

*Inside*

Entrance and Exit

- 2 -

Soup Supper

- 3 -

ELW News

- 3 -

Toronto Conference  
2006 Schedule

- 3 -

Annual Meeting  
Highlights

- 4 -

ESO Lenten Project

- 5 -

Mission Report

- 5 -

Sabbatical Journey

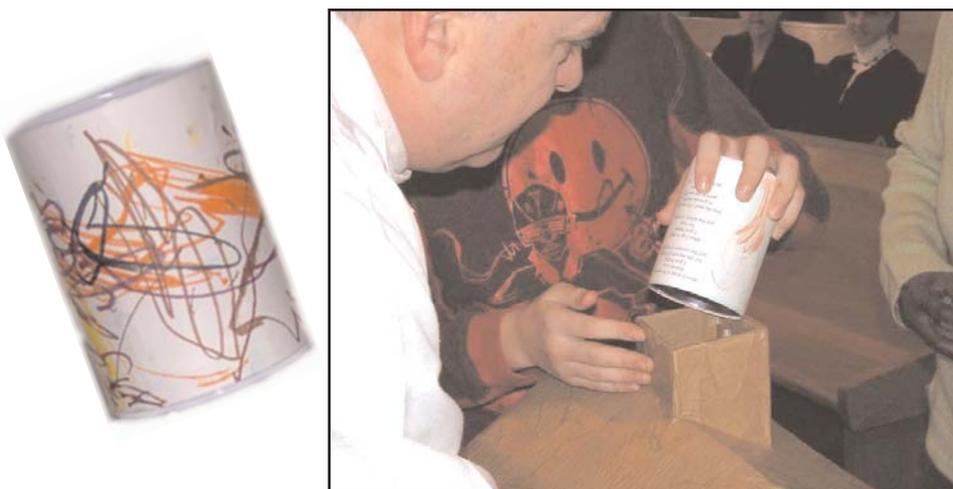
- 6 -

People and Events  
Summary

- 8 -

Please remember that we are no longer mailing the Parish Visitor, except by request. Copies are available for pickup in church and on our website.

## Coin Banks a Hit at Advent



Fundraising for our 40th Anniversary Project continues. To date we have raised over half the dollars to reach our goal of \$40,000. Thank you to all who contribute with your spare change. Bring your coin bank in the first Sunday of every month and support our cause.

Marion Knaus

## Peanut Shell



Advent will experience some changes over the next few months. With Pastor Mills leaving on his sabbatical shortly and Pastor Doherty joining us as interim pastor, some things may be a bit different. Hopefully, everything will work out for a smooth transition.

Our annual meeting went smoothly, and we look forward to receiving our audited financial statements soon. We recognized a greater appreciation for our treasurer's role and that of the auditors in the work they are doing to ensure everything is on track.

The annual meeting does not include discussion of the *Parish Visitor*, so I'd like to take this time to thank everyone for their contributions to our newsletter this past year and continue to look forward to your support.

The ESO committee (remember what ESO stands for) is encouraging members to give up something for Lent and donate the money not spent to the 40th Anniversary Fund. Please participate.

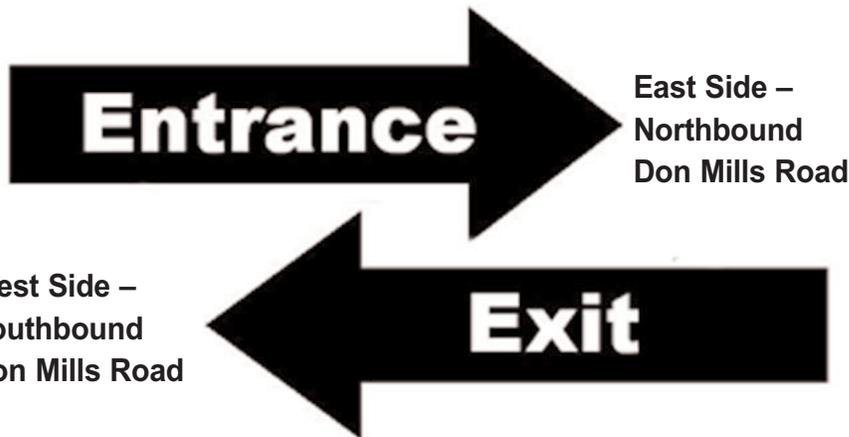
Everyone is strongly encouraged to use the correct entrance and exit driveways to avoid accidents. We've had reports of close calls and want to avoid any accidents on our property. So please enter from the East and exit from the West. Just remember the sun rises in the East and sets in the West if you get confused need a reminder.

