

# The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

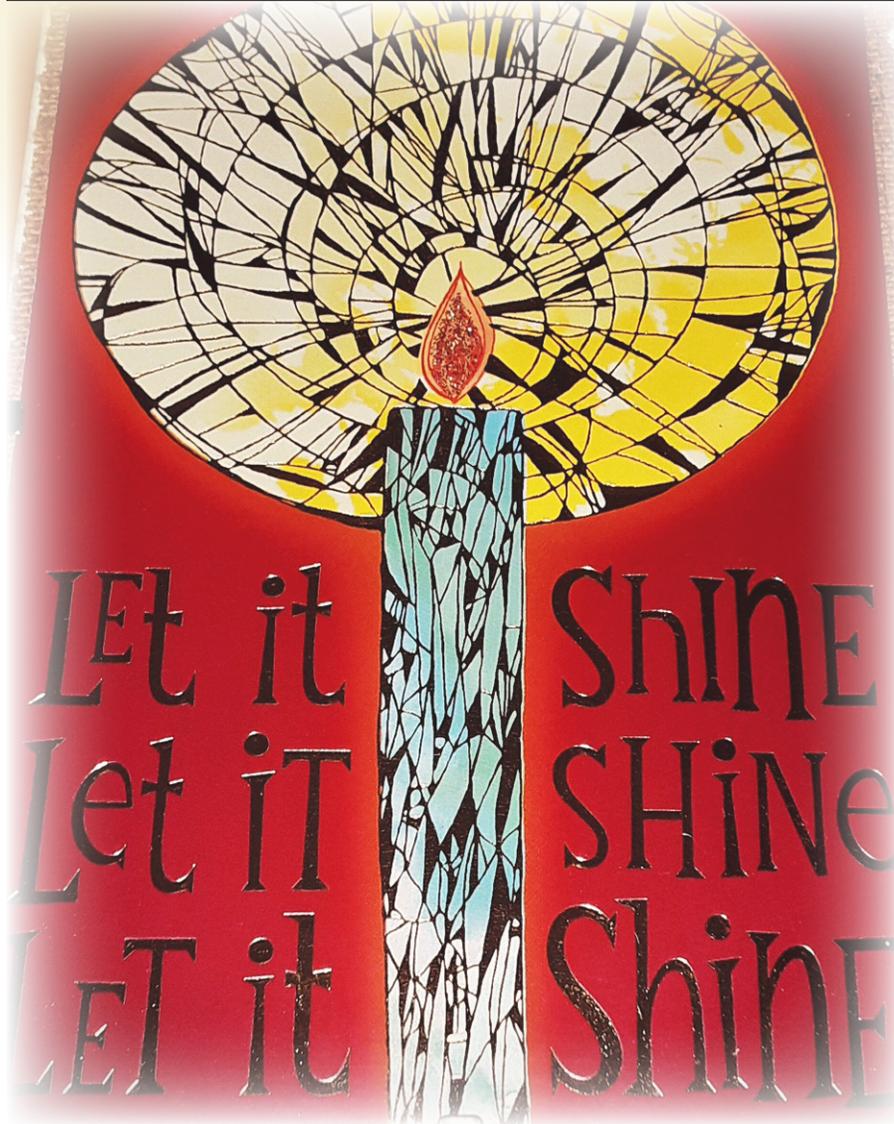
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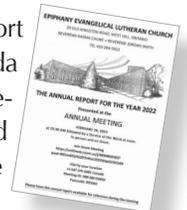
Submissions 15th of the month  
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## Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2023 at 10:30 AM** followed by a Service of the Word at 12 noon. The meeting will be held both in-person at the church and on-line with Zoom.

The 2022 Annual Report contains the meeting agenda as well as supporting materials. It will be distributed well in advance of the meeting, both electronically and as hard copy to those who customarily receive paper copies of the Morningstar. We encourage utilizing the electronic version as the “green” option, however hard copy will be made available to anyone upon request.



Please circle the date on your calendars. Participation in this important meeting is your opportunity for input into the key decisions affecting your Church in 2023 and beyond.

**Epiphany Church Council**

### Church Council Vacancies

Church Council has openings for a minimum of two people, as current members have reached the maximum allowable 6 years of consecutive service. Volunteering for Council entails a two-year commitment for a monthly meeting 10 times per year. All meetings are available both in-person and on-line depending on your preference.

Our constitution requires no fewer than 6 members to form a council, and without new people we will be below that threshold. Council members are generally ratified at the annual meeting but are welcome to join at any time. If you have served in the past or are seeking a new challenge, please give serious consideration to sharing your skills. We need you.

For more details, any current member of Council would be pleased to provide you with further insight.

**Epiphany Church Council**

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3

10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

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

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9

7:15 p.m. Council Meeting

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

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

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service  
Pastor Hilla Lahtinen  
(In-person & Zoom)

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
Pastor Jordan Smith  
(In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26

10:30 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING  
(In-person & Zoom)  
followed by  
12:00 noon Service of the Word  
Pastor Jordan Smith  
(In-person & Zoom)

#### Zoom Link to EPIPHANY meetings

[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

## Scent Free Sanctuary

With the joy of returning to in-person worship services comes a gentle reminder to please refrain from wearing scented products to church. Sensitive noses thank you.

