

# ADVENTur e



Advent Lutheran Church

September/October 2016

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### Welcome to Advent

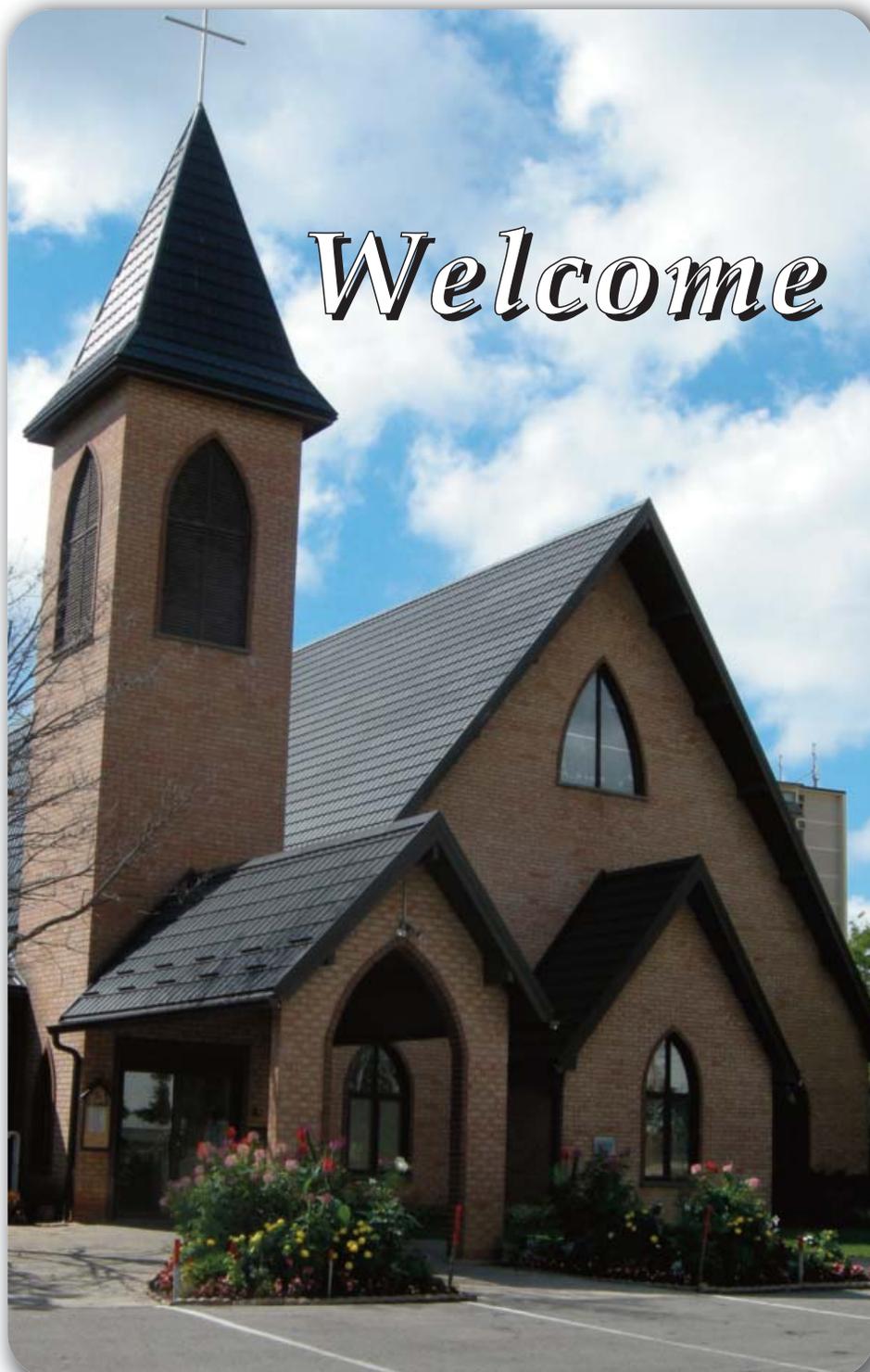
Summer is almost over, and we return to worship in our Sanctuary on September 4. We miss you when you are not in church. Whether you were traveling, at the cottage, didn't particularly care to worship in Cedar Hall, or it was just too hot, we invite you to help fill our pews again on Sundays and then stay for refreshments following the service.

