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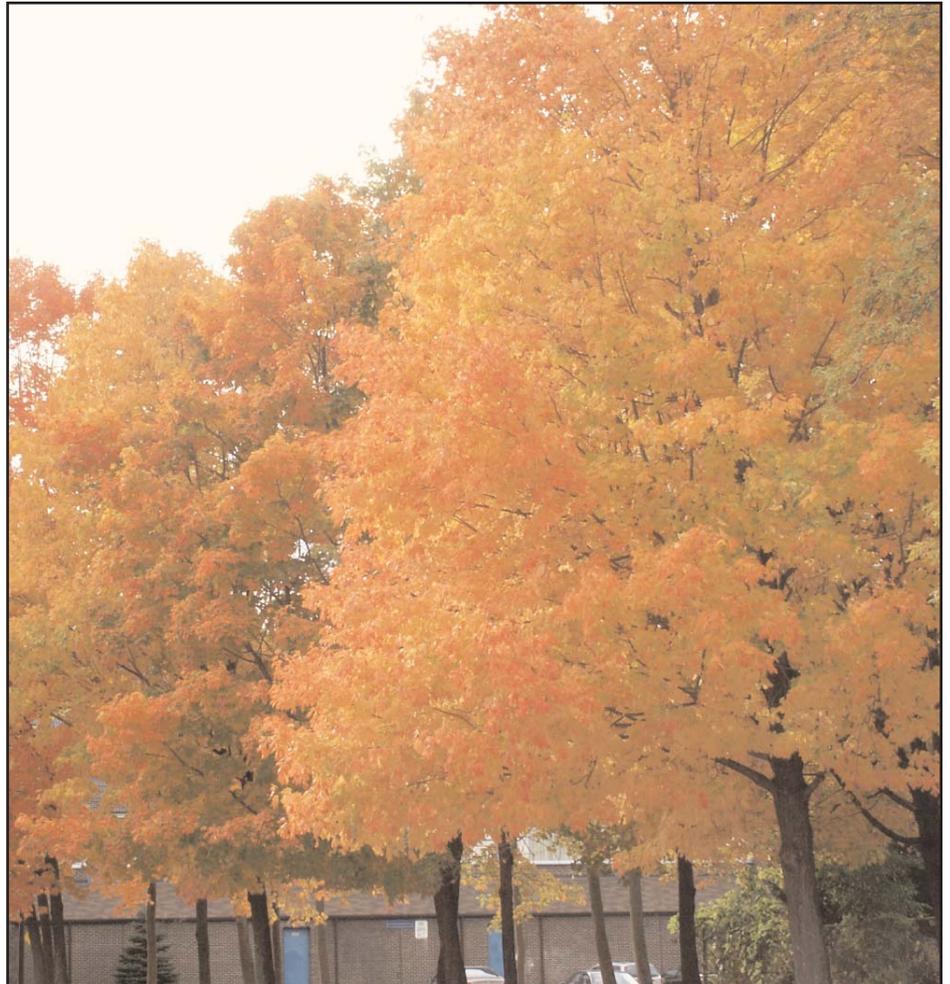
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Fall Activities for Advent

-  October 15 – C-ELW Fall Event
-  October 20 – NUC-TUCT Annual Mandarin Dinner and Silent Auction
-  October 23 – EW “In Memory of Brenda” Walk
-  October 28 – Lutheran Campus Ministry-Toronto Annual Dinner
-  October 30 – Advent’s 41st Anniversary Potluck Dinner
-  November 5 – Toronto Conference Fall Festival
-  November 5 – MAAA9

Peanut Shell



As you can see by the content of this newsletter, there is a lot happening in and around Advent. Please take part in as much as you are able.

We welcome seminarian Mike Lees to Advent and look forward to our work together.

Like all properties, our Advent property is in need of various work. We will make these repairs and replacements as soon as we are able. You'll note that we have a continuing deficit in our financial situation and need everyone's support to bring our income in line with our expenses.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is planning an exciting new approach to its ministry. If you would like to learn more about cyber-church, please read the Campus Ministry newsletter and/or attend our annual dinner on October 28.