Our mission report takes a different turn in this issue where a product of one of the countries where we have missionaries is described. It's interesting reading.

Luther Hostel is planned for June 12-16 at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Jim Doak attended last year and found it worthwhile. If you can, please plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

We honour our confirmands at the annual luncheon the ESO committee plans for them each year. Please join in congratulating Jonathan Roth and Sean Fromme as newly confirmed members of Advent.

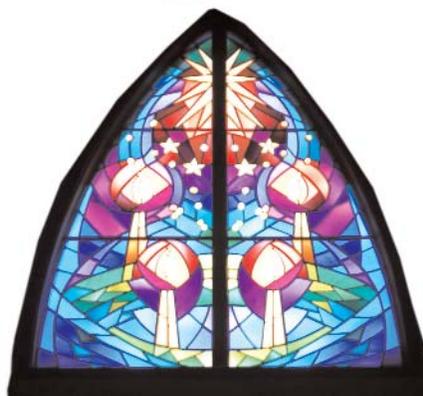
*Judy*



Please remember always to enter and exit our parking lot from the correct direction. Please always enter on the East side, northbound Don Mills Road and always exit on the West side, southbound Don Mills Road. Recently we have had near accidents because of people driving in the wrong direction. The signs will be repainted soon so that they are more noticeable. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated. ♦

## Offering Notes

If you wish to make a donation to Eva's Place, a food bank or any other charitable organization that is not a part of Advent's or the ELCIC's programs, please send your donation directly to the organization rather than including it with your offering to Advent. That will save our Treasurer from having to issue a cheque to the organization thus saving Advent cheque and recording costs. You will then get your receipt directly from the charitable organization. Thank you. ♦



### Advent Windows Booklet

Copies of the booklet are available from Judy Baribeau at \$5 each. We had a few extras printed, so if you would like one and did not order one, they are available first come-first served.

### Communion Bread

Please let Brit Mssirlian know (416 447 6895) if you are able to buy/bake bread for communion.

#### 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.

The *Parish Visitor* is produced  
for our members and friends.

Judy Baribeau, Editor (416) 264-4527

Copyright © 2006

Advent Lutheran Church

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

# Ash Wednesday Soup Supper March 1

**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.

## Worship Schedule

During the upcoming weeks as we go into Lent and Pastor Mills begins his sabbatical, the following worship schedule has been planned. Updates will be provided in our Sunday bulletins, announcements and in the *Parish Visitor*.

February 19	.....	Pastor Tom Doherty Preaching
March 1	.....	Ash Wednesday .....7:30 p.m.
April 13	.....	Maundy Thursday .....7:30 p.m.
April 14	.....	Good Friday .....10:00 a.m.
April 15	.....	Easter Vigil .....7:30 p.m.
April 16	.....	Easter Sunday .....10.00 a.m.



## Evangelical Lutheran Women

There will be no ELW meeting during February. Instead, the women will be going to see the musical *Titanic* at Fairview Library Theatre on February 18 at 8:00 p.m. Please see Brit Missirlian or Evelyn Arnett if you wish to reserve tickets.

*Evelyn Arnett*

## Toronto Conference Council Schedules 2006 Program

At its February 1 meeting, the Toronto Conference Council made plans for various events for the next year. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as many as possible. Details on all of them will be provided when available.

