

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

Greetings to you all!

A winter storm is building as I look out the window and ponder this month's Family Doings Article! I love winter, the freshness of a cold winter's day, the snow as it floats down, blows around, and builds up into a beautiful white blanket of snow. I love winter sports, most activities that take place on ice and/or snow.

I spent a good portion of my life in Manitoba. I grew up on the prairies. If you live on the prairies you either learn to love the winter weather and journey within it or you are unhappy and just exist within it, trying to survive for a good portion of the year until spring.

I look out from a warm home with the things I require to take care of my immediate needs. As I look with this lens, I also have many other lenses which I use in looking at this snowfall and the weather forecast.

I sent out an email to people with whom I am scheduled to meet this evening to find out their thoughts about continuing with our plans to meet this evening.

There are many people traveling to appointments, school, work, and to their homes. Will we stop and help those people who need help to get their car out of a snow drift, or offer to buy a warm beverage for the person standing outside waiting for public transportation?

Please pray for people who struggle to provide food, clothing, and shelter for themselves and their loved ones. Please pray for those who are on the front line of providing the resources, they have for those in need. Where and how are we called to action within these needs? We are collecting winter clothing for people who need protection from the winter elements. We are collecting food for the food bank. Are there other possibilities for our action as people seeing people in our community who are poor in some way or powerless in ability to provide for their survival today and in the coming days?

This takes me back to this past Sunday with the Gospel text that included the verses from Luke 4:14-21.
"14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

This text comes from the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. His ministry was spent seeing and listening to the needs of those around him, providing for the many needs of those around him, advocating for those around him, and Jesus also focussed on teaching, empowering and building up other people, to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world in that time and us in this present day.

When we look beyond all the challenges and busyness of congregational life ... What are the needs that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to see? Where and how are we called to action within the needs of people?

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Pamela



Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, Febraury 19, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The next issue of Family Doings will be the March Issue. Deadline, Febraury 22, 2019.

Groundhog Day



Their big day came on Saturday this year, a weekend day that some of us get to just sit around or play. But ground hogs aren't so lucky, they're all prograded to work on their special day. Our Winston Willie has always been at the very top of the game. So we can all be certain this year, that he tried to do the same. An early spring is what most of us hope for, winter can be a bore. But in spite of our Willie's earnest predictions, there can sometimes be odd surprises we've never seen before.

So our best bet is to smile and be happy taking just one day at time. But if that plan doesn't meet your fancy, a sea cruise in the tropics, can be a pleasant change of clime.

- Old Eric

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: To discuss weddings and baptism (for yourself or your child), please call the Church Office at 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 Pamela at your earliest convenience for pastoral support and preparation of arrangements.

Out of the Cold Art Showcase and Sale



St. Ansgar is invited to attend *Basking In Their Light*, The Out of the Cold Art Showcase and Sale. The Showcase will take place on Sunday, March 31, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the banquet hall at Beth Shalom Synagogue (1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, ON M6C 2E6).

For more info, visit www.bethsholom.net or call 416.783.6103.

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.



Outreach & Evangelism

Learn by listening

A lot of times when I am listening to songs, I try and catch the lyrics. Of course, if the music is catchy or the beat strikes a chord with me, it is easier to just listen to the music... but when I find lyrics within a song that catch me somehow, I would tend to like that song even more.

There is a song from the 90's by the group Pet Shop Boys. It is called "The Theatre". I liked the music so I had it on my playlist for many years. I had just thought it was a song about going to the theatre in London. In passing, I hear it mention The Phantom of the Opera, Pavarotti and streets paved with gold. It all sounded very nice to me. Who wouldn't like to be a part of this arts scene!

One day, I really listened to the music and I found myself in a very ironic situation...the song starts off with the theatre crowd going to watch a show, being happy and excited about it. Walking past all the electric displays that make up the theatre district. Then it changes with the words *"There's another world here below shop windows, upon the pavement where you wave goodbye"*. It starts talking about the poor who are also there on the streets hoping for something from all the theatre goers passing by. There was even a line "All the years we've been here, we're the bums you step over as you leave the theatre".

When I finally HEARD the lyrics, it did reminded me that there is always that world out there that I somehow never see – or maybe it is to "pretend" not to see. I will have many excuses not to see them;

- They are most likely just lazy people who don't want to work...
- They look rough, will I be safe?
- I don't want to enable them with money, they need REAL help and I cannot provide that...

