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**Crèche Presented to Advent as Final  
 Commissioned Piece of  
 40th Anniversary Artwork**



**H**ere we are at the third Sunday in Advent and time to bring out the last art project for this year. No pretty Christmas card scene; no cat in Santa costume – but a very bleak picture of what faced Mary and Joseph as they went on their way to Bethlehem. In this land snow hardly ever falls. It is a rough desert-like country with few roads but much sand and rock; few welcoming homesteads, but the occasional grotto or ramshackle stable.

This is what they found – just a roof over their heads. Nearby a water hole, a trough and a crib for the cattle and sheep. In the background you see a glimmer of Jerusalem.

The whole scene is entirely made of rocks that Heinz Weltner sawed for weeks from material we collected over the years. And he also had the splendid idea to put the display in the lighted showcase he built. Without his help the project would never have been completed.

I hope this picture makes all of us a little more humble when we celebrate Christmas in great style.

*Hildegard Weltner  
 December 12, 2004*

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

## Peanut Shell



The new year is starting out to be a busy time at Advent. We will complete the special 40th anniversary events on February 6 when our National Bishop Raymond Schultz is our guest. Please plan to be present for this service as well as on January 16 when Pastor Tim Hegedus will be with us. Please remember to continue your financial contributions for the anniversary fund.

GHDA has announced a special appeal for victims of the earthquake/flood in Asia. Please help those who suffered in this dreadful event.

I included a brief (although it may not seem so brief) report on my meeting in Geneva in early December with the LWF. It was certainly a wonderful experience, and you may learn more about the operation of the LWF from its website at [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org).

Please read the updates on our Volunteers in Mission and missionaries and plan to send them birthday cards this year.

We're pleased that Waterloo Lutheran Seminary is holding a course in the Toronto area again this winter. If you have not taken advantage of one of these courses before, please plan to do so this winter. I've taken two of these courses and look forward to this one. The course can also be taken as a credit course.

Our annual meeting will be on February 13. Please be sure to attend as we need a quorum, and also this is where everyone gets an opportunity to ask questions and bring concerns to the table.

We thank Tara Lindemann and her assistants for their wonderful presentation on December 26. If your children are not currently attending Sunday School, please start bringing them on January 9. Parents may join the adult discussion group being held at the same time.

Please note the various meetings being held over the next few weeks and attend those of interest to you.

*Judy*

## Final 40th Anniversary Events are Scheduled

We are pleased to welcome **Rev. Dr. Tim Hegedus** on January 16 as guest preacher. Pastor Hegedus served Advent as Interim Pastor in 1996. He has since received his Doctorate and is on the faculty of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary where he is Assistant Professor of New Testament Theology.

January 16 is also "It's Your Call Sunday". This is a recruitment program initiated by the ELCIC where each congregation is requested on this day to give emphasis to the need for ordained and lay diaconal ministries. Through this special emphasis the church hopes

to identify persons who have gifts for ministry and encourage them to become full-time workers in our church. We look forward to Dr. Hegedus' message and to welcome him back to Advent.

### February 6 – Final Anniversary Celebration Service

On February 6 we are pleased to welcome **National Bishop Raymond Schultz** to Advent to preach at the service that closes our anniversary year.

Please plan to join us for these events and invite any former members to attend as well. Special coffee hours will follow the services. ♦

## GHDA Welcomes Donations to Aid Asia Earthquake/Flooding Victims

GHDA, working with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), is accepting financial contributions to help survivors of the catastrophic disaster that swept across parts of south and southeast Asia on December 26.

CLWR will respond through Action by Churches Together (ACT), a global alliance of international organizations. ACT members are already responding in Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia.

People wishing to help victims of the disaster may do so through GHDA/

CLWR. Donations may be added to your regular congregational offerings or mailed to: Global Hunger and Development Appeal, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6.

**Make your cheque out to GHDA and mark it "Asia Earthquake Flooding."** Donations can also be made by credit card online at [www.elcic.ca/ghda](http://www.elcic.ca/ghda).

