

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

416-284-5922 • www.epiphanylutheranchurch.ca

Pastor Jordan Smith • 416-356-3505 • revjordansmith@gmail.com

NO. 662 • MARCH 2024

Submissions 15th of the month
Layout: Sigi Sommer 416-264-9929
sigisommer@rogers.com

Who Will Do It?

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” (MARK 16:1-3, NIV)

Throughout the month of March, we will be journeying toward the three days where we remember Jesus’ last supper, betrayal, death on the cross, and glorious resurrection. We journey forward each year with the goal of immersing ourselves in the story that we hear while also knowing the ending that is coming.

As we hear the resurrection story from Mark, we are told of the three women who went to anoint Jesus’ body in the tomb. What stands out to me as I read the text this year is the contrast between what parts of this plan are prepared, and what they have yet to figure out. They are prepared with the spices, know where they are going, and know what they want to do. They are ready to go just after sunrise, prepared to be on their way as soon as the sabbath is over. They are going to be with Jesus’ body to care for it, to anoint it, and to be present with it.

However, they have not planned one critical step and so they ask, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” Are they asking this question in trying to determine which of the three will be tasked with rolling away the stone? Or are they wondering how the rolling of the heavy stone will possibly take place? Have they forgotten to plan an important part of their act of service?

In our church we often find ourselves asking the question of who will roll the stone away with both senses in mind. We ask: who will do the work? Who will serve on council, who will assign tasks, who will sit on the call committee, the redevelopment committee, the stewardship group... the list goes on where we ask who of us will do something? Our question of “who” also includes the undeclared question of whether we are capable of doing something. We wonder if an idea is possible and feel we don’t have anything left to offer.

For both us in the church, and the women on that Easter morning we find ourselves asking “who?” Who will do it, and who can do it?

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

But for those three women, as they approach the tomb with their questions, their eyes see in the distance a strange sight... the stone is already rolled away. They enter the tomb to see a young man dressed in a white robe, and they are alarmed.

When God acts in our lives in unexpected ways it is alarming. When we recognize God's presence in a situation, we do not know how to respond. But we do get to understand in that moment that our question has been answered. Who will do it? God will. God has done what is needed and invites us to participate. To hear of the resurrection and to tell others.

In the life of the church, during the season of Easter, and in our daily struggles we turn to those critical questions of who will do this and how is this possible? In the resurrection story each year we receive our answer. God will do those things which are beyond our ability and will sustain us to participate in the continuing story. May we come prepared to the tomb this Easter, ready to be a part of something that is beyond our abilities.

Pastor Jordan Smith

Zoom Link to EPIPHANY LUTHERAN

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09)

[pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09)

Meeting ID: 989 080 0583 Passcode: 095565

Or by phone following the prompts: +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 989 080 0583 Passcode: 095565

Zoom Link to EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84508884280?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84508884280?pwd=TC9ZMG1GWfhWNXISNUV6ZmhUS05QUt09)

[pwd=TC9ZMG1GWfhWNXISNUV6ZmhUS05QUt09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84508884280?pwd=TC9ZMG1GWfhWNXISNUV6ZmhUS05QUt09)

Meeting ID: 845 0888 4280 Passcode: 910257

Or by phone following the prompts: +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 845 0888 4280 Passcode: 910257

German Worship Connections

We are happy to share opportunities for our German speaking members to worship and hear occasional sermons in your native tongue.

Pastor Katharina from St. George's in downtown Toronto will hold an occasional prayer and social gathering in Scarborough at the Schwabenclub. The next date is scheduled for March 21. Please speak to Ute Wentzel for more information.

Pastor Annika from Martin Luther Church has a weekly devotion that airs on Sunday at 9:30am on CHLO Radio AM530 and which is also posted on their website.

Please follow these links if you wish to hear her devotion.

