



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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TBA

How often have you seen these three letters and anticipated what was to be announced? Perhaps it was a television program that didn't make the deadline for submission to the weekend newspaper; or the title or theme of a presentation at a conference that hadn't been submitted or finalized yet; or you're unsure when the delivery of a child will be; or exactly when you will be healed enough to begin various necessary therapies. As you wait to find out what is to be announced, do you sit imagining what might be? Or, do you sit in silence in the void of not knowing? Or, do you decide to switch the channel, or focus on things you already know in order to relieve your frustration? Or, do you welcome the noise back into your life so that you don't have to think about that which is uncertain?

Lent is the season of TBA, things to be announced. For the disciples of Jesus there are limitations to what is being announced. They sit frustrated because they do not fully understand or believe what he is saying to them. Jesus keeps hinting at what will be, what will happen to him: that he will suffer, die, and be raised again; but when, how, or where will this take place? Nobody seems to know. Even when we hear that people are trying to confound and pressure Jesus, there doesn't seem to be a particular time line. We hear TBA in such phrases as, "at an opportune time" or, "not yet".

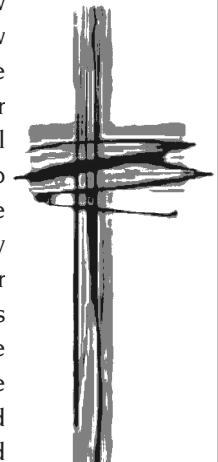
What needs to happen first is Jesus' baptism, his temptation in the wilderness, and his calling of disciples. He needs to begin his ministry and end it only after he has taught and healed and opened the Scriptures often enough for people to understand the "why" and "what" of that which must take place, the when, the where, the how, and who will be involved in all that Jesus is predicting. Even Jesus' identity is TBA. Who is this who can proclaim what he is proclaiming? How can someone destroy the temple and raise it in three days? How can a person breaking the Sabbath law be from God? Could this really be the anointed one of God? Why would anyone be willing to die for us, so that we might be forgiven? Why would anyone allow himself to be crucified, if he is innocent? Consider his chosen disciples: how does a confessor turn to a denier; why does a believer ask for proof; why does one follower become so greedy as to betray? All of this is TBA throughout Lent at an opportune time as we walk with Christ, trying to fully understand his reasoning for doing and saying what he does.

Perhaps for TBA we should say: "To Be Anticipated." This gives us a glimpse of hope about things changing for a reason, for things happening out of love for us. Sit tight and all will be revealed in good time through silence, listening, praying, worshipping, and opening the Scriptures that reveal the span of God's compassion for us all.

Pastor Rasma

Midweek Services of Reflection and Healing in Lent

When we really put our minds to it, we might agree that we all need this time of Lent for silence in the busyness of this world to still the noises surrounding us. We also need some healing, however we may interpret it: physical, emotional, psychological, or relational. Throughout Lent many healing stories are revealed in our time of reflection on Psalm 103. We might gain new insight as to how this Psalm may have implications for our own lives. We will also be tested as to how much silence we can actually endure before our comfort becomes discomfort; yet, we might experience inner healing and grow closer to God and deeper in faith.



Come join us Wednesday nights beginning with Ash Wednesday March 6th for a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m. Soup and service evenings follow on March 13th, 20th, 27th, April 3rd and 10th with soup supper at 6:30 p.m. and service at 7:30 p.m.

Let's listen, pray, read, sing, and reflect on the one who is the centre of our faith: Jesus Christ.

Pastor Rasma

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Powdered Milk and Formula



FOOD BANK

Lenten discipline:

At our council meeting we spoke of how we might help our refugee family with some financial assistance so that the sponsorship process would not have to start from the beginning again. It was decided that we would have an offering as a Lenten discipline. Put whatever you wish into the envelopes provided for this special appeal. You may choose to do a weekly special envelope or one larger contribution. Perhaps, you could empty your change purse or pocket each week and see how much we can actually collect to help our neighbours and live out the golden rule. Each week, envelopes will be available. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Book discussion:

The Bees of Rainbow Falls: Finding Faith, Imagination, and Delight in Your Neighbourhood by Preston Pouteaux. After service on March 10th anyone wanting to join in the conversation is welcome to stay for a half hour discussion. I have mentioned this book in relation to Visioning. Some books have been distributed and I have one more left. The author uses the metaphor of bees working together to familiarize themselves with the neighbourhoods they live in. We will work our way through some of Part One. Then in April we will continue the talk. This also prefaces our opportunity to walk in our neighbourhoods: around the church or where we live, when the weather permits. Let me know if you want to walk with me.