NOTE: When your donation is marked to a special appeal, GHDA forwards 100% to that project. ♦

### Altar Guild Needs New Vacuum Cleaner



If you received a new vacuum cleaner for Christmas and have a good used one, have an extra one that works well, or would like to donate one to Advent – the Altar Guild would appreciate the gift of a vacuum cleaner as our old one is no longer working. ♦

#### 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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Advent Lutheran Church  
[www.adventlutheranchurch.ca](http://www.adventlutheranchurch.ca)



## What's New in Baptismal Practice in the Church?

**Y**ou may have noticed that since about mid-summer we've been preparing for worship by *Giving Thanks for Baptism*. This rite comes from the *Renewing Worship* program in which the ELCIC is participating and represents one of the new generation of worship resources that congregations are invited to explore over the next years.

### Why Thanksgiving for Baptism?

Christians are strange people (some would say in more ways than one). Primarily, our strangeness comes from the fact that we hold to the idea that a bath in front of the gathered people of God is central to our life of faith. (*Baptisma*, in Greek, simply means *washing with water*). Why do we do this? Why not bathe at home? Why invite a group of other people to watch? What does bathing have to do with the church? These are good questions, and I think the answers grow out of the nature of our relationship to water itself. Water is not like rock and earth, it is in motion, constantly changing, alive. In the desert world of first century Palestine water was the chief symbol of life and also a powerful symbol of death (floods were terrifying acts of nature). So when John invited people to a ritual bath (Luke 3), he was inviting them into death and life at the same time. Baptism for John and Jesus meant dying to hurtful and self-centered ways of living so that one might rise to a new life of peace and justice and service. Later, followers of Jesus began to talk about baptism as being a *cleansing bath* (1 Peter) and a *difficult birth* (John 3). They described it as a *dying and rising with Christ* (Romans 6) and a *covering of forgiveness* (Gal 3). So bathing in the church, in front of a group of people, is a power symbol of transformation for both the person being baptized and for

the gathered community. The baptized children of God are people who by their lives and their words, seek to build up, not tear down – nurture life, not harm others. And because this way of living is so difficult, we know that we can't do it on our own. We need one another to help us. That's why the bath happens in a community. No one can live the baptized life alone. So today, as we give thanks for our common baptism at the beginning of each Sunday's worship service and enjoy the wonderful drops of water that are splashed upon us by the assisting minister, we remember that we are a 'new' people. We are a people, like Jesus, who seek the health and well-being of the world.

### Why are Children Coming to the Bath without Clothes on?

If baptism is a bath, then it makes sense that we end up with slippery skin, wet bums and wrinkly toes. God has given us beautiful bodies, and what better way to celebrate the gift of "the word made flesh" than to take pleasure in an unclothed child splashing in the font. As an elderly member of the congregation said to me recently "It really is delightful." The baptism of an infant, especially an infant who is completely naked, provides us as a congregation a chance to deepen our own faith by reminding us of our vulnerability before God. Of course the choice of how much or how little a child will wear at baptism is that child's family, and the choices range from the most formal gown to a simple baptismal smock or to no clothes at all, but the central truth remains: to be a Christian you need to be baptized. And baptism is a bath.

### Is it Lutheran?

We know that baptism doesn't belong to the Lutheran tradition any more than it belongs to the Mennonites or the Roman Catholics. It is a ritual of the Christian church in its many forms. However, in the earliest Christian centuries,

Hippolytus described the baptism ritual as one in which children and adults, men and women take off their clothes before entering the cistern. The symbolism of removing clothes is a powerful one. The action says, "I am leaving behind the life of self-righteousness, and self-containment and am becoming vulnerable and open to the Spirit of God." What more beautiful symbol of the baptized life than complete vulnerability?

