

ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

September/October 2015

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Pastor Lisinski Vacation Dates

Pastor Lisinski will be on vacation Sundays September 27 and October 4. As well, he will be on vacation November 8 and 15.

We will announce who will be leading the worship services on these Sundays as well as clergy to call in case of an emergency when these people are known.

We return to worship in our Sanctuary on September 13.

The Lutheran Reformation 500th Anniversary



1517-2017

Advent's Giving to June 30, 2015

Commitments	Received to 30/6/2015	Received to 30/6/2014	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose Rec. From Other Char.	\$41,692.58	\$48,065.96	-\$6,373.38
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$41,692.58	\$48,065.96	-\$6,373.38
Facilities	\$31,394.80	\$28,008.47	\$3,386.33
Regular Benevolence	\$4,950.00	\$4,637.00	\$313.00
Total Received	\$78,037.38	\$80,711.43	-\$2,674.05
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$1,740.00	\$1,728.00	\$12.00
Parking Lot Fund	\$7,814.00	\$4,561.73	\$3,252.27

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 – June was \$41,692.58, a substantial decrease of \$6,373.38.

However, it should be noted that the 2014 amount includes Received from Other Charities of \$5,541.00, whereas the 2015 total was only \$3,138.30. Our Current, Festival and Loose giving was therefore actually \$38,554.28, down \$3,970.68 or 9.3 % from the 2014 total of \$42,524.96.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-June was \$31,394.80, comprised of revenue from extra hours, in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show a significant increase of \$3,386.33. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates considerably as rental payments are

received. Notwithstanding, Brenda Kroeker's organization of rental revenues is reflected in this increase.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January -June 2015 increased by \$313.00 from 2014. 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 June, 2015, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$7,814.00.

Fred Roth, Treasurer

Unmasking Ourselves

Karen Harding invites Advent friends to *Unmasking Ourselves*, a retrospective exhibition of her sculpture which takes place at the Canadian Sculpture Centre, 500 Church Street, Toronto (between Wellesley and Carleton Subway stops) September 9-October 2.

The Opening Reception is Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m. with speakers Pastor Peter Lisinski and Michael Mills, Past President, Ontario Society of Artists.

There will also be an artist's talk on Saturday, September 26, at 2:00 p.m. during the Canadian Art Gallery Hop.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free entry. For further information, call 647 435 5858.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6

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905 424 7649 (residence)

The Rev. Peter Lisinski, Pastor

Email: fryarpuck@hotmail.com

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

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

Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527

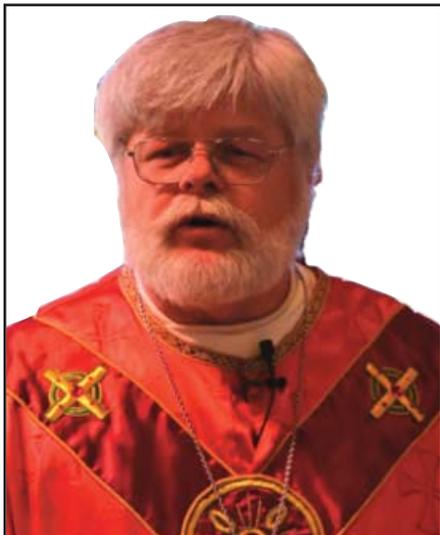
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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Peter Writes



The fifteenth biennial convention of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) took place in Edmonton, Alberta, from July 9-12 AD. 2015. For the fifth time – and second time as pastor of Advent Lutheran Church – I had the privilege of serving as an elected clergy delegate. More than 250 delegates met in the Shaw Convention Centre under the theme “Liberated By God’s Grace” inspired by Luke 4:19 – the very Gospel passage chosen for our congregation’s 50th “Golden Jubilee” anniversary celebrations in AD 2014.

Beginning with the report of our National Bishop, Rev. Susan Johnson – who was subsequently re-elected to a third term in office – the spirit of reconciliation infused our gathering with a vision of all God’s children coming together in a healing companionship of Holy Communion that inspired delegates from this first item on our agenda to the last (see below). In response to Bishop Susan’s initial challenge to “stretch ourselves as a church in mission for others, to be people of faith for people in need” we adopted five motions affirming God’s “jubilee” promise of liberation.

