

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

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Pastor Rasma Caune • 647-382-5093 • epipluth@bellnet.ca

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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Through the Christmas season we asked the question: O Lord, how shall I meet you? putting ourselves in the position of the shepherds or magi, who came to see the newborn Son of God. Now, as we stand on the threshold of the New Year might we ask ourselves: "How might we meet the New Year?"

Whereas the former question revolved around an appropriate way to greet Jesus, the latter offers us an opportunity for self-reflection, identifying where we are at this moment in time and where we would like to be in 2016.

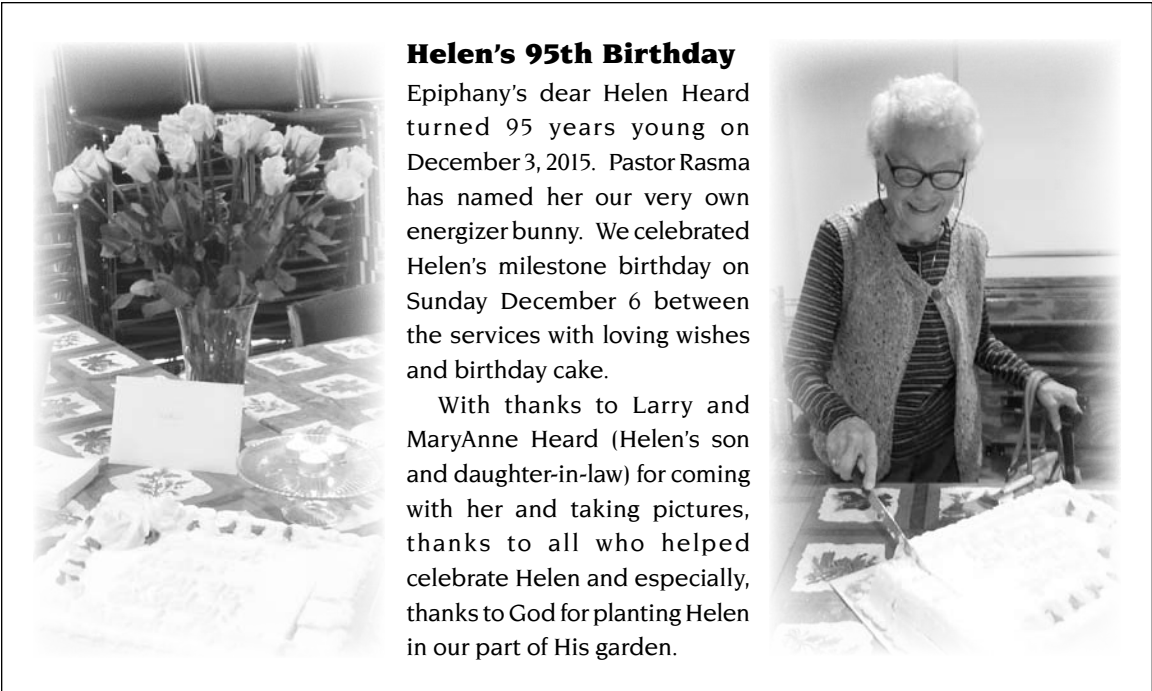
For some the year ended with losses: death of a loved one, broken relationships, changes in one's independence, lost jobs or downsizing. Others rose out of their despair by renewing friendships, allowing others to help them, and were excited by new job opportunities, and at the same time were exhausted by it and the busyness of the season. Some might meet the New Year distressed, others excited by new possibilities. One might make resolutions, but do we need to? Sometimes that, which we did not accomplish last year could be forwarded to this one, but we also need

to be realistic about our expectations of ourselves and of others.

Standing on the threshold between 2015 and 2016 we leave the old still with a world full of conflict and violence and fear of terrorism, and enter the new with visions of hopefulness as Syrian refugees find a safe home in Canada, as a new Prime Minister challenges all citizens to view things from a different perspective. It is a time to discern how we might forge our own future as individuals, as parishioners, as community leaders and volunteers bringing hope to others. If we examine the two questions, which were posed earlier, maybe we can combine them into a new reality.

