



# The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*The most important hour is always the present.*

*The most significant person is precisely the one sitting across from you right now.*

*The most necessary work is always love.*

• MEISTER ECKHART •

Living in the present moment is very difficult for the average person. Often we look back: with some fond memories, but also with regrets, sometimes convincing ourselves that we are unworthy or undeserving of forgiveness or another chance. Sometimes we look toward our future with uncertainty: "Will I grow old with my health intact, have financial security, will I finish my studies, or find my perfect job?" Living in the present moment means that one needs to determine who one is **now**. "What can I do in this moment to feel fulfilled, to make appropriate changes **now**? What things am I putting off until tomorrow that I could do right now, and feel a sense of satisfaction at completing the task?"

How difficult is it to sit across a table from someone and find yourself searching for the right words to say? Perhaps your eyes glance away because that direct eye contact seems uncomfortable, especially when trying to have a deeper conversation, which may evoke stronger emotions. If that seems somewhat uncomfortable, imagine yourself standing in the elevator with people you do not know, or sitting across the aisle from someone in the bus, and though

you make eye contact, you sit or stand in silence, unable to engage in conversation. Are we afraid of being judged, so we glance away? Yet, if we were more mindful of that significant person across the table or aisle, our perspective might change. It could be that the other would be grateful for the exchange, no matter how superficial or how deep the conversation might be. It might just be what makes their day.

I enjoy a bus ride. It enables me to observe everything around me; it's even an opportunity to read a book just for fun. I remember an occasion when a woman and her two daughters got on the bus, just before my stop. They may have been from Ethiopia or another African country. They were stunning. As I passed by them, I said: "You women are beautiful," and then they smiled and thanked me and I smiled back. Then I descended and walked home with that smile remaining on my face, because those significant women across from me on the bus had made a difference to my mood, and I was grateful.

If, as Meister Eckhart says, "The most necessary work is always love," how are we to do it? Is there a time or place for it? I wonder about his intention of putting the present moment, the significant person, and

the work of love together. The work of love is not something we put off for a rainy day. The significant person across from us now is important, whether it be a stranger, a friend, or family member. Or, if you look in the mirror, the significant person looking back is you. The act or art of loving can be expressed in a smile, a gentle touch, a kind word of encouragement, or even when confronting one with the truth. The work of love is exactly what Jesus did and proposed to his disciples: heal broken relationships, forgive, love one another, sit and eat with one another, and engage in conversation which is meaningful, even when you think it isn't. Do not be afraid to engage in conversation, in work that can uplift a stranger, or to just support another with a listening ear, joining them in tears of joy or grief.

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas celebrations let us be in the present moment with significant people, acting in and out of loving experiences.

Have a blessed Advent of waiting and watching, of joy and hope! Have a Christmas full of the hope that is made manifest in the Christ taking on human flesh, to live and be among us!

Pastor Rasma



## Midweek Advent Soup and Services — A Christmas Carol

Have you ever imagined using Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as meditation along with parts of Holden Evening Prayer, Scripture passages, and hymns to evoke an emotional or spiritual response? Each of the spirits that confront Scrooge ask him to reconsider how he lives his life. Marley warns him to be alert, to repent. One of the spirits invites him to look back at what could have been had he been able to retain his innocence; another makes him look at the present and face his loneliness and isolation; and the third offers him a glimpse of what the future will bring if he does not change his life around. In the middle of all of this we are asked: Who am I? How did I get here? What am I doing? and Where am I going?

Perhaps these are questions reminiscent of Dr. Bill Webster's presentation when he asked us what we are doing in the present moment that can make a difference in the life of another? Like Scrooge, how might you be remembered?

Come join us on Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. for our Soup Supper and the Service at 7:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you are attending and if you would be willing to prepare a soup. Thank you!

### KUDOS

Thanks to all who helped with setting up and cleaning up for our Stewardship Sunday luncheon. A special thank you to Dr. Bill Webster for his humor-filled and thought-provoking presentation. We learned a lot about being good stewards of life.

Pastor Rasma

## REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 19, 2017

On the four Sundays leading up to and including November 19, I distributed a series of short articles taken from a magazine called "Giving – Growing Joyful Stewards in your Congregation", which is published annually by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center in Indiana, USA. The intention of the articles is to get us thinking about applying the Biblical principle of Stewardship in various areas of our lives (and not just in the fall, but year-round).

