



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

In our last Bible Study we read about “the greatest power on planet earth”. What could that be for you? Various people were referenced, from politicians to civil rights activists, and theologians and the humble Mother Teresa. Are you still wondering what the discussion was about? The greatest power is not political authority, nor does it come from the church hierarchy. The greatest power is LOVE. The discussion revolved around that, which then brought up PEACE.

Many of the above persons had their own ideas of what brings about peace. Pastor Johannes Busch, leader of *Bethel Center*, the largest European institution for the mentally and physically handicapped, responded by stating, “We cannot do anything for peace unless someone else has first given peace and helped us to overcome hate and enmity. The most important thing each of us can do for peace is to open ourselves to receive love.”*

Could this make a difference? Are you open to receiving love? How often have you had the thought that you were unworthy, that you did not matter or count? It may have come at a time when you felt most vulnerable, or when you felt that you were not listened to—your opinion didn’t count and was dismissed. Was there something of which you were ashamed and therefore felt unworthy to be loved? Self-image can be a deterrent to receiving love from any source. This negativity could have come from comments belittling your integrity, your ability, your intelligence

or even the way you look or the way you react in difficult situations. “How can someone say they love me if I take seriously their comments and believe them?” Perhaps we listen to the wrong voices—those which demean, which make fun, which insult. Rather, those voices which lift up, which encourage, and which empower are voices of people who give love, who inspire peace—peace within our hearts and lives.

The question remains, “Are you able to receive the love given?” Are you able to say, “I am loved; I have worth; I count and matter because I am loved.” Are you able to receive and share the peace offered to us and the disciples by Jesus, who says, “Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.” It is a moment of welcome, of acknowledgement that we count and that we can make a difference in the life of our community of faith, in our families, and in any endeavour with which we are entrusted.

As we enter into the time after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit has turned our hearts and empowered us to live in peace and serve one another in love, do not be afraid to receive the love of God promised to us by Christ Jesus. Christ has not left us orphaned, but rather, has challenged us to give the love we have received to others, so that peace is experienced in its authenticity through our faithfulness.

Pastor Rasma

* Schwarz, Christian A. *The 3 Colors of Love: the art of giving and receiving justice, truth, and grace. Church Smart resources, p.140*

KUDOS

- ✿ Thanks to Lilli Kilian for organizing the luncheon at Gerhard’s Cafe and thanks to the staff who worked on their day off. An enjoyable time was had by all.
- ✿ Thanks to Marg for helping out with the 2nd Episode of “This Changed Everything: 500 Years of the Reformation.” The last episode will be shown in the Fall.
- ✿ Thank you all for your condolences regarding the death of my brother and for allowing me to host my family for the celebration of his life.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Discernment – the ability to obtain a sharp perspective or to judge well. In Christianity, it can take on many meanings. It can be a process by which one determines what God desires of you in any given situation or in life so that one can distinguish between what is good and evil, right or wrong. It could refer to that which God is calling you to do or be in your life such as a vocational calling.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR THE FOOD BANK



Busy, busy, busy...

Whenever the question of “How are you?” is asked, a lovely lady I know typically answers, “Oh, busy, busy, busy!” To keep up with gardening, laundry, baking, shopping, and socializing means she is “busy, busy, busy” – in her retirement!

Can you relate to her response? Our calendars quickly fill with commitments, both personal and professional; weekends are consumed by what is required and what is (hopefully) recreational. We can likely agree this keeps us “busy, busy, busy.”

How we occupy the hours and days we are given, though, is about deciding: deciding on priorities, on pacing, on possibilities. Hasn't this always been the case?

I have long been fascinated by the twelfth-century German nun, Hildegard of Bingen. Hildegard lived in a Benedictine cloister from the age of eight to eighty-one. She was, among other things, an abbess, mystic, composer, healer, writer, and herbalist. Most scholarly attention is on her recorded visions that illuminate the deeper meanings of the religious texts with which she worked (and wrestled). In addition to her inspired visions, research has turned to her music, a collection of (at least) seventy-seven liturgical songs whose words and music capture remarkably beautiful sounds and cadences through the singing of them.

Hildegard also engaged in energetic correspondence with monarchs, popes, and clergy at all levels of society, many of whom sought her advice on matters of authority or responsibility. Her wisdom likely stems from her firm hand in managing the community of nuns she founded and ruled in two different cloistered houses. Certainly, a lady who was “busy, busy, busy.”

Yet Hildegard was not immune to the pressures of daily decisions. In

a fictionalized account of one of her journals, Hildegard is rushing to Vespers where she expects to sing and pray “with sincere devotion,” yet she finds the “clamoring of outer events has grown louder than the ‘opus dei’” [daily psalms, readings, prayers] (Lachman 74). The events that keep her “busy, busy, busy” include broken hearts and bones, spoiled meat, scorched altar cloths, running out of medicines, withering spirits, and the never-ending jealousies among the novitiates.

