



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NO. 583 • MARCH 2017

Submissions due 15th of the month

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We begin our Lenten journey on March 1st as we come together for our joint Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes. The word journey is not only referring to the journey toward the cross of Christ, but also to an inward journey. For some, this may take on the form of prayer—but what kind of prayer, and for what purpose?

We often assume that one would opt for a confessional prayer that acknowledges our need to turn from sin and be renewed by a compassionate God, one who forgives. The best place to look for this would be in the Psalms, especially Psalm 51: *“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your compassion blot out my offenses.”* In this passage we acknowledge our need for, and our faith in, a loving God. Another may find themselves in distress caused by a life crisis: the break-up of a marriage or relationship, a serious accident causing bodily harm, an unfavourable diagnosis, a death in the family. Then one might turn to God in anger, or desperation, or with a sense of God having abandoned him or her, when s/he needs God most. *“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Hear my prayer”* (Ps. 130); *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?”* (Ps. 22). *“By the waters of Babylon, I sat down and wept...”* (Ps. 137).

Yet, maybe what one needs is to be comforted, assured of God's presence: *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”* (Ps 23); or that *“God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble”* (Ps. 46).

Prayers can reflect our faith in a just and righteous God as Psalm 143 attests: *“Lord, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.”*

LENTEN REFLECTION

Not every prayer has to reflect a heavy heart, but rather a grateful and joyous one. *“Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless God's holy name”* (Ps. 103). *“I will exalt you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever”* (Ps. 145).

Though the Psalms express our utmost need for God in a variety of circumstances, I believe that prayer really is our yearning for our heart's desire to be listened to and heard. They do not have to be self-centred, but may be for the sake of others: family, friends, strangers, the world, our country, and church. They may reflect social issues that need to be addressed: economics, stewardship concerns, violence, war, displaced peoples, poverty, exclusion...

Choose one person or one cause to pray for this Lenten season. Have your conversation about it with God. He listens and hears, though we at times doubt, fear, and just don't understand. Use the Psalms as your jumping off point and create your own psalm expressing the need, acknowledging God's presence, and giving thanks. Might this prayer help:

Lord, I don't know how to pray, but I turn to you just the same. Something within me knows you will listen.

_____ needs your healing hand to lift them up into your light again and be returned to family and friends. Be with _____ in his moment of desperation even if he cannot reach out to you for help. Protect and guide him. Give us generous and compassionate hearts to welcome the stranger in our community, who otherwise feels isolated and has no place to belong. Help us to be tolerant of people, who differ from us culturally, religiously, racially, according to (sexual) orientation and lifestyle. Give us understanding minds and loving hearts to care for the earth and fight for the oppressed, the violated, the one with no voice, no home, no food. You have shown us how to love and care for others as ourselves, but often we fall short of achieving such lofty ideals. Continue to be with us, to teach us, and to show us the way to your peace and joy. For your listening ear and your loving heart we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Pastor Rasma

“This Changed Everything: 500 Years of Reformation”

This is the title of a three hour documentary narrated by David Suchet (better known as Inspector Hercule Poirot) which we will split up into three sessions. The first will be on March 19 following the joint service. Anyone who would like to volunteer to host the coffee hour please see the pastor.



Change in membership due to death

Cyril Alverno Gomes

March 21, 1970 - February 17, 2017

"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then whether we live or whether we die we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." ROMANS 14:7-9

Our sincere sympathy
goes out to wife Devi and sons
Christopher, Jonathan, Joshua and Noah.

May God grant them peace!

Call to join in the 500th commemoration planning!

Join the Reformation committee so that we might plan a variety of events, ecumenically, congregationally, and with our GTA East Lutheran brothers and sisters. We already experienced our first event when we worshipped together with our Bishop at Christ the King in Whitby. The next opportunity with the GTA churches will be worship and a picnic at the Peterborough Zoo on June 11th (details to follow – a bus perhaps?). Our turn will be July 22, when we will invite our families and friends from the GTA East to join us for our Summerfest with many different activities. What might that look like: a scavenger hunt, skits based on the life of Luther, a tree planting liturgy, a wine tasting using German grapes (Gewürztraminer, Riesling??), barbeque, other games and activities? What would you suggest to make this an event different from the others planned by the other churches? As mentioned before, ecumenically we would like to have a discussion with our Roman Catholic friends using the joint document put out by our churches, "From Conflict to Communion," (which is downloadable from the ELCIC website); dates to be determined.

