

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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ECUMENISM



This is certainly central to any dialogue that we might have with our brothers and sisters of other confessions. Looking at how such unity is possible, we need to understand how each of us comes to the table.

Recently I attended the L.A.R.C. (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic) Day of Renewal at which the theme was “Reformation — what does it mean?” It was interesting to hear the different perspectives or interpretations. Where we as Lutherans commemorate our linguistic, cultural and theological heritage passed down from Luther, such as our understanding of being justified by grace alone, by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers and the authority of the Scriptures, to name a few, Roman Catholics have perceived the Reformation

is “the promotion and restoration of unity of all Christians — unity which is a gift of Christ and to which the Church is called by the Holy Spirit.”

as the tearing apart of the Body of Christ. Where we had commemorated the birth of the Church, they had associated it with the death of it.

Much has changed through dialogue to rethink our approaches. For one thing there was much discussion about choosing the word *commemoration* over the word *celebration*. When we look at the context of the Reformation movement, it caused rifts, upheavals politically, socially and ecclesiastically as well as militarily. Cruel and horrible things were done to one another and for this reason we *commemorate* and do not *celebrate* the Reformation.

Coming to the table is surely a huge step, and it has improved relationships, but how? “Working beside one another we work from the heart; working across the table we work from the head.” said Father

Hingston. Together Lutherans and Roman Catholics have embarked on a mission of “rediscovering the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time, of witnessing to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.” Dialogue happens when we come at it from the perspective of unity and not division, when we willingly listen to one another and hear what each is saying.

The Roman Catholic Church has researched Martin Luther and his writings and has come to a new understanding of his life-long search for a merciful God. The once deemed heretic by the Church – and traitor by the Roman Empire – Martin Luther has been rediscovered and re-instated to a place of grace as a theologian, Biblical scholar and hymn writer. Re-examining history in our context today as we dialogue with one another, invites us to work together, to share resources and perspectives with a critical eye allowing for collaborative conversation.

Such conversation has resulted in jointly affirming some of Luther’s concerns, a joint publication Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999), and a look toward a future in which continued dialogue happens. The most recent publication *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017 (2013)* or *Vom Konflikt zur Gemeinschaft: Gemeinsames Reformationsgedenken im Jahr 2017*, examines Luther and our traditions, ecumenical projects, Catholic and Lutheran perspectives and concerns on The Lord’s Supper, the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, The Gospel and Church, etc. I would like to offer up an opportunity to discuss this book beginning in the fall and perhaps invite our Roman Catholic neighbours to join us so that we can listen to and learn from each other. Copies can be downloaded in PDF format in either English or German from the LWF website on ecumenism.

On October 31st, 2016 the commemorations will begin when Pope Francis, LWF President Bishop Dr. Munib A Younan and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr. Martin Junge will lead the common prayer service in Lund, Sweden with a following event in Malmö. 10,000 people are expected or at least hoped for.

Here is the unity prayer that we prayed at the L.A.R.C. Day of Renewal:



L: Paul challenged the Christians in Corinth to know in their hearts and to follow in their actions that Christ has not been divided. He challenges us, too, to realise more fully that unity we already have in Christ. With all those in every place who call on the Lord Jesus Christ,

all together, we are called to be saints!

Graced by God in every way,

together, we give thanks for one another.

Rich in the many blessings God has given us through our union in Christ,

together, we are not lacking in spiritual gifts.

Sure in the God who strengthens us for love and service,

together, we affirm that God is faithful.

Embraced by Jesus Christ,

together, we are called into communion.

United in the same mind and same purpose,

together, we seek to be in agreement.

Overcoming our quarrels about the one who was crucified for us,

together we belong to Christ.

Has Christ, then, been divided?

No, together, we go into the world to proclaim his good news!

Giving thanks for the real yet imperfect communion that joins us together, we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit of reconciliation and unity; come and renew the face of the Church, for the sake of God's world.

That the unity of the Church may be healed and strengthened, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit...

That the Holy Spirit may kindle in us the desire for unity in diversity, through the conversation of hearts, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit...

That the Holy Spirit may remove all fears, prejudices and lukewarmness, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit...

That we may all be led and encouraged into purification of past memories, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit...

For steadfast faith, hope and love on the demanding road ahead for the Churches, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit...

