



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Submissions 15th of the month
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Bearing Witness

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.” (JOHN 15:26-27, ESV)

You may have noticed during the installation of church council at the service in mid-March that those who had been elected were given specific tasks to undertake. They were asked to be faithful in their areas of service, to be example of faith active in love, to see that the words and deeds of the congregation bear witness to God, and to seek to involve all members of the congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.

The members of church council promised to faithfully carry out these duties with the help of God, and the congregation in turn promised to share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized.

The verses shared above which Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John, offer a similar reminder of our responsibilities as compared to the words that the council and congregation shared during the service of installation. Jesus tells the apostles, those closest to him, that they will bear witness to Jesus' life and acts. Those who have walked with him since the beginning of his ministry, will tell others about what they have seen and heard. As followers of Jesus this is a task that they cannot step away from.

But the witness they offer to the world is secondary. Jesus tells them that the Spirit, the Helper (the Advocate in other translations), is also a witness. The Spirit who proceeds from the Father and is sent by the Son, will be a witness to the world of what Jesus has done.

This is the same Spirit which empowers our witness. It is the same Spirit which first drew us to Christ, nurtured our faith, and sustained all those witnesses who have come before us. And now that Spirit continues to bear witness, while also empowering our words and deeds. We witness to the world not because it is required of us, but because the message is joyful to share.

In this time of transition let all the people of Epiphany, all members and elected leaders, live into your baptismal promises and the promises made as the new council was elected. May you share in your ministry of witness together, alongside all the baptized in Christ, knowing that your witness happens with the help of God, and the Helper which Christ has sent.

Pastor Jordan Smith

Letter from Pastor Jordan

March 17, 2024

Dear Geoff and members
of Epiphany Lutheran Church,

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you today that I have received a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Hamilton and after a period of deep discernment and prayer I have decided to accept this new call. I informed the congregation of Emmanuel about this news earlier today.

It has been a joy to serve the people of Epiphany as your interim pastor since November 2022. The members of this congregation have been a strong witness to a community that can support each other while gathering both in-person and online.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, love, and encouragement throughout my time here. As I prepare to transition to this new chapter in my ministry, I ask for your continued prayers for me and my family. I will continue to hold all of you in my prayers as you begin to discern the next steps for the congregation and how ministry can be done effectively and collaboratively in the Toronto area.

In the coming weeks, we will work together to ensure a smooth transition process. I am committed to assisting in any way I can to support this transition as you continue to work on your visioning and redevelopment processes. I am able to serve you as interim pastor throughout the season of Easter and my final Sunday would be on the festival of Pentecost.

Thank you for the privilege of inviting me to serve you during this time of transition. You will always hold a special place in my heart. May God continue to bless and strengthen each one of us as we faithfully follow the Spirit's lead in being disciples of Christ.

Peace be with you,
Rev. Jordan Smith

APRIL CALENDAR

FRIDAY APRIL 5

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

SUNDAY APRIL 7

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY APRIL 11

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
(In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY APRIL 14

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)

12:00 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY APRIL 19

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

SUNDAY APRIL 21

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY APRIL 28

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)

12:00 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Jordan Smith (In-person & Zoom)

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)

Or by phone following the prompts:

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 989 080 0583 Passcode: 095565

2024 Financial Budget

Those of you who attended the Annual Congregational meeting on February 25 may recall that the 2024 budget was approved, but with a little bit of a twist. The budget presented for discussion proposed a special one-time gift of \$6,858.01 to the Eastern Synod of the church. I made a motion to amend that amount to \$7,429.51. While the amounts appear unusual (you would likely expect a round number), it's because one of them represents the final severance pay issued some years ago to our now deceased organist, Aivar Kviesis. There was some doubt as to which number was correct. The budget was approved, subject to inserting the correct amount of the severance cheque (it turned out to be \$6,858.01).

Retracing events after the meeting revealed that we issued an initial cheque for \$7,429.51 and requested Aivar sign a release upon acceptance of the cheque (standard procedure under employment law). Aivar returned the cheque with a note indicating he would not accept it. His explanation was unclear but it had nothing to do with the amount offered. As this was an unexpected response, we contacted the employment law firm advising us. They did further work and recommended we cancel the rejected cheque and issue Aivar a new one, but for \$6,858.01 this time, again with a request that he sign a release to indicate his acceptance of this sum. We have never received a response, either from Aivar or from whoever is serving as his Estate Trustee. While the cheque is now stale dated, we remain prepared to rewrite it if we are ever contacted to do so.

Monetary support for the Eastern Synod from member congregations has been trending downward over the years and leaves them concerned about how they are going to accomplish all their objectives with less money. Council felt that Epiphany could offer additional support based on our present financial condition. That led to the idea that we could assist them by making a special gift ... in memory of our late, long-time organist, Aivar.

