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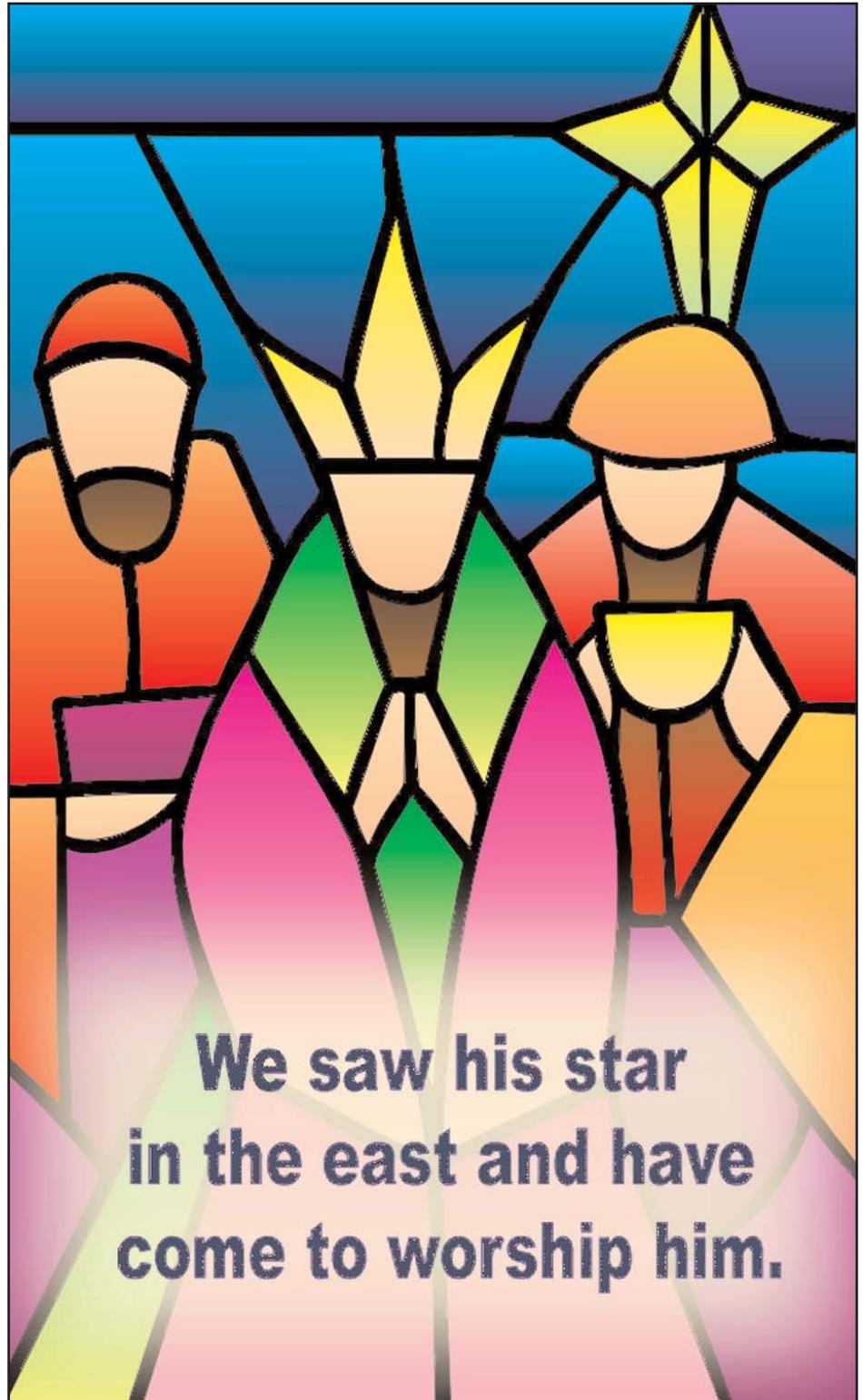
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**We saw his star  
in the east and have  
come to worship him.**

## Peanut Shell



Happy New Year. Now that all the busy celebrations of the past month are over, many of us are settling down again into our normal patterns.

As you can see, we have a lot of material in this newsletter. Much of it is in preparation for our Annual Meeting to be held February 11. As we need to maintain a quorum throughout the meeting, please plan to attend the meeting. By reading the reports and reviewing the proposed budget ahead of time, the meeting should proceed smoothly.

