



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

416-284-5922 • www.epiphanylutheranchurch.ca

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

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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Forgive us our sins (trespasses) as we forgive those who sin (trespass) against us.

What is the most difficult thing for a human being to do? I would say it is to forgive.

However, each time we recite the Lord's prayer we are called to forgive, maybe invited to forgive, which seems to soften what otherwise might seem like a command. Forgiveness is hard. We often hear of unforgiveable acts. Perhaps we ourselves have been on the receiving end of one of these or have initiated one ourselves, so we want to say, "I will never forgive...."

"Forgiveness is hard for us, yet it is hard for God as well."¹ We mention that each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper. We acknowledge Jesus' night of betrayal, as well as in Jesus' saying, "This is the covenant in my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sin." On the cross he forgave the criminal next to him, opening the gates to his kingdom to him before dying. Forgiving us cost Jesus his life.

Forgiveness is hard because with it comes a need for tolerance and patience. When one has been hurt by an act of another, by words said in haste, or perpetrated violence, there can be a hardness of heart which in the extreme can lead to hatred, and at the least to holding a grudge. Neither of these responses is good for one's mental and emotional health.

¹Johnson, Douglas W. and Susan C. Johnson. *Praying the Catechism Revised and expanded edition, ELCIC Augsburg Fortress, 2021 p. 96*

As it is, neither response helps one move beyond the hurt, which continues to fester, possibly causing physical ailments as well.

Life can be cruel. Acts of hatred or dominance over others have been horrendous, even by the church, which has been attested to in human history: burning of so-called witches at the stake, inquisitions, persecution of other faiths, lynching of blacks in the south, gas chambers in concentration camps, colonization taking their faith and language away from Indigenous peoples, the obliteration of cities in the Ukraine. How do we reconcile such acts? Yet, through all of this, survivors have had the courage to forgive the perpetrators. You might say these are extreme cases and cannot see forgiveness as justified in such circumstances. Then what act or words have been so extreme that you struggle to forgive?

There will always be people who might get on your nerves, even friends or family members you would rather give up or give up on; but consider your circumstance against the backdrop of the above-mentioned atrocities. Maybe that might make us reconsider forgiving someone who has hurt us in minor ways by comparison.

What if you were to remember someone who forgave you? Would that make it easier for you to forgive? Would that memory make it easier for

you to act in that same way toward the person who hurt you?

Jesus acted out of love to forgive, not out of spite but out of mercy and grace. Perhaps the words of hymn ELW 605 may remind us of this petition of the creed and may be a reminder of our own need for prayer and forgiveness.

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: how trifling others' debts to us; how great our debt to you!

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease; then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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Pastor Rasma



JUNE CALENDAR

The link to our Zoom meetings:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09)
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



JUNE 1

— 10:00 a.m. Yard Sale Meeting on Zoom

JUNE 3 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class

JUNE 5

— 9:00 a.m. German Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

— 10:00 a.m. English Service of the Word
(In person & Zoom)

JUNE 9 — 7:15 p.m. Council Meeting on Zoom

JUNE 12

— 10:00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

JUNE 14 — 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for
Hilda Sommer at Giffen-Mack Funeral Centre

JUNE 17 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class

JUNE 18 — 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Yard Sale

JUNE 19

— 9:00 a.m. German Service of the Word
(In person & Zoom)

— 10:00 a.m. English Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

JUNE 25 — Rain Day for Yard Sale

JUNE 26

— 10:00 a.m. Lay Led Service of the Word
(Zoom)

JUNE 29 — 11:00 a.m. GTA German
Congregations worship service and picnic
at Epiphany