■ **Spring Conference Meeting** – This meeting will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 27. The agenda will include the election of Dean, Council members, Synod report, Worship presentation and other items. The complete agenda will be available in April. Each congregation is encouraged to have at least two persons attending.

■ **Community Outreach**, Saturday April 8 – We will canvass the area where the Rhenish Church has newly located in Markham and invite participation from members of all the Toronto Conference congregations. This will be a good opportunity to “get to know your neighbours” and will help other congregations who may wish to do a similar program.

■ **Mini Sunday School Teacher Training Event**, Saturday, June 10 – This event is planned to help Sunday School teachers select curriculum and will include a workshop on “Discipline with Love”. Everyone interested in the Sunday School program is encouraged to attend.

■ **Music Event**, Saturday, December 10 – This concert, which will include a massed choir and musicians from Toronto Conference congregations will be held at Agricola Lutheran Church.

■ **Authority and Interpretation of Scripture**, early 2007. This event will include a guest facilitator and will provide information on the multi-cultural aspects and mission priorities in our church.

Details will be available in the Conference newsletter, posters and on the Conference website. ♦

# Annual Meeting Highlights



Members of the congregation prepare to start the Annual Meeting.

**A**dvent's Annual Meeting was held following the service on February 5. We required a quorum of 44 and 48 members were present.

The agenda was approved as distributed and the minutes of five congregational meetings during 2005 were adopted, subject to the correct date being listed for the meeting that approved installing the Lexan glazing on the windows and relaying bricks on the driveway at the front entrance.

## Treasurer's Report

Fred Roth reported that due to the change in treasurer and auditor last year and changed government requirements for audits as well, as the short timespan between the end of 2005 and the annual meeting, we were not able to produce the audited statements in time for the meeting. Our auditors for this year, Martin Gangadeen and Karen McDonald, will be recommending to Congregational Council a split of the treasurer's function. Anyone interested in assisting with the treasurer's role is asked to contact Fred Roth.

Heinz Weltner was thanked for the many years he served as treasurer and Bill Wesioly was thanked for the many years he served as auditor.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Mills congratulated the congregation for their faithful ministry this past year and gave various corrections to the Parochial Report.

## Reports

The bulk of the annual report contained reports from committee chairpersons and were adopted as presented and amended.

In Christian Education, Pastor Mills stressed the need to look at our education programs seriously as we currently have no Sunday School or adult program. We particularly need someone to oversee this vital function of the congregation.

We take the term ESO for granted, but a number of people don't remember what it stands for. A number of years ago three similar functions were merged into this committee – Evangelism, Social Ministry and Outreach.

Jim Doak was thanked, in particular, for his work with the Mutual Ministry committee in connection with preparation for Pastor Mills' sabbatical.

Property is a busy portfolio and Fran Brandes gave special thanks to all those who helped her throughout the year.

We have a lot of congestion in the building and parking lot because St. Dimitrou Orthodox Church using our facilities at the same time we do on Sunday mornings. We are asked to be patient while we work out these problems. We were reminded that \$48,000-50,000 of our income each year comes from outside users, and we need to operate with a bit of inconvenience.

## Constitution Addition

We had the second reading of Article 1, Section 3, of our Constitution which reads, *"The organization shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other gains to the organization shall be used in promoting its objectives."* This addition was passed.

## Elections

Fran Brandes, Fred Roth and Erika Day were elected to Congregational Council for three-year terms. Peter Buckley will be delegate to the Synod Assembly this year; Sonja Brown was re-elected the congregation's representative on the Mutual Ministry Committee; and Claus Brandes was elected to the Endowment Fund Committee.

## 2006 Budget

Fred Roth distributed copies of the proposed budget, Income Budget and Revenues to Support the Budget.

*Continued on Page 5*



Fred Roth (left) explains the Budget as Council Chair Carol Peck and Secretary Kristin Doak look on.