Having met Jesus through worship, prayer, praise and thanksgiving, might we also acknowledge our need for the God Incarnate in our presence – in our hearts to direct our steps into 2016 with confidence and the assurance of being protected, guided and above all loved as cherished children of God. May the light of Christ shine in our darkness and lead us by the hand through the ups and downs we will face! Let's put our trust and faith in God's promises fulfilled in our Saviour Jesus because we have been blessed by his coming.

Pastor Rasma



Helen's 95th Birthday

Epiphany's dear Helen Heard turned 95 years young on December 3, 2015. Pastor Rasma has named her our very own energizer bunny. We celebrated Helen's milestone birthday on Sunday December 6 between the services with loving wishes and birthday cake.

With thanks to Larry and MaryAnne Heard (Helen's son and daughter-in-law) for coming with her and taking pictures, thanks to all who helped celebrate Helen and especially, thanks to God for planting Helen in our part of His garden.



No pen, no paper, no photocopying required!

The Church Council of Epiphany is looking for a recording secretary. The task requires only that you fill out an electronic template and email the completed document to the members of Council, which can be done at the end of the meeting (Council meets for approximately 2 hours once a month between September and June). The recording secretary allows Council members to give their undivided attention to congregational matters. The role is by appointment (unelected) and is non-voting.

If you can help in this capacity, please contact Council Chair, Greg Furan (416-284-5622) (gfuran@sympatico.ca), or any member of Council.

Many thanks!

Denise Dennis

KUDOS



I would like to thank all who took part in our Advent and Christmas services as lectors, choir members and a special thanks to Margaret Crewe who spent many an hour rehearsing with them; for those providing refreshments; and thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary especially Norbert Sommer for the advent wreath, and Robert Jesswein for providing us with the beautiful tree, which made for a festive mood. Thanks also to Michael Rundans for playing the organ on Christmas Eve.



If anyone has some ideas as to how to decorate our bulletin board for the season after Epiphany, please contact the pastor.



Thanks to the ELW for your generous gift and others who remembered me with cards and homebaking.

Pastor Rasma

From Christmas forward...

There's a wine stain on the tablecloth, wax on the sideboard, and a tea ring on the coffee table. Presents were given to the wrong person, the dinner soup didn't get made, and a special glass ornament broke into pieces. These are just a few of the "memories" from this Christmas past.

Any one of these memories is a cause for frustration, anger, or sadness. To be sure, whether viewed singly or together, these memories mean that Christmas certainly wasn't perfect in any romanticized or commercial sense.

However, I think there is a precedent for these sorts of memories that are made from unexpected and unpredictable situations, especially around Christmas. I don't imagine Joseph was keen to shut down business while he went to Bethlehem to satisfy the local bureaucracy's demand for a census; I imagine Mary choosing a home-birth over the inhospitable stable; and those shepherds, already faced with predators and cold, had unexplained spectres in the night added to their concerns.

Yet these are the very things we celebrate each year as we make the menu, choose the wine, and wrap the gifts. The difference, of course, is that we elide the real circumstances of the first Christmas and focus on the result, or outcome: God's love and grace given human form. In other words, whatever the circumstances, we have been gifted with the capacity to see grace in every event. No, not always easy, not always costless, but always redemptive.

So, to see the grace in this Christmas just past is to see that the wine stain really means there was lots of merriment around the table and festive toasts with raised glasses. The wax testifies to lively conversations that lasted longer than the candles, and the tea ring means the dishes waited until the guests departed. The mixed up gifts offer another chance to get it right; and a (surprise) potluck of snacks made the soup unnecessary. Oh, and that broken ornament, well, we will all be keeping this person in mind as we keep our eyes open for a replacement.

