

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2015 AT 12:30 PM



PLEASE BRING THIS COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEETING

AGENDA

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Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church

Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014

OPENING DEVOTION AND PRAYER – Our meeting commenced at 12:26 p.m. Pastor Rasma opened the proceedings with a Reading from Corinthians 4:1-2. She thanked everyone for their participation before turning the floor over to our Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OPENING REMARKS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM – Fred Kilian established that we have a Quorum. The ladies of the Craft Circle donated \$2,500.00 to be spent on any project deemed worthy. Eva Wittemeier, Erika Haebe and Ute Wentzel represented the group and Fred graciously accepted their donation.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – An amendment was made to strike our Pastor's name from page five, under the heading Convention Lay Representative. Denise Dennis attended this event on our behalf with no accompaniment. MSP.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Rasma Caune thanked all of our Volunteers, Cooks, Cleaners, Readers, Greeters, Counters, our 50th Anniversary Committee and the Altar Guild for their tireless efforts on behalf of Epiphany.

COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT – Fred Kilian has finished his last term as President of Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Geoff Crewe spoke on the Treasurer's Report and explained that our original Net Income was reported as \$11,000.00 but that the beautiful wall unit gracing our Fellowship Hall was appraised at over \$12,000 and our accountant felt that it was more appropriately placed under major repairs so this represents a deficit of \$1,500.00. A change of statement was noted and there were no questions. MSP.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NCD – Natural Church Development – Marg Crewe explained how the NCD Survey is designed to analyze eight characteristics and grade them accordingly. This process has identified "Passionate Spirituality" as being our weakest attribute. Marg also spoke of Bible Study, Open Devotions & Prayers, our support for groups and reminded us that our midweek Lenten Wednesday Services start in March. She encouraged participation in any of these groups and that she is a continuing resource for anyone curious to know more.

REO – Renewal, Evangelism, Outreach – Sally Filosa and Josie Tedes. Sally spoke of the team effort required to produce brochures, how lack of manpower prevents extending our outreach and encouraged more participation. Their continuing efforts and main focus is to provide food to Yummy Tummys. This is an ongoing success.

FINANCE – Fred Kilian invited questions. Denise Dennis raised the issue with the floor. Fred responded that the floor project is covered further into our agenda. There were no other questions.

STEWARDSHIP – Greg Furan reported that the committee is not very active at this time. Our 50th Anniversary agenda stretched our limited resources and little progress was made in this area.

PROPERTY – Epiphany is blessed to have such wonderful volunteers for so many worthy projects. The fact that our Property is so attractively showcased is testament to the efforts of our fellow members.

Wolfgang Scheu organizes and is in charge of Property cleanup, Peter and Alex von Gemmingen maintain the lawns, Martin Wittemeier maintains the garden machinery as needed. Many thanks to Frank Fuerst,

Werner Kinder and Norbert Sommer for all their efforts in keeping the Property ship shape. We are sorry to report that Ute Wentzel will be stepping down as she cannot continue her fabulous magic maintaining all of our Property's outside flowers anymore. We thank her for her many years of faithful, dedicated service.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Marg Crewe thanked everyone and was especially grateful for the wonderful services this year. She also reported that the Church Organ could use a cleaning. Fred suggested that a professional perform this work. Marg will liaise with Rasma and forward their ideas and proposals to Council for approval.

EDUCATION – Marg Crewe launched Bible Study Fridays and continues to encourage anyone to join in as all are welcome to participate. She then reported plans for Wednesday Lenten soup suppers and meditations. Soup and Service Wednesdays is to carry over through Advent as well. Marg spoke of our wonderful confirmands, Kirsten and Jessica Ehlers and that their Confirmation day will also be Mother's Day, May 11 this year. She also proposed once a month combined English/German Services. As well, a plan to prepare and train lay persons to substitute for Rasma when necessary is underway.

MUTUAL MINISTRY – Denise Dennis, Geoff Crewe and Greg Furan encourage any member of the Congregation to contact them if they feel there is a problem they can help with. This committee's purpose is to be a liaison between the Pastor and the members of the Congregation.

ELW – EPIPHANY LUTHERAN WOMEN – Lilli Kilian thanked all participants for their support of the various groups that Epiphany organizes. Bring your friends, former confirmands or anyone interested in congregational projects. ELW encourages you to participate in the group of your choice. Sally Filosa asked everyone to be mindful that March 7th (the first Friday in March) is World Day of Prayer.

