



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Jordan Smith • 416-356-3505 • revjordansmith@gmail.com

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Submissions 15th of the month
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Plans and Prayer Plans and Prayer Plans and Prayer

I have always found November to be an interesting month of seasonal transition. We are past (Canadian) Thanksgiving, the children have been out in their costumes for Halloween, and now we in the church find ourselves waiting to begin the season of Advent. And all of this while Christmas tunes start appearing on the radio, Hallmark movies are playing daily, and Santa appears at the end of his annual parade.

As I prepare to start my time of interim ministry at Epiphany, I think this messiness and confusion of seasonal transition matches how the next few months might feel for us. It will feel like we are coming off the excitement of a great month. There has been a farewell party for Pastor Rasma and you have agreed to move forward in a forward-looking partnership with Kindred.

Along with all the good that has just happened, there is also hope for what is to come. There is a new interim-pastor who will be leading worship and visiting members. We will start to hear about what suggestions Kindred has for the property. There is anticipation of having some sort of an in-person Christmas service again after two years of facing restrictions.

It is to the people in exile that Jeremiah shares the Word of the Lord saying: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Let us look together to our hope and future, of what is to come, while also remembering what has happened in the past. I want to thank Epiphany's church council, especially Ron Heino, for their work in preparing for this transition. And thank you to Pastor Rasma for her leadership over the years and for helping me get oriented with your community.



We will get to know each other more over our coming time together but I'll take a moment now to briefly introduce myself. I was ordained in December 2020 to serve the people of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in North York. I grew up in the Lutheran church, spending a great deal of time volunteering in my local congregations and with the ELCIC's national youth gathering. I worked for ten years in the sports television industry before starting my studies at seminary. My wife, Carmen, also works in television and we have two daughters who love exploring the parks and trails near our home in East York.

I look forward to walking alongside your congregation as we enter November and the changing seasons. Epiphany has some wonderful plans in place, and I am excited to help you work through those plans. In the coming months we will pray together, we will worship together, and we will look to a future that connects the community and is led by the Lord.

Pastor Jordan Smith

NOVEMBER 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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

Pastor Smith

12:00 noon Service of the Word

(In-person & Zoom)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9

7:15 p.m. Council Meeting

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11

10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12

9:00 a.m. Leaf Raking at Epiphany

(Rain date Saturday November 19)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13

Pastor Smith

12:00 noon Service of the Word

(In-person & Zoom)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19

(9:00 a.m. Rain date for Leaf Raking)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

Pastor Smith

12:00 noon Service of the Word

(In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25

10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

Guest Pastor Hilla Lahtinen

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service

(In-person & Zoom)

Revised Worship Times

As we transition into a new routine with our interim minister Pastor Smith, our traditional Service times will be changing. Pastor Smith's current schedule at Emmanuel Lutheran already uses our familiar 10 a.m. time slot. Allowing for his travel time, our Services at Epiphany will begin at 12 noon. He will lead Worship for us on three Sundays per month.

On Sundays where we have a guest Pastor or a lay led Service, we will begin at 10 a.m.

Our guest pastors will preside over a monthly Holy Communion Service.

All Services will be hybrid, being in-person and on Zoom.

Pastor Rasma is in the process of assembling German-speaking clergy to provide in-person worship on a rotating basis.

Change is always difficult, but I'm confident we can adapt and that the Epiphany family will continue to come together for worship.

Ron Heino



We welcome all who are able to bring a rake and get some fresh air and exercise! Help rake some leaves from the beautiful trees at Epiphany, **Saturday November 12, start 9 a.m.** Thank you! (Rain date the following Saturday)

Our Seniors

Liebe Senioren

Hiermit seid ihr alle herzlich eingeladen zur Weihnachtsfeier Am 3. Dezember um 12 Uhr mittags in der Kirche.

Für Mittagessen, Getränke, Kaffee und Kuchen wird gesorgt.

Bitte laßt Ute wissen, ob ihr mit dabei sein möchtet bis zum 15. November 2022. Telefon 416-439-7996.

Freue mich von euch zu hören.

Ute Wentzel



Pastor Rasma Caune's Retirement Service, Sunday October 23, 2022

It was a beautiful service, emotional and touching, on a lovely Autumn day. Thanks to all who were able to participate, in-person and on Zoom, to make it special. Following is the tribute which Ron Heino, Epiphany's Council Chair, presented to Pastor Rasma on behalf of all of us.

Pastor Rasma, we are so fortunate that years ago you chose to change careers from a high school teacher and enter into the ministry. That decision has had a tremendous effect on the countless people that you have led in worship, guided, counselled, ministered to, baptised, married, buried, and otherwise supported over the years since your ordination in 1993.