O God of the new and eternal covenant in Christ, we give you thanks for the gift of the prayer and we beg you, yet again, to kindle in us a strong and effective desire for Christian unity, as Christ wills it, and by the means he wills. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Pastor Rasma

KUDOS

Thanks to our very capable laity who led worship on June 26th while I was at Synod Assembly. I am very grateful for your willingness to serve also while I am on vacation. Thanks to all who worked to make the Strawberry Social a success. We thank God for the beautiful weather and the fellowship shared.

Pastor Rasma



The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. How will we commemorate this anniversary? Epiphany successfully celebrated our 50th anniversary, making 2013 a year of connecting through special worship services and events. Let's build on that!

We are looking for a committee to coordinate the good ideas and willing hands that will help mark 2017 commemorations of the Reformation.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Denise Dennis: denise.dennis@outlook.com/416-264-4091.

See more details at: <http://www.elcic.ca/reformation2017/events.cfm>



As a congregation, we have agreed that helping someone escape conflict and persecution, or Refugee Sponsorship, is a worthwhile project for us to undertake. At the 2016 AGM in February, we committed to working with our sister churches on this important outreach opportunity, sharing both the social and financial costs.

In addition, we need a working group to champion this effort, to begin to organize the many facets of this project. We need you! By opening our hearts we will open the necessary doors to ease the transition of refugees into Canada, into our community.

To express your interest, or to ask further questions, please contact Denise Dennis: denise.dennis@outlook.com/416-264-4091.

Property Committee News

Thanks go to Jennifer Engler who recently donated and replaced the ceiling light bulbs with energy efficient LEDs throughout the church at a considerable savings to Epiphany.

Thanks to all involved in ensuring that the Church grounds were immaculate and manicured for the recent Strawberry Social. Epiphany looked beautiful!

We extend best wishes to our neighbours, the Spiritual Society Canada Inc. located in the former Sisters Restaurant as they observed Ramadan throughout June and the beginning of July. Their members will be parking in our church parking lot as they attend evening prayers during this time.

Finally, a reminder if YOU are the LAST person to leave the church after a meeting or gathering to please check that ALL exterior doors of the building are securely closed. Thank you. *Fred Kilian*

Thanks to Kelly's

Thanks go to Trish Kelly of Kelly's Tree Care Ltd. for recently donating and planting on the grounds of Epiphany two trees; one Ginkgo and one Tulip Tree. We appreciate their generosity. *Lilli Kilian*

Summertime Sunday Services

This summer Epiphany will have a Joint Service every second Sunday until the end of August. The joint services will be held at 10 am. We hope you'll join us in worship together! And stay for SUMMERFEST food & fun on July 24!

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Rasma will be on vacation from July 25 to August 3. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please contact Pastor Sue Nevile at 905-441-3283.



2016 EPIPHANY COUNCIL

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2016 Summertime Calendar

JULY

SUNDAY JULY 3

9 am German Service
10:30 am English Communion Service

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY JULY 8

10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY JULY 10

10 am Joint Communion Service

MONDAY JULY 11

1 pm Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY JULY 13

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SUNDAY JULY 17

9 am German Communion Service
10:30 am English Service

WEDNESDAY JULY 20

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY JULY 22

10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY JULY 24

10 am Joint Communion Service
followed by SUMMERFEST . . .

for food, fun
and fellowship!
Read all about it
on the back cover
of this Morningstar.



MONDAY JULY 25

1 pm Craft Circle

JULY 25-AUGUST 3

Pastor on vacation. In case of
pastoral need, please contact
Pastor Sue Nevile at 905-441-3283.

SUNDAY JULY 31

9 am Lay Led German Service
10:30 am Lay Led English Service

AUGUST

FRIDAY AUGUST 5

10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY AUGUST 7

10 am Joint Communion Service

MONDAY AUGUST 8

1 pm Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SUNDAY AUGUST 14

9 am German Service
10:30 am English Communion Service

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY AUGUST 19

10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY AUGUST 21

10 am Joint Communion Service

MONDAY AUGUST 22

1 pm Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

Collate September Morningstar

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

9 am German Communion Service
10:30 am English Service

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2

10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4

9 am German Service
10:30 am English Communion Service

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

1:30 pm Seniors Club

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7

11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11

10:30 am Joint Communion Service
followed by EPIPHANY'S ANNUAL PICNIC . . .

Join the fun with your friends
and family. Bring along your
favourite salad or dessert
to share.





Feelings come and feelings go,
 And feelings are deceiving;
 My warrant is the Word of God—
 Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
 For want of some sweet token,
 There is One greater than my heart
 Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
 Till soul and body sever,
 For, though all things shall pass away,
 HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!

