



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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Can God be bought or sold as if God were a commodity on the stock market?

Human beings seem to worship many gods: money, property, power, control, technology, etc., which could lead to addictions in order to find more gods to worship. Most of these items can indeed be bought or sold to the highest bidder. However, faith cannot be bought and as an agent of God, that is not my role, nor my goal to try to sell it. Whereas the other gods may lead to self-agrandizing and may tempt one, God does not tempt, but invites one into a relationship with Him. God invites us by his love for all of God's creation. God invites us to share all that we have and all that we are out of compassion and loving-kindness, not for anyone's personal gain or pleasure, but rather because of a willingness to serve wishing the best for our neighbour.

I sometimes think that we mix up religion with faith. Religion could be tied to a point in history, a movement, an institution called church, but faith goes beyond any concrete walls. Some might say that faith is based on a system of beliefs, but could there be more—things we cannot put into words, but experience nonetheless?

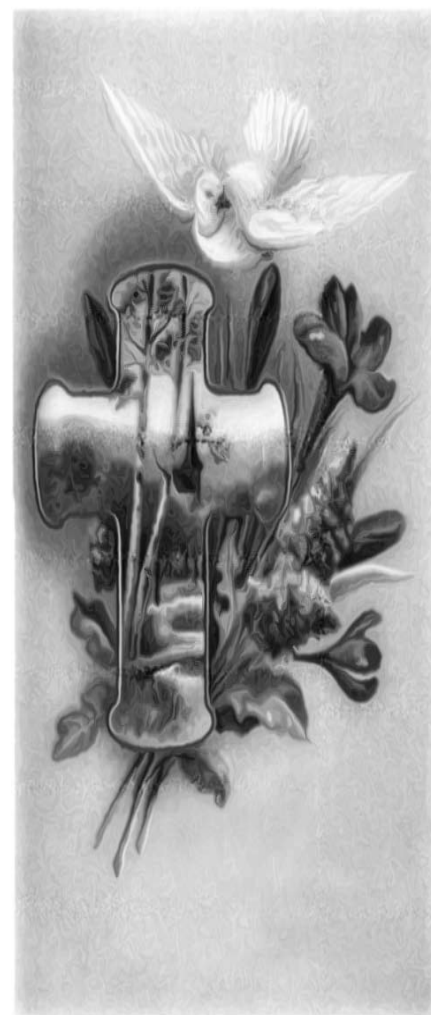
I recently found my spiritual autobiography, which I wrote for one of my first-year courses at seminary. I had to share my faith story over and over again. I realise that each time I shared it it became easier to do. Whereas my first attempts had made me overly emotional, it became easier over time. Rereading this paper I realised that nowhere did I mention religion, nor a system of beliefs, but it was all about

my experience of God. I began the paper by stating, "I don't recall a time when God was not in my life." That is a statement of faith, not of religion, nor is it a set of beliefs. Of course there were many influences in my life that informed my faith: Sunday school teachers, my grandmother, the liturgy of the church, which I loved, my choir director, who introduced me to sacred music, which had haunting melodies, which made my heart and soul soar. I became a pastor not because I wanted to sell religion, but because I wanted to share my faith. Of course my faith is based on my belief in a loving God, who made himself manifest in Jesus Christ, but I live my faith by carrying Christ within me so that I can love and forgive and be compassionate and merciful to others.

I gave up my other gods: security, money, luxury, prestige, and came to believe that they had little worth for the wellness of my being and of my soul. I had not bought, nor sold God, but I had entered into a deep relationship with a God, who loves me and has called me worthy, though I have not always believed this about myself. As much as I tried to ignore God's voice, He was persistent until I was able to sing, "Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." ELW 574

That is what I perceive as a faith statement, not a religious one. It is an answer to God's invitation to walk with Him and lead God's people as a child of God walking together in faith.

Pastor Rasma



Spring has Sprung!

Once again we will be decorating the Altar for Easter with beautiful plants. If you would like to purchase a plant to take home after Easter Service, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Monies remaining after costs are covered will be allocated to the Refugee Sponsorship fund.

Change in membership through death

Elfriede Emma Martha Krebs

April 6, 1928 - March 7, 2017

*"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope."* PSALM 130:5

Elfriede has stopped waiting and is
now in the presence of her Lord.

We mourn along with Ute and family
upon the death of her husband

Johann Wentzel

on March 27th, 2017.