First, the Reformation Challenge – a two-year commitment leading up to the global commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 – during which our church plans to:

Edmonton Convention Delegate Report

- sponsor 500 new refugees across Canada;
- establish 500 bursaries (of \$1,400 each) for students attending schools of Church in Jordan and the Holy Land;
- plant 500,000 trees;
- raise \$500,000 for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Endowment Fund.

Second, renunciation of the so-called Doctrine of Discovery – in response to the recently published report of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s (TRC) investigation into Canada’s Residential Schools and documentation of the stories told by its First Nations survivors.

Third, affirmation of “Restorative Justice” initiatives to reform Canada’s Criminal Justice and Corrections System.

Fourth, endorsement of the United Nations document, entitled *Welcoming The Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders* – which promotes inter-religious respect, with particular concern for refugees as “a core value of personal faith” and “teaches compassion, mercy, love and hospitality for everyone: native born and foreign born, community member and newcomer...

Fifth, resolution to act personally and congregationally, and encourage government and business leaders to develop strategies to effectively respond to the global challenges of climate change.

In addition, delegates also adopted several resolutions amending the *ELCIC Constitution & Administrative Bylaws* to conform to the restructuring of our church’s governance; and endorsed a new policy authorizing duly appointed and trained lay persons to provide a ministry of Word and Sacrament, in consultation with synod bishops, when circumstances of geography, finance, and/or demographics preclude ordained pastoral ministry.

We also elected members of National Church Council, the Court of Adjudication, as well as the board of Group

Services Inc., who administers the church’s pension and health benefits plan.

Our formal agenda was intentionally interrupted twice for Bible study sessions focussing on the convention sub-theme: “Salvation – Not For Sale. Creation – Not For Sale. Human Beings – Not For Sale.” Led jointly by Rev. Dr. Alan Jorgenson, Professor at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS), and Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, Professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, these were moments of both challenge and affirmation reflecting on our 16th century Reformation heritage and its relevance in today’s equally turbulent political and religious climate.

Equally inspiring was the presence, throughout our convention proceedings, of the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who delivered the sermon at our opening worship service, and the Right Rev. Fred Hiltz, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada – the ELCIC’s “Full Communion” partner – who preached at our closing worship service.

We were also blessed by the address of our keynote speaker, TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson, and the presence of her husband, The Right Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, former Premier of the Northwest Territories – who, in song and story, shared his experience as a residential school survivor.

Interspersed between our table discussions and floor debates, we received various reports from Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission, Luther College, and Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, as well as KAIROS – a Canadian church coalition for peace and justice.

Now a word about one of the last agenda items alluded to above. The

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newly constituted Central Toronto Ministry Area (incorporating many of the congregations from the now-defunct Toronto Conference, including Advent) spent several meetings this year talking about the many opportunities and urgent necessity for ecumenical collaboration in Canada's increasingly diverse cultural and religious context.

Thus we resolved to present a motion at the convention encouraging the ELCIC to establish a formal partnership with the Canadian Churches' Forum (CCF), headquartered in Toronto. The CCF's current Executive Director is Rev. Jonathan Schmidt, a rostered pastor of the ELCIC. In the absence of our Dean, Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart – who had to return to Toronto early on Saturday afternoon – I was pleased to present our motion on the convention floor during the final hour of business. It was overwhelmingly adopted – though curiously, with a vote of 98% of registered delegates present in favour; 2% against, and 1% abstaining (totalling 101%). I continue to wonder which percentile included the vote of the Holy Spirit – present, though not a registered delegate.

Continuing on a more personal note, I am thankful that my wife Rosarie was able to accompany me and for the opportunity we had to visit with her brother, Bill Tilley and his wife Ann, who have lived in Edmonton since the turn of the millennium. After picking us up at the airport on Wednesday morning, they took us to see the West Edmonton Mall, which includes a full size ice hockey rink – where the Edmonton Oilers sometimes practice; an amusement park – complete with a giant roller coaster; a hotel with a waterfront beach; and a life-size replica of the Santa Maria – the ship on which Christopher Columbus sailed to the “New World” in A.D. 1492.

After dinner in their home that evening, Bill dropped us off at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel, where Canada's

national women's basketball team happened to be staying while training for the Pan Am Games, which took place in Toronto the following week.

During breakfast on Friday morning we enjoyed a friendly little chat at the coffee station with their best known player – and designated flagbearer for the closing ceremonies – Kia Nurse. Did being surrounded by all those Lutherans help them win the Gold Medal, for the first time in Pan Am history? After joining us for brunch in the hotel's revolving restaurant after worship on Sunday morning, Bill drove us back to the Edmonton airport for the flight home.

As usual, the highlight of such gatherings of God's people was the chance to meet new sisters and brothers in Christ – for example, newly elected Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod, Rev. Sidney Haugen and his wife Cathy; Pastor John Dut – a former refugee from South Sudan; and Pastor Kragbe Legre, a former Roman Catholic priest from Ivory Coast, all of whom shared our table at the closing banquet on Saturday night. It was also good to reconnect with longtime friends and colleagues including Pastor Craig Wendtland – our very busy convention chaplain – whom I supervised while he was a student at WLS in the early 1990s and with Rev. Kenn Ward – editor of *Canada Lutheran* – who mentored me while he was pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Maple during my seminary studies at WLS in the early 1980s.

Speaking of *Canada Lutheran*, the recent September/October 2015 issue offers photos and many other interesting details about our ELCIC's fifteenth biennial convention. It was a joy to take part, and it remains my joy to serve in our church In Mission For Others.

Peace be with you all.

Pastor Peter Lisinski

ELCIC
Praise
APPEAL 2015

Liberated by God's Grace: Creation – Not for Sale Advent's Goal is \$750

We thank everyone who has already contributed to the appeal and encourage you to support the appeal if you have not already done so.

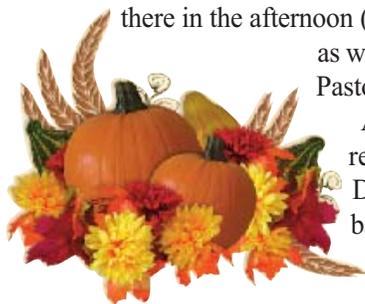


Canada Lutheran

You will notice a pink envelope in your boxes during September for *Canada Lutheran*. This is the official magazine of the ELCIC and contains news about the national church as well as pages for news from each Synod. We encourage you to renew your subscription, or if you would like a copy delivered to your home, to take out a subscription. Please use the pink envelope, or write *Canada Lutheran* on your regular envelope to indicate your your donation for this worthwhile magazine.

Thanksgiving – October 11

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 10). 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 a local food bank.

*Thank you.
Brit Missirlian*

What Did Martin Luther Eat?

What did Martin Luther eat? Come and find out at our Fundraising (for the parking lot) Anniversary dinner on Sunday, October 25. The dinner will be prepared by some of our members. The rest of you won't have to do a thing, except – buy a dinner ticket, sit down and enjoy. Look for more information and ticket sales in the beginning of October.



A Silent Auction will also be part of the fun. Please look around for items to donate for the silent auction. Items can include artwork, crafts, etc. (no rummage sale-type items).

Study up on Luther and be prepared to answer a Luther Quiz. And maybe even Luther's wife will pay us a visit.

Brit Missirlian



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 10, beginning at 8:00 p.m., at my home. Please speak with me for more information and my address if you are interested in joining our devoted choir as we praise God through song. I look forward to welcoming newcomers and our regular choir members back on September 10.

Trevor Hicks, Music Director

Sunday School

This year's Sunday school will start on September 13 and go to June 26, 2016. Classes will be held during the worship service. We invite you to bring your children to join our Sunday School every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. Together we will learn more about God's love and the Bible through fun and exciting ways such as singing, telling stories, making crafts, and playing games.