In Pomerania (one of the Northern provinces of Prussia) in 1560 the church stipulated baptism by the ritual of Luther, which was by immersion, and the following was added: "Where it is possible, we would much rather they be baptized naked, whether it be in Winter or Summer time. But where it is not, they can be baptized in their clothes. Still no one should take offense, for we baptize not the clothing, but the person. Not alone in the head, but the whole body as the ordinance of Christ and the words in baptism convey. (*Acta et Statuta Synodica Ecclesiarum Pomeranie Dormni*, 1560).

### Where do we go from Here?

While there has been tremendous support for, and delight in, our various baptismal celebrations here at Advent, the worship committee has received two complaints by people who are uncomfortable when an unclothed infant is brought to the font. It's important to know that it is okay to be uncomfortable in church sometimes. Remember that your worship committee and your pastor are there to listen to your concerns and enter into discussion with you. And remember, no matter how people bring their children to the font for baptism, don't forget to pray for the child being baptized and for the family that they might grow in love and faith. After all, isn't that what baptism is all about – beginning a lifetime journey with God?

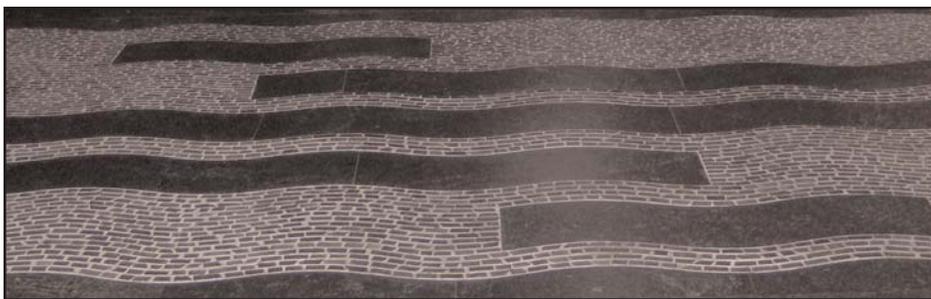
*Blessings,  
Pastor Michael*

## North America Regional Committee for LWF Meets in Geneva

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) offices in Geneva, Switzerland, occupy a large amount of space in the Ecumenical Center located there. The North American Regional Committee, where I am National Church Council's representative, was invited to hold this year's meeting from December 8-10 in Geneva. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with members of the various departments who make up the LWF.

When we arrived on December 7, we almost immediately began an escorted walking tour to visit Reformation sights, of which there are many in Geneva. We started at John Calvin's tomb and ended after dark at the Reformer's Wall.

Walking through the halls of the Ecumenical Center hints of the global coverage of LWF activities. The Ecumenical Center houses mainly the offices of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the LWF plus quite a number of smaller church bodies. A beautiful chapel is on the main floor. When you enter the chapel, you walk through *the waters of baptism*. The tiles in the floor are laid in a mosaic to



Entrance to chapel in Ecumenical Center gives image of walking through the waters of baptism.

give the impression of walking through water. Next to the chapel is the large WCC meeting room where the large and major meetings of the WCC and LWF Council are held. This room is equipped with translation equipment so that people speaking the major LWF languages are able to simultaneously follow the discussions.



Members of the North America Regional Committee met with Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko. (l-r) Rev. Dr. Péri Rasolondraibe (Director, Mission and Development), Rev. Dr. Randy Lee (Director of Ecumenical Relations, ELCA), Kathy Magnus (Regional Officer, LWF), Dr. Noko (General Secretary of the LWF), Rev. Paul Johnson (Assistant to the National Bishop for Ecumenical Affairs, ELCIC), and Judy Baribeau (NCC Representative).

The LWF includes 138 member churches from 77 countries with 65 million members. The LWF is organized into seven regions and we are in the North America Region. Our region is looked after by Kathy Magnus as Regional Officer, and she works out of the ELCA head office in Chicago. The Regional Offices work under the direction of the Department for Mission and Development headed by Rev. Dr. Péri Rasolondraibe in Geneva.

### **Communio is LWF Theme**

*Communio* or Communion of Churches is the theme that surrounds the LWF. It is part of the vocabulary of everyone involved and was discussed in various contexts by everyone we met.

One of our main agenda items was planning the next LWF North America Consultation to be held in Chicago

March 31-April 2, 2005. The theme is "Deepening the Bonds of Communion". People from our North America member churches and the global communion are being invited to participate in this event, something I eagerly look forward to attending.

### **Meetings with many groups**

Our first meeting in Geneva was with Pauli Rantanen who heads the Office for Finance and Administration. He explained the sophisticated accounting system the LWF uses and how it can easily track the income and expenditure from the various funds. The ELCIC contributes just over \$20,000 in annual membership fees, which represents about 1% of LWF income. The main financial supporters of the LWF are the Nordic churches, German churches and ELCA. The LWF is building up an Endowment Fund with a goal of \$50 Million US. It is currently at \$8 Million and people in the member churches are encouraged to support the fund. The fund was established to stabilize the LWF's future. In 2003, approximately 80% of LWF expenditure went toward various World Service projects.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Visit to LWF Office in Geneva

*Continued from Page 4*

Our next meeting was with the Department of Theology and Studies headed by Rev. Dr. Karen Bloomquist. This department encourages consultative dialogue on theological issues. Member churches consult with this department on these issues before making major decisions.

This staff's major focus is to stimulate, share and deepen theological reflection on contemporary challenges and issues facing the Lutheran communion of churches in relation to the wider ecumenical family. They do this by (1) reflecting on and further developing the core theological substance that holds the communion together as well as raising and probing critical theological and ethical questions that emerge, including through diaconal work of churches and agencies; (2) Carrying out studies of strategic ecclesial, spiritual, ethical, ecumenical and interfaith challenges today; (3) developing resources that can inspire and deepen the theological perspectives and praxis of member churches; and (4) networking with theologians and others who are pursuing work related to the challenges the Lutheran communion faces today. One of the resources available on the LWF website is "Thinking it Over", a series of brief brochures on timely topics.

We then met with the Division for Mission Development. This Division's major responsibility is for the coordination and assessment of all project applications received from and endorsed by the LWF constituency. This Desk also coordinates the financial resources made available by the Department for programs and projects and to monitor the policies and procedures of the LWF supporting network. We met with Prissilla Singh who is Secretary for Women in Church and Society. Their focus is to get gender focus in all aspects of their work. Ruth Vince, Executive Director of the ELCIC's ELW in Winnipeg, is a regional

coordinator of this group. We then heard from Christine Sadia, LWF HIV/AIDS Consultant, whose portfolio is responsible for the implementation of the LWF Action Plan for responding as churches to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. She mentioned that at first the church did not want to support people with HIV/AIDS; but this idea has changed, particularly in Africa where HIV/AIDS is so prominent. The work is difficult and resources are needed to help these people. Christine Stasis, Secretary for Project Coordination & Administration, then spoke about the coordination and assessment of all project applications received from and endorsed by the LWF constituency.

Communication is an area that covers all of the work of LWF, and we met with Karen Achtelstetter, Director of the Office for Communication Services. She emphasized that a main focus of communication is strengthening the understanding of LWF as a communion. One of their challenges is increasing the use of email for distributing materials to the constituency.

Our next discussion was with the Department of World Service, headed by Bob Granke, former Secretary of the ELCIC. His staff members discussed their strategic directions such as guiding principles for sustainable development, human rights issues in some countries, and fundraising for special projects. This is where our offerings to GHDA are used to assist in these projects.

### Meeting with Dr. Noko was Highlight of Visit

A highlight of the visit to Geneva was a discussion with Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the LWF. He reinforced the need to revisit the idea of *communio* at the next Assembly. The term causes difficulties because of the events happening around the world. He said, "*Communio* is an old fashioned idea of solidarity. This is in danger of being undermined and we need new forms of expressing our solidarity." He said the date and location of the next Assembly in 2010 will be announced in

2005. He briefly discussed the crises within the LWF today. They include the rise of Pentecostal churches who rebaptize people; ordination of men and women (not all LWF churches include women clergy), and concerns of some of the Bishops.