The Craft Circle is busy finishing all of their projects for the Christmas Bazaar. They are always happy to welcome new members into their group.

Lilli Kilian informed us that Epiphany will be hosting the Toronto Conference of Lutheran Women this year in the fall.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MORNINGSTAR – Pastor Rasma thanked all of the contributors and volunteers that keep the wheels turning on our Morningstar Newsletter. She encouraged people to submit more content to be shared.

SENIORS' GROUP – Wilhelm Witte meier informed us that the Seniors numbers are down to between ten and fifteen members and thanked all participants and mentioned that there is always room for more members.

ADVERTISING – Lilli Kilian spoke on behalf of Nalini Badley as she was not present at the General Meeting. We are encouraging our Snow Removal Contractor to advertise in the Morningstar at \$100.00 for the year. The website speaks for itself although it's hard to estimate how much traffic it receives.

AMMS – ABSORBENT MINDS MONTESSORI SCHOOL – Sally says that there is consistently a waitlist of children wanting to sign up with Huma. There are tentative plans from March 1st through June to accommodate six children as we are unregistered at this time and the Fellowship Hall is to be addressed later under New Business. The lease is renewable in March of this year and the lawyer says that we don't really need him for this process. We were advised to proceed with the same conditions.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE – There were six planned events and all went well. Denise had a blast organizing these events throughout the year. At this point there is a CD to come, an Anniversary Book (at nominal cost) and wine is still available. Although slightly over budget, the funds are still coming in.

Jim says there is still approximately \$2,000.00 to come. Fred kindly interjected that the project never did go over budget as about \$1,400.00 was moved to 2014. There was then a motion invited to disband the Anniversary group now that their accomplishments were complete. MSP

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS – This is an area of great concern and has been for some time. There is a limit to how many terms an individual can serve and many of our members have exhausted that limit (as well as themselves) steering the good ship Epiphany. We retired many members this way over the last year, Sigrid Engler, Cyril Gomes, Walter Oberlander, Fred Kilian and Frank Fuerst. Fred described the duties involved and Counting was included. We had several nominations (Olivia, Ron, Eva) but all had to decline. Denise Dennis was also nominated and said that she might possibly be able to swing it but only as a last resort. Sigi Sommer has been on Council for three years and agreed to stand again, as did Nancy Kostroman. As of now, our full complement is: Greg Furan, Josie Tedes, Sigi Sommer, Nancy Kostroman and Paulette Correia.

CONVENTION LAY REPRESENTATIVE – This year's convention is from Friday, June 26 till Monday, June 29th. In response to an invitation to volunteer, Denise mentioned that she is thinking about participating in Council as well as representing Epiphany as our Lay Representative at the convention but she cannot take on both responsibilities. There was suggestion that Nalini might also be interested but she is not present to respond.

AUDITOR'S REPORT – Geoff Crewe qualified that our Audit closely matches our actual state. MSP.

PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET – Our budget this year included a few minor changes, lawyer fees were reduced and snow removal added a slight buffer as did reduced office supplies. Music and Worship was upped slightly but our total is less than last year. MSP

NEW BUSINESS – Our Photo Directory is a work in progress. Addressing our Fellowship Hall, come September 2014 Huma proposes up to 20 students, most senior 5 year olds. Necessary permits may be difficult for Huma to arrange and she may not be able to effect needed changes in time. Charges would be on a sliding scale based on the number of students. Erika raised several points referencing past experiences from sewage to kitchen problems. Werner mentioned a few incidents that had developed and predicted more of the same. Bettina took offence and questioned whether there should be penalties attached to infractions (totally tongue in cheek) and reminded us that we are shrinking and should reach out as far as our abilities allow. Lively discussion ensued. Rasma spoke of our role in the community and our responsibility to foster love. Sally spoke of benevolence on Huma's behalf. Fred is our Liaison with AMMS and a vote was taken. The results were: (Yes=24) (No=12) and (Abstain=3). MSP
Our focus then turned toward our Flooring Project. Discussion included multiple quotes and approaches but the most economical solution, which does not cover complete replacement is estimated at just over \$7,000.00. This would be a partial rejuvenation. Fred proposes \$7,500 but will take another quote to provide a potentially cheaper solution. MSP

