

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

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Five members of St. Ansgar just returned from a very inspiring, thought provoking, and challenging Eastern Synod Assembly that was held here in Toronto last week. Sandra Kaufamn was our lay delegate, Jordan Smith serves on Synod Council, Ben Bestvater was a youth delegate, and Pastor Debra and I attended as rostered delegates. Regardless of what business or ministry was being discussed, we always seemed to loop back to the theme of the upcoming 2017 commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, "Liberated By God's Grace;" and the three sub-themes: "Salvation – Not For Sale; Human Beings – Not For Sale; Creation – Not For Sale."

(For more on these themes, go to: <https://2017.lutheranworld.org/>)

Michael Pryse, Bishop of our Eastern Synod, set the tone for the assembly with his Bishop's report, when he challenged the assembled delegates and visitors to ask ourselves throughout the assembly, "Are there aspects of our life from which we also need to be liberated? Are there parts of our life where we are experiencing a type of bondage? Are there places where we have become stuck, perhaps to the point wherein our capacity to proclaim the Gospel is being significantly compromised?"

This was the tenth Synod Assembly I've attended since being ordained in 1997, and I've never heard a bishop articulate so clearly and unapologetically the challenges and self-constructed obstacles facing the church in their report to the assembly. Wondering what someone looking back at the church of our time fifty years hence would see, he suggests such an observer might see a church in which "membership levels, worship attendance and volunteer participation rates are all down. Sunday school and confirmation classes are a fraction of the size they used to be. Congregations are struggling to fairly compensate their paid staff and making cuts. Buildings are deteriorating due to deferred or overdue maintenance. She will see a church where fewer financial resources are being shared with regional and national expressions of the church that, in turn, are reducing staff and programmes at about the same rate that the pleas for help from the grass roots are increasing!"

He went on to observe: "She will see an institution that is still organized on pretty much the same model that it developed 60 years ago to respond to a particular set of massive social changes in post-war North America. She will see an institution that somehow got stuck and failed to effectively adapt to the changes that came in rapid succession throughout the final decades of the 20th century and the first decades of the 21st."

"What she will see, and what many of us are seeing, is a church that needs to be liberated and set free from a slavish bondage to a world view that is no longer working for us. She would see a church that continues to do the things in pretty much the same way as we've always done them, and yet expects to have different results."

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Church Council

The last Church Council meeting was on Thursday, June 16.

We received an offer to lease the parsonage within days of listing it. At this time the rental income of the parsonage is important to the financial viability of St. Ansgar. We are sincerely grateful to your response to Alex Niestrawski's financial appeal. Thanks you to all the Council members and Congregation members who helped prepare the parsonage to be leased.

The Rota Schedule continues to be a challenge. Many people have removed themselves from the Rota Schedule for some portion of or for the entire summer. In order to make it work for the summer please note the changes.

The greeter column has been removed. During the summer, I am hoping that ushers can take on the job of greeters. There are still not enough people for 2 ushers each Sunday. As suggested by a Choir member, as the choir is off for the summer perhaps the choir members can take on some Ushering duties.

If each choir member ushers once a month until September, it should work out just great. Please note often only one person is listed for Usher. Please recruit someone to help you. If you are scheduled as an Usher and your partner does not arrive, please recruit someone to help you, try a choir member first. You will also note the names on the Rota Schedule are repeated very frequently. If you find your name is on the schedule more frequently than you can handle, just cross yourself off when necessary. If you can find a replacement—great, if not we will work it out.

Enjoy the summer wherever you are! Stay safe!

Anna McRae

Next Council Meeting will be August 18, 2016 6:30 p.m.

The next issue of Family Doings will be the September issue. Deadline August 22, 5:00 p.m.

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.

Pastor Brian——continued from front page

“We need to stop consuming our accumulated assets by maintaining institutions, church buildings and individual ministries that have become redundant in their present form. We’re maintaining and propping up too many structures in support of too few ministries. And while I understand desire to honour and preserve the gifts that have been entrusted to us by our forbearers; we actually end up doing quite the opposite when we become the sole recipients of their benefit or squander them. That’s not faithful stewardship and it’s no way to experience joy in ministry.”

“Could this be why we have such a hard time finding people to take positions of leadership in our congregation; why council seats sit vacant and quorums unmet? Could this be one of the reasons that our own children and grandchildren seemed to have abandoned the life of our churches?”

Then, after making a few radical suggestions, Bishop Pryse reminds us of the good news.

“We don’t have to keep doing things the way we think we’ve always done them. Church history and the contemporary witness of the global church show us that there is no limit to the ways in which we can organize ourselves to do the work of ministry. We have the capacity to envision and live into an alternate future and we have an abundance of resources with which to do it. We are the richest Christians ever to live on planet earth...”

In closing his report, Bishop Pryse reminds us, “... we have been liberated by God’s grace! We have been set free by God’s perfect and all-encompassing love; a love that casts out all fear! We have nothing to be afraid of. We have both the freedom and the security of the Gospel...”

I am thankful for this bold and honest confession and proclamation. I encourage us all to reflect on it well throughout the summer that it might lead us into our future as a congregation with boldness and confidence. (Full text copies of the Report of the Bishop are available in our church office.)

Peace,
Pastor Brian

Young At Heart

Young at Heart will be undergoing some changes over the next few months. Please watch Family Doings or your email for updates about Young at Heart.

“Loving Spoonfuls” by Barbel Hauer

I am like Bush and Gore that had to prepare a victory speech as well as a Loser’s speech. But me, I only prepared a victory speech. “success never ends – failure is never final.”

My husband and I were just good and ready to go into a quiet little retirement, but then came along “Loving Spoonfuls”. After the first showing of the show, my telephone immediately started ringing. The next day I took my usual walk around the neighbourhood and from across the street a woman, walking her children to school, called to me. “Were you on the television last night?”

From then on I was a public person. “I was a celebrity.” Everywhere I went I got stopped and asked if I am from the show. Telephone calls came in from all kinds of people which I have not seen or heard from in years and years. Cards arrived from all over Canada> To this day when I am walking in Yorkdale Plaza people follow me until they get the courage to talk to me. O yes, everyone had a nice compliment for the man in the show. “He is very good too”.

The crown of all that was when my 10 year old grandchild Samantha invited me to her class to show the video from “Loving Spoonfuls”. I talked to the children for about an hour. They had such interesting questions. All wanted to know about my childhood. Some even said they were lucky that I came to Canada. The next day a package arrived with 28 thank you notes. They read, “those were the best stories I ever heard in my life” another one writes, “what a cool, scary adventurous childhood you had”, but all said, “it is great honour to have a celebrity talk to our class.” I am now Oma Barbel to all these children.

Thank you Jennifer, Allan, David and to all the staff on “Loving Spoonfuls” for making me such a success.

No matter where you are in life you can always go to the top.

Reformation Challenge

THE REFORMATION CHALLENGE

Sponsor 500 refugees to Canada

Provide 500 scholarships for ELCIC schools

Give \$500,000 to the Lutheran World Federation

Endowment Fund

Plant 500,000 trees

The recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 will ask for all of the above from Lutheran churches all over the world. It is an anniversary that will be acknowledged by all of the mainstream churches. St. Ansgar will participate in this commemoration and hopes for everyone to join in the fun.

The trees in the narthex and the sanctuary are to help begin thinking about the year ahead and to inspire thoughts about how to meet the tree planting goal. All ideas are welcome!

The Commemoration Committee

Outreach & Evangelism

It's no secret, pass it on...

I remember when I first started working after university, I was told to keep church talk out of conversations, that people do not need to hear that and it may be offensive to others. But a while ago, I made a conscious effort to change that. I started mentioning church in my regular conversations with my coworkers at work. I was not preaching the Gospel or forcing the Words of God down their throats...that would be rude. I was just mentioning now and then that I had to go to church for an event in the evening; that I was handing out coffee on the corner in the morning; that I was busy on Sunday because I had to go to Church in the morning.

At first I was worried about how my coworkers would perceive me. By saying I am Christian, I am setting myself up as a witness. I have a pre-conceived image I have to live up to now. One of the things I remember after I first got my drivers licence was that my pastor at that time said that if we were going to put a Jesus fish on our cars, we better drive the expected way a Christian is expected to drive. That is, no road rage, no speeding, no racing and driving like a maniac. If you notice my car, I still do not have a Jesus fish on it.

No matter how I felt at work, I stuck with it. I kept on mentioning that I helped out at church. I started saying more as time went by. I mentioned I was on church council and I shared my thoughts on donations to non-profit organizations (note that this is a completely separate topic so I am not saying anything else about it). Eventually, I was quite comfortable in mentioning Church. I was even able to ask one of my coworkers to come to Church one year for Back to Church Sunday. He came to our service that year. That co-worker of mine also went to walk the Camino after I shared with him about it from our church event. He really loved that month he walked it.

Further behaviour I noticed from my other coworkers was when some of them started mentioning church in regular conversations too. I never asked if they are church goers because I did not want to intrude, but apparently, one of my coworkers who is Middle Eastern (whom I biasedly mistook for Muslim) is actually Catholic, while another is Christian and told me when his son was confirmed. They actually mention going to church in conversations with me now.

This response really made me feel good about this. As the song goes, "It only takes a spark, to get a fire going". I stuck with the spark, and I would like to think a "little" fire is now going. I am happy with the result. Of course, this is not the lesson I finally learned. I was feeling a little proud about all of this up until we had our Sunday talk about the Sabbath. Sure, I remember God regularly and I have faith in God in all things. I witness for God, as I have outlined above. But is this where I should be content and sit back to "reap the rewards"?

WHAT REWARDS am I waiting for? What am I so proud of? Why do I feel that there is ever a level that I will reach that is "enough"?