### A bit of time for touring

I didn't mean for this article to be so long, but we had a full agenda and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

However, it wasn't all work. I had one day to play tourist in Geneva. On my last day there, the city was celebrating Escalade, the event that occurred in



This woman carried around a live chicken during the Escalade celebration

1602 when when the Duke of Savoy's soldiers attacked the old walled town of Geneva. The locals defended their town as a woman named Mère Royaume emptied her cauldron of piping hot vegetable soup over enemy soldiers. At five o'clock in the morning the invaders retreated, and Geneva kept its independence. The night is celebrated by eating vegetable soup and chocolate cauldrons filled with marzipan vegetables, and parades with period weapons and flame torches, pipes and drums. Costumes abound, giving protestant Geneva a carnival atmosphere. There were all sorts of activities happening in the old city which I really enjoyed watching. I brought home a little chocolate pot filled with marzipan vegetables as a souvenir.

*Judy Baribeau*

## Mission Report

**T**o start the new year, here is an update on where our Volunteers in Mission and missionaries are located and what they are doing. I've included their birthdays and addresses so that you may write to them if you are so inclined.

**REV. KATHARINE BERGBUSCH**, who is our missionary to Peru, moved last January to a mission in Iquitos, on a six-month trial basis. She has now moved there to continue her work at Iquitos with two missions. Katharine received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. She helped prepare the first seven ILEP (Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church) pastors for ordination. She is also an advocate of social justice.

**Birthday:** August 9

**Address:** Urb. Juan Pablo II, Mod. 45, Dep. 103, San Juan, Iquitos, Peru

**LORI ENDRESS** has returned to Thailand after sufficient support was pledged to enable her return. She will serve for one year at the McGilvary Seminary in Chiang Mai. Additional support is being sought to enable Lori to serve for another two years.

**Birthday:** January 7

**Address:** McGilvary Seminary, Payap University, Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand

**REV. JACK AND VALERIE FREDERICK** have gone to Guyana to carry on the work at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Georgetown that the Langs were doing. The Fredericks are supported as Volunteers in Mission by the Georgian Bay Conference, the Eastern Synod and several others. They will be in Guyana until July 2006.

**Birthdays:** Jack – March 13; Valerie – May 18.

**Address:** Redeemer Lutheran Parish, 208 Sheriff St., Campbellville, Georgetown, Guyana, South America.

**REV. BRIAN RUDE** was home on leave in 2004. He was very busy attending a

Global Mission event and the youth gathering in Hamilton. He also had a full schedule of meetings and visits to congregations. The missionaries when on leave work like a working vacation. Brian went back to his work in the prisons, working with HIV/AIDS victims in October.

**Birthday:** August 24

**Address:** A.P. 05-66, Metro Centro, San Salvador, El Salvador

**BONNIE WEPPLER** returned to Papua New Guinea in 2004 for a five-year term. There was a meeting of the Partners Forum with the Evangelical Church in PNG. Bonnie played a very helpful role in the preparation and smooth running of the Partners Forum.

**Birthday:** May 8

**Address:** c/o ELC/PNG, P.O. Box 80, Lae 411, Papua New Guinea.

**ELVIRA SENTIS** is in Chiang Mai as a Volunteer in Mission at the McKean Rehabilitation Center. Elvira helps address the needs of the patients which include the elderly, disabled and people

coping with leprosy. Elvira will be in Thailand until April 2005.

**Birthday:** March 31

**Address:** McKean Rehabilitation Centre, P.O. Box 53, Chiang Mai 50000, Thailand

**REV. SERGIO UTZ** is the pastor of Esperanza del Sur (Hope of the South). He does mission work with the Mapuche aborigines at Cushamen. This work was started by Greg Kiel, a former ELCIC missionary to the area.