**ESO  
Lenten Project**

**The ESO Committee would like your support to help raise funds for the 40th Anniversary appeal by giving up something for Lent – such as theatre, candy, fancy coffee, dinner out – and donate the money saved to the fund.**

### Annual Meeting Highlights Continued from Page 4

He explained that our insurance rate is higher because the type of construction of our new sanctuary requires a higher insurance rate. He stressed that more money needs to come from our members to meet our commitments.

One-third of our income comes through rental of our facilities. A concern was raised that our rental should be used to further our ministry rather than to cover our operating costs.

The anticipated deficit in our current account for 2005 is estimated at \$5,000. A motion was passed to approve our 2006 budget of \$152,110, a 4.7% increase from 2005.

The meeting was closed with devotions and was adjourned. ♦

## Mission Report

**H**ave you ever wondered how vanilla is produced? Where, and why it is so expensive?

The reason vanilla is so expensive is that all phases of production and cultivation require a very labour intensive process. Vanilla is a major agricultural crop for Papua New Guinea.

Spice Tech is a French company that was involved in every step of vanilla production – growing, buying from local farmers, washing drying, grading, packaging, selling and exporting. Spice Tech has since been squeezed out of the market by a much larger Asian-owned company.

Vanilla is a relative of the orchid family. It is interesting in that you need to manually *marry* the flowers. It does not self-pollinate. One needs to be out there in the early morning hours mating the male and female section of the flowers. If this is not done within a few hours, the flower will not produce a vanilla bean.

The flowers have to be hand-pollinated. The green beans are washed in boiling water for three minutes. Then



they are covered up for one full day with thermal blankets. Then the beans are dried in the sun for two or three weeks. It is a lot of work for a little bean.

### Notes on producing vanilla

- The beans must be 14cm or longer to sell.
- There are two types of vanilla: Tahitensis (small leaf) and Planifolia (big leaf).
- Growers must not mix the two when they are selling (planifolia is more desirable because the bean is bigger and fatter) and the green bean of tahitensis is not boiled.
- The green beans turn brown during the time that they were *warmed* in the thermal blankets.
- The brown beans turn black during the time of sun drying.

■ After the beans are dried, any broken ones must be removed and the rest must be checked for fungus.

■ The categorization of the dried beans depends purely on their length.

The national Agricultural Research Institute checks operations to make sure that quality is maintained. (This is a problem as some processors rush the processing – especially the drying process.) The quality of the bean suffers and then the reputation of the PNG vanilla declines which affects the market.

### Other News

I draw your attention to Page 8 in the January/February *Eastern Synod Lutheran*. There is an article about our missionary Lori Endress in Thailand.

Remember all the missionaries and Volunteers in Mission wherever they are serving in your prayers.

Joan Fox  
Mission Representative



**A Word from Pastor Mike**

## Sabbatical Journey

When Bilbo Baggins sets off on his great journey in *The Lord of the Rings*, he has a word of wisdom for his nephew Frodo. It's a word Frodo passes on to his friend Sam Gamgee when Sam comes to the edge of the Shire and says (with not a small amount of trepidation) that he has never ventured so far in his life. "Keep your head on your shoulders," says Frodo, "because once you step out the door there's no knowing where your feet will take you."

I begin my sabbatical on March 1. It's only a few weeks away and I am both excited and a little daunted by the freedom and the responsibility that are part and parcel of this venture. It really does feel like a journey to me and I continue to be grateful for this gift of time from all of you: time to be still; time to study; time to play; time to travel; time to walk with God. After fifteen years of parish ministry (nine at Advent) I feel like I am in an excellent place to reflect on my years of public ministry and also to imagine new directions for ministry in the second half of my life.

If you remember our conversation at the congregational meeting in which I presented my sabbatical proposal, I want to explore the relationship between Christianity and visual art (my two primary vocational callings as an individual). At its most basic level, I am interested in whether or not it is possible for

visual art to enhance and deepen the spiritual life of the contemporary church and I want to know if there are specific ways in which I might be able to participate in and facilitate this spiritual growth.

