



# Advent Journey

Advent Lutheran Church — July/August 2007

## A Time to Grow

Beloved One,  
your heart  
is wider than the universe,  
and your abundance  
unites heaven and earth  
in a sacred wedding  
of joy, laughter, mirth and celebration.

May I come to your party  
with appropriate dress:  
a heart filled with happiness,  
lips quick to offer praise,  
a spirit willing to sacrifice  
for the sake of others,  
and a mind at peace.

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# Reflections on the Convention

*The Reverend Dr. Alan Lai is the pastor of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in North Vancouver, BC. His thoughtful comments appeared on Grace Words, an email discussion group for Lutherans in British Columbia. They are reprinted here with permission.*

The convention is over, the result is in. But for the health of the church, this must be said: The beginning of mission is not the constitution, nor doctrines of faith. The beginning of mission is the Gospel.

Constitution and doctrines are the the church's understanding of the Gospel reflected in a particular time and in writings. That is why from time to time we revise the constitution and doctrines, there are numerous examples of this. People who quote constitution, tradition and doctrines as proof texts against voices of transformation are mis-using history and nullifying the unprecedented Reformation movement hitherto, ordination of women and so on where the church departed from tradition. Those movements all resulted in revising the constitution and doctrines. Such mis-use of constitution was the kind of argument the Roman Catholic church in the 16th century used to argue against Martin Luther: Luther made the vow to be a celibate monk in the Order of Augustinian, but Luther broke the vow of celibacy and decide to have sex! In doing so Luther failed to honour the constitution of the church. The translation of the Bible from Latin to German was a sinful act according to the tradition; the same was applied to giving parishioners both host and wine during communion. If tradition and doctrine are used as reasons to mute voices of change, we are speaking against life changing movements such as the Reformation, emancipation of slaves, and women ordination. Because quoting the constitution and existing doctrines of a particular time as reasons for maintaining the status quo is to say the finite understandings of a bygone era is the eternal standard. This understanding is against history and against theology, because none had seen the Reformation before the 16th century, emancipation of slaves in the 18th century, and women ordination before the late 20th century. Most life-changing movements have not been seen before their times.

Constitution, tradition and doctrines provide the church clues to make decision, they do not dictate what we do. The Gospel is Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead and through his sacrificial love as seen at the foot for the cross, the broken relationship between God and the whole of creation is reconciled. Through professing faith in Jesus, God promises all to be children of God. All others are commentary. The Gospel doesn't change, but the context where the Gospel is to be proclaimed changes constantly. That is why the church needs to discern what the Gospel is challenging us to do. To be faithful Christians sometimes means disagreeing tradition: a 16th century Martin Luther couldn't understand why we ordain women. A 21st century Martin Luther can. It is the love of the Gospel, not constitution and doctrines that sets the stage for our life together. The Gospel sets us free, constitution and doctrines cannot.



# Report on National Convention 2007

The Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from June 21–24, 2007. The convention started off at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 21st with a joint meeting with the Anglican Church of Canada with a day of conversation, prayer, study and fun in celebration of six years of full-communion partnership. In our time together we celebrated a First Nations smudge ceremony and heard Dr. Sallie McFague of the Vancouver School of Theology, who addressed what she called, *the central issue facing human beings today*, which is our relationship to the environment. The mission of Christians, the mission of the church, is to see that there is a world to pass on to the next generation. In relationship to this issue, all other worries, anxieties and apparent troubles are secondary. God the Redeemer, is first and foremost the Creator who invites us into a loving and balanced relationship with that creation.

The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are full members of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. Together with almost a quarter of a million Canadians and over 160 municipalities, we have agreed to the following declaration and commit ourselves to upholding its principles:

- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life.
- Access to clean water is a basic human right.
- The value of the earth's fresh water to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.
- Fresh water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility.

Further, we passed the following motion:

- That we commit ourselves as a church to answer the call to respect the integrity of God's creation through an environmental stewardship initiative engaging our national, synodical, congregational and individual expressions.

There were a number of constitutional amendments brought forward last night (mostly grammatical issues) but the second reading of a motion giving the youth delegation vote was passed with an overwhelming majority. The youth of our church, who have only had voice in the past, now have a vote on all matters before the assembly. The youth I met are articulate, intelligent and involved. They are a gift to us.

We have had the election of a new National Bishop: the Rev. Susan Johnson, currently Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Synod. Bishop-Elect Johnson won on the fifth ballot. She will be ordained to the office of National Bishop on September 29 in Winnipeg.

The national ELW introduced a stewardship educational resource called, *What's Enough?* which looks intelligently, and at times humorously at the issue of our relationship to our wealth. I hope to have a copy of these resources available in the parish soon.

The Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering *Travelling Light* will be an absolutely spectacular event. 2000 youth from all over Canada will be traveling to Whitehorse in 2008. Let's do all we can to get as many of the young people in our parish to this event. I think it will be life changing. Check out [www.youth.elcic.ca](http://www.youth.elcic.ca) for more information.

