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## It's Your Call

**We** were pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus, Assistant Professor of New Testament Theology at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, as our guest preacher on January 16.

We were celebrating *It's Your Call* Sunday as well as one of our special 40th anniversary events on this day. This Sunday was also designated as the ELCIC's *It's Your Call* Sunday across Canada.

In his sermon, Pastor Hegedus told us that the Seminary partners with congregations and invited us to visit the Seminary.

He referred to the common theme in the lessons appointed for the day that "we are called". He said Lutherans understand "call" internally to mean a desire to want to serve God and externally to mean those outside who designate people. All members of the church have a ministry. We all have a call. The call comes in our baptism. He continued that the Gospel needs to be lived out and we are called to put this into practice.

He asked, "How do you know if you are called?" He said the place where God calls us is the place where deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.



Following the service we held a special luncheon and completed the lunch with a special anniversary cake.

Please see the photo spread of events of this Sunday on Page 5. We thank Marion Knaus for taking the photos.

Our last special 40th anniversary event is on February 6 when our National Bishop Raymond Schultz is our guest preacher. Please plan to be with us and greet Bishop Schultz. ♦

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

## Peanut Shell



Even though February is a short month, it is a busy month around Advent. It starts with our closing anniversary celebration service and luncheon on February 6; then there's the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, ELW events, Seniors Group and other regular weekly activities.

I encourage everyone to attend the annual meeting and to read the annual report before the meeting. We need a quorum to conduct the meeting, so all confirmed members are encouraged to attend.

We are pleased that Mercy De Silva is sharing her psalm of Pilgrimage with us. Mercy was visiting in Sri Lanka when the tsunami occurred and wrote these meaningful words afterwards.

We thank everyone for their generous financial support for tsunami relief. Please note the South Asia Disaster Benefit concert on March 5.

While our official 40th anniversary celebration events are coming to an end, we are continuing with our fundraising to ensure that we meet our goal by early 2007. The ELW may be collecting recipes for a cookbook to support this project, so please speak with Evelyn Arnett if you have some special personal or family recipes you would like to share. Regular cookbook recipes are protected by copyright and cannot be used.

It seems some of you may not be aware of the wealth of information available at the click of your mouse, so I've included an article on the various church websites and publications.

Our March and April *Parish Visitors* may be a week late as I will be in Winnipeg at the beginning of March for Church Council meeting and in Chicago at the beginning of April for the LWF Consultation. The newsletters can be on time if everyone is able to get their material to me a few days earlier than the normal deadline of the last Sunday of the month. Thank you for your assistance.

*Judy*

## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper February 9, 2005

Everyone is  
Welcome

Join us for Supper –  
Join us for Worship



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.



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



## Fundraising for 40th Anniversary Projects

While the work of the Future Directions Task Force planning 40th anniversary events is nearly complete, the remaining focus is to complete our fundraising and reach \$40,000 by February 2007.

I have volunteered to work on the fundraising and plan to work with the new Stewardship and Finance Committees of Congregational Council to develop a plan that will look at all our commitments, including our general operating fund, and hope that members of the congregation will maintain all their regular commitments and continue supporting the appeal.

We thank everyone for the \$15,000 collected in less than a year. I welcome any fundraising projects you may suggest since the money can be donated with regular offerings as well as special events and other donations. The important thing is that we ALL continue to contribute to Advent and our special projects.

*Judy Baribeau*

## Annual Meeting February 13

Advent's Annual meeting will be held following the service on Sunday, February 13. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend. Annual reports are available in church, so please take one and read it prior to the meeting.

### 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.

Judy Baribeau, Editor (416) 264-4527

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Advent Lutheran Church

[www.adventlutheranchurch.ca](http://www.adventlutheranchurch.ca)



## South Asia Disaster Benefit Concert

### A Potpourri of Musical Entertainment

A benefit concert will be held at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 1498 Avenue Road (at Lawrence Avenue West), Toronto, on Saturday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in aid of the South Asia disaster victims. A freewill offering will be collected with all the proceeds going to Canadian Lutheran world Relief.

