

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

416-284-5922 • www.epiphanylutheranchurch.ca

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

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Layout: Sigi Sommer 416-264-9929

sigisommer@rogers.com

Why Stewardship?

“Steward” is a term that refers to a manager who is responsible for the goods and property of another. A steward is not therefore an owner, but one who has a responsibility to an owner to treat property with care and respect. “Stewardship” is a term that refers to the responsibility of a steward to manage wisely.

Stewardship has come to be used in the Christian community in a broader sense. A biblical view of stewardship can be defined as “utilizing and managing all the resources God provides, for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.” We are not owners but stewards of all that comes into our arena of responsibility—income, property, our environment, time, talents, and our very selves.

We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development and enjoyment of everything He owns, as His stewards, we are responsible to manage His holdings well and according to His desires and purposes.

As Christians, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects; it connects everything we do with what God would have us do in the world to glorify Him, serve the common good and further His Kingdom.

So often we make our plans and ask God to bless them. Instead, we are called to discern the plans of God and then to ponder how we can bring our lives into conformity with them.

“Live Simply”

The overriding theme of the stewardship resources provided for our use this year is “Living Simply”. How do we do this when our day-to-day lives are so busy with meeting the demands of our jobs, relationships and social activities? Finding a little time to rest is a luxury. Our efforts to do, be, and have the best leave us tired and unsatisfied. If there is a simple life, where is it?

Paul’s words in Philippians 4:11 give us a clue – “I have learned to be content with whatever I have.” This type of thinking is not easily embraced by our human nature. The brief readings, to be distributed with the service bulletins over the 4 weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 13, essentially say that living more simply involves reclaiming Christian discipleship as our priority, including stewarding our resources faithfully and giving generously.

November 13, 2016 is Stewardship Sunday at Epiphany. We will be having a lunch after the joint service that day. During lunch, members will receive two handouts, being a “Share Your Gifts” Volunteer Checklist and a 2017 Financial Commitment card. You will be asked to take them home and to complete and return them by December 4, placing them in a sealed envelope in the offering plate. The Volunteer Checklists will be used to build/update our Members’ Talents inventory and the 2017 Financial Commitment card will be used in budgeting/managing next year’s finances. As good stewards, I encourage you to participate.

From the Stewardship Department, submitted by Geoff Crewe



MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther (1483-1546) was a real character: a devoted and determined theologian, professor, liturgist, hymn-writer, husband, and heretic (according to the church of his day).

He turned from the law to the priesthood where he struggled with inner turmoil – *Anfechtung* – always trying to be a saint, striving for perfection, yet realizing that he was a sinner. He went to confession multiple times a day but questioned the legitimacy of Holy Communion when it was received from corrupt priests. Would it still be a means of grace?

His concerns were written down in his 95 theses, and included the practice of buying salvation for a price. That money went into the coffers in Rome to support Pope Leo X and the building of St. Peter's Basilica. The saying going around at the time was, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." This coin was for an "indulgence" that paid for a lessening of the sinner's after death punishment.

Indulgence preachers were sent out in 1514, which offended Luther because he felt they cheapened grace by not requiring true repentance. This corrupt practice meant the poor were becoming poorer buying indulgences rather than feeding their families. Luther preached against such indulgences. He believed that people ought to struggle inwardly with their sin and come to repent; he wanted people to take responsibility for their actions.

Luther's 95 theses were meant to be argued in a formal disputation among scholars. He sent a copy to Archbishop of Mainz, Bishop Albert Brandenburg on October 31st 1517. Legend has it that he nailed a copy to the door of St. Anne's church on this day. This marked the beginning of the Reformation.

Needless to say, there was much opposition to Luther's stance outlined in the 95 theses. A papal Bull was issued regarding his behavior with a request

to renounce his writings. Luther burned it. In the meantime, his own works were banned and he was excommunicated for his attack on the pope and the indulgences. Finally, Luther came before the general assembly in Worms (known as the Diet of Worms) on April 18, 1521 where he was asked if he stood by the contents of his books. Luther insisted that his conscience would not allow him to recant any of them. On May 25th the Edict of Worms declared him an outlaw and he was to be arrested. Instead, Frederick III had him "kidnapped" on his way back to Wittenberg and taken to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach for safekeeping. Here Luther used his time to study Scriptures and write about his understanding of justification by faith alone by grace alone. He also translated the New Testament into German.