Our 40th anniversary year is behind us, but there is still a lot happening. If you can, please attend NUC-TUCT's annual dinner. Look at the construction photos and more importantly – please continue to support Advent's appeal. You can do this through regular offerings, the silent auction at our annual dinner, the Walk for Brenda, bake auction, ELW cookbook, or the Sunday School project. There's lots of opportunity to participate.

It's Fall, so it's time for the next edition of MAAA. Please come and support Lester McLean and his friends on November 5.

The Toronto Conference Fall Festival will be an interesting time to hear about the different types of ministries in our Conference. This event is open to everyone. Please take the time to spend an interesting half-day at St. John's.

And finally, don't forget to come to our annual potluck dinner on October 30.

Our November/December Parish Visitor will be available on November 13 and will include activities and events for the remainder of the year. If you want to include anything, please get it to me by November 6.

Judy

Congregational Council Update

At its September 19 meeting Congregational Council approved a request from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary to accept seminarian Mike Lees as part of his training in the Contextual Education Student Placement program for the term 2005/2006. He will begin his work at Advent this fall and complete it in the spring. He will be joining us soon, so please introduce yourselves and welcome him to Advent.

We approved the application of four persons for membership: Tariq Sahadeo, Susan Geer, Eva Munro and Mona Marcobelli. They will be accepted on a date to be arranged.

There are three students in Confirmation class this year: Stephanie

Khan, Jonathan Roth and Sean Fromme. Confirmation will be on February 12, 2006.

The adult discussion program is still in the planning stages. The committee is looking at three events in groups of four sessions each over the fall/spring.

Our annual meeting has been set for February 5, 2006, and the deadline for officer and committee chair reports to Pastor Mills is January 7.

Council approved a motion to repair the roof as per the quote received.

Council is carefully watching the financial situation and Treasurer Fred Roth will be making temple talks to the congregation to remind us of our commitments.

Judy Baribeau

Welcome to Mike Lees

Hi, I'm Mike Lees, a student at the seminary in Waterloo. I am starting my second year of studies to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church. As an ordination requirement, one of our courses assigns us to a congregation, known as a field placement, for the school year; and I am very grateful that the people of Advent have agreed to my being with you this year.

This is a second career for me; previously I worked with computers. I am married to a wonderful woman named Patti and I have three children: a daughter, Katherine, who is sixteen and a half; and two sons David (fourteen) and Nathan (eleven and a half).

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of sharing worship with you. ♦

Advent Windows Booklet

Copies of the booklet are now available from Judy Baribeau. We had a few extras printed, so if you would like one and did not order one, they are available first come-first served.

Needed

Can anyone lend us a screen and a projector for use with PowerPoint Presentation? Advent ELW needs one for their program on Saturday, October 15. Please contact Brit Missirlian if you can assist.

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 at 9:00 a.m.

(October–June)

The *Parish Visitor* is produced

for our members and friends.

Judy Baribeau, Editor (416) 264-4527

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Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventlutheranchurch.ca



All About our House

by Fran Brandes
Chair, Property

I must apologize for the lack of frequency of my articles for the past months, but unfortunately I have been away much more than at home so I missed almost all of the publication deadlines. That is by no means an excuse but merely a statement of fact. I hope that I have enough space allotted to me to bring you up to date as to what has been going on.

First of all, I owe a big note of gratitude to Alex Otten, Marion Knaus, and Joan and Arie Fox, along with others who shouldered most of the property/scheduling concerns that took place over the past summer months.

I am sure you have all noticed the community gardens that grace the southern exposure of our property. They add much beauty and have served as a welcome solution to a need of our neighbours. They are thriving unbelievably.

Property concerns

A major concern presently is our roof. We sustained damage during the summer storms which created leaks at various locations caused by the wind lifting our shingles. This repair was done, but we are now looking at major roof repairs and perhaps a new roof. Lots of

investigation has to take place before that happens, and I will keep you posted.

Our parking lot is looking a bit *vague* to say the least. You have to be alert to park within the lines which are fading. The surface itself could use some attention.