Whatever I say is just an excuse of me NOT wanting to acknowledge the poor that I pass when walking on the street or even on the street corner when I am driving. What kind of Christian does that make me? It is definitely pretty horrible of me.

Jesus came into this world, NOT for the rich and mighty, but to proclaim the good news to the poor. He was not very popular among the powerful people of the time, but that was not the purpose of his mission. He just made his life goal, and even in death, to save those who are less fortunate and in general, those who have no hope.

I ask myself WWJD (*What Would Jesus Do*) at different times, but why did I not do that here? I KNOW what Jesus would do, yet I just behaved like the song says...I step over (and around) those that are less fortunate than me. For this, I am truly ashamed and I have to strive to change this of myself.

Alexander Mak

Coffee House

Coffee House Changes

As you may have noticed, there have been some minor changes in Coffee House processes. For those that would like an opportunity to serve during Coffee House, the sign up sheet is now conveniently located on the bulletin board outside the office. Another change that has recently been implemented is the way Coffee House contributions are left in the office. At the end of Coffee House, the funds are to be placed in one of the pouches which have been placed in the cupboard. Once collected and placed in the pouch, the volunteer will have to drop it off in the church's mailbox. The mailbox is located beside the main entrance doors on the south side of the church. The mailbox is locked therefore the funds will be in safe keeping until collected on the next business day.



Future Dates to Keep in Mind

Sunday, March 3 - Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 3 - Pizza lunch and Rite of Burning Palms (yes...a real fire!)

Sunday, March 10 - Lenten Bible Circle and Soup

Sunday, March 31 - Lenten Bible Circle and Soup

Sunday, May 5 - Kids Service

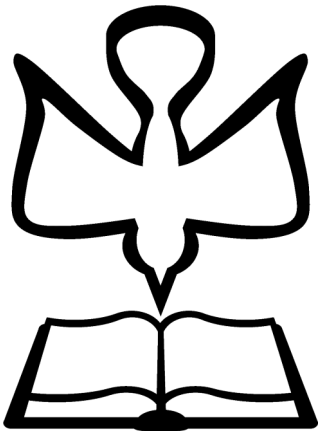


Soup Volunteer Needed



If you would like to volunteer your time, we are currently looking for soup volunteers for the upcoming Lenten Bible Circle and Soup dates on March 10 and March 31. Please contact Wendy Paroyan at 416-200-4099 or wendy.paroyan@sympatico.ca for more information.

Important Dates for Confirmation Students



Please note the important dates below for 1st and 2nd year Confirmation Students.

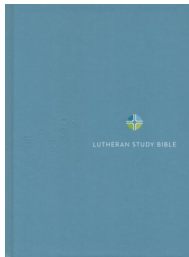
Confirmation classes for 2nd year; Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 14, May 5, May 26

Confirmation classes for 1st & 2nd year: Mar 24, Apr 7, May 12, June 9

Confirmation retreat: Feb 22-24 at Crieff Hills Retreat Center

Confirmation Sunday will be on **June 2, 2019**. Please join us as we celebrate Justin and Maggie.

In and Around The Church



The church has ordered Lutheran Study bibles for the confirmation students. If there are others who would like their own copy, please let the office know. The cost is \$46.99 hardcover or \$33.69 for softcover before taxes. Please contact the church office at admin@stansgar.ca.



Children's play structure: The small plastic play structure in the Fellowship Hall that is used during Coffee House is broken and need to be replaced. Does anyone have one at home that they're willing to donate? If so, please contact the church office at admin@stansgar.ca.

The Olive Branch

Save the date! On March 17, Deborah McCracken and her husband Putiyei Kimala Nangereke will be visiting St. Ansgar to share all their wonderful work in Tanzania with The Olive Branch. Come down during Coffee House to hear about their mission and to learn more about their programs. They will also be inviting members of St. Ansgar to The Olive Branch for Children 14th Annual Fundraising Gala on April 12, 2019. More information to come as they become available.

Joy in the Journey

An Event for all Women

Sponsored by Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod



JOY in the JOURNEY

With the
"Red Shoe" Banquet



Featuring Joanne Goodwin
Keynote Speaker

A Weekend Retreat for
Women of All Ages

May 24-26, 2019

Niagara College
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Joy in the Journey is a weekend retreat for women of all ages. The retreat will be exploring whether we have achieved real joy in our lives. It will be held on May 24–26 2019 at Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. Information and registration packages are available in the office for those who are interested in learning more about this exciting event. Don't forget to mark your calendars!