We also feted retiring Bishop Raymond Schultz. So many people spoke about Raymond's vision for the church and the gifts he brought with him that invited, cajoled, dared the church to continue its

*(Continued on page 4)*

work of interacting with the world. The church cannot and must not live in isolation. We elected and re-elected a strong and vibrant National Church Council with a vision for the ELCIC that looks out beyond its own walls to be a servant church in mission for others, for the environment, for the world.

Some of the motions we passed today include:

- That the ELCIC through its National Bishop, and /or National Church Council, write to encourage the Government of Canada to develop and pass binding legislation to hold Canadian corporations accountable to Canadian laws, standards and values for their business conduct in foreign lands.
- That the National Church Council explore increased funding to existing Lutheran Campus Ministries across Canada, and begin the process of seeking new opportunities for emerging campus missions across the nation; including potential partnerships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Women and other allied faith-based corporations.

A note of sadness for me personally because the discussion around the issue was an example of the way fear can triumph over hope was the defeat of the National Church Council's motion on Mission:

- That this convention affirms that the diversity within Canada's culture requires responses to a variety of persons in order for this church to be *In Mission for Others*. We also affirm that the synods have the mandate to devise mission strategies appropriate to their regional settings. Accordingly, we encourage synods to develop ways to best minister to people who live in committed same-sex relationships, including the possibility of blessing such unions.

Part of the sadness comes because, on the first day of convention, Thursday, we adopted, nearly unanimously, for another ten year period the document *Evangelical Declaration*. Part of that documents says:

*We understand that the present reality of the world involves significant changes in our society, economy and culture. Technological innovations, globalization, economic and political uncertainties, and shifting morals and values have increased the sense of insecurity for many people. We further understand that the needs of the world and our opportunities for mission are found on our doorsteps and not simply at a distance.*

*We believe that the reality of Christ is that God promises to be with us unconditionally in the midst of the changes in our world. The church is called to name those things that cause us to be less than human. The church is called to proclaim the truth of the gospel to others and to live according to it as a community. The church is called to stand in solidarity with and to welcome into its midst, all those who are marginalized because of sin and who experience injustice. The cross of Christ stands opposed to any ideology that treats people as commodities or proclaims that people can earn salvation by hard work or positive thinking.*

There is much good happening in our church. And there is much opportunity in front of us. For me, the main question is: what does it mean to be a reforming church? Can we be a community that is more passionate about people than rules? Are we able to trust in God and take risks in the spirit of Luther who said, "sin boldly, and trust more boldly still that grace will abound." There is much good that is happening in our church. I think the next two years will be a time of growth and challenge. In 2009 we meet again in convention in Vancouver.

Michael

# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS to you...

Congregational Council meetings have taken a hiatus until September 10, 2007 but that doesn't mean that we have stopped listening for the summer. Take your concerns, ideas and thoughts to any of the members.

The coming summer and fall will bring new and exciting events for the Advent family like the Church Picnic at John and Erna Krause's on July 22nd, the 'Welcome Back Bar-B-Q' on September 9th at Advent and on September 16th a Congregational meeting regarding the worship space.

In the meantime, enjoy the gardens at Advent as we enter the Church and the Community Gardens as we stroll outside in fellowship. Enjoy the fellowship inside the Church as we join in Church Services and Coffee Time afterwards. Don't forget to say hello to the many people who use our Church at various times throughout the week if you are there and to those using the Church at the same time as the Advent family. Let's continue to build our community.

Have a safe and healthy summer,  
Carol Peck, Council Chairperson.



**Congregational Council** needs someone to fill the role of **Council Secretary** from September to February.

Job requirements:

- have hopes and dreams for our parish that you wish to share
- have a good ability to communicate
- attend approximately 1 meeting per month
- take notes during meetings
- use notes to fill in the Minutes Template
- email the minutes to council members.

If you are willing to contribute to Advent by filling this position, please speak to a member of church council.

## IN DESPERATE NEED

Have a look at the table on page 15. You'll see a lot of blank spaces. Some are just because I haven't received a list in time for publication, however, many of the spaces are blank because our volunteer coordinators have not been able to convince you to step forward and lend a hand.

Please consider saying **YES** the next time you are asked.

**HEAR!**

## CALLING ALL COFFEE HOSTS

Lately, we have been suffering a shortage of coffee hosts. Although Fran has narrowly averted a summer disaster, there will be many opportunities in the for you to help your community enjoy some social time after service.

You don't have to do it all by yourself. Grab a friend or two or three and ask one of the past coffee hosts or Fran for instruction on operating the coffee urn. A lavish banquet isn't necessary... bake a few goodies if you like, bring fruit and veggies... the options are almost endless.

Without your contributions, we'll be socializing over water and, unless Pastor can turn the water into wine, it will be a slim feast indeed. Please let Fran know if you can help.

# ELW Biennial Convention, 2007

During the weekend of May 25-27, 2007 I had the privilege of representing Advent as a delegate to the 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Eastern Synodical ELW held at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo.