The lighting fixtures in Cedar Hall are beginning to show signs of deterioration and should be replaced.

The windows in the Fellowship Hall are in questionable repair. It seems that the caulking around them is an application which was used years ago. Forty years is a long time, and now that has to be replaced. If we recaulk using the same system, it is VERY expensive and a recommendation to replace the windows themselves was made. It would be more cost effective than the caulking. We even had water come in around the windows during one of the bad storms.

Someone *kissed* the corner of the fencing that surrounds the old playground area. The gates are not functioning properly so it might be time to do away with the entire chain link. Speaking of fencing, I plan to inquire at the high school to see if there is any chance that they will be refurbishing the section of fence that borders on our parking lot.

Our church sign needs to be upgraded. Some of the congregations featured are no longer with us. Naturally, there is a cost to do this, so I am waiting to see if our new guests would be interested in having their names appear and in so doing solicit them for financial participation.

The good news

I have been going on about negative things long enough for this article. Now for some positive comments. All of the above projects have a considerable price tag attached, and I am so happy to tell you that our blessings continue to be showered on us. We have been able to attract three new guests. They are the Don Mills Korean Church which worships on Wednesday evening and Sunday morning in Cedar Hall. That is the reasoning behind keeping the noise level down during our coffee hour so as not to interfere with their service.

The Church Without Limits will be in the building on Friday evenings and hopefully plans are underway for the St. Demetru Orthodox Church to join us on Sunday mornings in Cedar Hall. Their service will in all likelihood overlap with ours. Our adult education class will meet in the Sanctuary and they will be in Cedar Hall from 8:30-11:30. If this does in fact become a reality, once again I would ask you to be mindful of noise when you come to worship. Certainly you are encouraged to greet everyone and catch up on the week's events; but if it could be done in a considerate manner so as not to create too much noise in the narthex, that would be great.

Please keep *Our House* in your prayers. Along with 40 years of service to the community, we now have to look at repairs that will insure another 40 years of activity and growth.

I think that about does it. Thanks for reading. ♦

Lutheran Campus Ministry – Toronto Will Hold Annual Dinner on Friday, October 28



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
Lawrence and Avenue Road



6:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres – 7:00 p.m. dinner

Lutheran Campus Ministry in Toronto is looking at a new approach to campus ministry – a model which is still being developed. We invite you to attend our dinner and hear about our plans, offer suggestions and be part of our new approach to Campus Ministry – not only at the University of Toronto, but at other area campuses by utilizing the Internet.

Please let Judy Baribeau know if you would like to attend. RSVP deadline is October 23.

Construction Moves Ahead at Lester B. Pearson Place (NUC-TUCT Project)

Have you seen it? Have you gone by to check out the construction? Lester B. Pearson Place is growing out of the ground and growing quickly. It seems to be right on schedule for the completion date in the summer of 2006. The folks at NUC-TUCT are holding their fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner for this at the Mandarin Restaurant October 20 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are selling fast as this has become a very popular event.

Affordable housing is so important for our citizens, current and new arrivals, even those arriving in this country through our Refugee Sponsorship. That is also why your continued support of the 40th anniversary fundraising campaign is so important. Let's keep our goal in mind as we think about our donations for the remainder of this year and for 2006. Most of us live in comfortable homes and have good jobs to go to, but also remember a time when we ourselves needed similar help. Remember those who helped you? Pass it on.

Marion Knaus



The above photos were taken on Wednesday, September 28, showing the status of construction.

Support our Church Publications

We received a special envelope in our boxes for support of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*. Please remember to contribute your share. That way Synod funds can be allocated to other necessary ministries.

