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Events in October:



Thanksgiving



Reformation



Advent's Anniversary

Celebration



Peanut Shell



October is going to be a busy month at Advent. Our Sunday School classes have started and a committee is going to look at options for adult learning. Confirmation classes are starting and a group of interested adults will look at options for a youth program.

I encourage all of you to attend our annual potluck dinner on October 29. Dr. Lloyd Carlsen, one of our members, will be our guest speaker. We'll have lots of wonderful food, a silent auction in support of our 40th anniversary fund and a few surprises.

The Toronto Conference also has a busy schedule this fall, and I encourage you to participate in as many of these events as possible. I particularly ask that you register for the Worship Workshop on November 4. These workshops are being held in each Conference to introduce our new worship material.

The Seminary presentation will be of interest to those who are concerned about our Seminary and the options available to supporters and students.

The Building a Restorative Community workshop will interest those who are interested in outreach programs.

And then the Christmas concert – this will be a spectacular performance highlighting the multi-culturalism evident in our Conference. Choirs, soloists and musicians will be at their best.

Please remember to keep up your contributions for our 40th anniversary fund. As always, we also ask that you keep up your regular offerings so that we can end the year on a positive note. We've done well this year in handling unexpected expenses and we thank you for your response.

Please note the statistics Pastor Mills kept from his sabbatical. His spreadsheet must look quite interesting.

And, finally, we say farewell to Evelyn and Martin Arnett as they move to their new home in Regina this month.

Judy



Evangelical Lutheran

Worship



**A New Worship Book.
By the whole Church.
For the whole Church.**

Introductory Workshop – Saturday, November 4

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

at Agricola Lutheran Church

25 Old York Mills Road Toronto ON M2P 1B5

\$20 per person registration includes lunch and a complimentary copy of the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. Please make cheques payable to Eastern Synod

Who should attend? Anyone who is interested in worship – worshippers, musicians, choir directors, choir members, teachers, pastors

To register simply send an email the Toronto Conference Secretary, Judy Baribeau: gandjbaribeau@rogers.com and let us know how many people to expect from your congregation so that we can be sure to have your free copy of the new worship book.

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Presentation Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. Toronto Chinese Lutheran Church 2850 Midland Avenue

Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer and Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson will make a presentation on behalf of the Seminary and answer questions from the floor. Everyone interested in learning more about our Seminary is encouraged to attend.

Toronto Conference Christmas Concert

Please remember to mark Sunday, December 10, on your calendars to attend Toronto Conference's Christmas Concert. It will be held at Agricola Lutheran Church, 25 Old York Mills Road beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Congregational choirs, youth, vocal and instrumental soloists will participate. A combined choir will also be singing. ♦

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
2800 Don Mills Road
North York, Ontario • M2J 3B6
416 493 1435

The Rev. Michael Mills, Pastor
Worship Service and Sunday School
at 10:00 a.m.

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for our members and friends.
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Advent Lutheran Church
www.adventlutheranchurch.ca

Evangelical Lutheran Women

I can't find the right words to say – for a change, I'm stumped.

The dinner you gave Martin and me was very heartwarming, but then when you presented me with the ELW Certificate and recognition pin – that was not expected. Thank you all and God bless you.

We will sure miss the Seniors Group. We've had a lot of laughs and good lunches. Thank you for the lunch you put on for Martin and me.

God bless you all.

Our new address is:

Suite 205, 330 Hampton House
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 6Z8

Evelyn Arnett

New Windows for Kitchen, Fellowship Hall and Sunday School Room

At the Special Congregational Meeting held on September 24, the congregation approved the quote from Diamond Windows to replace eight windows in the original building for \$4,770. The new windows will be installed later this fall.

Special Congregational Meeting October 15

Please plan to attend a Special Congregational Meeting following the worship service on October 15. We will present the audited financial statements from 2005 for approval. Copies of the statements will be available by email and hard copy prior to the meeting so that you all have a chance to review them. We thank Martin Gangadeen and Karen McDonald for doing the audit for us. ♦



A Word from Pastor Mike

**“If you love me,” said Jesus,
“feed my sheep.”**

**“How can I be more loving?
How can I be more kind?”**

~ Hafiz

It is my pleasure to announce two ministries (they have actually been in place for much of the spring and summer now) that seek to help our church do just that. The first is a ministry that congregational council put in place as I embarked on my sabbatical called Home Communion Ministry. After worship on certain Sundays of the month members of our community (who have been designated as communion ministers by congregational council) visit the shut-in and sick bringing the bread and the wine from Sunday eucharist to be shared with those who, because of illness, are not able to come to church. This ministry has been added in addition to regular pastoral visitation and communion of shut-ins to provide an opportunity for us, as members of the church, to nurture one another more intentionally. Do you know someone in our parish who is unable to get to church due to ill health but who would appreciate prayer, Holy Communion and a visit? Just let me know or speak to a member of council or mutual ministry.