Luther was kept up to date with the goings on in Wittenberg and in 1522 secretly went back. He was aghast to find zealots and radicals taking the reformation in a completely different direction, one of revolts and peasant wars. Luther tried to intervene, wanting to bring about order again.

Martin Luther's marriage was controversial, too. This former monk married a former Cistercian nun, Katharina von Bora, one of 12 nuns he helped escape from the Nimbschen convent. He was 41 and she was 26 years of age at the time. Together they raised six children, two of whom died. Luther's family lived simply, often struggling to make ends meet. His marriage paved the way to allowing priests to marry.

As for the church, Luther began to organize the structure of a congregational and territorial church which would be centered around the cross of Christ. He created the *Deutsche Messe*, the German Mass (1526), so that everyone could actively participate in singing hymns, psalms, and parts of the liturgy and jointly recite the creed. This was Luther's way to promote the priesthood of all believers.

Luther may have been a character, but he used his talents to change and revitalize the church of Christ, a creative process we will commemorate in 2017.

For October 31: Monster or Monstrous?

I recently taught a literature course on the “undead,” or the vampire of legend and lore. It was clear that the vampire was – and is – a monstrous character, whether found in legend, fiction, or film. My students were asked to consider why vampire stories continue to fascinate us, never really “dying out” as it were. My class also studied the subtle confusion about the dual nature of the vampire. Although suave and mysterious, the vampire also raises fears that often result in reactions and rituals for keeping safe (most of us know about the stake through the heart, wearing garlic, or carrying a cross as a defense against this monster of the night).

In newer vampire fiction, a “sympathetic” vampire was written into being in the 1970s. It is a character who is indeed one of these monsters, but who did not choose to be one and therefore does not enjoy the consequences of being one. We are supposed to feel sympathy for the plight of this character, even though he does monstrous things to humans. In current fiction, then, there are two types of vampires: the monster, and the merely monstrous.

This idea of the monster and the “merely” monstrous intrigued me and made me wonder what kinds of monsters are in the Bible. It turns out, there are two kinds, and both are creatures created by God. Is one a “true” monster and one merely monstrous? Is one evil, and one sympathetic? The creature, Leviathan (Job 7:12, Ps. 74:13, Is. 27:1), is often referred to as a monster of the sea, both because of its large size and its ability to be harmful. The other monster is a metaphorical one; for example, we learn about Rahab (Is. 51:9) and Egypt’s Pharaoh (Ez. 29:3, 32:2), two human monsters. The distinction in my mind is that the Leviathan is compelled to act because of its nature. Like the sympathetic vampire, the Leviathan has no choice about who or what it is and does. The real monster, the human monster, makes a conscious choice about his behaviour.

Like the enduring stories of the undead vampire, the Leviathan has generated a list of characteristics associated with its size, its physical capacity, and its home hidden beneath dark waters. We think of these aspects in terms that convey monstrousness and fearfulness, much like Job’s reaction to this unique creation of God. However, after studying the vampiric monster, a line from a television show, *American Horror Story*, adds a new dimension to the subject: “All monsters are human.” The human monster has free will; he secrets his monstrosity in his heart, appearing for all the world in the guise of every other human (although no doubt we can name some human monsters who are more obvious than others). This, to me, makes the phrase, “all monsters are human” a bit more disturbing because of the truth it reveals.

I can have dark thoughts; I can harbour evil wishes (I judge other drivers!). Does this make me a monster? Or merely monstrous? I want it to be the latter, and pray that as a creature of God’s making, my failings will be forgiven, especially since the Bible reminds us that God deals severely with monsters. Perhaps the fear of what lurks in our dark hearts is what prompted people in Luther’s time to buy indulgences, to escape the “undead” of purgatory. It seems to also suggest that we do recognize the monster within us. The key here, to my thinking, is that God loves his creations. By giving us the model of love in Christ, we can aspire to a “clean heart” through the gift of grace. *Denise Dennis*

On November 19: Fresh Air & Exercise!

Dress comfy, bring a rake if you have one and come to church that Saturday morning. We’ll be outside cleaning up the Fall leaves and need your help! Good company and coffee break provided.

Midweek Advent Soup & Service

Wednesdays: November 30, December 7 and 14.
Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. ❖ Advent Service 7:30 p.m.
Everyone is invited and welcome!

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



ALTAR GUILD

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

Notes from Lilli...

