

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 • epipluth@bellnet.ca

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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When you hear the expression “a stone’s throw away,” what are some images that come to mind? Is it a distance or time measurement?

We might consider a drive across the city. Though the distance does not seem too far, the amount of time it takes to get there may be longer than we anticipated. A stone’s throw away might remind you of choosing the perfect flat stone up at the cottage to see how many times it might skip across the water at the lake. What might the athlete say about such a distance interpretation: the hurdler, the shot-putter or the javelin thrower?

If we think of it as a time measurement, we could say that the semester is a stone’s throw away. It has almost begun. Another might be anticipating beginning a new job. You can almost reach out and touch it.

What if we were to internalise this phrase and reinterpret it to mean that one is just a stone’s throw away from mustering up the courage to tell someone that they love him or her, or that the relationship is over. The hoarder might be within reach of picking up another bag to throw out but is

struggling, thinking that order is an unattainable feat. The multi-tasker may end up procrastinating, becoming overwhelmed with the amount of work to be done that he or she doesn’t know where to begin and becomes distracted.

There is a desire within us which is awaiting fulfilment, yet we take a step back out of fear and the distance between the desire and the fulfilment grows bigger and wider. Time wise we doubt whether we can achieve our heart’s desire in this lifetime, or at least within a short span of time.

Things that are just a stone’s throw away could open up new opportunities for involvement within the church or community, but it may take a while to figure out what it is that one is reaching for. Is the self-doubter reaching out for reassurance of their gifts? Is the procrastinator reaching for another project that sounds interesting and stimulating, yet knows it will just be put aside for another day. Does the sinner fear to confess because he feels undeserving of forgiveness?

God is less than a stone’s throw away, both in distance and in time. Maybe that stone we are trying to hurl is becoming too heavy and our energy to toss it is waning. What then?



That is the moment when we reach out to God in prayer and talk to God about our fears, doubts and anger and our hopes and heart's desire. We hope that his stretched out hand may help us to carry the burden, to assure us of our gift, to comfort us in our failures, and to encourage us to dream. To hope that the life we wish for ourselves be just a stone's throw away and that we might have the courage to face the challenges ahead to make it so.

How might your prayer sound?

"God, I don't really know what to say. I know that you are near and yet at times I feel distant from you. I try to make changes which would simplify and make my life better, but

I have come to realise that I can't do it on my own. I need you in my life to encourage me when I fear to take that step closer



to my goal. I need your comfort in my loneliness and grief. I need your strength when I am weak. I need your love when I cannot love myself. I need to love you more. Help me discern those gifts I know I have, but somehow cannot reach. I want to drop this stone and not throw it, so that I feel you close to me now and know that you have time for me. I want to taste and see that the Lord is good. AMEN

Pastor Rasma

REPORT ON 2016 SYNOD ASSEMBLY — LIBERATED BY GOD'S GRACE

It was a privilege to have attended this meeting. An experience indeed!

The opening Holy Communion worship was very creatively presented by young members from Nova Scotia with emphasis on "People-Not for Sale". In the meeting we were sitting 6 to a table with a mix of lay and clergy from assorted areas of the Eastern Synod. This gave us the opportunity to chat and obtain varying perspectives on the multitude of topics which were presented and some of which required a vote.

Not only did we have the pleasure to hear the words of our Eastern Synod Bishop Michael Pryse, the National Bishop Susan Johnson, but also from the President of Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Munib Younin (copies of both of his speeches are available in the Narthex). Other enlightening presentations were held by a variety of persons including Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River, expressing a need for better understanding of indigenous people and the land. We need to educate ourselves.

The bulk of our meeting days were spent on the business of electronic voting for ordained, lay and youth delegates to the ELCIC National Convention; the last one on a two year term. After that, National Conventions will be held at 3-year intervals. We also voted on amendments to the Eastern Synod Constitution. A new hand-held device, similar to a small calculator, was used in the voting process, which provided almost immediate results, allowing us to quickly focus on further issues.

