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



**S***pring time is blossom time. We see and smell these beautiful blossoms and are reminded of the coming summer and the other wonderful plants, trees and flowers showing the promise of new life.*

## Peanut Shell



Isn't this warm weather just wonderful? These warm, sunny days encourage us to be outdoors and notice the difference in growth in our gardens from morning to night. We've been watching a robin's eggs hatch in a nest in a neighbour's tree and then the mother feeding the young ones. There is so much wonderful new life around us.

Our May 7 Special Congregational Meeting is to discuss and make decisions on two major outdoor items for Advent. I hope many of you participate in the meeting.

Property issues are a major concern these days. We certainly need to find ways to discourage the wrong people from visiting our property.

The Toronto Conference is planning a number of events over the next year, and I encourage you as much as possible to participate in them.

The church always needs more volunteers. If you would like to contribute some time, learn more about a function, or get to know more people – please speak with a Congregational Council member and we can put you in touch with someone who can use your help. Even better, offer to do something we haven't asked for. We will all be rewarded.

Congregations have a certain amount of autonomy in their operations. Holy Cross did just that recently. However, their action is not a recognized internship by the Synod.

Please note the worship schedule for May. We will have a number of our lay leaders giving the sermons and Pastor Victor Munro will preach on June 4.

Finally, it was a wonderful day on April 30 when Pastor Huras joined us and preached the sermon. It is always a special occasion when the Bishop and Barbara are able to be with us.

*Judy*

## 40th Anniversary Pins



Some of you have asked about the story behind the pins we sold as part of the fundraising for Lester B. Pearson Place. Here it is. During a presentation to a congregation about Lester B. Pearson Place, the presenter explained their belief and the need to have everyone looking at what we can do to solve the housing problems and said that they saw our land as God's land – we are the caretakers.

There was a lady in that congregation who was quite moved by this and she told the presenter that she felt very compelled to do something to help make it happen. She said she looked down at the pin she was wearing, i.e. the dancers, which was called "friends" and thought – Friends of Lester B. Pearson Place. She approached the presenter following the service and offered to provide them with the pins. They could sell for \$10 – it cost her \$5 to import them and there would be a \$5 profit for each one sold. The project has now made over \$13,000 on the sale of pins and, of course, the lady has not made anything for herself but has been a great supporter of the project.

Thank you everyone at Advent for supporting the project through the purchase of these pins.

(Thank you to Marion Knaus for researching this information.)

## Special Congregational Meeting Called

Members of Advent are asked to attend a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 7, immediately following the service to discuss two items: (1) Proposal for resurfacing the parking lot; and (2) allocation of additional property for the community garden.

Please remember we need a quorum of 47 for the meeting.

*Judy Baribeau*

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road

North York, Ontario • M2J 3B6

416 493 1435

The Rev. Tom Doherty

Interim Pastor 905 313 8672

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

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



## All About our House

**A**re you on the right track? I thought this would be a thought provoking opening statement. Actually I am referring to the one-way signs that are now in the parking area informing all drivers to enter from the east drive and exit from the west drive. Thank you Gerard Baribeau for the handsome signs.

Well they have done it once again, actually twice to be precise, in 30 days. According to Metro's finest (the police) we seem to be located in a very high-risk area. It seems that the Peanut Plaza invites people to hang out in and around there, and when they get bored they look for more exciting activity and so...they visit OUR HOUSE when no one is around and damage the property. That is what happened two times in April.

As if we haven't had enough unexpected expense lately, we are embarking on a security upgrade to the tune of approximately \$2,000. Fortunately Worldwide Church, Fairview Church, St. Demitru and Church Without Limits have generously agreed to participate financially. We are so blessed to have such persons sharing OUR HOUSE.

Easter celebrations this year were truly exemplary and meaningful in my view. Adding to the complete ambiance we must give a big work of thanks to Walter Rothenburger and his assistants for the extensive care given to the altar and sanctuary as well as to Judy Baribeau for her blooming plants and labour contribution to the gardens at the front entrance.

If all goes as planned, soon there will be stones around and under the refuse bin thus eliminating the existing "mud" problem. Thank you Joe Hunt and Sam Paravitana.

If anyone has suggestions as to an appropriate ground cover that would pleasing to the eye for the rest of that area please contact me.

In the last issue I asked whether or not there is someone who would like to join our happy band of coffee hosts and has not yet been contacted to please phone me. FYI my phone has not rung off of the hook (416 445 4810) to date but I am still hopeful.

I would like to bring one thing to mind regarding our coffee hours, though, and that is this. I feel that many of you are so very generous and provide us with that which is nothing short of

lunch and it is so very much appreciated, but then we have to consider those of us who may not be able to offer the same amount of goodies.

So further to that I would like to suggest that we "rein in" what is offered. The purpose of this time together is to catch up with one another, share a cup of coffee or tea and have a bit of cake or cookies. Naturally we will have some times when we would like to have something a bit special, but at that time the coffee host would work in conjunction with a committee.

Please don't think that everyone's efforts are not very graciously accepted, but I feel we all have to stay on the same playing field.

### Can you move stuff?

We have a lot of stuff around our church that needs to be hauled to a transfer station and is a bit bigger than most of our cars can handle. If anyone can lend some time and a truck, please let me know so we can dispose of these items.

I think I have probably used up my allotted space for this issue. Thanks for reading.

*Fran Brandes  
Property Chair*



## Evangelical Lutheran Women

- The next ELW meeting is on May 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- On June 3 we will view the play "Away to the Farm" at Fairview Theatre. Please see Brit Missirlian if you would like tickets.
- On June 9 we will hold a barbecue at Carol Peck's home. Please watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

*Evelyn Arnett*



## Mission Report

Rev. Katharine Bergbusch, who has served in Peru since 1994, will conclude her service with the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (ILEP) at the end of 2006. She served mostly in Lima, but for the last couple of years has been working with communities of faith in Iquitos and nearby Triunfo in the northern Amazon region of the country.

The community of faith in Iquitos is called "Fiel es Dios" (God is Faithful) and has been meeting for six years. The number of adult participants is small; there are regularly 40 children in the Sunday School. Last year, Fiel es Dios moved to their new facilities.

Every Saturday evening, the pre-adolescent group, the "Aspirantes" (candidates or those on the way) meet. They enjoy a table game, something like snakes and ladders, which helped them become acquainted with the books of the New Testament. The group has been able to learn "choreography", a sort of dance to popular Christian songs. This is taught by two young women of the community of faith. In the new facilities this group has increased in numbers to about 20.

### Health Care Overseas

We take our health care for granted, but in other countries, it is a different matter and had to get the attention needed, especially if one has no money. Moshiro, an 11 year old, a member, had a swelling on his ankle. Rev. Bergbush finally persuaded his parents that a doctor should look at the ankle.

She went with Moshiro and his father to a specialized hospital in Lima on the advice of a doctor in Iquitos. The swelling was not cancerous, but they were sent to a children's hospital a lot farther away. All this was accomplished by traveling by public transport which is not too luxurious. This was very hard on Moshiro, who suffers from motion sickness, so they often had to get off the bus.

Moshiro underwent various examinations and tests without too much being decided on the results of these. Rev. Bergbush, Moshiro and his father were in Lima for 10 days which incurred quite an expense. No one seemed to know why the swelling persisted. A biopsy provided a diagnosis of traumatic tumor of the nerve tissue. They have to return to the hospital in six months to see if the tumor can be removed.

### New Long-Term Missionary is being Requested

ILEP is making a formal request to the ELCIC to send a new long-term missionary, probably based in Lima. ILEP is also looking for funds to support a Peruvian

pastor to continue the mission in the Iquitos area after Rev. Bergbusch departs.

### HIV/AIDS Pilot Project

ILEP has initiated a pilot project for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in two congregations in Lima with funding from LWF. Groups are being trained in each congregation to accompany carriers of the HIV virus and their families and to provide education. The coordinators are finding it hard to limit the scope of the work as the contacts and demands expand.

If you would like to find out more about the work in Iquitos and Katharine Bergbusch, you can access her website at [Katharine@terra.com.pe](mailto:Katharine@terra.com.pe).

*Joan Fox  
Mission Representative*

## Second Annual Toronto Conference Sunday School Teachers Mini Conference: "Supporting Each Other"



Saturday, June 10, 2006  
9:30 – 2:30

Chinese Lutheran Ministries  
2850 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario

### Program

- Gathering – Coffee and muffins
- Children's Service
- Workshop: "Discipline with Love" – Seija Hyhko
- Lunch
- Book Display
- Study Session: Sharing our programs and resources

Please bring artifacts of your program to share,  
e.g. program materials, samples of student work

**Registration:** \$10.00 includes lunch

Register by mail, email or by phone.

Contact: Seija Hyhko, Conference Learning Resource Person  
416 244 4973 or [seija@sympatico.ca](mailto:seija@sympatico.ca)  
12 Woodridge Court, Toronto, Ontario M6M 4G1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

# Advent's Financial Position as at April 30, 2006

Summarized as follows is Advent's giving to April 30, 2006, together with other revenues received.

Commitments	Received to April 30, 2006	Received to April 30, 2005	Difference
Current/Loose	\$ 28,520	\$ 24,203	\$ 4,317
Mortgage	2,303	1,905	398
Sunday School	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>(4)</u>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 30,896</b>	<b>\$ 26,186</b>	<b>\$ 4,710</b>
Facilities	19,371	13,553	5,818
Regular Benevolence	<u>4,206</u>	<u>3,399</u>	<u>807</u>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 55,473</b>	<b>\$ 43,138</b>	<b>\$ 11,335</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>			
GHDA	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,823	0
40th Anniversary	\$ 2,277	\$ 851	\$ 1,426

Current giving and loose collections for 2006 have increased by about 18%, a solid increase over 2005. However, please don't lose sight of the fact that we had severe problems with our giving in 2005, in order to meet our budget. As in my March 24, 2006, Report, the greatest increase has been in Facilities, up some 43% over 2005. Credit should be given to Fran Brandes for her diligent efforts to ensure that all users are up to date in their rentals, and that all additional user fees from 2005 have been collected. Since the fees for extra user time have all been collected, it is possible that the proportionate increase in facilities income between 2006 and 2005 may not be as great for the rest of the year.

Overall, I would conclude that our revenues are in "good shape", so keep up the good work.

### 40th Anniversary

The balance in the 40th Anniversary Fund at January 1, 2006, was

\$22,634.09. Collections in 2006 total \$2,277.15, for a balance as of April 30 of \$24,911.24. Over two years and four months, this equates to 62% of the total goal of \$40,000 over four years.

### Operating Expenses

Notwithstanding our revenue increases, operating expenses over the same period have escalated from \$47,371 to \$54,262, an increase of \$6,891, or about 15%. There are a number of factors affecting this increase, including outdoor maintenance (snow plowing) costs, pulpit supply costs, and building supplies and maintenance.

### Reserve Fund

At the end of 2005, the Reserve Fund stood at \$35,644.52. To date in 2006, we have made the following capital expenditures, charged against the Reserve Fund, exclusive of 50% of the GST, which we are refunded:

Cost of New lighting fixtures in Cedar Hall . . . . . \$2,644.88  
 Installation Cost of Lighting \$ 350.00  
 Advent Share of Security  
 Glazing . . . . . \$ 530.50  
 Total . . . . . **\$3,525.38**

The present balance in the Reserve Fund is therefore calculated at \$32,119.14.

### Conclusion

Keep up the good work on the giving side of the equation. But don't be fooled into being complacent. The capital costs for the Cedar Hall lighting and parking security measures after two more break-in's, have cost Advent over \$3,500 in 2006 alone. Future capital expenditures to repave the parking lot and replace the sanctuary roof can be expected in the next five years.

*Fred Roth*  
Treasurer

# I was There and it was Great

“The people of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Lionel Ketola accept the call to an extraordinary internship ministry”. The Extraordinary Candidacy Project, which this ministry is part of, is a movement of resistance to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s policy of discrimination against sexual minority people.

Together with its partners in mission: Lutherans Concerned Canada, Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries, St. Francis Foundation and Reconciling in Christ Congregations (where Advent was the first in Canada), a Covenanting Installation Rite for Lionel Ketola was held on Sunday, April 2, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket.