The Church Women thank all who contributed towards the amazing variety of apple themed baking for our APPLEFEST social, especially Alexandria, Angela, Bettina, Edda, Elisabeth, Erika, Eva, Hilde, Hildegard, Jennifer, Irene, Lilli, Margaret, Marion, Nalini, Pat, Sigi, Sigrid, Stephanie, Ute and Wilhelmine.

We had several visitors from the community at Applefest asking for the recipes! Just to let you know that the public was astounded with the quality, calibre and array of baking!

The Church Women wish to recognize and thank Franz Fuerst and Werner Kinder for their efforts recently in rebuilding and restoring the storage shed outside the Quiet Room that holds the extra tables and chairs. Their work ensures that the shed contents will remain dry, mouse and squirrel resistant and easily accessible when needed. Epiphany still requires a larger garden shed to store the ride-on lawn mower more easily than the current shed. We hope to erect a new shed in Spring 2017.

Throughout the year, birthday cards are sent to members and friends of the congregation and at Christmas a special mailing is made to our shut-ins and those unable to attend church services and our functions. These small gestures mean a great deal to the people who receive them, albeit the old fashioned way, in the mail via Canada Post.

The ELW Sunshine Convenor Bob Haebe requires more birthday, greeting, and Christmas cards for our upcoming seasonal mailing. If you are able to contribute any, please call Bob at 416-266-8660 or leave your donations with Pastor or in the Church Office marked for "Bob". Also, if you know of someone who would appreciate being on our birthday listing and who would like to receive a Christmas card, please inform Pastor, Bob or Lilli Kilian at 416-267-5300. Thank you.

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HealthWise WealthWise: Health is Wealth

In keeping with the November Stewardship theme of giving of our time, talent and treasure, our health and wellness session this month will focus on protecting and maintaining our health, the greatest treasure we can ever have.

As we all know, the common cold and the flu negatively impact our daily lives and without good health we cannot fully give of our time or any talents we may have. With the advent of winter, it is not unexpected that we will experience an increase in cold and flu outbreaks, so our topic for November is Colds and Flu: What Can and Should You Do? We will focus on various strategies for the prevention and reduction of these illnesses. Although these information sessions will cost you time (Saturday, November 19 2016, from 2 to 4 pm or 7 to 9 pm), they are free of charge and will only add to your treasure stores in the long run!

If you and/or someone you care about would like to participate, please let us know by telephone at 647-345-8972 or email us at healthwisewealthwise@rogers.com by Wednesday, November 16 with your choice of session so that we can properly prepare for you. Light refreshments will be served and seating is limited to the first 10 people to RSVP for each session. If you would like to receive our newsletters, please email us at healthwisewealthwise@rogers.com and we will add you to our subscriber list.

To great health, Bettina and Martin Wittemeier, Certified Nutritional Practitioner & Health and Wellness Consultants



German Seniors Group

We are doing quite well, especially as we were able to welcome a couple of new members at our last meeting.

Our next meeting will be on November 1st at the usual time during which we will discuss our Christmas Party on December 6th at 12 o'clock.

Lilli suggested having our January meeting again together with the ELW. After some discussion, the seniors suggested to have it on Thursday, January 12th, 2017. Details will follow. **Wilhelm Wittemeier**

Treasurer's Report

SEPTEMBER 2016	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$4,396.64	\$14,272.18	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	2,575.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	624.84		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,200.00		
REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP	100.00		
MOVIE PARKING	300.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$10,530.48	\$15,606.18	(\$5,075.70)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$100,296.18	\$111,751.83	(\$11,455.65)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

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On the Trail of Martin Luther — Travelogue

Wednesday November 9 at 1 pm



Join us as we travel through Mainz, Erfurt, Dresden, Wittenberg and Berlin with Pastor and others and hear about their adventures! Bring along a guest! We will also fine-tune Bazaar details, discuss delegating Bazaar earnings and preview Craft Circle items. **We invite you to bring your seasonal White Elephant and Craft items to this meeting or on Sundays throughout November.** They will be stored in the church office.

APPLEFEST was great. We thank everyone, especially Joe & Terri Werner, friends of the congregation, who supplied apples from their Brighton orchard for our bakers and also to the public on the 15th. People had a wonderful opportunity to socialize over delicious baking. Let's do it again at the Bazaar! Applefest took in over \$500 and Epiphany will receive a \$500 matching grant from FaithLife Financial. ELW will consider how best to distribute these funds, especially since the supply of food store and Tim Hortons certificates in the Church Emergency Fund needs replenishing. There is never enough to meet the demand.