I've included letters written to congregations by both our National and Synod Bishops. These releases are also posted on the respective websites. I included them for those of you who have not received them or have access to the Internet. Please check the church's significant websites frequently for updated information.

I prepare the Toronto Conference newsletter, *The Lutheran Connection*, each month which I post on our bulletin board. If anyone would like to receive it by email, please let me know and I will add your name to the list. This newsletter contains a lot of information about what the other congregations in the Toronto Conference are doing.

The Toronto Conference hosted a wonderful Christmas Concert on December 10 featuring choirs, musicians and soloists from a number of congregations. I was disappointed that only three people from Advent attended. I encourage all of you to support functions outside of our congregation more frequently. A lot of work goes into planning these events and we encourage increased support from our congregations.

I'll prepare our February/March newsletter following the Annual Meeting to give you a report on the meeting.

*Judy*

## Congregational Council Update

At our December Council meeting, we spent a lot of time planning for our annual meeting and completing our Proposed Budget for 2007 (see Pages 6 and 7).

At the meeting, Pastor Mills distributed copies of his Sabbatical Report. The Sabbatical and Mutual Ministry Committees have been asked to review the report and give their comments to Council.

### Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 11, following the worship service. The service and meeting will be held in Cedar Hall. Copies of the Annual Report and financial statements will be available a week prior to the meeting so that members have a chance to read them before the meeting.

Our quorum will be determined at year-end and will be announced prior to the meeting. Twenty percent of the voting members represent our quorum. Non-members are welcome to observe the meeting. According to our Constitution only members of the congregation can be counted for the quorum and entitled to vote. The Constitution (Article IV, Section 2b) states, "Voting members are those confirmed or otherwise designated members who are members in good standing and have attained the age of 18 years."

Fran Brandes and Peter Buckley were appointed as our Nominating Committee and have been contacting members as to their interest in letting their names stand for nomination. To have a full Council of 12 members, we need to elect six persons. If you would like to recommend someone, or if you are interested in letting your name stand for Council, please speak with either Fran or Peter.

### Council Retreat

Our Council and congregation have not reviewed our mission or mission statement for a number of years, and I

have suggested that Council meet in an off-site day-long retreat as soon as possible following the annual meeting. We will appoint an outside facilitator to lead the discussion.

In addition to reviewing the congregation's mission, this will also be an opportunity for an orientation session for all Council members. We have included a budget amount to cover the cost of the retreat.

### Congregational Survey

In September we sent a letter to every member of the congregation requesting information to be returned by the end of October. It was disappointing to receive only 11 responses. If anyone would still like to return their comments, please do so before the end of January. I thank everyone who did respond.

Council decided that the comments received on the survey will be discussed at the Council retreat and will then give a report to the congregation.

As I am ending my time on Council at the Annual Meeting, I want to thank you for your work and support during the past year.

*Judy Baribeau*  
Council Chair



#### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship Service and Sunday School  
at 10:00 a.m.

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**A Word from Pastor Mike**

# Love Ain't Always Nice

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year. I pray 2007 is filled with blessings and grace and much laughter and goodness for each of you. I think God wants our lives to be filled with goodness. I am attaching the text of my sermon for Advent 3. It has been the most requested sermon I have given in a number of years.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Mike

There is a turn of phrase in the gospel reading today that always makes me laugh. John has just lumbered out of the wilderness calling people a “brood of vipers,” and telling them about the thresher who is coming to clear the granary floor where the wheat and the chaff will be separated and the chaff will be thrown into unquenchable fire and then Luke adds, in classic understatement, “...So with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.” Ha! I laugh every time I read it. It seems such an absurd contradiction. Since when is chastisement and condemnation good? It’s sort of like a pickup truck knocking you down on the road and someone saying, “Well, serves you right for not looking.”

The truth is, we don’t like to be reprimanded. We didn’t like it, as a child, when we didn’t do our chores and then got scolded by mom. We didn’t like it when, in gym class, the coach yelled at us to push us harder. We didn’t like it in our first job when we clearly messed up and had to take responsibility for our actions. I’m reminded of another gospel in which the people, after hearing Jesus, say, “This is a hard teaching; who can accept it?” Let’s face it, we don’t like to be confronted in our delusions of ourselves. In fact, we build pretty strong barriers sometimes to keep from telling ourselves the truth.

So the first thing I want to talk about today is resistance to change. Our attitudes toward change grow out of a complex interplay of emotions,

childhood experiences, fears and desires and as such, change is often seen as a synonym for instability, upheaval, unpredictability, threat, and disorientation. Whenever we are confronted that pushes us to change, fear and anxiety are never far behind.

Have you ever noticed how frightened people are of confrontation – even if it just means the slightest bit of displeasure from another person? Normally, us non-confronters think of ourselves as “very good and moral people” and believe the reason we do not confront is to save another’s feelings. But in truth, we are sometimes so afraid of causing ourselves a moment’s displeasure, that we will do anything to get out of being direct with another person.

Case in point: many years ago I worked on a geological team with a man who was hard to deal with. He was prone to unwarranted fits of anger, he drank on the job, he was a bit of a bully. Everyone agreed that he needed to go, but no one wanted to do the job. The boss of the operation was so uncomfortable with the task that she asked me to do it. I didn’t want to do it either, but I sat with him, I told him the reasons he was being let go as clearly as I could and that I hoped he would find more suitable work. He, as expected, was aggressive, angry and blaming, but he got the message. And years later when we met the house of a mutual friend, he said that it was the best thing that happened to him because it made him realize that he had to take responsibility for his own actions.

There are really two types of confrontation. There is confrontation that is fear based, and because it is fear based it is like an armour that people wear to protect themselves. This type of confrontation more often tears down than builds up. The anger and bullying of the man I fired was this type. It is aggressive and demoralizing for both sides. And what makes it worse, it is often hidden under a sweet smile, but because the smile is a mask. It is insincere.

But there is another kind of confrontation that is just the opposite of bullying or telling someone off. It takes a great deal of bravery and self discipline and sometimes kindness to be direct with other people. It starts with truth telling “John, you have not met these obligations in your work and you have had three warnings. We have to let you go today.” It includes the sharing of authentic feelings: “When you explode with anger I feel like I am eight years old talking to my dad and I get really anxious.” It includes helpful strategizing: “If you are willing to take such-and-such a course on interpersonal relationships, I might be able to make a recommendation for another position in the company, one more suited to your skills.” And it includes listening, “I’ve spoken for a while now. Can you tell me how you are feeling?” This type of confrontation takes time. It is a lot of hard work. And it is necessary to produce positive, constructive change in the long run.

This is, I think, the confrontation we experience from John the Baptist.

*Continued on Page 8*

# Releases from National and Synod Bishops' Offices

Following last summer's Eastern Synod Assembly, questions arose concerning the resolution passed to permit same-sex blessings in the Synod. This matter was referred to the National Church Council. After NCC's decision, a meeting was scheduled for the National Bishop's office to meet with Eastern Synod Council. The following two releases were issued after that meeting.

## A NEWS RELEASE

From National Office of the ELCIC

### **ELCIC'S EASTERN SYNOD TO REFRAIN FROM ACTING UPON MOTION PASSED AT THE 2006 EASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY REGARDING A LOCAL OPTION FOR SAME-SEX BLESSINGS**

Mississauga, 24 November 2006 – “It’s a good time to be in the Church,” noted one of the younger members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)’s Eastern Synod Council during a consultation with representatives from National Church Council (NCC) that took place on Saturday, November 18, 2006.

The positive nature of the comment was just one of many joyful and optimistic comments heard as ELCIC National Bishop Raymond L. Schultz and Vice-President, Dr. Roger Kingsley, attended the last day of the Eastern Synod Council’s fall meeting at the Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

In September of this year, NCC notified the Eastern Synod that its resolution regarding a local option for the blessing of same-sex couples, brought forward and passed at the 2006 Eastern Synod Assembly, was beyond the synod’s constitutional authority. At the same time, NCC also acknowledged that there were deep and significant differences of opinion concerning the issue of same-sex blessings within the church and invited a consultation with the Eastern Synod to determine how its concerns might be addressed.

During Saturday’s consultation, Bishop Schultz and Dr. Kingsley also received a formal response to the notification the Eastern Synod received in September. After careful consideration, which included time spent by Synod Council in Bible study specifically focused around three chapters of Acts (2, 10 & 16), council members had determined that, “the Eastern Synod had both the right and obligation to pass [the] motion [regarding a synod option for same-sex blessing]. We believe, however, that it would be prudent to refrain from acting upon it at this present time. As such, we receive the ruling of National Church Council with deep regret.”

