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**40th Anniversary
 Celebrations Continue**

Now that we're all refreshed from the summer holidays – where did they go? – we can get back to our business at hand.

As you all recall we have a generous project that we have undertaken to help out in our community. Your donations to our 40th anniversary project are so appreciated. Donations have fallen off during the summer, so please remember to include your 40th Anniversary offering in your envelope and clearly mark it.

One of our next events is coming up soon. On September 26 Pastor Michael Mills will be presenting his painting to the congregation. We look forward to this with bated breath. Plan to be there for the unveiling.

***“I send you out
 as labourers into
 the harvest.”***



Luke 10:2

On October 31, it is our Anniversary Sunday. Bishop Michael Pryse will be joining us. Watch for more details.

I would also like to put in a word of Thanks to Pastor Munro for his service July 11 and to everyone else who has so generously given of their time to make our 40th year as a congregation so special. Thank you so much.

Marion Knaus, Chair, FDTF

**Celebrating 40 years
 Come join us!**

**Toronto Conference Fall Festival –
 Youth Event – Saturday, November 13**



All Toronto Conference youth, persons involved in youth ministry (pastors and paid or volunteer youth workers) are invited to participate in this event at St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Toronto. We invite all members and friends to attend. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. with lunch and will conclude at 5:00 p.m.

This event is being organized by Toronto Conference Council, Pastor Mavis Fung, Pastor David Tin and Miia Suokonauto.

We would like youth leaders to help facilitate and participate in a discussion forum that would connect with the youth. Come and hear special music, enjoy good food, fellowship, discussion, workshop options and closing worship.

Further details will be forwarded to all congregations as available.

Peanut Shell



Some people called this the "summer that wasn't"

because of the rain and cool weather, but there were also a lot of benefits – just look at all the green grass that didn't require watering, and the flowers that are blooming well. If you had an interesting experience during the summer, please let us know so we can publish your story in the next *Parish Visitor*.

Now it's September and you can see by the activities listed in this newsletter that Advent is running in full gear. We're continuing our 40th anniversary celebration activities, and the adult discussion group program is off to a good start. A number of new initiatives are underway in the Sunday School. We certainly encourage all parents to bring their children to Sunday School – and then participate themselves in the adult discussion program. There is something for everyone.

From what I hear, the Youth Gathering was a rousing success and we hope to have a report soon in the *Parish Visitor* to tell about their experience in Hamilton. In the meantime, the Toronto Conference is focusing its Fall Festival on Youth on November 13. We invite everyone to attend and get caught up in our youth focus.

Claus Brandes gives us an overview of the Synod Assembly in this newsletter and will give an oral report on September 26. Please plan to be present and ask any questions.

MAAA 8 will be another exciting evening for Advent when Lester McLean and his friends will provide an evening of fun and entertainment. Invite your friends to come with you. A free will offering will be taken and given to a designated charity.

We certainly thank everyone for their help during the summer leading and assisting with the worship services and work around our property.

We're looking forward to a great year at Advent so please join us and be part of it.

Judy

Synod Assembly June 23-27 2004

At the outset, I wish to thank Advent's congregation for allowing me to attend the Synod Assembly 2004 in St. Catharines, ON.

The format of this report is not designed to list all events, discussions and celebrations, but rather provides an overview and highlights the matters before us which might affect the life of our parish and the ELCIC. I will present my report on September 26, 2004.

Worship

On Wednesday evening we held our opening Eucharist. Many lay delegates participated.

Bishop Michael Pryse compared the Assembly to a family reunion. He reminded us that God's grace would take us into something new. The ordination service on Friday was an unforgettable event with the consecration of our first Lay Diaconal Minister and the ordination of three new pastors. Bishop Pryse presided and our National Bishop, Raymond Schultz preached.

Motions

As always the Assembly dealt with several motions and, of course, they are all on record. The resolutions covered topics ranging from Health Care to Canadian Immigration Policy to Affordable Housing to Welcoming to Pension and Benefits, Budgets, Campus Ministry and Youth – in short, a range of issues challenging us to serve our Lord.

Specifically two resolutions resulted in extensive and mostly gracious discussion: Pension and benefit plans for active and retired pastors.

It is evident that alternative means have to be explored to reduce health care and related pension costs.

Welcoming Motion

After we had been given the opportunity to participate in numerous "Listening Circles", this motion was introduced and extensively discussed on Friday (June 25). Let us be clear at this point: yes these are difficult issues; however, the motion was passed by a vote of 283/79 (78%).

