



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The month of November is one in which there is a marked change in seasons. Though this year we are yet anticipating the leaves falling from the trees, we give thanks for the abundance of the harvest. We remember veterans, who died for a cause. With gratitude and love, we remember our own family and friends who have died. Though the church year comes to an end, we anticipate the hope that a new advent brings.

Søren Kierkegaard said, "When one has once fully entered the realm of love, the world — no matter how imperfect — becomes rich and beautiful, it consists solely of opportunities for love" (*Works of Love*).

How do we bring all together what this month has to offer using this quote? Each person, at some point in his or her life, has experienced love of some sort. Experiencing love gives one a sense of well-being, and acceptance, and belonging. There is a moment when one feels that all negativity can be overcome by love. St. Paul attests that this kind of love is patient, kind, not boastful...and that without it we are nothing. As human beings, we have our limitations and at times struggle to fully understand the love of God, especially when we witness cruelty in this world in which we live. It is truly wonderful to envisage a realm of love that only God can offer us, especially when we are so imperfect, and so is our world.

The word "love" itself can become a cliché: "How do I love thee, let me count the ways." How might God answer such a question and make his own list of how he loves us?

You disobey, yet I forgive.

You grieve, but I wipe away your tears.

You are in despair, yet I take the yoke of your burden upon me.

You are sick, but I will heal you.

You feel alone, but I am with you.

You are my children....

One could continue adding to this list from one's own experiences of God's love: the refugee having experienced the grace of a stranger; the homeless having had a warm Thanksgiving meal at Toronto Mission; the working poor having received help from the food bank; a family having lost its home due to fire has been offered free rent for a year. All of these are acts of love. We, as the Body of Christ, have been given the tools to love one another as ourselves. We need to constantly be reminded of that so that we can act in love and identify those love opportunities within our own community, the community that reaches beyond our walls. Such love opportunities call for us to be generous. In the latest *Giving* magazine "generosity" is described in the following manner by William Enright:

"There is more to generosity than money. As a virtue and a practice, generosity has to do with the way we use our skills and the manner in which we share ideas, practice hospitality, offer encouragement, make connections, and use our time to address the needs of others. Generosity is reflected in the quality of our relationships and the way we engage with people via acts of caring and compassion. As a lifestyle, generosity is measured by our giving and volunteering as well as in the manner in which we nurture relationships and live out our neighborliness."

In this stewardship month let us consider how each of us can discover

and act upon opportunities for love and generosity.

Pastor Rasma



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 19, 2017

It has become traditional at this time of year for Epiphany to emphasize the topic of Stewardship. On each of the three Sundays prior to and also on November 19, I will be distributing a short article taken from materials provided by ELCIC on the theme of "Giving – Growing Joyful Stewards in your Congregation". The main purpose of the articles is to focus our collective thinking on matters of stewardship in all areas of our lives. Please take 5 minutes to read each of these articles – they may be inspirational or thought-provoking for you.

Pastor Rasma has reached out to Dr. William Webster, an accomplished speaker and founder of The Centre for the Grief Journey. "Dr. Bill" has kindly accepted her invitation to make a presentation to our congregation during the joint worship service on November 19 at 10am.

After the service, please stay for a potluck luncheon. The ELW have generously offered to provide baked ham and fried chicken, so members might consider bringing a salad or dessert. Beverages will also be provided.

I will be posting a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so you can indicate that you plan to attend. This will assist in determining the amount of food required and where to set up the tables and chairs.

Geoff Crewe, Stewardship Director

ITEMS OF INTEREST *from Rasma*

You are welcome to come and view the current exhibition: **Flickering of the Flame: Print and the Reformation**, September 25 to December 20, 2017 at the Thomas Fischer Rare Book Library, 120 St. George Street, Toronto. M-W, F: 9am-5pm; Th: 9am-8pm. Admission is free.

Reformation bags are still available at a cost of \$10 in support of the refugee sponsorship.

DELKINA — The DELKINA (German Evangelical Lutheran Churches in North America) conference met from October 10th through the 15th at Mt. Carmel in Niagara Falls and First Lutheran in Toronto. Those attending were given the opportunity to sit in session, do some touring, attend the symposium, and a reformation concert.