Conversation during Saturday’s consultation focused on the significance to the ELCIC with regard to diversity. A recognition that diversity “is part of how we see ourselves In Mission for Others” was noted by council members at several points throughout the consultation. “We need to celebrate diversity in our church. Diversity transcends many different meanings, not just the one identified in this motion.” Several council members also urged, “Let’s listen to God on this.”

Throughout the consultation, the overall tone of council members was passionate; council members noted that they were not trying to appease NCC by agreeing to abide by the September decision. Nonetheless, Synod Council members were respectful of the process and agreed to “see what happens” – a reference to a statement from the NCC regarding its commitment to assisting with understanding and addressing the differences of opinion within the ELCIC concerning the blessing of same-sex couples.

The Eastern Synod Council meeting concluded with Bishop Schultz offering a blessing on the work of council.

Full text of the response from the Eastern Synod Council regarding NCC's September 2006 ruling can be viewed here - <http://www.elcic.ca/files/PostSCNov2006.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

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November 18, 2006

Dear Synod Family,

Grace and peace be unto you!

This past weekend, the ELCIC Eastern Synod Council reviewed the National Church Council's September 2006 ruling challenging the jurisdictional legitimacy of our synod's July 2006 resolution affirming a local option on the blessing of persons in committed same-gender relationships. Our discussion took place within the context of a retreat wherein the vast bulk of our agenda was spent seeking ways of implementing our synod's renewed vision for more faithfully striving to be A Church in Mission for Others.

After significant conversation, the Eastern Synod Council has determined that the Eastern Synod had both the right and obligation to pass this motion. We believe, however, that it would be prudent to refrain from acting upon it at this present time. As such, we receive the ruling of National Church Council with deep regret.

The Synod Council continues to believe that the congregational local option is an appropriate way to proceed given the wide polarity of opinions that are so evident within the life our church vis a vis this question. In our view, this approach provides a reasonable accommodation that allows for a diversity of practice, without compromising the church's ability to faithfully address broader ethical and theological questions concerning human sexuality. This, we believe, was the reality which prompted 72% of the delegates to our 2006 Synod Assembly to vote in favour of this motion in July 2006. This action cannot be interpreted as an unequivocal endorsement of the appropriateness of partnered same gendered relationships. It was, however, an overwhelming affirmation of our synod's desire to find a way to live together faithfully in the midst of diversity. We continue to believe that this decision was both wise and appropriate given present realities.

In conclusion, while it is not our desire to seek churchwide endorsement of practices which many in good conscience cannot support, it is our desire and intent to make adequate provision for a diversity of practice concerning an important issue where members of our church hold legitimate, but opposing views. We remain committed to honouring the ecclesiastical accountabilitys as outlined in our church's constitutional documents and will continue to faithfully address the challenging questions that lie before us by engaging the legitimate decision-making mechanisms of our church.