Concern:

Since we have "lost" members, who might be either hospitalized or convalescing at their children's home, I would like to make a list of emergency contact numbers so that we can call or visit when needed. All of our parishioners are precious in God's sight and ours!

Pastor Rasma



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SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2019



Visioning Sunday

In March our joint service will be our Visioning Sunday with the hope of having facilitators from First Lutheran Church. So stay for refreshments and conversation after service. The date is March 31st, at 10 a.m.

Pastor Rasma

Notice of Congregational Meeting

At the February 24, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting (AGM), the voters unanimously passed a motion to adopt the new constitution as recommended by Epiphany Council. A second vote, requiring a two-thirds majority, is required to ratify this decision. A Congregational Meeting will be convened following the joint service of March 31, 2019 for this purpose. This vote will be on a "yes or no" basis, for the document approved on February 24, without any amendments.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in attendance, as a quorum of voting members will be required to proceed.

Yours in Christ, Ron Heino, on behalf of Epiphany Council

Finding Financial Assistance for your Ministries

... was the title of a 5-hour seminar I attended on Saturday February 2, 2019, hosted by Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville. The seminar was very capably facilitated by Ms. Jody Orr, a Principal at The Chrysalis Group, whose resume includes significant experience in leadership positions at not-for-profit organizations, including the United Church. Most of the 60 or so participants came from congregations in the GTA, the Golden Horseshoe and south-western Ontario. It was organized by Jeff Pym, Ministry Director, Stewardship and Resource Development, at the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada ("ELCIC"), who also provided coffee, snacks and lunch. Those attending included Pastors, Council members and people who serve in a financial capacity within their congregations (Stewardship/Finance/Treasurers).

Churches need to be self-funding to cover their operating expenses. But what if they want to undertake, say, an extraordinary project of some nature and need financial assistance to make it work? There is a general belief that funders don't make grants available to religious groups. For example, The Ontario Trillium Foundations says, "Faith-based organizations that are registered charities or incorporated non-profits are eligible to receive OTF grants for the delivery of programs or services that serve the broader community in which they are located and that are not religious activities." However, if you do your research, you will find there are funders "out there" who will make grants to fund religious activities. I have two clients, private family foundations, which make the lion's share of their donations each year to religious organizations for religious programs. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that most funders are unwilling to support religious activities if they are using public money.

The key requirement is that projects/programs most funders are willing to consider supporting must be available to the community in which the church is located. Current issues attracting significant attention from funders are affordable housing, the environment and refugee settlement (but this is certainly not a complete list). So if we at Epiphany identified a local problem – let's say, elementary school children going to school hungry – and wanted to initiate a project to address the problem but needed financial assistance, we might approach federal/provincial/municipal governments, charitable foundations (public and private), the United Way, local service clubs, Business Improvement Areas, our own Synod or even try crowd-funding, which might be effective for a local initiative. In deciding where to send our funding application(s), we would enhance our chances of success by researching the priorities of prospective funders and applying to those interested in children's education.

We learned what funders' expectations are of organizations applying for grants (pre- and post-grant) and how to craft a successful application. You must demonstrate that there

is a need, supported by statistical and/or other evidence, identify the target group, clearly state your objectives, action plans and outcomes (how will you know that you have succeeded?), including any impact of the project beyond those directly served, identify the start and end dates and, of course, provide a financial budget. Funders will not participate in projects which are budgeted to end up in a deficit position. We were instructed (and it probably goes without saying) that, in addition to addressing all the necessary elements of a project, the application must appear professional. One of the participants asked if deliberately making spelling mistakes would enhance the chances of success of an immigrant group applying for a grant for literacy training 😊, so we had some laughs during the day. Funders are most interested in applicants who are seeking to collaborate or partner with other organizations/groups to carry out their project, and which articulate who does what. This means the entire project has to be thought through in detail, which takes considerable planning and coordination. We were told that, "gone are the days of funders throwing money at causes which had not been carefully considered", because there is so much competition these days for funders' attention.

We broke into smaller work groups on two occasions to discuss how we would approach a case study. These exercises made it very clear that there are significant advantages to working in groups, as the number of interesting ideas generated increases with the number of participants. Pastor Rasma has been talking recently about establishing a group at Epiphany to discuss our future as a congregation, our role in the community, etc. I expect that the knowledge I gained from this seminar will be useful after our upcoming visioning meetings have identified and mapped out strategies for achieving our future goals.