Xiuyan Xu

Seniors

The Seniors group will meet the first and third Tuesday each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The first meeting this fall will be on September 1. Please speak with Cynthia Stewart for additional information.

Worship and the Arts

Worship and the Arts Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Congregational Council

Congregational Council will meet on Monday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

GWA

GWA (Good Women of Advent) are ready for a new "season". On Wednesday September 16, we are starting with our traditional Pot Luck Supper as well as setting up plans for 2015/2016. Please contact Brit (416-447-6895) if you would like to attend.

Brit Missirlian

Congregational Council Update

Congregational Council normally takes a summer break during July and August. However, some issues came up and we held a special meeting in July.

Oriole Food Space

We began discussion with representatives of Oriole Food Space in April. They needed to make alternate arrangements for their food bank for 18 months starting September 1 because of renovations being made to their building. We made our first proposal to them at the end of June for space two days a week at our regular rates, or one day a week at half the cost. They responded that the cost was too high. Following that, members of the congregation were asked to comment on the project, and we thank everyone for contacting us with their concerns. Council met on July 23 for a Special Meeting. We looked carefully at our space allocation for the foreseeable future and noted that there would only be one day a week we could offer Oriole regular space with a block of hours they required and at the rate they said they could pay. They then responded on August 6 saying they are declining our offer because they could not run the food bank in the time allotted and at the cost for the time available. They thanked us for our consideration.

Phones and Computer

We thank Jim and Karen Doak for donating a new computer for the pastor's office and thank Jim in particular for many hours spent setting everything up so we can make full use of the computer. During this time we discovered that the phone service at the church was not working and later in August had phone and Internet service restored. It appears that someone fiddled with the kitchen phone connection and shorted out our internal phone system. For your information, the kitchen phone can only be used for outgoing local calls. You need to dial "9" to start dialing the number. Incoming calls only go to the pastor's office. We also thank Gerard Baribeau for his work in connecting the computer with the printers. Everything is now working fine.

Finances

Our finances are an ongoing concern. We encourage everyone to consider increasing their offerings to the extent they can. We realize this can be difficult because many of us are seniors. While our pensions don't increase, our costs do. We particularly need to pay for our parking lot and ask for support for this area.

Other

Thank you to Erika Schurr and her helpers for their work in organizing and carrying out the car wash on July 25 to raise funds for the parking lot.

We thank Jim Doak for arranging to have the pianos tuned and the men's group for covering the cost of repair to the piano in Cedar Hall. It appears that some mice had lunch at one time with the works.

We thank Cynthia Stewart for coming in on Saturdays during the summer to set up chairs and other items for Sunday worship. Cynthia also looks after a number of other items weekly to ensure that everything is in place on Sunday mornings.

Judy Baribeau

Volunteer Schedule

Please contact Olga Cosburn if you would like to serve as coffee host on a particular Sunday. On Sundays where we provide "Coffee Only", volunteers are needed to help with the cleanup after coffee. Also, any offerings of goodies are welcome.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
September 6 Walter Rothenburger	Joe Hunt	Victoria Gangadeen Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau Nalini Beekie	Coffee Only
September 13 Brit Missirlian	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Gabi Schickedanz Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Carol Peck	George Tang Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Sahar and Siavash Gholampour
September 20 Rosarie Lisinski	Indira Beekie	Bill Wesioly Indira Beekie	Mercy De Silva	Brit Missirlian George Tang	Coffee Only
September 27 Brit Missirlian	Elias Yousefi	Erika Schurr N/A	Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau Elias Yousefi	Mercy and Krish De Silva
October 4 Judy Baribeau	Jim Hicks Ted Winslow	Lester McLean N/A	Nalini Beekie	Brit Missirlian George Tang	Karyne Lemieux
October 11 Brit Missirlian	Mona Marcobelli	Nalini Beekie Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Coffee Only
October 18 Walter Rothenburger	Cynthia Stewart	Gabi Schickedanz Karen Doak	Indira Beekie	George Tang TBA	Judy and Gerard Baribeau
October 25 Judy Baribeau	Joan McLean	Victoria Gangadeen Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck	Elias Yousefi TBA	Coffee Only

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