

# St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

## From the Pastor

The Rev. Olavi Hepomaki  
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### Show and Tell

*“Tell your children of it,  
and let your children tell their children,  
and their children another generation.”  
Joel 1:3*

In many Old Testament verses, like the one above, people are urged to show and tell the following generations, their children, and grandchildren about the deeds of the Lord. These Bible verses pinpoint the need of religious education for the faith to be continuing to be alive also in the future. As we know, faith cannot be passed as such from a person to another, but teaching the bible stories that tell about Jesus, faith and how God is present in the life of the people and the whole world, offers a child or youth a mindset that nothing else does in this world. Even if they decided later that they will choose another or no religion, they still have received a set of tools that make them capable of making such choice.

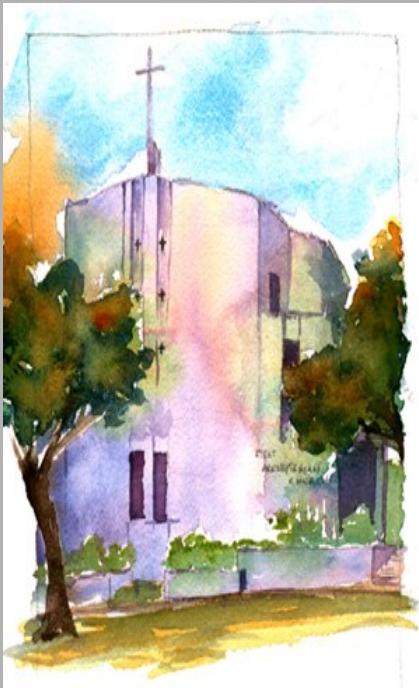
I have sometimes heard parents telling, that they will let their children choose their religion when they are old enough to make that decision. It may sound like a noble idea, but it is an upbringing that leaves them on the mercies of the most common idolatry in today's world that is made up of ideologies of materialism, consumerism, and money. These values are not neutral. Their curriculum is compelling, and our kids are exposed to it every day.

It would be beneficial for a growing child to learn about the different kind and opposing values, and the power of God.

Sunday school and Confirmation classes help children and youth to understand that there is more to the life than having all those cool things and that one's value as a human being is something else than what she or he is wearing, listening, possessing, etc.

The early childhood and confirmation education are the cornerstone of St. Ansgar's and any church's activities. In the long run, we cannot function as a church without them.

Pastor Olavi



Next Council Meetings will be Monday, February 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

The next issue of Family Doings will be the March Issue. Deadline February 26, 2018.

Income Tax Receipts are done and when signed will be put out for pick-up. The month of January has been extra full for me.

We are so grateful for all the Time and Talent forms received so far for 2018. A reminder - the Time and Talent forms and Pledge forms are in the narthex on the top shelf with printed material across from the doors to enter the Sanctuary. We have enough people to do a Rota Schedule for Ushers and Readers. The list of volunteers for Worship Assistant, Communion Assistant and Altar Preparation is so small, each volunteer would have to participate every single Sunday. If you have any ideas or suggestions to deal with this issue, please speak to Pastor Olavi or a member of Council.

Church Council has decided to hold Worship Volunteer Workshops one Sunday a month to train and mentor the worship roles that we need the most as mentioned above Worship and Communion Assistant, and Altar Preparation. We will of course add any other workshops that are required. Please watch your bulletin announcements and email for more details and the start date.

I hope you are all staying well and warm in the very cold winter that we are having.

Warmest Wishes  
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.

# Church Council Corner

Last Church Council meeting: January 15, 2018

Highlights of issues discussed:

- Jordan Smith has written a report about St. Ansgar, which will be distributed to Council and the Call Committee (UPDATE: Council and the Call Committee received this report on January 29th)
- Treasurer's report: financial report for 2017 year-end was presented to council. This information was also included in the Annual Report
- Worship Committee:
  - Pancake Tuesday (Feb. 13) - will be hosted by St. Timothy's Anglican Church
  - No Ash Wednesday service at St. Ansgar. Service on the first Sunday of Lent will begin with the imposition of ashes
  - Bishop Price will be presiding at St. Ansgar's Palm Sunday service on March 25th
- Call Committee: Council agreed on a list of congregation members who will be asked to serve on the Call Committee
- Volunteer roles and rota schedule: Council discussed challenges in finding volunteers to fill necessary roles. Council discussed ways to try to assist those who have expressed interest in volunteering for various roles
- Kitchen Renovation Committee: Phillip Ryan and a designer will be consulted to provide guidance on what can be done to improve the church kitchen and estimate what the cost might be.