EASTERN SYNOD COVENANT – Denise spoke of the benefits of adopting the Synod Covenant. Anita asked whether the Synod would then be able to dictate contributions. Rasma informed us that we have been generous with past contributions and have given more than was expected.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER – At 2:38 p.m., Pastor Rasma encouraged all to consider active participation on Council and concluded our meeting with a closing Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gord Munro,
Recording Secretary*

Pastor's Report 2014

Starting a New Year we always wish for health, happiness and success in any new undertakings or changes we would like to make both personally and as a community. Many have struggled with illness and being hospitalized, others have grieved the death of loved ones. Yet others, especially Olivia Dennis and Thomas McDougall have rejoiced in marriage bonds. Some have taken on the role of caregiver to a spouse or aged parent or have had the difficult choice of placing them in a nursing care facility in hope of making them more comfortable and safe. We have said our farewell and wished Anita and Gus Kienitz God's Speed for their move to B.C. and welcomed Gerhard Schielberg and Erhard Kraft into our fold and have celebrated the life of our eldest member Hans Hack at his funeral. We rejoiced with Jessica and Kirsten Ehlers as they affirmed their faith at confirmation.

We welcomed the children and teachers of AMMS to use our fellowship hall for learning opportunities. As with any new undertaking, there is a time of adjustment on all sides. Though there have been misunderstandings and miscommunication, I believe that we have made a good transition of mutual respect and welcome which anyone crossing our threshold as Church would expect and honour. The one thing that I now enjoy is the sanctuary becoming our home as Church in all its multiplicity. The tables set up at the back make our space a liveable one, making us feel at home and making movement easier for those with mobility restrictions. We sit closer together in worship and I don't feel so lonely up front.

I have tried to attend as many functions as possible offered by various groups in our congregation: ELW meetings, Summerfest, Applefest, hoping to have finished my knitting project for the Advent Bazaar, but arrived at the end to display it. I have attended Bible studies led very capably by Margaret Crewe, German Seniors meetings, Craft Circle and started various projects. As the confirmation classes ended I began training a group for Worship Leadership roles. This manifested itself in lay-led worship services in both English and German; in Marg Crewe taking on the thematic planning and executing of our mid-week Lenten services and Jim Dennis becoming a cantor. I attended the following committee meetings: Worship and Music, Mutual Ministry, REO/NCD, Council.

From the wider Church and community perspective I attended a variety of both German and Toronto conference clergy meetings, the Kontaktkreis and the Toronto Conference Spring meeting with Nalini Badley where I was elected as one of the clergy delegate for the National Convention this summer in Edmonton AB. I also attended the Eastern Synod Assembly with our delegate Denise Dennis and volunteer Nalini. In support of my fellow clergy I attended the installation service of Rev. Suzanne Nevile and the farewell service for Rev. Christian Schweter and Ascension service at Martin Luther. I sang at the World Day of Prayer service at Heron Park Baptist Church around the corner and led services both at the Moll Berczy Retirement Residence which is home to four of our members and at the Tony Stacey Nursing Home on the 5th Monday of the month. I attended the Abrahamic Faith Presentation at WLS and made various trips to Sperling's, Broughton's and Augsburg Fortress for worship resources.

Though hampered by physical injury at the beginning of the year and a severe chest cold at the end of the year, I attempted to visit as many as possible, having visited 47 in person and many more by phone or in my office. Much of my time is spent preparing worship for each Sunday along with special bulletins for joint services. Where a pastor might normally have 52 sermons to write a year I had roughly 102. Fortunately upon occasion I was able to rework and adapt some of my earlier sermons, but not every Sunday was I able to translate the same one since the idiom that works in English does not for the German. It takes anywhere from 3 to 5 hours to translate a sermon. I found it easier at times to write a separate German sermon using one of the other readings of the day. With your indulgence I used another pastor's sermon for the German service about 4 times in the past year and identified them to the congregation. This year I finished a project started last year – that being the red carol folders that were used throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

I was fortunate in finding a resource for mid-week advent services with homilies already prepared which were adapted. We used the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy for both midweek Lenten and Advent services.

I would like to thank all the volunteers of our congregation for their dedication and commitment to this church: those who are seen and unseen; those who work with their hands and minds and hearts. I would like to especially thank Sigi Sommer for her creativity in putting materials together for our Morningstar and especially for her patience as she waits for my devotion to come in before the absolute final deadline. Thank you for your support and witness.

My thanks also goes to the Rev. Glen Nelson for preaching at our Stewardship Service and the Rev. Herbert Harms for leading worship when I was on vacation or doing continuing education. The year 2014 was begun and has ended with that which was done and left undone. May God grant us all pardon and peace.

Since I have entered the third year of my contract here at Epiphany, it is time to plan for our future together or, if decided, to part our ways. I wish you God's grace in your discernment.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Baptised membership: 307. Confirmed membership: 237.

Worship Services: 115 of those 93 were Sunday services and 22 were mid-weeks, 12 were joint services; there were 45 Service of the Word services and 54 Holy Communion.

Marriage: Olivia Grace Dennis and Thomas Floyd McDougall on September 27th.

Death: Hans Hack October 26, 1920–August 16, 2014. Service held September 6th.

Other funeral requests and visits were for the following people: Helen Brückner, Leokadia Spreen, Endla Saksniit and Henriette Pölzl.

Pastor Rasma Caune

Council Chairperson's Report 2014

Thank you Pastor Rasma, for your service to Epiphany in 2014. Year two under wraps and on a roll perhaps. We look forward to another rewarding year to come.

Thanks also to our Property Committee and volunteers who have done such a great job of maintaining our church and property. Organizing cleanup crews twice a year and fixing things that break.

A special thank you goes to all committee chairs for your time and efforts organizing programs to run smoothly and efficiently. We are grateful for your dedication and efforts, and we all reap the benefits.

The AMMS is not only at full capacity, but has maintained their waiting list. Our faithful tenant Huma now has a class in the fellowship room, providing us with some much needed additional revenue.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the members of Council for their dedication and hard work throughout the year despite a smaller group. They have had to rise to the occasion several times during the year. Most of the congregation is unaware of the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by the members of council.

As the deadline approached to submit these reports, I looked for helpful aids to get mine done. When signing off on this report, I must acknowledge the fact that I cannot take responsibility for authoring it, as most of it was 'lifted' from Fred Kilian's report from last year.

Greg Furan

NCD – Natural Church Development Report 2014

The Natural Church Development Committee has been in hiatus due to a number of factors, primarily the many commitments of the small number of members on the committee.

At this point in time, and until another survey is done, the recommended primary goal for our congregation, as shown by the previous survey, continues to be increasing our 'Passionate Spirituality'. This quality involves a recognition that we all connect to God in unique ways e.g. through worship, through meditation and prayer, through the Word, through service to others, through nature, etc.

Nurturing Passionate Spirituality leads to a closer walk with God, increased focus in mission and spiritual growth. It should be noted that our growth as Christians often includes challenges, facing dark times and renewal.

The Natural Church Development Committee is part of a committee which includes REO (Renewal, Evangelism and Outreach). Members are Pastor Rasma, Josie Tedes, Sally Filosa, Sigi Sommer and Marg Crewe.

Marg Crewe

REO – Renewal, Evangelism, Outreach Report 2014

Hello and Happy New Year Everyone! My name is Josie Tedes and I was part of the REO committee. I would like to introduce the members of this committee and discuss our accomplishments for 2014. I was very fortunate to have Sally Filosa, Pastor Rasma, Marg Crewe and Sigi Sommer as members of my hard working committee. Sally Filosa was an important contact person when we collaborated with Habitat for Humanity and AMMS. Our Committee is involved with Natural Church Development led by Marg Crewe who has written some thoughtful and meaningful articles on the subject in the Morningstar.

Our Accomplishments: First and foremost I would like to thank our generous members of the Epiphany church congregation who kept filling the food cart at the entrance of our church so that we could distribute it to the Yummy Tummies, Caring Alliance and other great organizations. We completed a new Epiphany Brochure in colour to help inform our visitors and membership about our church. There were many events organized including some special services where we would gather for supper and to pray together.