AM530 Website: <https://am530.ca>

Martin Luther Church Website: <https://martinluther.ca/worship-services/radio-devotions-podcasts/>

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MARCH 3

LENT 3 (PURPLE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY MARCH 8

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 10

LENT 4 (PURPLE)

12:00 noon Holy Communion Service

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY MARCH 14

7:15 p.m. Council Meeting

(In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 17

LENT 5 (PURPLE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY MARCH 22

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 24

PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY (PURPLE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY MARCH 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service

Pastor Jordan Smith (Online and at Emmanuel Lutheran)

FRIDAY MARCH 29

GOOD FRIDAY—GERMAN

2:00 p.m. Service of the Word

Pastor Rasma Caune (In-person)

GOOD FRIDAY—ENGLISH

7:00 p.m. Service of the Word

Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 31

EASTER DAY (WHITE)

12:00 noon Holy Communion Service

Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

MARCH SCHEDULE NOTES

- Maundy Thursday service is at Emmanuel Lutheran at 7pm and on Zoom. Use Zoom Link to Emmanuel posted left of calendar.
- Good Friday German service will be at 2pm since that is the time that a German pastor is available.

IN MEMORIAM

Franz Werner Dietz

MARCH 14, 1924 – FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Long time, faithful member of Epiphany since 1969, Franz Werner Dietz passed away peacefully at the age of 99.

Predeceased by his loving wife Maria in 2020 and survived by his son Frank (Julia); grandchildren Alexander and William, and great grandson Tyler.

Franz Werner will be remembered for his outgoing friendly personality, humor, and his willingness to help others.

A funeral service was held Saturday February 17 at Giffen-Mack Funeral Home & Cremation Center.

May God grant all family and friends faith and peace, and a sure and certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.



*“Lord, now let your servant go
in peace for my eyes have
seen your salvation.”*

(LUKE 2:29)

When interpreting the Bible,
filter it through the larger
biblical theology of
“God is love.”

If where your interpretation
ends up excludes,
belittles, is violent, ignores
those in need, or allows
you to feel superior to others,
it isn't loving.

It isn't from love.
It isn't of God.



Rev. Mark Sondlin

CONTRIBUTED BY DENISE DENNIS

CALL TO BOOK A TOUR TODAY!

647-931-1514 or EMAIL info.parkway@livinglivita.com



LIVITA PARKWAY: 1645 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 7E9
www.LivingLivita.com



COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPS

CHAIRPERSONS	(C) COUNCIL MEMBER
Council Chair	Geoff Crewe (C)
Council Vice-Chair	Denise Dennis (C)
Councillor-at-Large	Greg Furan (C)
Councillor-at-Large	Gord Munro (C)
Education Committee	Open
Finance Committee	Geoff Crewe (C)
Property Committee	Open
Seniors Group	Ute Wentzel
Stewardship Committee	Denise Dennis (C)
Worship & Music	Marg Crewe
Visioning Chair	Gordon Vollmer (C)

