

The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Rasma Caune • 647-382-5093 • epiphluth@bellnet.ca

NO. 644 • JULY/AUGUST 2022

Submissions due 15th of the month

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Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while!

— MARK 6:31 —

We perceive summer to be a time for rest. However, do you know the kind of rest you need? Is it spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, or social rest?

Spiritual rest may mean taking the time to be mindful of God's presence in the now, or perhaps a time to reintroduce yourself to God if you have felt somewhat distant. Such a rest is a matter of giving oneself over to the Spirit and letting go.

I'm sure that all of us at some point have experienced physical exhaustion after lifting heavy objects, cleaning house, or moving furniture, whether at home, at work, or at church as was the case the day of the Yard Sale. Perhaps you feel physically exhausted after a workout at the gym or a long jog, or even going up and down stairs if you have forgotten something you needed which causes you to constantly retrace your steps.

Emotional exhaustion is something very different. It may come from an argument you may have had with your boss, your spouse, or other loved one. Perhaps it is the strain after the death of a loved one and all the preparations one had to make to lay him or her to rest. Or you may feel emotionally exhausted just

listening to a difficult person over a long period of time.

Mental exhaustion could tie into the former, emotional exhaustion, but not necessarily. It may stem from an abusive relationship in which you are constantly being put down, berated, or told you are not good enough.

Social exhaustion might be approached from two different angles. The first might occur when your calendar is full of meetings, special events, and obligations. On the other hand, it could also be understood as needing time for social interaction after a longer hiatus from it.

How do we find rest from any or all of these types?

Could a walk along a trail in the woods awaken the knowledge of creation and wonder at what God has done? Perhaps it might be sitting next to the lake or pool reading a good book to take your mind off the anxiety-causing issues of which you want to rid yourself. Maybe it is just giving yourself a chance to watch a funny movie and laugh out loud after having a good cry. Maybe all you need is to put your feet into a bathtub of warm water to give them a break from having been on them for a long period of time. Could just sitting in peace, reflecting on the day help, or perhaps journaling? For your aching muscles, go for a swim.

For mental exhaustion, remove yourself from the person to whom you can no longer listen and set boundaries. If you are socially exhausted, take time for your family and go for a picnic or a scenic road trip. Whatever you need rest from, take it.

Even Jesus encourages rest in Matthew 11:28-29 when he says, *"Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

Be gentle with yourselves so that you find the rest you need and even deserve. Have a safe and restful summer.

Pastor Rasma

**FOOD OF THE
MONTH FOR
JULY AND
AUGUST...**



All people
smile in the
same language.

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

The link to our Zoom meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09>
Meeting ID: 989 080 0583
Passcode: 095565

Or by phone following the prompts:

+1 647 374 4685 Canada
Meeting ID: 989 080 0583
Passcode: 095565



JULY 3

— 10:00 a.m. Joint Service of the Word
(In person & Zoom)

WEEK OF JULY 4 — Visioning Committee Mtg

JULY 8 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

JULY 10

— 9:00 a.m. German Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

— 10:00 a.m. English Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

JULY 11-24 — Pastor on vacation.

In case of pastoral emergency please contact
Rev. Annika Klappert at Martin Luther Lutheran
Church 416-251-8293

JULY 17

— 10:00 a.m. Lay Led Service of the Word (Zoom)

JULY 22 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

JULY 24

— 10:00 a.m. Lay Led Service of the Word (Zoom)

JULY 31

— 10:00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

AUG 2 — 10:00 a.m. Pastor at Moll Berczy Haus

AUG 5 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

AUG 7

— 9:00 a.m. German Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

— 10:00 a.m. English Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

AUG 14

— 10:00 a.m. Joint Holy Communion Service
(In person & Zoom)

AUG 19 — 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

AUG 21

— 9:00 a.m. German Service of the Word
(In person & Zoom)

— 10:00 a.m. English Service of the Word
(In person & Zoom)

AUG 28

— 10:00 a.m. Lay Led Service of the Word (Zoom)

Kudos

- I would like to thank Rev. Mark Harris for guiding the Visioning Committee through months of exploring new possibilities for our congregation.
- Thanks also to all those who brought in items for our Yard Sale and those who helped to price, set up, and tear down: Geoff Crewe, Peter and Angela von Gemmingen, Sigrid Engler, Ute Wentzel, Nalini Badley, Margaret Fler and Valda, Dorothea Cameron and her friends Ruli Thalenhorst, Ilse Cloer, Rosemarie Muthurajah.
- Thanks also to our garden elves Dorothea and Nalini, and to Fred for being our behind-the-scenes handyman.
- Thanks to our council for its continued work in raising up this Body of Christ.

