

# 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

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Submissions due 15th of the month

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**L**ast year I led a Bible Study using the “Welcoming the Stranger” document for faith leaders provided by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). It states: *A core value of my faith is to welcome the stranger, the refugee, the internally displaced, the other. I shall treat him or her as I would like to be treated. I will challenge others, even leaders in my faith community, to do the same.*

This sounds very much like the golden rule which Jesus taught us to follow: to love God and to love our neighbour as ourself. Often we struggle to do it, sometimes out of fear and sometimes out of ignorance. Both come from a lack of understanding of our neighbour: who he or she might be; what belief system they follow; what traditions they may ascribe to.

Recently, I was invited by our neighbouring Imam, Hannan Ahmer Sobhi, to partake in an Iftar dinner at City Hall. It was to coincide with the Ramadan fast, which calls for the discipline to help one focus on Allah – God, so that one can become righteous. One such means is to serve humankind and, in so doing, one serves God. It is a season of self-control, of becoming aware of those less fortunate, and doing good works. It is a time to pray for God to set one on the right path, to be compassionate, to be concerned with social justice, human rights for all peoples – showing one another respect. One is to refrain from eating, drinking, and conjugal relations until sunset. One is to control one's

tongue, delay gratification, overcome greed, and stinginess; show kindness to one's neighbour, the needy, and strangers. It is a means of bringing about change. If one can do this for a month, then it is hoped that one might continue it throughout the rest of the year.

When asked, “Who is your neighbour?” this story was related to us: An Imam was asked, “Who is my neighbour?” He took the young man outside and pointed to the left: “Do you see 40 houses to the left?” Then he pointed to the right: “Do you see 40 houses to the right?” Then pointed before him: “Do you see 40 houses in front of you?” Then turning around: “Do you see 40 houses behind you?” Everyone is your neighbour. You are called to be kind to everyone as two brothers in a mother's womb – that is how close a relationship you are to have between you and God, and you and humankind.

Islam is a religion that calls for peace and love. When asked about terrorists proclaiming that the atrocities are committed in the name of Allah, Imam Hanan replied that these are extremists who have no religion. Islam proclaims that to kill one person is to kill all humanity. One is to have kindness in the heart for every neighbour – love for all – hatred for none.

The LWF document goes on to say: My faith teaches that compassion, mercy, love and hospitality are for everyone. We are all strangers somewhere. We are to challenge intolerance and discrimination, to

offer encouragement and support to others.

When rereading this document I found similarities with what I learned at the Iftar dinner. Perhaps the place to start understanding just who is neighbour, is by acknowledging that which we have in common: that which unites us as human beings of faith, rather than that which makes us different.

As-Sallam-u-Alaikum! Peace be unto you!

**Pastor Rasma**

## WORD OF THE MONTH

**Catholic** – So often I am asked why we profess our faith in the “catholic” church.

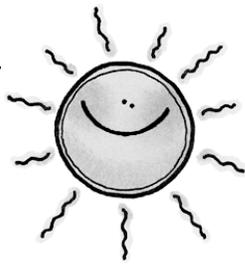
In German and Latvian this translates as the “christian” church. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “catholic” as “interest to all, universal” or including all of the Western Church. The capitalised version refers to the denomination: Roman Catholic Church.

One must remember that the creeds date back to the 4th century, a time when there was only one church believing in Christ.

## FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR JULY & AUGUST

**BEANS** (so many kinds!)  
and **CONDIMENTS**  
(like pickles,  
mustard,  
ketchup,  
relish...)





**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
20 Old Kingston Road, West Hill, ON 416-284-5922

## **SUMMERFEST—GTA East Reformation Commemoration**

**Join us on  
SATURDAY JULY 22, 2017  
12 noon  
Closing worship service at 3:30 pm**

**The afternoon begins with a BBQ followed by fun activities!**

**SCAVENGER HUNT  
LAWN GAMES  
SKITS  
BEER TASTING**

**Special freewill offering dedicated to our Refugee Sponsorship**



**Come one, come all!**

We would like to invite you to our SUMMERFEST—GTA East Reformation Event, which we are hosting on July 22 beginning at noon. Bring family and friends to this great opportunity for fellowship through song, activities, food and worship.