Many people in Cushamen and Esquel lost their homes due to heavy rain and flooding last summer. They then had to live in schools and hospitals until the floods receded. The Saskatchewan Synod forwarded \$5,000 to provide relief and help with reconstruction.

**Birthday:** May 10

**Address:** Esperanza del Sur, Fontana 439, 9200 Esquel, Chubut, Argentina. ♦

*Joan Fox  
Mission Representative*

### Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Course

**W**aterloo Lutheran Seminary will be providing a course to be held locally this winter on the "Theology of Paul". The professor will be Rev. Dr. Oscar Cole-Arnal from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

**Course start:** Thursday, January 6, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Toronto Chinese Lutheran Church, 7781 Kennedy Road, Unionville (14th and Kennedy)

**Fee:** \$150 (non-credit students). You may pay at the first class

**To Register:** Email Gigi Young at gscyoung@rogers.com. Please include your name, telephone number and congregation where you are affiliated

### Adult Discussion Group Winter Schedule

January 9, 16, 23 Renewing Worship – New Rites (Pastor Mills)

January 30 – Book Study – *Reclaiming the "L" Word* (Claus Brandes)  
March 13

March 20-27 No Class

## Annual Congregational Meeting – February 13, 2005

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2005, following the service. In addition to approvals of the reports from the Committees and Treasurer, the congregation will be considering the following:

- Three members of Council have completed their second three-year terms, Our Constitution requires that they step down for a minimum of one year. Four members of Advent have indicated that they will let their names stand for election to Council. If there is anyone else interested, please contact Fred Roth or Fran Brandes.

- For health reasons, Martin Arnett has resigned as the Congregation's representative to the Mutual Ministry Committee. Nominations for this post are being accepted. Again, please contact Fred Roth or Fran Brandes if you are interested.

- The proposed Budget for 2005 will be considered.

We hope to see you there on February 13, 2005.

*Fred Roth,  
Council Chairperson*

## Children, Children...

I hope you had a marvelous holiday; that you stayed up to see the New Year in where wonderful, secret things happen in the night.

I wish to congratulate those who participated in our play, *December*. They are: Alexander Moeglich, Eric Roth, Jonah Mills, Allisha Hassan and Virginia Ling. Also Jonathan Roth as Stage Manager, Maeve and Ellie Labbanz for the *December* angel prop. Fantastic job, everyone!

Thanks to parents and helpers (Ingrid Schurr, Chlöe Shantz-Hilkes and Michaela Ehring) who trekked out into a blizzard for rehearsal and pizza. The play is about a boy and his mother who are celebrating Christmas Eve in the cardboard house they built themselves.

## All About our House – Nominations Committee

Usually in this segment of the *Parish Visitor* I report to you the running of our House. This time I would like to use this opportunity to give you some information pertaining to another committee that I am co-chairing with Fred Roth and that is the nominating committee for the upcoming year. Our annual meeting in February is fast approaching, and at that time we will have the opportunity to elect three Congregational Council members as well as a congregational representative to the Mutual Ministry Committee.

### Congregational Council

Congregational Council has the task of overseeing the business of the parish between annual congregational meetings. We set direction, monitor the budget, seek ways to encourage community and deal with issues that people bring forward as well as see to the general running of our building and grounds. Individual council members have the primary responsibility of attending the monthly meeting at which they act as a liaison between the Council and one of the many church committees. Council members want to encourage communication in the church and build up the spiritual life of all who are a part of our community. Members of council also take a regular turn counting the weekly offerings.

And a miracle happens. The play is adapted from a picture book by author Eve Bunting. Look it up in the library (as soon as I've returned it, that is).

Sunday School starts Sunday, January 9 at 9 o'clock. We will spend five to six weeks studying the life of Jesus, and there will be some special focus on the homeless situation in Toronto. Snacks and juice will be provided. We welcome parents or anyone to sign up on our snack sheet listed on the Sunday School board.