Holy Cross’s sanctuary had standing room only when the service started. Twenty vested ministers participated and two choirs led us in great singing. Co-presiders were the Rev. Dawn Hutchings (pastor at Holy Cross) and the Rev. Sara Boyles with guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Jon Fogleman, who gave an excellent sermon.

The whole event was amazing. As the service went on, the air in the room fairly vibrated with joy and hope and a sense of justice. Lionel was just beaming the whole time, after finally being allowed to serve in God’s ministry in this way, something he has worked and prayed for for so long. Lionel’s partner, Steve, was just overcome with tears of

happiness. I am sure I was not the only one with tears in my eyes watching them. This service was another step on the way to justice and fairness for everybody in the church.

Aren’t we all created equal in God’s eyes. He created us in his image, but in different forms. So who are we, as human beings, to decide who can serve him as pastors and who can not. Gays and Lesbians have been created that way by God and by denying them access to become full pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, are we telling God he didn’t do his job right?

*Brit Missirlian*

## ELCIC News Release

# Thousands of ELCIC Youth Make the Mission Possible and Build Hope

**Winnipeg, May 2, 2006** – *Mission Possible: Building Hope* took a giant step forward on a rainy May day in Winnipeg as National Coordinators, Hank and Barbara Fast, on behalf of the Youth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), delivered a cheque for \$70,000 on May 1 to the Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg affiliate.

More than just a piece of paper, the cheque represents the love and faith of thousands of ELCIC youth and their adults – a gift of mission and service that will have spanned two years as the National Youth Project 2004-06. Even more, it represents a house – wood and nails, wire and paint, cement and grass – future home of a family of four. David Bahamon, Bileyi Rojas and their daughters Stephanie and Michelle have already “paid” over 150 hours

of their sweat equity down-payment and will work side by side with volunteers throughout the summer.

“This is an exciting moment,” said Barb Fast, “a switch from raising funds to raising walls; from tithing to toolboxes.”

Accepting the cheque on behalf of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg was Vern Koop, Project Manager. Koop confirmed that the basement for the *Mission Possible: Building Hope* house is already under construction. The address of the home is 143 Redonda Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Volunteer opportunities begin May 23.

Watch <http://youth.elcic.ca/nyp/2004-2006> for details.

For more information and to sign up to help, please contact Hank and Barb Fast at [bfast@elcic.ca](mailto:bfast@elcic.ca). ♦

## Worship Schedule

- May 7 – Jim Doak preaching
- May 14 – Pastor Doherty preaching
- May 21 – Isha Beekie preaching
- May 28 – Mercy De Silva preaching
- June 4 – Pastor Victor Munro preaching

## Mike Lees to Begin Internship

Seminarian Mike Lees has been appointed to a shared internship starting this fall at Christ the King, Whitby, and Faith, Oshawa.

## Significant Church web sites

Please check the following web sites 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)

## Stewardship Matters

# Stewardship/Finance Committee Makes Recommendations

The Stewardship/Finance Committee (Claus Brandes, Fred Roth, Alfred Schurr and Judy Baribeau) met on April 10 and reviewed our strategy for the year and prepared some recommendations to go to Congregational Council.

While money shouldn't be our major concern, it is usually up front on the table. This year's offerings are up from last year's, but our expenses are also higher because of unexpected items. You'll see most of this in the Property and Treasurer's Reports. Our financial statements are being completely reorganized to meet auditing guidelines and will be presented to the congregation for approval as soon as they are available. Our estimate is that we ended 2005 with a \$5,000 deficit.

We are commonly asked why we have a "Mortgage" line on our envelopes. The mortgage is paid as far as the bank is concerned, but to pay the mortgage and save considerable interest the money was "borrowed" from some of our other internal accounts. We still owe ourselves about \$28,000, so please continue designating a portion of your offerings for "Mortgage".

We are going to recommend to Congregational Council that we appoint a long-range planning committee which would include both financial and spiritual growth concerns. This is a necessary step if we want to move forward.

### More People are Needed

We always hear that more people are needed, to the point where we don't often listen to the line. However, that is true. We have too few people doing too much of the congregation's work. We're sure there are more of you in the congregation willing and able to help out with the various work that needs to be

done in all areas. Please speak to a Council member if you would like to get involved. We will also make an effort in one-on-one conversations to see where your interests and talents lie. We would like to do a survey of our members, but that project may be on hold.

### PAR

PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance. This is an option for giving that some members find useful. In this program you designate a monthly amount you would like to have transferred from your bank account to the church. This is helpful for those who are away for various times during the year but who would like to make regular contributions.

Certainly if you are using PAR, you may give extra offerings at any time to support a special fund or appeal (like disaster relief, 40th Anniversary, etc.).

### Endowment Fund

Finally, we remind you that Advent has an endowment fund where you can designate an amount in your will or make special donations. This is a fund completely separate from our operating funds. We currently do not have much money in the fund so have not been able to allocate any of the money. With an endowment fund, we are only able to use the earnings on the fund, not the principal, to designated projects outside of our operating account.

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We would like to add two additional people to this committee. If anyone is interested, please speak with me. The work is not all financial – time and talent concerns are also a vital part of this function.

*Judy Baribeau, Chair  
Stewardship/Finance*



## Toronto Conference 2006 Events

The Toronto Conference Council has planned a number of events for this year. Detailed information on all of them is on our bulletin board and on the Toronto Conference web site:

[elcic-torontoconference.ca](http://elcic-torontoconference.ca)

■ **Spring Conference Meeting – Lay Delegates Needed** – 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 agenda is printed on the Conference newsletter, *The Lutheran Connection*, which is posted on the bulletin board. We've been asked to designate two lay delegates, in addition to the pastor, to represent each congregation. If you would like to attend as Advent's delegate, please let me know.

■ **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. An application is on the Conference web site as well as our bulletin board. Please speak with Erika Day or me if you would like to register.

■ **Christmas Concert Sunday, December 10 – Choirs and musicians needed.** This concert, which will include a massed choir and musicians from Toronto Conference congregations will be at Agricola Lutheran Church. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

■ A **Renewing Worship** workshop will be held on November 4. Details will be forthcoming.

■ **Authority and Interpretation of Scripture** – Plans are underway for this weekend event to be held January 2007.

*Judy Baribeau*

# People and Events Summary

## Worship Services and Meetings

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

**Men's Breakfast Group** – meets at 9:00 a.m. the first Saturday each month at the Wexford Restaurant, northeast corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Warden Avenue.

**Seniors** meet May 3 and 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

**Congregational Council** will meet Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

**ESO Committee** meets Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

## Baptism

■ James William Henderson was baptized on April 23, son of Laura and Mark Henderson. He is the grandson of Marlene and Jim Barthelmy.



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### Thank you

■ To everyone who brought Easter flowers and plants to beautify our church for Easter services.

■ We thank **Bishop William Huras, Retired**, for joining us on April 30 and giving the sermon. It was a pleasure to have him and Barbara join us and to see many of our former members at the worship service as well. Thank you to everyone who assisted to make this special day happen.

### Holy Land Tour

Pastor Martti Hyhko of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Toronto will lead a tour to the Holy Land in October 2007. A second information meeting for this tour will be held at Good Shepherd, 1630 Lawrence Avenue West, on Sunday, May 21, at 12:00 noon. If you are unable to attend the meeting and are interested in the tour, please call Pastor Hyhko at 416 249 8851. ♦

#### Communion Bread

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

### Congratulations

■ To Dr. Lloyd Carlson who was recently inducted into the Scarborough Walk of Fame for his work in establishing Canada's first burn unit at Scarborough General Hospital.

#### 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

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

### May 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
May 7 Brit Missirlian	Alfred Schurr	Jackie Fromme	Priyan De Silva	Michaela Ehrling & Chris Moeglich	Rebecca Taylor & Walter Rothenburger	Trudy & Bob Videki
May 14 Erika Day	Cynthia Stewart	Nalini Beekie	Mihiri De Silva	Fran & Claus Brandes	Brit Missirlian & Fran Brandes	Khan Family
May 21 Brit Missirlian	Joyce Strelbel	Jim Doak	Lisa Liu	Hilton Beharry	Kristin Doak & Gladys Ammattil	Erna & John Krause
May 28 Erika Day	Alex Otten	Lester McLean	Mona Marcobelli	Jackie & Alfred Khan	Judy Baribeau & Gladys Ammattil	Evelyn Fromme & Robin Sheppard