To explore this question I've put together a list of books I want to read. I have booked train, ferry and plane rides as I look to friends, family and seminary colleagues from Toronto to Vancouver for guidance and companionship in my quest. I have arranged for a number of weeks of retreat and spiritual growth at monasteries in Canada and the United States. I have booked a fabulous art studio to explore my own art making process and I have invited some of Canada's most gifted artists to help me wrestle with my sabbatical questions.

This truly will be a time of renewal. And yet, as I embark, I am aware that all of these plans (put together with no small amount of help of a very fine sabbatical committee) are really small anchor points in a process over which I do not have complete control. "Once you step out the door there's no knowing where your feet will take you." What an apt description of the Christian journey. We are, none of us, master of our own ship. We are but sojourners and travellers who walk in companionship with One who is ultimately more mysterious than we can imagine. And

the journey on which we travel with God is bigger and more diverse than even our best laid plans.

When I return to the parish in September I hope to have a renewed sense of vision for my own ministry as a baptized Christian and as someone ordained to the office of word and sacrament. I hope to have a deeper sense integration between my vocations as artist and pastor. And I hope to be able to share in education, in worship, in pastoral conversation some of the wisdom I pick up on the way. I will be keeping a sabbatical diary during my time away. I imagine some days I will write nothing, and some days I will write two or three entries. In September I will include a small series of these musings in the *Parish Visitor*.

In the meantime I ask that you keep me in your prayers. You can be certain you will be in mine. Take care of one another as you already do so well, and enjoy your time and shared ministry with Pastor Tom Doherty. He is a fine person and an excellent pastor. And remember that even if it is just your house or your apartment or your cottage, out of which you step, keep an eye open for the mysterious presence of God in your life. After all, once you step out the door, no matter what that door is, when you are walking with God there's no knowing where your feet will take you.

*Fond blessings,  
Michael*

**Pastor Mills received the following letter related to our Garden project.**

Pastor Mike Mills  
 Advent Lutheran Church  
 2800 Don Mills Road  
 North York, Ontario  
 M2J 3B6



www.foodshare.net

December 7, 2005

Dear Pastor Mills,

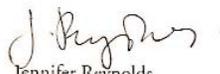
We wanted to express our warmest thanks for your work in making the Oriole/Peanut community garden a success. Your leadership was vital in helping get the garden into the ground and off to a great start this year.

In particular the bus tour stop on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 at the community garden was very powerful. It was inspiring to hear Marian Smith with the Oriole Community Services Association, Luanne Rayvals with the Working Women's Community Centre, and yourself speak of how developing the garden has engaged community members and the potential expansion of the garden in future years. The garden really looked its best, and there was an impressive number of community gardeners who were present to meet and greet tour members and made them feel particularly welcome by serving healthy cultural foods in the garden. The bus tour was an important event to educate City and community leaders about the successes and challenges of the Community Food Animators Project, the potential of food projects to promote community development and most importantly the need for the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Foundation, United Way, and Toronto Community Housing Corporation to continue to invest in this work. Thank you again for making this tour a success.

The final summary report for the 2005 Community Food Animators Project which the garden was part of will be mailed in the new year. FoodShare, in partnership with the Afri-Can FoodBasket, has received funding from the FSIP grants of the City of Toronto for the Community Food Animators Project in 2006. The project will have only two food animator positions and will focus on community gardens and fresh produce markets. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Advent Lutheran Church through the Food Animators Project to help sustain and expand the community garden and will be in touch soon to discuss how we can best work together.

