

PARISH VISITOR

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EASTER

Peanut Shell



A blessed Easter season to all of you. Now that we are in the full swing of our anniversary celebrations, we'll have a lot to talk and write about over the next few months. Please pick up one, or more, of our event brochures to give friends and former members to invite them to join us for our festivities. We will be putting updated information on the website as well as in the *Parish Visitor*.

We thank Rebecca Taylor for placing our *Parish Visitors* on the website each month. We will keep the current plus the previous issue there. The website and those of you who receive the newsletter electronically will see the photographs in colour.

We encourage you to join us for our Holy Week and Easter services. Each of the events leads to the next one culminating in the celebration of our Easter festival service.

The men's group has certainly become an active group around Advent. You'll read about the many projects they will undertake this year.

We were saddened to arrive at church on March 21 to find out that the church had been broken into the previous evening and one panel of the agate window broken and a sound system stolen (for the third time). These unexpected costs are placing a strain on our budget and we encourage you to keep our needs in mind while at the same time supporting our anniversary projects.

We encourage additional people to help out with refreshments when we hold some of our anniversary special events. This would be a once or twice commitment this year – not a long-term obligation, so please consider helping host these events.

Please read Bob Lageman's thoughtful essay *Agony and Ecstasy*. This is a worthwhile read before starting Holy Week.

Judy

Palm Sunday to Easter Services at Advent

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday – April 4, at 10:00 a.m.

We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms and shouts of alleluia, only to be confronted by the reality of his upcoming crucifixion and the reading of the passion.

Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday – April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Jesus gathers with his disciples in the upper room for a final meal and we gather as a community in the quiet darkness remembering the same meal. As worship draws to a close we strip the altar in remembrance of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers.

Good Friday



Good Friday – April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Our prayers are with the world today, its leaders and with all who suffer. We contemplate Christ's death at Golgotha. As the cross is brought into the sanctuary we also remember our own (willing and unwilling) participation in the powers of darkness.

Easter Vigil



Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

We celebrate the mystery of God's world tonight, by kindling the first fire, lighting the Easter candle and walking with the children of Israel out of slavery to the promised land. Then we celebrate the holy baptism and together share the Easter Eucharist. This is the best worship service of the year.

The Resurrection



Easter Sunday – April 11, at 10:00 a.m.

Today we rejoice in the glories of Easter morning.

We invite you to bring Easter flowers and plants to beautify our Easter services. Please bring any contributions to the church by Saturday afternoon. If you wish to take them home after the Easter service, please mark your plants as they do tend to look alike.



Easter eggs and the Easter bunny are not "pagan" symbols, as sometimes is written.

Eggs are likened to the tomb of Christ. They crack open to bring forth new life. Rabbits are associated with the dawn; they were thought to spend the night keeping watch for the first light of morning. Strange as it sounds, Christians on Easter Eve are likened to rabbits – we keep vigil throughout the night in anticipation of the resurrection of all creation.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road
North York, Ontario • M2J 3B6
(416) 493-1435

The Rev Michael Mills, Pastor
(416) 691-3774

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:00 a.m.
(September–June)

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for our members and friends.
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Advent Lutheran Church

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A Word from Pastor Mike

Easter Life

It is common enough in pastoral ministry to hear the concern, "Pastor, I'm not sure what to make of all this resurrection stuff the church talks about." Many of us feel we should believe in the resurrection to be faithful Christians, but when we pause for a minute to be honest with ourselves, we just plain have trouble with the concept. Let's be truthful about it, our experience of standing beside a grave is not an experience of resurrection, it's an experience of death. We place the bodies of our loved ones in the ground knowing full well that they will become, not new-beings (at least not that we can see), but, in the staggering words of the psalmist: food for worms. And, frankly, we are not alone in our doubts. All religions are stumped when it comes to the question about what precisely happens after death. Oh, we might say we believe in resurrection or we might say we believe in reincarnation or in the immortality of the soul or we might say we believe in nothing at all, but the truth is, either way we just don't know. No one has ever come back to tell us.

Even scripture is not completely sure what happens at the resurrection. Take John 20 for example: Mary of Magdala sees the stone moved from the tomb and runs to get Simon Peter and another disciple who arrive and see nothing but a head covering, and strips of burial cloth *John 20:1-9*. It sounds familiar enough, but in the next ten verses John tells us the same story all over again, this time with

slightly different details: Mary is actually alone and sees a gardener who is really Jesus, but Jesus won't let himself be touched because the resurrection is apparently not yet complete, Mary runs then to tell the other disciples *John 20:11-18*.