The festivities begin with a BBQ at 12:30 including potluck salads and desserts. Juice, coffee and tea will also be provided. The afternoon continues with a variety of activities including a scavenger hunt, skits, lawn games, beer tasting and a slide show presentation, closing with worship at 3:30 pm. We would appreciate a special freewill offering, to be allocated to the our Refugee Sponsorship Program.

Tented seating will be provided, as we are using the entire church, both inside and out!

Please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex indicating the number of people attending in your group. This will help the planners with their food and beverage quantities. We look forward to seeing you there, rain or shine!  
*Jennifer Albanese on behalf of the Reformation Committee*

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**OCTOBER 14, 2017**

Faith Lutheran Church is hosting Oktoberfest at Club Lorelei from 6 pm to 11 pm. This is an adults only dinner & dance event. Tickets are \$30 per person. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex in the next few weeks.

**OCTOBER 29, 2017**

Peace Pickering will be holding Reformation Sunday service with preacher Allan Jorgensen. Start time for service will be announced closer to date.

### **The Economics of a Yard Sale: The Real Worth**

By all accounts, the proceeds from the Yard Sale on June 17 represent its great success.

So, let's do some math...the Yard Sale lasted 5 hours; total sales were \$1161.40 or \$232.28 per hour earned for the Refugee Sponsorship fund. That's an outstanding hourly rate, by most standards. Now, divide this rate by the number of volunteers who helped with the sale (15 by my count), for an hourly rate of return of \$15.49. While it is still above minimum wage, it is much less spectacular sounding than our first figure of over \$200 per hour.

Now, add to the 5 hours of the sale the 3 hours devoted to organizing and pricing the items; morning set up was 2 hours, plus one hour for clean up after the sale: 11 hours. This makes the hourly return \$105.58; divided by the helpers, and the return rate changes to \$7.03 per person.

Consider, too, the hours spent collecting the items, the hours devoted to organizing, planning, and promoting the sale. This estimated additional 11 hours results in \$52.79 per hour, divided by the (same 15) helpers, for an average return of \$3.52 per hour. That is a deflating figure from an economic perspective.

In these figures, there is no factoring for the original cost of the items donated, the maintenance of the items over their use-life before being donated, or the very subjective variances in "what one would pay" for such items at a yard sale. All told, it is not difficult to raise the question, "Is it worth it?"

To answer the question, some might point to the "cause" for which the yard sale was held: sponsoring a refugee family. Others might feel duty-bound to support church functions. I find the words of Kahlil Gibran helpful: "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." This is truly the case for each person who helped make the Yard Sale the success that it was, a success measured, not in dollars, but in generosity, in cooperation, and in compassion. Clearly, it is not a matter of economics, but of heart.  
*Denise Dennis*

## A Message from the Property Committee

The Property Committee has completed several repairs so far this year but some are still outstanding. The roof over the altar was to be replaced this spring but due to the rainy weather it was not possible. This will now be done in early fall; let's hope for some dry weather. The lights in the fellowship hall will be replaced with energy saving LED units over the summer holidays. The taps in the ladies washroom will be repaired or replaced this summer. We are also hoping to replace two of our sheds with 8x10 metal sheds this summer. If anyone has access to reasonably priced sheds please contact me and let me know.

In light of the fact that our caretaker sign up has met with very limited response, council has decided to reinstate the position of caretaker as a paying position. We have been fortunate that Andrea Polzl has agreed to assume the job of Church Caretaker.