Last year, I handed out a financial commitment form and a talents inventory form for each family to complete. Fewer than 10 of each were returned. Perhaps people used the financial commitment form at home as a means of encouraging/challenging themselves to achieve a certain level of offerings during 2017, I'm not sure. But having so few returned made it impossible to predict the amount of spending to budget for in 2017, which was one of the objectives. As a result, I did not repeat the exercise this year. As far as talents are concerned, we are probably a small enough congregation that somebody knows what your individual skills and interests are, without having to update the talents forms regularly. What I do see all the time, and a prime example was how everyone pitched in to make the Stewardship Sunday lunch a success, is members stepping up and just taking care of things without even being asked. We had people providing food and drinks, setting up and putting away tables and chairs, doing the dishes, sweeping and vacuuming and putting the sanctuary back together so it would be ready for the next worship service. Taking care of our church and each other – good stewardship and thank you all!

As enjoyable as our lunch was, for me and many other members I talked to, the highlight of the day was our guest speaker's presentation. Dr. Bill Webster, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for the Grief Journey, spoke about the "Stewardship of Life". He is an accomplished public speaker, author of numerous books and produced/hosted a nationally broadcast weekly TV show entitled "Living with Loss". I jotted a few notes down as Bill was speaking:

- God is the owner of everything, as evidenced by the fact that, whatever we may have accumulated in life, we cannot take it with us when we die.
- Our responsibility to God is to manage the gifts He has graced us with.
- Stewardship is a lifestyle. We should be challenging ourselves as to what we are doing with all the gifts God has given us. Our "job" is to use them well.
- Every day we invest in our own obituary. What do we want others to say about us? What do we want the Lord to say to us? We should strive to have the Lord say to us at the end, "Well done, faithful steward".
- There are 4 principles of stewardship:
  - (1) Ownership – God owns. We manage.
  - (2) Responsibility – for what we are entrusted with by God.
  - (3) Accountability – for what we do with money, wisdom, time, relationships, our world.
  - (4) Reward – Whatever you do, do it to the fullest!

Bill messaged Pastor Rasma during the week following his presentation to say what a privilege it had been to worship with us. He felt welcome and sensed a warm atmosphere of fellowship both in the worship service and at lunch afterwards. As partners in ministry together and as a token of his appreciation for our kindness extended to him and his wife Johanna, Bill has sent us several copies of booklets for use in ministering to grieving members/friends. The booklets have titles such as "Now What?", for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one, "Why Me?", for people in a life-threatening situation, and "A Not So Jolly Christmas". Pastor will keep these in her office and they are available for borrowing upon request.

Geoff Crewe, Director of Stewardship

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**IN MEMORY**

**Herbert Wilhelm Milewski**

**September 21, 1929 - November 17, 2017**

Our thoughts and prayers are with wife Erika,  
children Peter, Birgit and David and their families.

*For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

ISAIAH 54:10

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### Thanks from the Property Committee

The Property Committee wishes to thank those brave souls who came out on the Friday and the Saturday of the last weekend in November to try to clear away some of the Falltime debris. It was hard work between the wind and the rain. Many trees still have their leaves, so it looks as though we will have a BIG Springtime clean-up ahead! Thanks to Sigrid for ensuring that Epiphany always has a good supply of leaf bags.

Thanks to Greg for always maintaining up-to-date messages on the Outdoor Church sign. People take in the message while driving by.

Thanks to Werner and Norbert for their attempts to clean the calcium deposits on the Sanctuary interior brickwork.

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### From your Envelope Secretary

It's that time again ... With the year quickly coming to an end, but before the celebrations start, we need to complete a little business. If you have a change of address or new information relating to your Offerings, or you do not presently have envelopes and would like a set for 2018, please let me know. Simply leave a note for me in the offering plate or call and leave a message for me at 416-283-8536. I would appreciate any new information as soon as possible to be able to provide both the 2017 tax receipts and 2018 envelope boxes to you in a timely manner.

*Sigrid Engler, Envelope Secretary*



### A Friendly Reminder

Please contact Pastor Rasma in the church office at 416-284-5922, on her cell phone at 647-382-5093 or email her at [epiphluth@bellnet.ca](mailto:epiphluth@bellnet.ca) when:

- ☺ A member of your family is in the hospital.
- ☺ You would like to have Home Communion.
- ☺ You have a prayer request.
- ☺ A family member dies.
- ☺ Your home address, phone or email changes.
- ☺ You would like a call or visit.
- ☺ You have a joy or concern to share.