— MARTIN LUTHER

*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

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Our last meeting before the summer break was the traditional picnic which was attended by 19 seniors. As the weather was not too promising, it was decided to have the sitting arrangements inside. However, the sausages were barbecued outside by Franz with the help of Werner. Thank you to both gentlemen and also to all the ladies who brought salads and cake and helped with the set-up and the cleaning up afterwards.

While the sausages were still being fried, Pastor Rasma opened the meeting with a devotion and some readings. This was followed by several songs which went especially well as they were supported by wine and water.

I hope that everybody had a good time at the picnic. Our next meeting will be on September 6, 2016 at the usual time.

Wilhelm Wittemeier

**HealthWise WealthWise:
Health is Wealth**

Summer is finally here and with it comes the opportunity to relax and enjoy the summer holidays. In many groups and organizations, committees tend not to meet in July and/or August. Martin and I will also be taking a break from hosting our monthly health and wellness sessions as we always take the summer months to attend health symposiums and to plan our fall and winter programs.

We will be sending out the summer editions of our newsletter in early July and August and we will resume our monthly health and wellness information sessions in September (session dates will be in the August newsletter). If you would like to receive our newsletters, please email us at healthwisewealthwise@rogers.com and we will add you to our list. Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and safe summer.

*To great health,
Bettina and Martin Wittemeier
Certified Nutritional Practitioner &
Health and Wellness Consultants*

Treasurer's Report

MAY 2016	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,719.05	\$10,527.05	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,731.70	1,731.70	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	1,082.31		
AMMS PARSONAGE INSURANCE	287.28		
MOVIE PARKING	750.00		
YCC RENTAL	125.00		
ADVERTISING FOR KELLY'S TREES	100.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$11,570.34	\$12,258.75	(\$688.41)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$57,453.43	\$62,738.98	(\$5,285.55)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

A Message from our Treasurer

I have noticed that our chequing account has been dropping steadily as follows:

- March 2016 – \$15,949
- April 2016 – \$13,484
- May 2016 – \$12,704

We have not had any unusual expenses during these months, only regular monthly expenses, which means that we are not bringing in enough income to cover our regular expenses. I urge those who are going away for the summer to consider leaving their offerings, as past history shows that income always drops in the summer but this year it has started dropping earlier. I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Your Treasurer, Nalini Badley

Peace be with you.



Join the Epiphany congregation as we
gather on July 24 after the 10 a.m. Joint Service
for a Summerfest celebration of food and fun!

All are welcome to join us as we gather after this joint service for our annual Summerfest. Please note it happens on a Sunday and not Saturday. No other surprises, the menu will include the usual BBQ sausages, wieners and buns, sauerkraut, corn on the cob and potato chips. On offer for dessert will be watermelon, popsicles and ice cream. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Please bring along board games, cards, puzzles and magazines to enjoy and share with others. We require 2-3 volunteers as Sauerkraut cooks and someone to provide for the "Guessing Game" a selection of containers of various contents. Your expenses will be reimbursed.

Please come and enjoy yourself on our beautiful countryside church grounds. You are invited to attend all or part of the afternoon with us. ELW is gladly subsidizing this event and you are encouraged to bring along friends. In the event of rain, we will be hosting indoors! Any activity ideas or suggestions are appreciated. Please contact Lilli or Fred Kilian at 416-267-5300. Thank you.

Thanks, especially to Sigrid, Jennifer and Ursula and ALL others who distributed flyers, contributed



their time, talent, cake baking, strawberry donations and invited friends to the Father's Day weekend Strawberry Social. Even with Bob and Erika's absence, the Birchmount swimmers still came out in full force. The Markington METRO at Eglinton and Markham Road once again donated a store gift certificate towards our expenses. ELW is grateful to Andrea who ensures that the Church is presentable for service after our socials. Finally, Epiphany hopes to realize a \$500 matching grant from FaithLife Financial.

The congregation is reminded that the Monday afternoon Craft Circle and Friday morning Bible Study continue to meet throughout July and August and would welcome you.

Plans for the upcoming 2016 Church Women's Socials, the Fall Applefest event happening the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the Advent Bazaar will be made over the summer. If you think you can contribute to these events in any way, or if you have an event and program idea/connection, please contact us. We attempt to host informative and enjoyable fellowship meetings.

Enjoy all the blessings that Summer in Canada has to offer.

Lilli Kilian