The order of business was to elect a new council as well as review the purpose of this special interest group. Both Pastors Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and Christian Ceconi stepped down after successfully having completed the three-volume set of German resources for the Revised Common Lectionary, which includes the readings, prayer of the day, prayers of intercession, and hymn suggestions for German speaking congregations. These hard-copy volumes may be bought from the Religion and Spirituality department of lulu.com. This information can also be found and downloaded from the DELKINA website under resources: Revised Common Lectionary, which is the way I have been able to use the resources.

The council elected two lay members from Canada, one from Winnipeg and the other from Edmonton. The pastors are from New York, San Francisco, and Austin. The council's mandate for the next two years is to plan for the next conference but also to examine the future of DELKINA: should it continue to exist in its present form or reinvent itself. The point is that the number of German speaking congregations is dwindling and within 5 years many will cease to exist. For this reason, reinvention is necessary, or

we have to come to a new understanding of how the existing congregations can work together in a new way.

The hope for the next conference is to have it in a location that accepts children. In this way larger numbers may attend.

For me the highlights were the ride on the "Hornblower;" even though we got soaked, the day was warm and the activity was fun. The Symposium, offered in English, had three presenters speaking on the topic "Luther and Freedom." Dr. David Pfrimmer (WLS) spoke on the topic of "Martin Luther's Contribution to Public Ethics Today;" Dr. Deanna Thompson (Hamline University, St. Paul) spoke about "Luther's legacy: The Wild Space of Christian Freedom;" and Dr. Volker Leppin's (University of Tübingen) speech asked: "Were Peasants Wrong? Christian Freedom and Social Liberty." The evening concluded with a Bach Reformation Cantatas concert presented by the Theatre of Early Music at St. George's Lutheran Church. BWV 80 and BWV 79 were sung and played with Jeanne Lamon leading the chamber orchestra, and Daniel Taylor leading the choir and singing both a solo and duet with Daniel Lichti. It was a real treat and was appreciated by the full house who demanded an encore in response to its standing ovation. It left one spell bound and thankful.

The Conference ended with a joint bilingual service at Martin Luther Church with Bishop Michael Pryse preaching and with Pastor Sebastian, outgoing president, presiding over communion. Thanks to Fred Kilian for joining the choir that enhanced the enjoyment of the service.

KUDOS — Thanks to Pastor Peter Lisinski for his worship leadership. Some made mention that he reminded them of Pastor Hartmut Horsch in his demeanour and delivery.

Thanks to Fred Kilian and Robert Jesswein for their hard work repairing our roof.

Thanks to all bakers and volunteers who helped make Applefest such a success.

Pastor Rasma



Share
Stewardship Sunday
with us!
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19
10am Joint Communion Service
Guest Speaker,
Dr. Bill Webster
Potluck Luncheon follows

TIMELY TIDBITS *from Lilli*

Gardening: We are very grateful to Dorothea, Nalini, Peter, Werner, Franz and others of Epiphany's Gardening team for watering the plants and flowers, trimming the forsythia hedge, weeding and mowing the lawn at our Church throughout the growing season. Thanks to these helpers, our members, neighbours and AMMS can enjoy a beautiful, clean and safe outdoor space. Stayed tuned for the Fall Property Clean-up, probably near the end of November to clear the grounds for the Bazaar and the Winter season. There will be a fabulous coffee break provided!

Feeling Thankful: We thank Ute and Erika for beautifully decorating the altar with fruits, vegetables, flowers and items for Thanksgiving. The congregation was able to enjoy another colourful harvest with the generosity of donated fruits and veggies on display.

Community Partners: Did YOU know? German Radio Devotion — Sundays 9:30am on AM 530. This program is conducted by Pastor Christian Ceconi of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Moll Berczy Haus Senior's Home — German services the second Tuesday of the month and the last Wednesday of the month at 10am, 1020 McNicoll Ave., Scarborough; next service November 14th.

