



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Submissions 15th of the month
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As most of you will know, we recently did a trip to South Africa, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Botswana. It was an awesome trip and we saw the Big Five. That was at the top of Annette's bucket-list. I don't really have a bucket-list but I did have some bucket-list-worthy experiences: I hiked to the top of Lion's Head and did a bungee jump off the 219 meter bridge at Bloukrans.

It makes me think of life in general and how often we must take "a leap of faith." We end up at a place/point in time where we are called to act out of our faith. The reality of life is that we never have all the answers or all the information we need to make a perfect decision but decide we must and act we must.

I think that Epiphany is at one of those points. Decisions need to be made and action needs to be taken. Epiphany, like many congregations, is facing a number of challenges. I choose to see challenges as opportunities as well. The congregation is



undergoing a process of re-visioning, considering relationship with the Estonian Long Term Care Facility, how we can be of service to the community at large, and the trend of declining attendance at worship. These are all challenges but also opportunities for new ideas, new ways of being and doing.

When Council spoke with me about being your Interim Pastor, not knowing too much about your congregation, I asked about your timeline for calling a tenured pastor. Council was open with me in saying it could be 2 years; I was open in saying that I was not ready for such a commitment but was ready to commit to 6 months. Well, that time is approaching and I will be leaving you soon – my last day in your midst will be November 24.

I want to thank you all for being able to journey alongside each other on our respective faith journeys. I have appreciated your support and wish you nothing but the best. It's been my honour to be with you and a part of your lives.

May God continue to bless you. And...don't be afraid to take the leap of faith.

Shalom, Pastor Ernie

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY (WHITE)

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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

PENTECOST 25 (GREEN)

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

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17

PENTECOST 26 (GREEN)

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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24

CHRIST THE KING (WHITE)

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

Calling all Epiphany leaf-rakers!

The fall outdoor property cleanup is scheduled for Saturday November 16th from 9 am until 12 noon, followed by a light lunch with refreshments generously provided by the ELW.

Participants don't have to commit to the full 3 hours of work ... we'll be grateful for whatever time you can offer. Those attending should bring their own tools, such as rakes, leaf blowers, brooms, dustpans (yard waste bags have already been purchased).

To ensure an adequate amount of food is made available, please email Geoff Crewe at geoff.crewe54@gmail.com or phone him at 416-992-5412 if you plan to (1) work and/or (2) partake of lunch.

If the weather is very unfavourable on November 16th (e.g. snowstorm), then the 23rd will be the alternate cleanup day.

Geoff Crewe

IN MEMORIAM

Wilhelmine Herrmann

AUGUST 3, 1937 – OCTOBER 22, 2024

Longtime active Epiphany member, Wilhelmine Herrmann passed away October 22 after her battle with cancer this summer. Beloved wife of 67 years to Reinhard who passed away last year.

Proud mother to Karin, Linda and Peter; adoring grandmother to Nicole; and sister to Margaret, Emma, Martha, Gertrude (Hartmuth) and Ursula. Wilhelmine will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

A funeral service was held on October 28 at McEachnie Funeral Home with burial at Erskine Cemetery in Pickering.

Synod's Benevolence Letter

"Benevolence offerings" referred to in our new Bishop's article refer to the \$\$ Epiphany sends monthly to the Eastern Synod to support their work. You can see the amount we're sending for any given year by referring to the financial budget in the Annual Report and looking at the Benevolence line in the Spiritual Expenses section. We have been advised by Synod that Epiphany "punches above its weight" as compared to other churches. I think this is something we can be proud of.

By the way, you may remember our new Bishop, Carla Blakeley, preaching at Epiphany on Stewardship Sunday a few years ago. I believe I recall she was a classmate of former Pastor Rasma's "a couple" of years ago.

Geoff Crewe

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — MATTHEW 6:21

Dear Treasurer, Council Chairperson & Pastor,

We would like to begin this annual benevolence letter to you by giving thanks to God, the giver of abundance who provides for us in all things. God inspires us, out of gratefulness, to share what we have with others. Thanks be to God for this example and for the many outpoured blessings!

Over the past several decades, benevolence offerings received from congregations have been on a slow, declining trend. At the time of writing this letter, Synod benevolence is trending 5.4% lower than at this time last year. As you begin the process of setting congregational budgets for the coming year, we ask that you prayerfully remember the Synod and its many ministries. Please consider making a benevolence commitment and challenging your congregation to meet and then beat that pledge!

Thanks to your contributions, the Synod can be an effective partner in mission and ministry, both locally and worldwide. Through your support, the Synod is able to implement key strategic priorities: providing vision, leadership, and support to congregations and the Synod community, developing capable leaders, connecting the Synod with the wider Church, and living as a healthy synod through an emphasis on reconciliation as well as social, racial, and climate justice. Thank you for the part you play in making these ministries possible.

To learn more about how these offerings are utilized by the Synod, we encourage you to visit the Eastern Synod website to access a variety of resources on Stewardship and Generous Giving.

Stories of abundance and giving represent more than just good news. They often give us an indication of matters of 'treasure' and of 'heart,' reminding us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also (Matthew 6:21).

We are so grateful and hopeful for the ways in which the spirit of generosity and trust in an abundant God remains alive and well throughout our Eastern Synod. We know there are often struggles to meet budgets and yet we are bearing witness to small congregations who are increasing their benevolence offerings each year. We know of congregations who go above and beyond their annually committed amounts or who hold extra fundraisers to help support Synod benevolence. We remain incredibly grateful to all congregations who continue to submit regular benevolence remittances and we thank you for striving to rise to this challenge, under sometimes difficult circumstances. We truly appreciate all your efforts.

As we continue to transition into our new roles in the Synod, we look forward to meeting you and hearing your stories of treasure and heart. Thank you to you, the leaders of the congregations in the Eastern Synod for helping and supporting; for cheering on and for making the church a priesthood of all believers; for sharing your hearts and treasure to further God's mission which is already at work among us. We are so grateful for you.

With all best wishes,

Rev. Carla Blakley, Bishop and Fred Mertz, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Council Chair: | Geoff Crewe |
| Council Vice-Chair: | Denise Dennis |
| Council Secretary: | Vacant |
| 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

| SEPTEMBER 2024 | RECEIVED | SPENT | SURPLUS(DEFICIT) |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| OFFERINGS | \$3,515.00 | | |
| AMMS PARSONAGE RENT | 2,575.00 | | |
| AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT | 1,500.00 | | |
| AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES | 317.07 | | |
| AMMS PROPERTY TAX | 1,233.00 | | |
| GST/PST RECEIVABLE | 64.77 | | |
| CURRENT MONTH TOTALS | \$9,204.84 | \$6,952.09 | \$2,252.75 |
| YEAR TO DATE TOTALS | \$90,906.61 | \$90,817.27 | \$89.34 |
| CIBC BANK BALANCE AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 | | | 42,350.37 |
| CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER | | | 167,836.75 |
| SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 5% MATURING AUGUST 28, 2025 | | | 30,000.00 |

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer



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 the links below if you wish to hear her devotion.

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

Martin Luther Church Website: <https://martinluther.ca/worship-services/radio-devotions-podcasts/>

