

ADVENTur



Advent Lutheran Church

Summer 2014

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**Help us celebrate
Advent's 50th
Anniversary Year**

Worship Location Changes
We will worship in Cedar Hall
through August 31.



Advent's Giving to May 31, 2014

Commitments	Received to 31/05/2014	Received to 31/05/2013	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$40,801.41	\$31,735.56	\$9,065.85
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total	\$40,801.41	\$31,735.56	\$9,065.85
Facilities	\$23,804.17	\$32,606.00	-\$8,801.83
Regular Benevolence	\$3,677.00	\$4,054.00	-\$377.00
Total Received	\$68,282.58	\$68,395.56	-\$112.98
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$1,327.00	\$1,664.00	-\$337.00
Parking Lot Fund	\$3,778.33	\$5,667.53	-\$1,889.20

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 – May was \$40,801.41, a significant increase of \$9,065.85 over 2013.

However, it should be noted that the 2014 amount includes Received from Other Charities of \$5,541, whereas the 2013 total was only \$1,888. Our Current, Festival and Loose giving was therefore actually \$35,260.41, up \$5,412.75 from the 2013 total of \$29,847.56. This increase has actually offset the decline in Facilities revenue that has impacted us through 2014.

Facilities

Facilities revenue for January-May was \$23,804.17, comprised of revenue from extra hours in addition to revenue from our regular users. The revenues show an alarming decrease of \$8,801.83. Bear in mind that Facilities revenue fluctuates

considerably as rental payments are received. However, this is not a one-time occurrence; our property revenue has declined drastically.

Benevolence Giving

Regular Benevolence giving for January-May 2014 decreased by \$377 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 May, 2014, total receipts for the New Parking Lot Fund totaled \$3,778.33.

Fred Roth, Treasurer

Congregational Council Update

Our Council met on June 16 and our next meeting will be September 15. At our June meeting we met with Nasrin Khatam, coordinator of the community garden, and discussed our various concerns.

We had a property clean-up on May 29 and thank Bob and Rick Schickedanz for removing all of the discarded items from inside and outside the church. We will schedule another clean-up day in the fall.

The Altar Guild has placed an order for new green paraments. They should be received in September. As funds are available, additional ones will be purchased.

The summer worship schedule and worship leaders are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. We thank our volunteers

for stepping in during Pastor Lisinski's vacation Sundays.

We are encouraging members to make donations towards the Peace Pole which is our 50th Anniversary project. Brochures and forms are available in church.

At our meeting we discussed my serious concern about the lack of care for our outdoor plantings. We are seriously considering removing the "garden" and planting grass again because no one is volunteering to do the hard work required to clean it up and maintain it. I invite you to take a walk around the church and offer any suggestions as to what we can do to make our property look respectable. It is particularly bad around the southwest corner. Clean-up will not be an easy job.

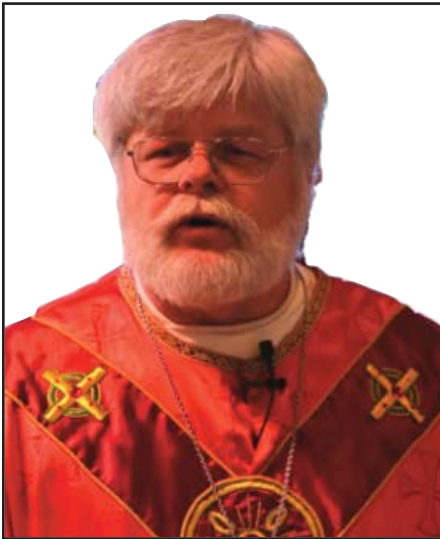
I hope you are enjoying your summer and please remember to worship regularly and continue your financial support for Advent.

Judy Baribeau

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Peter Writes...



Dear Adventurers,

In his report at our recent Eastern Synod Assembly, Bishop Michael Pryse, reflecting on the dramatic decline of our church, issued this simple challenge: "We have to learn how to grow the church again."

Although studies have continually shown that the most effective – and least expensive – method of "growing the

church" is by personally inviting a neighbour, friend or family member to Sunday worship, most Lutherans remain reluctant. But it's really not that hard. For example, when someone shares with me their plans for Sunday, I often slip in the simple question, "Will that be before or after church?" Usually the response is, "Instead of"; but it gets the conversation started... and that's all we are called to do. We are not called to argue, debate or persuade. We are called simply to witness, and most people – including most Lutherans – are very good at it, except when it comes to talking about God, Jesus, faith and church.