Sunday School classes will begin on September 11.

### Choir Rehearsals

Advent's choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday mornings beginning on September 11, at 9:00 a.m. If you like to sing, enjoy music and would like to join our choir, please speak with me. No musical knowledge is required. All are welcome.

*Trevor Hicks*



## Praise Appeal Sunday September 18

The GWA will lead the service on September 18. We thank everyone who has contributed toward the Praise Appeal. If you still wish to make a contribution, please write "Praise Appeal" on your offering envelope and join us on September 18 for the service. Our Congregational Council has set a goal of \$500 from Advent for this year's appeal.

The theme for the 2016 ELCIC Praise Appeal, *Liberated by God's Grace: Human Beings – Not for Sale*, echoes The Lutheran World Federation theme for the commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The commemoration gives us the opportunity to remember and reflect on the Reformation and what it means for us now, living as Lutheran people within the whole body of Christ. ♦



## July 24 Sermon by Mona Marcobelli

Hello dear Advent friends,

Pastor Lisinski asked a number of congregation members to prepare and present a sermon during his vacation Sundays. I graciously accepted to write a sermon that I presented on July 24. Due to the attendees' interest to read it again, I thought I would share it on social media also on my blog. Here's an excerpt:

*"They say there are three types of love, the Eros, the Philo and the Agape. However I have added a fourth type of love that is so important to the fusion of the other types of love that it needs to have a category of its own; and it is the Agape tis afto."*

Please visit my blog *Share With Mona* to discover for yourself the difference between the four types of love and the common thread that fuses them together.

Please feel free to like, share, and comment on the blog.

*Enjoy,  
Mona Marcobelli*

## Sunday School Classes Begin September 11

We are pleased that Xiuyan Xu will serve as our Sunday School teacher again this coming year. The classes will begin on September 11 and will be held during the worship services. Please bring your children, grandchildren, neighbours and friends to take advantage of this important program for the children. ♦

## Canada Lutheran

You will notice in your envelope boxes a pink envelope in September for Canada Lutheran. If you wish to continue your subscription next year, or begin a subscription, please make your donation in either the pink envelope or in your regular envelope and indicate "Canada Lutheran". The cost for the subscription is \$20 for a year. This is the ELCIC's national magazine that contains many interesting topical articles as well as a section of news for each of our five Synods. ♦

## Our Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to the family of Rose Shave who died on July 31. She passed away peacefully at the age of 89 at Michael Garron Hospital (formerly TEGH). Beloved wife of the late John "Jack" Shave. Loving mother of Kathy Atherton and Mark Corak. Cherished grandmother of Erin Atherton, and Claire Atherton. Survived by Paula Jank, and Reni, Dale and Solana Johannson. Friends and family will be received at Heritage Funeral Centre, 50 Overlea Blvd. (416 423 1000) on Saturday, September 3, from 2 p.m. until the time of the Memorial Service in the funeral home chapel at 3 p.m. Private cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated. Directions, donations and online condolences may be found at [www.heritagefuneralcentre.ca](http://www.heritagefuneralcentre.ca). ♦

## Men's Breakfast Group

All men in the congregation are invited to a good breakfast, conversation and fellowship the first Saturday every month, 9:00 a.m. at Rosemary & Thyme Restaurant, southwest corner of Van Horne and Victoria Park. Please speak with Jim Doak for further information. ♦

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship Service and Sunday School –  
10:00 a.m.