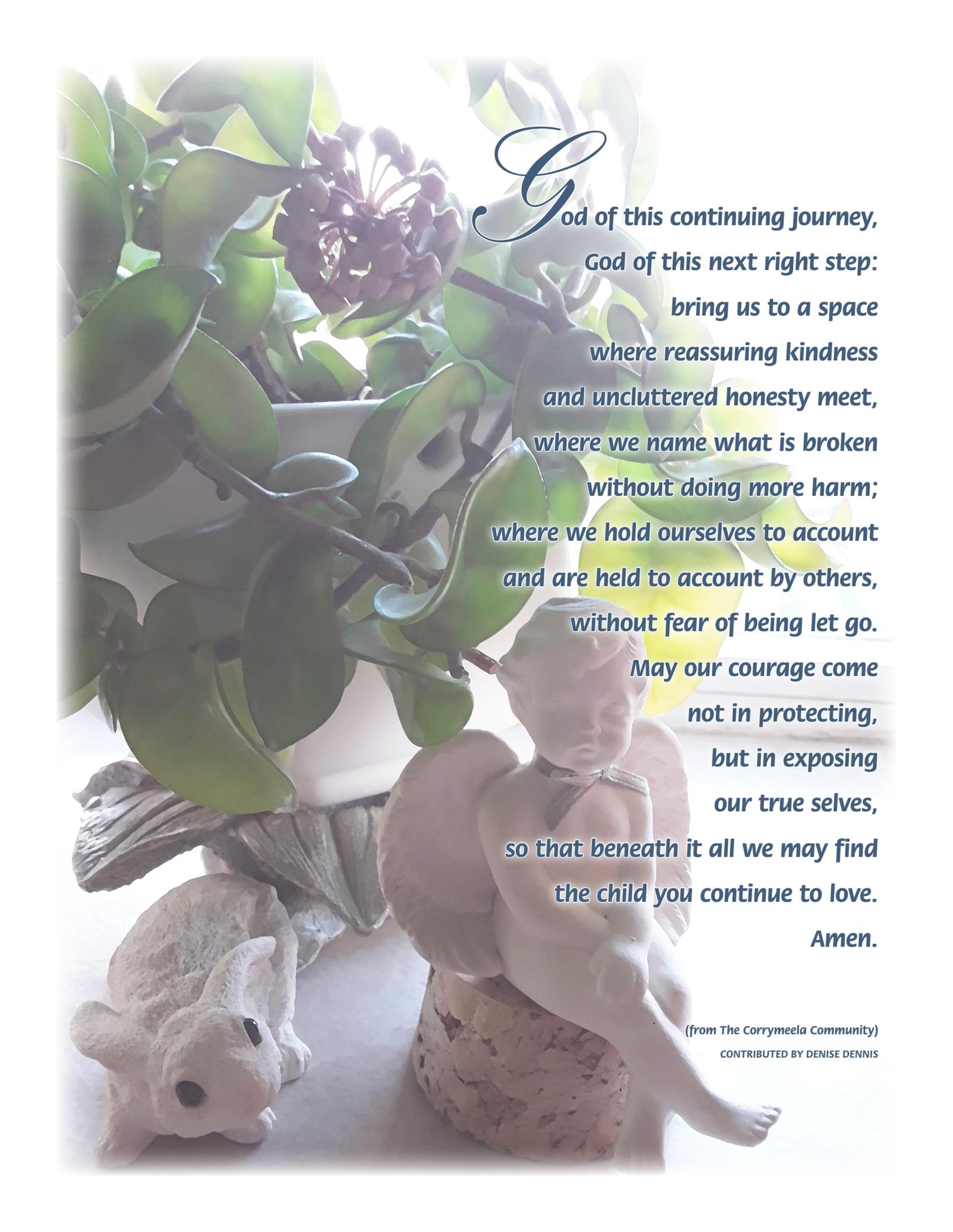
COMMITTEE REPS/LIAISON

Advertising Coordinator	Nalini Badley
AMMS Liaison	Ron Heino
Council Secretary	Margaret Fler (C)
ELW	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry	Geoff Crewe (C)
Spiritual Society Liaison	Ron Heino
Treasurer	Nalini Badley

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2024	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$4,384.78		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	368.42		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	423.29		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$9,251.49	\$9,853.61	(\$602.12)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$9,251.49	\$9,853.61	(\$602.12)
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT JANUARY 31, 2024			41,440.69
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT JANUARY 31, 2024			137,359.02
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2024			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



God of this continuing journey,
God of this next right step:
bring us to a space
where reassuring kindness
and uncluttered honesty meet,
where we name what is broken
without doing more harm;
where we hold ourselves to account
and are held to account by others,
without fear of being let go.
May our courage come
not in protecting,
but in exposing
our true selves,
so that beneath it all we may find
the child you continue to love.
Amen.

(from The Corrymeela Community)

CONTRIBUTED BY DENISE DENNIS