Alexander Niestrawski

## Ground Hog Day 2018

Winter is living up to long established traditions,  
And we all know there is a goodly distance to go.  
It will be at least 2 months from now before we see  
any waning of the never ending ice and snow.

The groundhogs will have well apprized  
with their predictions regarding spring.  
However they can't always be perfect,  
They only have a few hours to do their thing.

Wiarton Willie (the third) met his twilight hour  
in August last year, so his long time understudy  
will be taking on the task,  
at least that is what I read and hear.

Spring will begin when it is ready,  
about a third way along in the year.  
And I will know for sure when spring has arrived,  
when dandelions start to appear.

Old Eric

# Annual Pancake Supper Invite

**We have been invited to join with St. Timothy's Anglican Church for their Annual Pancake Supper On Shrove Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**



**Pancakes, Sausages, Ice-cream!!**

**Freewill Offering Welcome**

**Want to Help?**

**Please sign up in the narthex.**

**For more information call Anna 416-783-3570 in the office.**

**St. Timothy's Anglican Church  
100 Old Orchard Grove**

**at the corner of Jedburgh Rd. an Old Orchard Grove**

**Use the entrance on the east side for direct access to the basement.**

# Outreach and Evangelism

## The Passion

Who are you? Where did you come from? Tell us all about that place...

That was one of my homework assignments when I was in public school. I kind of remember the classroom I was in, so I think it was when I was in Grade 3. It was a writing project, as most assignment of this nature was. Being in a mixed culture neighbourhood, I guess the school felt that it was good for students to talk about their originating country, at least the country that their parents were born in.

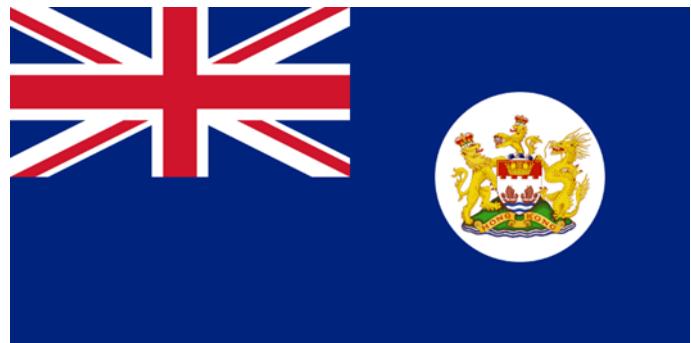
I was born in Hong Kong and so by definition, I am not even first generation Canadian. I am an Immigrant. Somehow, I was quite proud of this fact. I was quite happy to be different in this way. You wouldn't expect it from the city we are in today, but in my class back then, I do not recall any other Chinese person there. There were other Chinese people in the school, just not in my class and that made me unique.

One part of the assignment was to draw the flag of my home country. At that age, I already knew that Hong Kong was not part of China and that we are a British colony. That would mean the flag of Hong Kong is not the one for China, nor was it the Union Jack. I remember telling my teacher that I don't have a flag because Hong Kong is not an separate country that is fully independent.

The teacher helped me look up flags of the world, and low and behold, there it was...the flag of Hong Kong. Being a British colony, it had the Union Jack in the upper right corner, but it had a very nice coat -of-arms on it as well. Somehow seeing that flag made me want to stand up even taller because I come from such a special place that no one else in my class is from.

I tried to draw this flag. If Hong Kong was any sort of an iron fist dictatorship, I would probably be thrown in jail for the horrible attempt. Nonetheless, I proudly put up the flag – hanging down from the ceiling above my desk. Now everyone was able to see and know what country I came from and how unique it is.

I don't know why I was so proud of this as a kid. But I was able to continue to evangelize to others about Hong Kong and the fact that I was born there.



As the years went on, I did not stop telling others about Hong Kong. It is so common for people to ask where you are from, and I would proudly announce, "I am from Hong Kong". No doubts, no fears of reprisals, no worries that people would shun me. I just said it and I didn't care who knew.

Today, I am still proud that I was born in Hong Kong when I was. Times have changed, and the city has changed. I am not any less proud that I was born there...I am more saddened that the city has become the mess it is today, but that is a different story. If asked about where I am from, I will still proudly say "Hong Kong". That is one of the things I am passionate about and I am willing to evangelize to the world about it. And now you know about it too.

