



# The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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NO. 666 • JULY/AUGUST 2024

Submissions 15th of the month  
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## Church of Word and Sacrament

Someone once said that the only thing you can count on in life is change. Indeed, change is one of the few certainties in life. Change, in fact is a sign of life—all living things not only have the capacity for change but need to change to stay alive and flourish. Over the millennia animals have evolved and adapted to their environments. Humans are undoubtedly the most adaptable of beings on earth.

Change is also part of corporate life as well. Epiphany has seen changes over the years as well: changing demographics, changing circumstances, changing priorities. Right now there is a re-visioning process happening and new possibilities are being explored. I know of your ministry in the community and support for those that are less fortunate. It's been said that the 7 words that will kill a church are: "We have always done it this way." I think there are 5 words that help the church to survive and thrive: "We have never tried that."

One of the changes that we are seeing in Epiphany is that with my tenure as Interim Pastor, we have moved to a weekly celebration of Holy Communion. I know that this is not part of your lived history but I would invite you to explore and perhaps come to embrace this change.

I want to share with you some of my thoughts on this matter and invite further dialogue from you. I'd love to hear your thoughts and continue this dialogue.

The pattern of the early Church was a weekly gathering around Word and Sacrament. The cycle was a weekly one: gathering every Sunday to remember and celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, the victory over sin and death. This was the case long before the Church developed any other special celebrations like Easter, Christmas, Good Friday, Pentecost, etc. This is a pattern that some parts of Christendom have continuously observed, and many other parts of Christendom are returning to. Our Church (the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada) has affirmed that a weekly celebration of Holy Communion is a good practice. Indeed in many of our ELCIC congregations this is the practice – I know for certain that this has been the practice at Augsburg Brampton, Zion Maple, Thornhill, St. Ansgar, St. Paul Richmond Hill, among others. A return to this pattern also strengthens our bonds and commitments to our communion partner, the Anglican Church of Canada. For congregations that have embodied this practice it has been meaningful: for them to come to church and not to hear God's Word and not to receive the Sacrament is unimaginable – it just isn't "church."

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More importantly, there are good theological and pastoral reasons for the renewal of this tradition. The Lutheran Church has always been a Church of Word and Sacrament. Sacraments are what are sometimes called “means of grace”. This means that when we celebrate a sacrament we are open to receiving God’s gracious gifts of forgiveness of sin offered to us by God’s immense love for us which we see in Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection for our redemption. Every time we receive communion, we are receiving a bountiful gift from God freely bestowed upon us out of God’s unbounded and unconditional love.

Towards the end of Jesus’ ministry, he spoke to Peter. Now, Peter was the Rock upon which Christ wanted to build his church and Jesus expected him to take a leadership role in the early Church. Jesus asked Peter if Peter loved him to which Peter replied, “Of course,” then Jesus charged him to, “Feed my sheep”. You will recall that this exchange happened not once but three times to underscore its importance. Christianity has embraced the term “pastor” for her ordained leaders (this is especially true in the Lutheran traditions but also significant in the Roman Catholic tradition).

I, as your Interim Pastor, see that as my role as well, to feed the sheep I’m entrusted with. This is more than just offering Holy Communion on a weekly basis. For me it means to be with you in times of joy and times of sorrow and to always and in every way to feed you with the grace of God in any way possible. By offering Holy Communion on a weekly basis, we are opening one avenue to which we can receive God’s gracious gift of forgiveness. Communion is, among other things, God saying, “I love you and forgive you.” I don’t think any of us will tire of hearing about God’s love for us.

We live in new times. We see challenges for the Church that we have never seen before. We need to be empowered by God’s grace to meet these challenges faithfully and live out our lives of discipleship. I know personally that receiving Communion often (sometimes for me several times a week) strengthens me on my journey – I am a sinner, redeemed by Christ, needing God’s unconditional love. I believe that it is vital for the Church to offer this ministry of forgiveness and empowerment for all who feel the need.