What a weekend! Greeting old acquaintances and making new ones. Delegates and visitors came from the Atlantic, Georgian Bay, Hamilton-Niagara, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Northern, Ottawa-St. Lawrence and Toronto conferences. There were 62 delegates and with visitors coming and going the attendance ranged from 116 to 180.

The theme was "Walking by faith as reflections of Christ". Bible study was centred on 2 Corinthians 3:18, led by Pastor Elizabeth Kuglin-Alyea, St Mark's, Kitchener who also served as Chaplain for the Convention. Debbie Lou Ludolph led us in song throughout the Convention with music coming from the new cranberry Worship Book. She made it come alive with energy. Brit and I felt that we were the only ones who had not used the new Worship book in our congregation as we talked with other participants at the convention.

Pastor Susan Johnson, Bishop's Commissary (now National Bishop-elect) brought greetings from Synod Office, led us in song along with Debbie Lou and brought her own brand of energy and humour to the convention. National Bishop Raymond Shultz was a guest at the Saturday night banquet and had a few words of wisdom to pass along.

Business progressed smoothly - Eleanor McLeod was re-elected as President, Janet Bennewies re-elected as Vice-President, Jan Scheidt elected as Secretary and Maxine Hobden elected as Treasurer. One resolution was brought before the convention and passed – "Whereas the Eastern Synodical Board has been introduced to the topic of Sexual Exploitation through the ELW 2006 Praise Offering Service, and believe the topic merits further exploration, the Eastern Synodical Board recommends that the National ELW develop program(s) on this subject and investigate resources that are already available and pass that information on to all levels of ELW".

There were a lot of new ideas for programs so come out to our Advent ELW meetings, get involved and bring some of your ideas/suggestions along.

Upcoming Conventions:

2008 Quadrennial will be in Calgary  
2009 Biennial May 22-24 in Sudbury

Carol Peck



## Michael's Meanderings...

Last month congregational council introduced a vision for worship renewal that seeks to enhance congregational singing and encourage increased community participation. Discussion has started at coffee hour and among the members of various committees and I'm happy to say that this discussion has been gracious and constructive even when different viewpoints are being expressed.

While most feedback to council to date has been positive, I think it's important to acknowledge that change in the church, particularly change in the worship life of the church, is never without a certain amount of effort. One of the reasons for this is what I call the 'displacement' factor. When we change our worship patterns, we naturally feel somewhat displaced: a reorientation happens which can leave us feeling, at least initially, as if our familiar ways of gathering, singing, communing and praying are no longer there to support and comfort us. I think it's important to recognize this sense of displacement without trying to gloss over it or diminish its impact. To be sure there was tremendous unease at the time of Luther when the reformers introduced the common cup to the people, and when they led the liturgy in colloquial German, not academic Latin. While the proposed changes we are looking at are not near so dramatic, in many ways, they have a similar goal: to deepen the experience of authentic community in worship and to help all who gather to experience God in tangible and more direct ways. Change is essential to growth. It also allows for new expressions of faith to come to life. These are good and holy things, in the long run, even if we have a bit of discomfort in the process.



Peace be with you,  
Michael

*“Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.”*

*- Mark Twain*

# Mutual Ministry

At the May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mutual Ministry committee, we began a discussion of Synod resources to assist us in making this committee more relevant to and active in our congregation. We know that this committee can be active rather than passive and need not be only reactive to situations. We were all struck by the constant repetition of the meaning of "mutual" as representing two-way communication, striving for understanding of the "ministry of the professional leader" and "the mission of the congregation". The basis for this mutual understanding is communication in two directions.

The committee eagerly accepted the definition of this committee as "a small group of persons that can act out of mutual love and concern for one another through listening, advising, evaluation, recommending, affirming and forgiving." These words all indicate ACTIONS, not simply reactions to situations.

Further discussion included the theological foundations for Mutual Ministry: being baptized into one body and therefore not separate from each other; each congregation member having different gifts and being part of the priesthood of all believers; the belief that ministry belongs to all believers working together to accomplish and support the stated mission of the congregation and the ministry of the professional and lay leaders.

We began discussion of possible specific tasks of a Mutual Ministry Committee: Selection; Education; Evaluation; and Support. These will be investigated further as we continue to study the resources we have at hand.

According to these resources, "the Committee's primary function is to keep the Pastor ... advised about the conditions within the congregation, and to interpret to the congregation, the ministry of the ... leaders".

Other details such as membership accountability and resources were also discussed. This committee is directly accountable to the Congregational Council, and as such reports directly and regularly to Council. The necessity for strict confidentiality of all personal information shared during the work of the Mutual Ministry Committee is emphasized and agreed upon by the members. This Committee anticipates developing these concepts into action on behalf of our professional and lay leaders and the congregation, to the benefit of all in fulfilling our mandate to "Love one another."