At this point I have to thank some of the people who help to keep our Church from falling down around our ears. First I would like to thank Franz and Werner who are constantly doing jobs in and around the church. Next I have to thank Dorothea, Nalini and their crew for maintaining the flower beds around the Church for the entire season. Thanks go to Peter for once again mowing our lawn for the season. I must also thank Kelly's for promptly attending to our trees whenever we have a problem such as recently when they came and removed a large branch that had broken and fallen but was still attached to the tree.

Lastly on behalf of the Spiritual Society I must thank Kelly's and AMMS for their co-operation during Eid when the parking lot is in great demand.

That covers what we hope to accomplish over the summer. Everyone have a great summer and we'll keep you posted on our plans for Fall and Winter.

*Fred Kilian on behalf of the Property Committee*

## Caretaking Fund

In reinstating a paid Church Caretaker position as mentioned in Fred's message from the Property Committee, there is something you can do to help! Consider making a SPECIAL \$100 donation per month to the CARETAKING FUND.

## Worship Leadership

You may have observed how effective and able our lay worship leaders are. For that, I give God thanks for all of you. However, there still might be others wishing and willing to learn just how to do this: how to lead worship; what goes into worship preparation. If you have ever said to yourself, "I can do that. I want to do that," please see the pastor and get started.

*Pastor Rasma*

## Summer Vacation

Pastor Rasma will be on vacation from July 31 to August 7. In her absence please contact Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-881-9154.

## HUGS – Helping Us Grow Spiritually

This was the theme of the weekend retreat I attended in Innisfil. This event was sponsored by the Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod on May 26-28, 2017 at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre on the beautiful Kempenfelt Bay on Lake Simcoe. The buffet meals were delicious and what a variety of food served up by chefs from Georgian Bay College. The presenters were story tellers and I was especially interested in the representative from the Chippewas of the Rama First Nations, an indigenous Judge and community worker in the Orillia area who spoke on some of the history of the Residential Schools and would like to see these stories in Canadian History books. We also had breakout sessions on Tai Chi, Prayer Walk, Painting, etc. in the morning and afternoon. I thoroughly enjoyed this packed weekend and look forward to the next event planned for May 31–June 2, 2019 at Niagara College, Niagara-on-the Lake. **Nalini Badley**

*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

MAY 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,791.81	\$ 9,358.30	
CHANGE IN INVESTMENT ACCT	0.00		
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,200.00		
AMMS UTILITIES	1,206.84		
AMMS INSURANCE	302.04		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	1,325.02		
FAITH FINANCIAL	100.00		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE	20.00		
ADVERTISING - KELLY'S TREE SERVICES	100.00		
<b>CURRENT MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,954.71</b>	<b>\$10,692.30</b>	<b>\$1,262.41</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$75,342.58</b>	<b>\$58,117.50</b>	<b>\$17,225.08</b>

*Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer*

## Celebrating Summer at Epiphany



Thanks go to our Strawberry Social day volunteers especially Fred, Werner, Hildegard, Erika, Ute, Wilhelmine, Jennifer, Sigrid, Ursula, Franz, Edda, Jamie, Karina, Jessica and to those who baked the layer cakes and donated strawberries. Complimentary strawberry portions were offered to the ELW and Yard Sale volunteers as a token of our appreciation! Even with this promotion we hope to realize a \$300 matching grant from FaithLife Financial. Markington Square METRO donated a gift store certificate towards our dairy and berry expenses and once again, Bob's Birchmount swimmers joined us.

Thanks to Sigrid for posting fabulous photos of recent ELW events! Our garden canopies have seen better days and we thank Sigrid and Jennifer for obtaining two new sturdier easy to open outdoor canopies. These are available for members of the congregation to borrow, as are our dishes, coffee urns and plastic folding tables. The church could use an extra propane BBQ tank, especially if you happen to have one at home you no longer use.