Pastor Rasma



Thank you to all who were able to participate in the lovely Celebration of Life memorial service for Hilda Sommer. Sincerely, on behalf of Norbert, Armin and Sigi.

“All Be One”

ACTS 16:16-34

PSALM 97

REV. 22:12-14,16,17,20-1

JOHN 17:20-26



If I asked you what connections you find between these 4 readings, I wonder if you might come up with *Hylozoism* and *maple syrup*? Or perhaps you might be thinking about the *Great Chain of Being* and the *Tree of Life*. Did anyone else come up with these connections? If yes, that’s amazing that you and I are

Hylozoism



and Maple Syrup



Great Chain of Being



and the Tree of Life



thinking alike about these readings. If no, then allow me to explore these connections and interactions.

In the first reading from Acts, we see how social and religious conditions following the death and resurrection of Jesus become interwoven in the cultural and civic superiority afforded Roman citizens. At first, there is no problem with Paul and Silas sharing the message of salvation through Jesus, until of course, Paul interferes with the money-making ambitions of some slave owners by removing the slave’s “spirit of divination,” which came from demonic possession. Now that the demon is exorcised and the money is no longer rolling in, the owners turn on Paul and Silas. These Roman citizens accuse Paul and his company of being



Jews, which they say means Paul is inviting citizens to act against the laws of Rome. Even though it will later be proved that Paul and Silas are Roman citizens, they now become members of the lowest social strata: prisoners of the state. This is explained as being locked in “the innermost cell” (v. 24) or in the deepest part of the lowest place to be in this city: in jail.



The imprisonment of Paul and Silas illustrates the social and religious hierarchy in which the Roman emperor is a divinity at the top and non-Romans, especially those in jail, are at the very bottom. There are echoes of this idea of hierarchy in the psalm. We see that the “Lord reigns” (top) followed by the “earth rejoice[s]” (below). It is a common image found in all forms of art, in words, music, and paintings: God in his heaven, atop the clouds that rise above the surface of the earth. The Psalm’s description of a hierarchy is shown through these comparisons:



Psalm 97	
V. 1 The Lord reigns	: Earth and isles be glad
V. 2-5 God surrounded by clouds, fire, lightening	: Earth trembles and mountains melt
V. 6 Heaven	: Peoples
V. 10 Love	: Evil

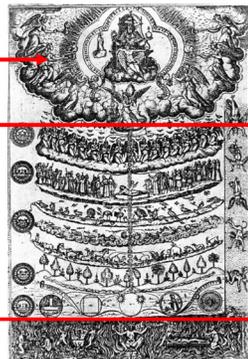
The hierarchy in the Psalm is reinforced in the image from Revelation, where Jesus sends an angel from heaven with a message for the churches on earth.



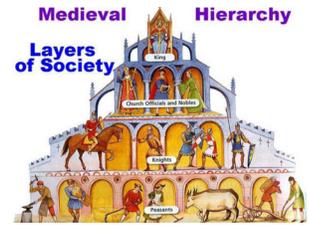
A divine hierarchy has long roots in philosophical thought as men seek to understand the natural order of the universe, to understand the influences on our everyday world. From Greek philosophers came the idea of the ultimate good, or the perfect "One." *Hylozoism* is the doctrine that matter is in some sense alive. It is based on the idea that the universe is one entity, with life given to material beings by the One or original source, with non-living matter being the furthest from this source. Additionally, Aristotle viewed the universe as being made up of (and I'm *really* simplifying here) things with *anima* or soul, or things that could be described as "living" versus those that could not be described this way. Living beings, or souls, could grow and reproduce and were arranged into sensible, sensitive, and rational orders to distinguish between plants, animals, and humans.