The concert will feature several members of our Conference's congregations including Peter Lutek, Bill and Christina Weldon, Steve and Trudi Johnston, Anne Bornath and many other artists from Lutheran congregations in Southern Ontario.



### Youth Retreat

## Walk the Walk Wandering Around Living Kindness: A Journey Through Lent

Come out to Camp Edgewood, February 25-27 for fun, winter sports, a campfire, amazing food, worship, a great band and a kickin' message.

Rev. Kevin Baglole will be the keynote speaker and will lead the youth through what it means to **Walk the Walk** of being a young person in the church.

Cost for the weekend, including all meals, activities and accommodations is only \$70.

To register, or for more information, contact Lesley Oakley, 25 Benesfort Drive, Kitchener, ON N2N 3B4. Phone 519 576 5654 (between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. only) otherwise email

[walkthewalk2005@sympatico.ca](mailto:walkthewalk2005@sympatico.ca)

Registration deadline is February 11.

Participants must be 14 by the end of 2005.

### Tsunami Relief

## ELCIC Generosity Sets New Records

On February 1 the ELCIC issued a release thanking members who so generously responded to the appeal for help following the earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia. More than \$64,000 was forwarded from GHDA to CLWR and many other donations were sent directly to CLWR. CLWR has now reported donations of \$815,000.

CLWR will focus on relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in southeast India where the agency has worked for many years. Agencies supported by CLWR are distributing food, clothing, shelter, pots and stoves. They are providing medical care and trauma counselling. In the longer term CLWR will help reconstruct houses, schools and wells to enable the people to get on with their lives. For more details, please check the website at <http://www.clwr.org/asiatsunami04/#news>.

Advent forwarded a cheque for \$845 during January for relief. Thank you Advent for your generous support.

The February 1 release also reminds everyone about the continuing need in Africa where 130,000 persons die each week of preventable causes, 44,000 people die of AIDS, 19,000 of malaria, 8,000 of tuberculosis. Fourteen thousand mothers and babies will die from birth-related causes in the next week and about 9,500 children from various illnesses. We are reminded to remember the ongoing needs of GHDA needing our support. ♦

## Adult Discussion Group Winter Schedule

**January 30 – March 13**

Book Study – *Reclaiming the "L" Word* (Claus Brandes)

**March 20-27**

No Discussion

## 40th Anniversary Celebration Activities to Wind Up

Send you out as labourers into the harvest" (Luke 10:2 paraphrased) and laboured and harvested we have. Happy 40th Anniversary Advent Lutheran.

Recently while I was preparing my report for the Annual Report I was surprised with just how much we have celebrated our 40th anniversary. We've had so many Special Sundays and other events to mark our milestone. I was exhausted just reading about everything. Did we really plan all that? Whew.

Remember our Multi-Cultural Sunday and NUC-TUCT Sunday or the Valentine Café Kick-off dinner and our Anniversary dinner? Oh yes, my tummy has fond memories.

How about our guest speakers, can you name them all? Answer at the bottom of this column. Try guessing before you peek. There are nine names.

The artwork that has been so lovingly produced for our 40th Anniversary by

our artists is on display as well. What a wonderful contribution to our church.

Did you buy a "Friends of Lester B. Pearson" pin or note cards? We've had them for sale for quite a while. I see many of us wear the pins regularly. Including our pin purchases, we have already raised in excess of \$15,000 for NUC-TUCT and the Refugee Sponsorship Program. As exciting as this is, please keep in mind our final goal of \$40,000 in honour of our 40th anniversary. Thank you.

To all of our special guests, artists, youth, musicians, volunteers, and all the members of Advent Lutheran Church, I say from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU. Thank you for all of your support and for your participation in making our 40th Anniversary Celebration a huge success.