Respectfully submitted by,  
Elizabeth Lancia

Your Mutual Ministry Committee:  
Pastor Mike Mills  
Jim Doak                      Congregation Representative  
Elizabeth Lancia          Pastor's Representative  
Carol Peck                    Council Representative



# *I Think I'm Finally Praying...*

## *How Did I Get Here, Again?*

*John 14:23-29*

*Easter 6, C - May 13, 2007*

*Michael Mills, Pastor - Advent Lutheran Church*

One of the more common questions I am asked is, "Pastor, how do I pray?" I am never surprised by the question, because it is one, I myself, have asked for much of my life and one that I have struggled with, and fought with, and finally, in this last year, think I have made peace with. The insight I offer today comes from my sabbatical - a half year of focused exploration on prayer and meditation and my own journey with God.

First, let me say that prayer is not something you do. It is something that happens to you. This is perhaps the biggest stumbling block. Certainly it was for me. I thought that if I found the right words, if I assumed the right posture, if I got myself in the right state of mind, then I would find prayer easy. Wrong. The more I tried to pray earnestly, the more my mind would jump about as if it were intentionally trying to sabotage me.

The Buddhists call this 'Monkey Mind' like a monkey swinging from one branch to another to a new branch and back again. It can be most disconcerting to the earnest prayer, but if you make peace with your monkey mind it can be a great teacher.

Let's look at making peace with the experience of encountering unwanted thoughts, emotions, ideas, tasks, worries and doubts while you are trying to pray. First thing to do is to give yourself permission to have monkey mind. Everyone does. You are not unique. Do not judge yourself. Do not scold yourself. Do not try to avoid what is happening. It will only make things worse. The monkeys will dance even more boldly. But when you acknowledge your busy mind and give yourself permission to be distracted, you'll find that the urgency of monkey mind quiets a little bit. When you quit struggling with it, your busy mind relaxes.

But just for a minute. It's going to act up again real soon, so be prepared. Right now though, you need to just breathe. Breathing is essential to prayer. You cannot pray without. First thing you need to do after acknowledging your monkey mind is to take three or four or twelve, whatever you need, deep, long breaths. Fill your diaphragm and then your lungs - straighten your back and breathe in deeply and slowly through your nose. Feel your body. Enjoy the sensation of being alive. If you want to do an advanced technique (I learned this from the Vedic tradition) focus on the air

entering your nostrils. This is a very subtle sensation, but notice that the air is slightly cooler than the rest of your body. It is fresh and delicious and full of oxygen. Breathe deeply and enjoy the breathing in process. And then exhale. Slowly let the air from which your body has removed the oxygen exhale out your nostrils. Again, if you want the advanced course - focus on the temperature of the air as it leaves you. It is slightly warmer. Just slightly, than the air coming in. Breathe deeply five or six times or twenty-nine times. And let the worries of the day leave you. Open your ears to the sounds around you. It might be birds. It might be the low rumble of traffic outside the window. It might be your neighbours murmuring in the apartment below you. There is no such thing as silence - there is always some sound. Pay attention to it without judging it. Don't get mad at the dog barking, don't get anxious if your neighbours are throwing plates - let each sound gently push you more deeply inward - down into that rich, wonderful world of the soul.

If you get this far you'll notice two things. First, that the anxiety of the world is melting away with each breath. This is the essential first step in prayer. It is the process of returning to your true self - the self that is in communication with God all the time. Luxuriate in this feeling - it is nothing you've earned or acquired or will ever lose - it is pure gift. And a wonderful one at that. The second thing you'll notice, if you haven't noticed it already is the leap, jump, swing and pivot of monkey mind - back with a vengeance. You'll suddenly remember that you need to buy butter. And that you meant to phone Sarah and tell her that you liked the green blouse better than the blue one and that she should buy that one because it goes better with her complexion and that the car needs to have a new battery pretty soon or else you're going to find yourself in the parking lot soon with no power and, by the way, did I purchase the jumper cables I had intended to or did the kids say they were going to get me some for Christmas and was that this year or was that last year, and what am I going to get Dad for Christmas anyway, he's so hard to buy for...blah, blah, blah, blah, blah!"

And right there, catch yourself! "Aha," say, "that's monkey mind, I know what that is." And let yourself return to your breathing. Feel your rib cage rise and

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fall. Breathe in deeply and calmly. Focus on the temperature of the air as it enters and as it leaves your nostrils. Then return to the sounds. You've forgotten them with the onset of monkey mind. They receded into the distance. Listen for them again. Listen for the distant rumble of cars. Listen for the robin. The starling. The finch. They're different from each other. Listen to the hushed voices from the apartment beneath you. Don't judge them. Don't evaluate them. Just be present to them. And in being present to the world, you will find a most remarkable thing happening – you are, without effort, suddenly coming into the presence of God. A deep, rich, sweetness is there, underneath all the layers of busyness and hurry and thought and anxiety – way down deep. Jesus in today's gospel says, "My father and I will come to you and make our home with you....." And that is the experience of prayer. You don't come to God, God comes to you in the quiet and simplicity of stillness. In a still mind, Christ makes his home with you.