Sincerely,

Anan Lololi   
 Food Animators Project  
 Afri-Can FoodBasket

  
 Jennifer Reynolds  
 Food Animators Project  
 FoodShare Toronto

Field-to-Table Centre: 200 Eastern Avenue Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J1 telephone 416-363-6441 facsimile 416-363-0474  
 Working with communities to improve access to affordable healthy food — from field to table • Charitable Registration 10759-2359 RR0001

**Luther Hostel**

Below is the cover of the brochure advertising Luther Hostel which will be held from June 12-16 at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. The complete brochure is posted on the bulletin board, or you can go to the Eastern Synod website ([www.eastern-synod.org](http://www.eastern-synod.org)), Upcoming Events, and click on the Luther Hostel icon to get complete details and registration information.

**Significant Church Websites**

Please check the following websites frequently to keep in touch with local and national church news:

- **Toronto Conference** – [elcic-torontoconference.ca](http://elcic-torontoconference.ca)
- **Eastern Synod** – [www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)** – [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca)
- **Lift up Your Hearts** – [www.worship.ca](http://www.worship.ca)
- **Lutheran World Federation** – [www.elca.org/lwf](http://www.elca.org/lwf)



# People and Events Summary

## Worship Services and Meetings

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

**Seniors** meet February 7 and 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**Confirmation** of Jonathan Roth and Sean Fromme is on February 12 followed by a congregational luncheon.

**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.

**Congregational Council** will meet Monday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**Assisting Ministers** meet February 19 following the service.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### Baptism

■ We welcomed Elizabeth Astrid Walther, infant daughter of Marcus and Tracey Walther through baptism on January 8

### Our Sympathy

- To Alice Sawh and family on the death of Frank Sawh on January 5. His funeral was held at Advent on January 9.
- To Fran and Claus Brandes on the death of Fran's father on January 21 in Florida.
- To Kevyn Dawe, Rebecca Taylor and family on the death of Kevyn's Father, Ken Dawe, on January 29. His funeral was held on February 1 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill.

### Congratulations

■ To Jackie and Victor Munro, Jr. on the birth of a son on January 19.

### Help us keep our contact list current

We try our best to ensure that our contact list is current, but people do move and change their email addresses. Please give any updates for your address, phone number and email to the church office or Judy Baribeau at [gandjbaribeau@rogers.com](mailto:gandjbaribeau@rogers.com). That way we can ensure you will always get your *Parish Visitor* as soon as it is available. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by mail, please let me know as well. We respect the privacy laws and this information is only given to those who require it for church use. jb

## February/March 2006 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
February 5 Alice Hubbes	Joyce Strebel	Mike Lees	Bill Berger	Fran & Claus Brandes	Walter Rothenburger & Rebecca Taylor	Erika Day & Hannelore Matthews
February 12 Fran Brandes	Alex Otten	Lester McLean	Martin Gangadeen	Alfred Schurr & Qi Cheng	Brit Missirlan & Kristin Doak	Gladys Ammattil, Evelyn & Martin Arnett, Rose & Jack Shave
February 19 Fran Brandes	Indira Beekie	Mike Lees	Mercy De Silva	Olga Cosburn	Judy Baribeau & Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Joyce Strebel & Michaela Ehring
February 26 Alice Hubbes	Arie Fox	Ingrid Schurr	Alfred Schurr	Indira & Nalini Beekie	Carol Peck & Brit Missirlan	Alice & Martin Hubbes
March 1 (Ash Wednesday)		Jim Doak				(Soup Supper)
March 5 Alice Hubbes	Joan McLean	Lester McLean	Jonathan Roth	Yvonne Cumberbatch & Cynthia Stewart	Judy Baribeau & Fran Brandes	Judy & Sum Tang
March 12 Alice Hubbes	Judy Baribeau		Joan Fox	Adele & Peter Buckley	Brit Missirlan	Walter Rothenburger & Bill Bartlett
March 19 Judy Baribeau	TBD		Indira Beekie	Hildegard & Heinz Weltner	Kristin Doak & Sonita Dillon-Rhodus	Heli Jens, Marcus & Tracey Walther
March 26 Judy Baribeau	Jacqueline & Delasia Khan		Marion Knaus	Fred & Jonathan Roth	Brit Missirlan & Carol Peck	Joan & George McLean