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

Judy Baribeau, Editor 416 264 4527

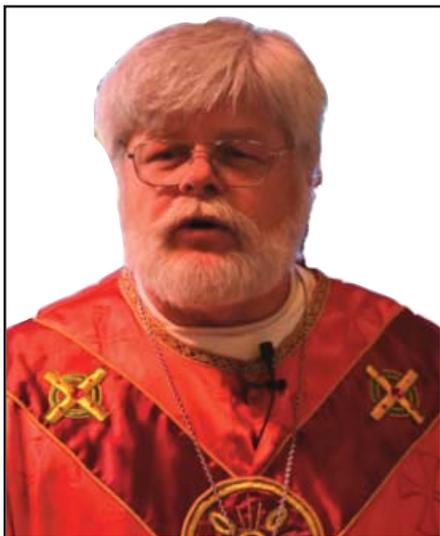
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Advent Lutheran Church

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# Pastor Peter Writes



Dear Friends in, at, and of Advent,

**T**hey say (whoever “they” may be) that, “In order to know where you are going (whoever you are) you have to know where you have been.” This familiar “proverb” of our culture reflects the meaning of the word “tradition”. Tradition is about preserving the best from past generations in order to best serve the present generation, in turn to better provide (provide better?) for future generations. For example, during election campaigns politicians raise the question, “Are you better off now than you were four years ago?” Christianity’s traditional purpose has been to proclaim and serve God’s promise of a better world as it is

envisioned and embodied in the divine humanity of Jesus Christ.

But somewhere along the way – historians differ about exactly where – Christian tradition, inside as well as outside of the church, came to be understood primarily as the preservation of certain forms of worship, types of music, formulations of doctrine, orders of ministry, rites of passage, and structures of church government. Tradition is dismissed by some as “old fashioned”, but defended by others as “the way we’ve always done it.” And there is a kernel of truth in both opinions. But the most “old fashioned” tradition of Christian faith long ago ceased to be “the way the church has always done it.” The most ancient tradition of all among the followers of Jesus of Nazareth is reflected in the frequently heard word currently striking fear in the hearts of politicians and citizens alike in our rapidly disintegrating modern world: “radicalization”.

Though the methods Jesus and his earliest disciples used were, and must remain, distinctly different from those “radicalized” today, God’s Holy Spirit continues to call Jesus’ latest disciples to “radicalization”. In a world of violence Christians are called to radical non-violence; in a culture of self-serving, Christians are called to radical self-giving. The early church grew – exponentially – in membership and influence

because of its radicalization. “See how Christians love one another,” was the astonished confession of the early church’s harshest Roman critics. The mutual care for those inside the church, and the church’s compassion for those outside of its companionship, attracted peoples’ attention, and inspired a social movement that transformed the world – quite literally – around the church. (Vienna, Austria, where I was born, is typical of “city planning” throughout Christian Europe, with St. Stephen’s Cathedral at its very centre, and all roads and neighbourhoods encircling it.)

Conversely, the Christian church today, including our congregation, is declining – exponentially – in membership and influence because our original radicalization has been neutralized by the privatization of faith confined to “personal” relationships with Jesus, apart from commitment to social transformation: “Go and make disciples of all nations (plural) teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (plural)...” (Matthew 28:19-20).

As September’s renewal arrives, the people of Advent stand at the crossroad. As we ponder “where we are going” let “remember “where we have been”. “All nations” to whom Jesus sends us now live at our doorstep. Let us “Go and make disciples” among them, “teaching them to obey” our most ancient tradition of social transformation through radical self-giving love for our Peanut “Neighbourhood of Nations”. We may not see immediate or obvious results; we may not continue long as a congregation; but we will uphold the tradition worthy of Jesus’ faithful disciples, reflected in a not-quite-yet-but-becoming-traditional song: “They (whoever “they” may be) will know we are Christians by our love...”

*Pax Vobiscum.*  
Pastor Peter Lisinski

## Thanksgiving October 9



If you want to bring flowers/plants to decorate the church for Thanksgiving, they can be brought the week before or on Friday (October 7) between 10 and 12 noon.

## Congregational Council Update

Congregational Council did not hold any regular meetings during the summer.

We did meet on August 8 with Kevin Zhang from the Mandarin congregation that worships at Advent. Kevin is taking a course entitled "Maintenance and Mission: Congregations and Leadership in Post Christendom Church" at Trinity College, U of T, toward a M Div degree. This course involves a Congregation Health Survey. We did discuss his questions with him, but suggested that he speak to individual members of the congregation to get a more realistic response. We invited him to come sometime this



## Thank You for Summer Supply

Each year a number of our members willingly prepare and deliver the sermon on the Sundays our Pastor is on vacation. We thank the following people for their work this year:

- **Gabi Schickedanz:** Gabi led the service on June 26 while Pastor Lisinski attended the Synod Assembly and she read the sermon prepared by Bishop Pryse.
- **Adele Buckley:** July 10
- **Jai Sahadeo:** July 17
- **Mona Marcobelli** on July 24
- **Samira Gebhardt** on August 21
- **Jim Doak** on August 28.