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### Upcoming Surgery

Pastor Rasma will be undergoing bariatric surgery on January 8th, 2018. Pastor will take three weeks off during which time Pastor Peter Lisinski will cover any pastoral emergencies or funerals. He may be reached at 905-424-7649. Also during this time our Worship Leadership team will lead both German and English services on January 14th and 28th, while Pastor Peter Lisinski will lead both German and English Holy Communion Services on January 21st.

Knowing how generous the congregation has been in the past with fresh baking and prepared meals, the surgery puts restrictions on what the pastor will be able to eat or drink. So, thank you in advance for **not** gifting her with chocolates, baked goods, or alcoholic beverages.

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### Passion Play — Oberammergau 2020

The small village of Oberammergau was already in existence when in 1330 the land was redistributed and given to the Benedictine monastery of Ettal. Tradition has it that three hundred years later, around the 1630s, the bubonic plague broke out in the surrounding areas. It is said that by October 1632, 1000 people were reported dead; by March 1633, another 20, and by July 1633 only 1 had died. In that year the people of Oberammergau village vowed that if they would be spared, they would put on the Passion Play every 10 years in thanksgiving. The first play was presented in 1634 and has been performed for more than three hundred years since, with only a couple of breaks, usually due to war. Every resident takes a role, either on stage or behind. Two thousand performers, musicians, stage techs, and villagers participate. All senses are evoked as one listens to the dramatic music, the sung prologue, watches the tableaux of Old and New Testament stories unfold before them, and the last week of Christ's life, death and resurrection. The play is witnessed with great reverence, evoking the mind, the spirit, and the deep emotions of the spectator. Though the play is based on scripts dating to both the 15th and 16th centuries, the story never grows old and reflects the foundations of our faith.

Come with me and live the passion of Christ in Oberammergau in September 2020 as part of a travelogue of historical cities in four countries, beginning in Budapest, travelling to Vienna, via Melk, then to Salzburg, Munich, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Liechtenstein, and Lucerne. Take time to explore with guides or on your own. Take in a concert or opera, or shop, or visit beer gardens or museums. There is time to choose what is your heart's delight. The trip includes airfare, 12 nights stay in handpicked hotels, breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 three course dinners with beer or wine, guided sightseeing tours and entrance fees.

Further information, booking details and itinerary can be found at <https://pastorrasma.grouptoursite.ca>

**Pastor Rasma**

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 • 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

OCTOBER 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$4,130.64	\$11,335.00	
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	2,418.92		
ELW - ROOF REPAIRS	2,179.00		
CARETAKER FUND	200.00		
REFORMATION BAGS SOLD AT WLS	140.00		
MOVIE PARKING	1,200.00		
<b>CURRENT MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,377.56</b>	<b>\$12,669.00</b>	<b>\$2,708.56</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$133,910.03</b>	<b>\$124,250.86</b>	<b>\$9,659.17</b>

*Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer*

### EPIPHANY COUNCIL

**GREG FURAN – Council Chair**  
416-284-5622 / gfulan@sympatico.ca

**SIGRID ENGLER – Vice Chair and ELW**  
416-283-8536 / sigengler@gmail.com

**FRED KILIAN – Property, AMMS  
and Spiritual Society**  
416-267-5300 / kilianlf@gmail.com

**GEOFF CREWE – Finance and Stewardship**  
416-267-3383 / geoff.crewe@gcrewe.com

**RON HEINO – Worship and Music**  
416-284-0716 / heino@rogers.com

**DENISE DENNIS – Mutual Ministry  
and Membership Subcommittee**  
416-264-4091 / denise.dennis@outlook.com

**PAULETTE CORREIA – Outreach & Altar Guild**  
416-414-4497 / polly222001@yahoo.ca

**PASTOR RASMA CAUNE –  
Education and Reformation**  
647-382-5093 / rasmac@sympatico.ca

### Our Seniors

At our last meeting on the 7th of November we were 12 seniors. First we sang two songs, then Wilhelm read about 'Pinkelwurst', a topic which we had already talked about during our previous meeting. The rest of the afternoon was filled with discussions concerning our Christmas Party on the 5th of December at 12 noon. Please note this date in your calendar.

Our meeting in January will again be together with the ELW. A date for this is not yet set.

*Wilhelm Wittemeier*



Love has a name. JESUS.  
Love has a place. Our hearts.  
Love has a story. And it's not finished yet.

...  
Christmas began in the heart of God.  
It is complete only when it reaches  
the heart of man.

AUTHORS UNKNOWN

## Male Choir Harfentoene



Under the Direction of Linda Marcinkus

Pianist: Michael Pronsky

## Experience Traditional Christmas Carols

Sunday, December 10, 2017, 2:00 pm

*Soprano Soloist: Susan Ryman*

Guest Choir:

St. Patrick Contemporary Choir  
Conductor: Mark Wood-Salomon  
Accompanist: Albert Masters

St. Patricks Church

131 McCaul Street  
Toronto, ON

Admission: \$20.00  
Students under 18: \$10  
Children under 10: free

After the concert you are  
invited for coffee and cake  
in the church hall.





**ELW shares the Joy of Giving...  
not only at Christmas but  
all year long!**

At the Stewardship lunch, ELW gladly supplied the fried chicken and baked ham to go along with the fine selection of assorted salads and desserts that the congregation provided. Thanks to Geoff for providing the variety of beverages and great coffee!

On December 2nd the Church Women and our friends gathered to support the Bazaar and recognize the start of the Advent Season. We value, cherish and thank all the volunteers, raffle sponsors, bakers, craftspeople, your white elephant donations, the set up and take down crew and the AMMS. The raffle prize winners and Bazaar venue will be published in January.

**Other December Traditions...**

- \* ELW has decided to supply the baked Leberkäse and Schnitzels ordered from Vienna Fine Foods for the December 5th Church Seniors Christmas luncheon. Please join them at noontime and if you can, bring along some holiday goodies.
- \* ELW encourages all to take time throughout Advent to attend Midweek Soup Suppers & Services (Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13, 20); and if you are able, provide a pot of soup.
- \* The spirit of the Season is reflected in each of the almost 40 Christmas cards Bob Haebe sends out to our ELW friends, shut-ins and alumnae.

Bob still accepts any extra Christmas cards you may have and please remember to bring in your cancelled stamps to the stamp basket in the cloakroom for the Bethel Charities.

**Throughout December...**

- \* Dorothea will prepare the lovely outdoor entrance floral urn,
- \* Andrea will prepare the indoor vases of seasonal evergreens,
- \* Norbert will install the traditional Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary,
- \* Werner will install the outdoor Christmas lighting,
- \* Robert will cut and deliver the fresh Tannenbaum,
- \* Franz and Werner will trim and set up the tree indoors...

Then the congregation is invited to gather after the 10 a.m. joint service on December 17th to decorate the tree for Christmas. ELW will provide Epiphany's famous traditional Glühwein and hot chocolate. We're asking for people to provide contributions of finger foods and cookies. Eating and drinking helps fortify us while decorating and carolling!

ELW anticipates combining with the Church Seniors to host a Midwinter Soup Lunch meeting in the New Year, stay tuned for more details as they are finalized but do let us know if YOU are able to offer a pot of soup to this event. The more variety the better.

The Church women community of Epiphany feel it is important to work within our community and provide service for as long as we are able. Won't you join us in our endeavours? Merry Christmas and blessings in 2018!

Lilli Kilian • 416-267-5300 • kilianlf@gmail.com

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**Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.**

MARTIN LUTHER



# December 2017

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God. — C.S. LEWIS (MERE CHRISTIANITY)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 10 AM-11:30 AM –Bible Class  Morningstar Collating	<b>2</b> 1-3 PM ADVENT BAZAAR  
					<b>3</b> <b>Advent 1</b> BLUE 9 AM German Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	<b>4</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Advent 2</b> BLUE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Service	<b>11</b> 9-10 AM –AMMS use of Sanctuary for Christmas Recital rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11 AM -2 PM Church Office  6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Advent Service  	<b>14</b> 8:45-9:30 AM –AMMS use of Sanctuary for end of year Christmas Musical	<b>15</b> 10 AM-11:30 AM –Bible Class	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Advent 3</b> BLUE 10 AM Joint Lessons and Carols Service followed by Christmas Tree decorating & fellowship  	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11 AM -2 PM Church Office  6:30 PM— Soup Supper 7:30 PM— Advent Service  	<b>21</b> 7:15 PM –Council Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Advent 4/Christmas Eve</b> WHITE 5 PM German Candlelight Service 7 PM English Candlelight Service  	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> WHITE 10 AM— Joint Communion Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11 AM -2 PM Church Office	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10 AM-11:30 AM –Bible Class  Morningstar Collating	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> WHITE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	<p><i>It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.</i></p> <p>MOTHER TERESA</p>					