The second ministry is the ministry of space. This might seem a bit strange at first, but in a world that is on the go almost all the time, space

and quiet are almost luxuries today. Here I am specifically referring to the large circular *Meditation Garden* that was added to the community garden this year. Did you know that a small group of people has been gathering daily as soon as the sun rises to practice Tai Chi? For them this garden is a small refuge. There is also a small group of people who gather regularly to share lunch on the grass beside the garden. Quite apart from the produce generated, the garden provides space for people to experience the beauty of God's world right here in the midst of the city. I've heard the odd person in our parish express concern about weeds in the garden (they can be unsightly) and I've noticed myself the odd tool left out, which can also be a bit of an eyesore, but it's important that we remember our task as the church and ask, “Who are we serving?” Did you know that one gardener from Lebanon, reunited with family after all that has been going on in that country this year, brought her family to see Advent's community garden even before going home from the airport?

Home communion and the Meditation Garden – ministries of Christ to our people and to the world at large. ♦

Mission Report

In partnership with the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida – Argentina – we support two pastors: Pastor Gustavo Gomez and Pastor Sergio Utz.

Pastor Sergio Utz continues the work in Cushamen, where he ministers to a small Mapuche (Argentine First Nation) community, continuing the work begun by ELCIC missionaries Ray and Beverley Niebergall and Greg and Marla Kiel. Cushamen is in the high desert, just east of the Andes. Pastor Utz has increased the number of worship sessions from twice a month to three times. He has taken to spending one night a week after worship, sleeping on a foam pad near the wood stove in the simple church building, so that he can do some home visitation. The people appreciate this, and it is clear there, as in Esquel (and in Comodor Rivadavia for that matter) that they love their pastor and give thanks for his ministry. The Cup of Milk program continues. The women of the community make it possible as they take care of the task and this enhances the nourishment of over 80 boys and girls.

Cushamen Goals

The goals for the Cushamen congregation are:

- Strengthen and establish the participation of new members.
- Create a working group in the deaconry area to bring together our efforts in the Cup of Milk program, the community garden, the sewing workshop, etc.
- Improve the conditions of our meeting room.
- Confirmation course for children and adults.
- Strengthen our work with aboriginal peoples, helping them strengthen their identity and rescue their values and traditions.

The dream of building a church, although we know it is far away, continues to be present in the minds of the community.

Esquel Goals

The Esquel congregation is growing. This year they were able to establish a congregational council. Their goals for the congregation are:

- Continue strengthening our work with the girls and boys. It is growing at an accelerated rate.
- Continue and strengthen the Cup of Milk program.
- Begin the following activities: Bible study, prayer group and youth group.
- Build a bell tower. No church in Esquel has a bell tower. It is our dream to have one.
- Natural gas network: One of our greatest needs is to be able to have a natural gas network. This year we have had to suspend the activities during the winter due to the cold and the absence of adequate heating in our buildings.

Pastor Utz says it is a great honour to have Pastor Octavio Burgoa and Pastor Gustavo Gomez as his colleagues in the Patagonia District. They meet periodically to share their work and strengthen each other mutually.

Without you, all of this would not be possible. We hope that our work, our willingness, our happiness and especially our growth in our faith can be the best that we can give you in return. You have so lovingly and from so far away sustained us, taken care of us, strengthened us and helped us to grow as a community in our faith in Esquel and Cushamen.

I ask that you pray to the Lord constantly for the communities of Esquel and Cushamen and for my work as Pastor of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Please see Page 18 of the September *Canada Lutheran* for more information about the young people who went to El Salvador. I wrote about their work in the July/August *Parish Visitor*.

Joan Fox
Mission Representative

Sabbatical by the Numbers

From March to August Pastor Mills was on sabbatical. Here is a brief synopsis of his journey in numbers.

