



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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Notice of 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday February 27, 2022 following an abbreviated 10 AM Worship Service.

As of writing, due to the ongoing pandemic in-person Services and meetings are suspended at the church, so we will meet on-line as we did last year. Should future circumstances safely allow, we will endeavour to meet both in-person at the church and on-line. An e-mail reminder and link to Zoom will be provided closer to the date.

The 2021 Annual Report contains the meeting agenda as well as supporting materials. It will be distributed 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 highlight the date on your calendars. Participation in this important meeting is your opportunity for input into the decisions affecting your Church in 2022 and beyond. This includes the presentation of the 2022 budget and current status of the Visioning process.

Epiphany Church Council



I don't know why this Japanese saying from the 16th century has been going through my mind this week. I heard it first when I was a child and wonder what it meant to me then. Some reference stated that it helps us grow up as human beings and acknowledges that we can't control what we see, hear, or speak. It is intended to encourage us to think positive thoughts, listen to positive words, and speak to others with respect; but does it? Though it was a lesson in prudence and purity, it speaks completely differently today.



Maybe it made me think of the civil rights movement which began with one black child who, on his first and only visit to the deep South in Mississippi, was mutilated for allegedly touching a white woman inappropriately. His name was Emmett Till. His mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, had his body brought back to Chicago where the funeral was held with an open casket, no embalming. His murderers were acquitted of murder, and of kidnapping in a later trial. Only years later did the woman acknowledge that Emmett had never touched her or harassed her. A fourteen-year-old boy died for no reason. People claimed to have seen the incident, but these witnesses were not allowed to testify; those who heard his cries as he was beaten were not listened to; and those who spoke on the stand, including the white woman and the sheriff, spoke lies. So, seeing no evil, hearing no evil, and speaking no evil took on a different understanding from its original intention.

When we began our visioning process, we began by identifying our values as love, grace, faithfulness, welcoming people and ideas, social justice, and stewardship. Under social justice we wrote: *We promote equality for all, regardless of age, physical abilities, ethnicity, gender sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, and religious practices and beliefs. We assist people to have equal access to resources, health, well-being, justice, and opportunities.*

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

The link to our Zoom 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

February 4—10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class

February 6—10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion Service via Zoom

February 10—7:15 p.m. Council Meeting

February 13—10:00 a.m.

Service of the Word via Zoom

February 18—10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class

February 20—10:00 a.m.

Lay Led Service via Zoom

February 27—10:00 a.m.

Abbreviated Worship Service followed immediately by the ANNUAL MEETING. We may attempt to do this with a hybrid in-person and Zoom service and meeting. Any changes to the format will be posted on the church voicemail. We need 25 people for a quorum.

We are still being cautious regarding in-person services. We hope that we will be able to offer in-person German services again in Lent.

If all these values are important to us as a community of faith following Christ, we cannot close our eyes to injustice, to cruelty and violence, or evil. We cannot shield our ears from cries of desperation and want. We cannot remain silent when we see wrongs being perpetrated on others. Christ taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves. He taught us to stand up for the sinner and forgive. He encouraged us to be faithful to God, who gave all his creation worth and called it good. He opened people's eyes and ears and voices to a new reality based on the love of God in our lives.

Yes, we can think of positive things to see and hear, positive words to speak, but we cannot ignore the reality in which we live: the violence in the streets, the intolerance within society, the poverty and hunger, the hate language that is part of everyday culture. We as Christians are called to be counter-cultural: to love instead of hate, to welcome the stranger, to be gracious and kind, to help anyone when we see a need, to be non-judgmental. Each of us can do our part to make our little world a better place. We can love because we were loved first. We can forgive because we were forgiven first. We can live in hope because of God's promises fulfilled in and by Jesus Christ. Open your eyes, your ears, your mouths, and your hearts. That will make a difference!

Pastor Rasma

Lord make Me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine master grant that I may

Not so much seek to be consoled as to console

To be understood, as to understand.

To be loved, as to love

For it is in giving that we receive

And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it is in dying that we are born

To eternal life. Amen.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — We have two opportunities where there is an immediate need

Church Council has openings for a minimum of two new people, due to some current members having reached the maximum allowable years of consecutive service. Volunteering for Council entails a two-year commitment for a monthly meeting 10 times per year. Our constitution requires no fewer than 6 members to form a council, and without new people we will be below that requirement in 2022. If interested, you can chat with Pastor Rasma, anyone on council, or volunteer at the annual meeting.

Our **Outdoor Sign** requires occasional updating of the message depending on the worship schedule and time of year. This involves posting the required lettering on both sides of the sign. A short ladder is used. Training will be provided. Please "sign" up for this opening.

Ron Heino

Changes in Membership through death

Wilhelm Huxhold

died January 15, 2022 at the age of 91. He is predeceased by his wife Elisabeth and is mourned by his children Markus, Michael, and Heidi and their families, who have asked that in lieu of flower donations be made to Epiphany Lutheran Church. Wilhelm was a tool and die maker who created beautiful and interesting pieces that provided fascination for others.