Help Wanted

St. Ansgar Lutheran Church seeks a Vacation Bible School Coordinator for the Summer 2019 program. Job includes planning, organizing and executing a 1 week half-day program. Please send your resume to admin@stansgar.ca by March 15, 2019.



A MARCH BREAK EVENT!**PIPES,
PEDALS
& PIZZA****Friday March 15, 2019**

Ages 4 -12 (accompanied by a parent) 10:00 am - Noon
Ages 13 and up: Noon - 3:00pm

Free Pizza at Noon!!!

Bring your parent and
grandparent, too...

Listen to, Learn about and play
the Pipe Organ! If you play the
piano, bring a favourite piece to
play on the organ!

See and hear the pipes in the
organ chamber.

*Discover new ideas about
sound and even play some
keys (pedals) with your feet!*

**SPECIAL EVENT!
ORGELKIDS**

**All to have an
opportunity to a build
and play a 2 rank organ**



Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street (2 blocks north of St. Clair)

**This FREE day is sponsored by the
Toronto Chapter of
The Royal Canadian College of Organists.**

Info: 416-789-1175

World Day of Prayer - Come Everything is Ready!



Art by: Rezka Arnuš

Taller walls or longer tables?

A group of Slovenian Christian women is inviting the world to "Come to the table—everything is ready" and asking, "Who is not at the table?" The occasion is World Day of Prayer and on Friday, March 1, 2019, and these Slovenian women are asking people in 170 countries to unite in prayer and immediate action for women touched by injustice.

For 97 years, women have bridged social, geographic and political barriers to justice through World Day of Prayer. Women tend to be the first to experience the effects of change because they tend to have fewer material resources to soften the change and a closer relationship to their community. As a result, they are also the first to notice things like a looming refugee crisis (France 2013), the precarious situation of overseas foreign workers (the Philippines, 2017) and the effects of illegal mining on drinking water and rainforest (Suriname, 2018). Each year, the experiences of women

from the host country inform the prayers of Canadians. The immediate application of those prayers has resulted in a half a million dollars in grants to justice projects over the last 10 years.

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada invites you, your friends and family to join us, and 1,200 communities across Canada, for the World Day of Prayer 2019.

A local World Day of Prayer service will be held at:

Willowdale Emmanuel United Church
349 Kenneth Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 4VP
Service: Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
(Lunch provided at 12:00 p.m.)

Please be advised that parking at the church is limited and car pooling is advisable where possible.

Contact name & phone:

In Canada, the World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. For World Day of Prayer materials or to learn more about WICC, please visit our website or contact us:

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, 47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
 Tel: (416) 929-5184; Fax (416) 929-4064; E-mail: wicc@wicc.org; Website: www.wicc.org;
www.facebook.com/WICCanada

The World Day of Prayer grew from an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women in Canada and the United States in 1920. This event became the international World Day of Prayer in 1922, and Christians around the world began celebrating this event on the first Friday of March.

Baptismal Anniversaries

LOWE, Shelly	02/01
NIESTRAWISKI, Shannon	02/02
CLUNAS, Erik	02/03
JENSEN, Ruth	02/05
WOELFLE, Jan	02/14
WAGNER, Laura	02/18
WHITE, Matthew	02/25
ALLIK, Samantha	02/26
WAGNER, Jayne	02/26



Birthdays

NIESTRAWISKI, Alex	02/02
WAGNER, Erika	02/02
WELDON, Liam	02/08
ROMKEMA, Albert	02/10
FIEBIG, Heidi	02/11
CLUNAS, Erik	02/12
GIULIANI, Christopher	02/16
YAEGER, Vaiva	02/16
WINTER-NOSTBAKKEN, Freya	02/17
HOWCROFT, Jonathan	02/18
SEVER, Alexander	02/20
GETTIG, Linda	02/23
D'AMORE, Anthony	02/24
VEIGHTS, Samantha	02/24
RASMUSSEN, Maja	02/25
CROFTS, Jennifer	02/27
MACKNESS, Caroline	02/28
YEE, Kim	02/28