The benefit to Advent of members serving in this capacity is two-fold. We get to hear excellent sermons from our volunteers and we are able to save money by not having to arrange for a supply pastor. We are fortunate to have these resources in our congregation. ♦

fall. We hope that if you are asked to participate, you will be willing to spend some time with him. The results of this survey could also be useful as we plan our future at Advent.

### Changes at Advent

- **Jai Sahadeo** is resigning as Interim Treasurer effective the end of September. We thank him for all his work this past year.
- **Bill Wesioly** has accepted the position of Treasurer and will begin this fall. We thank Bill for accepting the position and look forward to working with him.

### Interim Pastor

■ The Synod has appointed Pastor Ernie Skujins as Interim Pastor at Advent. He will begin his work with us following Pastor Lisinski's departure on November 6. Pastor Skujins is able to lead Sunday worship services as he does not have regular Sunday responsibilities in his full-time job. We will be discussing his part-time role at Advent and most likely will need some members to assist in some duties during the week. As his role develops, we will give additional information. We welcome Pastor Skujins to Advent.

*Judy Baribeau*

## Volunteer Opportunities

A congregation cannot survive without its members being generous with their time, talents and gifts. We have a number of opportunities available. Please check your schedules and volunteer where you can help. Here are some needs. If you would like to do something not listed below, please let me know.

- **Bulletin Preparation:** George Tang has been filling this role and is resigning. If you are interested, please speak with George or Judy Baribeau. We have a photocopier at church that can be used for reproduction.
- **Coffee Host:** We have been unable to provide coffee fellowship as in the past because of lack of volunteers. If you would like to provide coffee and refreshments on a particular Sunday, please speak with Olga Cosburn.
- **Readers:** Recently the list of readers has dwindled and the Assisting Ministers are willing to fill that role. However, if you would like to be a regular reader, or read on a particular Sunday, please speak with Olga Cosburn.
- **Altar Care:** We have a small but dedicated group of people who make sure that the altar area is cleaned and set up for each Sunday. We would like to have some more volunteers to help in this important function. If you are interested, please speak with Brit Missirlan.
- **Congregational Council Member:** Due to some resignations, we have opportunities available for people willing to help in the governance of the congregation. At this point of the year, Council can appoint persons to serve until the next Annual Meeting. If you are interested, please speak with Judy Baribeau.
- **Church Maintenance:** Just as in our homes, there are things in the church that need fixing from time to time. If you would like to help in this area, please speak with Bob Schickedanz or Judy Baribeau and let them know in what area you can help (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, general fixing, outdoor, etc.).
- **Choir Member:** We all enjoy the music our choir provides. We can always use more voices. If you like to sing, please speak with our Music Director, Trevor Hicks.
- **Ushers:** We have a few dedicated people who serve as ushers, but we could use more volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please put your name down for Sundays you are available.
- **Assisting Minister:** We thank Lester McLean for his dedicated work in scheduling the Assisting Ministers each week. If you are interested in joining this group, please speak with Lester McLean.

*Judy Baribeau*

# Advent Lutheran Church

## Interim Treasurer's Report – January 1-July 31, 2016

This year (to July 31-2016) has been financially challenging to Advent Lutheran Church.

The good news is that the financial outlook YTD July 31, 2016, is positive as reflected in the financial numbers on the right.

### Increase cash balance \$15 (2016-\$27 vs 2015-\$12) is due to the following

#### Revenues

- Envelopes, Festival and Loose increased by \$2k. (2016-\$45 vs 2015-\$43).
- Received from other Charities increased by \$3k. (2016-\$6 vs 2015- \$3))

(Note-Received from Other Charities means that members give their donations to another registered charity(s), with the direction that the monies be transferred to Advent's bank account. Advent does not issue a tax receipt to these members.