Message from the Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary at the October 21st Women's Auxiliary AGM: "Have you thought of a career in Pastoral Ministry — a directive especially to the young and gifted people of our communities to continue the needs of ministry?"

Church Reformation Wine and Bazaar Raffle Tickets will be for sale between the services throughout November. There is still a limited reserve of wine available, stock up now for the holidays.

In Stewardship: Epiphany is one of the top 20 churches in the Eastern Synod who pledge a significant percentage of their budget to Benevolence.

In the October issue of The Eastern Synod Lutheran, Rev. Riitta Hepomaki recognized, "with gratitude, those 20 congregations who have given most based on Fair Share (percentage of total revenue) in 2016."

Something our little church can be proud of. *Lilli Kilian*



ADVENT IS COMING.

Be with us Wednesday evenings,
December 6th, 13th and 20th for
Soup Supper at 6:30pm and
Midweek Advent Service at 7:30pm.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

**The Bible is the cradle
wherein Christ is laid.**

— MARTIN LUTHER



2017 Advent Bazaar

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 • 1-3PM

Visit the **Craft Table** for lovingly handmade items or find something special at the **Holiday White Elephant Table**. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea with homemade European-style baking from the **Bake Table** or have it wrapped to go.

Enter the **Raffle** to win wonderful prizes! The grand prize – Gingerbread World, Lebkuchen Schmidt 2017 Festive Chest! Plus a variety of great Gift Certificates, Gift Baskets and beautiful handmade crochet tablecloth!

Raffle Tickets – \$2 each / 3 for \$5 / Book of 15 for \$20



*FaithLife Financial will provide a matching grant for this event.

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

SEPTEMBER 2017	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
CURRENT	\$3,007.15	\$11,231.20	
BENEVOLENCE	1,334.00	1,334.00	
AMMS RENTAL INCOME	3,775.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	4,615.82		
INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE	10.00		
ROOF REPAIRS		2,178.91	
CHURCH INSURANCE		1,657.80	
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$12,741.97	\$16,401.91	(\$3,659.94)
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$118,532.47	\$111,581.86	\$6,950.61

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

EPIPHANY COUNCIL

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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

Our last meeting started with Wilhelm reading two stories about the fall. The discussions afterwards were so lively that we almost forgot our coffee time. The second topic we discussed was the German 'Pinkelwurst' which is a speciality of the northern part of Germany. There were 12 seniors at this meeting.

During our next meeting on November 7th we will discuss our Christmas Party on December 5th. Bring some ideas and suggestions.

Wilhelm Wittemeier



ELW November Highlights

Won't YOU please join us Tuesday November 14th at 10am when we meet to fine-tune Bazaar details, discuss distributing Bazaar proceeds and preview some Craft Circle items. We invite you to bring your seasonal White Elephant and Craft items to this meeting or on Sundays throughout November.

We thank dear Ursula who gladly phones to remind people of our meetings and events.

APPLEFEST was REMARKABLE, thanks to the support from our bakers who, in turn, have Joe and Terri Werner to thank for their donation of apples from their Brighton orchard. It was a most pleasant Saturday Falltime social supported, once again, by two tables of Bob Haebe's Birchmount Pool swimming buddies. Epiphany will realize a \$300 FaithLife matching grant.

We are very grateful for your support to EPIPHANY! Our thanks and appreciation to all 2017 Applefest bakers: Elisabeth Turnacker, Erika Haebe, Ute Wentzel, Hildegard Kinder, Irene Koeder, Edda Fuerst-Kern, Eva Wittemeier, Bettina Wittemeier, Greg Furan, Nalini Badley, Dorothea Cameron, Sigrid Engler, Wilhelmine Herrmann, Lilli Kilian and Marion Kalnins. If ELW has omitted any bakers, we extend to you our heartfelt thanks!

SOMEONE is required to host/set up the Fall Property Clean-up Coffee Break. You will be reimbursed your expenses. ELW sure hopes to hear from YOU!

