



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Faith Companions,

They say (whoever “they” may be) that, “In order to know where you are going (whoever “you” may be) you have to know where you have been.” This familiar “proverb” of our culture reflects the meaning of the word ‘tradition’. Tradition is about preserving the best from past generations in order to best serve the present generation, in turn to better provide (provide better?) for future generations. Christianity’s *truest* tradition, if you will, has been to proclaim and serve God’s promise of a better world for all God’s children.

The early church grew – exponentially – in membership, resources and influence because of its radical commitment to love. “See how these Christians love one another,” was the astonished admiration expressed even by Christianity’s harshest social critics. The church’s mission of caring for “*insiders*”, captured the imagination of “*outsiders*” with God’s vision of a new humanity in Christ, and inspired a social movement intent on transformation of the whole world!

But after Christianity’s *own* transformation from persecuted *minority* to dominant *majority* of the population, complacency set in and church tradition became pre-occupied with preservation of certain forms of worship, styles of music, formulations of doctrine, orders of ministry, structures of church government and worldly political power. Today the Christian church in our western civilization, including our congregation, is declining – exponentially – in membership, resources and influence, primarily because humanity’s basic instinct for self-preservation tends to overpower our divine impulse for compassion. And, no doubt, the well documented historic folly of anti-Jewish persecution and anti-Muslim crusades, our denominational fragmentation – not to mention the current global scandal of sexual abuse, including Canada’s *own* shameful residential school system – have seriously undermined Christianity’s image and credibility.

As the summer season of rest and recreation arrives, the people of Epiphany stand at a *crossroads*. Remembering “where we have been”, we pray that “where we are going” will renew the worthiest and earliest of all Christian church traditions, reflected in the popular campfire song: “They (whoever “they” may be) will know we (whoever “we” may be) are Christians by our love...”

Pax Vobiscum! Peace be with you all!

Pastor Peter

JUNE CALENDAR

SUNDAY JUNE 1

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (WHITE)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY JUNE 5

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

FRIDAY JUNE 6

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (GoogleMeet)

SUNDAY JUNE 8

DAY OF PENTECOST (RED)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY JUNE 15 (FATHER'S DAY)

THE HOLY TRINITY (WHITE)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY JUNE 20

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (GoogleMeet)

SUNDAY JUNE 22

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY JUNE 29

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski
(In-person & Zoom)

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Zoom Link to EPIPHANY LUTHERAN

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09>

Or by phone following the prompts:
+1 647 374 4685 Canada
Meeting ID: 989 080 0583
Passcode: 095565



The Health Benefits of Music

by Rosarii Lisinski



Did you know that listening to music, especially classical or soft melodic music, can reduce stress in your life?

It has been proven that the music of the Baroque period, such as Vivaldi (*"The Four Seasons"*), Handel (*"Messiah"*), and Bach (who was Lutheran and wrote many of our great hymns), has special power to relax and soothe people. Apparently, the slower passages in their works are written at a tempo that closely approximates the human heart at rest. I find this information very fascinating, especially in this age when we are exposed to so much loud, high-energy sound in the world around us, particularly on the radio and television.

Moderate exposure to loud, fast beats, such as Rock music, can stimulate positive high-energy when needed. It can motivate us to action and work. In some work environments, Rock music is used for this very purpose, and therefore enhances productivity.

In the church we use music to set the mood for the liturgy and season. Our worship accompanists, Margaret and Michael, always provide beautiful preludes at the beginning of each service, which prepares us for the worship of God. The postlude at the end sends us off filled with the Holy Spirit to serve our neighbours in the world. I am most thankful for the creativity and inspiration of our church's two faithful musicians!

If you are feeling anxious, on edge or cannot sleep, why not put on some soft mellow music and let the

power of the sweet sounds fill your heart and soul! It gives a whole new meaning to the old familiar phrase by William Congrave: "Music hath charm to soothe the savage breast" or, as some say, "savage beast."

I pray you all have a safe and healthy summer of rest and renewal. Peace be with you.

In AD 1967, The Beatles ignited what came to be known among pop culture historians as the “Summer of Love”. In the first-ever live, global satellite telecast, the Fab Four performed their new song, “All You Need Is Love” on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Today, nearly six decades later, the overwhelming consensus agrees that love *remains* our fearful world’s number one need. Love is vital for nurturing people, from birth and infancy, through childhood and adolescence, into mature adulthood. But even *more* important for our growth in human being than *receiving* love *from* others is *giving* our love *to others*. That is the fundamental truth of being created in the image of God, the very *substance* of whose *divine being* is self-giving love.

In today’s Gospel, on the eve of his crucifixion – the *ultimate* revelation of the fundamental truth of God’s love for the world – Jesus taught his disciples the best-kept secret for fulfilling our God-given humanity: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ...”

Of course, *being only* human, loving others is not as *natural* for us, as it is for God. We *naturally* love ourselves and those of our immediate family; and the limits of our natural self-love range between *healthy* self-care to *toxic* self-centredness – which is Pastor Martin Luther’s simplest definition of what the Bible calls “sin”. Even the natural love parents have for our children or siblings, or the romantic love couples enjoy – can be difficult to sustain when stressed to the limits of our physical, mental or emotional strength. The love to which Jesus calls us is more than emotional feeling or romantic attraction. It is *mindful decision* and *intentional action* for the wellbeing of *others*, inspired by *God’s love for us* and *our love for God* – *expressed in worship*, and *embodied* in our love for one another which, according to Jesus, distinguishes the community of the *church* from all *other* community relationships: “By *this*,” Jesus promises, “everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

The kind of love that reaches beyond what is natural has to be taught, learned, nurtured, and practised. That’s why God invented the church! In the community of faith we are *immersed* in the self-giving love of God, exemplified in the cross of Jesus Christ, whose divine humanity reveals God’s unconditional, unlimited and universal love for all people.

Of course, Jesus’ first followers Christians weren’t perfect. Just a few hours after Jesus first issued his new commandment, they betrayed, denied and deserted him to the cross of political power and religious idolatry out of humanity’s natural impulse for self-preservation. And Jesus’ *contemporary* followers are no more perfect than his *earliest* followers. But, just as he rose from the dead to forgive his first faltering followers and renew them in their mission, today the risen Jesus stands again among this assembly of betrayers, deniers and deserters to forgive *us*, and renew *us* in *our* mission according to his new commandment: “Love one

another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this the world will know that you are *my* disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love – more *specifically*, the love of *God*; more specifically *still*, the love of God *in Jesus Christ* – *literally* changed the world! And the love of God in Jesus Christ *continues* to change the world, by calling *people* to change our natural human orientation from love of *self* to love of *neighbour*; love of *foreigner*, love of *stranger*, even love of *enemy*!

John, Paul, George and Ringo were right: All we need is love. But, at the risk of repeating myself, love is not the ultimate *goal* of Jesus’ earthly mission. The ultimate goal of love is the subject of an even more famous song written by John Lennon: “*Give Peace A Chance*”. *Peace on earth* is the *ultimate* goal of Jesus’ mission; *love* is the *strategy* – the *means* and *method* – by which God’s gift of peace is given a chance to be received and shared with all God’s beloved children – within us, among us in the church, as well as around the corner and around the world.

Pastor Peter Lisinski

(Fifth Sunday of Easter Sermon – May 18, AD 2025)



“LET THERE BE LOVE”

TEXT: JOHN 13:31-35



CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair:	Geoff Crewe
Council Vice-Chair:	Denise Dennis
Council Secretary:	Vacant
Councillor-at-Large:	Greg Furan
Councillor-at-Large:	Gord Munro
Councillor:	Frank Dietz
Councillor:	Sigrid Engler
Treasurer:	Nalini Badley

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Education:	Open
Finance:	Geoff Crewe
Property:	Geoff Crewe
Stewardship:	Denise Dennis
Visioning:	Gordon Vollmer
AMMS Liaison:	Geoff Crewe
Worship & Music:	Marg Crewe
Morningstar:	Sigi Sommer
Seniors Group:	Ute Wentzel
Advertising Coordinator:	Nalini Badley
ELW:	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary:	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry:	Open
Spiritual Society Liaison:	Open

TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 2025	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$3,745.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	1,334.16		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,442.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	107.44		
FUNERAL	412.25		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$11,115.85	\$8,131.86	\$2,983.99
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$40,493.53	\$36,475.02	\$4,018.51
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT APRIL 30, 2025			67,906.53
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE END OF APRIL			167,580.33
SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 5% MATURING AUGUST 28, 2025			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

Today's to-do-list:

1. SMILE
2. DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF
3. THINK POSITIVE
4. INSPIRE
5. LOVE
6. BE GRATEFUL