Despite her energy and her devotion, Hildegard admits, “I acknowledge that my hope is in the living God, yes, but there are days when the terrors of decision-making are particularly loud and God strangely quiet” (Lachman 74). Like the busy, busy, busy Hildegard, we may lose our way, choose unwisely, and fail to hear the “opus dei”. Yet, Hildegard is lamenting an instance of quiet rather than silence. Silence is an absence of, or no reply from God to our anxious thoughts and prayers. Instead, Hildegard remarks on the quiet, or that the usual sounds, the usual dialogue between her and her Lord is momentarily muted. That distinction between quiet and silent is subtle but important. It reminds us that God is ever-present: across the centuries, the decades, and these days, sometimes quiet but never silent. Now let me suggest a similarly subtle but important distinction: to be busy, busy, busy is to be blessed, blessed, blessed. I imagine Hildegard would support that decision; I believe God does.

Blessings on your decisions today!

Denise Dennis

Wage peace

Wage peace with your breath.

**Breathe in firemen and rubble,
breathe out whole buildings and
flocks of redwing blackbirds.**

**Breathe in terrorists and breathe
out sleeping children and freshly
mown fields.**

**Breathe in confusion and breathe
out maple trees.**

**Breathe in the fallen and breathe
out lifelong friendships intact.**

**Wage peace with your listening:
hearing sirens, pray loud.**

**Remember your tools: flower
seeds, clothes pins, clean rivers.**

Make soup.

**Play music, learn the word for
thank you in three languages.**

Learn to knit, and make a hat.

**Think of chaos as dancing
raspberries, imagine grief as
the outbreath of beauty or
the gesture of fish.**

Swim for the other side.

Wage peace.

**Never has the world seemed
so fresh and precious.**

Have a cup of tea and rejoice.

**Act as if armistice has
already arrived.**

Celebrate today.

...

JUDYTH HILL



**I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things. — MOTHER TERESA**

YARD SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 17 • 9AM-2PM

Proceeds go toward Refugee Sponsorship

**SATURDAY JUNE 17
9 AM TO 2 PM**

There will be a grand Yard Sale on the beautiful grounds of our Church at 20 Old Kingston Road.

Proceeds are for our Refugee Sponsorship Program.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us with sorting, setting up, and selling. We gratefully accept items which you no longer want or need.

Come and browse: you might just find the treasure you always wanted!

For questions or contributions, contact Dorothea Cameron at 416-282-3275.

It's Wine Time!

The wine being made and sold in support of our Refugee Sponsorship is "Italy Rosso Grande Eccellente;" it is expected to deliver "a delectable bouquet of sweet ripe berries, spices, and farm cherries, and firmly structured tannins." Like the wine for the 50th Anniversary, Jim Dennis will take pre-orders; contact Jim at jimsilver.sail@gmail.com or 416-264-4091 to place your order: each bottle is \$10.00.

We are grateful to the supplier and wine maker who provided a very generous discount on the wine because it is in support of refugee sponsorship: our sincere thanks to James Howitt of Grapefully Yours.

We thank you for your continued support of the refugee sponsorship project.

Your Refugee Sponsorship Committee

Thank you to Kelly's!

We wish to express our thanks to our neighbour, Kelly's Tree Care Limited for having purchased, delivered and planted a Sugar Maple tree in back of the Church at our request, and at no cost to us. Thank you, Kelly's!



WANTED



Volunteer

CLEANERS

Once a month

REWARD: clean church,
grateful souls

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Johann Wentzel


Saturday June 24, 2017
2 pm to 5 pm
Tribute starting at 3 pm
37 Bow Valley Drive, Scarborough (Ute's house)
Ute and family

Our Seniors

May 2 Seniors meeting – okay, so it rained. But 15 of us still able, even though a bit slower than in years gone by, showed up to listen to Wilhelm's substitute read interesting tidbits about Easter now and over the centuries after first remembering the Wittemeiers who were on a holiday in Germany. We wished them well and prayed for their safe return home, then lustily sang "Der Mai ist gekommen." It was the first of many German folk songs we enjoyed singing together.

When all voices and ears had been sufficiently exercised, all were ready for the traditional coffee, cake and sweets time our ladies prepare for, this time supplemented by an assortment of yummy cookies which Lilli Kilian had sent Fred to deliver, to our delight and many grateful sentiments in return.

The next gathering will be on June 6 at 12 noon for our annual Picnic! Hope to see you there. *Norbert Sommer*



You're invited
to Epiphany's
**Strawberry
Social**
SATURDAY JUNE 17
(Father's Day weekend)
12 NOON – 2 PM

Enjoy a heavenly helping of
Strawberry Shortcake with
Vanilla Ice Cream and
Coffee, Tea or Juice.