Most of us have conversations every day about books we've read, movies we've seen, investments we've made, vacation plans, health issues, political opinions... Most of us have little trouble talking about matters of interest or import to us. Most of us have had enough exposure to courtroom drama – on television, if not personal experience – to know that

witnessing is not complicated. The role of the witness is not to try and convince a jury of a defendant's guilt or innocence. It is simply to tell the truth about what they have seen and heard.

As Christians – and Lutherans – we are called to testify to the truth of God's love as it has been revealed in Jesus Christ – and as we have shared it in the holy communion of our church and congregation. But it is the Holy Spirit who inspires responses of faith in those we speak with. So, next time you're talking to your neighbour over the backyard fence, a colleague around the water cooler, on the telephone with a friend, why not ask, "What are you doing next Sunday?" Who knows (God knows), it may just change their life – not to mention your own, and our church's, too. And that, in turn, will change the world God so loves and promises to save, in Jesus Christ.

Have a happy, healthy, holy summer. See you in church.

Pastor Peter

50th Anniversary Update

The 50th Jubilee Task Force has been diligently working on a series of events to commemorate Advent's 50th anniversary. We have kicked off the year with Trevor Hicks' concert last spring with many more events to come this Fall and Winter.

As you may know the theme of this 50th anniversary mainly revolves around peace projects, one of which the erection and commemorating of the Peace Pole in the church's garden. We are planning on celebrating on September 20 this unprecedented event in the history of our church with music and festivities followed on September 21 with worship featuring a guest preacher.

Moreover, mark also your calendars for our main feature of this 50th year's anniversary – the Congregational Dinner on October 25 and the worship service on October 26 with Bishop Huras preaching.

After much deliberation between different restaurant options we have decided that the majority of people opted for Frankie Tomato, due to its large selection of food, and vast seating capacity to accommodate the large group of our congregation. Tickets will be available at \$30 per person in September which include the buffet, tax and gratuities. Drinks are not included.

We invite and encourage all of you to partake in this memorable evening on Saturday, October 25, at 5:00 p.m. and on October 26 to be followed by a very diverse and spectacular worship with music from Advent's own choir, guest singers, and more.

On behalf of the 50th Jubilee task force we wish you a great summer.

Mona Marcobelli



Remembering Pastor Earl Albrecht

On Sunday, June 15 -- Father's Day -- Rev. Earl Albrecht, who as our pastor from 1979 to 1995, prepared the sermon for Trinity Sunday during our Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations. Although "Father Earl" could not be with us due to health restrictions, it was a wonderful liturgy of celebration and nostalgia, with Earl's wife, Sandy, their children, Elizabeth and Stephen, and grandchildren, Maggie (who read the sermon on his behalf) and Robert, in attendance.

Sadly, Pastor Albrecht died of pneumonia three weeks later on July 7. At this point, the family has not finalized funeral arrangements. They plan to have a memorial service at Advent in early August, after consultation with immediate and extended family, friends, and our Bishop Michael Pryse at the Eastern Synod office. Please watch your Sunday bulletins and emails over the next two weeks for details as they become available. And remember the Albrecht family in your prayers.

In a way, I feel like a letter writer of the early church sending greetings to you. So often I have read the various disciples' letters to the churches they attended and loved. I would have loved to be here with you today. I am with you in spirit. I am also with you in communion, because Peter came to Leisureworld yesterday to commune me and therefore include me in your fellowship. I send my greetings to you today through Maggie, my granddaughter. I baptized Maggie at Advent many years ago and it seemed fitting that she carry my message.

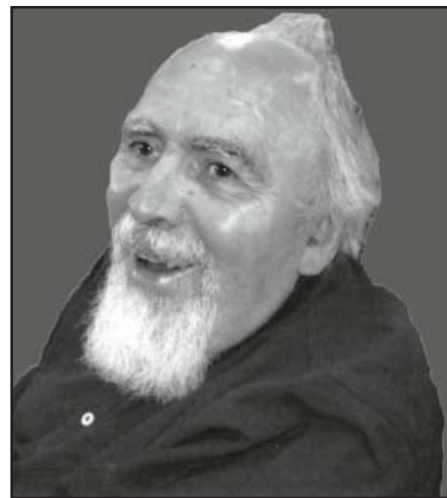
The Gospel today is about the commissioning of the disciples. We hear that some worshipped and some doubted – but that in the end Jesus sent them all out telling them to bring the good word to all nations and that he would be with them always. A beautiful message – and an irritating one. Not everyone agreed. There was doubt. The mission at hand was complicated. Jesus was with them – but in spirit rather than body. An irritating start – but look at the history that has followed it.

