



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NO. 585 • MAY 2017

Submissions due 15th of the month

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Jesus, Thou Divine Companion

by Henry Van Dyke

Jesus, Thou divine Companion,
 By Thy lowly human birth
 Thou hast come to join the workers,
 Burden bearers of the earth.
 Thou, the Carpenter of Nazareth,
 Toiling for Thy daily food,
 By Thy patience and Thy courage,
 Thou hast taught us toil is good.

They who tread the path of labor
 Follow where Thy feet have trod;
 They who work without complaining
 Do the holy will of God.
 Thou, the Peace that passeth knowledge,
 Dwellest in the daily strife;
 Thou, the Bread of heaven, broken
 In the sacrament of life.

Every task, however simple,
 Sets the soul that does it free;
 Every deed of love and kindness
 Done to man is done to Thee.
 Jesus, Thou divine Companion,
 Help us all to do our best;
 Bless in our daily labor,
 Lead us to the Sabbath rest.



Although this may seem like a poem encouraging “works righteousness,” if we look closer, it really is about ministry together with Jesus. It is about God dwelling among us so that we are able to work, able to serve. When we get tired and frustrated in our attempts, Jesus puts up with us with his patience—a quality some lack. In the gentleness of this poem we are reminded that though we toil for daily food, Jesus is the “Bread of heaven.” He had the courage to offer himself up for us, giving us as a sacrament of life—a sacrifice for the sake of our lives.

His was the work of love and kindness, working with those who doubted or perhaps did not fully understand. That is the work we are called to do out of love and kindness for our neighbor, our community of faith, and the world in which we live. Our ministry together serves God: like the loving hands that till the soil, and plant seeds and flowers to remind us that there is a new creation waiting to sprout up on our grounds. Others knit and sew as they build community and friendships, and provide ways to raise funds for both the church and the hospital. Others use their gifts of music to bring joy to the congregation, making each occasion special by glorifying God with each note sung or played. There are so many talents that help us to work together in building up this body of Christ: the logical mind of finance; the hands working to maintain our property, or create an aesthetically pleasing worship space; the hearts who lovingly visit or call the lonely or those in need of a listening ear; the loving souls who work behind the scenes never wanting to be recognized for their efforts.

No matter where you fit in this ministry we do together, whether as council or committee member, worship leader or coffee cook, on May 21st we will celebrate and acknowledge your talents through our Volunteer Recognition Sunday. Think about the way in which you use your talents in your life, within or apart from this congregation, and then let’s decorate the sanctuary with an example of that talent in thanksgiving for these God-given gifts. That is how we will give thanks to our Divine Companion who walks with us to remind us that when our toil seems too great and tedious, we minister to each other, because he has showered us with his grace. To our Divine Companion be given our thanks and praise!

Pastor Rasma

Kudos

Thanks to all volunteers who helped out with the Lenten and Holy Week services. Special thanks to Margaret Crewe for playing the piano for our midweek Lenten services, but also for directing the choir, and for her ability to jump in at the last minute to fill in for Aivar. Thanks to all midweek soup cooks during Lent and to council for providing us with Easter breakfast.

Pastor Rasma

Change in membership through death

Phyllis McFarlane

died at the age of 88 on April 7, 2017.

A memorial service for her will be held at Epiphany on May 4th at 11:30 a.m. followed by a reception and interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

*"Lord to whom shall I go?
You have the words of eternal life."*

The Food Bank – Let's feed the hungry!

Let's continue to support the Food Bank. Each month we will suggest a food-of-the-month. For May you are invited to bring canned fish for our shopping cart in the narthex.

Calling All Sewers

The Craft Circle received quite a few pieces of fabric from Sigrid Engler's neighbour. If there is anyone in the congregation interested in making anything from these pieces of fabric for our Annual Bazaar on November 24, please contact Nalini Badley at 416-281-3162.

Yard Sale

The Refugee Sponsorship Committee is once again having a Yard Sale on Saturday June 17 from 9 am to 2 pm. If you are spring cleaning anytime soon and would like to contribute items, please contact Dorothea Cameron at 416-282-3275.

Vacation

Pastor Rasma is on vacation from May 31 to June 6. In case of pastoral need during that time, please contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-881-9154.

It's Wine Time!

"Italy Rosso Grande Eccellente": translated, this label means "great, excellent, red" wine of Italy. It also means the wine will have "a delectable bouquet of sweet ripe berries, spices, and farm cherries, and firmly structured tannins." This is the wine being made and sold in support of our Refugee Sponsorship.

Like the wine for the 50th Anniversary, Jim Dennis will take pre-orders; contact Jim at jimsilver.sail@gmail.com or 416-264-4091 to place your order: each bottle is \$10.00.

We are grateful to the supplier and wine maker who provided a very generous discount on the wine because it is in support of refugee sponsorship: our sincere thanks to James Howitt of Grapefully Yours.

We thank you for your continued support of the refugee sponsorship project. **Your Refugee Sponsorship Committee**

The Apple Tree Workshop

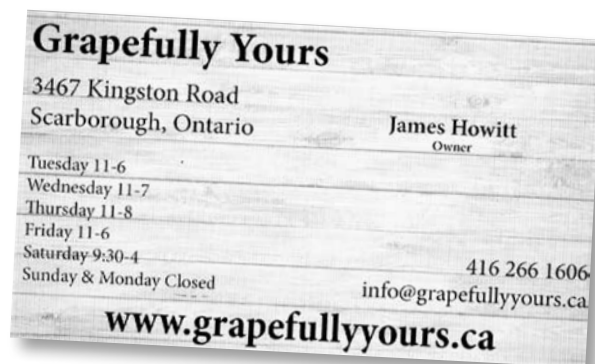
On Saturday April 1, Pastor Rasma, Denise Dennis, Fred Kilian, Sigi Sommer and I attended a one day workshop at Christ the King Church in Whitby. Organized and put on by the Synod, the focus was on helping congregational leaders develop greater awareness of and providing tools to identify new mission activities.

As the word "mission" suggests, in the simplest sense we are exploring what we can do to benefit others, outside of our comfort zone in the congregation. Hence the reference to the apple tree. The tasty fruit that the tree produces does not benefit the tree itself, but rather it nourishes those who partake of it.

The day began with a recorded introduction from Bishop Pryse, who took us on a fascinating journey through time from post-war North America to the present day. In the years just after WWII, Lutheran Churches were opening at a rate of one a week, fuelled by card-carrying Lutherans emigrating from Europe. Over time, the number, countries of origin and beliefs of our immigrants has changed, and subsequently it has been many years since any new "mission" churches have been opened by the ELCIC. As well, society in general has become much more secular. The formula for church mission work that was so successful years ago now needs to be rethought in light of this reality.

For me, the highlight of the day was an introduction to asset mapping, which started with identifying the assets we have at Epiphany, whether they be people, objects, or the positive attributes of our location. When an asset was identified, we wrote in on a small slip of yellow paper and put it on our table. Soon our large table was absolutely covered in a sea of yellow. I was amazed at how many assets our modest congregation has at our disposal, ranging from talented people to a beautiful building and grounds. All this after only a few minutes of thought. I'm sure there are many more we haven't yet considered. Each of these assets, no matter how seemingly insignificant, has the potential to be a building block, working along side other assets in a mission project. Everyone reading this is an asset, even though it may not yet be obvious to you. God has gifted us all with talents to share. What are yours?

We will be considering the asset mapping and mission process at Council. You'll be hearing from us! **Ron Heino**



EPIPHANY COUNCIL POSITIONS

GREG FURAN – Council Chair
416-284-5622 / gfulan@sympatico.ca

SIGRID ENGLER – Vice Chair & ELW
416-283-8536 / sigengler@gmail.com

FRED KILIAN –
Property, AMMS & Spiritual Society
416-267-5300 / kilianlf@gmail.com

GEOFF CREWE – Finance & Stewardship
416-267-3383 / geoff.crewe@gcrewe.com

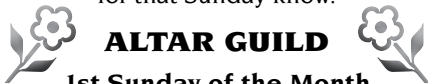
RON HEINO – Worship & Music
416-284-0716 / heino@rogers.com