Kudos

Our sincerest thanks to outgoing Council members, Nancy Kostroman and Sigi Sommer, who served with energy and devotion. Though we will miss them on council, we will look forward to other areas of ministry for their expertise and willingness to serve. Many Thanks!



Midweek Lenten Soup & Service

All are welcome to attend
Midweek Lenten evenings
each Wednesday from
March 8 until April 5.

Soup Supper will be shared at 6:30 p.m.
followed by a Lenten Service at 7:30 p.m.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin
board to attend soup suppers or if you
wish to volunteer to bring soup.

With Awe and Love: A Midweek Service based on Luther's Small Catechism

Join us for our Lenten Soup and Service evenings March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5. It gives us the opportunity for sharing a meal and enjoying an intimate and contemplative worship experience through music, prayer, and reflection. This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and that is why we return to our Lutheran roots. Luther had wanted the Small Catechism used at home where he suggested teaching and faith had its basis. Let's explore the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments in a more engaging manner — perhaps finding new ways to interpret them; putting them into the context of our day.

Our Seniors

In spite of awful weather conditions, nine seniors still made it to our last meeting. We had a lively discussion about German farmers' sayings, especially regarding weather forecasts.

Our next meeting will be on March the 7th at the usual time. Please bring your scissors to cut stamps. Wilhelm will take them to Germany.

Wilhelm Wittemeier

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



**World Day of Prayer 2017
Friday March 3rd — 7 p.m.**

Melville Presbyterian Church, 70 Old Kingston Road
(just up the street from Epiphany)
Host Country: The Philippines
Theme: "Am I being unfair to you?" – Matthew 20, 1-16

**H.U.G.S. — Helping Us Grow Spiritually
is a weekend retreat for women of all ages,
May 26-28, 2017**

Sponsored by Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod, the event takes place at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre located just off Hwy 400 in Innisfil, ON (Just outside Barrie).

Two guest speakers will be featured; Ruth Smith Meyer, an inspirational writer and speaker and Brenda Byers, a story teller by profession.

The conference centre, on beautiful Lake Kempenfelt, is situated perfectly for outdoor activities which are included in the weekend (weather permitting).

Registration information can be found on the Narthex bulletin board or check the calendar on the Eastern Synod website at easternsynod.org

A Good Word

The Morningstar welcomes a new advertiser: D.B.I. Mechanical, Heating and Air Conditioning, proprietor, Don Ball who came highly recommended to us. After obtaining several quotes, Epiphany had him install the new heating and air conditioning unit for the Fellowship Room. He now also maintains and services both church furnaces. If you do not already have a reliable furnace and air-conditioning service-man, we can recommend Don Ball without reservation.

Fred and Lilli Kilian



We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone. — MARTIN LUTHER

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$4,068.00	\$11,770.17	
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		
LOONIE BIRD	2.30		
ADVERTISING FOR JOHN'S CARPET	100.00		
ADVERTISING FOR DON BALL INC	100.00		
THERMOSTAT FUND	190.00		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES	208.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$9,777.30	\$13,104.17	(\$3,326.87)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$9,777.30	\$13,104.17	(\$3,326.87)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

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March 2017

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. — MARTIN LUTHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11AM -2 PM Church Office Ash Wednesday 7:30 PM PURPLE — Joint Service with Imposition of Ashes	2	3 March 3 & 4— Pastor attends Cdn. Conference of the Evang. Lutheran Latvian Church Abroad in Toronto WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	4
5 First Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	6	7 1:30 PM — German Seniors	8 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Lenten Service	9	10 10 -11:30 AM — Bible Class	11
12 Second Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	13 1 PM— Craft Circle 7 PM— GTA East Reformation Committee meeting at Christ the King	14	15 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Lenten Service	16 7:15 PM — Council Meeting	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19 Third Sunday in Lent PURPLE 10 AM Joint Communion Service and Installation of Council. Followed by Episode 1 of "This Changed Everything: 500 years of Reformation"	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21	22 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Lenten Service	23	24 10 -11:30 AM — Bible Class	25
26 Fourth Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service	27 1 PM — Craft Circle	28	29 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Lenten Service	30	31 Morningstar Collating	