

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

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

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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THE SEASONS of the liturgical calendar seem to sneak up on us so quickly.

A short while ago we were singing Christmas carols and anticipated the star's shining over Bethlehem on Epiphany and it is already time to make preparations for Lent.

Just as there are many opinions regarding this season, there are as many traditions and rituals that go along with it.

Some perceive Lent as a somber season, others as an opportunity for freeing oneself after careful self-examination.

Some fast, or perhaps just give up a favourite food or a bad habit. Others add a new discipline to their daily routine such as prayer, confession and silence for contemplation, allowing for introspection.

Some examine their wounds or their brokenness, which might identify those things in life which cause a person to be stuck or sad or which are holding him or her from experiencing fulfilment in life.

Lent is a time to examine our relationship with God and neighbour and self.

C. David Hogsett speaks in terms of wounds needing to be healed: wounds in our thoughts, in our spirit and emotions, in our hopes and dreams, in our relationships and in our actions.

Rev. Joe Biermann speaks of the brokenness in our lives and handing it over to Christ for restoration: broken hearts, broken trust, broken promises, broken justice.

Yet other resources invite us to open our life to Christ: our hearts, our hands, our feet, our mouth, our ears. So many approaches are offered up enabling one to change one's perspective, opinion, and/or understanding of what is important in our lives – our faith life as individuals and as community.

We will be using a resource focusing on the theme of “the tree of life” which is a common motif to many religions, but as Christians we might understand it as the cross upon which Jesus died, or as Jesus himself offering us new life in and with him.

With the help of scripture, song and art we will craft our liturgy for our Midweek Soup and Service Wednesday evenings in order to better understand this symbol of the tree as a life-giving source encompassing the healing and the restoration that all of us need to experience at some point in our lives in order to feel whole again.

Come and join us for an evening of fellowship, Scripture, liturgy, song and discussion so that together we might discover what we need healed, restored or just touched by God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Rasma

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

THROUGH DEATH

Lydia Kukasch, née Betke

March 16, 1925 – January 12, 2016

Interment January 16, 2016

As her community of faith, we along with her family mourn the death of Lydia Kukasch, who with her husband were founding members of Epiphany. Lydia was a faithful servant always lending a helping hand with her creativity in knitting and crocheting for our Advent bazaar and the Rouge Valley Health Centre, and for her Zuckerkuchen and other baking. Her shining eyes and positive attitude toward life will be remember and missed.

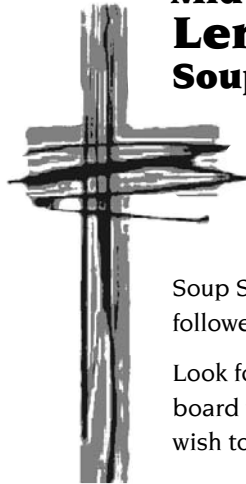
*“Lord, now let your servant go in peace
for my eyes have seen your salvation.”*

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 10, 7:30pm

Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes
to mark us and mark the beginning of Lent.

Midweek Lenten Soup & Service



All are welcome to attend
Midweek Lenten evenings
each Wednesday from
February 17 until March 16.

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.



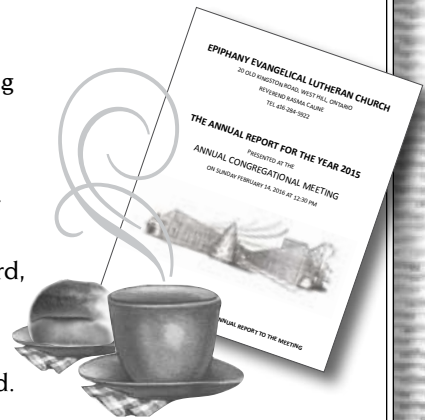
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Pastor Rasma reminds us of our Annual General Meeting
on Sunday February 14th which will be preceded by
a Joint Holy Communion Service at 10:30am

A soup and chili lunch will be served following worship.
“Contributions for this are prayerfully requested.”

A sign-up sheet for contributions is on the bulletin board,
or feel free to inform the pastor or a council member.

Please plan to attend and remember to bring your
Annual Report too. Quorum plus size crowds are invited.



Move Closer to the Light



During the early days of trains, a flagman would take his place in the middle of the street – stopping all traffic as a train approached. During the day he would hold up a STOP sign. At night he would wave a lantern.

There is an old story about a flagman and his lantern that goes like this.

There was an accident one dark night at a railroad crossing. A lawsuit followed, and during the proceedings the flagman was called to take the witness stand.

The prosecuting attorney asked the usual questions. Then followed an important one. He asked, “On the night of the accident, when you saw the car approaching, did you wave the lantern?”

The flagman answered, “Yes, I waved the lantern.”

The attorney for the prosecution continued with other questions, but before long he came to the same one, “Did you wave that lantern?”

“Yes,” answered the flagman, “I did wave the lantern.”

The case seemed to hinge on this bit of testimony. The prosecutor realized it, and so once more he thundered, “I ask you again, when you saw the car approaching the crossing, did you wave the lantern?”

Once again, the flagman answered, “I did. Yes, I waved the lantern.”