**DENISE DENNIS – Mutual Ministry
& Membership Subcommittee**
416-264-4091 / denise.dennis@outlook.com

PAULETTE CORREIA – Outreach & Altar Guild
416-414-4497 / polly222001@yahoo.ca

PASTOR RASMA CAUNE –
Education & Reformation
647-382-5093 / rasmac@sympatico.ca

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARCH 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$5,046.30	\$9,824.85	
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		
AMMS UTILITIES	1,030.12		
AMMS INSURANCE	604.08		
LOONIE BIRD	.25		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$11,789.75	\$11,158.85	\$630.90
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$49,314.52	\$35,313.22	\$14,001.30

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

FUNDRAISING YARD SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 17 • 9AM-2PM
Proceeds go toward Refugee Sponsorship

PLUS



You're invited to Epiphany's Strawberry Social

SATURDAY JUNE 17

(Father's Day weekend)

12 NOON – 2 PM

Enjoy a heavenly helping of
Strawberry Shortcake with
Vanilla Ice Cream and
Coffee, Tea or Juice.

Freewill offering appreciated!
(Suggest \$6 each)



FaithLife Financial will provide a matching grant for this event.





On Tuesday May 2 at 1:30 pm, the Seniors of Epiphany are invited to their usual monthly meeting at the church. In Wilhelm's absence, Norbert will preside and plans to look at and share various aspects and traditions of the Easter Holidays, past and present. Hope to see you there.

Norbert Sommer

Celebrating the Church Women of Epiphany



In May we recognize the efforts of the Church Women in the life of our congregation here at Epiphany. They take pleasure in participating in the many aspects of church life: involvement in the church services, the altar guild, congregational committees, socials, fundraisers, caretaking and property maintenance.

It was mentioned at our April meeting that other Lutheran churches in the GTA East regularly have monthly luncheon gatherings of their womenfolk, usually at a restaurant venue. With that in mind, we are hosting an inaugural luncheon at Gerhard's Cafe in May. Unfortunately because of the size of Gerhard's, we are limited to the number of invitees. With this in mind, we have had to restrict our invitations to ELW alumni and friends who have supported our efforts in the past. These women no longer regularly attend ELW meetings. It will depend on the response and success of this May event, if we choose to host these luncheon gatherings later in the year to a wider audience. Please stay tuned. Our thanks to Heather, the owner/manager of Gerhard's for her consideration and co-operation in helping Epiphany organize this event.

The luncheon is in place of our regular monthly ELW meeting in May; and the Strawberry Social will be in place of our regular June meeting. Please check the church bulletin board for the sign-up lists for the June event; the cake mixes will be available in the Church kitchen by the end of May. It was decided at the April meeting to combine forces with the Refugee Sponsorship Committee to have them hold their Yard Sale fundraiser on the same day as our Strawberry Social. For event particulars, please refer to the flyers.

The Toronto East Area Lutheran Churches are planning a Women's Day of Renewal on June 3rd at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Whitby that will include workshops (e.g., making stepping stones). Should be a super fun day with monies going towards the 500th Anniversary Reformation Tree Project. Come out to meet your Lutheran sisters of Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa and Peterborough and check the bulletin board or your email for future details.

That's it for now. Thank you!

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

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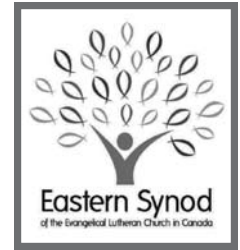
May 2017

Pastor Rasma will be on vacation from May 31 to June 6. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-881-9154.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 4 PM— Confirmation Class	2 1:30 PM — German Seniors	3 11AM -2 PM Church Office	4 11:30 AM — Memorial service for Phyllis McFarlane at Epiphany	5 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	6
7 4th Sunday of Easter <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	8 7:30-11AM— AMMS in Sanctuary or Quiet Room 1 PM— Craft Circle	9 7:30-11AM— AMMS in Sanctuary or Quiet Room	10 11AM -2 PM Church Office 7:30 PM — Worship & Music Mtg	11 German Clergy Ministerium 4-6 PM — AMMS in Sanctuary 6:45-11PM — Spiritual Society Parking	12 6:45-11PM — Spiritual Society Parking	13 6:45-11PM — Spiritual Society Parking
14 5th Sunday of Easter <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service 2 PM Memorial service for Eduards Caune <small>MOTHER'S DAY</small>	15	16	17 11AM -2 PM Church Office	18 7:15 PM — Council Meeting	19 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	20
21 6th Sunday of Easter <small>WHITE</small> 10 AM Joint Communion Service with a Volunteer Recognition liturgy followed by the second episode of the documentary, "It Changed Everything"	22 1 PM— Craft Circle <small>VICTORIA DAY</small>	23	24 11AM -2 PM Church Office	25 7 PM— German Ascension Day service at Thornhill Lutheran Church	26 10:30 PM -12:30 AM — Spiritual Society Parking	27
28 7th Sunday of Easter <small>WHITE</small> 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service	29 4 PM— Confirmation Class	30 8:30-9:30 AM — AMMS in Sanctuary	31 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6-9 PM — YCC 501 in Sanctuary	June 1	2 Morningstar Collating 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	3

