

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 13, 2015

Advent Theme: When We Centre on Christ . . .

What difference does it make when we find Jesus at the centre of our lives? This Advent, we'll be exploring how the Baby in a manger changes how we see everything.

November 29 Advent 1 . . . We see **God** differently.
Philippians 2.1-11

December 6 Advent 2 . . . We see the **World** differently.
Colossians 1.11-23

December 13 Advent 3 . . . We see **Humanity** differently.
Hebrews 4.12-16; Romans 5.12-21

December 20 Advent 4 . . . We see **Love** differently.
Romans 5.1-11, 1st Letter of John 4.1-21

Missed a service?

Audio copies of most services are available. Just ask at the office.

Printed scripts of Greg's reflections are online: <http://elorauc.org/worship/sermons/>



Thank you to our awesome Christmas decorators! Last Sunday they worked hard to make the sanctuary beautiful for celebrating Christmas. Thank you Jen, Shanna, Jesse, Quinn, William, Isabella, Emily, Jamie, Amy, Pam and Marilyn.

The children of **Children's Worship** (PreK – Grade 5) will be singing a song in worship on December 20. They will sing in the beginning of our worship time and then go out for Children's Worship. Parents, children will continue learning the song today. We will also have a short rehearsal at 10:30 am on December 20.

Scripture, Song and Faith is a Bible Study group which will be meeting for Monday mornings throughout Advent. We have great fellowship time and discussion time as we browse through scriptures, sing songs associated with our theme and share faith ideas. We start about 10:15. You will be home in time for lunch! Please consider joining us next Monday and throughout Advent. Any questions, please call Louise Elder 519-846-2643.



Lessons & Carols evening with Elora United, Melville United and Belwood choirs. **tonight** at 7 pm at Melville United Church.

Christmas Eve Worship

Celebration Services

5:00 Elora UC

7:00 Bethany UC

Communion Service

11:00 hosted by Elora United Church



Observer Magazine Renew your subscription or begin a subscription to the United Church of Canada's award-winning magazine. Regularly \$30/year. Those in Elora United's group subscription pay **only \$25**. (This is a price increase for the first time in many years). Look for Observer envelopes on the table in the upper lobby or simply mark "OBSERVER" on any envelope from the pews; then place your envelope on the collection plate. For more info, call Judy in the office. *Bethany's Observer subscriptions are renewed in June.*

THE UNITED CHURCH
OBSERVER



For Christmas gift alternatives, please pick up a **Gifts With Vision** giving catalogue at either Bethany or Elora church or choose gifts online at giftswithvision.ca.

Thanks and Acknowledgements from the Elora Mission and Resources Boards December meeting: Arlene thanked those who **decorated the Sanctuary**. Curt thanked all who participated in the **Supper for Syrians**, in particular **Diane Ballantyne**. Carole acknowledged the entire team in **Project Welcome**.

Elora UC **Financial Summary** to end of November

	Nov 2015	Year to Date	YTD 2014	2015 Plan	YTD Variance to Plan	YTD Variance to 2014
Envelope/PAR	\$ 11,094	\$ 109,657	\$ 108,798	\$ 116,730	\$ (7,073)	\$ 859

At the end of November, we are 1% above 2014 and 6% below plan. Expenses are below plan by about 0.75%.

Elora 2015 Tax Receipts: All tax receipts will be available for pick up at the church on Sunday, February 21 and Sunday February 28. After February 28th, any tax receipts left will be mailed.



January Worship: The Story of Esther

An orphan in exile becomes the most powerful woman in the empire. A condemned man becomes prime minister. A hateful fool does himself in. A humiliated and endangered minority comes to be saved and respected. It's all in the Book of Esther! Here's an invitation to read through this tale of intrigue and rescue. We'll be focussing on this story in January, and celebrating the zany Jewish festival of Purim on February 1.

Looking Ahead

- Today** 4 pm Healing and Reconciliation Service at Elora UC
- 7 pm Elora/Melville/Belwood **Lessons & Carols** at Melville UC
- Mon** 10:15 Scripture, Song & Faith – Bissell Room
- 1 pm Quilters
- 7:30 Bethany UCW
- Tues** 7:30 pm Bethany Board
- Thurs** 7 pm Elora Adult Choir

- Thu Dec 24** 5 pm Christmas Celebration at Elora UC
- 7 pm Christmas Celebration at Bethany UC
- 11 pm Communion Service hosted by Elora UC
- Sun Jan 3** 6:30 - 8 pm Epiphany Party, Gr 6-9 Youth at Elora UC
- Sun Jan 17** 6:30-7:30 Epiphany Party, Gr 3-5 Youth at Melville UC

Community Users

Did you know? Elora United Church is home each week to Girl Guides of Canada (Monday evenings), Centre Wellington Singers (Monday evenings), the Community Resource Centre staff (Tuesday mornings), Brownies (Wednesday evenings), Alcoholics Anonymous (Friday evenings) and Elora Cooperative Preschool (Monday – Friday daytime).

Reaching wider to share blessings with our neighbours

ELORA BETHANY PASTORAL CHARGE
The United Church of Canada

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MINISTERS: All the Congregation

Ordained Minister: Greg Smith-Young

Minister for Children and Youth: Barb Smith-Young

Music Coordinator: Betty Weinstein

Office Hours: Rev. Greg Smith-Young is usually in the office Tues-Fri mornings.
 Contact Barb Smith-Young via the office or at 519-846-2542
 Administrator Judy McMullan is in the office Thurs & Fri 10 to 4:30 from Sept to June