With all best wishes,

The Rev. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop

MJP:cd

## ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH DETAILS OF 2006 EXPENDITURES AND BUDGET SUBMISSIONS FOR 2007

	12 Month Oct-Sept 06	(unaudited 2006 Budget	(unaudited) 2007 Submitted
	Actual	Budget	Submitted
	\$	\$	\$
<b>General Expenditures</b>			
<b>Pastor</b>			
Salary	34,550	34,800	35,700
Housing allowance	21,432	21,590	22,100
Books/education	1,500	1,500	1,500
	<b>57,482</b>	<b>57,890</b>	<b>59,300</b>
Pension, retirement and group benefits	7,447	7,800	8,000
Health and dental premiums	4,410	4,900	5,000
Employer's portion of payroll taxes (CPP and EI)	3,463	2,932	3,000
Workers compensation premiums	379	390	400
	<b>73,181</b>	<b>73,912</b>	<b>75,700</b>
<b>Music and Worship</b>			
Organist	6,187	6,250	6,500
Bulletins	772	855	855
Communion supplies (wine and cups)	1,298	700	575
Pulpit supply	500	270	300
Other	457	745	720
	<b>9,214</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>8,940</b>
<b>Parish Administration</b>			
Travel expenses	3,077	3,700	3,700
Communications	2,077	2,400	2,250
Convention delegate	-	1,000	1,250
Web page	-	200	70
Advertising	107	100	110
Bank service fees	80	110	110
Council retreat	-	-	1,000
Other expenses	185	150	730
	<b>5,526</b>	<b>7,660</b>	<b>9,220</b>
<b>Property</b>			
Janitorial service	11,382	12,000	12,500
Utilities	9,460	9,300	9,400
Outdoor maintenance	8,387	6,000	8,800
Insurance	3,582	4,350	4,000
Supplies and indoor maintenance	3,892	4,000	4,000
Non-structural building repairs	3,986	3,000	4,000
Flower beds	-	200	200
	<b>40,689</b>	<b>38,850</b>	<b>42,900</b>
<b>Total General Expenditures</b>	<b>128,610</b>	<b>129,242</b>	<b>136,770</b>
<b>Current Fund Appropriations (net of revenues)</b>			
Sunday School and adult education	(264)	850	540
Evangelism Social Outreach (ESO)	362	800	550
Stewardship and finance	259	400	300
	<b>357</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>1,390</b>
<b>Total Current Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>128,967</b>	<b>131,292</b>	<b>138,160</b>

See next page for income budget

## ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH INCOME BUDGET

	Oct to Sept 2006	(unaudited) 2007
	Actual	Submitted
	\$	\$
<b>Contributions</b>		
<b>Envelopes</b>		
Regular Benevolence	10,751	11,000
Festival Services	2,880	3,000
Remaining envelopes	80,384	81,810
	<b>94,015</b>	<b>95,810</b>
Loose	2,789	2,800
	96,804	98,610
User fees	59,933	59,200
Income from other sources	-	-
	<b>156,737</b>	<b>157,810</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
General expenditures (Schedule 2)	(133,364)	(136,770)
Current Fund appropriations net of revenues (Schedule 2)	(885)	(1,390)
Sabbatical expense	(3,500)	-
	<b>(137,749)</b>	<b>(138,160)</b>
<b>Distributions</b>		
Regular and special benevolence	(12,000)	(12,500)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	6,988	7,150
<b>Interfund transfers</b>		
Interfund transfers from Current Fund		
Reserve Fund	(6,000)	(7,000)
40th Anniversary Fund	-	-
Youth Fund	(150)	(150)
	<b>(6,150)</b>	<b>(7,150)</b>
<b>Deficiency after Interfund Transfers</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>-</b>



## All About our House

I won't bore you with all of the mundane working of Our House only to inform you that all is going according to Hoyle.

One exciting piece of information, though, is that the windows have been installed in the kitchen, fellowship hall and Sunday School room. They are really first class, and I am sure we will all

appreciate it in the summer months because they will afford us some great ventilation. Needless to say we are also going to realize a bit of savings on the heat with the double panes.

Next bit of news deals with the worship space for January 28 and February 11. Each year the Rumanian Congregation hosts its Bishop in January and as well in October. That visit is scheduled Jan 28. Therefore we will have our worship service in Cedar Hall. Then February 11, the date of our

annual meeting, we will also worship in Cedar Hall. The plan is that coffee will be served right in the hall and thus enable us to secure a quorum, have an earlier start to the meeting and in turn an earlier adjournment. I think you would agree that this sounds like "a good plan". Please mark your calendars.

I hope everyone enjoyed a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Chat with you next time,

*Fran Brandes  
Property Chair*

## A Word from Pastor Mike

Continued from Page 3

First century Judea was not a peaceful place. Most people depended on access to land for their livelihood. To survive they need to raise, not just enough food until the next harvest, but under Roman occupation they were expected to make a surplus which was then extracted from them as a taxation. This made it especially difficult for Jewish families, like Jesus' family, who already were expected to pay a religious tax to support the work of the temple. This double taxation could consume as much as 60% of production. To the authorities, non-payment was seen as rebellion to which the Romans usually responded with military force. Soldiers were dispatched to individual houses where intimidation and physical violence helped the penniless tax payer remember where his allegiance needed to be placed (women did not own land at that time, of course). It was a common practice to bribe soldiers to "look the other way." But when one was no longer able to pay the bribe, one lost even their small plot of land. Homelessness was rampant and with homelessness began a cycle of disintegration – first a person might become a day labourer, but when that dried up, he might become a seasonal worker before resorting to banditry to feed himself and his children. The worst case scenario would be having to become a soldier in the Roman garrison or one of the people who goes after the taxes because they had occupations that fed off those who were already on the lowest rung of the ladder. Women were forced to rely on whatever family help there was or go into prostitution.

It was a relentless social, cultural and economic system. One that swept away the poorest of the poor and helped secure the powerful and wealthy. John saw that it needed to be confronted. Not in a way that added another layer of insincerity onto the treachery, but one that allowed love to make an inroad. He first tells the truth calling those who

stayed in their narrow social cliques a brood of vipers. Vipers, you may or may not know, protect their own. John got people's attention by stating the obvious: when you only look out after yourself or after the people in your circle, injustice grows. Then John outlines some constructive options for people. To the tax collectors he says, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed to you." Very straightforward – don't place your little finger on the scale, don't misrepresent the taxation amount, don't add suffering to suffering. And to the soldier he says, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusations. Be satisfied with your wages." To the rest of us he says, "Whoever has two coats, must share with anyone who has none and who has food must do likewise."

I know it's not easy to have our way of life confronted, but truth be told – sometimes, like the man I fired who told me it was the best thing that had happened to him, sometimes confrontation just has to be done. That's why Luke calls it good news.

In the late nineteen seventies after the OPEC oil crisis, different prototypes for an electric car were being developed by universities, car manufacturers and independent organizations. In the late eighties and early nineties there were a number of workable models – some purely electric, some hybrid electric and gas or electric and vegetable oil. GMC was one of the leaders in the production of new technology but in 2003, General Motors unexpectedly recalled and crushed its newly forming fleet of 1100 electric automobiles and stated that it had no further interest in pursuing this type of technology even though green house gases produced by the automobile have been linked to so many problems in the environment. A movie made on the subject is titled *Who Killed the Electric Car?* and was released by Sony Pictures Classics this year. The film

explores the role of automobile manufacturers, oil industry, the US government and we, the consumer, for our roles in limiting the deployment and adoption of this technology.

The movie, in many ways, is a direct confrontation of our economy, our lifestyles and our narrow political interests. Like all confrontation it is not easy to watch. But like creative confrontation it articulates the truth; it identifies emotions; it offers alternatives and it suggests a way forward. Luke might well say, "And in this way the good news was preached...".

Don't be afraid of confrontation in life. Know the difference between creative confrontation and boring old school yard bullying (especially when it's grown ups doing it) and then be big enough to hear a critique of yourself or to offer a critique of another. Do it in love. Do it knowing that by engaging in constructive confrontation you cannot remain holier-than-thou, but you will necessarily change, as well as the person you are confronting. And know that not only John set an example, but Jesus, too, when he tossed the tables of the moneychanger in the temple.

Sometimes being Christian means you love enough to be more than nice. ♦

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## Seniors

For this month (January) only, the seniors will meet on Tuesdays, January 9 and 23. Come and join us. We would like to see more of you seniors. We play games of several kinds. Then there is always the most important part – refreshments. Come and join with us in the fun on Tuesday, January 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Joan Fox

# Mission Report

Rev. Brian Rude, our missionary in El Salvador, works among prison inmates and with HIV/AIDS patients.

## Mother's Day Celebration

He writes, "The mutual support group of persons living with HIV/AIDS, meeting at Rosales Public Hospital, demonstrated their spirit of solidarity by celebrating Mother's Day in grand and festive style – including lots of internal talent, plus an invited voluntary band of "mariachi" musicians, which continued its animated performance right to the AIDS ward after the party.

"All this sunshine was clouded and dampened significantly by the tears of the woman sitting beside me at the party. Those tears signaled something other than joy and celebration. It took little prodding for the story to come flooding out. This 34-year old mother's 19-year old daughter had run off with her stepfather a couple weeks earlier. Not only had this woman lost her husband; not only had she lost her daughter – she had to deal also with the tragic possibility that the first could infect the second with HIV.

"A couple of neighbourhood non-gang groups with which Quetzalcoatl is working (part of my extended 'adoptive' family) showed the spirit of the hospital support group in organizing a

**An earth tremor of 5.8 on the Richter scale** festive event for 60 of their mothers and grandmothers, arranging with school authorities to loan them some outdoor space. The event was so lively that the candy-scramble provoked an earth tremor of 5.8 on the Richter scale. Not only did we survive – some were so intent on the candy grab that they didn't even notice the earth shaking their feet.