The railroad company won the case. No damages were allowed.

Later, the defense attorney was talking to the flagman. He said, “The prosecuting attorney really had me worried when he kept asking, ‘Did you wave the lantern?’ Did you wave the lantern?”

“Well,” said the flagman, “What worried me was that he might ask, ‘*Was the lantern lit?*’”

There is so much waving of dead lanterns. What about ours?

The purpose of lanterns and lamps is to give light – to shine. The Bible has some important things to say about lights and about shining. It speaks of God’s own Word as “a LAMP unto our feet and a LIGHT unto our path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Our precious Saviour refers to Himself as “THE LIGHT”, and He says of us, His followers, “You are the LIGHT of the world.”

As lights, we are not to be like that flagman’s dead lantern, but rather, we are to shine – not as a flickering flame, but as a steady light.

How did it happen that we, who were once in darkness, the darkness of unbelief and separation from God, are now lights?

This is a miracle of God’s grace. We are “the light of the world”, not because of “any merit or worthiness in us”, not because of our shrewdness or our intellectual acumen or our scientific genius, but we have become the “light of the world” only because we have been touched and

transformed by Christ. He it is Who has “called us out of darkness into His marvellous light to show forth His praises.”

When children are doing homework or working on some project, they invariably sit on the floor in the most dimly lit part of the room. Parents may say, “Move closer to the light.”

Even so the challenge to each of us is, “Move closer to THE LIGHT!” And this by faithfully, diligently reading, meditating and searching the Word of God.

And through the Word of God the Holy Spirit keeps us in direct contact with Him Who is the source of all light, Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us resolve anew to keep close to Christ, the true and only Light.

When we get right down to it, however, we do not possess light in and of ourselves. Rather, we are more like reflectors which do not have light in themselves. Even as the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we are to reflect the light of God’s Son, Jesus.

Yet, Jesus calls us “lights”. “You are the light of the world,” (Matthew 5:14) He says. And as such we are to shine. An unlit lantern is not serving its purpose.

Jesus says, “A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” (Matthew 14:15)

Then He goes on to say, “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven.” (Matthew 14:16)

What is the ultimate purpose of our lives? “To show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

Not all of us can be chandeliers in important and conspicuous places. Some of us must be satisfied and thankful to be 40-watt bulbs on the back steps somewhere. There too, we have a singular purpose – to shed forth the glorious gospel light in order to keep people from slipping and falling.

A Prayer: O Lord, indeed we need Your powerful and loving Light. Keep us from being frightened or overcome by the darkness of evil. Help us to *MOVE CLOSER TO THE LIGHT* by turning daily to Your Word, for it is “a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.” Keep Your Light burning bright for us, in us, and through us, to the glory of our Father Who is in heaven. Amen.

This meditation was adapted from *Letters, Volume 1* by Cecil H. Skibbe (Copyright © 1991) into a devotional guide written by Rev. Marcus Jauss of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for Blooming Christian Education Resources (Copyright © 1992)



At Council meetings, members take turns providing a devotion for each meeting. Thank you to Nancy Kostroman for sharing the above with us.

Also, as a prayerful reminder... Council still seeks a **Recording Secretary** to take Minutes of the meetings. It involves filling out an electronic template and emailing the completed document to the Council members, which can be done at the end of the meeting. Council meets for about 2 hours once a month between September and June. The recording secretary is a volunteer position and is non-voting.

If you can help, please contact Council Chair, Greg Furan at 416-284-5622, gfulan@sympatico.ca, or any member of Council. Thank you! **Sigi Sommer**

Treasurer’s Report			
DECEMBER 2015	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$16,951.75	\$15,732.15	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	(1,360.72)		
BENEVOLENCE	1,326.00	1,326.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS UTILITIES & INS.	863.10		
FAITHLIFE INCOME	500.00		
AVIVA INSURANCE CLAIM	1,665.99		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$23,721.12	\$17,058.15	\$6,662.97
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$153,700.66	\$158,214.14	(\$4,513.48)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

Our Seniors

Instead of their usual get-together on the first Tuesday of the month, the Omis and Opas were guests of the ELW women, who had kindly invited us to their Sauerkraut Luncheon on January 13th in a most welcoming and festive setting. Before offering the grace, Pastor Rasma shared the sad news of our faithful friend Lydia's passing the day before, and invited us to join her in prayer for Lydia and her family.

Our own marvelous cooks prepared mashed potatoes and potato salad; Edda, Hildegard and Lilli each prepared a large pot of Sauerkraut their own custom way and Schnitzels were prepared by Vienna Fine Foods. With condiments and various beverages the meal turned out to be a real feast for

the lively crowd of some forty revellers. Interesting entertainment came in the form of Christmas related stories presented by Lilli and Fred, and everyone was given a free ticket to take part in a raffle for several pleasing (sur)prizes.

On behalf of Wilhelm who was kept away by a dialysis session, and all other seniors, the writer thanked Lilli and all who helped to make this most enjoyable afternoon possible and a present for us. Coffee time with chocolates, cake and cookies of the season brought an enlightening time of togetherness to a close. Thank God for giving us the women of the ELW!

