

# The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

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Pastor Rasma Caune • 647-382-5093 • [epiphluth@bellnet.ca](mailto:epiphluth@bellnet.ca)

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,  
but do not have love, I am a noisy gong  
or a clanging cymbal.” — 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

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This is the first verse of a beloved chapter from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, which is a treatise on love and which is often read at weddings and inscribed on bulletins. I would suggest that each of you reread the whole chapter, which focuses on what love is and is not. What does it mean to love – oneself, one's neighbour, and God? What would life be like without love?

At our last Bible study, led so capably by Margaret Crewe, we were challenged by Christian Schwarz, the author of *The 3 Colors of Love*, to rewrite this verse “to test how strongly our lives are driven by authentic love.” (p.60)

How would you fill in the blanks? “If I ..., but do not have love, I ...” Perhaps try your own version of that statement.

If I dish out advice and do not consider the consequences to that person and how it might be interpreted, because I have acted without love, I would be a hypocrite.

If I continue to live my life having unhealthy behaviours, but do not have love for myself, I do not honour God's gifts to me.

If I speak one thing in front of someone, but behind that person's back I say something else, it is not an act of love, and I am a liar and perhaps a bigot.

If I had the best of intentions to be punctual, but purposely disregarded how my tardiness affects others, I would not be acting in love, but in self-centred behaviour.

If I have all power, and knowledge, but do not have love, I abuse others, I misuse my knowledge for personal gain and become an autocrat.

In all of these cases it seems that without love, life can be lived in a negative headspace.

That is why Paul goes on to say: “Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A

With love everything seems to change. Having love and acting in love offers us an opportunity to dare to live life fully. It allows us to treat our selves and others with respect, honouring opinions, and the authentic self. It invites God in. With it we are able to stand in God's presence and hear God's voice say, "This is my child in whom I am well-pleased!"

So let go of the: "If only I were ... then I would ..." or "If only I could ... then I would ..." or "If only I had ..., the world would be open to me."

Perhaps if we were to approach life with love, our hearts would be filled with a desire to help others, as we share our knowledge, expertise, and resources. With hearts full of love we would be able to take better care of ourselves so that we have the energy to serve God and neighbour with grace and thanksgiving. *Pastor Rasma*

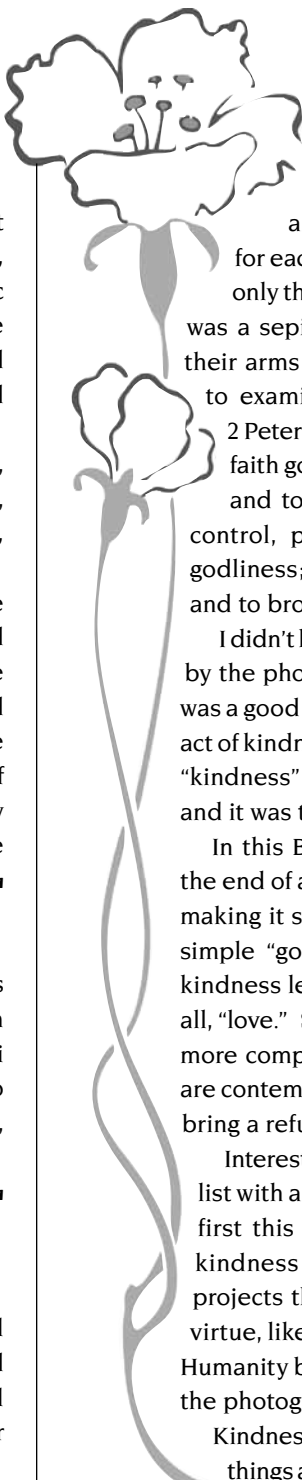
## **KUDOS**

I would like to thank our worship leaders Ron Heino, Margaret Crewe, Wilhelm Wittemeier, Dorothea Cameron and Sigi Sommer for their gifts and willingness to serve along with all lectors, altar guild, ushers, counters and musicians.

*Pastor Rasma*

## **Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto – June 23-26**

Pastor Rasma and Sigrid Engler will be attending as our delegates and Nalini Badley as a volunteer. You will still be able to reach the pastor on her cell phone (647-382-5093).



## **Kindness**

Many years ago I purchased a calendar that illustrated a different virtue for each month. I enjoyed the art, the graphics, and the "inspiration" for each one, but at the end of the year I kept only the page for "kindness." The background was a sepia-toned photo of two little girls with their arms around each other as they bent over to examine a flower. The inspiration is from 2 Peter 1:5-7: "Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."

I didn't keep the page because I was enchanted by the photograph; in fact, I didn't really think it was a good choice. How was looking at a flower an act of kindness? That particular representation of "kindness" seemed at odds with the actual words, and it was the verse that I wanted to keep.

In this Bible passage, kindness appears near the end of a list of increasingly significant virtues, making it seem of greater consequence than the simple "goodness" that begins the list. In fact, kindness leads into the most significant virtue of all, "love." So it appears that "kindness" demands more complex or grand gestures like the one we are contemplating as a congregation by helping to bring a refugee family to Canada.