*Marion Knaus*

*Future Directions Task Force Chair*

Rev. Dr. William Huras, Rev. Peter Lisinski, Rev. Earl Albrecht, Rev. Victor Munro, Bishop Michael Pryse, Rev. Dr. Tim Hegebus, Bishop Raymond Schultz, Evelyn Robertson and Irene Carrere of NUC-TUCT.

## Children



## Children

People sometimes think that February is a dull month. You know, that last month before we really, expect spring to arrive. But there are in fact many celebrations, observances to be aware of and learn more from.

There is, of course, Groundhog Day, something almost every school discusses on the morning of February 2. But can anyone tell me what holiday it was originally? The correct answer will be rewarded.

We have, of course, Ash Wednesday on February 9, the start of the season of Lent where we daily observe the last walk and miracles and journey of Jesus to the time of his death and resurrection.

Hmmm. Ah yes, Valentine's Day. February 14 is a day we recognize and display our affection and appreciation for friends, relatives, people who are important to us. Celebrate someone you don't normally talk to or hang out with – your crossing guard, or someone in your class or school yard who, if you look really carefully, is someone who probably needs it.

And finally, February is Black History Month. We recognize the significant contributions African Canadians have made in areas such as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics and human rights. Did you know that along southern Ontario there are sites you can visit which marked the end of the Underground Railroad? Does anyone know about the Underground Railroad? Look it up in your library. There are celebrations happening all over the city in February.

So read. Visit some historic sites. Celebrate the freedom of diversity. There is much to do and celebrate before Spring arrives.

*Tara Lindemann*



## Evangelical Lutheran Women

The ELW will not meet in February. Many of us will be busy with the Soup Supper on February 9.

On February 12 we will attend a play called "A Flea in Her Ear" at the Fairview Library Theatre at 8:00 p.m. See Brit Missirlian to get tickets.

On Saturday, February 26, is our annual Day of Renewal. The theme is "Tread Softly on the Earth". Our speaker is a native woman, Loretta McCregor; Bible study leader is Pastor Lenise Francis. The cost per person is \$15 and includes lunch and refreshments. The time is 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Bring any of the following items for the Indian centre: mitts, socks, scarf, toque,

shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrush. See Evelyn Arnett if you are interested.

On March 4 is the World Day of Prayer service to be held at Immanuel Baptist Church, 1100 Finch Avenue East. The theme is "Let our Light Shine". We are praying for the women of Poland. Watch for the poster.

Keeping with the 40th anniversary celebrations, Rebecca Taylor has volunteered to prepare a cookbook of recipes donated by Advent members. The last time we did one was 1965 and a lot of cooking has been done since. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

*Evelyn Arnett*

# It's Your Call Sunday

We were pleased that Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus was able to join us on January 16 to speak about the ELCIC's *It's Your Call* emphasis. Pastor Hegedus served as Interim Pastor at Advent in 1996. Here are few photographs take during his visit.



Pastor Hegedus, Assisting Minister Nalini Beekie and Pastor Mills join in singing the opening hymn, "Blessed be the God of Israel".



Pastor Hegedus delivers the sermon where he emphasizes the theme of "call" in each of the day's lessons.



Worshippers greet each other following the service.



Erna Krause reads the lessons for the day: Isaiah 49:1-7 and I Corinthians 1:1-9.



Pastor Hegedus joins the congregation in sharing the peace.



No celebration is complete without a cake. We had a special "It's Your Call" cake for the day.



Brenda Kroeker gives the children's message for the day.



Everyone was invited to celebrate Holy Communion.



Pastor Hegedus cuts the cake which we then all shared.

# Mission Report

**M**issionaries are never short of a challenge or two. This article contains excerpts from Lori Endress's Advent letter. Often God's calls are a challenge. The ELCIC is committed to the work that Lori does in Thailand – to develop and teach English programs for specific needs to faculty, graduate students, pastors in upgrading programs, and staff. She said everyone wants more English. Fortunately, those who need it, want it.

## Individuals and Congregations Support Mission Work in Thailand

To enable Lori to fulfill these needs, an ELCA congregation in San Leandro,

California, (friends) and at the Global Mission Event in Bozeman, Montana, expressed their commitment to her work in Thailand by prayer and financial support. Congregations and individuals have generously pledged missionary support and donations. Heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make it possible for Lori to continue her work in Thailand. Additional sponsorships are still needed. For now, Lori's term of service is a minimum of two years – July 2004-June 2006.

## Spirited, Spirit-filled Pastors

At present, there are about 500 congregational vacancies in Thailand's national church. That represents more

than half the number of congregations. A good number of the church's congregational pastors are graduates of various Bible colleges in the country. Many of these pastors are from hill tribe backgrounds (marginalized groups from Burma and Laos).

McGilvary Seminary offers a two-year Bachelor of Theology (BTh), a theological upgrading degree program, for pastors who graduated from the Bible colleges and are already serving in the field, usually in large rural congregations. They are a strong witness and are prominent leaders for the future of the church. Many of these pastors have little or no English. "We want to study English, *Ajahn* (Teacher), they exclaimed when they met Lori.

There are 10 pastors in second year BTh program who every week travel into Chiang Mai to McGilvary from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday to Monday they work as pastors to very large congregations miles away in the mountains of Chiang Mai province. "All right," Lori says, "can you fit in one hour a week?" "*Ajahn*, we want two hours, 11:00 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Wednesday. We are ready."

This cheerful and seemingly tireless group, with the most varied levels of English you can imagine in one class, are a profound blessing to Lori. Most of them are in their 40s and 50s, carrying many responsibilities, yet eager to take on the English language. This class is a special inspirational community in itself – keen, funny, and spirit-filled. At the opening and closing of each English class, they offer prayers of gratitude, still in Thai at this point, with buoyant hearts. Their presence and these prayers lift, comfort and sustain Lori.

Remember the missionaries and the concerns of the countries they serve. Write to them.

Joan Fox

Mission Representative

## Pilgrimage

It was time for me to meet my sister  
and grieve my mother's death.

It was time for me to go to my son's grave  
who would have turned thirty.

It was time to mend fences with my brother  
who lives in his own world.

It was also time for me to meet the tsunami  
in an alien beach amidst strangers.

It was also time to feel God's power  
and the helplessness of the human race.

It was time for me to feel him take me  
in the palms of his hands and shield me.

Why was it not my time, O Lord?

Why am I back at home instead of a watery grave?

What is it you want me to do, I ask

When the nameless faces of the victims of the tsunami  
haunt me.

I am listening Lord.

Mercy De Silva

# The ELCIC Communicates

Sometimes our members feel they are not getting enough news on issues from the various levels of our church. Information is continuously updated on our websites and in our printed publications. Let me assure you that there is probably more information available than you will want to read or have time to read. I'll list some of these sites here for you and encourage you to visit these sites regularly.

## Toronto Conference

Our website is [elcic-torontoconference.ca](http://elcic-torontoconference.ca). This website is fairly new and updated as information is received from our congregations and contains our current Conference newsletters and late-breaking announcements. We will be adding congregational profiles soon. I also post each newsletter on our bulletin board. Here we find out what the congregations in our Conference are planning or have done. It is a useful source to see what events congregations are invited to and for committees to check for ideas when planning events. You can find out the big local picture on the Conference website.

More and more congregations maintain their own websites, so if you would like to see what is happening in a particular congregation, do a search on its name or check the link in one of the other sites.

## Eastern Synod

The Eastern Synod website is [www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org). On this website you can read and download a large variety of information, documents, forms, news and reports. There is a section on our Synod Assembly and the proceedings and motions passed last summer at the Assembly.

The Eastern Synod also produces a monthly newspaper, *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, that is distributed to all homes in the Synod. Please read this paper for news about our Synod and other topical articles. While the cost of the Synod paper is covered through our

benevolence, we encourage everyone to contribute to the subscription cost so that benevolence dollars can be allocated for other ministry.

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

The national ELCIC website ([www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca)) contains links to all congregations in the church, units, synods, ecumenical contacts, and contacts for all



persons affiliated with the national office. After each Church Council meeting, the report on actions is posted on the website. For example, Church Council actions last September in response to the Eastern Synod Assembly motions are posted on the website, and the essays requested on the topics on sexuality are posted on the site as they become available. Council actions are also reported in the *Canada Lutheran*.

The *Canada Lutheran* also contains a news section for each Synod including a column by each Synod Bishop. If you are not subscribing to our national church magazine, I encourage you to do so. By reading the *Canada Lutheran* you can learn what concerns members of our church across the country and ecumenically.

Each Synod also maintains a website so please go to these sites for more details on what is happening there.

## Lift up Your Hearts

This is the ELCIC's national worship website and contains information related to worship matters and links to many worship-related websites. The address is [www.worship.ca](http://www.worship.ca).

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

The ELCIC consults with the ELCA on a number of issues, and if you are interested in what the American church is doing, please check in with their website at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

## Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

The North American region maintains a website and is linked to the international website for LWF. On these sites you can read about what is happening in the Lutheran communion around the world. The website is [www.elca.org/lwf](http://www.elca.org/lwf).

## Evangelical Lutheran Women

The ELW page can be accessed through the national ELCIC website.

## Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

If you are interested on what is happening in and around our seminary, this is the site that will give you information on faculty, courses and other items of interest. The website is [www.wlu.ca~wwwsem/](http://www.wlu.ca~wwwsem/).

## Campus Ministry

The Toronto Local Council for Campus Ministry also maintains a website ([www.lutheranchaplain.org](http://www.lutheranchaplain.org)). If you are interested in what is happening in the world of campus ministry, please check in here.

As you can see, a wealth of information on the Internet and in print. Many of these sites are linked, and you can bookmark those you check frequently to make it easier to find items. I have a section bookmarked on my own computer for "Lutheran Sites" and find keeping a folder for these sites makes them easy to check.

We're fortunate today that we do not have to wait for everything to be delivered to our homes by Canada Post. We can access many sites at any time. Please keep informed at your leisure.

Judy Baribeau

# 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.

**The Seniors** meet February 1 and 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**Confirmation Class** meets February 1, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**Assisting Ministers** meet February 20 following the worship service.

**Annual Meeting** will be held February 13 following the worship service.

**Annual ELW Day of Renewal** will be held at Advent on February 26 starting at 9:00 a.m.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### 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. The newsletters are also posted on Advent's website.

Thank you.

jb

### Sympathy

■ Our sympathy goes to Isha Beekie and her children Indira, Surojini, Rajendra, David, Kamini, and Nalini and their families. William died on January 28 and his funeral was held at Advent on January 31.

### We Remember

■ Ed and Mildred Kaufmann who have recently moved into a seniors' home.

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

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



## February 2005 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, we invite you to provide altar flowers for special occasions in your lives. If you have questions about them, please speak to the Altar Guild person for the particular Sunday.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister	Reader	Ushers	Counters	Coffee Hosts
<b>February 6</b> Alice Hubbes	Arie Fox	Lester McLean	Jonathan Roth & Mercy De Silva	Hildegard & Heinz Weltner	Bernd Brandt & Gladys Ammattil	Walter Rothenburger & Bill Bartlett
<b>February 9 (Ash Wednesday)</b> Alice Hubbes		Jim Doak	Mona Marcobelli			
<b>February 13</b> Alice Hubbes	Cynthia Stewart	Peter Buckley			Brit Missirlian	Joyce Strelbel & Mercy De Silva
<b>February 20</b> Alice Hubbes	Judy Baribeau	Fred Roth	Arie Fox	Joe & Kyle Hunt		Hildegard & Heinz Weltner & Elsie Wraith
<b>February 27</b> Alice Hubbes	Adele Buckley	Erika Schurr	Alex Otten			Khan Family
<b>March 6</b> Walter Rothenburger	Delasia Khan		Elizabeth Lancia			