Mark, from a completely different vantage point, tells us that Mary of Magdala, Salome, and Mary the mother of James come to the tomb and see a young man in a white robe who says "Jesus is raised and is not here" *Mark 16:1-8*.

Then comes Matthew who says that it was actually Mary of Magdala and the other Mary who came to the tomb, and they did so in the midst of an earthquake. Furthermore, the earthquake was happening because a messenger of the Lord was coming down from the sky and rolling away the stone in order to sit on it. The message given to the two Marys is: "Jesus is not here" *Matthew 28:1-18*.

Luke, on the other hand, tells us that Mary of Magdala, Mary the Mother of James, Joanna and each one of the women companions of Jesus (and there were a bundle) go to the tomb where two figures in dazzling clothing appear and stand beside them. The figures say, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" These women companions of Jesus relate the story to the other disciples who refuse to believe them *Luke 24:1-12*.

And we haven't even begun to talk about the resurrection stories that appear in early Christian writings that never made it into the Bible. It's no

wonder that Thomas says, "Unless I see the holes the nails made, and put my finger in them and my hand in his side, I'll never believe." It would be a lot easier if someone who had died would come back and show us.

Or would it?

Jesus in Luke's gospel says, "If they have not listened to Moses and the prophets, they will not listen even if someone comes back from the dead" *Luke 16:31*. Maybe the best we can do in terms of understanding resurrection after death is to compare it to the ordinary little resurrections that happen in our lives and in the lives of our friends and family. For instance, not too long ago I had an opportunity to be reconciled with people whom I had hurt with a few thoughtless words. It wasn't easy. It involved listening to their concerns, recognizing my own error and apologizing; but I think the three of us are better people because of that hard work. In fact, maybe resurrection after death has as much to do with being reconciled with those we have hurt in life as it does with immortality of the soul or any of the other commonly held assumptions that we hold.

There is much in this world that is a mystery, resurrection among them. But perhaps as we learn to live with mystery and uncertainty and our own fragility as human beings we actually grow closer to the fullness that God wishes for all people.

*Blessed Eastertide,
Michael*

Agony and Ecstasy

(Please read before or during Holy Week)

Holy Week is the most spiritual and emotional time of the year for me. As we walk the same path Jesus did over two thousand years ago, we get a glimpse of the forces at work and the absolute awesomeness of God.

Perhaps the title of this column should be ecstasy, agony and ecstasy. After all, Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in a triumphant march with the people praising Him boldly. Alas, it was a short-lived celebration. Soon, many of these same people would scream for Christ's crucifixion. Thinking about it, how many times do we act in a similar manner? We are at the forefront when we celebrate God's glory, His miracles in our world. When we face severe adversity, however, many of us begin asking God, "Why me?" or "How could you abandon me now?" Others are quick to do everything in their power to fix their situation by either their own means or those professed by the world we live in. Finally, sometimes after we have suffered more than we needed to, we turn back to God for relief, strength and comfort. We get back to the last ecstasy (turning our problems and concerns over to God) similar to the last ecstasy of Holy Week – the resurrection of Jesus Christ resulting in eternal salvation for humanity. Only God, through His son Jesus Christ, saves us, whether for eternity or from the daily struggles we encounter.

God is always there to comfort, help and guide us

There is one outstanding feature of this cycle that many of us, including me, often fail to recognize. As each of us lives our life we are bombarded by advice on how to live well and how to plan for our future. We hear this advice most prominently in regards to our health, family, and finances. One statement that always seems to accompany this advice is, "Past performance does not guarantee future results." Even with

everything we have learned about having and raising children, our bodies, stress, and the financial world, there is still no guarantee that things will work out as planned.

Fortunately for us, however, God is quite different. Our eternal salvation is a fact. Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection are a guarantee



that as Christians, we are forgiven and saved. Similarly, for every problem we encounter in life, God is always there to comfort, help and guide us. God is not selective as to whom He helps. He does not have a certain threshold of pain or suffering that one must experience before He steps in. It is guaranteed that He will be there for us, that He is there for us. We have to recognize that fact and let Him in to help.

We are talking about our Creator. He willingly experienced death simply to save humanity. God gave us countless chances to save ourselves. He kept re-establishing covenants with us, but we were simply unable to uphold our commitment. Here I caution us not to point the finger at the Israelites as the ones who kept failing. Every single person sins. Every one of us is responsible for Jesus having to endure the cross. This fact is the reason why I get so passionate during Holy Week. I am responsible for the one I love more than any other, namely Jesus Christ, having to suffer and die. On a personal level, it is

my fault. While I must keep in mind that my frailty as a human being keeps me from being able to completely resist sinning, it still agonizes me over what Jesus had to experience to save me. On the other hand, it enlightens me as to the incredible, no infinite, expanse of God's love that He is willing to go to such lengths for me. In fact, God goes to these lengths for every single one of us.

Youth Group Good Friday Presentation

If all works out according to plan, on Good Friday the Advent youth with the help of a few other members will perform a drama called "I Was There" as the message. This drama is intense. It is about the seven woes Jesus experiences, specifically during Holy Week. My experience both listening to and performing in it is that I begin to recognize a few things about the crucifixion, including who is responsible, the extent of suffering Jesus experienced, and how broad God's love is to be willing to go through such agony.

As this drama is performed on Good Friday, I encourage everyone to sit back and listen to the words and passion of each speaker, and to listen to your heart as you process the vast extent and implication of everything that happened that holy Friday over two thousand years ago. God willing, everyone who attends the Good Friday worship service will also experience on some level the insight I have been blessed with from past performances. Hopefully, it will also intensify the joy and jubilation we all experience with Jesus' resurrection celebration on Easter.

I pray that during this Holy Week, each of us develops a better understanding of the extent of God's love and sacrifice for us, and that we experience a greater renewed sense of joy as we celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter.

*Yours in Christ,
Bob Lageman*

Anniversary Celebration Update

Our 40th Anniversary Celebration services got off to a good start on March 7 with Rev. Dr. William Huras, Bishop Retired, as our guest preacher. Many charter and former members were present. Lester McLean and the choir provided special music during the service.

Bishop Huras was Pastor/Developer of Advent and during his sermon recalled some early events related to Advent. In the early 1960s, Don Mills Road/Sheppard Avenue was still undeveloped, not the built up area it is today. At the time he questioned the Mission Board as to why they sent him here. He wondered how a congregation could grow in this undeveloped area. He also mentioned that offerings were not taken during the services during the first year. A plate was left at the rear for worshippers to put their offerings in. Since the services were held in a school prior to the church being built, the hymnals had to be taken home each week, and he recalled how Bruce Weber willingly handled this each week.

In his sermon, Bishop Huras also commended the congregation on our beautiful building, for paying off the mortgage last year, and on our ambitious project to support the NUC-TUCT low-income housing project and the CLWR Refugee



Sponsorship program. The congregation hopes to raise \$40,000 for these anniversary projects.

Everyone was invited to a special lunch following the service, complete with an anniversary cake.

Fundraising for Anniversary Projects

While a formal fundraising appeal has not been launched, we are encouraged to begin supporting the appeal in a number of ways. Jim Doak gave some

suggestions in his temple talk on March 21. While it seems like \$40,000 is a large amount, when broken down to individual members or giving units, \$1.50 a week per unit will meet the goal. We can contribute in lieu of gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, or other events. In the event of a funeral, donations can be given as memorials. We can each have a "loonie pot" at home to collect change when we come home from shopping or at other times. Organizations within the congregation (Sunday School, ELW, Men's Group, Youth, etc.) can designate funds from their offerings for the project. We can sell our talents for donations – by doing yard work, painting, or other chores for others who are not able to do these things for themselves.

Congregational Council has approved that loose offerings on Sundays when we have special guests/presentations will be designated to the Anniversary Project, retroactive to March 7. Other special offerings may be designated later.

NUC-TUCT Sunday

On March 28 we welcomed Evelyn Robertson and Irene Carriere from NUC-TUCT Non-Profit Homes Corporation who gave the congregation an update on the project. They also showed a scale model of the project. They plan to begin building later this spring. They mentioned that currently 71,000 families are waiting for low-income housing and it can take up to 17 years for someone to be given a unit. The NUC-TUCT project is part of the City of Toronto's "Let's Build Program". The total cost of the project is \$12.3 million dollars. At this point, they still need to raise an additional \$140,000 so that construction can start. An interesting fact is that \$150,000 has been donated by individuals and \$120,000 has been committed by congregations. They thanked

Continued on Page 6



Charter members present at March 7 service: Rear l-r) John Olson, Bishop Huras, Barbara Huras, Jack Camick, Ruth Wesioly, Susan (Strebel) Blumenauer, (front) Joyce Strebel, Alma Olson, Edith Voelkel, Shirley Camick, Jenny (Perkins) Bishop, Hilda Ficek.

Anniversary Celebration Update

Continued from Page 5

Advent for our congregation's support of this project and were available to answer questions following their presentation and at coffee hour following the service.

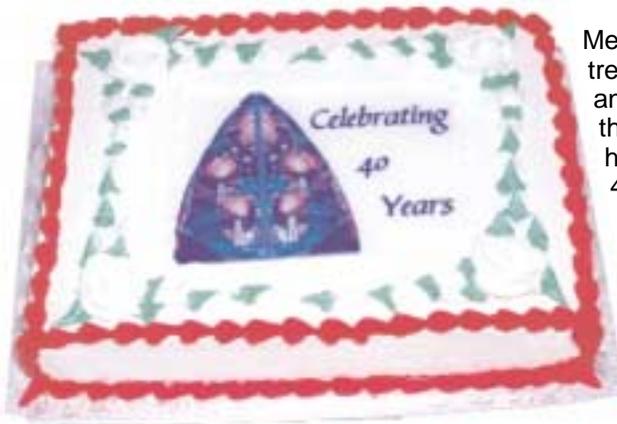
Pastor Peter Lisinski to Preach on April 25

Our next celebration service will be on April 25 when Pastor Lisinski will preach. He was a member of our congregation who entered the ministry and serves Faith Lutheran Church in Fergus, Ontario.

Men's Group will Provide Many Services During Anniversary Year

On April 25, the Men's Group will assist in the service from ushering, reading, children's message, assisting minister and communion assistant – and even providing the refreshments for coffee hour.

We thank the Men's Group for their willingness to provide a number of items to help celebrate our anniversary year. In addition to hosting the April 25



Members and guests were treated to a special anniversary cake featuring the Advent window which has been selected as the 40th anniversary logo.

service, they are planning to conduct a service during Pastor Mills' vacation this year, paint the ceiling in the hallway leading to the fellowship room and old narthex, and replace the lighting fixtures in those areas. A number of the men have also volunteered to assist Heinz Weltner in the repair of the window frames in the new sanctuary.

Pastor Albrecht to Join us on May 9

We are pleased that Pastor Earl Albrecht will be able to be with us and speak to us on May 9.

Wanted

Do you like to organize events, especially those that are food-related?

As many of you know by now, we have several "special" coffee hours in this, our Anniversary, year. This will cause quite a strain on the usual "kitchen" organizers, especially since some of them have long since passed retirement age (though you wouldn't believe it when you see them in action).

So would you like to help with organizing? It entails calling/asking people to bring various food and drink items, ensuring that all the extras (tablecloths, napkins, candles, flowers or other decorations) are in place, round up crews to help you set up beforehand and clean up afterwards and generally assigning the tasks involved.

And for all of you, even if you don't want to be involved in organizing, we will be asking for, and gratefully receiving, all kinds of "goodies" that you would be willing to bring to these special occasions.

If you can assist on one or more occasions, please contact Brit Missirlian.

Bishop Schultz to Preach at Anniversary Celebration Year Final Service

We were pleased to receive news from National Bishop Raymond Schultz that he will join us on February 6, 2005, to preach at the service to mark the end of our 40th anniversary celebration year. ♦

We will post updates to our schedule in the Parish Visitor and on our website (adventlutheranchurch.ca) as additional events are confirmed or changes required.



Susan (Strebel) Blumenauer, Bishop Huras, and Joyce Strebel reminisce following the service on March 7.



Pastor Walter Johanson Sends Greetings

We invited the members of our congregation who entered parish ministry to visit and preach during our anniversary year. Walter Johanson is one of these people. As he is unable to be with us, he sent us the following letter in greeting.

Dear Ms Knaus,

Thank you for the invitation to write to the *Parish Visitor* on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Advent Lutheran Church. I'm sorry I cannot be with you to celebrate.

I remember the anniversary very well. Our confirmation class of three celebrated the first confirmation in Advent's building, I don't know where the other two went. Unfortunately, we did not keep in touch, even though we did have a youth group a few years later in the church. The pastor at that time, William Huras, was an inspiration for me which led me to ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church.

I was ordained in 1977 and my first parish was in rural Alberta – Calmar and Millet, both very close to the edge of the world for a Toronto boy. From 1980-1991 I served a parish near Vancouver and was very active in education ministry in the Synod. I founded the confirmation camp in 1982 which is going strong to this day.

In 1984, I turned my attention to liturgics and entered summer graduate school at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. There I met my wife, Terri, who was a parish organist from Boulder, Colorado. We married in 1985. For our wedding gifts we asked that in lieu of presents guests donate to LWF for relief of street children in Calcutta, India. We raised several thousands of dollars.

In 1989 we adopted our first son, Peter, who is now 14 and 6 foot 5 inches tall and still hasn't had his growth spurt. He plays basketball very well and one of his coaches is a former Harlem Globetrotter. A couple of years ago Peter also was in the Vancouver Children's Choir. Their highlight was a performance at a mass in the Vatican. He changed to the B.C. Boys Choir later and their first performance was for the Queen when she came to Vancouver. What an experience for a boy.

In 1991-92, I got a business administration degree with a specialty in computer systems management. With that I developed a parish administration software program called "Church Office". It did very well, but the call back to ministry was stronger than business interests and so passed on the reigns for that project. There was no interest in my IT skills in the ELCIC, so in 1992, I started work at St. Peter's Estonian Lutheran Church in Vancouver. It has been very rewarding.

In 1994, we adopted my second son, Kristjan, from an orphanage in Estonia. He will turn 13 in a few days and is a special needs child.

Some Advent folk may remember my family. My mother lives in Vancouver in the Finnish Canadian Rest Home. My sister moved back to Canada after about 18 years in California in the IT business. She is also now in Vancouver.

I wish you all much joy and God's blessing in your 40th anniversary year. We all send our greetings.

*Cheers,
Walter Johanson*

Mission Report

Lori Endress, our missionary at Payap University in Thailand, attended the wedding of one of the young professors of her faculty. The professor's new husband was a classmate from seminary days. Following the ceremony and speeches inside the church, there was a reception outside with program, music, and food – for 800 people.

Payap University celebrated its 30th anniversary on February 16. In 1974 Payap was founded by the Church and became Thailand's first private university.

The festivities began with a worship service of celebration, two hours of praise, prayer and gratitude in word and song. Some of those who helped found the University were present and spoke of those early years. A combined choir from Payap's music program and from the seminary sang richly and joyously. Also, Payap's new string orchestra wowed the celebrants. But that was not all. A buffet dinner (many wonderful Thai dishes) followed outside. Then it was time for the beautiful two-hour music performed by the very fine musicians of Payap University.

Bird Flu in Payap

Lori was asked about the bird flu. She responded, people started to eat less chicken, and then no chicken. The farmers have been hit hardest by the gigantic problem, and those living among the animals have been at greatest risk of the illness. Endress noted, "My morning class faculty helped me understand why the few casualties have been very young children. The children sympathize with the sick chicken," explained Ajahn Peerapat. "They want to hold the chicken to make it feel better." So that is what many did. On some border-lying farms where the disease has been most active, some six-year olds became ill. Then a

few of them died. Thailand has worked hard to contain the spread of the disease.

Payap University English Program

In September 2003, Payap University opened its new international BA program (language of instruction is English). To everyone's great amazement, the program was launched with an enrollment of 35 students from 16 different countries (including Thailand). Now in the second semester, there are 40 students in the program.

Students choose one of the following four majors: International Business Management, Computer Information Systems, English Communications, and

International Hospitality Management.

The faculty for teaching the program – some are native English speakers, but most are

Thai faculty of Payap who have participated in the unit's Faculty Development Programs. This has prepared the faculty by boosting their confidence and competence in English. "One of the greatest pleasures of my work at Payap has been curriculum development for these programs – and teaching some of them," says Endress.

Payap University has invited the ELCIC to renew Lori's appointment to the University for an additional two years. We pray that with the help of ELCIC congregations and individuals we can honour that invitation. Here is an opportunity to participate in the larger church by a donation towards the money required to enable Lori to go back to Thailand and continue her most important work there. Contributions can be made directly to the ELCIC or through your envelopes marked "Lori Endress – Thailand".

*Joan Fox
Mission Representative*



Treasurer's Report	
Year to Date March 31, 2004	
Current	\$18,800
Facilities Used	12,300
Total Receipts	31,100
Expenditures	34,100
Surplus (Shortfall)	(3,000)
Building Fund	2,250
Benevolence	2,500
Global Hunger	1,200

As most of you know, we had three break-ins during the last four months. At the time I wrote my report for 2003, the costs of the two break-ins during December were not established. Therefore, we will see the cost in 2004. We charged the cost of the equipment, a little over \$3,000, against the Reserve Fund, so this money is not reflected in my other report. It will be a while before we know the cost of the third, and hopefully last, break-in since it will take time to repair the agate window.

If we compare the last three months with the same period of last year, we see a drastic change in our finances. Last year we had a surplus of \$4,500, and this year we have a shortfall of \$2,900.

On a more positive note, the income for the 40th Anniversary Fund fund for the first three months was \$6,347.71 and expenses for the project were \$1,950.77, leaving a balance of \$4,396.94.

*Heinz Weltner
Treasurer*

Youth News

The Advent Lutheran youth are busy with Spring activities and planning for our trip to Hamilton for the National Synod Youth Gathering in August. The youth have continued to be active in service – assisting with worship and Sunday School, plus helping at the ELW Day of Renewal held at Advent on February 28. They will be participating with several adult members of Advent in the Good Friday drama, “I Was There”.

They have also begun to network with some of the other Toronto area youth groups, specifically from Agricola Lutheran Church. On Friday, March 26, several members of Advent’s youth group joined youth from Agricola, along with youth leaders from Agricola and St. Ansgar, to play laser tag at Laser Quest. It seemed all the youth enjoyed themselves, and expended a bit of energy in the process. Several of the local church youth leaders are attempting to establish networking for both the youth leadership and the youth themselves. We’ll have more on this plan in the future.

Youth from Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton to Visit Advent in August

Speaking of networking, the Advent youth are doing some long distance networking. We have been in contact with Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton. The current plan is for them to visit Toronto, specifically Advent, starting on Monday, August 9. If all goes as planned, the youth and Home Team Leaders (youth leaders for the conference in Hamilton) will tour Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then everyone would travel to Hamilton for the conference on Thursday morning, August 12. We will travel back to Toronto together on Sunday, August 15. A sister youth group to Holy Spirit in Edmonton, Hosanna youth group, will also be visiting Toronto. They’ll be staying with a church in Etobicoke. We’ll let

everyone know more on these plans as they unfold.

Right now, anyone who could house one or more of the youth from Holy Spirit Lutheran – would be Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings – should contact Bob Lageman or Pastor Mills. This information will assist with the planning of this August visit. The current plan is for the Holy Spirit youth to stay at Advent itself; but if we can accommodate them at members’ homes for one or more evenings, then things may go a little smoother.

Register for National Youth Gathering

As a reminder, all youth interested in attending the National Youth Gathering in Hamilton (August 12 through 15) must contact Bob Lageman as soon as possible. Participants must be from 14 to 19 years of age, and everyone must fill out a registration form and submit part (\$100.00) of the registration fee. The total fee of \$365.00 must be in by June 15.

Bob Lageman

Synod Stewardship Dinner

The Eastern Synod hosts Stewardship dinners across the Synod every two years. The next one will be held at Agricola Lutheran Church (Yonge Street and York Mills Road) on Wednesday, May 12. Advent has been invited to send five persons to the dinner. Bishop Pryse and Jeff Pym from Lutheran Planned Giving will give presentations. The gathering begins at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude by 9:30. Congregational treasurers, support/stewardship committee members and those interested in stewardship concerns are invited to attend. The dinner cost is covered by the Synod Resource Development Committee and there will be an opportunity for attendees to make a freewill offering if they wish. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Sam Paranavitana. ♦



Evangelical Lutheran Women

Spring is here and Easter is coming. There are lots of things to be thankful for. Speaking about being thankful, we thank the Youth Group for helping with the Day of Renewal on February 28. We also thank Cynthia Stewart and Michaela Ehring for setting up the Labyrinth, and Carol Peck and Olga Cosburn for presenting the “Celtic Saints of Ireland” at our March 17 meeting. The meeting was very interesting.

Coming events

- April 4 is Daffodil Sunday and the ELW will provide daffodils for the church.
- Our next meeting is April 21.
- On April 17, the ELW will hold its Spring Conference meeting at Westside Lutheran Church in Barrie.

Evelyn Arnett

Highlights from Congregational Council Meeting

At its March 22 Council meeting, our Council members showed their concern over unexpected expenditures related to the recent theft of the sound system and the costs to repair the agate window. Council also decided not to replace one of the lapel microphones that is not working because of the cost.

We will place an alarm on the sound system box and share the cost with the other churches using the sound system.

We have now put a chime on the doorbell so that it can be heard throughout the church when someone wants to enter. We are encouraged to keep the door locked when we have meetings so that unauthorized people are not able to enter.

Council has designated that loose offerings on Sundays when we have guest speakers or other anniversary events will go toward the anniversary projects.

Kristen Doak

People and Events Summary

Worship Services and Meetings

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Discussion groups meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group – meets at 9:00 a.m. the first Saturday each month at the Wexford Restaurant, northeast corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Warden Avenue.

ELW News – See Page 9.

Seniors Group meets Tuesdays April 13 and 27, 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Service of Healing – April 18 at 10.00 a.m.

Congregational Council meets Monday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Please bring your used toner cartridges to church and place them in the recycling box in the narthex.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Sympathy

■ To Pastor Mills and his family on the death of his mother on March 19.

Welcome

■ Brandes Marckmann and Bill Mooney who joined Advent on March 7

A Word of Thanks

■ Colleen, Chloë, Jonah and I have been touched by the outpouring of cards and flowers and kind words at the death of my mom. It is a privilege to share this journey with so many thoughtful and caring people. Indeed the journey is made that much easier by your kindnesses. Thank you.

Pastor Mike

We remember

■ Those who are ill – John Gangadeen, Mildred Kaufmann, Steve Wesioly, Pastor Victor Monro, and Frank Sawh.

Thank you

■ Joyce Strebel, Ruth Wesioly, Hilda Ficek and Shirley Camick for providing altar flowers on March 7.

■ To Brit Missirlian and everyone who assisted in hosting the March 7 anniversary celebration luncheon.

■ To Michaela Ehrling for arranging the labyrinth on February 29.

■ To Heinz Weltner for his many hours of work refurbishing our sound system cabinet.

■ To Al Greve and Marion Knaus for the photos used in this issue.

Congratulations

■ To Melissa Smith-McGuire and John McGuire who celebrate the birth of their daughter, Madison, on March 16.

Please remember to turn the ringer off on your cell phone while we worship.

April 2004 Volunteers

Volunteers assist with the worship services. The *Parish Visitor* lists those who have agreed to assist each Sunday as a reminder and a thank you for serving. In addition to the areas listed below, please sign the Flower chart for Sundays you wish to donate flowers. If the flowers are for a special occasion, please indicate it on the chart.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister	Reader	Ushers	Counters	Coffee Hosts
April 4 Walter Rothenburger	Adele Buckley	Lester McLean	Michaela Ehrling	Jenny Persaud & Kamaludin Khan	Martin Gangadeen & Sam Paronavitana	Brit Missirlian & Elsie Wraith
April 8 (Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.) Walter Rothenburger		Carol Peck				
April 9 (Good Friday, 10:00 a.m.) Walter Rothenburger		Lester McLean	Olga Cosburn	Alfred & Asaph Khan		
April 10 (Easter Vigil, 7:00 p.m.) Walter Rothenburger		Judy Baribeau				
April 11 Walter Rothenburger	Joan McLean	Nalini Beekie	Martin Gangadeen	Youth Group	Martin Gangadeen & Nizam Khan	De Silva family
April 18 Walter Rothenburger	Joyce Strebel	Carol Peck	Erna Krause	Joe & Kyle Hunt	Brit Missirlian & Kristin Doak	McLean family
April 25 Walter Rothenburger	Men's Group	Men's Group	Arie Fox	Men's Group	Fran Brandes & Fred Roth	Men's Group