- User Fees (Rental) increased by \$6K. (2016-\$49 vs 2015-\$43) due substantially to rent increases and more occasional users.

#### Operating Expenditures

- Cost reduction by approximately \$4k. (2016-\$96 vs 2015-\$100) There were small reductions in all cost categories.

Cash Balance – Current (YTD July 2016 vs. YTD July 2015)		
	2016 (\$000)	2015 (\$000)
Total Current Cash Balance:		
Cash Balance (Surplus/(Deficit) B/Fwd.	27	12

### Cash Balance – Restricted Funds (at July 31, 2016)

■ **Capital Reserve Fund:** Balance of \$28.3k. This Fund needs to be increased for much needed capital spending on subdued items of capital improvement.

■ **Endowment Fund:** Balance of \$7k. Included in this amount is an additional donation of \$1k for YTD July 31, 2016.

■ **Parking Lot Fund:** Balance of \$17.7k. Members continue to maintain and increase their contributions to this Fund. Monies from parking fees and parking lot fund raising events are also included in this Fund.

The parking lot loan which currently stands at \$40k, will be reduced to \$30k effective August 1, 2016, due to a loan prepayment of \$10k plus accrued interest.

■ **Sunday School, Youth and Confirmation Fund:** Balance of \$1.6k. During the year, three Funds (Sunday School, Wishlist and Youth) were combined into

a new Fund called Sunday School, Youth and Confirmation Fund which has a combined balance of \$1.6k.

### Conclusion

While Current cash balance increased by \$15k from the prior period ending July 2015, Advent's future challenges are not a test of one person but the dedication of many. Responsibility for tasks, usually done by a few, now needs to be taken up by the many in order to be successful.

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone for their support during my term at Advent as Interim Treasurer. My prayer for the congregation is that members continue to support one another, to live in Faith, Hope and Love and move forward to make 2016 and onwards successful.

*Jai Sahadeo  
Interim Treasurer*

## The Good Women of Advent Begin Their New Season on September 14

GWA (Good Women of Advent) is starting their gatherings with a Pot Luck Supper. We will enjoy a variety of delicious food, brainstorm a program for the 2016/2017 season, catch up on each other's news of summer vacations and just enjoy the company.

Judy Baribeau is our host for this evening. We will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30. If you haven't been part of the GWA so far, please think about joining us. All women of the congregation are welcome. For more information, speak with Brit Missirlian (at church or home 416-447-6895).

*Brit Missirlian*



## From the Loft

## The Organ

As summer winds down, I lament that the cool fall weather will replace the beautiful hot weather we've enjoyed in Toronto this summer. While I know that I might be alone in my love of the hot, hazy and humid summers that we experience, there is something about fall that I look forward to: our return to the sanctuary and a return to serving God on the pipe organ.

The organ is in my mind the quintessential musical instrument for use in divine worship. It is perhaps most widely recognized as a "churchy" instrument, a stereotype that ignores the fact that it has also featured prominently in other realms – stadium sports games and even in early cinema before orchestral scoring imbedded on the reels was possible. In the sacred music field, some of the most beautiful sacred music ever composed was composed for the organ. There is no instrument that can literally shake the rafters at its loudest and yet be played so quietly that one has to strain to hear it.

That said, there are many churches that are now migrating to a more modern style of worship, a style of worship that utilizes bands rather than the organ. Organs are being replaced with pianos in even the most conservative parishes. With these trends, not only is worship changing towards a more contemporary style of worship, but the organ and the great repertoire of sacred music written for it are slowly falling into obscurity. The reasons for these changes are not only what it may seem: namely, that churches are finding it necessary to entice young people to come to worship by offering a style that they think millennials will be better drawn to. While this undoubtedly factors into the decision to "modernize" worship,

the financial constraint rears its ugly head in, too.

Organs are complicated instruments. Some, like our organ at Advent, are very heavily reliant on mechanical components. When something goes wrong mechanically, it requires repair. While some organists like myself are able to make quick fixes, some repairs need to be performed by a trained organ builder. While repairs are inevitable after time, they can often be controlled with care, keeping costs down. Tuning, on the other hand, is a whole "nother" ball game.

