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Youth Dinner on Valentine's Day Kicks Off 40th Anniversary Celebration Year

Our youth have chosen February 14 to host a kickoff dinner for our 40th anniversary celebration year. We may ask if there is a special connection between Valentine and the youth choosing his birthday for a kickoff dinner. There is no official connection, but we will make a connection anyway. To get started, here's a bit of information on the celebrated saint and then we can connect the two events.

Valentine's Day goes back to the Roman Empire. Valentine was just an ordinary monk who was rather sad because all of the other brothers were smarter than he was. They all had special jobs to do – but he couldn't paint, sing, garden, or weave. He just didn't seem to have any talent.

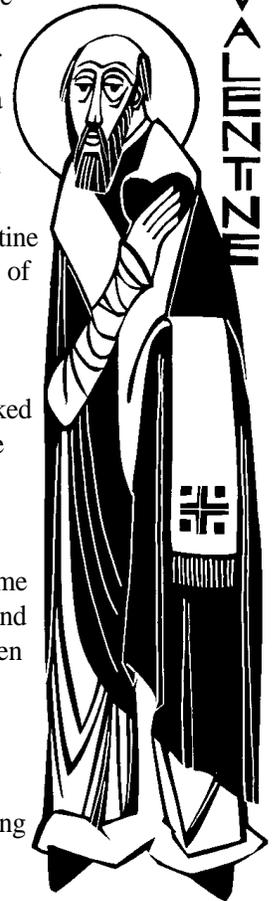
Then one day as he was walking in the garden, God talked to him about love, kindness and sharing with others. So he thought, "I'm not talented, but I can spread love." So he began writing love messages and delivered them to the villagers. This made him quite popular among the townspeople – everyone, that is, except the king. The king became jealous of Valentine's popularity and put him into prison and thought Valentine would be forgotten. Well, it didn't happen that way. Valentine spread his love messages among the guards and even dropped them out of the window for the townspeople to find and read.

After the king died Valentine was released from prison and was able to continue to spread his love messages among the people.

After Valentine died, his friends decided to designate a special day, Valentine's birthday, when everyone would remember what he had done. They called it "Valentine's Day". So, ever since, we have identified February 14 as a special day to send special messages to those we love.

So, if we make any connection, at Advent we share our love, kindness and what we have with others. Here at Advent, we will begin by joining our youth in celebrating the first event of our anniversary year. We will continue to show our hospitality during the year when we invite former members and friends to join us at our events.

Please join us for a special dinner to support our youth and begin celebrating with Advent. ♥



Peanut Shell



January tends to be a slow month in many areas, but here at Advent we started the year with a number of committee and task force meetings following a lull during November and December.

Our events to celebrate our anniversary year begin on February 14 with the youth-hosted dinner – get your tickets early so you won't be disappointed. Then on February 15 we hold our annual meeting. Annual reports will be available on February 8, so be sure to pick up a copy and read it before the meeting.

On March 7 Pastor Huras will be our guest preacher on an anniversary celebration Sunday designated to commemorate our first worship service which was held February 3, 1963.

The Future Directions Task Force is preparing a brochure that will list all the events scheduled for the next year. Please contact any former members you know and invite them to join us as they are able.

Can any good come out of bad? Read the Mission Report and see how Brian Rude's experience resulted in donations for his work.

We were pleased to welcome Lowell Soucie on January 25 to speak about the background of the six stained glass windows he created for the church. Each of these was donated in memory of a loved one or as a recognition of a significant event in the donor's life. We thank everyone again for these gifts. One of our anniversary projects is to prepare a brochure showing all of the windows and giving information about them.

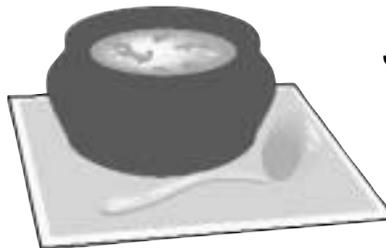
Lent begins with our annual Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday. Please come out and enjoy some delicious soup, fellowship and then worship.

We will report on the results of the annual meeting in the next *Parish Visitor*.

Judy

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper February 25

Everyone
is welcome



We invite you to join us for an informal, family-style soup supper. Supper will be served between 6:00 and 6:45 p.m. We will serve soup, rolls, tea, coffee, juice, fruit and sweets. There is no cost for the supper.

Join us for Supper –
Join us for Worship



We plan to finish eating around 7:00 to clean up in time for the worship service with Holy Communion that begins at 7:30.

Wishes Granted from Wish List

We thank the following people for responding to the list of items on the wish list in our December Parish Visitor. Mercy De Silva donated a new parament for the altar. Joan McLean is donating a new replacement candle stand for the altar. And Mark McLean donated four new Bibles for visitors to Advent and newcomers to the faith. Thank you for these gifts.

Email

We are trying to add everyone's email to our contact list so that we can reach you quickly when we need to distribute information on short notice and mail would be too slow, or we can't reach you by phone. Please forward your email address to me at gandjaribeau@rogers.com or to Pastor Mills at milshntz@istar.ca.

We would also like to save some money as well as getting your *Parish Visitors* to you sooner by email. Please let me know if you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.

Thank you.

jb

There are a number of other items on the list, so if anyone is interested, please let Pastor Mills know what you would like to contribute. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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)

The *Parish Visitor* is produced
for our members and friends.
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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

All About Our House

There is an old saying that says, "Too many hands spoil the soup" but in this case it could not be further from the truth. We need all of the hands that we can get to turn off non-essential lights. Our hydro costs have gone through the roof. I have contacted all of our regular guests in the building and asked them to be aware of any lights that are on but are not needed. If all of us are very conscious of energy use in the building perhaps we can reduce our electricity bill. It has jumped a whopping 30% – so, if you are involved in a meeting, an adult education class or a worship service and God is supplying sufficient illumination to your activity, PLEASE be certain that the lights are not on. We really have to curtail this utility asap.

Another point of interest I feel you should know about is the status of our sound system. Just prior to Christmas services the system grew legs and walked away. I arranged to have fill-in equipment installed so that all of our guests including our own congregation had sound and that worked out reasonably well. That is the good news, now the bad news. The fill-in equipment ALSO grew legs and walked away just prior to the New Year's services. You know some days it just doesn't make sense to get out of bed. We have since met with Fairview Church of God and the Worldwide Church of God, seeing as how their equipment was also absent, and it has been decided that Advent would purchase our own mixer thus eliminating the necessity of changing settings every Sunday and the other two congregations would purchase their own equipment because their sound requirements are extensive. We would jointly build a cabinet to house all of the equipment and SECURE this cabinet to the wall as well the units that it houses. The theft had to have been an "inside" job because there were no signs of forced entry. We have deduced that someone came and saw the equipment



A Word from Pastor Mike

“Forty is Way More Fun than Fifty”

A friend of mine, a Roman Catholic Priest, said that to me when I told him about our upcoming fortieth anniversary celebrations. We were having lunch together and Vito said: “I’d way rather celebrate forty years than fifty. It’s more fun.”

“Why?” I asked.

“Because at fifty everything is about the institution. Fifty is half of a hundred and we feel we have to dust off the old cornerstone and polish the plaques and dwell on our history. Not that history is bad or anything, but the church is almost always celebrating the history thing.

No!” said Vito, “Give me forty any day. Forty is about the journey. Remember the forty years the Israelites were in the wilderness? That was a process of growth and renewal. They forged their identity during those forty years. When they got to the other side, they had every reason to celebrate. Not only were they alive,

but they had a bright new future in front of them.”

“Like the temptation in the desert,” I mused. “Forty days and nights were preparation for Jesus to begin his work in Galilee.”

“And the Ark with all of humankind in its belly and with the birds and the animals, too. Forty days of rain were not an ending, but were a whole new beginning.”

The waiter interrupted us at this point with our entrées and before we knew it the conversation had shifted elsewhere, as conversations over lunch tend to do, but Fr. Vito’s comment stuck with me. Forty years is a wonderful milestone to celebrate. During the last forty years we have forged an identity as a parish, we have struggled at times but we have also dreamed dreams, and now we are at the beginning of a whole new leg of our journey. What an exciting time to be in ministry.

Michael

and then realized that the church is used extensively during the week and when the opportunity presented itself and the church doors were open to accommodate some functions the perpetrators helped themselves. Hopefully with the changes that have been implemented in policing the doors and the new cabinet with security features built in, we can feel fairly secure that this situation will not arise again.

One last comment deals with the sinks in the ladies washroom. Please be patient ladies. We are going to have brand new sinks as well as an exhaust fan installed as soon as is possible. I am waiting for tenders to come in and we will proceed forthwith.

That about wraps it up for this time. Thanks for reading.

*Fran Brandes
Property Chair*

Mission Report

We think we are hard done by here in Canada with the insurance we have to pay for our cars; but Brian Rude has a real horror story to tell. Rude broadsided another car. Neither he nor his passenger were injured. The driver of the other

Brian Rude's Horror Story

car had a cut on her arm which required stitches. Due to the public health strike, she was taken to a private hospital by ambulance.

Finally the insurance company sent a claims agent and then at last a lawyer. Rude was told he would be detained and needed to go with the police officer and lawyer to the hospital to obtain the woman's signature to secure his release. The police never read Rude his rights but assured him that he would be spending at least three days or maybe longer in jail with no food besides what his family could bring him – in spite of the woman's willingness to sign his release.

On the way to the hospital, Rude was told that for \$100 he would be allowed to go free. He declined not knowing if going free at the moment would mean his freedom in the future: Would the woman still agree to sign the release

form? would this affect his residency? His driver's license? His police record?

Rude visited the woman in hospital and a friend of hers who happened to be near the scene of the accident. This man owned an air-conditioning shop. This man paid for the woman to get out of hospital, the price for stitches, tests, etc. – and the two-day stay was US \$3,517. These costs had to be paid before a patient is released and until they are paid, the fees continue to mount.

Rude's insurance did not cover these fees, about \$3,000 which was eventually paid by the insurance. Then Rude paid the man the remainder that was not covered.

Rude was not only insured (unusual in El Salvador), he also did not leave the scene of the accident (also unusual). Rude remarked with those kinds of costs, no wonder El Salvadorans flee the scene of an accident.

Good comes from Accident

During this time the man from the air-conditioning shop was very interested in why Rude was in El Salvador and the kind of work he did. The man wondered how he and his business associates could help by providing sports equipment, educational materials or art supplies, by hiring tradespeople to teach courses to the inmates; by extending the program through friends living in the eastern parts of El Salvador. However, he was hesitant about visiting the prisons and having his company's name put on the donations. This man reminded Rude to write him a letter of request to make the program's needs known. So out of the accident came some good.

Rude has been chosen by the selection committee of the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministry to be the recipient of the 5th Annual Katharine Hockin Award for Global Mission and Ministry.

Joan Fox

Mission Representative

☞ Café 40 ☞ February 14



A three-course "restaurant" to kick off our 40th anniversary celebrations.

To be held on the evening of February 14, with one sitting at 5:00 and one at 7:30.

Tickets are available from members of the youth group at \$12.50 for adults, \$7.00 and a maximum of \$40.00 for families with children.

All proceeds go towards Advent's 40th anniversary projects.



Evangelical Lutheran Women

The ELW events scheduled for February and March are:

■ **February 18** – ELW meeting at the church, 7:30 p.m. We will view a movie.

■ **February 28** – Day of Renewal at Advent (see article on page 5).

■ **March 5** – World Day of Prayer Service at St. Timothy's Roman Catholic Church. Watch for posters on the bulletin board.

■ The Seniors will meet at the church on February 10 and 24.

Evelyn Arnett

Advent to Host Toronto Conference ELW Day of Renewal

Walking in Prayer

On Saturday, February 28, women from congregations in the Toronto Conference will gather at Advent for their annual Day of Renewal. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 9:30.

The keynote speaker will be Pastor Dawn Hutchings, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket. She will be speaking on prayer practices for every day life. Pastor Sonja Free will be assisting with opening and closing worship.

Registration is \$15 which includes refreshments and lunch. Please register with Evelyn Arnett.

Attendees are asked to bring one or two of the following items that will be made into school kits for CLWR: one thick 8 x 10 tablet or one notebook; one school scissors; one 12-inch/metric ruler; one pencil sharpener; one eraser; six unsharpened pencils with erasers; one pack of 12-16 crayons; 20 sheets of coloured paper. Donors are also required to provide 12-14-inch cloth bags with handles or drawstring to pack each kit in. They can be made from tea towels.

All interested women are invited to attend this special day which will include Bible study, fellowship and singing. ♦

2004 Annual Meeting February 15

The 2004 Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 15 after the Service.

The Budget is an important consideration at the Annual Meeting. Based on 2003 offerings and donations, Council is presenting a mainly balanced Budget for 2004. As our mortgage has been retired, Council has proposed an increased commitment to Benevolence from \$9,200 in 2003 to \$12,000 in 2004. Increased construction costs and the incorporation of additional items have escalated the Reserve Fund allocation from \$7,500 in 2003 to \$8,500 in 2004. Overall, the Total Budget for 2004 is approximately 6% higher than 2003.

Presently, there are 11 members of Congregational Council, many in their first terms in 2003. It appears that all will be returning for 2004; however, a full roster for Council is 12 members, so that nominations for one additional Council member are in order.

The increased expenditures in our Budget, combined with the Newtonbrook and refugee fund-raising for the 40th Anniversary, will test Advent's generosity in giving for 2004. But, in the past, we have found that Advent always steps up to the challenge.

Annual reports will be available February 8. Please pick one up, read it and bring it with you to the meeting.

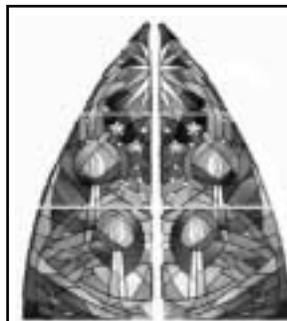
I hope to see you there February 15.

Fred Roth
Council Chairperson

Adult Discussion Group February – April 2004

Following are the scheduled topics and dates for the Adult Discussion Group for the winter/spring session. Please attend as many as you are able. These sessions are held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. – the same time as Sunday School classes for the children.

- **February 1** – Faith Issues IV: The Protestant Principle Michael Mills
- **February 8** – This Obedience: The Ordination of Anita Hill (Part I), Walter Rothenburger
- **February 15** – This Obedience: The Ordination of Anita Hill (Part II), Walter Rothenburger
- **February 22** – Lectionary Study, Exodus 34:29-35/II Corinthians 3:12-4:2/Luke 9:28-36 – Claus Brandes
- **February 29** – Lectionary Study, Deuteronomy 26:1-11/ Romans 10:8b-13/Luke 4:1-13 – Claus Brandes
- **March 7** – Lectionary Study, Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18/ Philippians 3:17-4:1/Luke 13:31-35 – Claus Brandes
- **March 14** – Lectionary Study, Isaiah 55:1-9/I Corinthians 10:1-13/ Luke 13:1-9 – Olga Cosburn
- **March 21** – Lectionary Study, Joshua 5:9-12/II Corinthians 5:16-21/ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 – Olga Cosburn
- **March 28** – Lectionary Study, Isaiah 43:16-21/ Philippians 3:4b-14/John 12:1-8 – Fred Roth
- **April 4** – Lectionary Study, Isaiah 50:4-9a/Philippians 2:5-11/Luke 22:14-23:56 – Fred Roth
- **April 11** – Easter Sunday, no class
- **April 18-June** – To be determined ♦



Pastor Huras to Preach on First 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday – March 7

Please join us on March 7 when Pastor William Huras, Pastor Developer and first Pastor of Advent, will join us as guest preacher. This service will commemorate the first worship service of Advent which was held on February 3, 1963.

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.

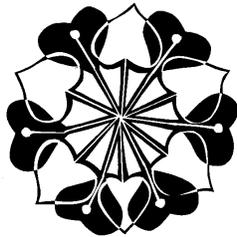
Men's Breakfast Group – meets at 9:00 a.m. the first Saturday each month at the Wexford Restaurant, northeast corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Warden Avenue.

ELW News – See Page 4.

Seniors Group meets Tuesdays February 10 and 24, 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Assisting Ministers meet February 1 following the service.

Advent's Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the worship service on February 15.



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

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Baptism

■ We welcomed Nicolette Aliasha Elliott Jones, daughter of Dexter and Stacey Jones through baptism on January 11.

Sympathy

■ To Jerry and Brit Missirlian on the death of Jerry's mother on December 30.

We remember

■ Those who are ill or recovering – Alex Otten and Steve Wesioy.

Welcome

■ We welcome Rebecca Taylor as a new member. She transferred from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in New Westminster, BC.

Thank you

■ We thank Walter Rothenburger for taking the decorations off the Christmas tree and Fred Roth for removing the tree.

Suggestion for Coffee Hosts

When you are setting up for coffee, please consider setting up a small table away from the main table to make it easier for people may have difficulty getting their refreshments from the large table. ♦

Parish Visitor Schedule

I will be preparing the March *Parish Visitor* one week early and have it available on February 29. Please give me all items to include by February 22. (I will be in Winnipeg the first week in March attending National Church Council meeting.) jb

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

February 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
February 1 Alice Hubbes	Cynthia Stewart	Gabi Schickedanz	Olga Cosburn	Sophia Liu & Linda Wang		Michaela Ehring & Judy Baribeau
February 8 Alice Hubbes	Judy Baribeau	Fred Roth	Joan Fox	Erika & Alfred Schurr		Donna & Dave Beekie
February 15 Alice Hubbes	Krish De Silva	Nalini Beekie	Bob Lageman	Youth Group		Hannelore & Wally Ruhig
February 22 Alice Hubbes	Delasia Khan	Judy Baribeau	Peter Buckley	Joan & Arie Fox		William Beekie Family
February 25 (Ash Wednesday) Alice Hubbes				Indira Beekie		
February 29 Alice Hubbes	Arie Fox	Erika Schurr	Alfred Schurr	Nalini & Indira Beekie		Thomas Family