Christmas isn't a perfect time or place or event; it is a series of memories that can actually propel us forward through God's perfect love. Which means this Christmas, and the next, will be made of stains, and crashes, and love.

Denise Dennis

Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Epiphany's Annual Reports for 2015 will be available soon for pick up at church. Those unable to be picked up will be mailed before the end of the month.

Please take the time to read your copy and plan to attend the AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Sunday February 14th.

A joint service at 10:30 a.m. will be followed by lunch and refreshments provided. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. **Please come and bring your copy of the Annual Report!**

COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

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Josie Tedes

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josie.tedes@live.ca

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please let the Altar Guild member for that Sunday know.



ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

1st Sunday of the Month

Ute Wentzel 416-439-7996

2nd Sunday of the Month

Josie Tedes 416-283-0895

3rd Sunday of the Month

Paulette Correia 416-414-4497

4th Sunday of the Month

Hildegard Kinder 416-283-1836

5th Sunday of the Month

Erika Haebe 416-266-8660

Treasurer's Report

NOVEMBER 2015	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$6,413.78	\$12,283.84	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS UTILITIES & INS.	484.31		
LOONIE BIRD	1.30		
MOVIE PARKING	200.00		
HANS HACK ESTATE	2,000.00		
STEWARDSHIP INCOME	130.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$14,338.39	\$13,617.84	\$720.55
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$129,979.54	\$141,155.99	(\$11,176.45)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

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On the first day of the month a crowd of 22 gathered to welcome Wilhelm and Eva back from their trip across the Big Pond. All were sorry to learn that it had not all gone as expected, as Wilhelm's health had deteriorated significantly during the latter half and still poses major challenges for him.

After Pastor Rasma opened the meeting with a devotional poem and prayer, Wilhelm read a letter from Lilli Kilian on behalf of the ELW, inviting the Seniors to join them on January 13 for their special



luncheon. His subsequent question, whether we should accept the invitation and thus reschedule our next meeting date, was met with an enthusiastic and unanimous YES! and appreciation.



Forced by his poor health, Wilhelm then handed proceedings to Eva, who had prepared a lovely program of Advent and Christmas poems and stories interspaced by many of our beloved carols. While all were busy listening and singing, the caterers had arrived with the Sauerkraut and

Leberkäs' feast, and it was time to do something about the dry throats and growling stomachs, followed by more caroling and eventually, coffee and the culinary Christmas goodies our gifted lady-bakers somehow had conjured. It was a celebration much enjoyed with thanks and good wishes and cheer to all.

Norbert Sommer



2015 ADVENT BAZAAR RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1. Lebkuchen Schmidt Gingerbread Chest
donated by Gingerbread World Winnipeg
– *Winner: Torrance*
2. Crocheted Tablecloth
donated by Trudy Walker
– *Winner: Lisa Pape*
3. Giffen Mack Gift Basket
– *Winner: Gus*
4. \$30 West Hill Florists Gift Certificate
– *Winner: Robert Jesswein*
5. \$25 Vienna Gift Certificate
– *Winner: Heather Milne*
6. Large Coffee Gift Set
– *Winner: Chris Kilian*
7. Small Coffee Gift Set
– *Winner: Rolf Pape*
8. Davids Tea Set
donated by Dorothea Cameron
– *Winner: Chris Kilian*
9. Haribo Happy Cherries (12)
– *Winners: Angela von Gemmingen,
Harold Hayes, Doris Schultes, Franz Fürst,
Robert Jesswein, Tim, Gerda Manssen,
Franz Fürst, Doris Schultes, Jeremy
Tedes, Ina Moratz, Doris Schultes*
10. Chocolate Packages (4)
– *Winners: Robert Jesswein, Michael
Morris, Franz Fürst, Helga Draper*



ELW Sauerkraut Supper

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 — 12 NOON TO 3 PM

It is for several reasons that our January gathering will include a daytime meal social. The ELW did not host a December social, however, in the past, we have hosted a sauerkraut themed dinner meeting and we have decided to do this again, but at a daytime luncheon timeslot in the hopes of being able to include more of the Epiphany community. The ELW will provide the meal fixings, but we ask for your help in preparing and cooking different courses of the meal, simply because we really do not have access, nor do we have the space in our church kitchen to prepare the amount of food required. We expect to sit down to lunch at about 12:30 pm. The attendance and cooking duty sign up sheet is to be found on the church bulletin board or please call Lilli Kilian.