Alexander Mak

# Olive Branch Gala & Update

## ***We welcome your support***

The Olive Branch for Children is a Canadian-incorporated non-profit organization focused on *empowering those most vulnerable* in the Mbeya region of Tanzania, Africa.

This charity assists many people in that area whose lives have been impacted by HIV or AIDS, and who are restricted by living in remote communities.

In 2005, Deborah McCracken-Nangereke made the life-altering decision to stay on in Mbeya, Tanzania after a volunteer expedition. Her time now is spent managing the charity's work there and introducing many successful programs into the rural communities surrounding Mbeya.

Deborah is also the head of the charity's Zion Home where she, her husband, and daughter live with 45 vulnerable children. The charity's Peace Home, headed by Home Base Care Coordinator Edina Chungu, houses 15 children who have been either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. These children are provided with the excellent education and medical care until they complete their post-secondary studies or go on to other pursuits.

Today, the organization continues to support a diverse array of development projects including: the Montessori Program 2007, Community Health Outreach & Support 2009, Women's Small Business Groups 2010, Financial Autonomy Programs 2011, and more.

We ask you to support the amazing work which The Olive Branch is doing to help improve the lives of all those whom its work touches and assists. There are many levels of sponsorship available, and we appreciate any support you may give to assist this charity.

Our major annual fundraising event is on ***Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018*** when the charity will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner and Dance at the Bellvue Manor in Woodbridge, Ontario. If you would like to purchase tickets to the upcoming gala, please visit our website at:

[www.theolivebranchforchildren.org](http://www.theolivebranchforchildren.org)

For more information please contact us at: [theolivebranch@rogers.com](mailto:theolivebranch@rogers.com)

Ginette McCracken, President,  
The Olive Branch for Children

*St. Ansgar is a proud to support the Olive Branch for Children.*

*In our Annual Budget we include an amount to sponsor 2 children and also additional funds to help with the operation of the many programs. Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for regular updates on our sponsored children and other Olive branch events.*

*To purchase tickets to any of their fundraising events including the Gala contact Heidi Fiebig.*

# Voices for Just Society

In December 2009 a group of members from the Anglican, First Unitarian, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United churches in north Toronto with a passion for living our faith met to explore common ground and consider working together to address injustices. We hoped that by educating each other, sharing the work we were doing and developing the capacities of our own churches that we would have a larger voice to carry on our social justice work. Voices for a Just Society was formed that evening.

## Our Vision

A growing community of faith-based groups in north Toronto working together for a just society by:

- Strengthening and supporting relationships within our community
- Learning and sharing to increase our knowledge of issues
- Speaking with one voice
- Acting together to address injustice

## Our Focus:

Poverty reduction within Ontario encompassing such key issues as affordable housing and income support.

For more information please visit our website: [voicesforajustsociety.ca](http://voicesforajustsociety.ca)

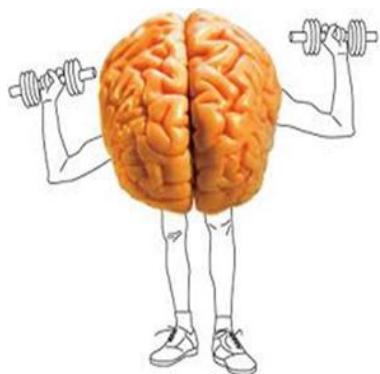
Voices for a Just Society is looking for a new St. Ansgar Representation to replace Pastor Brian Wilker. Please let Anna know that you are interested.

# Seniors Exercise Classes

**The Tuesday 10 a.m. class will focus on Heart Health.  
The Wednesday 12:30 p.m. class will focus on Yoga and Stretching. Both Classes are in the narthex.**

**No charge!  
All are welcome!**

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.



## February Birthdays

Alex Niestrawski	February 2
Erika Wagner	February 2
Bill Weldon	February 8
Heidi Fiebig	February 11
Erik Clunas	February 12
Christopher Giuliani	February 16
Vaiva Yaeger	February 16
Anthony D'Amore	February 24
Samantha Veights	February 24
Kim Yee	February 28



## Baptismal Anniversaries

Shelly Lowe	February 1
Shannon Niestrawski	February 2
Erik Clunas	February 3
Ruth Jensen	February 5
Jan Woelfle	February 14
Peter Lutek	February 18
Laura Wagner	February 18
Jayne Wagner	February 26