Do you remember the delicious fried chicken and baked ham offered last year at the Stewardship Sunday potluck? ELW will offer these main entrees again hoping the congregation will provide the assorted salads and vegetables as well as any desserts with the coffee. Please notify us at the November meeting if you have any other suggestions for the main entree.

ELW plans to host the December 17th Christmas Tree Decorating by providing their famous "Glühwein" and hot chocolate. We would ask the congregation to supply assorted finger foods and light snacks.

Many people remember the delicious soups that were offered at past Advent Bazaars. In January 2018, an exact date still to be determined, the Church Women and Church Seniors will combine their monthly meetings to offer a **SOUPFEST lunch gathering, with a variety of hearty homemade soups**. There will be a sign-up sheet for soup cooks and for the lunch attendance. Know that this event is not limited to those who attend these meetings but to anyone in the congregation (and their guests) who would be available; you would be welcome to join and socialize with us. STAY TUNED!

**2017 ADVENT BAZAAR,
Saturday December 2, 1-3 pm**

Items are needed ~ Christmas and new or nearly-new items suitable as gifts.

- Hand-crafted items.
- Gently used scarves, jewelry and accessories.
- Baked goods.



Our Seasonal White Elephant "Boutique" is downsizing this year—please no more clothes, shoes, etc. However, do you have too many scarves or too much fashion jewelry? We need nearly-new donations for our Accessory Sale, so go through your cluttered drawers and decide what you can part with, **then clean and box (if possible) jewelry items and wash and press scarves (presentation is everything). Please bring items to church before November 30th. Thanks!**

Volunteers are needed ~ to set up the day before (Friday) and to help on the day of the Bazaar.

Raffle Convenor, Nalini Badley 416-281-3162 says there is still time to ask for gift certificates as a Raffle Prize from your place of business or where you shop or eat out; businesses often appreciate the publicity associated with this donation. "Official" donation letters are on the church entrance table.

How can YOU, a grandchild or a friend support or help out at the Bazaar? Here are some suggestions:

- **Please SIGN UP on the Bulletin Board or please call Lilli Kilian 416-267-5300 or Erika Haebe 416-266-8660 or Sigrid Engler 416-283-8536.**
- Set up tablecloths, dishes, decorating and price items
- Stand behind the tables on Saturday and serve the public
- Help serve in the Bake sale area
- Offer to work at the Bazaar in whatever capacity
- Offer to bake or to provide handicrafts (knitting, sewing, quilting, embroidery, etc.)
- INVITE your extended family, friends and neighbours to come
- Offer Raffle tickets to these people in order to win some fabulous prizes

The Workers Are Few

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." — MATTHEW 9:35-38

A few closing words of inspiration: Every time I spend some time in our church I feel a little more inspired – inspired by the work we do, inspired by members of our congregation who have given so many of their personal/family hours to make Epiphany the place to be.

**Keep reaching out, keep welcoming others,
keep believing and inspiring others.**

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



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November 2017

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11AM -2 PM Church Office	2	3 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	4
5 All Saints Sunday WHITE 9 AM German Worship Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	6	7 1:30 PM — German Seniors	8 11AM -2 PM Church Office	9 7:30 PM — GTA East Meeting at Faith Lutheran in Oshawa	10	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY
12 23rd Sunday after Pentecost GREEN 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Worship Service	13 1 PM — Craft Circle 7:30-9 AM / 3:30-5:30 PM Use of Quiet Room for AMMS Parent Meetings	14 10-11:30 AM — Church Women (ELW) 7:30-9 AM / 3:30-5:30 PM Use of Quiet Room for AMMS Parent Meetings	15 11AM -2 PM Church Office	16 7:15 PM — Council Meeting	17 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	18
19 Stewardship Sunday GREEN 10 AM Joint Communion Service Guest Speaker Dr. Bill Webster followed by Potluck Luncheon	20	21	22 11AM -2 PM Church Office	23	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday WHITE 9 AM German Communion Service 10:30 AM English Communion Service	27 1 PM — Craft Circle	28	29 11AM -2 PM Church Office	30	Dec 1 Collate Morningstar 10-11:30 AM — Bible Class	2 1-3 PM — Advent Bazaar