A keynote address was delivered by Dr. Kelly Fryer, author of the book *Reclaiming the "L" Word*. Her message was "God has plans for us."

There is so much more I could write; and as I reflect back over the four days at the Assembly, feelings of humility and gratitude well up in me.

Again I say, thank you Advent, for giving me this opportunity and I pray that my report to you on Sunday, September 26, will do justice to God's spirit as it was expressed at the Biennial Convention in St. Catharines, Ontario, in June of 2004.

*Yours in Christ,
Claus Brandes*



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road

North York, Ontario • M2J 3B6

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(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.

Judy Baribeau, Editor (416) 264-4527

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www.adventlutheranchurch.ca



Fall Programming Planned

It is always a pleasure to start the fall programming in the church. I've often thought that the season of Advent should begin the second week of September, because in many ways this is a new beginning for most parish activities. We are rested after the summer and are looking forward to actively engaging in the life of our community.

This fall we continue our 40th anniversary celebrations with Bishop Michael Pryse joining us October 31 and a special catered anniversary lunch after worship. In November we unveil a beautiful agate crèche created by one of the artists in our parish, Hildegard Weltner. And early in the new year we look forward to our National Bishop, Raymond Schultz, helping us close off our year of celebration by pointing us toward the future with renewed vision and hope. It has been a wonderful year of celebration here at Advent.

This fall there is a new slate of adult education events planned. Starting September 19 learn how to craft and pray *The Prayers of the People* for public worship. We will also be hosting the occasional class called *Musings*. These classes will be open discussion classes to which anyone who wishes can bring a question for group discussion. It might be a question you are strug-

gling with in your life of faith, a question about spirituality, politics, the life of Jesus. The floor is yours to share and emphasis is on group interaction.

In October we will celebrate Holocaust Awareness Week with a special guest speaker who will speak to us in Adult Discussion about his experiences in the Second World War. During worship he will speak to us about growing up Jewish in Toronto.

The fall education season will close with Walter Rothenburger discussing the Art of Christmas. Come and experience the rich history of Christian art.

In the spring the adult education class will be reading a book together: *Reclaiming the "L" Word* by Kelly Friar. The "L" here refers to Lutheran. This book is a wonderful refresher course in basic Lutheran theology. We will have to order books in the fall and will be posting a sign up sheet. They should run about \$15. The education committee has a few additional dollars in its budget for some extra copies in case anyone would like to borrow one.

In our worship life we will continue to use the Thanksgiving for Baptism rite that is a part of the new worship book. Further on in the year there will be a number of adult education classes focusing on the new trends in liturgy in the

Lutheran Church which should be interesting.

Of course, Sunday Church School is being revamped. There will be more focus on helping to make the curriculum more understandable to the different age groups. There will be opportunities to work on service projects and lots of activities and worship. Thanks to Tara Lindemann and Erika Schurr for their work on Sunday School. I also want to thank all of the people who have volunteered to help out this year. We couldn't do it without you.

I would like to thank Heinz Weltner for his tremendous effort building us a quarter inch steel cabinet to house our sound system. It is both extremely strong and at the same time beautiful, being covered in the same blonde oak as the rest of the sanctuary.

I also want to thank our parish ELW, the Men's Group, Pastor Mavis Fung and Pastor Norm Hennig who provided excellent worship leadership this summer. A special thanks to Joan Fox who kept the office running and Carol Peck who graciously saw to it that for all of our summer worship dots were dotted and titles, titled. The work of the church is indeed the work of many people.

*See you in worship,
Pastor Michael*

Mission Report

Several of Advent's members come from Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Guyana, and there will be an opportunity to join them in celebrating its Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on September 26 (see separate notice on Page 6).

The Lutheran Church in Guyana was founded by Dutch settlers in 1743, making it the second oldest church in the Caribbean and South America. The church was served by pastors from Holland until 1841 when the country became British Guiana. This left the church without pastoral services, so the congregations organized by the Dutch died except Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

In 1878 John Mittelholzer, the first Guyanese pastor, began serving Ebenezer and its multicultural congregation. When the United Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1918, British Guiana became one of its mission fields, served by many Lutheran missionaries over the years. British Guiana became Guyana in 1966.

