

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

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I write with the echoes of great Easter hymns still ringing in my ears from Easter Sunday. The weather cooperated, giving us an amazingly beautiful day on which to celebrate resurrection hope. Extra voices in the choir helped lift the choir anthems, and I think all our singing as well, to new heights. The presence of so many children made the whole service joyful and fun. I especially enjoyed how we all gathered around the altar for Holy Communion fully participating in the liturgy with no need to bury our heads in hymnals or bulletins. What a wonderful Easter morning it was at St. Ansgar! (My apologies to those of you who needed to park a couple blocks away!!)

So here's the thing: yes, Easter Sunday is a day – the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, to be precise – just like Christmas Day is a day. But like Christmas, Easter is also a season – a fifty-day season, again, to be precise.

Our forbears in the faith bequeathed to us a wonderful tradition of marking resurrection. Not just a day. Not even just a week. Not even just a week of weeks (i.e. seven weeks). But, a week of weeks *plus a day!* Seven being a number symbolizing perfection in the ancient middle-east, the time dedicated to marking, observing, and celebrating resurrection was given as a perfect number times a perfect number, and then adding on a day on top of that, just for good measure.

Easter is a long, fifty-day race that begins with a sprint, and just keeps going. We had a long, forty-day period of Lent to rest up, warm up, and stretch for the big race. But now we're in it. Now we're running. And we sure got a good start!

Resurrection is what this whole gig is all about. Bringing resurrection to our lives, our neighbourhoods, and our world. Bringing resurrection to our fears, our pains, and our doubts. Bringing resurrection wherever there is hopelessness, hurt, injustice, sickness, and even death in the world. The season of Easter is the Stanley Cup Finals of Faith! This is what all the other three hundred and fifteen days of the year (it is a leap year, don't forget) have been leading to, even Christmas Day... even Good Friday.

So let's keep up what we began on Easter Sunday. Let's support, encourage, and pick up one another. Let's keep singing like we sang on Easter Sunday. Let's keep hoping like we hoped on Easter Sunday. And living resurrection lives, just like we did on Easter Sunday.

See you this Sunday, too!

Peace,
Pastor Brian



Church Council

The Church Council met on Thursday, March 10. The first Council meeting following the Annual meeting. The Executive Council was selected. Council positions, responsibilities and personal preferences were considered as individuals selected the portfolios of their choice.

We welcome Alex Niestrawski, Elizabeth Narain and Neil Ferguson as members new to Council and Alex Mak as a returning member of Council.

The Church Council Executive for 2016:

Chair	Alexander Mak
Vice Chair	Peter Lutek
Secretary	Heather Turner
Treasurer	Alex Niestrawski

Next Council Meeting will be April 21, 2016 6:30 p.m.

The next issue of Family Doings will be the June issue. Deadline May 24, 5:00 p.m.

Adult Education & Member Care	Pastor Brian Wilker-Frey
Church & Society	Heather Turner
Hospitality & Stewardship	Elizabeth Narain
Outreach & Evangelism	Alexander Mak
Property	Neil Ferguson
Youth & Children	Felicia Narain
Worship	Peter Lutek

Very special thanks to our outgoing Council members, Jayne Wagner, David Veights and Diann Carpenter for their valuable contributions to Council.

Anna McRae
Church Administrator

Our Church

Worship: Every Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. followed by coffee and refreshments. We have a wheelchair accessible building.

Baptism & Marriage: Pastor Brian will be happy to meet with you to discuss weddings and baptism (for yourself or your child). To make an appointment, speak with Pastor Brian after service, or call the Church Office 416-783-3570.

Hospital Visitation: If you or a family member end up in the hospital, please take a moment to inform the church office. We will be pleased to provide pastoral visitation/prayer support for you.

Funeral Planning: We grieve the loss of your loved one with you. Please contact the Pastor at your earliest convenience for pastoral support and preparation of arrangements.

Olive Branch Annual Gala



The Olive Branch for Children

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISING DINNER



FIGHTING A LONG WAR, FACE-TO-FACE WITH AIDS

Come and join Deborah McCracken-Nangereke, 35 year old Woodbridge resident, founder, and Tanzanian head of The Olive Branch for Children, at the 11th Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner and Dance. Deborah will review the past decade in the Mbeya region of Tanzania, from the charity's beginnings and goals to the current state of affairs and outline the evolution, challenges and major direction of The Olive Branch for Children. The importance of the charity's

activities was recognized, on a world scale in 2010 – Deborah was the only Canadian finalist in the international Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2010 Young Laureates Programme – and, in November 2011, was recognized as one of Chatelaine Magazine's 2011 "Women of the Year" [Everyday Heroes Category].