Presentations were made on behalf of the ELFEC with the theme of "Creation-Not for Sale" focusing on Responsible Investment. Through the Financial presentation we learned that the Synod is in very much the same position as many Congregations, namely in need of funds to continue their work. There was also an "Open Mike" session where members of various congregations spoke on how they have met challenges not unfamiliar

to ours. One person sadly reported that after all efforts were exhausted, they needed to close their church and sell off their assets.

I sat in total amazement at the Awards Banquet, listening to the achievements and contributions both lay and clergy have made to improve the lives of others. Their commitments of time and energy were unbelievable and made the average persons contribution appear quite small in comparison. Long service awards were also presented for those having been ordained for 25, 40, 50 and 60 years and we were fortunate to



have most of the recipients present to receive these. At the end of the banquet I had the unique opportunity to get a photo of the three Bishops together and am proud to make this available as an attachment to this report.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sigrid Engler*

This report only reflects my personal impressions. Details, statistics, votes for delegates results, information links, etc. can be found on the ELCIC website at www.elcic and select eastern synod assembly 2016.

To obtain a printed copy of the minutes, please sign the request sheet in the Narthex.

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

THROUGH DEATH

Melanie Zundel

December 3, 1924 – August 9, 2016

Funeral held August 15, 2016

Melanie was a great baker, knitter and crocheter, who enriched our bazaars with her beautiful handicrafts. She and her late husband Erwin were among the founding members of Epiphany.

“Lord now let your servant go in peace!”

September Property Update 2016

This spring Kelly's has had to trim several trees as well as dispose of fallen branches that came down during storms.

The property committee has stripped and waxed the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Office and Men's Washroom. The committee also obtained three quotes for the replacement of the dining room and kitchen floors in the old Parsonage. The work was done at the end of August.

Due to financial constraints the caretaking job has been changed from a paid position to a volunteer position. We are looking for people to help do this cleaning. The more volunteers we get the fewer times each person will have to do the cleaning. If you can help out please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Please remember the cleaning can be done any night or day of the week prior to Sunday.

We are also still looking for volunteers to help put up our new sheds THIS YEAR.

Other jobs done this year will be mentioned in the Annual Meeting report.

Fred Kilian on behalf of The Property Committee



Luther's Corner

Though Luther was a very forthright man using very common street language even in some of his writings, he also wrote in earnest about faith, prayer and his relationship with God, to name just a few topics. Even when he was arrested because of his criticism of the church and his desire to be heard so that reforms could take place within the church, he would not recant. It was a matter of conscience.

"I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen." This quote was used by Bateman in his book about Martin Luther entitled, "Here I stand." We have two copies of it on the fellowship hall wall unit. Feel free to borrow one.

Here are a few more quotes on faith and prayer: "Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times."

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

"Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart."

Read more at: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/martinluth403720.html>

Pastor Rasma



Hello German Seniors,
I hope you all survived this year's extremely hot summer well!

See you all on September 6th at the usual time.

Wilhelm Wittemeier

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

Treasurer's Report

JUNE 2016	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$2,993.43	\$9,780.72	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	640.50		
AMMS PARSONAGE INSURANCE	287.28		
AMMS SANCTUARY RENTAL	100.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$9,130.21	\$11,114.72	(\$1,984.51)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$66,583.64	\$73,853.70	(\$7,270.06)

JULY 2016	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,513.48	\$10,327.21	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	2,575.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	560.82		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	959.45		
FAITH FINANCIAL	500.00		
ALTAR GUILD	150.00		
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	3,500.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$13,092.75	\$11,661.21	\$1,431.54
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$79,676.39	\$85,514.91	(\$5,838.52)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

Church Laundry

Would you consider doing the occasional load of kitchen linens and bathroom towels for the church? Please check the hamper in the caretaker's room. Thank you.

Scent-free Services

Kindly be considerate of those who have allergies to scents. When you come to church, please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes and highly scented products.

KUDOS

I would like to thank all our worship leaders who have courage to lead, a faith strong enough to rely on God's help in preparation and delivery. Thanks to Margaret Crewe, Denise Dennis, Ron Heino, Dorothea Cameron, Sigi Sommer, Wilhelm Wittemeier and all readers and communion assistants, altar guild, ushers and counters. I feel fortunate in the fellowship we share that working together within groups, committees and council we work for the common good.