"Both of the gangs celebrated Mother's Day in high style, too; each in their own 'family' prison. I was able to attend one of these celebrations, which

included a diverse program of talent (clowns, poetry, original songs), an extended gift-raffle, an elegant lunch (considering the surroundings) for us as invited guests, and an afternoon dance (or should I call it a "sauna-in-motion").

"The other prison gang event was, amazingly, written up most favourably in one of the national daily newspapers. It is almost unthinkable for one of these gangs to get positive press. Unfortunately Quetzalcoatl was barred from entering the prison the following Tuesday, so I couldn't even congratulate them on the positive publicity they had earned. We're not sure why nor for how long.

## Parents Bury Five Children

"Just prior to the March elections, I had dinner in the home of Pablo Alvarenga, whom I heard tell once again the story of how he and his wife have buried five of their children. Four of them they lost in the armed conflict of the 1980s, in which these parents were also revolutionary and dedicated participants, and the last to suicide in 1992. It would be overwhelming and most inspiring, listening in on a 'support group' meeting of such long-suffering parents, sharing their stories of struggle, the challenges they've had to face and overcome, their faith journey. For one who is not a parent at all (other than 'adoptive'), I cannot begin to fathom the depth of such tragedy and loss, nor the measure of grace which God must grant to be able to emerge and soar above such depths."

Joan Fox

Mission Representative



## Stewardship Matters

### Year-End

Year-end is often a dreaded term in many areas. It means reports to prepare, figures to balance, and making plans for the new year.

It is no different in the church. Council members are preparing their reports for the Annual Report; the Treasurer is finalizing the financial statements and preparing them to be audited; and a report is being created for you to read.

For me it has sometimes been difficult to decide which hat I am wearing when I report to you since Stewardship is part of everything I do. Is it Council Chair, Stewardship Chair, or *Parish Visitor* editor? If it has been confusing to you at times, it has been just as confusing to me. After the annual meeting I will wear only one hat, and other people will take over the roles of Council Chair and Stewardship Chair.

One thing I have realized over the years, is that the more people we have involved, the easier the work becomes. I encourage more of you to get involved in Council and committee-related functions. It is a great way to learn about our church and its various activities.

Stewardship involves everyone and I thank all of you for your work in our congregation this past year.

Judy Baribeau

Chair, Stewardship/Finance

## Evangelical Lutheran Women

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year. Just a reminder that all women of the congregation are members of ELW. We would like to see some more women come out and join us at our meetings.

The first meeting of 2007 is on Wednesday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program is about Jerusalem presented by Carol Peck and Olga Cosburn. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Joan Fox

# People and Events Summary

## Worship Services and Meetings

Worship services and Sunday School are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Our worship services on January 29 and February 11 will be held in Cedar Hall

**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 Tuesday January 9 and 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**ELW** meets Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at the church (see Page 9).

**Congregational Council** will meet Monday, January 22, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

### We Remember

■ Laretta Schneider who is in hospital recovering from a fall in her home.

### Thank you

■ To Fred Roth, John Krause and Claus Brandes for getting and setting up the Christmas tree and to Walter Rothenburger for decorating the Christmas tree and for other Advent and Christmas decorations around the church.

■ To those who participated in the Christmas Service for Those Who Mourn held at Advent on December 12.

### 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)



### January 2007 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.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister	Reader	Ushers	Counters	Coffee Hosts
January 7 Brit Missirlian	Arie Fox	Robert Wraith	Olga Cosburn	Peter Buckley & Joseph Kowabata	Walter Rothenburger & Judy Baribeau	Erna & John Krause
January 14 Brit Missirlian	Joan McLean	Jim Doak	Mercy De Silva	Hildegard & Heinz Weltner	Brit Missirlian & Gladys Ammattil	Judy & Gerard Baribeau
January 21 Brit Missirlian	Adele Buckley	Gabi Schickedanz	Indira Beekie	Alfred Schurr	Judy Baribeau & Fran Brandes	Evelyn Fromme, Robin Sheppard & families
January 28 Brit Missirlian	Hilton Beharry	Lester McLean	Krish De Silva		Kristin Doak	Isha, Nalini & Indira Beekie