Isn't that beautiful? And it's so simple. By recognizing monkey mind without judgment, by focusing on your breath, by attending to the sounds around you without judgment – you begin to descend deep into your true self – which was there all the time, by the way, just waiting for you to come home. That's the beginning of prayer.

Notice we haven't started talking to God yet, we haven't said one thing, haven't made one request, haven't formed one petition. Those busy, busy things all belong to monkey mind. All we have done is focused on our breath and attended to the sound of the world around us and let it nudge us deeper into ourselves. A child could do it. In fact, children do this all quite naturally up until about the age of five. They breathe all by themselves. They let their senses tell them about the world, not their minds. They live in the presence of God without judgment or expectation or regret. Do this little breathing, quieting technique for a handful of minutes a day – say five minutes – and you will be richer and stiller and more at peace than you have been in a while. Prayer should have that effect on you. It should refresh you and restore your soul. It should bring you into Jesus' presence – the same Jesus who said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

Practice this. For five minutes a day. That's all. And next week I'll talk about that next part of prayer which is playing in God's presence. Prayer is, after all, nothing but a form of heavenly play, holy fooling around, a divine waste of time. Your homework, now, is simply to go and have FUN breathing, listening and being. See you next week.

*"Nature will bear  
the closest inspection.*

*She invites us  
to lay our eye level  
with her smallest leaf,  
and take an insect  
view of its plain."*



*- Henry David Thoreau*

# Evangelical Lutheran Women

Greetings to the Women of Advent Congregation

I trust that you all have had an enjoyable summer at your various pursuits so far. The time has come to put some thought into our ELW activities. If we are going to put a copy of our schedule in to the hands of each woman of the congregation, we need to discuss the year's activities 2007-2008.

Hopefully you have given some thought to what we may do, to make a bigger, better ELW. This is why I am writing to you now, so that you can bring some concrete ideas to our meeting Wednesday, September 11. At our first meeting in the fall we generally decide who is doing what of the following for each month: Programmes – person to be entirely responsible for whatever the topic happens to be (even if you get some assistance); Opening Devotions – this could be combined with the programme; Hostess – Coffee, et cetera; Kitchen Duty – a month long commitment.

If we don't make up a schedule for the whole year, we at least need to decide on our programme for October. The following is a list of things we discussed at our May meeting that we may wish to pursue:

- Videos (women's issues)
- Film night (with popcorn but not at the cinema)
- Speakers (programme open to the congregation)
- To make up kits (shoe boxes, ditty bags for distribution to local charities or through the church's CLWR)
- Simple bible studies
- Games night
- Book review (get an easy to read, not very big book, all would read it and then have a discussion)
- Bring a keepsake, something that is very special to you, and tell its story or just a story of your family history
- Tips passed down from Grandma
- Invite St John's Ambulance to teach us CPR.

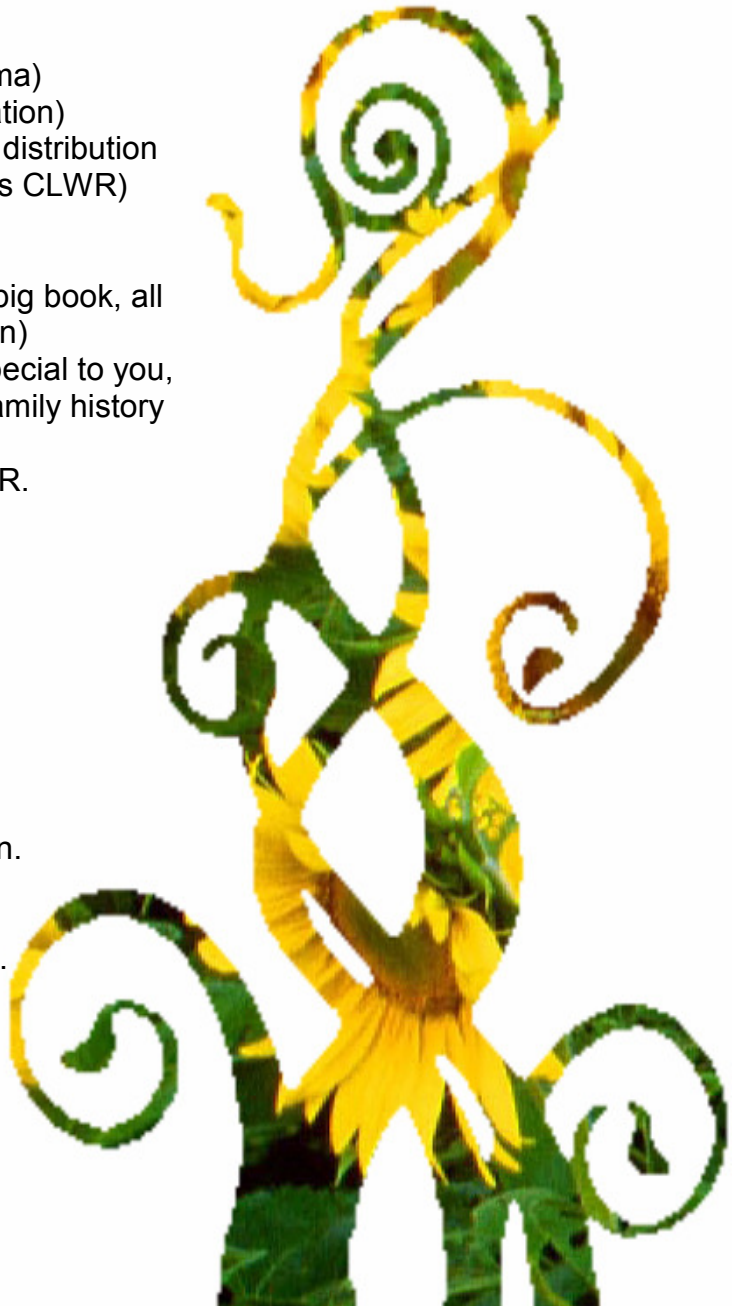
Some other suggestions were to:

