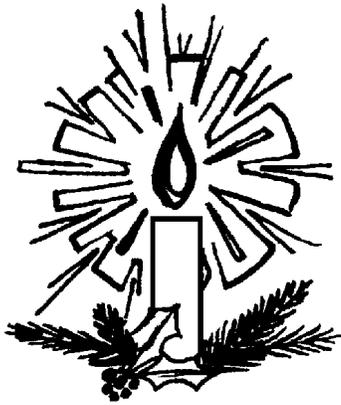


ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

Christmas 2021/Jan 2022



A Blessed Advent Season to ALL!

We are on the fast track leading us towards our Christmas celebrations of 2021. Unlike last year, we are thankful that we will be able to celebrate the Festival of Christmas together in our Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to join us on Christmas Eve at either our 4pm or 7pm service. Everyone must be masked, but we are able to sing our beloved Christmas Carols. Looking forward to seeing everyone during this special season!



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Pastor Elaine Writes....

Happy Advent! Merry Christmas and Joyous Epiphany! This message covers all 3 of these seasonal celebrations. This Advent and Christmas look very different than they did last year. We have now been worshipping in person since mid-September. We continue to record the services and post them to our youtube channel. We have welcomed 6 new people who are attending in person & many others who stay connected virtually.

Our new website adventlutherantoronto.ca is a source of a great deal of information. You can use it to access the bible study material, zoom links, schedules, the weekly email and many other things. If you have not had a look I encourage you to check it out. Lutherans connect will be starting a new devotional for Advent & I will share that with you. I like the material put together by the [revgalblogpals](http://revgalblogpals.com). Here are some links to their Advent material that you might enjoy.



Advent Reflections – based on the women named in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus, from Liz Crumlish:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13q63PkXhrnTTqEeAjTq1ivNZgl-rosbA/view?fbclid=IwAR2qUSce8eWGuIYYLC4tRD2L4Ewmh0npmdNhlkoGwG384o1B84VN2snVRAw>

Self-Care Advent Calendar and Weekly Advent prayers from Rachael Keefe:

<https://beachtheology.com/2021/11/19/self-care-advent-calendar-2021-and-weekly-advent-prayers/?fbclid=IwAR2yZ5V DqUBlicEdwpe1-ViYUohkAAG0mpUIIZegN0CsLMg2-bmEN4I348>

Advent Study by Elena Keppel Levy:

<https://somuchbible.com/lessons/animals-at-the-manger/?fbclid=IwAR3IJuq6fUcPOvJI01rIA6Gpb2dAjxnkxfHlufWRNso6O2M YYP9kOr3s6I>

Haikus for Advent, by Sarah Agnew:

<https://praythestory.blogspot.com/2021/11/held-safe-haikus-for-advent.html?m=0&fbclid=IwAR2xJfdTrrx8zZkOi04NuBqDzKBTcHStIYJ-9g5ZGGxy3ZICFa8YoSlPkis>

I recently participated in “Prayers and Pints” hosted by the centre for media and spirituality at Martin Luther University. It was a chance to hear Bishop Susan talk about her new book “Praying the Catechism”. It is an update from her father’s book. Matt Anderson also spoke about his new book “Pairings” this is a book that combines scripture and beverages. I will be adding both of these to my bookshelf!

Right now, I am reading “The First Christmas” by Borg & Crossan.

May this Advent and Christmas season be full of blessings - large and small. May you know the love of family and friends. May you feel God’s presence in your life. And may this coming new year bring you peace.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Elaine

Christian Education

Christian education during Advent is based on “Parables in Dr. Seuss” & “The Gospel According to Seuss.” In the new year we will focus on podcasts put together by the Anglican Church of Canada’s Indigenous Ministry. If you cannot attend in person or by zoom the material will be sent out each week and can also be accessed on the website.

Upcoming Services:

- November 28th - 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 5th - 2nd Sunday of Advent, Rev Doug Reble preaching
- December 12th - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 19th - Lessons and Carols
- December 21st - Blue Christmas (pre-recorded)
- December 24th - Christmas Eve 4pm & 7pm
- December 26th - Christmas hymn sing & abbreviated service of the word
- January 2nd - Service of the word
- January 9th - Baptism of our Lord

Parish News:

- At the most recent Synod Council meeting our Constitution and Bylaws were passed. This is great news, as we can operate under the new guidelines, and in alignment with other congregations.
- Thank you to everyone who donated coats, shoes and boots for New Circles – GLOW. Brit Missirlian delivered the collected items. Thank you Brit!
- Please note that we are no longer collecting egg cartons.
- As we resumed in-person worship, a decision was made by your Council to count and deposit offering every other week. This is to ensure we have enough members of council to volunteer.

Volunteers:

We are still looking for some volunteers to read the lessons & prayers. If you are able to assist, please let Pastor Elaine know.

Date	Readers	Counting
Dec 5 th	Bill Wesioly	Adele Buckley, Sonita Dillon-Rhodus
Dec 12 th	Gabi Schickedanz	n/a
Dec 19 th	Martin Gangadeen, Karen McDonald, Brit Missirlian, Gabi Schickedanz, Carol Peck, Elsie Wraith, Jim Doak, Maud Danaher	Cynthi Aikins, Sonita Dillon-Rhodus
Dec 24 th	4pm – Bill Wesioly 7pm – Martin Gangadeen	n/a
Dec 26 th	Gabi Schickedanz leading service	Gabi Schickedanz, Adele Buckley
Jan 2 nd	Jim Doak leading service	n/a
Jan 9 th	tbd	tbd
Jan 16 th	tbd	n/a
Jan 23 rd	tbd	tbd

Jan 30 th	tbd	n/a
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Advent's Website:

Slowly but surely our new website (adventlutherantoronto.ca) is evolving, as we get a better sense of all that our current members and new visitors may find useful. One of our focuses this season is to develop our In Memoriam pages (found in the members' only section of the site), which will include dedicated pages to members of the Advent family who have passed. If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in this way, please send Pastor Elaine a link to their online obituary and we will create pages for them. Though these pages can be shared by you in other platforms if you choose to, they are not searchable/visible to those outside of the Advent community, in order to protect your family's privacy.

From the Loft....

As we approach Christmas this year, I wanted to first and foremost wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Seeing as we are able to sing again together this year, I know that there is particular excitement to sing the timeless carols of Christmas all together in worship. Not only are these carols familiar, but many of them bring memories back to us in a way that only music can.

Personally, singing "Silent Night" in the darkened sanctuary by candlelight reminds me of my grandmother, for whom this part of the service was the Christmas highlight. Hearing Gabi sing "O Holy Night" and singing it at the later service myself reminds me of my grandfather, who loved this carol at Christmas.

As we once again return to singing this Christmas season after being bereft of singing together for so long, I not only encourage you all to sing with full voice, but also to think about your favorite carols and the memories you have associated with them.

*Yours from the loft,
Trevor*

The Financial Picture

Hello and blessed day to you all

I am presenting our Financial Revenues picture vs. our 2021 Budget as at November 9, 2021.

Key Messages

Our Current Envelopes amount of \$57,218 should increase with the Advent season but at this time it looks as if we will fall short of our \$80,000 budget

Our Benevolence is moving somewhat on par of our Budgeted commitment of \$7,500. If we do fall short, we will top up to our committed amount.

As of September, we are finally receiving a Rental Revenue but at this time, we may fall short of our \$25,000 budget target.

Re: to CEWS – Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy program from the Federal Government in response to COVID 19 – our results are positive. It is here that we can make up some ground in our budgeted shortfalls in other areas. We anticipate another \$3,000 this year before the program shuts down which will bring us to approximately \$25,000 vs. our budget of \$10,000.

Current Bank account status

As at today, November 26, our Current account balance is just above \$60,000. In comparison to December 2020 Current Account balance was approximately \$92,000 and compared to December 2021 our Current Account balance was approximately \$129,000.

To put this in perspective, our current situation is actually quite impressive – we have lost almost 2 years of Rental Revenue but have weathered this loss with the Federal Government assistance, timely donations from our congregation and a strong focus on maintaining expenses. Hopefully now that the Rental Revenue stream is starting to come back, we should look to get an uptick in our Current account Balances.

Until the next newsletter, stay safe and warm and God bless,

Bill Wesioly

Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy 2021

Hope:

P: Today we light the candle of hope.

This year we have prayed for hope.

This year we have prayed in hope:

We pray for reconciliation with our indigenous sisters and brothers, but how can there be reconciliation when so many children lie in unmarked graves?

Today we pray with hope that reconciliation is possible.

R: We know God is with us in moments of hope and hopelessness.

We know God is with us.

Peace:

P: Today we light the candle of peace.

This year we have prayed for peace.

This year we have prayed in peace:

We pray for peace, but how can there be peace when nations turn weapons against neighbours?

Today we pray with peace in our hearts.

R: We know God is with us in moments of peace and unrest. We know God is with us.

Joy:

P: Today we light the candle of joy. This year we have prayed for joy. This year we have prayed in joy:

We pray for joy, but how can there be joy when so many are hungry and homeless?

Today we pray with joy that inequality will end and there will be enough for everyone.

R: We know God is with us in moments of Joy and sadness. We know God is with us.

Love:

P: Today we light the candle of love. This year we have prayed for love. This year we have prayed in love:

We pray for love, but how can there be love when hate is stirred up by leaders, by social media, by people divided over ethnicity, gender or opposing views?

Today we pray with love believing that love is stronger than hate.

R: We know God is with us in moments of love and hate. We know God is with us.

Faith:

P: Today we light a candle of faith.

This year we have prayed for faith.

This year we have prayed in faith:

We pray for faith, but how can there be faith when prayers and petitions go unanswered and we feel abandoned?

Today we pray with faith because we have been promised that we are not alone.

R: We know that God is with us in moments of faith and questioning.

We know that God is with us.

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