If you have not registered for Sunday School, you may do this anytime. It is a

### Mutual Ministry

Now to the Mutual Ministry representative. In a nutshell it is a group of people from the congregation who try to promote communication between members of our congregation if a difficulty arises. Sometimes this committee will help two individuals in the parish engage in discussion, sometimes Mutual Ministry helps open paths of communication between parish members and the pastor. Sometimes Mutual Ministry acts as a sounding board for the pastor's frustrations in the church. Mutual Ministry is a place where concerns can be aired in a safe and confidential forum. This committee consists of a congregational representative, a Council representative and a pastoral representative. At our Annual meeting we will be electing a new Congregational representative. If you would like to serve your congregation in this capacity please contact Fred Roth or myself so that we may put your name forward.

Please prayerfully consider these various opportunities to serve the people of our parish. Your active participation in the congregation will help us be that much more of a caring community.

Thanks for reading.

*Fran Brandes,  
Nominating Committee Co-Chair*

way of noting birthdays, sending you any special notice – sign up.

We are looking for teachers – if you have any interest, please note the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. It lists your would-be responsibilities and perks.

Now that the New Year is here, I'm sure everyone has taken stock of old and new items. Do not discard. If you have books, toys of a non-choking nature, the Sunday School and the Nursery Room in the Sanctuary are in need. Drop items off in the Sunday School room, preferably with a note attached. Thank you.

*Tara Lindemann*

# 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. beginning January 9.

**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** meets January 12, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**The Seniors** meet January 4 and 18, 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**ESO Committee** meets Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**Assisting Ministers** meet January 30 following the Worship service.

**Annual Meeting** will be held February 13 following the Worship Service.

## Baptism

■ Timothy James Mohammed-Doak was baptized on December 19. He is the infant son of Kristin Doak and Derrick Mohammed.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### Thank You

- Karen Doak for filling in as organist on December 5.
- To everyone who participated in Operation Shoe Box for the Sunday School.
- To everyone who supported the bake sale on December 5.
- To the Youth group for conducting worship at the North York Seniors Centre on November 28.
- To Fred Roth for getting the Christmas tree and for Claus Brandes assisting in setting up the tree.
- To Walter Rothenburger for decorating the Christmas tree and providing the Christmas decorations around the church.
- To Tara Lindemann, Ingrid Schurr and the Sunday School children for the December 26 presentation.

### Congratulations

- To Dr. Adele Buckley who was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame in Red Deer, Alberta.

### We Welcome

- We welcomed the following new members on November 21: Waveney, Kristopher and Deborah Kanhai; Betty and Tom Carlson; Wendy Ramassar and Travis and Megan Ramballie.



## Evangelical Lutheran Women

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas and New Year.

Our bake sale netted \$135.00. Thank you all for contributing.

Thanks again to Danny and Anneliese Schickedanz for hosting the Christmas party. We had a good time and sent \$75.00 from the offering to the Toronto Sun Santa Claus Fund.

Our January meeting is on January 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The Seniors will meet on January 4 and 18 at 1:00 p.m at the church

*Evelyn Arnett, President, ELW*



*Songs from the Loft*, a CD of music by Lester McLean and Kevyn Dawe, recorded live at Advent, is now available from them at \$10 each.

### January 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, 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
January 2 Brit Missirlian	Alfred Schurr	Peter Buckley	Alex Otten	Jenny Persaud		Karen & Jim Doak
January 9 Brit Missirlian	Joyce Strebel	Jim Doak	Tom Carlson	Sonita Dillon-Rhodium & Waveney Kanhai		Evelyn & Martin Arnett, Rose & Jack Shave, Gladys Ammattil
January 16 Brit Missirlian	Indira Beekie	Nalini Beekie	Erna Krause	Evelyn Arnett & Cynthia Stewart		Donna & Dave Beekie & family
January 23 Brit Missirlian	Joan McLean	Fred Roth	Indira Beekie	Hilton Beharry		Gangadeen family
January 30 Brit Missirlian	Alex Otten	Carol Peck		Elizabeth & Guy Lancia		Erna & John Krause