Interestingly, kindness is the only virtue in this list with an adjective: it's brotherly kindness. At first this seems to amplify the importance of kindness and perhaps implies the types of projects that would demonstrate this particular virtue, like a refugee sponsorship or a Habitat for Humanity build. How then, did those little girls in the photograph demonstrate brotherly love?

Kindness, simply defined, is wanting to do good things and bring happiness to others. How one

shows kindness is, I think, what puts those little girls—and kindness—into perspective. Obviously, one of the girls had noticed a flower and brought her friend over to share the wonder and joy of the delicate shape and scent of this natural phenomenon. With their arms around each other for support, they could bend closer for a better look. Shared wonder is a gift you give to another; it's an invitation into your own source of happiness. Shared wonder is a gift that is both personal and profound. Letting someone know what touches your heart and spirit is, I think, at the very heart of brotherly kindness: it is intimate, and trusting. In such moments another heart may be eased, or a spirit uplifted, or a prayer of peace uttered in brotherly kindness. Perhaps this is the real key: *brotherly* kindness is something shared. It is, in every case, love in action.

Denise Dennis

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### **Epiphany Church Grounds Maintenance Update**

It is truly a delight upon entering Epiphany, to be welcomed by the lovely planter outside the church doors brimming with colourful Spring flowers. The flower beds surrounding the church building are also now in bud and bloom. Thanks once again to Dorothea Cameron and her helpers for their expertise in planting and volunteering to maintain the church gardens and to the ELW Women and Seniors group for financially supporting their efforts. We also thank those who help us maintain our considerable church property, lawns, hedging and trees every season: Peter von Gemmingen, Martin Wittemeier, Werner Kinder, Franz Fuerst, Fred Kilian. The Kelly Tree people will be trimming trees on the church property by the fence adjoining Bradshaw Plumbing. There was NO Spring Church Property Clean-up but we anticipate hosting a Fall Clean-up around the end of October. Prepare for this event by practicing throughout the summer season and having your leaf rakes at the ready. Lilli Kilian



### **Luther's Corner**

The years 1521 to 1522 were spent in Wartburg Castle for Luther's own protection, since many opposed his views. There were differing views regarding the understanding of divine law, and the Holy Spirit among Reformers. While in confinement, Andreas Karlstadt and Melancthon took over the leadership of the reformation movement in Wittenberg. Though confined, Luther was very productive in his writings, letters, and Biblical translations.

During this time period (1522) he managed to translate the New Testament into the German language. It was known as the September Testament. The Old Testament followed many years later in 1534. The translation of the Bible into the vernacular of the people influenced the development of the German language. It allowed any literate person to read and be educated in the Word of God.

When Luther returned to Wittenberg to resume his preaching, and lecturing at the university, he distanced himself from those who had taken over his leadership in the Reformation movement. They had gone in another direction—one that Luther disagreed with. The Reformation movement began to splinter, but the momentum continued to grow.

(Explore the Wartburg Castle with me this October as we tour On the Trail of Martin Luther.)

Pastor Rasma

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**God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone,  
but also on trees, and in the flowers and  
clouds and stars. — MARTIN LUTHER**

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## **Inflammation – Fighting the Flames**

Chronic inflammation is an underlying cause of many degenerative health conditions such as Alzheimer's, arthritis, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, etc. In continuation of the theme of disease prevention and health promotion, we will be focusing our June health information sessions on inflammation. We will explore its causes and health effects and focus on prevention, reduction and elimination strategies.

The sessions will be held on Saturday June 11 and 25, from 2 to 4 pm and 7 to 9 pm. If you and/or someone you care about would like to participate, please register via telephone at 647-345-8972 or email us at [healthwisewealthwise@rogers.com](mailto:healthwisewealthwise@rogers.com) by the Friday (June 10 or 24, respectively) before your choice of session so that we can properly prepare for you. Light refreshments will be served and seating is limited to the first 10 people to RSVP for each session.

Also, if you would like to receive our monthly health and wellness newsletter, please email us and we will add you to our list.

*In good health,  
Bettina and Martin Wittemeier  
Certified Nutritional Practitioner &  
Health and Wellness Consultant*

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**Christ** says: *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh...” The bird is known by its song, for it sings according to its nature. Therefore all the world knows that nothing represents the condition of the heart so perfectly and so positively as the words of the mouth, just as though the heart were in the word.* — MARTIN LUTHER

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*If you would like 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

## **2016 EPIPHANY COUNCIL**

### **Pastor Rasma Caune**

647-382-5093 • [rasmac@sympatico.ca](mailto:rasmac@sympatico.ca)

### **Greg Furan, Council Chair**

416-284-5622 • [gffuran@sympatico.ca](mailto:gffuran@sympatico.ca)

### **Nancy Kostroman, Vice-Chair**

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### **Paulette Correia**

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### **Fred Kilian**

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### **Sigi Sommer**

416-264-9929 • [sigisommer@rogers.com](mailto:sigisommer@rogers.com)

## Our Seniors

At our last meeting we were 13 seniors. After 'singing-in' the beautiful month of May with some lively songs we had only one more important topic to discuss which was our yearly picnic coming up on June 7th at 12 noon.