At some point in my childhood, I was nicknamed "Earl the pearl" by other kids. Pearls have two unique qualities. One is that they are rare and valuable. Perhaps this was what my friends had in mind. However, there is another quality too. Pearls are created when a speck of sand irritates an oyster. I think it is more likely that this irritating quality was the meaning my friends thought of when they

named me. As a pearl irritated the oyster which created it, I could be an irritant as a child. I could see myself as an irritant at some times of my life as an adult too. When we think about the irritating qualities of a pearl, I suspect we can all see ourselves in our "pearl" moments.

If we follow what we think God wants us to do, there will be times when we irritate those around us. However, like that speck of sand that becomes a pearl, living with and through irritation is often necessary for us to grow as people and to create much that is beautiful in life.

When I came to Advent, there were moments when I'm sure I was seen as the irritating pearl. I changed some things that had been "traditions." I arrived at Advent after Vatican II – which saw not just Catholics, but other liturgical churches as well begin to make changes to tradition. One of the big changes after Vatican II was that Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches pulled the altar away from the walls and turned it so clergy faced the people during communion. This was to be more inclusive and to share the mystery of communion with the congregation. I strongly believed in this change and had already made it at St. Matthew's in Fredericton (where I was just before coming to Advent). I wondered if the congregation at Advent would be irritated when I moved the altar to celebrate communion – but no one complained. Shortly after this, I began chanting the psalm, then the rest of the liturgy. Again, people seemed to accept the changes, even if there was some irritation.



Pastor Earl Albrecht

Don't be afraid of being an irritant because good things can result. I am sure the "irritation" of changes to service and music continues today. It is finding this balance between tradition and innovation which keeps us alive as the people of God.

The church can also be an irritation through its insistence on social justice. Running the food bank out of the church for several years (which we called the Peanut Pantry) was a good experience for us. I remember being on a committee with other churches who had food banks, co-operating with information about who was being helped – Christmas hamper distribution was computerized to prevent anyone getting more than one hamper. We learned a lot about the most needy and vulnerable members of our community – and we served them. The pantry ended when construction of the new church began because at that point mice moved into the old building in groups. For a time, emptying mousetraps became part of my routine. The new building is a wonderful example of growth. The mice we had to put up with during the building were an irritation.

Building the new church was exciting – and this is another example of a "pearl" moment in the church. Building projects are not easy for a congregation – and yet at the end they create something beautiful. I remember particularly watching the

Continued on Page 5

Pastor Earl Albrecht*Continued from Page 4*

arches rise under the direction of Rick Schickedanz. On Saturdays, the members cleared up building debris and church women provided lunch for the workers. I recall one day when a United Church member and neighbor of Advent arrived with a cheque for \$600 because, he said, he was so pleased to see a church rising in such a conspicuous location. It was wonderful to watch as members varnished arches and windows frames in a real group effort. Heinz Weltner and Raymond Bradbury moved the organ to the new balcony and restored it. The large glass windows made us feel part of the world around us.

Another venture of the church during my time at Advent was the Don Valley Nursery School. The children filled the building with activity five mornings a week. The revenue helped the church, but the school also filled a need in the community for early childhood programming. The committee, which developed the Oriole Community Centre (now our neighbor to the north), met at Advent to plan the project. So did the Peanut Resource Group. This group of local clergy, teachers, principals, community workers and citizens met to discuss ways to work together to improve the lives of those in our community. The seeds of Eva's Place – a residence for homeless youth – were planted here at Advent during those meetings.

Sharing Advent's facilities has also been full of "pearl" moments – the irritations that come with sharing a building as well as the joys that come from interactions with other Christians. Cedar Hall (as the original sanctuary was called after the cinder blocks were covered with beautiful cedar panels) became home to Grace Chinese Lutheran Church. The Fairview Church of God found a home at Advent and so did a Coptic congregation during the eight or nine years their own church was under construction. A small child of that congregation reaching from its father's arms accidentally became the first person to test Advent's new fire alarm system. Definitely moments of both irritation and beauty.