In 1944 the Lutheran Church in Guyana became an associated synod of the United Lutheran Church in America and in 1950 became a member of the Lutheran World Federation. In 1966 when Guyana became independent, so did the church. The Lutheran Church enjoyed a long and strong tradition of church schools which trained people for active church membership and service. At its peak, the church (with some government assistance) maintained 18 elementary and two high schools.

At the present time, there are eight pastors to serve 49 congregations in fourteen multi-point parishes. Pastors care for their own congregations and serve as acting pastors in other parishes, which is a drain of time and energy. The tradition of capable lay leadership is strong in the Lutheran Church in Guyana. The Lutheran Church in Guyana ordained its first female clergy member in 1993. The church now has 11,000 members.

The Country

Guyana is located in northern South America, bordering the north Atlantic Ocean, between Surinam and Venezuela. It covers an area slightly smaller than Idaho. Its climate is tropical, hot and humid, moderated by northeast trade winds. Two rainy seasons persist, one from May to mid-August and another from mid-November to mid-January. Guyana lays in mostly rolling highlands with a low coastal plain and a grassy plain in the south. Natural resources include bauxite, gold, diamonds and hardwood timber.

Guyana is home to over 690,000 multi-cultural people and follows different religions.

The capital of Guyana is Georgetown. The president is elected by the majority party in the National Assembly and then appoints a prime minister.

Agriculture allows Guyana to be self-sufficient in sugar, rice, vegetables, fruit, meat and poultry, as well as to make major export earnings for sugar and rice.

The Eastern Synod has established a Companion Synod Program with The Lutheran Church in Guyana.

Joan Fox
Mission Representative

Adult Discussion Group Fall Schedule

September 19, 26 & October 3	Learning to Craft and Pray the Prayers in Worship (Pastor Mills)
October 10	Thanksgiving – No Classes
October 17	<i>Musings</i> – This is an open class to which you can bring any question you wish for group discussion. It might be a question you are struggling with in your life of faith; a question about spirituality; politics, the life of Jesus ... The floor is yours to share and emphasis is on group interaction. (Olga Cosburn)
October 24 & 31	Choosing a Nursing Home/Retirement Home (Marion Knaus)
November 7	Holocaust Education Week Event – Mr. Gladstone, A Jewish RCF Veteran Shares His Memoirs.
November 14	The Holocaust and the Church (Olga Cosburn)
November 21	<i>Musings</i> – This is an open class to which you can bring any question you wish for group discussion. It might be a question you are struggling with in your life of faith; a question about spirituality; politics, the life of Jesus ... The floor is yours to share and emphasis is on group interaction. (Olga Cosburn)
November 28 & December 5	Art of Christmas (Walter Rothenburger)
December 12	<i>Musings</i> – This is an open class to which you can bring any question you wish for group discussion. It might be a question you are struggling with in your life of faith; a question about spirituality; politics, the life of Jesus ... The floor is yours to share and emphasis is on group interaction. (Olga Cosburn)
December 19 & 26	No Class

All About our House

“The music goes round and round and comes out here.” The summer did the same and now it’s gone. Can you believe it? Where did it go? If you had an eventful summer, then it was a memorable one; for those of us for which it was *routine*, summer was a blur. Anyway, welcome back to Fall at Advent and the beginning of a busy time ...get involved.

A number of housekeeping projects were underway and I would like to mention them and give thanks to those that “made it happen”.

■ The Worldwide Church of God installed mini blinds in the Sunday School room.

■ Marion Knaus and Keith Hope repaired the stove in the kitchen.

■ Carol Peck, Olga Cosburn, Brenda Kroeker and Deeba Aslamzada (a new volunteer) have looked after the gardens.

■ Claus Brandes, Jack Shave, Jim Doak, Peter Buckley and Sam Paranavitana made the first installment of “sweat equity” into the new light fixtures and refurbishing of the hallway.

■ Alex Otten and Fred Roth looked after all of the details and scheduling

that were involved in making the repair of the circular drive a reality.

■ Heinz Weltner has spent countless hours installing the lexan covering which is going to prevent any further breakage to our beautiful stained glass windows.

■ Bernd Brandt looked after the repair of Pastor Mills’ parking sign.

■ Arie and Joan Fox keep me posted of the countless little things that need attention. They spend time each week here at the church looking after clerical matters, and before they leave they have a look around just to “check”.

In the next short while we will see some changes being made to the “Quiet Room.” Tara Lindemann and Rebecca Taylor have teamed up to take steps to upgrade the area. It sounds very exciting but I don’t want to steal their thunder. Soon you’ll see what I mean.

As you may remember, several months ago we were burglarized and our sound system once again was the target. Since that time Heinz Weltner has been tirelessly constructing a new steel lined box to house the equipment. The terrorists would be hard pressed to get into this structure. A huge amount of

time and lots of BTUs have gone into the project and we would do well to say a huge “Thank you” to him. The fruits of his labour stand under the choir loft staircase.

You never know what goes on behind closed doors. One of the doors that is not visited by most of us is the door to the Sunday School room. Let me tell you, a lot has been going on behind that door. Tara Lindemann and Ingrid Schurr have been working very hard at giving this room a new look...and have they ever. Thanks to both of you, it looks GREAT.

Sonya Brown has been gracious enough to lend a hand to the front gardens and her work is much appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks to you all. It is so easy to operate an effective Property Committee when you have people like those aforementioned and many others who so willingly step up and contribute their time and talent to the running of “Our House.”

That’s a wrap for this time. Thanks for reading.

Fran Brandes
Property Chairperson



Music and Arts at Advent October 23 – 7:00 p.m.



This year we celebrate the eighth year of MAAA. Plan to attend an exciting evening of music, fun, art, and comedy hosted by Lester McLean. Come and be entertained by Lester, his friends, members of the congregation and perhaps a few surprises.

Invite your friends and neighbours to join you at one of the best events that happens at Advent.

A free-will offering will be taken and donated to charity.
...And there will be refreshments.



Evangelical Lutheran Women

I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Now it’s time to get into action again.

The first ELW meeting of the season will be on Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At the meeting we will plan this year’s program. So join us – we’d like to see some new faces and new ideas.

The Seniors will meet September 14 and 28 in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Evelyn Arnett

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.

Worship and the Arts Committee meets following the service on September 12.

Congregational Council meets at the church Monday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.

Seniors meet Tuesdays September 14 and 28, 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Sunday School and Adult Discussion groups meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. beginning on September 19.

ESO meets Monday, September 20, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

ELW meets Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m. at the church (see Page 5).

Baptism

■ We welcomed Jason Mulchand, infant son of Sherriane Mulchand and Jorge DaCosta into membership through Holy Baptism on July 18.

If anyone wants the old cabinet from the sound system, it is yours for the taking. See Heinz Weltner about it.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you

■ To Erna and John Krause for hosting the congregation's annual picnic on July 18.

■ To everyone who assisted the Youth group in hosting the youth group from Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton prior to the Youth Gathering and Mercy De Silva who accompanied the youth to Hamilton.

■ To everyone who led the worship services during Pastor Mills' absence this summer: Pastor Mavis Fung, Claus Brandes, ELW, Jim Doak, Men's Group, Pastor Norman Hennig.

Treasurer's Report

Year to Date August 31, 2004

Current	\$54,200
Facilities Used	29,800
Total Receipts	84,000
Expenditures	88,900
Surplus (Shortfall)	(4,900)
Building Fund	5,800
Benevolence	7,500
Global Hunger	3,100
Anniversary	8,000

*Heinz Weltner
Treasurer*

You are invited to A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

of the 261st Anniversary of The Lutheran Church in Guyana on
Sunday, September 26, 3:00 p.m. at
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
3159 Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario M1H 1A1

Host Pastor: Rev. Neville Mirstchin

Special Guest Speaker: Rev. James Dookram

A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. Music will be provided by Steel Pan and other musical instruments. A thanksgiving offering will go to the Lutheran Church in Guyana for Missions and Christian Education Programs.

September 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
September 5 Walter Rothenburger	Hilton Beharry	Judy Baribeau	Martin Gangadeen	Evelyn & Martin Arnett	Martin Gangadeen & Sam Paronavitana	Karen & Martin Gangadeen
September 12 Fran Brandes	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Carol Peck	Hildegard Weltner	Hilton Beharry family	Fred Roth & Martin Gangadeen	Jones family
September 19 Fran Brandes	Jenny Persaud	Gabi Schickedanz	Mercy De Silva	Alfred Schurr family	Brit Missirlian & Sonita Dillon-Rhodium	Ann Marie & John Gangadeen
September 26 Brit Missirlian	Alfred Schurr	Lester McLean	Arie Fox	Alfred Khan family	Fran Brandes & Fred Roth	Mary Hassan & Martha Beharry