



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

20 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 3J5

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Submissions 15th of the month
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REFLECTION – Faith & Politics

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Dear People of Epiphany

Since Christmas we – as a congregation and as a society – have been inundated with political propaganda: In Canada, a campaign to succeed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as leader of the federal Liberal Party has been matched by Ontario's provincial election campaign; and, south of the 49th parallel, the political chaos initiated in the wake of the USA's recent presidential election has generated considerable consternation here in "the true north, strong and free". As candidates and elected officials of all political persuasions invoke God's blessing on their particular constituencies and citizens, it seems a kairotic moment to distinguish between *cultural* religion and *biblical* religion.

Cultural religion encourages a *private, individual* faith, while encouraging a *public* morality defined by the *idolatry of patriotism* characterized as *national interest*, often pursued in aggressive government policy – foreign, as well as domestic. *Biblical* religion holds human beings accountable to the one true God – known as Jehovah among Jews, Allah among Muslims, and Jesus Christ among Christians – who calls faithful people in all nations – and religions! – to live in the midst of a suffering world as instruments of God's love, reflected in personal self-sacrifice, and expressed in diligent pursuit of social justice and global peace – by just and peaceful means.

In this Lenten season of spiritual reflection, repentance and renewal, God's Holy Spirit calls us – *us; you and me; we*, the people of Epiphany – that is people called to manifest God's word and will incarnate in Jesus Christ by our own personal faith and congregational mission – to reflect on our spiritual vision, to repent of the social values, espoused by a *cultural* religion that crucified Jesus, and renew our citizenship in the *biblical* community that transcends all national, provincial or ideological borders, and overcomes *all* superficial barriers of race or creed, gender or family, to welcome *all – A-L-L – all* people into humanity's true "home and native land" in God's eternal and universal holy communion!

Peace be with you ...

Pastor Peter

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MARCH 2

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (WHITE)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY MARCH 7

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 9

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (PURPLE)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY MARCH 13

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

SUNDAY MARCH 16

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (PURPLE)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY MARCH 21

10:00-11:15 a.m. Bible Class (Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 23

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (PURPLE)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY MARCH 30

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (PURPLE)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

Zoom Link to EPIPHANY LUTHERAN

<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

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

JANUARY 2025	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$4,125.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	345.96		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	97.72		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$8,643.68	\$5,965.47	\$2,678.21
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$8,643.68	\$5,965.47	\$2,678.21
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT JANUARY 31, 2025			67,221.44
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE END OF JANUARY			169,907.05
SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 5% MATURING AUGUST 28, 2025			30,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

*"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

JEREMIAH 29:12-13



wunderbar geschaffen!

Weltgebetstag

Cookinseln

Freitag, 7. März 2025

11.00 Uhr Ökumenischer
Gottesdienst & Versammlung auf
Deutsch -

11:00 am Ecumenical Worship
Service & Gathering in German

Martin Luther Kirche - Church
Toronto

Verantwortlich für die Gottesdienstordnung sind für
2025 christliche Frauen von den Cookinseln. -
Service written by the 2025 World Day of Prayer
Committee of Cook Islands

Titelbild/Artwork: Tarani Napa & Tevairangi Napa

wonderfully made! (Psalm 139:14)

Martin Luther Church is located at 2379 Lake Shore Blvd. W, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7
416-251-8293, office@martinluther.ca, www.martinluther.ca
Paid street parking. Accessible by public transit. Elevator on site.



World Day of Prayer

Friday 7 March 2025

“I Made You Wonderfully”

*A service prepared by the WDP
Committee of Cook Islands*

You are invited to join in worship and
fellowship at **7:00 pm** at **St. Dunstan
of Canterbury Anglican Church,
56 Lawson Road, Scarborough.**

Refreshments, native to the Cook Islands,
will be offered after the service.

A livestream of the service will be available at
<https://www.youtube.com/@DunstanCanterbury>

Sigrid Engler, Epiphany WDP Rep

A necessary reminder in these days...

The News

This morning a young fox
crossed my path twice;
and once,
for a moment,
we gazed at each other,
eye to eye.
Two bullfinches
hidden in a bush
whistled softly at me.
I whistled back.
This took a while;
until they revealed their pastel
plumage and their little black caps,
poking from the leaves in curiosity.
The guinea fowl atop the old walls
were their usual gossipy selves;
startling each other
into squawking silliness.
I smiled at them.
Two squirrels stopped
what they were doing
to greet me on my way,
one was grizzled grey
the other looked as though
it was newly come from its ablutions,
its white chest glowed so
in the early morning sunlight.
The poppies, foxgloves and lupins
shone and waxed in the wind as I passed,
I paused longer with some of the trees than
others to hear their woody wisdom.
Together we all prayed in the day
and received the blessing of morning.
I wondered why there was
no one else in the woods
to see all this beauty,
though secretly I was glad
to stand at the gates of dawn
alone in grace just for a moment.

Anyway, you know too
what it was like,
there, under the trees,
this morning.
And I wonder
will anything else
we hear on the news today
benefit us more
than being reminded
that, in the woods
at least,
the day always
begins
in blessing.

— brorichard (on Instagram)

Brother Richard is a Capuchin Franciscan
Priest-friar. Catholic Monastic tradition.
Meditation & mindfulness teacher.