## Standing Against Hate During Lent

*So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. (MATTHEW 27:24-26, ESV)*

It is hard to believe that as the lights and beauty of Christmas still seem so fresh in our minds that we are already in the final days of preparation for the season of Lent. Lent has always been an incredibly moving season for me as I join with many in making a serious effort to focus on the deep meaning present in the scriptures during the time from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday.

There are many different practices that people take on as a Lenten "fast" in anticipation of the Easter Feast. For some, this includes abstaining from some foods, while for others it involves a commitment to a new spiritual practice.

This season is also an important time for us as the church to reflect on antisemitism and its prevalence, both intentional and unintentional, within our teachings and the wider culture. While the sin of antisemitism is not new, recent months have seen a dramatic increase in dangerous and hateful comments made by those with wide media influence.

While we as Lutherans might not have a large media influence, we are responsible for being honest about the ways that our Lutheran heritage, particularly some of the writings of Martin Luther, have directly attacked and been used to harm the Jewish community. Some of the reasoning for this hate comes from scripture like the verses above from the Gospel of Matthew.

We can learn from statements put out by the Lutheran World Federation and the ELCIC, like this quote from "An ELCIC Resolution Regarding a Statement to the Jewish Communities in Canada:" *"Grieving the complicity of our own tradition within this history of hatred, we affirm our fervent wish to live our faith in Jesus Christ in love and full respect for the Jewish people. [Antisemitism] is an affront to the Gospel, a contradiction of its central teachings, and a violation of our hope and calling."*

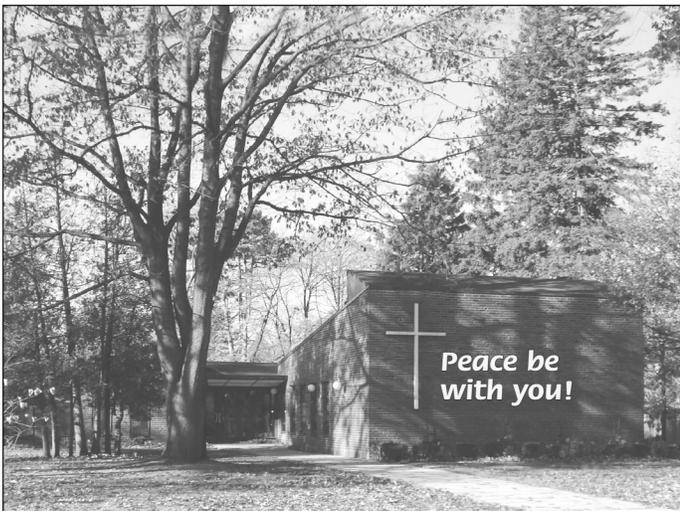
As we use this season of Lent to deepen our faith and spiritual practices, let us also take time to become aware of how we read the passion narrative, and the effects its language has had on our Jewish neighbours, both in the past and in the present.

May God's grace continue to bring about healing and understanding among all people and may God act through our learning and love shown to others.

**Pastor Jordan Smith**

**Life** is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
**Life** is beauty, admire it.  
**Life** is a dream, realize it.  
**Life** is a challenge, meet it.  
**Life** is a duty, complete it.  
**Life** is a game, play it.  
**Life** is a promise, fulfill it.  
**Life** is sorrow, overcome it.  
**Life** is a song, sing it.  
**Life** is a struggle, accept it.  
**Life** is a tragedy, confront it.  
**Life** is an adventure, dare it.  
**Life** is luck, make it.  
**Life** is life, fight for it. — MOTHER TERESA

CONTRIBUTED BY GEOFF CREWE



### TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2022	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$7,810.00		
TAURUS CONTRACTING GIFT CARD DONATION	1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT INCOME	125.27		
INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME	5,085.90		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	332.05		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,046.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	894.32		
AMMS PARSONAGE INSURANCE	1,915.92		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	272.40		
<b>CURRENT MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>\$22,556.86</b>	<b>\$14,526.54</b>	<b>\$8,030.32</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$141,006.81</b>	<b>\$146,208.47</b>	<b>(\$5,201.66)</b>
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2022			22,811.97
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2022			128,618.64
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2023			30,000.00

*Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer*

### COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPS

CHAIRPERSONS	(C) COUNCIL MEMBER
Council Chair	Ron Heino (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
Property Committee	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Seniors Group	Ute Wentzel
Stewardship Committee	Geoff Crewe
Worship & Music	Marg Crewe
Visioning Chair	Gordon Vollmer (C)

### COMMITTEE REPS/LIAISON

Advertising Coordinator	Nalini Badley
AMMS Liaison	Ron Heino (C) (Fred Kilian)
Council Secretary	Pat Bramley (C)
ELW	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry	Geoff Crewe
Visioning Liaison	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Spiritual Society Liaison	Fred Kilian
Treasurer	Nalini Badley
Worship & Music Liaison	Open



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