Epiphany provided the morning coffee refreshments and craft supplies at the GTA East gathering of Lutheran Church Women at Peace, Pickering. Lilli, Sigrid, Nalini and Doris attended. Do you ever wonder what happens to the pop can tabs that we collect? Well, a supply has been donated to Taylor Memorial Library, Kingston Rd. and Warden, for their November craft workshop making jewellery and purses, and the remainder to the Scarborough Village C.C. Seniors wheelchair program. ELW reminds all that the Monday Craft Circle and Friday Bible Study continue and welcome you throughout July and August.

Summerfest proves to be bigger and better this year; with sausage donations from Pillers, Waterloo and we hope for sauerkraut from Husky Foods. Otherwise please refer to the flyer for more details. We still require 2-3 Sauerkraut cooks and someone to prepare the famous "Guessing Game", a selection of containers of various interesting contents. Your expenses will be reimbursed.

For some time now, several members have been unable to attend Wednesday meetings. During the summer, the ELW membership will be canvassed about holding our meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and will give people the choice of either a morning (10-12) or afternoon (1-3) time. We hope this will be more convenient. Please stay tuned!

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

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

**Our Seniors**

The summer has hardly begun but we already have to think about the restart of our meetings as there will not be an August Morningstar to remind us. Our next meeting will be on September 5 at the usual time and I hope to see you all again. *Wilhelm Wittebauer*

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# 2017 Summertime Calendar

## JULY

SUNDAY JULY 2  
(GREEN PARAMENTS ALL SUMMER)  
9 am German Service  
10:30 am English Communion Service

WEDNESDAY JULY 5  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

JULY 6-8 Pastor Rasma is at the National Convention in Winnipeg. In case of emergency, please contact Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer at 905-881-9154

FRIDAY JULY 7  
10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY JULY 9  
10 am Joint Bilingual Lay Led Service

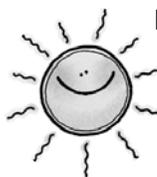
MONDAY JULY 10  
1 pm Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY JULY 12  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SUNDAY JULY 16  
9 am German Communion Service  
10:30 am English Service

WEDNESDAY JULY 19  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

### SATURDAY JULY 22 SUMMERFEST—GTA EAST



### REFORMATION COMMEMORATION

at Epiphany.  
Begins at 12 noon.  
Closing worship service  
at 3:30 pm

SUNDAY JULY 23  
10 am Joint Bilingual  
Communion Service

MONDAY JULY 24  
1 pm Craft Circle

FRIDAY JULY 28  
10 am Bible Class

## AUGUST

JULY 31-AUGUST 7  
Pastor Rasma on vacation.  
In her absence, please contact  
Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer  
at 905-881-9154

SUNDAY AUGUST 6  
10 am Joint Lay Led Bilingual Service

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY AUGUST 11 (tentative)  
10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY AUGUST 13  
9 am German Communion Service  
10:30 am English Service

MONDAY AUGUST 14  
1 pm Craft Circle

TUESDAY AUGUST 15  
Morningstar submissions for  
September due

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

SUNDAY AUGUST 20  
10 am Joint Bilingual  
Communion Service

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

FRIDAY AUGUST 25 (tentative)  
10 am Bible Class

SUNDAY AUGUST 27  
9 am German Communion Service  
10:30 am English Service

MONDAY AUGUST 28  
1 pm Craft Circle

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

## SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3  
9 am German Service  
10:30 am English Communion Service

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5  
1:30 pm German Seniors Meeting

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6  
11 am-2 pm Office Hours

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7  
7 pm GTA East Reformation  
Committee Meeting at Epiphany

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8  
Collate Morningstar

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 10 am Joint Bilingual Communion Service. — Plan to stay after for **EPIPHANY'S ANNUAL PICNIC.**

Join the fun with your  
friends and family.  
Please bring a  
favourite salad  
or dessert  
to share!



### Thanks AMMS

The ELW would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the AMMS Staff for their co-operation throughout the year when we've required their school space be cleared for our social events. Have a good summer and see you in September!

Lilli Kilian