If I may be allowed a brief retrospective of your career in ministry, you served at

- Redeemer Lutheran Church – Toronto
- Good Shepherd – North York
- Trinity Evangelical Latvian – Montreal
- Transfiguration Lutheran Church – Hamilton
- And of course, here at Epiphany, Scarborough.

Your fluency in English, French, Latvian, and German has served you well at these stops. Truly amazing.

Retirement, at least for me, was something that tends to sneak up on you when you're not looking. The years fly by as you go about the business of living, and one day you notice that you're not the new kid on the block any more, and it's time to pass the torch. Not so in your case however. Retirement didn't come easy to you; in fact, I believe this is your third try at it. Covid-19 waves put the brakes on your first two attempts. Rather than leave us to our own means during those difficult months during 2020 to 2022, you chose to stay on and shepherd us through the pandemic even as the doors were shuttered and we huddled together with our families in our homes. You became a master of Zoom and were able to worship and visit with us in our homes using the internet, then became the driving force to reopen the doors when it was safer to do so.

While I'm sure there are many other examples of the long-lasting impact you have had on Epiphany, another one that stands out for me is your championing of the Visioning process. It was you who got this initiative off the ground, and now after several years of self reflection, meetings and debate, we are at the threshold of embarking on a brave new future for our congregation as we contemplate the



redevelopment of our property. Thank you for lighting the spark for us.

Being a Pastor is not an easy job. You don't just work for an hour on Sunday mornings. It requires not only dedication but a deep personal faith and desire to be your brothers' keeper. Making personal sacrifices is often the rule, not the exception. I recall returning to the church after an Easter breakfast or some similar event to find you cleaning the washrooms and sweeping the floor in the Fellowship Hall when everyone else was gone. This speaks volumes for the type of person you are. You have the "Right Stuff".

Yes, retirement naturally brings with it a spectrum of emotions, ranging from a hearty "Yahoo!" to missing long established routines and friends you've made along the way. Once you settle into the retirement routine, you will be able to partake of the benefits that this extended vacation brings. I know you love to travel, enjoy live theatre, read, and have a creative gift for arts and crafts. Now you have the time to enjoy all these and more.

We at Epiphany have been truly privileged and greatly blessed to have had you among us for over 10 years. On behalf of the Epiphany Church Council and Congregation, we once again thank you for all you have done for us as a fine example of a servant of God. Enjoy every minute of your retirement. You have earned it. You have made a difference.

Now, on behalf of Council and the Congregation, I present you with a gift in recognition of this special day and your time with us. As an "Apple" person, we know you have your eyes on an iPad, so enclosed is our contribution towards the model of your choosing.

Fellowship and refreshments followed. On the wall in the narthex is a special gift handmade by Pastor Rasma for the congregation... 'THANK YOU' done in counted cross stitch in both English and German.



RETIRED FROM ALTAR GUILD

After more than twenty years of setting up the flowers, Altar hangings and Holy Communion for Epiphany church services, effective immediately, Ute Wentzel is retiring from the Altar Guild.

We wish to express our gratitude and thanks for your many years of faithful service, especially these last few which included additional challenges. Thank you, Ute!

The Altar Guild needs new volunteers

Our condolences to the families of Stephan von Gemmingen and Doris Schultes. Both passed away recently.

Stephan von Gemmingen, born on May 19, 1954 to Dieter and Irmgard von Gemmingen, founding members of Epiphany, passed away peacefully on September 19, 2022 after a short but stubborn battle with pancreatic cancer. Steve is mourned by his wife Barbara (MacFarlane), children Hannah and Bennett, siblings Martin, Peter and Christine, and their families. A service was held on October 11, 2022 at Beaches Presbyterian Church followed by a private ceremony at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Doris Schultes, née Koeder, was a founding member of Epiphany and died on October 4, 2022 at the age of 92. Doris was active in the choir, the ELW, and the German Seniors group. She enjoyed socializing with friends over a good card game, Bingo or a trip to the Casino. She had worked as a bookkeeper in the family shoe factory before retiring. Doris is mourned by her son, Klaus and her grandchildren, Julien and Justine. A Celebration of Life service was held at Epiphany Lutheran Church on October 15, 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$4,645.00	\$11,136.28	
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	276.96		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,046.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	87.16		
AMMS GARAGE SALE ITEMS	200.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$10,330.12	\$11,136.28	(\$806.16)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$94,556.06	\$105,408.07	(\$10,852.01)
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2022			18,488.15
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT AUGUST 31, 2022 (SEPT N/A AT PRINTING)			128,601.28
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT TO MARCH 2023			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

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	Open
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) (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
Worship & Music Liaison	Open





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