Friday, April 15, 2016

**Bellvue Manor, 8083 Jane Street, Vaughan.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m.**

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW—Tickets are \$125.00 each. -see Heidi Fiebig or You can buy your tickets on line by going to: www.theolivebranchforchildren.org
Go to the donation page, general donation, click (general donate now) and add a Gala indicator beside your name (e.g. G. ticket)
[tax receipt issued for \$65.00 per ticket purchased]

For more information contact us at: theolivebranch@rogers.com or ginnettemc@gmail.com

Young At Heart



Young at Heart meetings are held once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. The exercise classes have moved to a new day and so we will cancel lunch for April and May. The very small attendance in March also contributed significantly to this decision.

April 13	David Veights—Guest Speaker	1:00 p.m.
May 11	Alexander Mak—Guest Speaker	1:00 p.m.
June 8	Spring Luncheon	12 noon

The Young at Heart group welcomes entertaining and energizing presentations, such as travelogues or talks on your work or hobbies. There are no doubt many skills and talents that exist in the congregation. Please consider sharing your gifts with us.

Please contact Anna McRae in the church office to book your presentation.

April is Olive Branch Month

The Annual Olive Branch Gala fundraising dinner is on April 15th. See page 8 for more information.

As much as we would like to, many of us cannot go and so we will have our own fundraising event here at St. Ansgar. We will again be collecting tooney's for the Olive Branch. Also our Coffee House funds collected for April will go to the Olive Branch. All funds raised for the Olive Branch during the month of April will be matched by Faith Life Financial to a maximum of \$500.00.

Deborah McCracken Nangereke will be here on Sunday April 3rd following worship to bring us all up-to-date on the progress taking place at the Olive Branch in Tanzania.

Message from Rev. Debra Johnston SSJD

First I would like to thank all of you and especially Pastor Brian and the members of the Church Council for supporting me in this appointment as your Honourary Assistant Pastor.

As you are aware, I am a rostered Ordained Pastor of the ELCIC serving under Special Call with the Sisters of St. John the Divine. We are an Anglican Monastic Community following a Benedictine type rule.

I began my ministry in 1987 as an Invested Sister of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaconess Community and was Consecrated to the Office of Word and Service in the ELCIC in November 1993. At the time of my call to the sisterhood, there was a six year study of forms of ministry in the ELCIC. During this six year study all consecrations were put on hold. I was invested at the beginning of this study. This is why there is a six year gap between my Investiture and my Consecration.

My first Call was to St. Paul's Lutheran church in Bridgewater Nova Scotia where I served as the parish Deaconess with the Rev. Willis Ott until December 1990. In January 1991 I received the Call to be the Parish Deaconess at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Kitchener. The Rev. Bill Shafer was the Pastor at St. Stephen's and was a wonderful mentor to me during these formative years of ministry.

It was while I was at St. Stephen's that I became a candidate for Ordination to the office of Word and Sacrament. I was Ordained on July 7, 2000. From the time I was Ordained to the time I entered the convent, I served four congregations as Pastor; St. Stephen from July 7 to August 2001, Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Erie from September 2001 to August 2005, Zion Lutheran Church in Pembroke with the Rev. Martin Malina from September 2005 to August 2007 and finally, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fergus from September 2007 to October 2010. I accepted the Call to Special Service and entered the Anglican Convent of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine on January 4, 2011.

Since my Diaconal days I have felt the Call both to community and to an intentional life of prayer. Equally so, I have felt the Call specifically to sacramental ministry. My Call to Special Service with SSJD has given me the opportunity to explore this dual vocational Call.

I have been delighted to be a member of St. Ansgar and was pleased to serve on the Internship committee when the Rev. Pamela Kormano was exploring her vocation. I have not been able to be at St. Ansgar or to participate in the life of the congregation as I have liked. This appointment will give me both the time and the leadership opportunities to do that.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better. May God bless us in our service together!

Prayers and Thanksgiving for this opportunity,
Your sister in Christ,

Rev. Debra Johnston SSJD

Counter's Procedure

St. Ansgar Worship Participant Job Description

C O U N T E R

This is what is expected of you as a Counter after Sunday worship:

1. **Count all Offerings received.**
2. **If unable to count after a service store the uncounted Offering in the safe.**
3. **Record the Offerings received on the Tally sheet and in the deposit book.**
4. **Both counters must sign the Tally sheet.**
5. **Leave package for the administrator.**
6. **Take deposit to the night deposit at the bank.**

GENERAL: The collection plates are left at the altar until the service is over. The counters bring the plates into the office for counting.

Before counting starts, take the funds left in the safe by the administrator and include these funds in the count.

1. Prepare to Count

- Loose cash is set aside.
- Loose cheques are set aside
- Visitors' envelopes or other envelopes are checked for identification (ie. parishioner forgot own envelope, steady visitor contributor has earlier been identified). If know, these envelopes are added to the regular contribution envelopes.
- Envelopes may be opened by both counters, content counted and recorded at the top of the envelope.
- Write the amount given, regardless of amount having been written by giver.
- If cash, just write the amount plainly, ie 50 rather than 50.00
- If cheque, write the amount with a clear check mark next to it, indicating that this is a cheque. This makes identification easy if the tally does not match the deposit.

2. Complete the Tally Sheet

- **There is a tally sheet for recording of all funds received. One of the counters will use this sheet to record according to the sheet instructions.**
- All loose cash (open collection) that was previously set aside, is recorded on the line 'general'.
- Coffee funds, if any, are recorded on the next line.

- Loose cheques are identified and written up on the sheet in correct category, ie. rental, Parking, other if unknown. If the loose cheque indicates a donation, it is written up in space indicated.
- Please note that cheques left in safe have been noted by the administrator, do record on the tally Sheet but further identification (address etc) is not needed on tally sheet.
- All loose cheques with no envelopes in collection plate, must be noted on a separate line of the Tally sheet amount and name are essential if the contributor is not known, write address and details down.

3. Prepare the Deposit Slip

- **Once all contributions are identified, the other counter will record** each cheque in the deposit book, following bank instructions, and the cheques are stamped for deposit. Total cash is counted at this point and recorded on bank deposit.
- Sign the bank deposit.
- **Ensure that a copy of the deposit slip remains in the office.**
- The counter with the tally sheet will total all envelopes and enter the total on the sheet.
- At this time, both the counter with the tally sheet and the counter with the bank deposit book can total.
- **The total of the tally sheet should balance to the deposit slip!**
- **Both counters must sign the tally sheet.**

4. Prepare the wallet (bank pouch)

- The bank deposit will be put in the bank pouch as per instruction,
- Bring deposit to bank and use night deposit.

5. Package for Administrator

- Tally Sheet.
- Contribution Envelopes.
- Receipt from the wallet (bank pouch).
- Copy of deposit slip left in deposit book.
- Remember the administrator is posting the Offering to the Church software so that everyone will get an Income Tax Receipt. When in doubt about how much information to put on the Tally sheet put everything that would need to be known to issue a Tax Receipt. Photocopy the cheques if you think that will help.

Thank you very much for your service as a Counter!

Outreach and Evangelism

That's now how it was supposed to go

I recently went on a trip. I flew to Vancouver to enjoy a week of skiing. It has been a while since I had gone on a flying vacation, usually I do car trips, and so this time I had to recall what I had used to do to get prepared. My procedure (as I recalled) involves:

- Deciding on the correct attire I will need for the trip
- Figuring out how many pieces of said clothing
- Deciding what electronic items I will be bringing (i.e. laptop or tablet - cell phone is a given)
- Gathering the electronic accessories
- Preparing my music playlist to listen to on the plane
- Laying out the clothing items so they can be folded (Elsie does that for me - I just can't fold clothing properly)
- Digging out the bag I will be bringing that can hold all my stuff
- Packing everything into the luggage - which becomes a game of Tetris or Tangrams
- Head out to the airport early

This trip started a little differently as I had a ski bag this time around. I had not used one of those before, so this was a learning curve for me. I had skis, boots and a helmet which made things bulky. I was also worried about the cost of flying with oversized luggage, which I heard is over \$100 - each trip. All of this threw a wrench into my planned routine and I did not like it.

In the end, I had to break up my gear into an additional carry on item, as having everything in the ski bag would make it grossly overweight. I had planned on only carrying a simple back pack on the plane so that boarding and deplaning would be easier along with not needing the overhead compartment. I made due with this as there was no other way. One good thing was that my ski bag was allowed onto the plane as oversized and no extra baggage costs was applied.

After all of this, I boarded the plane and was happy that that I am finally on my way to my ski trip. As people boarded the plane, I saw that it was going to be one of those flights that will be filled with kids. They were just everywhere. Just to make it clear, I do not mind kids, but there is something about being in an enclosed space with MANY of them that was worrying me. So, I pulled out my cell phone and was going to settle in to listening to my playlist, so I can have my own space...my own silent world if you will.