Organs have many pipes. Some organs have upwards of 8,000 pipes. The organ of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, the principle church I worship at when I am in New York, has more than 9,000 pipes. (Do I need to mention that I would love to get my hands on that organ, even for a second?!?!). Each pipe is designed to make one sound, and one note. If you have an organ with two manuals (keyboards) each with 66 keys and 12 stops (or sounds) between them, then you already have an organ with over 700 individual pipes, though that number would be higher if you accounted for individual ranks for the pedal division. Each pipe requires individual tuning; and while playing does eventually put a pipe out of tune, other factors such as moisture in the air and temperature wreak havoc on the tuning of the pipes. In order for any instrument to sound its best, it must be in tune.

Pastor Peter, in a meeting he and I had before the organ was refurbished, said something that has stuck with me since he said it: the air that goes through the pipes, he said, is like the breath of the Holy Spirit. I don't know about you, but



that sent chills down my spine. It confirms that God is with us in our song. It also confirms that while we sing to God, God sings with us and that He is found in our instrumental music as well. The organ is an essential part of worship in my eye and one that must be protected and nurtured.

In order to ensure that our organ is tuned up and repaired prior to Christmas, a portion of the proceeds of my upcoming concert on September 17 will be used to help us keep our organ at Advent sounding great. I encourage you to attend the concert and help us support our music ministry. More information on the concert is found elsewhere in this edition of our newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions relating to the organ or our music ministry at Advent, please ask.

*Yours from the loft,  
Trevor Hicks  
Music Director*



# Pastoral Reflections on the Eastern Synod Assembly – Toronto, June 23 to 26, AD 2016

Since Advent opted not to send a lay delegate to this year's Eastern Synod Assembly, I have agreed to offer some brief personal reflections in lieu of the customary delegate's report.

Of all the Synod Assemblies and church conventions I've attended over the past thirty years, the recent gathering of our Eastern Synod in Toronto was probably the least controversial and most routine. It began with Bishop Michael Pryse's report, including his prophecy that our National Bishop, Susan Johnson, is not likely to ever appear on the cover of *Time Magazine*; his personal lament over the growing trend toward part-time pastoral ministry tempting more and more financially fearful congregations; and his vision of hope reflected in the ELCIC's Reformation Challenge (see my report on last year's Edmonton Convention) and our partnerships with Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

A sense of hope was powerfully affirmed by the Rev. Dr. Munib Younan,

who was present throughout the assembly in his dual capacity as current President of the LWF, as well as Bishop of the ELCJHL. Anticipating the upcoming global celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, Bishop Younan connected the historic importance, and contemporary relevance, of Martin Luther's renewal of Christian faith and mission by highlighting the difference the ELCJHL is making in the tense relationship between Israelis and Palestinians among whom they live and serve.

I intend to present many of the inspiring and insightful remarks he made in his three, hour-long addresses to the delegates as a three-part "Reformation" series beginning on Sunday, October 16, continuing on October 23, and concluding on October 30 – Reformation Sunday. You won't want to miss it.

Of substantial significance was the assembly's approval of a motion to grant Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) \$1,000,000 (one million) toward its planned \$9,000,000 renovation project, to be completed by September 2018 by

which time its new name will officially be Martin Luther University College.

## Other adopted motions included

- Encouraging congregations to become more intentional in stewardship of the environment
- Encouraging the federal government, in consultation with First Nations, to develop a national housing strategy
- Encouraging the federal government to develop a national action plan on violence against women
- Encouraging our Bishop to formally express concern to the Lutheran Church in Latvia to reverse its recent decision to discontinue the ordination of women.

For the first time, 24 lay persons and 17 rostered (pastoral) delegates to national church conventions were elected at the Synod Assembly.

For Minutes and other items of interest I refer members to the Eastern Synod's website: [www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org); or to the most recent issue of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*.