It's also time to renew our subscriptions to *Canada Lutheran*. Please include your renewal and indicate it on your regular offering envelopes. ♦

The Members of Advent Lutheran Church are invited to attend
**NUC-TUCT's
Fourth Annual
Mandarin Dinner and Silent Auction**

Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Mandarin restaurant
7660 Woodbine Avenue

Tickets are \$50 each with a \$24 charitable receipt



Fall Ministries

As I write this I am at my desk in the office looking out at a sparkling Toronto day. I can see the tomatoes ripening in the community garden. There must be a thousand of them. Two thousand? I see kale and eggplant, zucchini and herbs I can't recognize. It rejoices me to have this small garden at the church. I go out at least once a day to walk through its paths. It is a form of prayer for me. I have gotten to know so many of the gardeners – people from Iran, Jordan, Serbia, China, Russia, Romania – old folks, teenagers, young children. One little boy, about two and a half, follows me around whenever I'm outside offering me small, green Chinese berries. They are as sour as you can imagine. He puts out a chubby hand with the berry in it and barks something at me in Mandarin. I asked his mom what he was saying. She said, "He's calling you Uncle. He likes you." For many of the people who come here daily to plant and weed and fertilize and water, the community of gardeners is their first extended family in Canada. And the church is part of that community. This is the good, slow, time-will-tell ministry that has always been the foundation of the life of faith. It is a gift to more people than we can count.

Welcome to Mike Lees

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary has invited us to work in partnership with a seminary placement student this year (you'll remember we worked with Mavis Fung a few years back). Congregational Council at its September meeting, enthusiastically approved of the placement. Michael Lees is a second year student and we will be seeing a lot of him in worship and other venues. Please take a minute to introduce yourself. And then introduce

yourself again next week. In fact, the eight-time rule might apply here – if you haven't introduced yourself eight times, it might be wise not to expect that a newcomer will remember your name. We are so many, he is only one.

What is a seminary student placement? Well, seminary students are pastors-in-training. While he is not yet ordained and cannot preside at the eucharist, Mike can and will do almost everything else. He will serve as a counsellor, a education planner, a worship leader, a spiritual sojourner and a friendly ear in a time of discouragement. Advent Lutheran, by being a placement site, works in partnership with our synodical and national churches to help train people for pastoral leadership in the Lutheran church.

Education Program

The fall education program is being revamped. Details will be made known as soon as they are firmed up. Worship and the Arts will be looking at a special Advent worship in the coming days. Again, wait for more information in the weeks to come. Sunday Church School is up and running. I am amazed and indebted to Tara Lindemann and Ingrid Schurr for their commitment, creativity and genuine grace. Teachers and helpers are always a gift to Sunday Church School. Please don't hesitate to volunteer an hour or two of your time if this feels like an area where your gifts could be put to ministry.

The church choir is gearing up for another season and they always welcome new voices. Just give Kevyn a call.

40th Anniversary Appeal Continues

Our 40th anniversary year is over, but not our 40th anniversary special

ministry project. Congregational Council is offering some creative ways for us to meet our three-year 40th anniversary goal of \$40,000 for community ministry. We have committed \$30,000 to Lester B. Pearson Place for low-income housing in our neighbourhood; and we have committed \$10,000 to our own parish refugee fund. These are holy and life-giving ministries and I'm grateful for the phenomenal support they have received.

...And the Finances

Congregational Council has been working hard to keep our expenditures under budget, but our treasurer indicates that we are falling behind in giving. I think a few things account for this. The first is that some of our regular giving has been channelled through individual envelopes to special ministries like the 40th anniversary fund. I want to just say that while special offerings are important, so are offerings for the regular maintenance of the church and its ministries. Please have a look at your giving as we approach Christmas. If there is a way you can help the church meet its regular budgetary goals, that would be much appreciated.

Thank you, Lester

Lastly, a word of thanks to the Lester McLean Trio for a fantastic jazz concert on September 18. All proceeds (in excess of \$1000) went to the Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) of our church to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I want not just thank Lester and Michael and Louis for their gift of music, but for their passion. Where people's passion and the needs of the world intersect, there ministry happens.

*Blessings,
Michael +*

Children



Children

Classes have begun for the 2005/2006 year as of September 25. You can join any time. We ask that you fill out a registration form to respect any food allergies or other sensitivities worth noting and so forth. Also, we would like to honour birthdays, so this is a good way to keep track.