Low and behold...I forgot to pack my headphones. I did not want to buy the crappy ones from the plane, mainly because they are pretty bad quality, but also because I have quite a few headphones at home already, and I did not need any more to throw away. I had to tough it out in the cabin and not be able to sit in my own world.

As the plane flew to its destination, I found that I was still able to HAVE my own world, even without the headphones and my prepared playlist. What started off as a changed routine that caused me some worries, actually lead me into a new environment where I had to work things out once again.

Yes, there is something about drowning yourself in the music that you like, but there is also something about taking in the ambient noises all around you. The chatter of kids, the clanging of seat belts, the roar of the engines. By itself, it sounds terrible, but I found that I was able to make it into something different. I was able to be a part of this environment and be able to enjoy just BEING.

My plans did not go the way I wanted them to. My routine was not the same and it forced me into a place where there was some apprehension. But I did settle into this environment and I was able to enjoy my flight despite all of it. I had time to be at peace and time to contemplate. In fact the surrounding noise added to the meditative aspect of it all.

I was happy to be able to have found something new in the different environment that I was presented with. I hope to transfer this lesson into other aspects of my life and maybe be able to embrace change and breaks in routine to find something new.

Alexander Mak

Decorating Sacred Spaces

For about the last 15 years I have been decorating the narthex and the sanctuary by putting up banners and other decorative elements in order to make the large space of St. Ansgar fit the seasons and special events of the church year in appearance. Along with the changes in Sunday services a change in décor to update the appearance of the church would be really nice for a good “fit”. Along with that need, next year’s commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will want some colourful decorations.

It would be really helpful if anyone with a creative motivation were willing to come up with ideas and do the work of decorating our space at St. Ansgar. I would be happy to assist them!

Many thanks to Doreen Martindale for her help Saturday afternoon in preparing the church for Easter Sunday. Connie Weldon also was able to assist me early Sunday morning to complete the decorating as well as the people who attended the Easter Vigil the evening before.

Sandra Kaufman

Annual Coffee House Volunteers

Thank you to all parishioners that have signed up to act as Coffee House Host so far this year in 2106. We sincerely appreciate your help. We are approaching that time of year when many people are away and we are often without a Coffee House Host on a Sunday. This is a great time to do an Annual Coffee House Hosting. During the summer, the pantry will be stocked with cookies. If there is no one on the schedule, please check as you arrive to see if coffee was put on and perhaps you can put out a few cookies. This year we again ask for:

1. An Annual Coffee House from each family or group of parishioners. Join together with friends or families to provide a few sweets to go with Coffee. There is a poster in the narthex to sign up.
2. Volunteer to be on the list of Coffee House regulars. The more people on the list the less frequently you will be called on to do a Coffee House. Please let Anna McRae, Elizabeth Narain or Diann Carpenter know if we can add you to the list.
3. Occasionally when you can fit it into your schedule, help the Coffee House person to clean up. They are left to clean alone much too often.



Coffee House is an important part of the Fellowship of this congregation. If you have not yet picked a Sunday, please do and try to select a Sunday between now and September. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

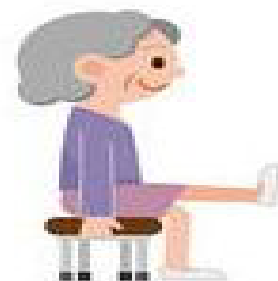
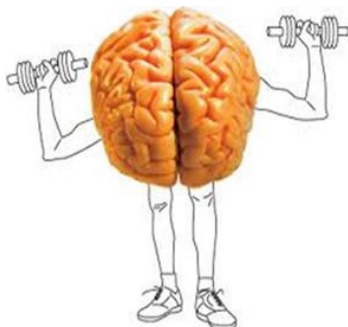
The Hospitality Committee

Seniors Exercise Class at St. Ansgar

The exercise classes at St. Ansgar are now held twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. in the narthex

All are welcome!

Both members and friends of St. Ansgar are invited but also members of the neighbouring community. If you know anyone that could benefit from these classes please tell them about it. The classes are provided by Baycrest Health Sciences at no cost to attendees. The classes focus on strength, endurance, flexibility, balance, relaxation and brain health.



April - May Rota Schedule

	Greeter	Worship Assistant	Reader	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Altar Guild	Coffee House	Counters
April 3 Traditional Eucharist	David Johnson	Peter Lutek	Diane Bestvater	Leslie Porter	Marsha Bailey & Karl Hauer	Mary Lutek	Leah-Ann Lymer & Donna Valaitis	Elsie Duval & Ruth Wiens
April 10 Morning Prayer	Barbara Johnson	Alexander Mak	Elsie Ma	N/A	Elsie Ma	N/A	Jordan & Carmen Smith	June Weind
April 17 Creative Eucharist	Elsie Ma	Leslie Porter	Peter Lutek	Alexander Mak	Ruth Wiens & Carol Lau	Barbara Johnson	Jayne & Peter Wagner	Cindy Giroux & Louise Hiltunen
April 24 Education & Informal Eucharist	Diann Carpenter	Elsie Ma	David Veights	Peter Lutek	Alexander Mak & Barbara Johnson	Leslie Porter	Catherine Friesen	Louise Clunas & Mary Lutek
May 1 Traditional Eucharist	Louise Hiltunen	Mary Lutek	Elisabeth Lunder	Leslie Porter	Karl Hauer & Ruth Wiens	Diane Bestvater	Louise Clunas	Phyllis Epp & Jan Woelfle
May 8 Morning Prayer	Cindy Giroux	Diane Bestvater	Ann Manno	N/A	Cindy Giroux	N/A	Elizabeth Narain	June Weind
May 15 Confirmation Sunday Creative Eucharist	Ann Manno	Leslie Porter	Alexander Mak	Elsie Ma	Elsie Ma & Marsha Bailey	Connie Weldon	Irene & Theo Rothe	Cindy Giroux & Louise Hiltunen
May 22 Education & Informal Eucharist	David Johnson	Peter Lutek	Ruth Wiens	Mary Lutek	Karl Hauer & Barbara Johnson	Sandra Kaufman	Carol & David Lau	Ruth Wiens & June Weind
May 29	Barbara Johnson	Alexander Mak	Connie Weldon	Diane Bestvater	David Johnson & Carol Lau	Mary Lutek	Lynne Solomon	Elsie Duval & Christel ManraJ

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please trade with another person on the list and inform the office so that the correct person is listed in the bulletin. Thanks for your help!

April Birthdates

Sophie Doyle	April 1
Carol Hooseinny	April 2
Rowan Rothe	April 3
Mark Wettlaufer	April 8
Ella Bunbury	April 11
Irene Rothe	April 11
Katherine McDonald	April 19
Heather Turner	April 23
Vanessa Lau	April 25
Sig Gerber	April 26
Carl Partington	April 26
Juergen Friedrich	April 28
Pierre Duval	April 30



Baptismal Anniversaries

Diann Carpenter	April 4
Ryan Colebatch	April 5
Richard Heslop	April 6
James Heslop	April 6
Sophie Doyle	April 8
Cameron Lilly	April 11
Gregory Misir	April 11
John H. Skogstad	April 12
Linda Veights	April 12
Christopher Wilker	April 16
Lina Yaeger	April 21
Samantha Veights	April 22
Tiffany Bunbury-Pelley	April 23
Ella Rothe	April 25
Michael Weldon	April 26
Alma Weldon	April 26
Benjamin Rothe	April 27
Richard Propp	April 29

May Birthdates

John Matthews	May 1
Stella Propp	May 2
Gavin Battaglio	May 3
Emily Clunas	May 4
Cameron Lilly	May 5
Glen Nelson	May 6
Alex Rothe	May 8
David Johnson	May 9
Gretchen Johnson	May 9
Nicolas Wilker	May 11
Eileen Smith	May 13
Caelan Matthews	May 14
Sarah DaSilva	May 15
Johanna McDonald	May 15
Amanda Propp	May 16
David Clunas	May 18
Jacob Heslop	May 18
Lily Matthews	May 18
Amelia Schwade	May 22
David Bestvater	May 23
Jordan Smith	May 26



Baptismal Anniversaries

Conor Carpenter-Darby	May 1
Monica Horber	May 1
Glen Nelson	May 1
Scott McFarland	May 4
Bill Weldon	May 5
Jacob Heslop	May 6
Erika Wagner	May 9
Vaiva Yaeger	May 10
Maguerite Bunbury	May 14
Kalana Morton	May 16
Rowan Rothe	May 18
Gretchen Johnson	May 19
Derek McFarland	May 19
Alan Partington	May 23
Ann Manno	May 25
Hans Friedrich	May 30
Ruth Wiens	May 30