Pastor Rasma

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. — MOTHER TERESA



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Church Women of Epiphany hope you will join us Wednesday September 14 from 1-3 pm

Come find out what we're all about!

Even the rain held off for the 50+ people who attended the July 24th Summerfest picnic. We thank EVERYONE for their contributions that day, but wish to acknowledge in particular **Helen and Ursula** who called people to personally extend an invitation; **Sigi** for creating the flyers for OUTREACH that Bob used to invite the swimmers; **Cyril** for the Church sign message; our sauerkraut cooks **Wilhelm, Edda and Erika**; **Nalini** for the guessing game jars; **Fred, Franz, Wolfgang, Gord, Sigi & Ursula** for set up; **Sigrid** for the photo display; and **Dorothea, her daughter and granddaughter** for serving ice cream cones and kitchen help.

Thanks to all who invited friends and extended family. **Special mention to our Corporate sponsors: Leanne of Husky Food Importers** for their DONATION of Hengstenberg Sauerkraut, Davidoff coffee and an assortment of mini Rittersport chocolates; **Ken of Vienna Meats** for his special sized Nürnberger Bratwurst and **Montmartre Bakery** for their church discount on our dessert strudels. Please support these places by purchasing their products and mentioning to them that you appreciate their support of Epiphany's events! It matters!

Info on the September 24th Women's Auxiliary of WLS AGM and the October St. Joseph's Catholic



Women's League Annual Interfaith Celebration will be posted on the bulletin board. Congratulations and best wishes to **Ina and Eva** on celebrating a milestone birthday recently.

Please collect and bring in for us: **Birthday and Christmas cards for**

Bob Haebe, ELW Sunshine Convenor; egg cartons for a local FoodBank; 4L milk bags to be made into bed/floor mats; pop can tabs and used postage stamps for the Seniors to prepare for Bethel charities. We are actively searching for raffle prizes for the Advent Bazaar. Do notify us of any contacts/sponsors you may have.

Epiphany will host the **Applefest social on the Saturday after Thanksgiving** and FaithLife Financial will provide us with a possible \$500 Matching Grant. We hope to have orchard fresh apples to distribute to bakers the first two Sundays in October. Please bake for us and ask your friends to bake for us, especially those who enjoy this activity. Invite them to join us that day.

Finally, we do so look forward to gathering the Sunday after Labour Day at church for the September Picnic. Please bring along a salad or dessert/fruit item. Support our Church Council!

Lilli Kilian,
416-267-5300; kilianlf@gmail.com

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope. — MARTIN LUTHER

September 2016

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin. — MOTHER TERESA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 10 -11:30 AM -Bible Class	3
4 16th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	5	6 1:30 PM German Seniors	7 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	8	9	10
11 17th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 10 AM Joint Communion Service followed by ANNUAL PICNIC. Join the fun! Please bring a salad or dessert to share.	12 1 PM -Craft Circle 7:30 PM -Worship & Music Meeting	13	14 German Clergy Ministerium 1-3 PM -ELW Meeting	15 7:15 PM -Council Meeting	16 10 -11:30 AM -Bible Class	17
18 18th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	19	20	21 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	22	23	24
25 19th Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service	26 1 PM -Craft Circle	27	28 11 AM -2 PM—Church Office	29	30 10 -11:30 AM -Bible Class	

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11

10 a.m. Joint (English & German)
Communion Service followed by
EPIPHANY'S ANNUAL PICNIC.
**Join the fun with your
friends and family!**



**Church
Picnic**

Bring along your favourite
salad or dessert
to share.

**THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF
WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY**
Annual Meeting: Saturday October 1, 2016
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
22 Willow St., Waterloo, Ontario

BRANCHING OUT

Guest Speaker: John Milloy

Assistant Professor of Public Ethics and
Co-director of the Centre for Public Ethics
at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Faith in the Public Square

How do you bring your faith to the
secular world?

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Meeting: 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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Coming to Epiphany in October...

APPLEFEST

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15 • 2-4 PM