"Peace I leave with you.

My peace I give to you." JOHN 14:27

A Memorial Service
will be held later in April and
details will be announced in worship.

Heads up for April

Pastor Rasma will be away from April 3-10. During her absence you may contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-889-0873 or 905-881-9154.

Kudos

Thanks to all my readers and worship leaders for helping me during my absence and throughout Holy Week.

Pastor Rasma

Website Reconstruction

We have a winner in our "So You Think You Can Build A Website" contest (hehe).

Seriously folks, our original volunteer Jennifer Albanese, a lifelong member of our Epiphany family has offered her time and talents to move our website into the 21st century. You have no doubt noticed her lovely daughter Ava, who regularly commandeers the second or third row (in front of the Pastor) and won't let you pass without issuing a friendly smile! Ava is also the granddaughter of our own proud Sigrid Engler, a local legend of volunteerism in her own right.

Welcome aboard, Jennifer and thank you from all of Epiphany for taking on this complex and on-going project to help further the reach and relevance of our little Church. Your youthful exuberance is an inspiration and greatly appreciated.

Since the original website took several months of tweaking before going on-line, keep an eye out in the Morningstar for further developments.

Outgoing Webmaster, Gord Munro

The Page Turner

A page-turner is a way to describe a book or story that is so exciting one wants to read it quickly, to turn the page to uncover the mystery or reach the gripping conclusion. In this instance, "page-turner" describes an object, a thing to be picked up or set aside at the reader's whim. I am reminded, however, of a human page turner (no hyphen), a person who purposefully turns a page for someone else. There was just such a person at the celebratory service held in January at Christ the King in Whitby (a service that initiated a year of commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation). This service included a panoply of musical interludes, from guitar to piano, from choirs to violins.

During one of the piano pieces, it took a few minutes for my attention to be drawn to the unobtrusive individual standing beside the pianist, quietly turning the pages of music so that the pianist played a seamless musical arrangement. I wondered if this page turner was following instructions from the pianist, or whether, by reading the music they knew at which point to turn the page. After observing a bit longer, it seemed the page turner could read the music. As I wondered, it occurred to me that the page turner really played a key role in this musical offering, but one, I thought, easily undervalued. Consider, for example, how the applause is intended to thank the pianist for sharing their musical gift. On the other hand, the page turner, especially in this case, quietly steps away from the piano as the applause begins, ensuring all the accolades are directed to the pianist.

My wondering about this person turned to wonder later in the service: it turns out the page turner was a superb vocalist who treated us to a pitch-perfect solo. This unobtrusive page turner was, all along, a gifted musician.

Let me offer an Easter analogy of this page turner: imagine the page turner as the love of God manifested in the saving Christ. We, then, are the piano player, using our gifts, those pages of music, to communicate with the rest of the world. Perhaps then, it isn't such a stretch to imagine that it is "love" turning the pages of our communication. "Love" in the shape and sense of Christ helps us "perform" to the best of our ability in the concert of life. This is possible because Christ, the page turner knows the music, and with perfect pitch, demonstrates the melody of care and compassion, of faith and forgiveness to which we aspire.

So, in my Easter analogy, the page turner knows the music so well; it's the same music we play, the music of our struggles, our triumphs: our experience of earthly life. When we are at the piano, or "in the world," we have the confident support of the page turner.

At Easter then, be reminded of the ever-present page turner who gently models support and patience, but who, on Easter Sunday (every Sunday!) breaks his silence to sing the mighty tune of God's love for each of us, whatever our music might be.

Denise Dennis

Reformation Committee Sign-up

We are forming a Reformation Event Committee to plan our event as part of the GTA East Reformation 500 Celebrations. If you are interested in participating on the committee, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or contact me at 416-283-8536 with ideas you may have. Come out and share your talents.



SAVE THE DATES!

Planning is well under way for the Reformation 500 events being held by congregations of GTA East. The following dates have been confirmed for the special functions by the participating churches.

JUNE 11, 2017 —

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Peterborough
Picnic at Peterborough Zoo 1 p.m. Special Offering will go to the reformation tree planting challenge. We may have a bus going. Stay tuned.

JULY 22, 2017 —

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Scarborough
Summer/Reformation Fest BBQ. We will plant a tree and take up an offering toward our Refugee Sponsorship program.