Because I am a Christian, I should be overflowing with God's love. I should be all about the abundance of life. I should not be thinking that the witness I do is a task or obligation. Because God has freely given all things to me, I should be doing everything I can to make sure I have no excess...by focusing on the world around me. Of course, not when I can "find" time to witness, but to go out and do it at all times. I may not be perfect, but that is actually a part of the witness itself, that God has accepted an imperfect person like me. I once thought it was enough, but now I see that there is a constant abundance of life that I am given and that I should be constantly passing this along to everyone else. This summer, as you take time to relax on vacation, at a cottage or just in your own homes, I hope you will think about how you can start passing along the abundance that God has given all of us. Please join me in spreading this gift to the rest of the world through the people we meet.

God bless and have a safe summer.

Alexander Mak

Baptismal Anniversaries

Padraig Darby	July 1
Marilyn Partington	July 3
Jordan Smith	July 5
James Matemba	July 6
Juergen Friedrich	July 11
Barbel Hauer	July 15
Anthony D'Amore	July 16
Tiffany Misir	July 25
Ellen Smith	August 2
Dennis Propp	August 8
Sebastian Rode	August 9
Evan Hatanaka	August 10
Zachary Hatanaka	August 12
Amanda Propp	August 14
Barbara Johnson	August 19
Connie Weldon	August 19
David Clunas	August 25
Nicholas Wilker	August 25



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. Attendance is growing and members of the class are feeling the benefits daily.

The Tuesday class will focus on cardio, strength and endurance. The Thursday class will focus on yoga which includes flexibility, balance and relaxation.

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.



June –August Rota Schedule

	Worship Assistant	Reader	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Altar Guild	Coffee House	Counters
July 3 Traditional Eucharist	Peter Lutek	Connie Weldon	Mary Lutek	Alexander Mak & Elsie Ma	Leslie Porter	Leah-Ann Lymer & Donna Valaitis	Barbara Johnson & June Weind
July 10 Morning Prayer	Alexander Mak	Elsie Ma	N/A	Barbara Johnson & Carol Lau	N/A	Catherine Friesen	June Weind
July 17 Creative Eucharist	Leslie Porter	David Johnson	Diane Bestvater	Sandra Kaufman	Mary Lutek	Louise Clunas	Elsie Duval & Christel Manraj
July 24 Education & Eucharist	Diane Bestvater	David Veights			Sandra Kaufman	Elizabeth Narain	June Weind
July 31 Worship Lab	David Veights	Ann Manno	Peter Lutek	Carol Lau	Barbara Johnson	Alex Mak & Elsie Ma	Ruth Wiens & Phyllis Epp
Aug 7 Traditional Eucharist	David Johnson	Connie Weldon	Elsie Ma	Alexander Mak	Diane Bestvater		Louise Clunas & Mary Lutek
Aug 14 Morning Prayer	Mary Lutek	Peter Lutek	N/A	Barbara & David Johnson	N/A	Carol & David Lau	June Weind
Aug 21 Creative Eucharist	Elsie Ma	Elisabeth Lunder	Alexander Mak	Connie Weldon & Ruth Wiens	Leslie Porter	Barbara Johnson	Barbara Johnson & Christel Manraj
Aug 28 Education & Eucharist	Peter Lutek	David Veights	Diane Bestvater	Carol Lau	Connie Weldon	Catherine Friesen	June Weind

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!

One Coffee House a Year at St. Ansgar.

Individuals, families and groups in the congregation, not committed to providing Coffee House on a rotating basis, are asked to take responsibility for a Coffee House one Sunday during the year. Please sign up in the narthex. A million thanks to those that have already done so this year. We all appreciate you very much.

July Birthdates

Alan Partington	July 1
Chase Friedrich	July 2
Roger Partington	July 3
Richard Heslop	July 5
Erin Bestvater	July 10
Emma Pastia	July 10
Connie Weldon	July 11
Barbel Hauer	July 14
Dennis Propp	July 16
Andrew Fuerst	July 17
Gisela Gingras	July 18
Felicia Narain	July 18
Doreen Martindale	July 20
Padraig Darby	July 25
Lisa DaSilva	July 26
Madeleine Weldon-White	July 27
Helmut Fuerst	July 28
Nicholas Lowe	July 30
Robert McFarlane	July 31



August Birthdates

Jacques Soutendam	August 2
Miranda Morton	August 3
Christel Manraj	August 6
Theo Rothe	August 7
Sarah Weind	August 8
Olivia Weldon-White	August 8
Elsie Duval	August 11
Ella Rothe	August 13
Barbara Black	August 14
Joshua DaSilva	August 18
Sabine Friedrich	August 21
Scott McFarland	August 21
Lisa Weldon	August 25
Christine Weldon	August 25
Christel Sperling	August 26
Donna Valaitis	August 26
Doris Budhoo	August 27
Gregory Misir	August 28
Francois Paroyan	August 28
Justin Paroyan	August 29
Karl Hauer	August 30

