the discipleship of all our members and find new ways to reach out in faith to those around us;
- Build 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.

In the past two years Advent has exceeded its goal for which we thank everyone. Please help us again to at least meet our congregation's goal for 2014. ♦

## 50th Anniversary Update

The 50th Jubilee Task Force kicked off the summer with a successful fundraising event on August 4 held in the garden at the church. We had a full afternoon of excitement with pizza donated to us by Pizza Pizza, music by Jonathon Lisinski's band, and face painting by Pierrette Emanuel. The event drew people both from the community as well as from the congregation. We raised \$221 which we used as seed money to order the Peace Event t-shirts that we have been displaying and taking orders for in church.

### T-Shirt Promotion

If you would like a T-Shirt please order one through Pastor Lisinski no later than September 7. The shirts are \$15 apiece. Donations are also welcome in lieu of a t-shirt.

The idea of printing t-shirts was that they'd be worn on September 20 when we unveil the Peace Pole. The shirts carry the Peace Pole's figure design created by Karen Harding and is meant to complement the event.

### Peace Pole Dedication

The September 20 event will be from 2:30-to 4:30 p.m. in the garden. Lester McLean's trio will open the event followed by Pastor Lisinski's dedication and unveiling of the Peace Pole, and continue with a barbecue. The event is free and open to everyone. However we would appreciate your generous donation to enable us cover the cost of the structure.

On September 21 we will celebrate worship with hymns performed by Advent's choir, and with Pastor Lisinski presiding and preaching.

### Congregational Anniversary Dinner

We hope that you have marked your calendars for our 50th Anniversary Congregational dinner on October 25 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Frankie Tomatto's on Woodbine Avenue. Dinner tickets will be available for sale in early September. The celebration will continue with the worship service on Reformation Sunday, October 26, with hymns and music performed by Advent's choir and guests. Bishop William Huras will preach at the service.

On behalf of the 50th Jubilee task force we welcome you back to church. Details of other events this fall will be distributed by email, announced in worship services and bulletins and in our upcoming newsletters.

*Mona Marcobelli*

## Congregational Council Update

Congregational Council will meet on September 15 after its summer break. The fall will be a busy time as we complete details of our 50th anniversary events and then begin making plans and preparing our budget for 2015.

I thank everyone for their extra effort during the summer while we worshipped in Cedar Hall for helping with set up and putting the chairs and books away following each service. We also thank Jai Sahadeo, Mercy De Silva and the Good Women of Advent for preaching and leading worship during Pastor Lisinski's vacation.

Claus Brandes is resigning as Financial Secretary at the end of 2014 and Council will be appointing his replacement. We thank Claus for his many years of dedicated work for Advent.

Our current financial picture is better than in the last report, but we still need to collect funds to pay for the Peace Pole in addition to the parking lot and other ongoing items. We encourage everyone to

make whatever donations we can to help cover the cost. The current estimate for the Peace Pole is \$8,000 and installation will be in addition.

If you are aware of any community organization who needs meeting space, we have space available so please ask them to contact the church.

We will decide on where the pole will be placed and invite everyone to come to the unveiling on September 20.

The final date that photos can be provided for the congregational photo directory will be announced shortly. If you have not had your photo taken, or wish to provide one, please speak with Pastor Lisinski as soon as possible.

We are discussing our garden situation and whether we will keep it as we are not getting any volunteers from Advent to maintain it. The weeds and growth are out of control. The garden needs weekly maintenance, not just a once a year or so effort. We are also discussing with the community garden coordinators the requirements of the

garden plots to encourage the users to clean them up as well. We appreciate any help and suggestions you can offer.

We will be making additional announcements in church and by email related to upcoming details for the remainder of our anniversary year events. Please watch for them.

*Judy Baribeau*

### Good Women of Advent

Hello all Good Women of Advent. Summer is over and it is time to start planning our program for the 2014/2015 season. As usual, we will start with a potluck supper. Please come to my house (217 Cassandra Blvd., TH 1106) on Wednesday, September 17. We will start at 6:30 p.m. with the meal.

Please let me know if you will be attending and what you might bring, and come prepared with lots of ideas for programs. Call 416-447-6895 or e-mail [brit-m@rogers.com](mailto:brit-m@rogers.com).

*Brit Missirlian*



## Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
September 7 Elizabeth Lancia	Adele Buckley	Gabi Schickedanz Judy Baribeau	Peter Buckley	Elias Yousefi George Tang	Jai and Rosie Sahadeo
September 14 Carol Peck	Olga Cosburn	Fred Roth Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Erich Lisinski	Judy Baribeau Brit Missirlian	Sivash Gholampur family
September 21 Elizabeth Lancia	Peter Reble	Lester McLean Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Fred Roth	Mona Marcobelli Erika Schurr	TBA
September 28 Judy Baribeau	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Peter Reble Indira Beekie	Mercy De Silva	George Tang Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Peter and Rosarie Lisinski

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