It was decided to have our picnic in our church or (weather permitting) outside on the church grounds. We hope to get as many participants as we had last year! Our 'menu' will include bratwurst and some salads and – as at former occasions – cold drinks and wine.

Hope to see you all!

Wilhelm Wittemeier

## Treasurer's Report

APRIL 2016	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$2,830.46	\$12,161.06	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	1,002.90		
AMMS PARSONAGE INSURANCE	861.84		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	942.32		
FAITHLIFE INCOME	150.00		
CRA SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT	248.58		
<b>CURRENT MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,145.10</b>	<b>\$13,495.06</b>	<b>(\$2,349.96)</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$45,883.09</b>	<b>\$50,480.23</b>	<b>(\$4,597.14)</b>

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

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# Please come and join us on Saturday June 18 from 2 to 4 pm and support our annual Strawberry Social!

The Strawberry Social requires:

- People to bake one cake mix each
- People to donate strawberries (frozen or fresh, sliced, UN-sugared)
- 1 person to make the coffee and tea
- 2 people to prepare the servings
- 1 cashier to handle ticket sales
- 1 person to supervise the Plant and Magazine table(s)
- June 18, 10 am set-up crew (outdoors, weather permitting, otherwise indoors)



There will be no regular monthly meeting in June, instead we ask our members and friends to come out and support the Strawberry Social. That means there will be no end of season potluck, rather we hope to host a September welcome-back meeting after the summer.

NO garage sale this year. **Too many plants at home or in the garden?** We will be pleased to offer these for sale at the social; and how about all those great magazines you have stacked on your coffee table or nightstand? Please bring these into church asap for us to offer a magazine exchange at the Social and Summerfest for people to enjoy reading throughout the summer. We really need YOUR help in advertising this church event to the greater community. Thanks to our faithful supporter, Bob Haebe, we already have a contingent of swimmers coming!

The July 24 Summerfest after church requires:

- 2-3 Sauerkraut cooks (Sauerkraut will be provided)
- Barbeque cook(s)
- Some volunteers to prepare a selection of jars for a guessing game (always popular)

**Sign-up sheets for these events are on the church bulletin board or you can call Fred or Lilli Kilian at 416-267-5300 to let them know how you can help. Thank you.**

***In May, ELW discussed the formation of a proposed new group for this Fall that would unite the church women with other men and women of the congregation and their friends who would be available one day a month through the day to enjoy fellowship and programs of interest. We need YOUR input as to what day of the month works for YOU; and we require ideas, suggestions and contacts for programs and speakers that YOU would enjoy and if YOU would be prepared to support this group. For example, if there would be the interest, we could revitalize day-trips. Suggested names for this group, so far, are 'The Epiphany Daytimers' or the 'Epiphany Social Group'. Use your imagination to help us with a name.***

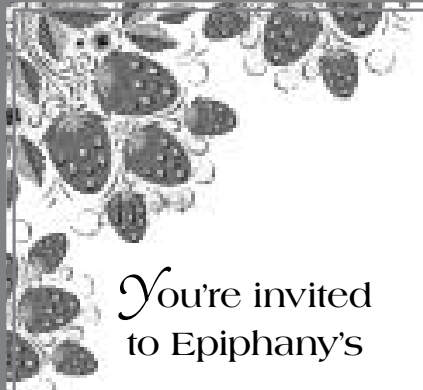
Congratulations and blessings to Wilhelmine and Reinhard on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary milestone and to all others celebrating special upcoming events. Ursula Albrecht has prepared containers to collect eyeglasses, pop can tabs, Campbell soup labels and 3-4 litre milk bags, which are found in the cloakroom.

Please distribute those Strawberry Social flyers to a friend or acquaintance. See everyone on June 18th!

# June 2016

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." — MOTHER TERESA


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	<b>2</b> GTA East clergy retreat	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 3rd Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12 NOON —German Seniors Annual Picnic	<b>8</b> 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 -11:30 AM —Bible Class	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 4th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 10 AM* Joint Communion Service (*New time for joint services for the summer)	<b>13</b> 1 PM —Craft Circle	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	<b>16</b> 7:15 PM —Council Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2 -4 PM —Strawberry Social
<b>19</b> 5th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	<b>23</b> June 23-26 Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto	<b>24</b> 10 -11:30 AM —Bible Class	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 6th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 10 AM* Joint Lay-led Service	<b>27</b> 1 PM —Craft Circle	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10 AM —Pastor leading worship at Moll Berczy Haus	<b>30</b>		



You're invited  
to Epiphany's

## Strawberry Social

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2016  
(on Father's Day weekend)  
2 TO 4 PM



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Vanilla Ice Cream and  
Coffee, Tea or Juice.  
.....

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