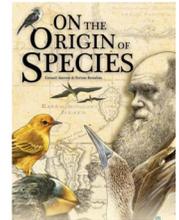
I am going to leap through history to medieval times and the evolution of these early Greek ideas into the concept of the *Great Chain of Being*. Like the orders of sensible, sensitive, and rational souls, the main premise of the Chain of Being is that every existing thing in the universe has its "place" in a divinely planned hierarchy. The most widely recognized depiction of this Great Chain of Being is the drawing found in the *Rhetorica Christiana* (1579). In this representation God is at the top of the chain and the angels just below, encircled by clouds that suggest their spirit form, or their unchanging and perfect form. Lower on this chain are beings that do change, the living souls that are imperfect, ordered in priority from humans to animals to plants, and finally to non-living stones and minerals. Not to be missed is Hell, well below the chain where Satan rules over the fallen. This idea that your "place" on the Great Chain of Being was established by the perfect "One" has social, political, and religious connotations still apparent today, especially the concept of levels-within-a-level on the Great Chain. So, within the human level, think about the divinity and power of the Roman emperor from our reading in Acts, or of Egyptian pharaohs. Consider the Catholic Pope,



otherwise identified as the Vicar of Christ who speaks as the royal "we." In medieval society, this idea influenced political and social strata in which the king was at the top of the human level, followed by aristocrats, and eventually the lowest, the serfs.



It's no surprise, I suppose, that this static way of thinking about the elements of the world, about pre-ordained varieties or species of plants, animals, and birds, was challenged in Charles Darwin's work, *On the Origin of Species* (1859). I'm not here to argue for or against evolutionary biology, but rather, to expand on Darwin's idea of "affinities," or connectedness, which is closer in concept to Hylozoism than the Chain of Being. Darwin put it this way:



The affinities of all the beings of the same class have sometimes been represented by a great tree. I believe this simile largely speaks the truth – the great Tree of Life... covers the earth with ever-branching and beautiful ramifications (p 131-2).



The simile, the symbol, the image of a tree to represent the universe is both profound and simple. *The Tree of Life* exists as both a physical and conceptual entity. The baobab tree found in Africa, Madagascar, and Australia is otherwise known as the Tree of Life. Amazingly this tree can live over a thousand years. It can grow over 20 metres (60 feet) tall and have a circumference up to 10 metres (30 feet). The baobab grows in extremely hot and arid conditions, but it can store over 4000 litres of water in



its trunk, and it produces a fruit rich in Vitamin C and fibre. Like its symbolic counterpart, baobab branches reach for the sky, while the roots reach into the earth. Strikingly, baobab branches look like a root system and help us visualize how the Tree of Life is rooted in heaven, linking heaven and earth, body, mind, and spirit, becoming a picture of the perpetual cycle of life.

In some ways, the North American sugar maple acts like a Tree of Life. There is a *maple syrup*-producing place called the Tree of Life farm, suggesting the similarity between the maple and the baobab tree. The sugar maple is also tall, growing up to 35 metres and can live over 200 years. Water within the maple tree, the sap, provides



Vitamin C and other important minerals to nourish and sustain humans without the tree itself dying.

In Revelation, we find the connection between spirit and body, divine and human in the description of Jesus as both divine “root” AND the root on earth as the “descendant of David.” Like the image of the baobab tree with roots in the earth and in the heavens, Jesus is the spiritual connector between heaven and earth, between God and man; and it’s through this Tree of Life, Jesus, that we find the sustaining “water of life” (v. 17), the Holy Spirit.

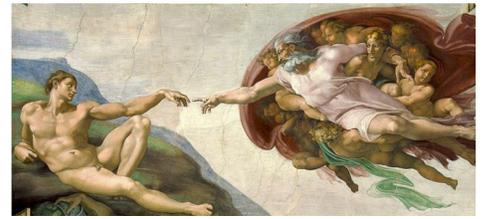


So, where are we now? I started by suggesting there were connecting ideas in the readings between Greek philosophers, medieval thinkers, evolutionists, and everyday farmers and folk. My suggestions of *Hylozoism*, the *Great Chain of Being*, *maple syrup*, and the *Tree of Life* are illustrations of the struggle humans have understanding



their place in the universe. Over millennia we have wrestled with diverging concepts, volumes of theories, and scientific developments about who, where, and how we are in relationship with the perfect “One.” We seek this connection, and ask for understanding, or if you will, greater faith, the very kind Jesus prays will be ours so that we may “all be one” (John 17:20). It’s a relief to me that Jesus

understands our struggle when he says, “the world does not know you [God]”



(v. 25) YET. Importantly, Jesus, the Tree of Life, says he will continue to work on connecting us to God through the “water of Life” within, the Holy Spirit, and connecting us to God’s enduring love when he says, “I will make it known” (v. 25) so that we may “all be one.”

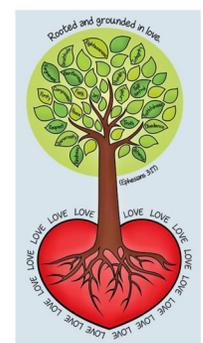
The Great Chain of Being suggests a rigid and stratified arrangement of the universe, and while not quite abandoned, it is fading as biological studies for example, show the connections between human choices and actions and climate change. We are similarly connected through governments that are elected by our individual votes, not by the divine rule of a monarch. Dare I say we are connected with each pour of maple syrup?



Now, imagine what might be possible if we viewed our neighbour, our community, our country through a lens of love. Might we feel more connected to one another, more connected to the earth that sustains us, if we sought unity through our expressions of God’s love to one another and extend that to all life?



Connecting: with love...



It is a wonder to me to find the connection between “me” and “we” and “future believers” in this prayer of Jesus (John 17: 20-26), his prayer that we will know “the unity of being one” (v. 22). It gives me hope that with care and prayer, we will understand, value, and practice what Jesus intends, that we “all be one.” AMEN.



Denise Dennis
 Message presented Sunday May 29, 2022 at
 Lay Led Zoom Service

AN ANGEL SAYS, 'Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.'

1 Pray. **2** Go to bed on time. **3** Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed. **4** Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health. **5** Delegate tasks to capable others. **6** Simplify and unclutter your life. **7** Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.) **8** Allow extra time to do things and to get to places. **9** Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together. **10** Take one day at a time. **11** Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it. **12** Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases. **13** Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc. **14** KMS (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble. **15** Do something for the Kid in You everyday. **16** Read the Bible daily. **17** Get enough rest. **18** Eat right. **19** Get organized so everything has its place. **20** Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life. **21** Write down thoughts and inspirations. **22** Every day, find time to be alone. **23** Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray. **24** Make friends with Godly people. **25** Keep a folder of favourite scriptures on hand. **26** Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good 'Thank you Jesus.' **27** Laugh. **28** Laugh some more! **29** Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all. **30** Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can). **31** Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most). **32** Sit on your ego. **33** Talk less; listen more. **34** Slow down. **35** Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe. **36** Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before. **PEACE BE WITH YOU.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

MAY 2022	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$5,835.00	\$11,325.99	
AMMS PARSONAGEE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	83.33		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	318.67		
AMMS PARSONAGE PROPERTY TAX	1,490.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$11,802.00	\$11,325.99	\$476.01
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$55,628.17	\$60,974.47	(\$5,346.30)
CIBC BANK BALANCE at MAY 31, 2022			24,863.39
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE at MAY 31, 2022			135,943.83
CIBC GIC 1 YEAR INVESTMENT to MARCH 2023			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPS

CHAIRPERSONS

Council Chair

Council Vice-Chair

Councillor-at-Large

Councillor-at-Large

Education Committee

Finance Committee

Property Committee

Seniors Group

Stewardship Committee

Worship & Music

Visioning Chair

(C) COUNCIL MEMBER

Ron Heino (C)

Denise Dennis (C)

Greg Furan (C)

Gord Munro (C)

Pastor Caune

Geoff Crewe

Gordon Vollmer (C)

Ute Wentzel

Geoff Crewe

Marg Crewe

Gordon Vollmer (C)

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AMMS Liaison

Council Secretary

ELW

Envelope Secretary

Mutual Ministry

Visioning Liaison

Spiritual Society Liaison

Treasurer

Worship & Music Liaison

Nalini Badley

Ron Heino (C)
(Pastor Caune, Fred Kilian)

Pat Bramley (C)

Sigrid Engler

Sigrid Engler

Geoff Crewe

Gordon Vollmer (C)

Fred Kilian

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Pastor Caune



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