After the wonderful support coming from Canadian/European food importers community for the 2015 Advent Bazaar Raffle, namely Gingerbread World/Lebkuchen Schmidt, Melitta Canada and Haribo Canada, ELW is pleased to announce that Husky Food Importers of Canada will gladly provide sauerkraut for our January luncheon and possible other items towards the meal as well. Please stay tuned.

With the January meeting taking the place of our December social, it goes without saying that an invitation is extended to our spouses, partners, and all who have supported our congregational efforts throughout the year. Please come and join us on the 2nd Wednesday afternoon in January and please do let someone know if you wish to join us but require transportation.


There will be a program provided prior to afternoon coffee with dessert. We would welcome your input as to how best to distribute the revenue raised at the Bazaar. If you would have any suggestions towards the social aspect of the afternoon, please contact Lilli Kilian and please extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation who would enjoy this event.

We should know by Monday January 11th if a blizzard is anticipated that would necessitate cancelling the lunch for the 13th. An electronic and a telephone communication would be made letting as many people know as possible that the lunch will be postponed until the following Wednesday, the 20th. Please use discretion in bad weather conditions.

May we gather in the hope of realizing just all the blessings we have among the congregation of Epiphany.

Lilli Kilian, ELW President, 416-267-5300

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires. All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have —these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new." — BIBLE ILLUSTRATOR</p>					1	2
3 2nd Sunday of Christmas <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM German Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	4	5	6 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	7	8 10-11:30 AM—Bible Class	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Service	11 1 PM—Craft Circle	12	13 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office 12 NOON-3PM —ELW Sauerkraut Supper	14	15	16
17 Evangelism Sunday <small>GREEN</small> 10:30 AM Joint Service Refreshments afterwards	18	19	20 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	21 German Clergy Ministerium 7:15 PM—Council Meeting	22 10-11:30 AM—Bible Class	23
24 3rd Sunday of Epiphany <small>GREEN</small> 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Service	25 1 PM—Craft Circle	26	27 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday of Epiphany <small>GREEN</small> Pulpit Exchange: Pastor Christian Ceconi is at Epiphany & Pastor Rasma is at Martin Luther 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service						

Evangelism Sunday

On Evangelism Sunday, January 17th (or default 24th) we are hoping to get a guest speaker in to possibly inform us on the topic of refugee sponsorship and also invite you to stay posted regarding refreshment requests. We are still in the planning stages.

Continuing Education

Pastor Rasma will be taking a week's continuing education from February 1-8, during which time she will attend the Bishop's Spiritual Retreat at Mt. Carmel in Niagara Falls for the first part of the week till Wednesday. This year's topic will be Reflections on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry.

A Trip of a Lifetime!

On the Trail of Martin Luther awaits you October 12-22, 2016! Prepare yourself for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by walking through the towns and cities once walked by the founder of our Lutheran faith. We will visit the place of his birth, baptism, ordination, imprisonment and the place where he translated the Bible into the vernacular of the people and the university in which he taught and the church upon whose door were nailed the 95 theses. We will be ahead of the game this coming October, a year before the crowds descend upon Germany. Nevertheless, do not hesitate in booking your spot since the first 15 people will be guaranteed their place on the tour, others will be placed on a waiting list. For added information pick up one of our brochures from me or at the church, or contact Maritime Travel directly. The contact persons are Sharon MacDonald or Jennifer Pitts who can be reached at 416-264-3211, 117 Guildwood Parkway, Scarborough ON M1E 1P1.