As well as the liturgical moments, the building moments, and the moments of outreach to neighbours and other Christians, we also have "pearl" moments during our communal times together as a congregation – a few moments of irritation but many more of beauty. I remember celebrating the Maundy Thursday service from a Seder Table set up at the rear of the new church – those were the days before all the pews were installed and there was quite a bit of open space.

I also remember the annual outdoor service, when we worshipped among the trees and plants of our property and the annual picnic which for many years was hosted by John and Erna Krause on their beautiful property in Gormley.

Advent became famous for its giant Rummage Sales – a huge effort on the part of members as long hours were spent sorting, pricing, setting up and cleaning up. It not only raised money, it aided the waves of people arriving from other countries who needed clothing and household items at very affordable prices.

Who could forget the food of Advent? Easter breakfast produced by the men of advent – Peter's father Ed Lisinski prominent among them – was wonderful. So were the multi-cultural potluck suppers. Ash Wednesday soup suppers were supposed to provide Lenten austerity but the soups were so good no one felt it was fasting. These took time to put together, but the end result was something that brought people together in wonderful ways.

Pearls – irritating and beautiful. Much like life.

Old age can be depressing. When one is stuck in bed because the body has stopped working, it is difficult. It is easy to be pessimistic when independence is gone. But I have very positive feelings of everyone working together during my years at Advent. The small irritations make me smile and the beauty that was created helps me through sleepless nights. These are the memories that I recall to comfort me when days are long or times are difficult. I hope that each of you will have your own "pearl moments" – memories of Advent and of the church to sustain you through your own difficult times when they come to you. Jesus' commissioning isn't just for the young and able. Even someone nearing the end of life, like me, has a part to play and so do you. ♦

**Baptism**

William Ross Schickedanz was baptized at Advent on June 1. He is the son of David and Samantha Schickedanz.

Welcome new members

On June 22 we welcomed Caroline and Travis Tiegs and their children Jacob and Andrew into membership at Advent.

Summer Worship

Pastor Lisinski will be on vacation July 13, July 20, and August 10.

■ On July 13 Jai Sahadeo will give the sermon.

■ The Good Women of Advent will lead the service on July 20.

■ On August 10 Mercy De Silva will give the sermon. ♦

**Congratulations to**

Erika Day and Mark Callon

who were married at Advent on May 31.

**Congratulations to Joan and Arie**

Fox who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 15.

ELCIC Praise APPEAL 2014

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 is set for July 20, the date the GWA will present Advent's worship service. You can make your donation on that Sunday, or at any other time. 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. ♦



Volunteer Schedule

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister/ Communion Assistant	Reader	Counters	Coffee Hosts
July 6 Carol Peck	Elias Yousefi	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Mona Marcobelli	George Tang Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Yousefi family
July 13 Carol Peck	Peter Reble	Lester McLean N/A	Judy Baribeau	George Tang Brit Missirlian	Enni & Fred Roth
July 20 Brit Missirlian	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Erika Schurr N/A	GWA	Judy Baribeau Brit Missirlian	Teresa Ajodhia
July 27 Elizabeth Lancia	Indira Beekie	Indira Beekie	Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie Erika Schurr	Olga Cosburn & Gary Hoosein
August 3 Rosarie Lisinski	Elias Yousefi	Nalini Beekie Carol Peck	Peter Buckley	Brit Missirlian Mona Marcobelli	Brenda Kroeker & Joe Hunt
August 10 Judy Baribeau	Jim Hicks Ted Winslow	Lester McLean N/A	Brit Missirlian	Erika Schurr Brit Missirlian	Rohini Leslie & Walter Rothenburger
August 17 Rosarie Lisinski	Mona Marcobelli	Peter Reble Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Elizabeth Lancia	Judy Baribeau Nalini Beekie	Elizabeth Lancia & Mercy De Silva
August 24 Judy Baribeau	Cynthia Stewart	Lester McLean Olga Cosburn	Peter Reble	George Tang Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Peck family
August 31 Rosarie Lisinski	Joan McLean	Erika Schurr Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Jim Doak	Judy Baribeau	Doak family

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