Geoff Crewe, Director of Stewardship, Finance Committee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT			
JANUARY 2019	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$2,958.57	\$9,423.82	
BENEVOLENCE	1,405.00	1,405.00	
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,200.00		
BETHEL RENT	300.00		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE	150.00		
JOHN'S FLOORING ADV.	100.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$8,688.57	\$10,828.82	(\$2,140.25)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$8,688.57	\$10,828.82	(\$2,140.25)
INCLUDES PARSONAGE REIMBURSED EXPENSES			\$1,290.03
REVISED YEAR TO DATE TOTAL EXCL. PARS. EXP.			(\$850.22)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



The LENT Lily

Of course, the daffodil is a sign of winter's end, or perhaps more brightly, it signals the arrival of spring. As we know, the daffodil does not last long; yet this sunny, hopeful flower, when "seen" in memory, means "...then my heart with pleasure fills/ And dances with the daffodils" (l. 23-4: "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud;" Wordsworth).

Representing resilience – surviving winters and pests – the daffodil has been adopted by the Canadian Cancer Society as a symbol of courage (by the patient) and caring (by the supporters). The daffodil is perfect for naturalizing, cheering both woods and gardens in growing numbers each spring in numerous countries.

English poets, though, have long described the daffodil's qualities in Christian tones. Cecil Day-Lewis writes, "Now the full-throated daffodils/Our trumpeters in gold/Call resurrection from the ground/And bid the year be bold" (excerpt, *From Feathers to Iron*, 1931). Even more poignantly, is the daffodil's long association with Lent, so that they are also known as the "Lent Lily." A.E. Housman suggests in his poem, "...the Lenten lily/That has not long to stay/...dies on Easter day" (*The Lent Lily*, 1896). Since spring and Easter times vary, we recognize the symbolism rather than finding facts.

So, this delicate flower reminds us of both the beauty of spring, and the short time it is with us. Yet, this bright flower is a symbolic trumpet that repeatedly heralds resurrection in nature (body) and in spirit (memory). Like the daffodil's return, our minds turn again to the faith and hope of eternity, a naturalizing of our spirits in God's bright kingdom. **Denise Dennis**

In his book, *Beyond Smells and Bells: The Wonder and Power of Christian Liturgy*, ... Mark Galli says: "In worship we can participate in the very story of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who has created and redeemed us, who has gathered us to himself in a Great Feast, and who promises, in the last act, to gather all things in heaven and earth to himself, so that we may feast together for eternity." Worship expands us, draws us from our comfort zone, turns our eyes toward heaven, and offers the gift of 'peace, which the world cannot give.' May our worship continue to be a blessing for each of us, through the grace of God.

EXCERPT FROM EPIPHANY'S WORSHIP AND MUSIC REPORT 2018, BY MARG CREWE



Unfortunately, our February meeting had to be cancelled due to another snowstorm.

Please be advised, that the seniors no longer accept stamps. I'm sure you will find another way to donate your stamps. Thanks for your donations in the past.

Our next meeting will take place on March 5th at 1:30 pm, when we will celebrate Karneval. "Krapfen" (cakes) will be provided. **Ute Wentzel**

*If you wish 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 • polly222001@yahoo.ca

4th Sunday of the Month
Hildegard Kinder • 416-283-1836

5th Sunday of the Month
Erika Haebe • 416-266-8660

EPIPHANY COUNCIL 2018 - 2019 AGM

Council Chairperson	Rotating Council Members
Council Vice Chair, Bethel Ministries Liaison, ELW Liaison, Envelope Secretary	Sigrid Engler, 416-283-8536 sigengler@gmail.com
Education Committee Chair	Pastor Rasma Caune, 647-382-5093 rasmac@sympatico.ca
Finance Committee Chair and Stewardship Committee Chair	Geoff Crewe, 416-267-3383 geoff.crewe@bdca.ca
Property Committee Chair, AMMS Liaison and Spiritual Society Liaison	Fred Kilian, 416-267-5300 kilianf@gmail.com
Refugee Committee Chair and Mutual Ministry Liaison	Denise Dennis, 416-264-4091 denise.dennis@outlook.com
Council Member and Secretary	Pat Bramley, 416-284-5622 pebramley@gmail.com
Outreach Committee Liaison	Paulette Correia polly222001@yahoo.ca
Worship and Music Liaison	Ron Heino, 416-284-0716 heino@rogers.com
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