*Almighty God,
your love never fails,
and you can turn the
shadow of death into daybreak.
Help us to receive your word
with believing hearts, so that,
confident in your promises,
we may have hope and be lifted
out of sorrow into the joy and
peace of your presence,
through Jesus Christ our
Lord and Saviour. Amen.*



Owohl Weihnachten schon vorbei ist, möchte ich das folgende Variant des 1. Korintherbriefs 13 beibringen.
1. Korinther 13 für Advent und Weihnachten übersetzt.

Wenn ich mein Haus mit vielen Lichtern, Sternen, Bildern und vielen anderen wunderbaren Kleinigkeiten perfekt schmücke, und habe keine Liebe für meine Familie, bin ich nur einer von vielen Dekorateursen.

Wenn ich in der Küche arbeite und hunderte von Plätzchen und Keksen backe, das beste Weihnachtsessen vorbereite, den Tisch geschmackvoll decke, und zeige meiner Familie keine Liebe, bin ich nur einer von vielen Köchen.

Wenn ich in der Küche für Obdachlose arbeite Weihnachtslieder im Seniorenheim singe und alles, was ich habe, für Arme ausbebe und zeige keine Liebe, dann bringt mir alles nichts.

Wenn ich den Tannenbaum mit leuchtenden Engeln, Kugeln und Schneeflocken schmücke, zu unzähligen Weihnachtsfeiern gehe und im Chor singe, und mich nicht auf Jesus konzentriere, dann habe ich das Wesentliche verpasst.

Die Liebe macht es möglich, das Kochen zu unterbrechen, um das Kind zu umarmen.
Die Liebe macht es möglich, alles stehen zu lassen, um die /den Liebste(n) zu küssen.

Die Liebe ist freundlich, sie ist zu stark, um zerstört zu werden und sie wird niemals müde.

Die Liebe macht nicht neidisch auf andere, die mit Weihnachtsgeschirr und Tischdecken ihren Tisch passend dekoriert haben.
Die Liebe schreit die Kinder nicht an, aus dem Weg zu gehen.
Die Liebe schenkt nicht nur an die, die auch etwas zurückschenken können, sondern freut sich besonders, auch denen zu geben, die nichts haben.

Die Liebe erträgt alles, sie glaubt alles, hofft alles, sie duldet alles.
Die Liebe hört niemals auf.
Videospiele zerbrechen, Perlenketten gehen verloren, und andere wertvolle Geschenke werden verbraucht oder vergessen.
Aber das Geschenk der Liebe wird bleiben.

Das Geschenk der Liebe bleibt für immer.
Darum geht es am Heiligen Abend zu Weihnachten und immer:
— um das Geschenk der Liebe.

CONTRIBUTED BY PASTOR RASMA



**sometimes forget
that I was created for joy.
My mind is too busy.
My Heart is too heavy
for me to remember
that I have been
called to dance
the Sacred dance of life.
I was created to smile
To Love
To be lifted up
And to lift others up.
O' Sacred One
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares.
Free my soul.
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious.**

— Hafiz, a 14th century Persian poet

CONTRIBUTED BY DENISE DENNIS

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPS FOR 2021-2022

CHAIRPERSONS	(C) COUNCIL MEMBER
Council Chair	Ron Heino (C)
Council Vice	Sigrid Engler (C)
Education Committee	Pastor Caune
Finance Committee	Geoff Crewe (C)
Property Committee	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Seniors Group	Ute Wentzel
Stewardship Committee	Geoff Crewe (C)
Worship & Music	Marg Crewe
Visioning Chair	Gordon Vollmer (C)
COMMITTEE REPS/LIAISON	
Advertising Coordinator	Nalini Badley
AMMS Liaison	Ron Heino (C) (Pastor Caune, Fred Kilian)
Council Secretary	Pat Bramley (C)
ELW Liaison	Sigrid Engler (C)
Envelope Secretary	Sigrid Engler (C)
Mutual Ministry Liaison	Geoff Crewe (C)
Visioning Liaison	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Refugee Committee	Denise Dennis (C)
Spiritual Society Liaison	Fred Kilian
Treasurer	Nalini Badley
Worship & Music Liaison	Pastor Caune

*In the depth of winter, I finally learned that
within me there lay an invincible summer.*

— Albert Camus



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TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2021	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$13,310.00	\$17,551.73	
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	270.57		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,166.31		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	762.69		
AMMS PARSONAGE INSURANCE	2,808.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	518.47		
INTEREST AND DIVIDEND RECEIVED	4,235.66		
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT INCOME	17,127.07		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$44,273.77	\$17,551.73	\$26,722.04
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$175,584.11	\$138,266.11	\$37,318.00
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2021			28,381.03
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2021			128,493.37
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2022			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer