



# The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## DEAR COMRADES IN CHRIST,

Dreary skies, biting winds, falling leaves, frozen earth, fading daylight signal the advent of another cold, dark Canadian winter. At this time of year, creation itself reflects and laments the solemn grief of all who will gather on the eleventh day of the eleventh month for the remembrance of the dead and disabled veterans sacrificed in humanity's tragic history of warfare — *always* declared as a "just cause", and *often* with the blessing of institutional religion and the assurance that "God is on our side".

Ever since the walls of Jericho "came a-tumblin' down", the theology of divine violence has haunted patriotic believers and unbelievers alike. How can the God who commanded genocide in the ancient Bible story told in the book of Joshua – and still invoked in modern times to justify Israel's occupation of Palestine as God's will – be reconciled with the God who, in the divine humanity of Jesus – the Greek translation of the Aramaic name '*Jeshua*' and equivalent of the Hebrew name '*Joshua*', both meaning "God saves" – who commanded God's called, chosen and faithful people to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)?

Perhaps this year, as we gather in solemn remembrance of the "War To End All Wars" – whether publicly around community cenotaph or privately around our televisions at home – as Christians, and for the remembrance of Jesus, Prince of Peace, we might ponder that conscience-probing question in mindful reflection on all who made the ultimate sacrifice of patriotic loyalty – family, friend and foe alike – in all the wars waged *before* and *since* November 11, AD 1918, including those who continue to pay the heaviest price in the wars currently raging in Christian Europe and the Holy Land of the Middle East. Lest we forget, on both sides of any and every military conflict, the first victims are those who obey the command to take up arms, and the sweethearts, spouses and children they leave behind! Pax Vobiscum!

Pastor Peter

P.S: Let us pray ...

*Almighty and gracious God, you reveal yourself in all nations, in every culture, class, creed and colour. Though your beloved children, all created in your divine image, call upon you by many and various names – Vishnu, Jehovah, Allah, Manitou, Abba, Jesus – your divine substance is love; your will is justice; your promise is peace; and your purpose is eternal joy in companionship with yourself, among all people, and with all creation.*

*Bless all people of faith. Be merciful to those who hold ill will toward us; and inspire us to be compassionate toward them. By your Holy Spirit, inspire us to love one another, and live together as sisters and brothers in one human family, united in our common humanity, and reflecting your peace in our hearts, in our homes, in our neighbourhood, in our nation and in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.*

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

ALL SAINTS' DAY (WHITE)

12 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)

12 noon Holy Communion Service

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

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

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15

9 a.m.-12 noon Epiphany Fall Cleanup

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)

12 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR (GREEN)

12 noon Holy Communion Service

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

## FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28

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

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (BLUE)

12 noon Service of the Word

Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

### 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



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY PHOTO BY UTE WENTZEL

## Calling all Epiphany leaf-rakers!

The fall outdoor property cleanup is scheduled for Saturday November 15th 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](mailto: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 15th (e.g. snowstorm), then the 22nd will be the alternate cleanup day.

**Geoff Crewe**

## “OUR MOST IMPORTANT GIFT”

(TEXT: JOHN 6: 25-35)

**T**he recent popularity of the slogan, “Elbows up!” has been a happy reminder of my personal encounter with its source – late hockey great, Gordie Howe. Some twenty-five years ago, I was invited to say grace at a fund-raising community dinner at which he was the guest speaker. I took the opportunity to introduce my prayer with a light-hearted remark about the legendary “Gordie Howe Hatrick”. Later, when the head table’s turn came to visit the buffet table “Mr. Hockey” jogged up to me, gently poked me in the ribs with one of his Hall of Fame elbows and said, “Rev, my mother always said, ‘It is better to give than to receive’! ... My own mother’s Fritz Onkel also had a unique twist on the old familiar proverb: “If it really is better to give than to receive,” he liked to say, “Make yourself feel better and give me!” And, for good measure, let’s hear Mark Twain on the subject: “It is better to give than to receive – especially advice!”

Those familiar words of wisdom actually come from the sacred page of our Judeo-Christian scriptures, first coined by Jesus himself, quoted in the *original* version by Apostle Paul in Acts 20[:35]: “It is *more blessed* to give than to receive.” Jesus reminds God’s people that giving is our primary and fundamental reflection of the divine image of God in which, and for whom, all human beings have been created. And I’m sure all of us would agree that it truly *is* more blessed to *give* our support rather than to be one of the four million clients to *receive* the support of the Daily Bread Food Bank this past year. Having to ask for charity is humiliating enough; but even *worse* than the feeling of *shame* is the *guilt* that comes with not having enough food or income to feed our children!

But it’s not just that *giving* makes us feel better about ourselves emotionally, psychologically or spiritually than *receiving* – as Fritz Onkel understood; but giving is also *beneficial* – the literal meaning of the word ‘blessed’ – for our *physical* health and wellbeing! Numerous medical and scientific studies have shown that simple acts of kindness produce the same health benefits as regular exercise; and that is good news for those of us who may be unable, unwilling or, perhaps, allergic to physical exercise. Go around your table at Thanksgiving dinner and, next to the love of marriage and family life, it’s a sure bet that good health will be at the top of most lists of things most people are thankful for – *and*, with the exception of a loved one’s death, are most fearful of losing!

Of course, the loss of *both* loving companions and health is inevitable in this mortal world, verified within our own small church family in recent days and weeks. That’s *why* there is *one* thing even more important among all the things on our list of blessings for which we are most thankful; it’s the *one* thing we *can* take with us when we depart this mortal *material* world: our faith in God – the most important gift of all the gifts for which to be thankful!

“Do not work for the food that perishes,” Jesus tells his disciples; “but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you ... And this is the work of God, that you *believe* ...” *Faith* is our only *way* to health, wholeness and salvation – all three of which are rooted in one and the same Greek biblical word – *‘diazoso*, which means “God saves” – the very meaning of the name *‘Jesus*, who is the very substance and focus *of* our faith! ...

The older I get, the more autumn, particularly the weeks around Thanksgiving, has become my favourite season of the year.

In my childhood days I liked winter best because, in addition to Christmas, it meant the return of hockey season – which I played from age six to age fifty. But, since “hanging up the blades” twenty years ago, as Canadian winters became colder and longer (in my imagination, if not in fact) – and snow shoveling more difficult – I began to favour summer in the great outdoors: sun and sand at the beach, weekend barbecues after church, reading on the porch and, of course, the rest and renewal of my vacation. Now summers seem to have become hotter, wasps more numerous, and back pain has limited my enthusiasm for swimming ...

Yet all of these evolving limitations brought on by the aging process are the very thing that have deepened my appreciation for fall! The colourful kaleidoscope of dying leaves turning from dominant green to brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange remind me that even the mortality our culture encourages us to deny, bears witness to God’s promise of the new creation established by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Beyond the fading autumn beauty, and the looming discontent of winter – even *nuclear* winter? – hope springs eternal in God’s promise under the endless summer “Son” shine of God’s only-begotten Son’s risen life and infinite love.

Thanks be to God – for the gift of faith, *and* for the people of God with whom we are blessed to share it!



**Dear Servants of, at and  
within Epiphany Lutheran Church,**

*In the familiar words of our Holy Communion liturgy we pray: "Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith ..."*

*Lutherans believe a living faith is the gift of God's Holy Spirit, given in and through a congregational life rooted in public worship, remembered in personal devotion, and reflected in daily discipleship. We see the fruits of faith all around us: in our companionship of care and prayer, in our heritage and history, in our vocation as stewards of our building, property and common wealth. God's grace has truly blessed our congregation with a living faith.*

*The Bible also affirms that a living faith is a giving faith. Jesus said, "I came that my followers may have life, and may have it abundantly" (John 10:10). The joy of abundant living is rooted in abundant giving – the supreme manifestation (epiphany) of which is affirmed by Jesus, who also said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:25)*

*During my forty years of ordained ministry, in five congregations as resident pastor and, since retirement, three as interim, I have seen and shared an abundance of generous giving inspired by faith in the good news of God's grace – but none that exceeds the fine Christian folk of Epiphany. Beyond the blessing you have been for Rosarii and me in our common faith journey this past year, your kind and thoughtful Thanksgiving gift testifies to your generous spirit and the vitality of your faith, nurtured over the better part of the last seven decades. What a joy to behold and to share! Thanks be to God!*

*Thank you all so much for your reflection of God's generous goodness, and your personal and pastoral affirmation which, to borrow Apostle Paul's words, "surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7)! Thanks especially for the joy of our journey together in the promised future of the God we are privileged to worship and serve; the God whose epiphany we see in the divine humanity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and in the living, giving faith of this congregation!*

**In faith, with gratitude,  
Pastor Peter**

# STEWARDSHIP

## November: in between

November is squeezed between October's Thanksgiving festivities and sugar-fuelled excitement of Halloween and December's busyness and celebrations. Some may regard November as a "reset" or rest time after October or a lull before December. According to the Farmer's Almanac, November is a "transitional" month of preparations for the approaching cold and snow of winter. Gardeners may be doing late-fall planting (garlic!) or preparing seeds for the spring. Retailers are gearing up for the busy shopping season (otherwise known as "Christmas"). Many of us transition our wardrobes to the heavier and cozier clothes that have been stored to buffer us from the coming cold and snow.

This transition to winter wear can be challenging for some of our neighbours. However, one neighbour is holding a **"Winter Coat and Boot Drive."** Accepted items are: *new and gently used coats, snowsuits, hoodies, warm vests, boots, warm socks, mittens, hats, and gloves for all ages, genders, and sizes.* These items are being collected to support clients of the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities.

The Winter Coat and Boot Drive runs from **November 15 to December 9, 2025.** There are two ways to make your donation: leave items on the front porch of 32 Regency Square or at the church where I will pick up and drop off (*please let me know if you are leaving something at the church by calling 416-264-4091 or sending an email to [denise.dennis@outlook.com](mailto:denise.dennis@outlook.com)*). If you have questions, please contact me.

So, November is still squeezed between October and December, but perhaps the lingering warmth of Thanksgiving blessings and the anticipation of Christmas goodwill and gifts can add neighbourly care and compassion to this in-between month.

Thank you for your stewardship and consideration!

Denise Dennis



## CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Chair:	Geoff Crewe
Council Vice-Chair:	Denise Dennis
Council Secretary:	Frank Dietz
Councillor-at-Large:	Greg Furan
Councillor-at-Large:	Gord Munro
Councillor:	Frank Dietz
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 2025	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$2,750.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	315.40		
AMMS PROPERTY TAX	1,252.00		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	68.62		
GIC INTEREST	2,160.46		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	<b>\$10,621.48</b>	<b>\$6,931.01</b>	<b>\$3,690.47</b>
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	<b>\$86,446.56</b>	<b>\$77,521.24</b>	<b>\$8,925.32</b>
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2025			73,306.46
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER			201,466.00
SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 3.04% MATURING OCTOBER 26, 2026			30,000.00

*Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer*

## From Your Envelope Secretary

*The leaves* have fallen, and we're rapidly approaching the end of the year and need to plan for 2026.

Last year we all got new sets of Offering Envelopes, having used the previous ones for 2 years. The use of sets for 2, rather than for only 1 year, proved to be a success. It saved the congregation a great deal of money and nature was spared a few trees. I would ask that we repeat that process. Considering our continued attendance constraints, I'm guessing that we all have quite a few 2025 envelopes left in our current set. Continuing to use these would mean that you retain your current number for accounting purposes and if you choose, the dates can easily be altered.

I would appreciate receiving any new information from you, regarding a change of address, or instructions relating to your Offerings and Receipts, as soon as possible. Should you not presently have envelopes, or left-overs, and would like a fresh set, please let me know. I'm happy to provide these to you.

For any additional information you might need, please give me a call and don't hesitate to leave a message.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Respectfully,*  
**Sigrid Engler, 416-283-8536**



This is my  
**prayer for you:**

**smiles**  
when sadness intrudes,

**laughter**  
to kiss your lips,

**hugs**  
when spirits sag,

**friendships**  
to brighten your being,

**confidence**  
for when you doubt,

**courage**  
to know yourself,

**comfort**  
on difficult days,

**rainbows**  
to follow the clouds

**sunsets**  
to warm your heart,

**beauty**  
for your eyes to see,

**faith**  
so that you can believe,

**patience**  
to accept the truth,

**love**  
to complete your life.