- Take a tour of Toronto churches
- Visit a synagogue
- Go to lunch and then enjoy a walk (perhaps Edwards Gardens).

You are all invited to a potluck supper at our first meeting in September. Watch for more information.

Hope this gives you plenty to think about and you will return in September refreshed and ready to go.

Your sister in Christ,  
Joan



# Finance & Stewardship

## ADVENT'S FINANCIAL POSITION as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

### Our Revenues

Summarized as follows is Advent's giving to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, as compared to the period to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

#### ADVENT'S GIVING TO 30/6/07

Commitments	Received to 30/6/2007	Rec 1-1-06 to 30/6/2006	Difference
Current, Festival & Loose	\$38,766.00	\$39,735.93	-\$969.93
Mortgage	\$2,297.00	\$3,085.84	-\$788.84
Sunday School	\$13.05	\$104.00	-\$90.95
Sub-total	\$41,076.05	\$42,925.77	-\$1,849.72
Facilities	\$31,442.02	\$25,408.45	\$6,033.57
Regular Benevolence	\$4,804.50	\$5,876.83	-\$1,072.33
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$77,322.57</b>	<b>\$74,211.05</b>	<b>\$3,111.52</b>
Other Giving			
Global Hunger	\$2,287.50	\$2,436.33	-\$148.83
40th Anniversary	\$3,532.42	\$2,584.65	\$947.77

Current, Festival and Loose collections tell us how much we are donating to support our everyday operations (i.e. pay our bills). Prior to Easter, our 2007 giving was below 2006 levels. However, Easter giving was substantial this year, and allowed us to make up the difference. The results since Easter have been disappointing, and **we're back in the red again!** Current, Festival and Loose giving is down about \$1,000 or 2.5 %, and mortgage by almost \$800 or 2.6 %.

The most significant decline has been in Regular Benevolence, which has declined by 18 %. It is worth repeating from the last Advent's Financial Position of 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2007; **Do not lose site of the fact that we are committed in our 2007 Budget to a Regular Benevolence commitment of \$12,500 for the year. Any shortfall in Benevolence giving to the \$12,500 commitment will be topped up through our general revenues.**

As usual, our 2007 Facilities income, which is up for the year by 24 % over 2006, and has kept us afloat. (Note that this is subject to fluctuation as rent cheques are received.) It is worth repeating; **Advent's reliance on Facilities income should be declining, not escalating.**

Under Other Giving, Global Hunger has declined 6 %, and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is well ahead of last year by some 37 %.

To put it in a nut shell, Advent must address the following:

- Our Current, Festival and Loose giving has again fallen behind last year
- Our Regular Benevolence giving has declined significantly between 2006 and 2007

### Our Expenditures

To 30<sup>th</sup> of June, our overall expenditures were about \$3,272 or 4.8 % higher in 2007 than in 2006. A large part of this increase is attributable to Outdoor Maintenance, with a jump of \$1,694 this year. Snow shoveling and grass cutting is becoming a major cost generator for us.

Other expenditures have remained fairly consistent from this year to last.

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### Our Bottom Line

At the Annual Meeting in February, we approved a 2007 Budget of \$138,160, as compared to \$131,292 in 2006. This is an increase of 5.2 %. **With declining Current, Festival and Loose, and Benevolence revenues from the Congregation, we could be heading for a significant shortfall by the end of the year.**

Again, our reliance on Facilities revenue is not the sign of a fiscally self-sufficient Advent Lutheran Church. I would encourage everyone to look at their individual giving, with a view to bringing Current, Festival and Loose, and Regular Benevolence contributions in 2007 in line with those of 2006.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary contributions and disbursements to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 are summarized on the following table:

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Category	2007 to 30-6-07	2006	2005	2004	TOTAL TO 30-6-07
Nuc-Tuc	\$507	\$1,931	\$1,817	\$242	\$4,497
Refugee	\$0	\$0	\$230	\$0	\$230
Non-specific:					
Nuc-Tuc - 75%	\$2,268	\$3,991	\$4,375	\$11,229	\$21,863
Refugee - 25%	\$756	\$1,330	\$1,458	\$3,742	\$7,286
Total Non-specific -	\$3,024	\$5,321	\$5,833	\$14,971	\$29,149
Total Nuc-Tuc	\$2,775	\$5,922	\$6,192	\$11,471	\$26,360
Total Refugee	\$756	\$1,330	\$1,688	\$3,742	\$7,516
TOTAL 40TH ANN.	\$3,531	\$7,252	\$7,880	\$15,213	\$33,876
Total NUC-TUCT:	\$26,360				
Less Amount Paid Out:	\$15,000				
Balance to be Paid:	\$11,360				



**Note: All amounts are based on direct donations only, ignoring budgeted**

Collections to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 total \$33,876. We are \$3,640 from our Nuc Tuct goal of \$30,000 and \$2,484 from our Refugee Sponsorship goal of \$10,000. We have until the end of February, 2008 to meet our commitments.

\$15,000 has been disbursed to Nuc Tuct to the end of June, 2007. An additional \$10,000 will be disbursed in early July, 2007, leaving our remaining Nuc Tuct commitment at \$5,000.

Fred Roth,  
Treasurer



## Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Council has committed to front-ending \$2,000 toward the cost of the new cranberry coloured book of worship. It is the hope of Council that enough funds will be donated from members for the new worship books, to offset, and exceed, the \$2,000 commitment.

Cost of the books is \$30, including shipping and handling.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> June, \$526 had been donated toward the new books.

# Sunday School and Youth...

## SCS Summer Break

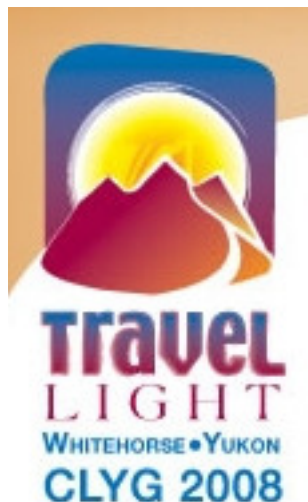
Sunday School has ended for the year and will start up again at **September 23, 2007**. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in the fall for another fun filled learning experience.

In June, I had the opportunity to attend a Sunday School Teachers Conference held at Good Sheppard Lutheran Church and enjoyed meeting the various Sunday School Coordinators and teachers from other churches.

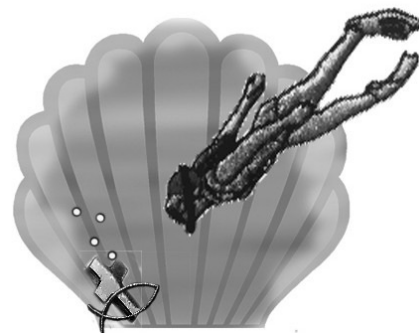
We enjoyed listening to the Youth Group from Good Sheppard perform the opening service and it was wonderful to their singing and their leadership of worship.

The materials presented and the feedback from various Sunday Schools, as well as from some of the Youth Group was helpful in providing a wonderful learning opportunity for all to share and I anticipate sharing this with our students in the fall.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September,  
Erika



**Travel Light**, the Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering in 2008 will be an absolutely spectacular event. 2000 youth from all over Canada will be traveling to Whitehorse... let's do all we can to get as many of the young people in our parish to this event. I think it will be life changing. Check out [www.youth.elcic.ca/travelLight/](http://www.youth.elcic.ca/travelLight/)



## GO DEEP: 2007

Eastern Synod  
Youth Gathering  
August 10-12  
University of Ottawa  
(downtown Ottawa)

[www.easternsynod.org/events.php](http://www.easternsynod.org/events.php)

## SYNOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Are you ready to go to University and looking at funding possibilities?

Did you know that ELCIC Eastern Synod has a scholarship fund? Well, it does!

If you fit this description, talk to Pastor Mike and he can help you make the connection to the Synod.



# The Path Ahead...

	ALTAR CARE	GREETER	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	COFFEE HOSTS
July 8	Brit Missirlian		Ingrid Schurr	Fran & Claus Brandes		Rosemarie Gardow & Elsie Wraith
July 15	Carol Peck		Brit Missirlian			Claus & Fran Brandes
July 22	Fran Brandes		Indira Beekie			Joan and George McLean
July 29	Carol Peck		Ingrid Schurr			The Kanhai Family
August 5	Fran Brandes		Joan Fox			John and Erna Krause
August 12	Carol Peck		Carol Peck			Nalini and Indira Beekie
August 19	Fran Brandes		Erna Krause	Olga Cosburn		Shirley, Hilton, Martha Behary & Mary Hassan
August 26	Carol Peck		Krish De Silva			The Roth Family



## Your Congregation Council:

Carol Peck	carol@adventlutheranchurch.ca
Brit Missirlian	brit@adventlutheranchurch.ca
Fred Roth	fred@adventlutheranchurch.ca
Fran Brandes	fran@adve... you get the idea
Walter Rothenburger	walter@...
Erika Day	erika@...
Robert Wraith	robert@...
Rebecca Taylor	rebecca@...
Ingrid Schurr	ingrid@...
Pastor Michael Mills	pastor@...

**Advent Journey** is created by the members of Advent Lutheran Church. Please submit your news and creations for sharing to any member of Council or email the editor directly at [journey@adventlutheranchurch.ca](mailto:journey@adventlutheranchurch.ca)

Next Issue: September 2007

**Deadline** for submissions: August 24, 2007



David Rankine has graciously given us permission to reproduce his work in our newsletter. To see more of his wonderful artwork, check out: [www.davidrankineart.com/index.htm](http://www.davidrankineart.com/index.htm)

# The Buzz

## IN OUR PRAYERS

For those who mourn: Peter Reble, whose sister Brenda died unexpectedly. Guy Lancia whose mother passed away. Fred Roth who mourns the loss of his dad and Marlene Barthelmy who mourns the death of her husband, Jim.

And all who travel the path of ill health: Evelyn Fromme who has been diagnosed with cancer, Isha Beekie who is recovering from knee surgery, Fran Brandes, Michael Day's father Rick, Rebecca Taylor's mother Jane, Jack Shave, and Gladys Ammatil.

# As You Like It

## A Day of Retreat for Women

Come out for a day of female companionship, rest, renewal, and exploration of some common spiritual ground — as YOU like it.

**Advent Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, July 15, 2007**

**9 AM – 4 PM**

**ALL women welcome!**

Come to Advent and 'waste some time' with us:

Want to sign up? Talk to Michaela  
(or email at [spiritquest01@yahoo.ca](mailto:spiritquest01@yahoo.ca))

## Youth Granted Voice and Vote

By Special Order, Constitutional Amendment Motion # 5 – That the ELCIC Constitution, Article XI (Conventions), Section 5, be amended with the addition of subsection c. Section 5. The voting membership of conventions shall consist of: c. Twelve youth selected by the synods as members of the youth assembly, was brought forward as one of the very first votes of the evening and was approved by delegates.



## HERBS, HEALTH & HEALING IN THE GARDEN

Explore the herbs in our community garden and learn about their culinary and medicinal purposes.

Please come out on any of the following dates to find out what dandelions, parsley, thyme have in common and what they can do for you.

Everybody welcome!

Thymes:	Sunday	July 15	12-1 pm
	Friday	Aug 3	7-8 pm

## YOGA IN THE GARDEN

A rejuvenating experience suited to every body and every age.

Thursdays  
3 to 5 pm  
FREE

No special outfit needed, just wear something comfortable.

## Rev. Susan Johnson Elected as National Bishop of the ELCIC



Delegates at the Eleventh Biennial National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) have elected Rev. Susan Johnson, Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Synod, as the new National Bishop of the ELCIC. The election occurred on the sixth and final ballot for Bishop.

Bishop-elect Johnson will succeed National Bishop Raymond Schultz who announced in January of this year that he will retire as of September 1, 2007. Bishop Schultz has been serving as National Bishop for six years. He was elected for a four-year term at the 2005 Convention but announced his retirement half-way through the term due to personal and health reasons.

Bishop-elect Johnson is not new to the work of the National Office, from 2001-2005, she served as Vice-President of the ELCIC. In addition to her role as Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Synod (which she has served since 1994), Bishop-elect Johnson has served as an advisor to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council since 1998, as a member of the North American Regional Committee for LWF since 2005, on the Leadership Development Task Force from 2005-2006 and on a variety of boards and committees both at the national and synodical level.

"I'm just overwhelmed and honoured by this incredible honour," said Bishop-elect Johnson upon the announcement. "I promise to be all that I can to help us together to be In Mission for Others."

Delegates have been deliberating on the election of the National Bishop for most of Friday; business sessions on other matters, such as the introduction of a new Stewardship of Creation Initiative (an environmental action plan for the church) and greetings from a number of international partners and guests have been interspersed between ballots.

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## Church Picnic

**July 22, 2007  
2:00 PM and onward**

### WHERE?

At the home and swimming pond  
of John & Erna Krause  
3 Sawmill Lane, Gormley  
905-888-1066

### WHAT TO BRING

Potluck dish to share for dinner  
Swim suit & towel  
Lawn chair

### DIRECTIONS

North on 404  
East on Bethesda Road  
South on Sawmill Lane

### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

2800 Don Mills Road  
Toronto, Ontario M2J 3B6  
416 493 1435

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

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

To receive this newsletter by email,  
please send your request to:  
[journey@adventlutheranchurch.ca](mailto:journey@adventlutheranchurch.ca)

*We are born gentle and weak.  
At death we are hard and stiff.  
Green plants are tender and filled  
with sap. When they die they are  
withered and dry. Therefore the  
stiff and unbending are the disciples  
of death. The gentle and yielding  
are the disciples of life.*

*Tao Te Ching*