Dear Reader,

Well, the layout for this issue of the *Morningstar* is done. This page could have stayed blank... but it seemed like a great opportunity to share an article by Bishop Michael Pryse which I read in *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* newsletter. I found it poignant. And hopeful. Like Spring. Peace be with you... and courage... and imagination... 🌱



Boosting Our Quotient of Courage and Imagination

Bishop Michael Pryse

In this time and place, the contexts in which we engage in ministry are undergoing massive change in virtually every regard. Our churches don't exist in spiritual bubbles and changes within society and culture will, by necessity, change our ministry context. It can't be avoided. Whether it be shifts in population patterns, the rapid pace of technological change, socio-economic dislocation, changing immigration patterns, generational shifts in spiritual priorities or our 24/7 media culture; we and our ministries are impacted. And it really can't be otherwise.

As I visit with our synod's congregations and rostered ministers I am experiencing steadily increasing levels of anxiety and fearfulness among us. A great many of our congregational systems and their leaders are both stressed and distressed. Participation levels are decreasing. Financial capacity is declining. Physical assets are crumbling. A lot of us are afraid that "the ship is going to go down on our watch," a prospect that interjects a toxic whiff of shame into an atmosphere already chilled by the

deadening emissions of our collective fears and anxieties.

In the face of such realities, there is a great need for us to work at rapidly cultivating two character traits - courage and imagination - which, admittedly, are not the first characteristics most of us would identify as being particularly dominant in our present church culture!

The theologian Karl Barth described courage as being "fear that has said its prayers." Some of the fearfulness we experience is quite understandable. There is much about present circumstances that are scary! That does not mean, however, that fearfulness is an acceptable posture that should be allowed to stand unchallenged. Left unchecked, fear is paralyzing. It can, however, be prayerfully transformed into courage by diving deeper into the well of our tradition's primary spiritual practices - by "saying its prayers!" Do you live within a too-fearful congregation? If so, I would suggest that you seriously engage Bishop Johnson's call to Spiritual Renewal. You can learn more about it at this link. <http://elcic.ca/csr/default.cfm>. My guess is that you will see a significant change in the ratio of fear to courage in your congregation's life.

I also maintain that these spiritual practices can spark a much needed rejuvenation of our churchly imagination as we seek to renew the nature of our shared discipleship. And do we ever need it! Nineteenth century American clergyman and abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher once described faith as being "spiritualized imagination." Faith-filled people are spiritually imaginative. The Scriptures and the pages of

church history are rife with countless such testimonies. Think about the Reformation whose 500th Anniversary we are commemorating this year. What an incredibly courageous and imaginative response to the most fearful of times! Conversely, there are as many examples wherein a fearful and anxious people experience a reduction in their capacity to courageously imagine new possibilities and options. Which end of this imagination spectrum is most representative of the churches that you know best?

Here's the deal, folks. Most of the societal changes that have challenged the status quo of congregational life in the past fifty years are due to forces and circumstances that are well beyond the capacity of any individual Christian or congregation to change or alter. We can't replicate the 1950's. But you know what else is true? This has always been the case. Societal and cultural change is a constant that always has and always will be.

Where the church has historically distinguished itself in its engagement of that ever changing context for mission has been in those times and places where it's been most courageous and imaginative. Our forebears in the 1950's actually did that and addressed their new post-war context with great courage and imagination; it's an amazing story! It remains to be seen whether we will similarly distinguish ourselves in this time and place. I suspect that a committed effort toward experiencing renewal in our primary spiritual practices might be a place for us to begin to find that out.