We have divided into two classes. Nursery/Primary is for children up to age 5. This class is in the main Sunday school room. We ask that parents of children up to two years old attend with their child for the first few weeks, and ask that parents of children in this class physically come and pick up your child at the end of class. Junior/Senior is ages 6-12, and your class is located at the back of Fellowship Hall. Oh, did I mention the fun begins at 9 o'clock? Be so advised that the fun begins at 9 o'clock.

Our focus this year is based on I Corinthians 12:27 that "we are one body in Christ". That is, we will explore who we are in faith as a person and member of Advent and of course in a global light our rights, our relevance and responsibilities.

We will be involved in two projects this autumn. One for NUC-TUCT. The other is again for Samaritan's Purse. We will be creating and filling gift boxes for children in other parts of the world. So please watch and listen for announcements with further information.

The Sunday School Board is ready effective October 2. It is for children of all ages, Advent, everybody – there is something for everyone. Please come and see.

Worship bags are again available for those children attending service. There are colouring pages and materials, as well as pages for parents and child to go through together.

*Happy autumn,
Tara Lindemann*

Maaa9



MUSIC AND ARTS AT ADVENT

Saturday, November 5
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join Lester McLean and his friends as they provide the best evening of fun and entertainment Advent has to offer each year. They always offer a few surprises, so please invite your friends and neighbours to join you. A free-will offering will be taken to support a charity ... and there will be refreshments.



Evangelical Lutheran Women

The ELW has had their first meeting after the summer. The "new" executive was elected by acclamation and we planned for the 2005/2006 season. Evelyn Arnett has again agreed to be the President, Anneliese Schickedanz will continue as Treasurer and Brit Missirlian as Secretary.

Upcoming events are Advent hosting the Toronto Conference ELW Fall Event and our walk "In Memory of Brenda".

The C-ELW Fall Event will be held on October 15 at Advent from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. We encourage all ladies of our congregation to attend; be introduced to the ELW Bible study for 2006; learn more about Chamanculo, Mozambique (National ELW's project for the next year), see slides from Africa, meet ladies from all Toronto Conference churches; participate in a SingSong, shop with Sperling, and enjoy a delicious lunch and fellowship. And the cost for all of this is only \$8.00. If you are interested speak to Evelyn Arnett or Brit Missirlian

(416-447-6895). We need to know before October 7 how many will be attending.

Our "In Memory of Brenda" walk will be held on October 23 at Edwards Gardens. This is a Sunday and we plan to start walking around 12 noon (after church). Since Brenda always was very involved in outreach to the community, our ELW decided the donations raised by the walk this year will go to Advent's 40th Anniversary Fund. Please join us for a leisurely (approx. 3 km in total) walk in the park. After the walk, those of us who want to can gather at Tim Horton's and treat ourselves to a cup of coffee and a snack. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, and come to church dressed for walking.

ELW is also trying to collect recipes for an Advent Lutheran cookbook. Please share a favourite with our Advent family. You can hand them in to Evelyn Arnett, Brit Missirlian or Rebecca Taylor.

Brit Missirlian

Mission Report

Since her return to Thailand, Lori Endress has been located full time at McGilvary Seminary. She is now working with 11 mem-



bers of faculty. Most faculty members are upgrading their English to pass English requirements for further graduate study. McGilvary is pressing to equip instructors with higher academic qualifications and leadership skills, particularly in light of numerous upcoming retirements of administrators and senior academic faculty.

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 hilltribe backgrounds (marginalized groups from Burma and Laos).

McGilvary Seminary offers a two-year Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.), a theological upgrading degree program, for pastors who graduated from these Bible colleges and already are 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.

Teach us English

"We want to study English, Ajahn," they exclaimed when they met Lori. There are 10 pastors in the second year B.Th. program who travel every week into Chiang Mai to the seminary, Tuesday to Thursday, for long days of instruction. Friday to Monday they work as pastors to very large congregations miles away in the mountains of Chian Mai province. "All right," she said, "can you fit in one hour a week?" "Ajahn, (teacher) we want two hours, 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 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, but with buoyant hearts. Their presence and these prayers lift, comfort and sustain Lori.

Even the office staff wants English. This is a good thing because in September with the start of the International Master of Divinity (MDiv) program, taught in English, and the ever increasing number of international guests and events here at McGilvary, the staff needs more competence and confidence with their English. All five office staff persons – and the dormitory house mother, Mae (mother) Somsri – study

English once a week during lunch hour. Remember how Thais love their nicknames? The staff persons are Gai (chicken), the two secretaries Noi (little one) and Goong (shrimp) the telephone operator (also, Noi, different tone, so Lori calls her by her real name, Ratre), and our computer man, Tic (as in check mark).

In the first English class that they held, they played a name game. Lori asked Gai, "Are you the chicken or the egg?" Her real name is Sisiprakai – "kai" means "egg". "Chicken, Ajahn" she proudly boomed. "I'm KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken)." "No someone else corrected, 'you're Miss McGilvary Chicken.'"

Pray for Lori's work in Thailand with the seminarians. Also pray for the dedication to the learning of English and the work that these pastors/seminarians carry out in their daily lives.

Joan Fox

Mission Representative

Everyone is Invited

Toronto Conference 2005 Fall Festival



Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

**St. John's Lutheran Church, 247 Concord Avenue
(just south of Bloor near Ossington Subway Station)**

Agenda

- 9:00 Registration
 - 9:30 Greetings and Opening Prayer
 - 9:35 Three Presentations
 - St. John's – multi-ethnic ministry in urban setting
 - Toronto Chinese – multi-cultural ministry in suburban setting
 - Martin Luther Lutheran Church – ethnic congregations
 - 10:20 Break
 - 10:35 Group discussions will follow to discuss:
 - How do we see our neighbour to us? Someone who we can convert? Someone needing our help? Others?...
 - How do we become a hospitable community in the sight of our neighbour?
 - How can we be good stewards in our neighbourhood?
 - Do we want to do something in partnership?
 - 11:20 Closing worship (celebration, an experience of hospitality)
 - 12:00 Multi-cultural Lunch (provided by St. John's)
- Cost: \$10.00 per person to cover refreshments, lunch and materials.

Please join us for an interesting half-day of celebration and discussion. We suggest using public transportation as parking in the area is limited.

Silent Auction to be Featured at Anniversary Dinner



Advent Crucifixion
by Michael Mills

On October 30, we all have an opportunity to enjoy something spectacular. With such a diverse blend of cultures contributing special dishes to the meal, our Anniversary Potluck Dinner will no doubt be an exquisite culinary adventure. If that isn't enough to pique your interest, we have added a Silent Auction to the event.

Several pieces of art and other interesting items will be up for bid with the entire proceeds of the event going to our 40th Anniversary Fund. Remember the \$40,000 pledge toward NUC-TUCT (Lester B. Pearson Low-Income Housing Project) and our Parish Refugee Sponsorship Fund.

"Good Shepherd" and "Advent Crucifixion" are two paintings by



Good Shepherd
by Michael Mills

Michael Mills. These paintings (oil, charcoal and oilbar on mylar) are 50cm x 50cm and are framed to museum standard. Gallery price for each work is \$700. Bidding starts at \$350. This is your chance to own an original Mills.

Inspired by her recent family camping trip in Algonquin Park, Rebecca Taylor has created a yet to be named quilt. If you look closely at the photo, you may find not only the basting threads but also the needle embedded in the part she's currently quilting. Entirely hand sewn and hand quilted, over 100 hours of stitching will have gone into this piece by the time it is complete, hopefully well before October 30. Bidding starts at \$300.



The Quilt
by Rebecca Taylor

If you have any items you would like to contribute to the silent auction, please let Judy Baribeau know and bring them along. Not everything needs to be a high price. We ask that you indicate a starting bid for your donation.

We'll also have an ELCIC trivia quiz, with a prize for the table with the most correct answers. So if you want a good chance to win, do some homework and check with the ELCIC (National, Synod and Conference) web sites and review your copies of *Eastern Synod Lutheran* and *Canada Lutheran*.