*In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Ernie*

## JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

### SUNDAY JULY 7

PENTECOST 7 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY JULY 14

PENTECOST 8 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY JULY 21

PENTECOST 9 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY JULY 28

PENTECOST 10 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY AUGUST 4

PENTECOST 11 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY AUGUST 11

PENTECOST 12 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY AUGUST 18

PENTECOST 13 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

### SUNDAY AUGUST 25

PENTECOST 14 (GREEN)

10:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
Pastor Ernie Skujins (In-person & Zoom)

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#### Zoom Link to EPIPHANY LUTHERAN

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09)

[pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9890800583?pwd=R05md05jWjZBTnNwc202SWJpSG5kZz09)

Or by phone following the prompts:

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 989 080 0583 Passcode: 095565

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#### BIBLE CLASS NOTE:

Bible classes will resume in late September. (Marg is enjoying her new granddaughter and will be on vacation)

# STEWARDSHIP

— FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME, you can make a difference for a refugee! A charitable organization called Find Haven is helping refugees to settle in Canada. As it says on their website:

*“Haven uses technology to match refugees who need help with Canadians who can help. Our mission is to improve refugee resettlement in Canada by engaging as many Canadians as possible.”*



## It's Safe.

We are a registered Canadian charity (758177547RROOO1).

We have verified the IDs of all 2,000+ users on Haven. Verify online or with someone from our team.



## It's Easy.

Help as much as you want, however you want, whenever you want.

No commitments. Pause your help and restart whenever.



## It's Rewarding.

Get to personally meet refugees and see your impact.

We guarantee that helping on Haven will be one of the most inspiring experiences of your life.

I have signed up to help with language acquisition. I created a profile for myself, my identity is verified, and then I can look at the profiles of those who are seeking help with language, with networking/resume support/finding work, or with accessing household goods.

The sessions are online, set for a mutually agreed upon time. To learn more, go to [www.findhaven.org](http://www.findhaven.org).

This is one more way for us to help our (new) neighbours!

Denise Dennis

## German Worship Connections

We are happy to share opportunities for our German speaking members to worship and hear occasional sermons in your native tongue.

Pastor Katharina from St. George's in downtown Toronto will hold an occasional prayer and social gathering in Scarborough at the Schwabenclub. Please speak to Ute Wentzel for more information.

Pastor Annika from Martin Luther Church has a weekly devotion that airs on Sunday at 9:30am on CHLO Radio AM530 and which is also posted on their website.

Please follow these links if you wish to hear her devotion.

**AM530 Website:** <https://am530.ca>

**Martin Luther Church Website:**

<https://martinluther.ca/worship-services/>

[radio-devotions-podcasts/](https://martinluther.ca/radio-devotions-podcasts/)



## **Creator God**

*who breathed this world into being,  
who is discernible within the harmony of nature,  
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,  
the grandeur of a mountain range,  
the soaring eagle and hummingbird,  
thank you for this world which you have created.  
Thank you for summer sun,  
which reminds us that your creative breath is still alive and active.  
Thank you for the warmth of your love,  
sustaining this world,  
your garden.*

— JOHN BIRCH,  
FAITHANDWORSHIP.COM

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Council Chair:	Geoff Crewe
Council Vice-Chair:	Denise Dennis
Council Secretary:	Margaret Fler
Councillor-at-Large:	Greg Furan
Councillor-at-Large:	Gord Munro
Councillor:	Gordon Vollmer
Councillor:	Sigrid Engler
Treasurer:	Nalini Badley

## **COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

Education:	Open
Finance:	Geoff Crewe
Property:	Geoff Crewe
Stewardship:	Denise Dennis
Visioning:	Gordon Vollmer
AMMS Liaison:	Geoff Crewe
Worship & Music:	Marg Crewe
Morningstar:	Sigi Sommer
Seniors Group:	Ute Wentzel
Advertising Coordinator:	Nalini Badley
ELW:	Sigrid Engler
Envelope Secretary:	Sigrid Engler
Mutual Ministry:	open
Spiritual Society Liaison:	open

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>MAY 2024</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>
OFFERINGS	\$3,815.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	360.97		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,404.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	87.50		
<b>CURRENT MONTH TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,742.47</b>	<b>\$11,371.14</b>	<b>(\$1,628.67)</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$53,785.88</b>	<b>\$59,183.20</b>	<b>(\$5,397.32)</b>
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2024			35,976.06
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2024			147,576.79
SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 5% MATURING AUGUST 28, 2025			30,000.00

*Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer*