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## Many Cultures – One Body Multicultural Sunday – June 13



■ Bring greetings to our community by sharing the peace in your native language



■ Bring your favourite potluck dish to share after worship (cold only)



■ Celebrate the day with a costume or a festive dress



■ Help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary by celebrating the people who make our parish come to life



—————  
If you have any questions please speak with Sonita Dillon-Rhodus, Brit Missirlian or Pastor Mills.



These are some of the flags that represent Advent's cultural diversity. Can you name them?



**Celebrating 40 years**  
**Come join us!**

## Peanut Shell



The big celebration at Advent in June is our Multicultural Sunday on June 13. We are probably the most culturally diverse congregation in the ELCIC, and as part of our 40th Anniversary celebration wanted to celebrate the many gifts these cultures bring to Advent. Later in June we will introduce Karen Harding's artwork that shows this diversity.

We also celebrate the 15th anniversary of the dedication of our new sanctuary in June.

We thank Bob Lageman for the latest, and possibly last, article he has written for the *Parish Visitor*. We wish him the best as he moves to a new job in Denver and thank him for the many contributions he made to Advent – leading the Youth group, participating on the Future Directions Task Force, participating in various worship opportunities and for the many thoughtful articles he has written for our newsletter.

As we write this newsletter, our Men's Breakfast Group is planning to do an energetic painting and upgrading job in our narthex and hallway. We thank them for their work in upgrading the entrance to our building.

I had a little extra space in this newsletter so included some flowers that were taken in my community last summer. The flags and flowers are in colour so if you want to see the colour, please check them out on our website.

Our Synod Assembly will be held at Brock University in St. Catharines from June 23-27. Pastor Mills and Claus Brandes will be representing Advent. I will also be there to produce the daily newsletter. We look forward to Claus's report following the Assembly.

Our July/August *Parish Visitor* will be available early July and we plan to have all our summer schedule included for your reference. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and wish you a great summer.

*Judy*

## Another Way to Look at Psalm 23

*This is an eye opener; some probably never thought nor looked at this Psalm in this way, even though they say it over and over again.*

*The Lord is my Shepherd  
That's Relationship!*

*I shall not want  
That's Supply!*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures  
That's Rest!*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters  
That's Refreshment!*

*He restoreth my soul  
That's Healing!*

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
That's Guidance!*

*For His name sake  
That's Purpose!*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
That's Testing!*

*I will fear no evil  
That's Protection!*

*For Thou art with me  
That's Faithfulness!*

*Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me  
That's Discipline!*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies  
That's Hope!*

*Thou annointest my head with oil  
That's Consecration!*

*My cup runneth over  
That's Abundance!*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life  
That's Blessing!*

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
That's Security!*

*Forever  
That's Eternity!*

*Contributed by Fran Brandes*



### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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A Word from Pastor Mike

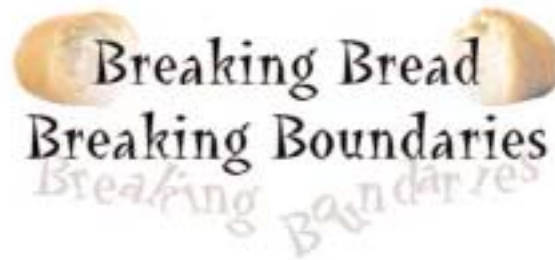
## Breaking Bread...Breaking Boundaries

One of the questions asked by the church every generation or so is: *What does the church look like when the Christian community is actively engaged at the boundaries of its culture?* It's a good question and one without easy answers. It seems that God is always challenging the church to rethink itself so that it might serve the world in new and ever more faithful ways.

This summer in Toronto there is a conference dealing with just this question. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada are co-sponsoring the event; and there are already people coming from as far away as BC, Alberta, Ohio and Texas.

The theme of the conference is *Breaking Bread...Breaking Boundaries*. And this theme is meant to help us wrestle with our mission and ministry in the modern world. Paul Gibson, retired Liturgical officer for the Anglican Church of Canada, is one of the keynote speakers. He will be talking about ambiguity and authentic faith. "We live on the boundary," he says, "between a number of tensions – belief and doubt, faith and works, security and chance, perfection and guilt, lament and

praise, life and death, to name but a few. It is a basic human reaction to live as though there were no boundaries, as though faith and perfection and certainty and praise and life were the only reality. However, courageous



and authentic life is found on the boundary where the ambiguities of life are embraced, not denied. We need to explore and own the boundary." Heady stuff!

Mark Mummert, seminary musician at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will be helping us explore the music which shapes our worship. He writes: The music of Christian liturgy is too often used to label our worship – "contemporary, traditional, blended, relevant, modern" or other unhelpful descriptions. We will explore an approach to music in worship, seeking to cross the boundaries of styles while remaining faithful to the purposes of the Christian assembly. While considering the newest congregational song and instrumentation, we will set such discoveries within the context of the

best use of all music from the breadth and depth of the tradition and cultures of the assembled people of God.

In addition to Mark and Paul's presentations, there will be wonderful and creative worship services, a host of workshops exploring exciting themes, a gala banquet and the conferral of the 2004 Companion of the Worship Arts on Dr. Eduard Riegert, retired professor of

homiletics at Waterloo Seminary. Our own Lester McLean will be offering an evening of jazz and Fran Brandes and Carol Peck have planned hospitality suites that will be hospitable in every sense of the word.

I encourage everyone to consider registering for this event. It runs from Wednesday, July 21, through Sunday, July 25, at the University of Toronto. The registration fee is \$245, which, while not inexpensive, is a bargain for a four-day conference. More information can be found at the *Breaking Break... Breaking Boundaries* link at [www.worship.ca](http://www.worship.ca). Or you can talk to me. I am chairperson for the event. Please accept this invitation to come.

Michael

# How do we Testify?

*This is first part of a two-part article written by Bob Lageman.*

**D**uring 2004 and into early 2005, Advent Lutheran Church is celebrating our 40th anniversary. We have already had a kick-off dinner, been graced by the presence and words of former pastors or members of Advent, and witnessed some of the artistic talent of the members of Advent – more of this joy to come throughout the year. We have a banner announcing our celebration to the public. We have a beautiful brochure detailing our event

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## **I send you out as laborers into the harvest.**

**Luke 10:2**

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calendar, including briefly describing the activities and items for our 40th anniversary. We even have an anniversary theme paraphrased from Luke 10:2, “I send you out as labourers into the harvest.”

The actual biblical quote of Luke 10:2 is, “Jesus told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Similarly Matthew describes Jesus’ description of the world’s need for workers of the Lord. Matthew 9:35-38 reads, “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

One can ask what Jesus meant by saying the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Traditionally, Jesus was referring to the world and all the people who needed help, whether they were

physically ill, destitute, hungry, frustrated by the everyday problems of life, or simply unaware of God’s love for them. This last point of being unaware of God and His love was something the religious leaders should have taken care of, but had not. They had specifically focused on the law as opposed to God and His will for the people. The people not only lacked a shepherd, but the religious leaders were actually hindering them from following the true Shepherd, namely God the Father. Since Jesus was now on earth and the kingdom of God was now at hand, additional workers were needed to reach or shepherd the people.

The facts of today are still the same. Certainly there are many, many people who need shepherding, specifically an

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## **Many people need shepherding today.**

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introduction to the love of God and His forgiveness. Arguably, there is a greater need now than during Jesus’ time – at least there are many more people in need now.

So if we do indeed adopt the challenge of Jesus to be workers in His field here on earth, then what do we do? If our primary goal is to spread the good news about Jesus Christ, then is the implication that we must be evangelists? Most of us have had experiences with both televangelists and door-to-door or corner preachers. Unfortunately, these experiences are usually negative, whether due to the scandals or unscrupulous motives of televangelists or due to the abrasiveness of the door-to-door evangelist. Alas, when the overriding message from those who are active in preaching to the general public is one of damnation if one does not repent and declare Jesus as their saviour, the result is usually apathy or a complete refusal to listen. It can

therefore be quite frustrating for anyone conveying the message of God’s love and forgiveness. So what do we do? It would be so easy to simply give-up on outreach and stay within our own Christian community, full of love, acceptance, and caring.

If we choose such an approach, however, then many will be disappointed in us. Certainly God desires us to be active in outreach to all the hurting and lost people on earth. St. Paul would be aghast if we backed away from this outreach challenge. Personally, I would also be forlorn if the people of Advent decided to walk this path of lesser resistance. Hopefully, all of you would be disappointed in us, too.

To be continued next month...



## **Evangelical Lutheran Women**

**O**n May 8 some brave Advent members attended The Peanut Town Festival. We had two tables – one of baked goods and the other with white elephant articles. We cleared \$120. Thank you to all who provided the baking and other articles – and especially to those who suffered through the inclement weather.

- On June 4 we will hold our annual barbecue at the Arnett’s.
- The ELW will not meet in June.
- The ELW Fifth Quadrennial Convention under the theme *Walking By Faith* will be held July 8-11 in Winnipeg. Carol Peck is our delegate. Our ELW members are please asked to make your footprint and, supply \$1.00 and give these to Evelyn Arnett or Carol Peck for the Jackie Schmitt Leadership Fund.
- The Seniors will meet Tuesdays June 8 and 22.

*Evelyn Arnett*

## Stewardship Dinner Presentations Outline Synod Program

Judy Baribeau and I attended the biennial Synod stewardship dinner on Wednesday, May 12, at Agricola Lutheran Church in Toronto. After enjoying a tasty meal, Bishop Michael Pryse, Jeff Pym, and Maryann Doherty brought forward an inspiring discussion on the various aspects of stewardship.

### Bishop Pryse Outlines Three Disciplines

Bishop Pryse elaborated on what stewardship means to a believer and its implications. Stewardship means what Christians do after we say "I believe."

He outlined three disciplines that underpin faithful stewardship.

1. **Thanksgiving** – The way we are supposed to live and worship. When we only have a little, we can keep our lives in greater perspective. When we have so much, it is so much harder to see everything clearly.

2. **The practice of letting go and 'letting God'**. This translates into the understanding that what we are and what we have ultimately belongs to God. We need to let go of what is taking over our lives (our idols). We should not be owned by our possessions. God still owns our money, time and talents. Our stewardship will be judged by much we let go.

3. **Discipline of Generosity** – the discipline of giving – as a means of promoting spiritual well being, rather than

**There is always more than enough – but unless we offer what we have, there will always be a scarcity**

being a means of supporting an institution. Early Christians were known by how they cared for one another. God wants our gifts to be offered no matter how small. There is always more than enough – but unless we offer what we have, there will always be a scarcity.

## All About our House

Vacation time is upon us and we are all looking forward to some R and R. It sure has been a whopper of a winter. "Our House" surely felt the impact of Ol' Man Winter in a big way. Our roof lost shingles which had to be repaired, but before that happened, it leaked and lo and behold one Sunday morning we had an

explosion during announcements. Seems the rainwater came in and made contact with one of the large hanging lights and BANG – we were all immediately cognizant of the missing shingles. As if that wasn't more than enough during the winter months, the bricks in our front drive heaved up and presented a hazard to anyone walking there and that also has to be dealt with. You know, things don't last forever and our "new building" is in fact 15 years old. Similar to ourselves, 15 years have a way of making themselves noticed.

Our roof has been repaired, the light fixture restored and the funds necessary for the repair of the driveway are under consideration pending further quotes. We have in fact two quotes in hand but one of our parishioners may even be able to secure a more reasonable fee, so I will keep you posted. We do intend to

finalize this matter soon to avoid any injury to our members and guests.

Our gardening committee (Carol Peck, Olga Cosburn and Brenda Kroeker) would appreciate any help available from anyone who would be so inclined. Please don't miss your chance to earn yourself a green thumb in one of God's gardens.

Our Men's Group has committed to present us with new fixtures and a newly painted ceiling in the hallway down to the Fellowship Hall and the old Narthex. Thank you, thank you all.

Last but not least progress is in the making for protecting our stained glass windows against vandalism. Heinz Weltner will soon undertake the task of applying Lexan covering to all of the sanctuary windows. This is by no means an easy ask, and I am sure that he would appreciate any help he can get when it comes to lifting and steadying the glass. Please contact him if you can lend a hand or two. Thanks, in advance.

I believe that is all I have to report so once again, until next time – have a good, safe, happy summer and – as always, thanks for reading.

*Fran Brandes  
Property Chair*

Those who tend to be generous are those most spiritually alive.

We need to promote these disciplines and get back to the spiritual heart of stewardship.

### Other Presentations

Maryann Doherty, a member of Synod Council, detailed the financial aspects of the Synod's ministry and the financial commitment which is funded by benevolence offering and stressed the need for sustained and enhanced commitments.

Jeff Pym, Director of Lutheran Planned Giving, described what makes this ministry happen. He noted that

offerings didn't rise at the same rate as the Consumer Price Index and the gap in 2003 was \$750,000. Investment income went down and congregational giving to benevolence dropped 25%.

He asked everyone to: (1) identify their current giving; (2) set a giving target; (3) make an annual written benevolence commitment; and (4) grow in giving.

Each congregation received a CD with the complete presentation. Please let me know if you would like to review it.

*Sam Paranivatana  
Chair, Stewardship*

# Mission Report

## This month the focus is on Mission

The Evangelical Declaration of the ELCIC states:

*Our mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments and service in Christ's name.*

**M**ission in the world continues as a responsibility of the national church. ELCIC mission activities are carried out in cooperation with other churches, agencies and institutions in a number of countries. The ELCIC is sending missionaries to El Salvador (Brian Rude); Peru (Rev. Katharine Bergbusch); Argentina, Cameroon and Papua New Guinea (Bonnie Wepler) in response to our partner churches.

The missionaries usually begin by learning the local language and the work may take many years. The objective is to prepare local people to continue after the missionaries leave. Over two hundred congregations and many individuals participate in the Missionary sponsorship program. Sponsors help maintain full financial support for missionaries and develop closer ties with them.

We are also receiving missionaries under the exchange program from churches in other countries for a period of several months. They are invited by the ELCIC Mission office and hosted by a Synod where they endeavour to share their sense of the vitality of Christian life. Through mutual sharing, the visitors will take the knowledge gained from this experience back to their home country.

The Volunteers in Mission are short-term missionaries with assignments of six months to two years in other

countries and other parts of Canada. An integral part of the VIM program is the local support group which provides prayer support, raises the funds required and shares in the mission of the volunteer.

### Canadian Mission

The Mission in Canada is the responsibility of the five synods of the ELCIC.

There is a consultation process regarding new mission starts in various areas. In our Eastern Synod, Westside, Barrie, is a mission congregation. There is work going on in Orillia towards starting a new mission and probably several others. This committee also looks at the needs of inner city, rural, aboriginal and Asian struggling congregations.

Then there is Campus Ministry, which is present on numerous college and university campuses. In our city, The Rev. Herbert Harms works on the University of Toronto Campus. He, together with ministers of many other faiths, work to minister to the needs of the 40,000 more or less students on that campus.

If you wish to make a donation at any time to any of the missions, just put the donation in your offering envelope, marking it for the ministry or missionary you wish to support. Also, your prayers are of great value to the programs and the people at work in them.

Joan Fox

Missionary Representative



## 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 [gandjbaribeau@rogers.com](mailto:gandjbaribeau@rogers.com) or to Pastor Mills at [milshntz@istar.ca](mailto: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.

Our current and previous issues of *The Parish Visitor* are also available on our congregation's website.

Thank you.

jb

# Financial Update

Year to Date Offerings	May 31 2004	May 31 2003	Increase (Decrease)
<b>Current Account</b>			
Members	32,700	35,500	(2,800)
Facilities	19,400	23,450	(4,050)
Total	52,100	58,950	(6,850)
Expenses	(59,400)	(52,900)	(6,500)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(7,300)</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>(13,350)</b>
<b>Other Accounts</b>			
40th Anniversary	8,950	—	8,950
Mortgage	4,200	4,000	200
Benevolence	4,100	3,200	900
World Hunger	2,000	1,500	500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,250</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>10,550</b>

While contributions to our Mortgage, Benevolence and World Hunger accounts have increased and giving related to our 40th Anniversary Fund commitments is well under way, a deficit of \$7,300 exists in the Current Account as at May 31, 2004.

Not only have membership contributions declined over last year, income from facility rentals is down and operating expenses have also increased. The deficit indicates a net decrease in support for the Current Account. If membership contributions continue

to decline, a significant shortfall is projected for the current year.

Based on results as of May 31, 2004, Advent's financial position will be one of our greatest challenges for the summer and fall months. In order that Advent is not further constrained by an increased deficit in the Current Account, the Finance Committee is asking that members consider their weekly levels of contributions in support of Advent's Current Account.

*Heinz Weltner, Treasurer*

*Martin Gangadeen, Chair, Finance*

## God Loves us Already More

The children's message can teach the strongest lesson at a worship service. Youngsters often pick up the main idea a lot faster than adults do.

One Sunday, I wanted to remind the children that we cannot earn God's grace. I worried that this rather complex concept might be out of their reach, so started by asking the children to tell me the rules of church. They had many answers ready...what to wear, how to behave, what to say and when to say it...Then I asked them if God would love them more if they obeyed all those rules.

One little boy had an answer in a flash – "God loves us already more!" All I could say was "Amen."

*From ELCIC Communiqué  
www.elcic.ca*

## Congregation Approves Using Reserve Fund Monies

At a special Congregational Meeting held on May 16, the congregation approved spending up to \$2,500 for 6 mm Lexan glazing on the outside of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. This will include the complete rectangular sections of the five side windows and front windows.

The congregation also approved replacing of necessary interlocking brick at the main front entry of the building.

The money from these items will be taken from the Reserve Fund. ♦



## 40th Anniversary Celebrations Continue

In our continuing schedule of celebration services, we were pleased to welcome our former pastor, Earl Albrecht, and his wife Sandy to Advent on May 9. Pastor Albrecht reminisced about the time he had to think following his leaving Advent. While his status as disabled prevented him from doing pastoral work, he still felt, and continues to feel called to ministry. He also answered questions from the congregation in an informal discussion.

Last summer he moved to a home in Scarborough and now is able to conduct communion services for the residents twice a month.

We also welcomed Alma Olson and Delores Prussak, "The Joyful Noise", who sang for us. Delores and Alma were charter members of Advent.

Following the service we hosted a luncheon in Pastor Albrecht's honour. ♦

# People and Events Summary

## Worship Services and Meetings

**Worship services** are held every Sunday at 10:00 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 June 8 and 22, 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**Multicultural Sunday** – Special service and potluck lunch, June 13.

**Eastern Synod Assembly** meets June 23-27 at Brock University, St. Catharines.

**Congregational Council** meets Monday, June 28, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### Thank You

- To everyone who participated in the Peanut Town Festival on May 8.
- To everyone who assisted with the special luncheon on May 9.
- To the ESO members and friends who provided and hosted the luncheon following the Confirmation service on May 30.

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

### Sympathy

- Our sympathy goes to Paul and Lisa Denovan on the death of wife and mother Gail on May 29. Pastor Mills conducted her funeral on June 1.

### Congratulations

- To Michael Day and Kyle Hunt who were confirmed on May 30.
- To Joan and Arie Fox who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 14.

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



### June 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
<b>June 6</b> Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Alfred Schurr	Gabi Schickedanz	Hildegard Weltner	Michaela Ehring & Chris Moeglich	Martin Gangadeen & Sam Paranavitana	Yvonne & Sybil Cumberbatch
<b>June 13</b> Brenda Kroeker	Hilton Beharry	Lester McLean	Peter Buckley	Carol Peck &	Nizam Khan & Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Advent Family
<b>June 20</b> Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Jim Doak	Joan Fox	Nalini Beekie & Yvonne Cumberbatch	Sonita Dillon-Rhodium & Gladys Ammattil	Sonja & David Brown
<b>June 27</b> Brit Missirlian	Jenny Persaud	Nalini Beekie	Brit Missirlian	Olga Cosburn &	Fran Brandes & Fred Roth	Olga Cosburn & Brenda Kroeker