Future Plans: We have discussed having a Coffee Hour after Joint Services. As I stated earlier, we completed a new Epiphany Brochure in colour but unfortunately were not able to distribute it around the neighbourhood, we are hoping in Fall or Christmas 2015 to have some young volunteers to help us do that in order to spread the word of our church both internally and in the community.

Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of a great organization and I look forward to the next Committee Leader to take us even further!

*Sincerely,
Josie Tedes*

Finance Committee Report 2014

Members of the 2014 Finance Committee for Epiphany were: Nalini Badley (Church Treasurer), Sigrid Engler, Greg Furan and Fred Kilian (Committee Chairperson).

Our main function was to strike a budget for 2015 (refer to the attached). The committees were asked to supply their request for a budget by filling out a form and submitting it to our Treasurer. This system has now been in use for four years and allows the committees the flexibility to embark on new ventures which may require additional financing.

The Absorbent Minds Montessori School is running at full capacity and are paying all their bills according to the contract, regularly and on time. Knowing many landlords who are not so fortunate, we must be grateful for having an excellent tenant in Huma Jivanjee who lives up to all the commitments in our contract. This year we have signed a new 5 year contract for the Parsonage and drawn up a one year rental agreement for the Church Fellowship Hall. Huma hopes to renew this agreement for next year and the years to come.

Most of our repairs have been done by our Property Committee consisting of Wolfgang Scheu, Franz Fuerst, Werner Kinder, Norbert Sommer, Martin Wittemeier and Fred Kilian. Two notable exceptions were the flooring in the Church Sanctuary, Narthex and Ladies washroom and the lower furnace in the Parsonage which needed major repairs to the tune of \$1200. As long as we do not encounter too many major repairs in the coming year our finances should meet our requirements. We must, however, be aware that our roof is aging and that our heating/air conditioning units are now 20 years old (the one above the Fellowship Hall is already having problems). If either the roof starts to leak or the heating units break down we will need to have a special fundraising drive to pay for these items.

We would like to thank the ladies of the ELW and ALL their supporters (especially Bob Haebe's swimmers) for donating generously towards the purchase of a new microphone, the Church flooring and the new toilets.

We thank Peter Herrmann for generously donating a Grass Catching Attachment for our ride-on lawn mower (value upwards of \$500) making the Fall leaf clean up so much easier.

And speaking of the lawn, a big thank you goes to Peter von Gemmingen who cuts our lawn all season.

Our Pastor's remuneration package is based on and in line with the Synod guidelines. There were no raises this year for all other Church employees.

*Respectfully submitted,
Fred Kilian, Chair of Finance Committee*

Stewardship Report 2014

The Stewardship year was marked not only by scheduled events, but also by the everyday events that go uncelebrated and slip under the radar.

To be a steward, one assumes and is entrusted with the responsibility for something he or she does not 'own' but for which they have a love or need. Specifically, Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Simply being an active member is an act of stewardship. Participating, contributing or belonging to a committee is an act of stewardship. Members of Council, the Craft Circle, the Seniors group, volunteers at every level, this is what being a steward looks like.

It was particularly satisfying to have Pastor Glen Nelson join us on Stewardship Sunday. His thoughtful words and then the delicious meal and fellowship that followed. Thanks to all of you who attended.

Everytime something needs to be done, a steward steps up and it gets done.

We are blessed.

Greg Furan

Property Report 2014

Numerous renovations were done inside the church during 2014 through the help of our faithful church members.

The floor tiles in the church narthex, washrooms and back part of the sanctuary were sanded and refinished. Partitions in the women's washroom were removed, freshly painted and reinstalled and a new watersaver toilet was installed. The men's washroom also received a new toilet. Thanks go especially to Frank Fuerst, Fred Kilian and Werner Kinder for their workmanship.

As part of Fire Department requirements, a new fireproof door was ordered and installed, requiring a 2-1/2" extension in height and painting. Installation and wiring of an additional Exit Sign also required the repainting of one wall. Special thanks go to Frank Fuerst and Greg Furan for their dedicated efforts.

Property clean ups were held in the Spring and Fall. We are grateful for all those who came to help rake, bag and carry. Special thanks to Peter Herrmann for donating a John Deere leaf collector attachment for the church ride-on lawnmower. And to Erika Haebe and Wilhelmine Herrmann for providing the coffee break refreshments.

Thanks to Martin Wittemeier for taking care of indoor lighting and to Norbert Sommer who continued to take care of outdoor and roof equipment this year. Thanks to Peter von Gemmingen and his daughter Amanda for cutting the lawns. And to Dorothea Cameron for taking care of the flower beds and for maintaining a beautiful front entrance planter for us to enjoy as we enter church.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang Scheu, Property Committee Chair*

Worship and Music Report 2014

As I listened to retired Pastor, Rev. Glen Nelson, preach on Stewardship Sunday, the words 'hit home'. There was no 'Uncle Sam Needs You' approach to Stewardship, no desperation request to fill spots or give money to keep the church running and in mission. Instead, Pastor Nelson spoke of our congregation as a pulse or heartbeat that continues year after year; a presence in the community; a warm flame.

And that is so true. It is good to remember and give thanks for Epiphany congregation and by that I mean each member of it and especially those who contribute in so many ways to our church. Christ is working in you and through you and we are grateful.

I would like to thank Pastor Rasma, who brings many ideas to meetings, sings so well and values worship highly; our dedicated organist, Aivar Kviesis; all of the ushers and lectors including: Wolfgang Scheu, Dorothea Cameron, Nalini Badley, Greg Furan and Pat Bramley, Joe and Nancy Kostroman, Gord Munro, Jim and Denise Dennis, Ron Heino, Ingrid Holzheuter, Sigrid Engler, Ursula Albrecht, Geoff and Marg Crewe, Sally Filosa, Wilhelm and Eva Wittemeier, Bettina Wittemeier and family, Ute Wentzel, and any I have forgotten.

There are so many people working diligently, truly giving of their time and talent. Members of the altar guild arrange flowers, make sure the correct paraments are in place, prepare for communion and decorate the altar for special services including: Erika Haebe, Ute Wentzel, Josie Tedes, Sally Filosa, Ursula Albrecht, Helen Heard, and others. Also behind the scenes are the gentlemen who help to keep the mechanicals functioning, help to move tables and chairs, climb ladders and haul Christmas trees.

A special 'shout out' to those who have joined our ad hoc choir – you are great! Members include: Bettina, Alexandra and Katerina Wittemeier, Wilhelm Wittemeier, Norbert Sommer, Fred Kilian, Andrea Polzl, Denise and Jim Dennis, Olivia Dennis, Emily and Katie Crewe and Vadhani Jayanathan.

The Worship and Music Committee meets about 4 times a year to help schedule and plan services, work on ways to improve procedures and communication, provide opportunities for the involvement of members in worship and support the ministry of the Pastor. The Committee members are Wilhelm and Bettina Wittemeier, Pastor Rasma, Sigi Sommer, Nancy Kostroman (Church Council liaison) and Marg Crewe (chair). Thank you so much.

As I took out Christmas decorations this December, I wondered why they were so disorganized. Then I remembered – the ice storm meant that our tree was only half decorated when the cold and darkness hit. I think we felt the aftermath of the storm into 2014. Cold, icy weather made driving difficult and led to some slips and falls. We had Wednesday evening soup dinners followed by worship during Wednesdays in Lent, two Wednesdays in the summer and Wednesdays in Advent. These are warm, intimate gatherings and I encourage you to attend if you are able.

One of the goals of the worship committee in the past year has been to improve the sound system. Another has been to provide further training to those members who wish to participate more fully as worship leaders in both the German and English services. Pastor Rasma has been leading informative sessions with a small group, including Denise Dennis, Dorothea Cameron, Ron Heino and Marg Crewe. This will be ongoing and if you are interested in finding out more please contact Pastor Rasma.

To any I may have left out – I apologize and also thank you!

*Marg Crewe,
Chair of the Worship and Music Committee*

Education Report 2014

Our Bible Class meets every second Friday morning from 10:00 until 11:30 throughout the year (please check the schedule in the Morningstar for any variance). What a joy and blessing it is to meet together to explore how God's Word has meaning in our lives and to learn from other's viewpoints and support.

We have been working through the Natural Church Development (NCD) book: The 3 Colors of Spirituality, which explores in depth the idea of spirituality; how we can grow spiritually so that we are confident with our own spirituality and viewpoint while valuing other's spiritual styles. The truth is that we often explore ideas that come up during discussion and so our pace through the book has been leisurely but rewarding.

You are welcome to attend.

Marg Crewe

Mutual Ministry Report 2014

The Mutual Ministry Committee is comprised of Pastor Rasma, Geoff Crewe, Greg Furan, and Denise Dennis. The committee meets quarterly, or as required as circumstances dictate.

The committee remains engaged in the encouragement of mutual love and concern between all members of the congregation. We work at strengthening the ministry of the pastor and strengthening the mission of the congregation.

To that end, any member of the congregation may contact a member of the Mutual Ministry Committee with a question or concern about the life of our faith community here at Epiphany. All matters are reviewed confidentially and receive the combined wisdom and prayerful deliberation of the entire committee.

*Together in faith,
Denise Dennis*

ELW – Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Women Report 2014

There are many people who contribute to the ELW throughout the year, too many to list. However, thanks go to the following people who committed to year-long responsibilities: **Lilli Kilian as President, Sigrid Engler as Treasurer, Bob Haebe our “Sunshine Convenor”** dutifully sent out birthday and get well cards throughout the year as well as 40 Christmas cards, **Sigi Sommer** created the ELW flyers and **Helga Heemsoth** ensured that our events were advertised in the “Deutsche Presse” newspaper. Special recognition goes to **Norbert and Hilda Sommer of the “Contact Committee”** who faithfully visit our infirm and “shut-ins” throughout the year. Should YOU be inclined to visit or call a member of the congregation, please contact Pastor. There are many people at Epiphany who would welcome a friendly call or visit or an excursion.

Thanks go to the efforts of all who gave of their time and talent to ensure that the 2014 Advent Bazaar was a wonderful gathering of longtime friends and members of Epiphany. Richard Bauer and family of Hans and Irmgard Hack were in the crowd that day. **Special recognition to these Bazaar Convenors: Nalini Badley, Hildegard Kinder, Erika Haebe, Wilhelmine Herrmann, Ute Wentzel, Andrea Polzl and Dorothea Cameron.**

The 2013 Bazaar revenue supported the 2014 ELW programs and charitable donations. At the beginning of the year the ELW reviews their finances, sets their working budget and plans their yearly events and activities. **In 2014 donations were made to the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Women’s Auxiliary, World Day of Prayer, The Olive Branch for Children, SOS Childrens Villages, CLWR, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Camp Edgewood Renovation Fund, Salvation Army; and to the Church Emergency Fund (TTC, Food Basics & Tim Horton’s certificates).** ELW also sets aside funds for congregational projects and this year **we contributed towards a new Church microphone, new Church flooring and toilets.** The finalized ELW budget is always posted on the Church bulletin board. Please refer to the attached financial statement for the 2014 budget specifics. Our grateful thanks and appreciation are extended to Sigrid Engler, who faithfully maintains the ELW finances competently.

The 2014 ELW monthly programs and events were announced in “The Morningstar”. The Church women wish to thank everyone who, throughout 2014, supported the following events **Sunday Coffeetime, the Monday Craft Circle, the Altar Guild, Spring & Falltime Property Clean-up, Garden Crew, Strawberry Social, Sommer/Summerfest, Applefest and the Advent Bazaar.**

Some 2014 program highlights included a Certified Nutritional Practitioner, Travels throughout India, Travels throughout Tanzania with The Olive Branch Home for Children, Sauerkraut Supper and an update on Camp Edgewood.

ELW applied to FaithLife Financial for matching grants throughout 2014. Epiphany received the following \$\$: \$500 for the Strawberry Social; \$500 for Applefest and \$500 for the Advent Bazaar.

The women of Epiphany, their families, friends and neighbours gathered throughout 2014 to work, learn and develop, to celebrate and especially to care for one another. Through the Grace of God we hope to continue. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Lilli Kilian

The Morningstar at the end of 2014

**We do receive infinitely more than we give,
yet it is gratitude that primarily enriches our life.**

Translated: "O my, again a year has disappeared, and won't again come nigh ..." wrote Justinius Heinrich Knecht about 250 years ago for the hymn set to music by Philipp Emmanuel Bach, son of the revered Johann Sebastian. And he continued, "... though lasting more than 8000 hours, it went as in the blinking of an eye." It's telling us that nothing really has changed much, except that mankind is ever more failing to get along and to care for God's creation.