Freewill offering
is appreciated!
(Suggest \$6 each)

FaithLife Financial will provide a matching grant for this event

If you wish 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

EPIPHANY COUNCIL

GREG FURAN – Council Chair
416-284-5622 / gfulan@sympatico.ca
SIGRID ENGLER – Vice Chair and ELW
416-283-8536 / sigengler@gmail.com
**FRED KILIAN – Property, AMMS
and Spiritual Society**
416-267-5300 / kilianlf@gmail.com
GEOFF CREWE – Finance and Stewardship
416-267-3383 / geoff.crewe@gcrewe.com
RON HEINO – Worship and Music
416-284-0716 / heino@rogers.com
**DENISE DENNIS – Mutual Ministry
and Membership Subcommittee**
416-264-4091 / denise.dennis@outlook.com
PAULETTE CORREIA – Outreach & Altar Guild
416-414-4497 / polly222001@yahoo.ca
**PASTOR RASMA CAUNE –
Education and Reformation**
647-382-5093 / rasmac@sympatico.ca

TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$7,722.15	\$10,777.98	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,200.00		
AMMS UTILITIES	641.94		
AMMS INSURANCE	302.04		
MEMORIAL - F. FLER	40.00		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE	5.00		
CRA SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT	253.22		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$14,073.35	\$12,111.98	\$1,961.37
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$63,387.87	\$47,425.20	\$15,962.67

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



**It's
Strawberry Season
at Epiphany on
June 17 ~ 12 to 2 pm**

The church women invite you to support this springtime social and depending on its success, FaithLife Financial will offer Epiphany a \$300 Matching Grant!

We require:

- 🍓 Strawberries brought to Church throughout the Saturday morning (**fresh or frozen, sliced, UNSUGARED please!**)
- 🍓 1 person to prepare the coffee and tea
- 🍓 2 people to prepare the servings
- 🍓 1 cashier to handle ticket sales
- 🍓 9:30 a.m. Saturday set-up crew (outdoors, weather permitting, otherwise indoors)
- 🍓 that you **offer a flyer to invite a friend or neighbour ...** thanks to our faithful supporter, Bob Haebe for inviting the Birchmount C.C. Pool swimmers. We welcome more!

Too many plants at home or in the garden? Too many magazines at home? Please bring these to church as soon as possible and we will offer them for sale at the social. Would YOU be willing to volunteer at this table?

Thanks go to Heather, Han and Sigi of Gerhard's Cafe, located at Bellamy and Ellesmere Roads, for the lovely luncheon 22 Church women from Epiphany enjoyed on May 15th. Everything was delicious and the quiche and torten come highly recommended. We hope to be able to have more women join us at a future lunch gathering later in the year.

Epiphany also recently received a \$100 Fellowship Grant courtesy of FaithLife Financial. Congratulations and blessings to Hildegard and Werner on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary milestone and to all others celebrating special upcoming events.

There will be NO regular monthly ELW afternoon meeting in June, instead we ask our members and friends to support the Strawberry Social and Yard Sale. **Summerfest** is happening on Saturday July 22 this year to accommodate visitors from our GTA East sister churches. ELW could use the following help: **3-4 Sauerkraut cooks (Sauerkraut will be provided); 2 BBQ chefs; an extra BBQ for the day; volunteer to prepare the guessing game jars (please bring in any interesting shaped jars you have.)**

Please let us know how you can help: Lilli or Fred Kilian; 416-267-5300; kilianlf@gmail.com

Lilli Kilian

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June 2017

Pastor Rasma will be on vacation from May 31 to June 6. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-881-9154.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>May 26 to June 24—Spiritual Society daily parking from 9:30 PM -12:30 AM (MIDNIGHT) during the fasting month of Ramadan</p>						
4 Day of Pentecost RED 9 AM German Lay Led Service 10:30 AM English Lay Led Service	5	6 12 NOON — German Seniors Picnic	7 11AM -2 PM Church Office	8	9 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	10
11 The Holy Trinity WHITE 10 AM Joint Communion Service 1 PM GTA East Picnic at Peterborough Zoo. We are hoping to rent a school bus or carpool.	12 1 PM— Craft Circle 7 PM— GTA East Reformation Committee Mtg at Peace Pickering	13	14 11AM -2 PM Church Office No ELW Meeting	15 7:15 PM — Council Meeting	16	17 9 AM-2 PM — Yard Sale for Refugee Sponsorship 12 NOON-2 PM — Strawberry Social
18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service FATHER'S DAY	19 4 PM— Confirmation Class	20	21 11AM -2 PM Church Office	22	23 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	24
25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 10 AM Joint Communion Service 6:30-8:30 AM (SUNDAY OR MONDAY) —Spiritual Society Parking	26 1 PM— Craft Circle 4 PM— Confirmation Class 6:30-8:30 AM —Spiritual Society Parking	27	28 11AM -2 PM Church Office Pastor at Moll Berczy Haus worship	29	30 Morningstar Collating	