Exquisite Food, Original Art, A Good Cause... and an all round good time. What more could you ask for? ♦

Rebecca Taylor and
Judy Baribeau

Stewardship Matters

The Fall is traditionally the time of increased emphasis on Stewardship in congregations. Stewardship is a year-round activity, and I've tried to focus on different aspects of it each month. We need to highlight the 40th Anniversary Appeal.

40th Anniversary Appeal

Council has discussed a number of initiatives to meet our commitment for this appeal, an amount the congregation agreed to at an annual meeting. So far this year we've only collected a little over \$2,000. These donations are in addition to our regular giving. It's

something like rather than buying a regular coffee at our favourite coffee emporium, we opt for one of the fancier coffees at a higher price. We enjoy the taste so we don't mind the extra cost for whipped cream. In the same way we should enjoy the opportunity to help people who need this housing.

If you have penny or other coin jars at home, please consider donating the contents to the fund. One thing I do is set aside the loonies and toonies I have at the end of the week and then donate them. It's painless and makes for a clinky envelope in the offering plate.

Advent Needs Everyone's Help

Rebecca Taylor is collecting recipes for an Advent cookbook. If you have some great recipes you are willing to share, please give them to Rebecca. Any extra little hints or tricks in the kitchen will help to enhance the book.

We're certainly open to any other ideas you may have for fund raising. Don't be afraid to suggest them.

Yes, we need help in many areas and I know we can be successful in all these areas with everyone's help, not just the person sitting next to us.

Judy Baribeau

Sabbatical Journey

One of the good things about being a Lutheran is our church's emphasis on preaching the Gospel – the good news – and reading the Bible in our own language, the “language of the people.” This was very important to Luther and other great leaders of the Reformation; thanks to them, we can take this for granted today.

How about we broaden this idea to think about our Lutheran Church's emphasis on also experiencing the gospel in the language of the people? This can mean a whole lot of different things, but I'm thinking mostly about our human sensory capabilities and our emotions and feelings that result from sensory input. Some examples:

■ Our anniversary Sunday is coming up at the end of October and we know that means a potluck meal with all the sights, sounds and smells of that festive meal. Perhaps we will listen to some special music during the morning service. Normally we will feel good, be happy, and rejoice that we can spend this time with others, talking with them and hearing their latest stories, and thinking more about them than

ourselves. We will be experiencing real community within our hearts and minds.

■ To many of us, a very key part of the worship service is the music – the hymns, the singing, the pipe organ, other instruments from time to time. A hymn brings back special memories of friends and loved ones, and with it a welling of tears in our eyes. It's not hard to find an example of that at Advent. The sound of a great pipe organ in an old cathedral brings chills down my back, and makes me never want this experience to stop. Maybe you feel that too. And how about a stunning voice that can just shut out all the rest of the world? All this comes from God; and it is so very good, no matter whether it is the person with the voice or the person who wrote the music or crafted the instrument.

■ Look about our sanctuary. The sun streams in through the front windows, and many Sundays a fire hose of light crosses us sometime during the service. More than just beautiful stained glass windows, these were designed and crafted out of love by one of us, and that thought makes me feel good inside. As I

look at the other windows, stained glass or agate, I see the real people behind each of these windows – some have left us and some are still with us. The many faces on the ring at the back of our sanctuary are from our own members' faces, and the artwork was all done by a member. Today I sit beside two beautiful fabric butterflies on the east wall, the work of yet another member. Creative art is all around us, and I find myself – being ignorant of fine art – just being able to soak it in and take great pleasure from it, without having any thought of evaluating it. It is, however, fine art and it is part of my experience at Advent; and I see it as good news from God because of the people who created it, why they created it, what is their story behind each piece of art, who is remembered in each piece.

My point here is that God's “good news” is, I think, a very experiential thing and oftentimes we don't even recognize or think about it that way. The Word and the Sacraments and the Music and the Fine Art and our Works and indeed all of us People (as we interact) are components of experiencing the gospel of our Lord.

When I look at life this way, I have a different perspective on Pastor Mills choosing to focus on creative fine art as his medium during his sabbatical. Other pastors will choose music, others preaching, others counseling, and so on.

Pastor Mills wrote: “It is my experience that the place of creating art is also the place where I most profoundly encounter my own deepest yearnings and discern the presence of God.” How many of us could make such an honest statement of conviction about something important in our lives? How could there be a better way for Pastor Mills to be fed and to grow during his sabbatical?

*Jim Doak,
for the Advent*

Sabbatical Steering Committee

41st Anniversary Potluck Dinner Sunday, October 30, 6:00 p.m.

We invite everyone to join us on October 30 for our anniversary dinner. Please bring a salad, main course, casserole or dessert – enough for your family and some extra. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. Have your food at the church by 5:45 (and bring it hot if it is to be served hot). We plan to conclude by 8:30.

A focus at this dinner is a silent auction in support of our 40th anniversary appeal. We will also have a free-will offering for you to contribute if you are not interested in purchasing an item at the auction.

How much do you know about the ELCIC? We'll have a table contest to test your knowledge of ELCIC trivia. You may brush up on the facts by checking with the ELCIC, Eastern Synod and Toronto Conference web sites. You might even find some information on Advent's own web site.



People and Events Summary

Worship Services and Meetings

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 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.

Seniors meet October 4 and 18, 1:30 p.m. at the church.

Congregational Council meets Monday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. at the church.

MAAA will be held on Saturday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Advent.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Baptism

■ We welcomed Isabelle Vogel, infant daughter of Heather and Thorsten Vogel through baptism on September 11.

Sympathy

■ Our sympathy to Mildred Kaufmann and Elizabeth and Guy Lancia and their family on the death of Ed Kaufmann on September 22. His funeral was at Advent on September 26.

Thank you

■ To the Lester McLean Trio for putting on a benefit concert on September 18 in support of Hurricane Katrina Relief.

The Arnetts want to thank everyone from the church who were so kind to us while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. The cards, phone calls, food, and flowers are much appreciated. You truly are God's people.

Evelyn Arnett

Treasurer's Report

Commitments	Received to September 28, 2005	Received to September 28, 2004	Required September 28, 2005	Surplus/ Shortfall
Current/Loose	\$53,868	\$59,740	\$67,865 *	\$(13,997)
Mortgage	4,192	6,209	6,209 **	(2,017)
Sunday School	151	126	126	25
Sub-total	58,210	66,075	74,200	(15,989)
Facilities	32,782	33,779	28,037 ***	4,745
Regular Benevolence	7,843	8,252	8,252	(409)
Total Commitments	\$98,835	\$108,106	\$110,488	\$(11,653)
Other Giving				
GHDA	\$3,916	\$3,561		
40th Anniversary	\$2,373			

* 2004 Current and Loose increased by 13.6% as per Budget

** Same as 2004

*** 2004 x 83% as per Budget

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*

October 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
October 2 Sonita Dillon-Rhodius	Krish De Silva	Lester McLean	Brit Missirlian	Chloë Shantz-Hilkes & Jonah Mills	Martin Gangadeen	Hildegard & Heinz Weltner, Marion Knaus
October 9 Brit Missirlian	Hilton Beharry	Carol Peck	Indira Beekie	Fran & Claus Brandes	Judy Baribeau & Rebecca Taylor	Wendy Ramassar & Waveney Kanhai
October 16 Fran Brandes	Yvonne Cumberbatch	Jim Doak	Martin Gangadeen	Judy Baribeau & Olga Cosburn	Carol Peck & Sonita Dillon-Rhodius	Joan & Arie Fox
October 23 Kristen Doak	Jenny Persaud	Robert Wraith	Erna Krause	Indira Beekie & Sophie Liu	Sonita Dillon-Rhodius & Walter Rothenburger	Olga Cosburn & Mercy De Silva
October 30 Fran Brandes	Chloë Shantz- Hilkes	Fred Roth	Renata Sawh		Kristin Doak & Brit Missirlian	Anneliese, Danny & Gabi Schickedanz