Whoever offers to set up a coffee break for the FALL PROPERTY CLEANUP on Saturday November 19 may choose refreshments of their choice, within reason. You will be reimbursed. Now is your chance – sure hope to hear from YOU!

After consulting the Church Seniors, **the 2017 date for the Midwinter Sauerkraut Luncheon is set for Thursday January 12 at noon.** This event is not limited to those who attend the Church Women or the Church Seniors meetings—anyone in the congregation available at that time is welcome.

Finally, I've made this plea before, and especially now with the holiday season approaching, I mention again, the opportunity for you to call or visit a senior or shut-in of the congregation on behalf of Epiphany; perhaps take them out for coffee or lunch or even to a church event. This act of kindness could mean

a great deal to both parties and I urge you to contact Pastor today to see if she could recommend a suitable candidate.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these requests.

ADVENT BAZAAR INFO

Saturday November 26 from 1–3 pm

Bazaar Set-up will happen Friday November 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please come when you can!

People will be at church from 10 a.m. Saturday to accept baking and other donations. Accepting Christmas and Holiday items ONLY, we gladly accept unused gifts that are still in your closet. If possible, please bring these items to the church throughout November.

Our Raffle Prize Convenor, Nalini Badley 416-281-3162 says there is still TIME TO ASK for a Gift Certificate as a raffle prize from your place of business or where you shop; the stores often appreciate the publicity associated with this donation. Official donation letters are on the Bulletin Board.

How can YOU support Epiphany Church Women at the Bazaar?


PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD or call Lilli Kilian 416-267-5300, Erika Haebe 416-266-8660 or Sigrid Engler 416-283-8536.

- * Help with set up on Friday evening (tablecloths, dishes, decorating, etc) and price items.
- * Offer to stand behind a table on Saturday.
- * Help to serve in the Bake Sale area.
- * Offer to work at the Bazaar as needed.
- * Provide baking or handicrafts.
- * INVITE your extended family, friends and neighbours to the Bazaar.
- * Offer Raffle Tickets to people to win some fabulous prizes.

Please remember that whatever you can do for the Advent Bazaar is worth YOUR talents, time and energy. WITHOUT your assistance, we can do very little. WITH your generosity, we can do a great deal!

Lilli Kilian • 416-267-5300 • kilianlf@gmail.com

November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
But there is always a November space after the leaves have fallen when she felt it was almost indecent to intrude on the woods...for their glory terrestrial had departed and their glory celestial of spirit and purity and whiteness had not yet come upon them. — L.M. MONTGOMERY, ANNE OF WINDY POPLARS		1 1:30 PM German Seniors	2 11 AM -2 PM Church Office	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	7	8	9 11 AM -2 PM Church Office 1-3 PM ELW Meeting	10	11 10 -11:30 AM Bible Class REMEMBRANCE DAY	12
13 Stewardship Sunday GREEN 10 AM Joint Communion Service followed by Stewardship Lunch	14 1 PM Craft Circle	15	16 11 AM -2 PM Church Office	17 7:15 PM Council Meeting	18	19 9 AM FALL PROPERTY CLEANUP
20 Christ the King Sunday GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	21	22	23 11 AM -2 PM Church Office	24	25 10 -11:30 AM Bible Class MORNINGSTAR collating	26 1-3 PM ADVENT BAZAAR
27 First Sunday of Advent BLUE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service	28 1 PM Craft Circle Pastor Rasma on vacation from Nov 28—Dec 5	29	30 Midweek Advent Soup and Service 6:30 PM—Soup Supper 7:30 PM—Advent Service			



2016 Advent Bazaar

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26
1-3 PM

Visit the **Craft Table** for lovingly handmade items.

Find that special something at the **White Elephant Table** — Christmas and holiday items, which include regifted items suitable as gifts.



Enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea with homemade European-style baking from the **Bake Table** or have it wrapped to go.

Enter the **Raffle** to win great prizes including:

- The Festive Chest from Gingerbread World, Lebkuchen Schmidt.
- Niederegger Marzipan-Lubeck; Ansbach Pralinen.
- Gift Baskets and Certificates including gift certificates from the Bulk Barn, Gerhard's Cafe and Vienna Fine Foods.

Raffle Tickets —
\$2 each / 3 for \$5 / Book of 15 for \$20

FaithLife Financial will provide a matching grant for this event.