OCTOBER 14, 2017 —

Faith Lutheran, Oshawa
Oktoberfest Dinner and Dance at the Club Lorelei.

OCTOBER 29, 2017 —

Location to be determined.
Reformation Service.

Mark your calendars to be sure you don't miss any of these great events. More information regarding locations, times, and special offering allocations for the above will be provided at a later date.

Jennifer Albanese



You must learn to call on the Lord. Don't sit all alone or lie on the couch, shaking your head and letting your thoughts torture you. Don't worry about how to get out of your situation or brood about your terrible life, how miserable you feel, and what a bad person you are. Instead, say, "Get a grip on yourself, you lazy bum! Fall on your knees, and raise your hands and eyes toward heaven. Read a psalm. Say the Lord's Prayer, and tearfully tell God what you need.

— MARTIN LUTHER, FAITH ALONE: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

EPIPHANY COUNCIL 2017

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Fred Kilian

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POSITION AND DUTY	COUNCIL MEMBER
Chair	Greg Furan
Vice-Chair	Sigrid Engler
Finance	Geoff Crewe
Property	Fred Kilian
Worship & Music	Ron Heino
Stewardship	Geoff Crewe
Outreach	Paulette Correia
ELW	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry	Denise Denis
Education	Rasma Caune
Membership	Denise Dennis
AMMS	Fred Kilian
Spiritual Society Canada	Greg Furan

POSITION AND DUTY	COMMITTEE MEMBER
Reformation	Jennifer Albanese
Advertising	Nalini Badley
Morningstar	Sigi Sommer
Secretary	Pat Bramley

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,912.48	\$9,716.20	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	17,115.99		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,200.00		
ADVERTISING FOR GIFFEN MACK	100.00		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES	10.00		
SPIRITUAL SOCIETY PARKING	1,500.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$27,747.47	\$11,050.20	\$16,697.27
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$37,524.77	\$24,154.37	\$33,370.40

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP NEWS

WHAT Our sponsorship has changed (happily) from a family of three to a family of four. This is the same family, but one that has now been reunited with the father who only recently made his way out of Syria to join his wife and children in Lebanon. There is more, and different, paperwork because of this “expanded” application, but it is hoped this will not create much change in the timeline for bringing this family to Canada.

WHEN We are still hopeful we will meet the family in 2017.

WHERE As part of our sponsorship initiative, we need to continue raising funds for contingencies. Your support of our fundraising activities is very much appreciated; please note that ALL proceeds go directly to our sponsorship fund.

HOW Our first fundraiser of 2017 is the sale of Easter flowers; there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to indicate how many plants you would like to purchase. For more information, please speak with or contact Jennifer Albanese (jhalbanese@gmail.com). We will also be selling red wine, similar in style (Italian) to the one made for the 50th Anniversary. For more information, speak with or contact Jim Dennis (jimsilver.sail@gmail.com/416-264-4091). Our third planned fundraiser will be a garage sale in early June. For those details, please be in touch with Dorothea Cameron (dorothea.toronto@gmail.com/416-282-3275). If you have an idea you would like to share (or champion!) for Refugee Sponsorship fundraising, please contact any one of the committee members: Nancy Kostroman, Jennifer Albanese, Dorothea Cameron, Denise Dennis, or Pastor Rasma.

WHY We will continue to share the details of how and when the family will be making its way to Canada. These are disturbing times in the Middle East where personal safety is constantly challenged, where politics are unstable, and where fear is a chronic state. Some argue that this is only one family, but it is like the story of a little boy throwing the starfish back into the ocean. After a storm, hundreds of starfish were stranded on a beach. A person strolling on the now-calm beach saw a little boy picking up one starfish, running into the surf, and throwing the starfish back into the water, then running back to repeat his process. The person stopped the boy and asked why he was going to so much trouble for one starfish, what did it matter when there were so many stranded on this beach. The boy, who was holding another starfish, answered: “It matters to this starfish.”

Your support of this refugee family is just like the boy's tireless intention to return one starfish to a safe home. Your prayers are welcome!

*On behalf of the Refugee Sponsorship committee,
Denise Dennis*

Our Seniors

Thirteen seniors cut stamps—mountains of it! To make the task a little easier we enjoyed a glass of wine with it. The hours flew away so fast that we hardly had time left to have our usual coffee and cake graciously donated by some of the ladies.

Our next meeting will be on April 4th at the usual time. Hope to see you all!

Wilhelm Wittmeier

Nach 40 Jahren gemeinsamen Singens
verabschieden sich die Mitglieder
des Chorensembles

Schola Cantorum
Leitung: Manfred Petz

von ihren treuen Freunden
mit einem Abschiedskonzert

Lieder der Heimat
(mit einigen Gelegenheiten zum Mitsingen)

Gastsolistin: Ursula Ivonoffski
Solojodlerin: Gretel Schauer

Samstag, 8. April 2017, um 15 Uhr
St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
1498 Avenue Road (corner Lawrence Ave. West)

Eintritt: \$15 (im Vorverkauf), \$20 (am Eingang)
Kartenbestellung und Auskunft: (416) 481-8484

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

**It's Springtime ...
"God reigns and his Son shines"**

(Credit: A church sign in Kitchener, Ontario)



The Church Women of Epiphany invite you to meet with us during the Easter Holy Week, between Palm Sunday and Good Friday on Wednesday April 12 at 1 p.m. We gather in fellowship with one another and to celebrate all that the Spring season has to offer, especially during Easter. Please

join us as we share cultural traditions, foods and seasonal preparations. You would be welcome to bring to the meeting and share with us Easter items. Kindly call someone to come along with you to the meeting.

The ELW 2017 budget was addressed at the February meeting as well as our participation in providing and preparing the food for the July 22 Summerfest picnic, to which the five Churches of the GTA East will be invited as part of our area's Reformation celebration. We hope to expect 50-100 people. Please let us know if YOU have a contact with a food provider for our BBQ menu of sausages & buns.

2017 will be a busy year as Epiphany is also involved in the Fall Delkina conference that the Toronto Kontaktkreis churches are hosting. No doubt we will be asked to participate in some way.

Monies are delegated to the Altar Guild and the Garden Committee to ensure that funds are available to decorate the altar and the garden urns and beds throughout the year. ELW has also set aside monies to ensure that we host the January and December Christmas luncheons and fund some upcoming Church Property Committee capital projects, e.g., the Sanctuary roof, Fellowship Room lighting and lawn mower storage shed.

ELW sends best wishes to the following women who celebrate a significant birthday in 2017: Wilhelmine, Nancy, Irene, Dorothea and Ute. ELW presented Pastor with a floral bouquet for her birthday at a recent Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Service. ELW mourns the passing of Elfriede Krebs who for years supported ELW and also provided Poinsettias for the Altar at Christmas.

We thank all who have contributed in one way or another to the midweek Lenten soup suppers, especially the soup cooks! Thanks also go out to the faithful crew who changed the outdoor church sign message throughout the chilly, frigid winter months – they would be Greg, Sigrid and Jennifer.

As the congregation of Epiphany gathers to observe the Easter Holy week, the Church Women extend to all our family and friends the blessings of the season, hope and renewal! Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Lilli Kilian • ELW President • 416-267-5300 • kilianlf@gmail.com

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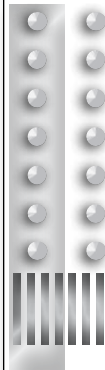
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April 2017

Pastor Rasma will be away from April 3-10. During her absence you may contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-889-0873 or 905-881-9154.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Fifth Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	3	4 1:30 PM—German Seniors	5 6:30 PM—Soup Supper 7:30 PM—Lenten Service	6	7 10 AM-11:30 AM —Bible Class	8
9 Passion/Palm Sunday PURPLE 10 AM Joint Lay Led Service	10 1 PM—Craft Circle	11	12 11 AM -2 PM Church Office 1-3 PM—ELW Meeting	13 Maundy Thursday PURPLE 7:30 PM— Joint Communion Service	14 Good Friday BLACK 9 AM— German Communion Service 7:30 PM— English Tenebrae Service	15
16 Easter Sunday WHITE 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast 9 AM Joint Easter Communion Service	17	18	19 11 AM -2 PM Church Office	20 7:15 PM —Council Meeting	21 10 AM-11:30 AM —Bible Class	22
23 2nd Sunday of Easter WHITE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Service	24 1 PM—Craft Circle	25	26 Pastor at Moll-Berzy Haus	27	28 Morningstar Collating	29
30 3rd Sunday of Easter WHITE 9 AM German Service 10:30 AM English Service	<p><i>This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">— MARTIN LUTHER</p>					