One may ask, what has that to do with the Morningstar? Well, it was once again instrumental in keeping the "comings and goings" in Epiphany's 51st year from being lost to oblivion, and it did so in most admirable fashion, thanks to many committed minds and hands working together to bring its message to all of us, eleven times a year. Since God already is perfectly aware of who all these people are, and to spare me the grief and embarrassment of likely missing some names, I will forego typing the long list, hope to be forgiven for it, and just convey the Epiphany Family's appreciation and gratitude to them all.

But if you are interested in some statistics, I have no such qualms, because I will not miss any numbers: At present the Morningstar is offered, in hardcopy or email, to 146 addresses. In this year 1210 copies were printed, and 875 of them stuffed into addressed envelopes. 203 of these were mailed at time of issue, the remainder put in the Narthex to be picked up. After two Sundays have passed each month, those not yet picked up (305 during this year) are collected, recorded and mailed. A total of 765 issues were mailed in 2014, more than 200 of them being uncollected envelopes from the pick-up box which had to be mailed month after month to the same addresses. The total annual expense for printing, supplies and stamps this year amounted to \$842. Also, 765 specially prepared email issues were sent out at a cost of zero dollars, a most welcome saving (!)

After considering the implications of this picture, combined with the relatively sparse feedback from its audience, one ought to be justified to wonder how many Morningstars actually are welcome and read (?) (I have just been told to delete one party, who have not wanted to receive it, from the list.)

Thanks to our webmaster, Gord Munro, past issues of the newsletter, as well as a lot of other interesting information, are readily available as pdf files to anyone with access to our website at www.epiphanylutheranchurch.ca. If you need help manipulating it, please let us know.

May God bless you all.

Submitted by Norbert Sommer

The Seniors Club 2014

Yes, another year has gone, never to come back, but the Old Guard has been given another New Year to keep exercising their mother tongue some more. Thanks to God their numbers have remained fairly steady, and monthly meeting attendance again has been around fifteen, give or take a few. Proceedings always begin and end with a devotion or prayer, and all singing a hymn or folksong together.

Usually there are German language presentations of general interest, often of and about “the Old Country,” where most of the participants still have bonds, be it through relatives and friends, or memories of their own past life experiences there. These are followed by questions, comments and discussion about the foregoing, and fellowship while enjoying coffee, tea and baked goodies provided by the ladies.

A special Advent season catered lunch celebration is financed by free will Toonie contributions from all attending each gathering during the year. Naturally it is the star attraction, with many seasonal stories, poems and much carol singing leading into the Christmas spirit and assuring the best roll count.

Meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday every month at 1:30 p.m. as also shown on the Morningstar Calendar. Everyone is welcome – though knowing German helps!

For Wilhelm Wittemeier by Norbert Sommer

Advertising for 2014

We have 6 advertisers in the Morningstar (West Hill Florists, John’s Flooring, John Johnson Landscaping & Maintenance, Hometown Chemdry, Kelly Tree Services and Giffen-Mack Funeral Services). I have mailed out the 2015 invoices to these 6 advertisers.

Advertising expenses for 2014 were paid to Deutsche Presse now known as Rowbaut Inc, The German Cluster and Kirchliches Monatsblatt.

I have advertised fundraising events for the ELW in the free section of the Scarborough Mirror. Deutsche Presse advertised our Easter and Advent Services for free and also fundraising events for the ELW.

Website for 2014

We have renewed with GoDaddy.com, Inc. for 2 years, 2014 and 2015 to store our domain name epiphanylutheranchurch.ca and Web fees at a cost of \$174.42. Gord Munro and I are the main contacts for payment and Gord Munro is also our webmaster.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nalini Badley*

AMMS – Absorbent Minds Montessori School 2014

AMMS has had a great start this academic year with 20 students in the Fellowship room and 45 in the main building. We are awaiting our licencing for the year which can happen anyday.

Parents are very pleased with the quality of education and the care their children are receiving.

With full day kindergarden available at all local public schools now, next years enrollment at AMMS is uncertain. Huma has begun marketing and is looking at a few different options to ensure the Program remains at capacity. The classroom in the Fellowship Room is going on well and parents are pleased.

All of us at AMMS thank the Pastor, members of council and members of the congregation for their continued support.

Sally Filosa