Norbert Sommer

P.S. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd at the usual time. Hope to see you all!

Wilhelm Wittemeier

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ELW 2016 Planning Meeting

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 — 1 PM

The 2015 Bazaar was successful thanks once more to the efforts of the congregation who gave so generously of their time, talents and treasures on November 28th. Please join us in February as we distribute the \$2,000+ Bazaar revenue. Should anyone have a request for a charity or project, they are encouraged to contact any ELW member, Pastor or to come and make a personal presentation at the meeting. All are welcome. The Church Women's distribution of funds is made public on the narthex bulletin board as well as in the AGM report. Please refer to the ELW "hand-out" at the 2016 AGM for a complete and full listing of the 2015 ELW revenue distribution, for which we offer our thanks and appreciation to Sigrid Engler as Treasurer, for her efforts in maintaining the ELW accounting.

ELW will also confirm their 2016 tentative social activities and dates (June-Strawberry Social, October-Applefest and November-Bazaar) in order to apply for three \$500 FaithLife Financial Matching Grants.

February is traditionally a time to recognize people special to us. Let us do just that in the aftermath of the successful January Sauerkraut luncheon; whereby every seat at the table was occupied and several take home containers were delivered to some grateful people unable to attend. First and foremost;



thanks to **Leanne of Husky Food Importers (Das Journal Ad/Supplier to Vienna Fine Foods) who DONATED for the meal all the Hengstenberg Sauerkraut, Tchibo Coffee, Yorkshire Tea, assorted Rye Breads, Rittersport Chocolates and for the surprise raffle, jars and packages of Hengstenberg Red Cabbage & European Wieners. Ken of Vienna Fine Foods gave us a fantastic price on the freshly prepared delicious Schnitzels. Hildegard, Edda and Lilli were the sauerkraut cooks; and Lilli, Fred, Franz, Sigi and Ursula set up.** Too many to mention helped clear up. ELW looks forward to teaming up with the Seniors for a future themed-meal meeting. Thank you to everyone for coming and we hope those unable to attend this event will join us next time!

Thanks to those who contributed towards the Coffeetime reception at the January 31st Pulpit Exchange with Pastor Sebastian of Dietrich-Bonhoeffer. Although in February we meet on Ash Wednesday afternoon, you are reminded of the scheduled evening service. Finally, it would be appreciated if you would consider to prepare a pot of your favourite soup for the February 14th AGM luncheon. Thank you.

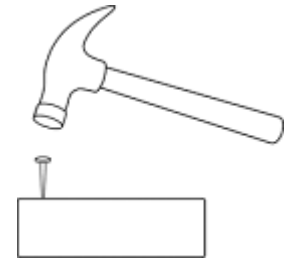
Needless to say, should we have a snow or ice storm February 10th, the meeting will be postponed until February 17th.

Lilli Kilian, ELW President, 416-267-5300

February 2016

The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you. — AUTHOR UNKNOWN

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has. — EPICTETUS</p> <p><small>CONTRIBUTED BY ANITA & GUS KIENITZ</small></p>	<p>1 Pastor Rasma is on vacation February 1-8.</p>	<p>2 1:30 PM –German Seniors</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10 -11:30 AM –Bible Class</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Transfiguration of Our Lord <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM Lay-led German Service 10:30 AM Lay-led English Service</p>	<p>8 1 PM –Craft Circle</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 1-3 PM–ELW Meeting</p> <p>Ash Wednesday <small>PURPLE</small> 7:30 PM –Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 First Sunday in Lent <small>PURPLE</small> 10:30 AM Joint Communion Service followed by Soup & Chili Lunch and Annual General Meeting (Please bring your copy of the Annual Report)</p> <p><small>VALENTINE'S DAY</small></p>	<p>15</p> <p><small>FAMILY DAY</small></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 11 AM -2 PM–Church Office</p> <p>6:30 PM–Soup Supper 7:30 PM–Lenten Service</p>	<p>18 7:15 PM –Council Meeting</p>	<p>19 10 -11:30 AM –Bible Class</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Second Sunday in Lent <small>PURPLE</small> 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service</p>	<p>22 1 PM –Craft Circle</p> <p>7:30 PM –Worship & Music Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11 AM -2 PM–Church Office</p> <p>6:30 PM–Soup Supper 7:30 PM–Lenten Service</p>	<p>25 German Clergy Ministerium</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Third Sunday in Lent <small>PURPLE</small> 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service</p>	<p>29</p>					



Springtime Work Party

Have you (and your friends) ever wanted to build a Garden Shed?

Don't know how?

Here is Your Opportunity!

We invite you to join us to learn how to put up the new sheds for the Church.

This will involve building a frame for the floor, laying the floor and erecting the sheds.


Date to be announced. To ensure good weather, expect sometime in May.

To guarantee a space, please contact the **PROPERTY COMMITTEE GUYS** asap:

Frank Fuerst..... 416-266-6875

Fred Kilian 416-267-5300

Wolfgang Scheu ... 416-431-6359

 Kindly be considerate of those who have allergies to scents. When you come to church, please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes and highly scented products.