- Number of kilometres traveled: 23,000
- Number of times lost: 2
- Number of taxi rides that cost more than one hundred fifty dollars: 1 (don't ask)
- Number of old friends visited (semi-regular, university, high school): 12
- Number of new friends made: 5
- Number of hours of silent meditation: 700 (give or take)
- Number of hours of public worship attended: 47
- Number of books read: 21
- Number of books purchased, not yet read and dragged around the country: 72
- Number of extra suitcases purchased to carry these books: 1
- Number of Cree sweat lodges attended: 2
- Average temperature inside the lodge (degrees celsius): 42
- Number of hours per sweat: 2.5
- Number of hours each sweat felt like: 500
- Number of Kirtans attended (gatherings of Sanskrit chant): 21
- Number of hours of self-reflection: hundreds
- Number of art pieces completed: 8
- Number of art pieces still in process: 11
- Number of art pieces painted over: just 1
- Number of acupuncture needles received: 226
- Number of sunrises I purposely got up to enjoy: 27
- Number of labyrinths walked: 8
- Number of phone calls home: 78
- Number of moments of glad grace: I can't count them all. It was an extraordinary experience.
- Number of life changing truths discovered: 1 (that's next month's article)
- Number of words to the people of Advent for this opportunity: 2 – thank you.

Pastor Mills

Advent's Financial Position as at September 30, 2006

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

Our Revenues	Received to	Received to	
Commitments	Septemer 30, 2006	September 30, 2005	Difference
Current/Loose	\$ 58,586	\$ 53,758	\$4,829
Mortgage	4,179	4,392	(213)
Sunday School	<u>141</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>(10)</u>
Sub-total	\$ 62,906	\$ 58,300	\$ 4,606
Facilities	44,592	32,982	11,610
Regular Benevolence	<u>8,223</u>	<u>7,843</u>	<u>380</u>
Total Received	\$ 115,722	\$99,125	\$16,596
Other Giving			
GHDA	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,716	\$ (7)
40th Anniversary	\$ 3,151	\$ 2,373	\$ 778

Current, festival and loose collections for 2006 to the end of September have increased about 9% compared to 2005. This is fairly consistent with the August variance between 2006 and 2005, which stood at 8%.

Facilities revenue is up a significant 35% over last year. However, bear in mind that a good portion of this revenue is collections for additional time charged to our regular users, over and above their base hours. The additional time pertains to the first half of the year, i.e. January 1 to June 30, 2006.

Our Expenditures

To the end of September, our overall expenditures have increased by about 9% between 2005 and 2006. As in the August report, the main increases are in the following categories:

- Outdoor Maintenance – Up \$2,764 or about 83%
- Heat – Up \$647.50, or 14% over last year
- Building Supplies and Maintenance – Up \$731.92 or 30% over last year

Our tentative bottom line is a current operating deficit of about \$1,600. However, it should be noted that the Building Supplies and Maintenance item varies widely from month-to-month, so that if this item is factored out of the total, the deficit is reduced to about \$869.

40th Anniversary

Collections to the end of September 2006 total \$3,151.22, as compared to \$2,373.25 in 2005. While this is an improvement, our goal is for a total of \$40,000 over four years. At this pace,

we won't meet our \$10,000 collection target for the third year of our four-year term.

We have now remitted \$15,000 of our total commitment for the assisted housing project of \$30,000, so we are half way to our goal.

Our Bottom Line

We appear to have "almost" balanced our spending and expenditures for the year. However, as usual, this is due in large part to revenue from rentals, and not necessarily our offering envelopes. Credit goes to Fran Brandes for her superb job of managing our real estate assets.

*Fred Roth,
Treasurer*

Stewardship Matters

More Goes than Comes

One of my more enjoyable tasks each month is reading a number of congregational newsletters from the Toronto Conference that I use to prepare the Conference newsletter. One very common thread thing in all of them is that congregations are spending more than they are receiving. Another common thread is that we are always looking for more volunteers to serve on our councils and committees. At Advent we are no exception.

Some congregations have a more serious situation than others, but we all have the same concerns. I worry about that. I worry about the future of our congregations. I worry about how we can encourage more people to participate in the many areas of congregational life. I worry about how we will move forward.