JUNE 30 — 10:00 a.m. Pastor at Moll Berczy Haus

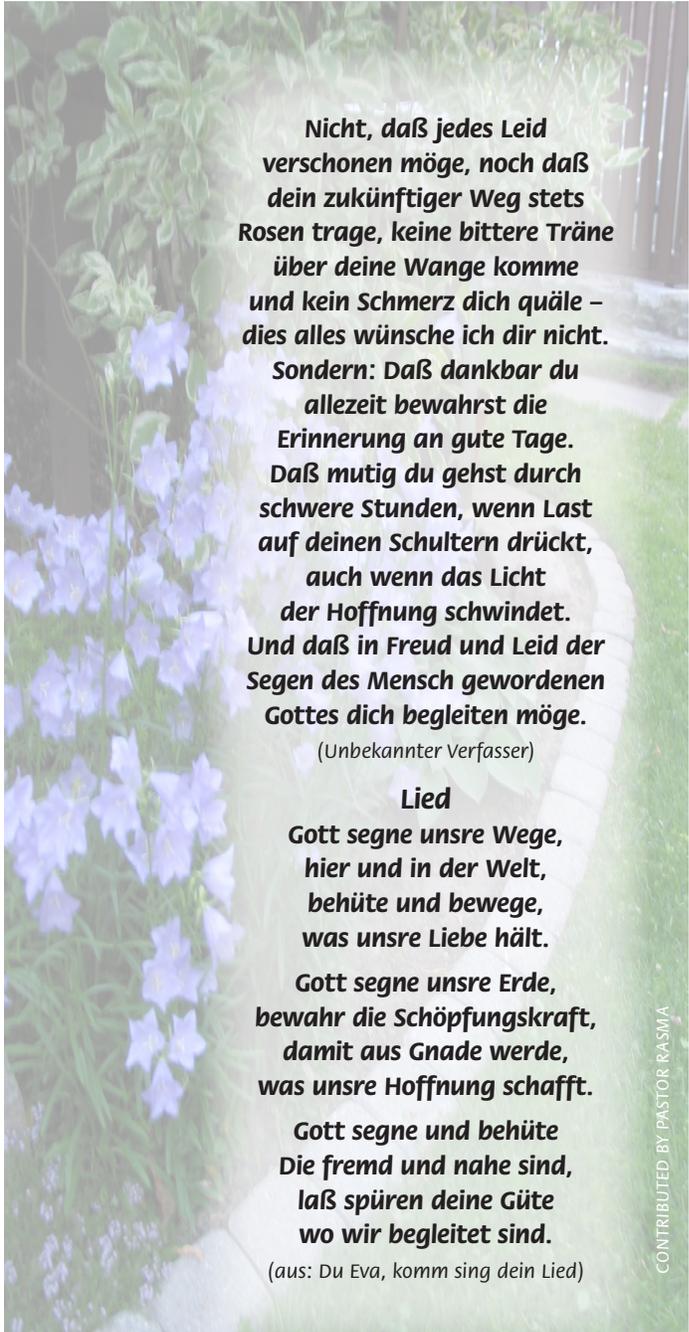
Am 29. Juni habe ich die andere deutsch-sprachige Gemeinden bei uns eingeladen um einen gemeinsamen Gottesdienst um 11:00 Uhr zu feiern und danach ein Picknick zu haben. Kommt und genießt ein geselliges Zusammensein. Es wäre schön, wenn wir unsere Senioren mit dabei haben können.

Pastorin Rasma

Kudos

1. Thank you to all who came out to spruce up our property on May 14.
2. Thanks to the generosity of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Whitby, who had to close their doors, Epiphany inherited several items such as microphones, credence table, sound system, paraments, stationery, space heater, candle snuffer, banner, etc. Out of their grief we received many blessings. Thanks to Gordon Vollmer, Geoff Crewe, Margaret Fler, and Sigrid Engler who picked up the items in Whitby and brought them back to our church.
3. I am always grateful to my worship leadership team for their willingness to make church happen in my absence.

Pastor Rasma



**Nicht, daß jedes Leid
verschonen möge, noch daß
dein zukünftiger Weg stets
Rosen trage, keine bittere Träne
über deine Wange komme
und kein Schmerz dich quäle –
dies alles wünsche ich dir nicht.
Sondern: Daß dankbar du
allezeit bewahrst die
Erinnerung an gute Tage.
Daß mutig du gehst durch
schwere Stunden, wenn Last
auf deinen Schultern drückt,
auch wenn das Licht
der Hoffnung schwindet.
Und daß in Freud und Leid der
Segen des Mensch gewordenen
Gottes dich begleiten möge.**

(Unbekannter Verfasser)

Lied

**Gott segne unsre Wege,
hier und in der Welt,
behüte und bewege,
was unsre Liebe hält.
Gott segne unsre Erde,
bewahr die Schöpfungskraft,
damit aus Gnade werde,
was unsre Hoffnung schafft.**

**Gott segne und behüte
Die fremd und nahe sind,
laß spüren deine Güte
wo wir begleitet sind.**

(aus: Du Eva, komm sing dein Lied)

CONTRIBUTED BY PASTOR RASMA



Yard Sale

YARD SALE • June 18 • 9am–1pm

Hello everyone! It has been a long time since we had a Yard Sale at the church. This is your opportunity to perhaps do some spring cleaning and then donate some items for the sale. We will be gratefully accepting donations at the church on the following dates: June 6, 8, 10, 15, and 16 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and on June 11 between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. We would like YOU to price the items you bring, keeping in mind thrift store pricing. We hope to get some help from students at a neighbouring high school, but we invite you, your family, friends, and neighbours to also volunteer to help on June 17 beginning at 4 p.m., or on the day of the Yard Sale, June 18. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be the 25th of June. Part of the proceeds will go to Ukraine relief through CLWR. Come and offer your time, talents, and treasures; it's a great opportunity to be good stewards. All volunteers will be required to wear masks. If you have any questions, please contact me at 416-284-5922 or 647-382-5093. Hope to see you there!

Pastor Rasma



We encourage everyone who is able to access the **MORNINGSTAR** electronically or to reference the website at www.epiphanylutheranchurch.ca Worship services will be posted on the "Newsletters" page.

It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new; but there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power.

— ALAN COHEN

CONTRIBUTED BY DENISE DENNIS

If a better world is what you want to create, then it is **your responsibility** to **not** hate those who you disagree with. Your fight is not with the **person** who sees the world differently, but with the **fear** in their heart that drives their actions.

We live in a divided world that is increasingly becoming violent. We are not fighting the real enemy, but each other. The enemy, if there is such a thing, is our fear.

When you speak with those who you don't see eye to eye with, address not their opinions, but their fears.

The brutal truth is this: Facts don't matter. You know why?

Because you can convince someone to see the fact of what is, but you can never convince them to interpret that fact in the exact same way you do. Every single major conflict in the world today has this as its heart.

This is why every conversation between opposing sides is an endless battle of 'who did what', and 'what happened when'.

History teaches us a lot, but if history and facts are all we focus on, then we lose the focus on the human being. We label that human being as irredeemable and make them an enemy.

This brings us to a deeper truth, that in spite of our disagreements, there is great agreement on the deepest issues facing us. No matter how much we disagree with someone, we already feel the same fear they do. Only the causes for that fear differ.

This means we all suffer in different ways, all the same. We are all human, and in that we are all deeply connected. Our subconscious life is not just similar, it is the same. Our collective consciousness is one fabric, and it's stitched together by the thread of suffering.

If we keep our suffering in focus, then we realize that there is no real enemy, but the fear and pain within us. There are real problems to solve, and we can't solve them without each other.

— AMIT PAGEDAR

@ findingawareness (on Instagram)

God gave you a gift of
86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say, 'thank you'?

— WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

The castle grounds were gleaming in the sunlight
as though freshly painted; the cloudless sky
smiled at itself in the smoothly sparkling lake,
the satin-green lawns rippled occasionally
in a gentle breeze: June had arrived. — J.K. ROWLING

Green was the silence, wet was the light,
the month of June trembled like a butterfly.

— PABLO NERUDA



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COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPS

CHAIRPERSONS (C) COUNCIL MEMBER

Council Chair	Ron Heino (C)
Council Vice-Chair	Denise Dennis (C)
Councillor-at-Large	Greg Furan (C)
Councillor-at-Large	Gord Munro (C)
Education Committee	Pastor Caune
Finance Committee	Geoff Crewe
Property Committee	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Seniors Group	Ute Wentzel
Stewardship Committee	Geoff Crewe
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	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry	Geoff Crewe
Visioning Liaison	Gordon Vollmer (C)
Spiritual Society Liaison	Fred Kilian
Treasurer	Nalini Badley
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TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 2022	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$4,965.00	\$11,397.67	
AMMS PARSONAGEE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	106.16		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	404.02		
AMMS PARSONAGE PROPERTY TAX	1,490.00		
GIC INTEREST	90.49		
MEMORIAL - W. HUXHOLD	100.00		
OFFERING ENVELOPE	40.00		
ADVERTISING - CORREIA REAL ESTATE	100.00		
SPIRITUAL SOCIETY PARKING	1,500.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$12,870.67	\$11,397.67	\$1,473.00
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$43,826.17	\$49,648.48	(\$5,822.31)
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT APRIL 30, 2022			23,558.00
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT APRIL 30, 2022			135,132.83
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2022			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer