



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASSION. What is it—a feeling, a desire? We often hear people say that they have a passion for something:

art, music, reading, crafts, service, vocation. For many, it may be described

as something they feel so strongly about, that they could not imagine life without it. The word passion has been romanticized in film and books as the strong experience of physical love. Perhaps there is some truth in all of these.

However, we have begun the season of Lent in this church year, which speaks of a different kind of Passion—the Passion of Christ. Many have wondered at this term used for the suffering, trial, and death of Jesus.

Consider Henri Nouwen's story of a fifty year old friend, who had been hospitalized with cancer. This man's concern was that he had found purpose in his life by doing things for others and that therein lay the value of his life. Now that he was unable to do so, he felt helpless and considered himself a passive being just lying there. Henri wondered what to say or do until he examined the Lenten readings around all that Jesus would undergo. He said that one particular phrase took on a new meaning: "to be handed over," or what Judas did by handing Jesus over to the authorities. It was at that moment Jesus stopped doing things, and allowed things to happen to himself. He let himself be arrested, flogged, crowned with thorns, tried, and crucified. The same expression of "being handed over" is also used to describe an act of God. In Romans 8:32 we hear Paul

speak of God not withholding his only Son, but delivering him up for us all, handing His Son over for us

all. Nouwen comes to the conclusion that the true "meaning of passion is—being the

recipients of other people's initiatives... Passion is a kind of waiting—waiting for what others are going to do." Are they going to respond to Jesus' Good News of God's love for us all? Jesus waited for their response—would they be followers or executioners? Would they say "Yes" or "No" to Jesus? He wanted people to make up their own minds.

Nouwen continues with, "all action ends in passion because the response to our action is out of our hands." Will we say our Yes to Jesus or our No?

Or, are we still waiting, contemplating our response? To what are we to respond?—to the love of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus! Nouwen makes a good point "If God forced us to love, we would not really be lovers." God's love has been freely given and with it we look at the cross as not a place of weakness, but of strength; not as a place of passivity, but of selfgiving love, because Jesus dies forgiving us out of love; because, Jesus dies promising resurrection and new life. Behold the cross as changing death to life, which moves us from sorrow to hope.

So now, what will you choose to do: say no, reject him and be one in the crowd shouting "Crucify Him!", or say yes to God's love in Christ Jesus?

Pastor Rasma

References to Henri Nouwen comes from Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent to Easter, The Plough Publishing House, 2003.



Midweek Lenten Soup & Service

Please join us for our Midweek Lenten Soup and Service program Wednesday nights with soup supper at 6:30 and service at 7:30.

What do you need to open in order to experience God's presence in your life: your eyes, your ears, your hands or your heart? Through Word and prayer and reflection you may discover a new way of experiencing Christ Jesus in this intimate setting.

Pastor Rasma

Kudos

My sincere thanks goes out to my Worship Leadership Team: Denise Dennis, Ron Heino, Margaret Crewe, Wilhelm Wittemeier, Ute Wentzel, Dorothea Cameron and Sigi Sommer for their leading worship so effectively during my recovery period. We are very fortunate here at Epiphany that people are so giving of their time to share their faith in this way.

Thanks also to Pastor Peter Lisinski for having led worship and his willingness to cover for any pastoral emergency or concern. I appreciate all of your concerns and well wishes for my recovery. I am doing well and slowly I will regain my energy level.

Blessings to you all.

Pastor Rasma

MARCH: FOOD OF THE MONTH

Canned Vegetables



Be still, and know that I am God. — PSALM 46 V.10

Do not worry about your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor your body, what you should put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? — MATTHEW 6:25

God has given us freedom; what will I have for supper? A glass of wine would be nice – white or red? Should I get a new car or a used one? I can choose to watch what I like on tv. I can go for a walk; turn left or right. Our days are full – too full, with too many choices. Choices can fill our thoughts – even choices we made in the past. Why haven't I called my friend in over a year? Why did I impulsively buy this dress – I never wear it. Why wasn't I stricter with my children? Why didn't I tell my grandmother that I loved her?

We worry about the choices we face in the future too: should I invest this money or buy a new appliance? Will I be able to live in this house when I get older? Should I go on a trip – if I do, who will take care of my pets?

The other day I was out in the yard feeding the birds. It was cold, but the sun was shining. Half a dozen cardinals were darting in and out of the bushes, a woodpecker was 6 feet away and I felt a deep sense of joy and gratitude. I realized this is *worship*.

Worship requires your presence – and an awareness of God's presence. Whether you are alone meditating or sitting amid a congregation, I believe it is impossible to be truly worshipful if your mind is caught up in your choices, in your past regrets or your future worries. Worship is living in **now**: thinking about the words of a hymn as you sing it; pondering the words of a reading or the ideas contained in a sermon. Worship is reminding yourself of the blessings of the earth, the food and shelter we are provided with, friends, libraries, hospitals and emergency workers. Worship is appreciating the wonder of our own bodies – the work they can do, the ways we can communicate and learn.

Thank you, God for blessing us so richly. Fill us Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith, to help us to live in the present and in awareness of God's presence. Let us be a blessing to others according to your will. And thank you for the gift of Jesus, who teaches us and tells us not to worry.

Marg Crewe

Visit Canada Lutheran's new website!

As the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the mission of Canada Lutheran is to engage the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in a dynamic dialogue in which information, inspiration and ideas are shared in a thoughtful and stimulating way.

Find highlights from each issue as well as archived columns, letters and the Transitions page. Visit canadalutheran.ca

Vienna Fine Foods

The CBC recently visited Vienna Fine Foods, a longtime favourite of many Epiphany members. Check out their glowing review at <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/toronto/metro-morning-food-guide-vienna-fine-foods-1.4544016>

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

Weltgebetstag wird am 6. März nicht nur mit unseren Senioren gefeiert, sondern auch mit den anderen deutschsprachigen Gemeinden. Ihr seit alle eingeladen daran teilzunehmen hier in Epiphany Kirche um 13:30. Kommt um die Gastfreundschaft und Gemeinschaft zu genießen.

Pastorin Rasma



Our next meeting on March 6 at 1:30 pm will be different from our usual program. Epiphany has invited the congregations of the German churches in the GTA for the yearly Weltgebetstag (World Day of Prayer). We hope to welcome many members from our sister churches. After the 'official' part, we will have our usual coffee, cake and good conversation. Please, try to attend!

Please also note that our MP for Highland Creek, Gary Anandasangaree, agreed to come to our Seniors Meeting on APRIL 3 at the usual time to tell us about his work in Ottawa. This program will be in English and we encourage all of the German speaking as well as the English speaking Seniors to come. Bring your questions! Who knows, maybe we will be able to contribute to or even influence the politics in Ottawa! Afterwards there is the usual good time with coffee and cake and conversation.

Wilhelm Wittemeier

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2018	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,433.42	\$11,606.81	
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	2,448.19		
AMMS SANCTUARY RENTAL	100.00		
AMMS PHOTOCOPIER INK	63.27		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE	146.00		
JOHN'S FLOORING ADVERTISING	100.00		
SPIRITUAL SOCIETY PARKING	1,500.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$12,899.88	\$12,940.81	(\$40.93)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$12,899.88	\$12,940.81	(\$40.93)

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



Easter and Springtime Celebrations and Traditions

TUESDAY MARCH 13 AT 10 AM

All are invited as we gather in March to recognize Easter and compare with one another your holiday traditions. In the past, we have often enjoyed these memories. Please share with us any mementos of Easter, perhaps some embroidery, tapestry, ceramics, serving pieces, favourite recipes, and check through your photo albums for Easter outfits, especially those Easter bonnets!

There are still a few opportunities to contribute a pot of soup to the 6:30 pm Wednesday Soup Suppers.

ELW calendar events that we invite you and your friends to:

- ◆ MARCH 2 at 7:30 PM — World Day of Prayer (in English) at St. Dunstan's on Lawson Road.
- ◆ MARCH 6 at 1:30 PM — World Day of Prayer (in German) at Epiphany's Senior meeting with the Toronto Kontaktkreis churches joining us. ***Requests for Coffeetime baking.
- ◆ APRIL 3 at 1:30 PM — Combined ELW/Seniors meeting with guest MPP speaker. This will be in place of our regular ELW meeting. Please join us. Also welcoming contributions to the Coffeetime.

We recognize these gentlemen's March birthdays: Bob Haebe, our Sunshine Convenor, and to Wilhelm Wittemeier as he celebrates a milestone birthday in 2018. Congratulations fellas and thanks for your support to ELW.

Easter awakens us to the miracle in every moment and in every living thing.

ELW wishes for all a season filled with Wonder and Beauty. Happy Easter! Happy Spring!



ELW 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Revenue from the 2017 Advent Bazaar: \$3114.55

ELW plans to support the following (congregational) efforts throughout 2018:

- President's Discretionary Fund (speaker honorarium/mileage, miscellaneous program expenses)
- Sunshine Convenors – Birthday & Christmas mailings, postage
- Altar Guild – to beautify the Sanctuary (ELW to reimburse Altar Guild people directly)
- Garden Committee – flower beds & outdoor urn planters (ELW pays convenor directly)
- Church Community (Emergency) Fund for Pastor (TTC/Store and Restaurant certificates) – this is sometimes augmented by our socials
- Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Women's Auxiliary
- WLS AGM Registration & Mileage – Fall 2018
- 2018 World Day of Prayer donation (Spring)
- Salvation Army Christmas donation

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIALS:

- Occasional Sunday Coffeetime supplies (coffee/cream/sugar & misc) (Visiting Pastor exchanges/Special Guests/AGM/Just because)
- Misc start-up expenses for Strawberry Social/Applefest/Bazaar
- Spring & Fall Property Clean-up refreshments
- Summerfest picnic
- September Congregational picnic
- Stewardship Sunday lunch
- Seniors December Christmas luncheon
- Christmas Tree Decorating social

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

Thanks!

Thank you to all who contributed to the AGM Coffeetime with their time in setting up and clearing afterwards and to those who contributed goodies to go with the coffee.

Scent-free Services

Please be considerate of those with allergies and refrain from wearing scented products to church. Thank you!



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March 2018

PLEASE NOTE: Sundays at 1:30 PM — Bethel Holiness Pentecostal Apostolic Ministries will hold their worship services in Epiphany's Sanctuary.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 7:30 PM — World Day of Prayer Service at St Dunstan's	3
4 3rd Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	5	6 1:30 PM — German Weltgebetstag Service at Epiphany	7 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM — Soup Supper 7:30 PM — Lenten Service	8	9 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	10
11 4th Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS – SPRING AHEAD!	12 1 PM — Craft Circle	13 10 AM — ELW Meeting	14 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM — Soup Supper 7:30 PM — Lenten Service	15	16	17
18 5th Sunday in Lent PURPLE 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	19	20	21 11AM -2 PM Church Office 6:30 PM — Soup Supper 7:30 PM — Lenten Service	22 7:15 PM — Council Meeting	23 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	24
25 Palm/Passion Sunday PURPLE 10 AM Joint Communion Service	26 1 PM — Craft Circle	27	28 11AM -2 PM Church Office	29 Maundy Thursday PURPLE 7:30 PM — Joint Communion Service Collate Morningstar	30 Good Friday BLACK 9 AM — German Communion Service 7:30 PM — English Tenebrae Service	31
April 1 Easter Sunday WHITE 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast 9 AM Joint Easter Communion Service						