Each year congregational councils recommend a budget to the congregation at their annual meetings. With perhaps some minor changes, the budget is approved. By approving the budget we also accept the responsibility to contribute to balance the budget at yearned. It takes our time and talents as well as our monetary offerings. We know what happens in our own homes if we continue to spend more than we are taking in. It's the same with the church.

We approve programs and set up committees – but often have difficulty encouraging people to participate in the programs and committees. And in the process, those who have served for a long time get burned out and leave.

I have many questions – but not many answers. The answers are in each one of us. The church, and our congregation, are an important part of my life so I'd like to see what we can do to improve our situation.

While our offerings have improved this year over last year, we've also had unexpected expenses which offset the gain. For the remainder of this year I'd like to challenge everyone to do a little more. We will be receiving interim

The Toronto Conference of
The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
together with Chaplaincy Services, Corrections Canada and
St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
invite you to a one-day ecumenical forum

Building a Restorative Community (Use of restorative practices within faith communities)

Featuring
Terry O'Connell¹ and Bruce Schenk²

Saturday, October 28, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

1498 Avenue Rd. (at Lawrence), Toronto, ON
PHONE: (416) 783-3570 (FOR MAP, SEE [HTTP://STANSGAR.CA](http://STANSGAR.CA))

¹**Terry O'Connell** is a retired police officer from New South Wales who 15 years ago developed the restorative conferencing model now used in many parts of the world. He continues to work full time in restorative practice and is a recognized world leader in the growing phenomenon of restorative justice. Developing "restorative communities" has the potential to enhance lives as issues of conflict are addressed in a restorative fashion.

²**Bruce Schenk**, Chaplain at the Brookside Youth Centre in Cobourg, ON is currently using the restorative practice framework developed by Terry and others in Australia within the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (Peterborough County, Northumberland County and Clarington in Durham Region). He has had success using these practices at the Brookside Youth Centre.

REGISTRATION: \$35.00 (includes lunch) – may be paid at the door but register by October 23 or lunch cannot be guaranteed. Make cheques payable to Eastern Synod.

To register or for more information:

Contact: Rev. Sonja Free: free1@sympatico.ca or (416) 239-4487.

offering statements later this fall which will help us see where we stand and then we can better see what we can do to the end of the year.

I hope you read Pastor Dawn Hutchings' article on Benevolence in the September *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*. She states, "Although the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is one of the wealthiest churches in all of creation, the bulk of our wealth remains hidden in the wallets and bank accounts of our members." Because of this, our Synod has had to cut many worthwhile programs. I encourage all of us to please to remember to support Benevolence as well as the

congregation's needs when you are preparing your offerings.

With everyone's help we will be in a positive situation at yearned. Thank you for your ongoing support to Advent and Benevolence.

Anniversary Offering

At our May Council meeting, we approved designating the Anniversary offering this year to the 40th Anniversary Fund. We all have a pink envelope for "Anniversary Offering" in our October envelopes. Please consider an additional donation to our fund.

Judy Baribeau
Chair, Stewardship/Finance

NUC-TUCT Fund Raising Dinner

The annual fund raising dinner for NUC-TUCT this year will be Thursday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Restaurant, 7660 Woodbine Avenue. Tickets are \$50 each – a \$20 charitable receipt will be provided. It is an “all you can eat” buffet with a cash bar and silent auction. There will also be a table auction, limited to the table you’re sitting at – bid on the item in the middle of the table. There will also be door prizes, lots of fun – and definitely more than just food.

To reserve your spot, please contact Evelyn Robertson at 416 491 4346.

This is one of the many ways we can contribute to this worthwhile project in our community. ♦

ELW Says Good-Bye to Evelyn and Martin Arnett



ELW members and friends held a dinner on September 13 to make a presentation to Evelyn Arnett for her work with them.

This month we say good-bye to two wonderful people who have worked very hard in so many ways at Advent. Evelyn and Martin Arnett are moving to

Regina and we wish them good health and all the best in their new home.

We’ll miss Evelyn’s jokes at MAAA evenings and her famous buns at our dinners. We’ll remember her previous work on Congregational Council, Sunday School, ELW, choir – and many other ways too numerous to mention. And who can forget all the work Evelyn and Martin did each year that we held rummage sales. We thank Martin for his support and work in helping purchase supplies for our building and serving on the Mutual Ministry Committee. ♦

Congregational Council Update

At our September Council meeting we reviewed our 2005 audited financial statements which we are presenting to the congregation for approval on October 15.

We also approved sending a letter to our members asking for information that will help us in our visioning and future planning. Please give us your comments before the end of October.

We suggested names for committee members to discuss our Adult Education program. They will be meeting and reporting their plans to us. We also have some people interested in youth leadership who will be meeting to make plans for our youth program.

Judy Baribeau

42nd Anniversary POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, October 29, 6:00 p.m.



Our annual anniversary potluck dinner is always a highlight of the year for Advent. Please plan on attending this year’s dinner and sample some of the great food our cooks provide and join in our fellowship.

Please bring your food by 5:45 so we can be ready to eat at 6 o’clock – a salad, main course, casserole or dessert. Please bring your food hot if it’s to be eaten hot as we have limited warming facilities in our kitchen. Also bring your serving utensils. We will provide coffee, tea and juice.

This year Dr. Lloyd Carlsen, one of our members, will be our special guest speaker. We look forward to his message.

We will also have a silent auction to benefit our 40th anniversary fund. Please bring any items you would like to donate for the auction – and plan to purchase some items. We had a wonderful selection of items last year in all price ranges.

Some planning is still taking place, so be prepared for some surprises as well.

See you on October 29

People and Events Summary

Worship Services and Meetings

Worship services and Sunday School 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 October 3 and 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

October 15 – Special Congregational Meeting following the worship service to review the 2005 audited financial statements.

Confirmation classes begin October 25. Please contact Pastor Mills to make arrangements.

Annual Potluck Dinner October 29, 6:00 p.m.

Congregational Council will meet Monday, October 30, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome

■ On September 17 we welcomed two people into membership at Advent: Bibi Persaud and Jai Sahadeo.

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

■ **Eastern Synod** – www.easternsynod.org

■ **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)** – www.elcic.ca

■ **Lift up Your Hearts** – www.worship.ca

■ **Lutheran World Federation** – www.elca.org/lwf

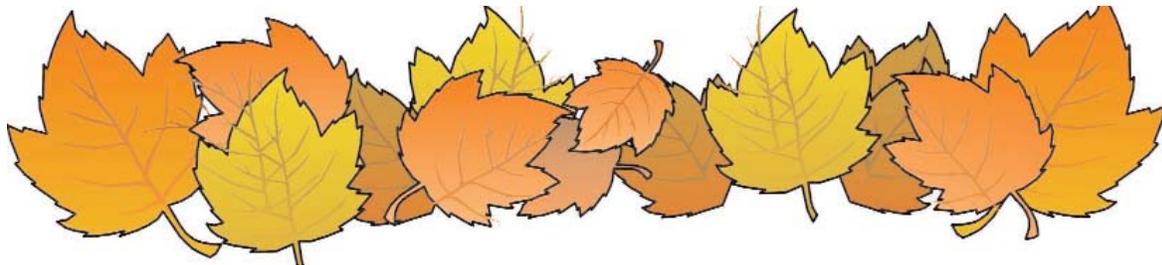
We Remember

■ Elizabeth Huebscher who is ill.
 ■ Karen Doak who is recovering from surgery.

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

Space Change for October 22

Please remember that we will worship in Cedar Hall on October 22 and St. Demitru's congregation will use our sanctuary. We agreed to this change as their bishop will be with them on that day and they will require additional space for their worship.



October 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
October 1 Brit Missirlian	Joan McLean	Jim Doak	Claus Brandes	Nerissa Jones & Rosemarie Gardow	Rebecca Taylor & Erika Day	Sawh Family
October 8 Carol Peck	Jai Ramlall & Carrol Pearson	Nalini Beekie	Hildegard Weltner	Alfred Schurr	Fran Brandes & Judy Baribeau	Latchman Family
October 15 Carol Peck	Judy Baribeau	Erika Schurr	Mona Marcobelli	Fran & Claus Brandes	Rebecca Taylor & Brit Missirlian	Hannelore Matthews & Erika Day
October 22 Carol Peck	Indira Beekie	Gabi Schickedanz	Michaela Ehring	Joan & Arie Fox	Judy Baribeau & Brit Missirlian	Waveney Kanhai & Wendy Ramassar
October 29 Fran Brandes	Hilton Beharry	Peter Buckley	Arie Fox	Olga Cosburn	Walter Rothenburger & Sonita Dillon-Rhodius	Marion Knaus & Michaela Ehring Jim Morrissey & David Schweyer