Geoff Crewe on behalf of Council

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair:	Geoff Crewe
Council Vice-Chair:	Denise Dennis
Council Secretary:	Margaret Fler
Councillor-at-Large:	Greg Furan
Councillor-at-Large:	Gord Munro
Councillor:	Gordon Vollmer
Councillor:	Sigrid Engler
Treasurer:	Nalini Badley

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Education:	Open
Finance:	Geoff Crewe
Property:	Geoff Crewe
Stewardship:	Denise Dennis
Visioning:	Gordon Vollmer
AMMS Liaison:	Geoff Crewe
Worship & Music:	Marg Crewe
Morningstar:	Sigi Sommer
Seniors Group:	Ute Wentzel
Advertising Coordinator:	Nalini Badley
ELW:	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary:	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry:	open
Spiritual Society Liaison:	open

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$3,410.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	432.53		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,404.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	107.03		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$9,428.56	\$10,257.49	(\$828.93)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$18,680.05	\$20,111.10	(\$1,431.05)
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT FEBRUARY 29, 2024			40,526.83
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT MARCH 2, 2024			137,688.61
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2024			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



Our minister had been speaking on the text “... pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken”, and we came home still thinking about it. It was as if we needed some help – a picture, perhaps – to grasp the meaning properly.

We looked out of the kitchen window at the bright clump of daffodils that had burst up through the cold soil. Their yellow trumpets were turned towards us, as if sounding out some wonderful melody that only the other flowers could hear.

Then, that night, five inches of snow fell while we slept – heavy wet snow that demolished everything in the spring garden and even clung around the white plum blossoms. What a disappointment when we looked out. There was not a daffodil in sight – all had been crushed beneath this onslaught.

But the snow did not stay long, and the daffodils reappeared – a bit squashed at first, but the blazing yellow trumpets were still there. Day by day they stood up straighter, until no-one would have known that there had been any snow at all.

“That’s it,” the Lady of the House exclaimed, “from now on, we must face our troubles like a daffodil, and rise up again when we are crushed by life!”

FROM ‘OUR FRIENDSHIP BOOK’, SHARED BY NORBERT SOMMER

CALL TO BOOK A TOUR TODAY!

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

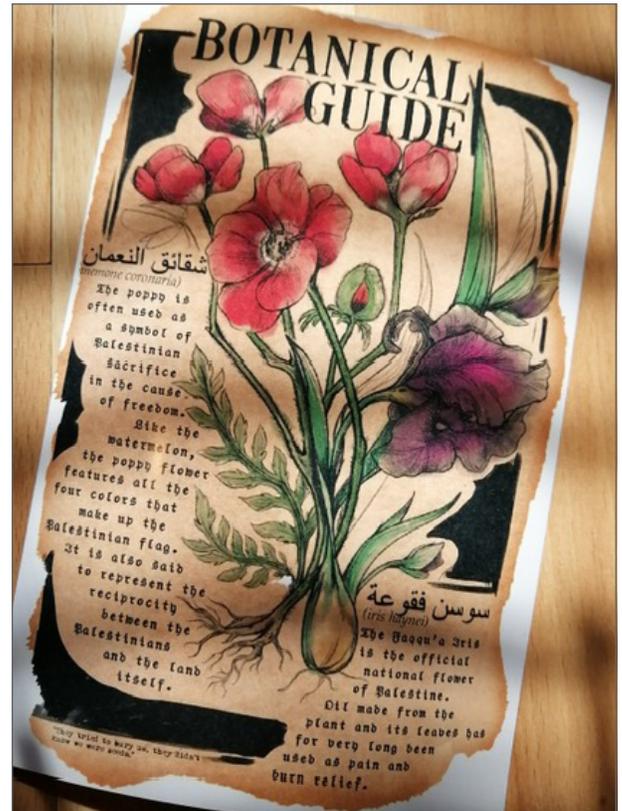



LIVITA PARKWAY: 1645 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 7E9
www.LivingLivita.com

**Not everything that is faced can be changed.
 But nothing can be changed until it is faced.**

— JAMES BALDWIN

FROM A BOOK SHARED BY DENISE DENNIS, ‘SMALL GREAT THINGS’ BY JODI PICOUIT



This postcard was handed out at the World Day of Prayer Service hosted by Melville Presbyterian Church on March 1, 2024. Each year a different country writes the service materials. This year, the writing committee was Palestine. With thanks to Nalini Badley for sharing this with us. The postcard text is reprinted here:

BOTANICAL GUIDE

Anemone coronaria

The poppy is often used as a symbol of Palestinian sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Like the watermelon, the poppy flower features all the four colors that make up the Palestinian flag.

It is also said to represent the reciprocity between the Palestinians and the land itself.

Iris haynei

The Faqu’a Iris is the official national flower of Palestine.

Oil made from the plant and its leaves has for very long been used as pain and burn relief.

(And in small print): “They tried to bury us, they didn’t know we were seeds.”