*Pastor Peter Lisinski*

## Events and Meetings at Advent

- September 3 and October 1 – Men's Breakfast
- September 6 and 20, October 4 and 18 – Advent Seniors, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- September 11 – ESO meeting after Worship
- September 12 and October 17 – Congregational Council, 7:30 p.m.
- September 14 – GWA (see Page 6)
- September 17 – Trevor Hicks Concert (see Page 8)
- September 25 – Worship and the Arts meeting after worship
- October 30 – Annual Dinner (details to be announced)◆

## 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.

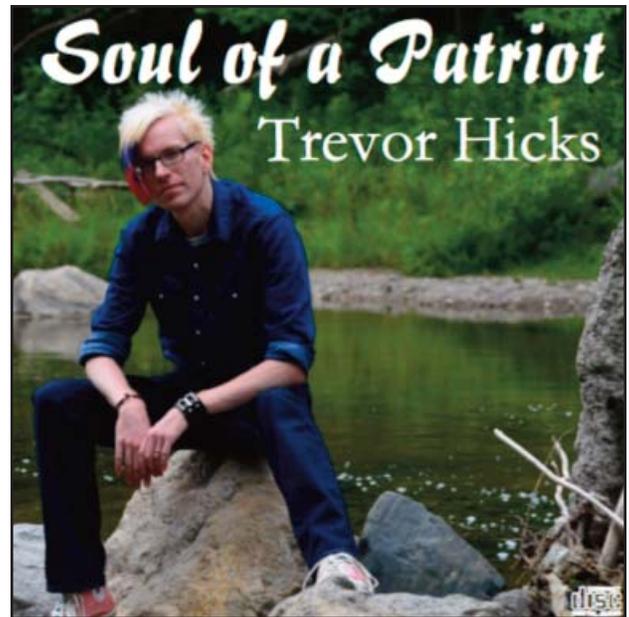
*Judy Baribeau*

## Soul of a Patriot

Please join me in the main sanctuary on Saturday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. for my latest concert offering: *Soul of a Patriot*. This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks on the United States and to commemorate the attacks, I will be premiering a song cycle that reflects on the attacks and their aftermath and my own patriotism. Patriotic songs and anthems from the United States, Canada, Germany, Russia, Great Britain and Australia will also be heard in what will be a musical journey around the world.

Tickets are \$20, a portion of which will be provided to the music ministry of Advent to help us tune the organ in time for the Advent/Christmas season. I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Trevor Hicks  
Music Director*



## PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

If you would like to contribute regularly to Advent, and are not able to attend worship services each Sunday, or are away for extended periods (summer at the cottage or winter in Florida), you have the option to arrange for a monthly transfer from your bank account to Advent's. Please speak with our Financial Secretary, Gary Hoosein Jacobs, to get the form to fill out. Regular remittances to Advent will help greatly to keep our finances on track.

## 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	Counters	Coffee Hosts
<b>September 4</b>	Carol Peck	Indira Beekie	Bill Wesioly Judy Baribeau	Judy Baribeau	Coffee only
<b>September 11</b>	Brit Missirlian	Elias Yousefi	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Erika Schurr TBA	Waveney Kanhai & Wendy Ramassar
<b>September 18</b>	Judy Baribeau	Jim Hicks	Gabi Schickedanz Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Sonita Dillon-Rhodium Judy Baribeau	Rosie & Jai Sahadeo
<b>September 25</b>	TBA	Karyne Holgate-Lemieux	Lester McLean Indira Beekie	Judy Baribeau Erika Schurr	Coffee only
<b>October 2</b>	TBA	Cynthia Stewart	Bill Wesioly Judy Baribeau	Erika Schurr TBA	Brenda Kroeker
<b>October 9</b>	TBA	Joan McLean	Bill Wesioly Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Judy Baribeau Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Coffee Only
<b>October 16</b>	Judy Baribeau	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean Jim Doak	TBA TBA	Pastor Peter & Rosarie Lisinski
<b>October 23</b>	Carol Peck	Olga Cosburn	Victoria Gangadeen Indira Beekie	TBA TBA	Coffee only
<b>October 30</b>	Judy Baribeau	Joe Hunt	Gabi Schickedanz Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau TBA	Coffee Only

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

The Assisting Ministers will read the lessons. If anyone would like to read on a particular Sunday, please contact Olga Cosburn.