



The Morningstar

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends in Christ,

On the Victoria Day long weekend a few weeks ago, I mowed the lawn at our new home for the first time. As one whose chronic back pain limits my enthusiasm for exercising my not so “green thumb”, I appreciate the faithful gardeners who trim trees, tend lawns, plant flowers and, in the fall, rake and bag leaves, on our church property. Over the years, including here at Epiphany, I’ve met many for who such yard work is spiritually inspiring, even if physically demanding.

But beyond tilling soil, planting seeds, or pruning hedges, gardening is a parable of faithfulness to God. I like to call it “the world’s oldest vocation.” God made it so when he placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden with instructions “to till it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). Humanity’s first, and still primary vocation is, *literally*, gardening – the stewardship of God’s good creation, *nurturing* and *preserving* earth’s original ‘paradise’, the Greek word for ‘garden’!

Human beings are created and called to be God’s partners in caring for creation – which includes animals, air and water, as well as land. God created us, *literally*, to be environmentalists! And the most important aspect of our stewardship is caring for one another – especially the most vulnerable, namely children. God’s call to care for creation is, above all, to provide safe and secure communities in which all children can thrive, to organize public institutions and regulate private enterprise to serve the common good of all people created in God’s divine image.

The renewal of God’s whole created order – the very meaning of the word ‘*cosmos*’ – is the very reflection of God’s righteousness, best summarized by Apostle Paul’s lengthy analysis of God’s suffering creation in the eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans, which concludes: “All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose ...” (Rom.8:28).

Summer blessings of rest and recreation!

Pastor Peter

JUNE CALENDAR 2026

SUNDAY JUNE 7

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

THURSDAY JUNE 11

7 p.m. Council Meeting

FRIDAY JUNE 12

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

SUNDAY JUNE 14

3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

SUNDAY JUNE 21

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Service of the Word
Pastor Peter Lisinski (In-person & Zoom)

FRIDAY JUNE 26

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

SUNDAY JUNE 28

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (GREEN)
12 noon Holy Communion Service
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

Stewardship: The Growing Season

After what seemed like an extended and slow start to spring, many of us have, by now, tuned up the barbeque and may even have begun planting gardens. Whether you plant seeds, get plants started at a nursery, or purchase already grown-from-seed fruits and vegetables, the fascinating part is following that tiny seed to maturity and onto our plates!

There is still, though, a growing reliance on local food banks, a reminder that food security is a challenge in both our close and global communities. Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) encourages a "best response" to the ongoing needs of our neighbours by

1. learning about the challenges
2. praying for wisdom, guidance, and perseverance
3. taking action as one is able.

Did you know you can be a year-round seed planter? Through prayer, donations, and volunteering, we can support more equitable and sustainable food distribution. Two examples:



SEEDS: provide farmers with seeds so they can grow drought-resistant crops, which means food for their families and new income.

<https://donate.clwr.org/products/share-the-gift-of-food>

EMERGENCY FOOD: CLWR has an account at the Foodgrains Bank that they draw from to provide food assistance during emergencies around the world and fund supportive programs for family and community access to more and better food in the long term.

<https://foodgrainsbank.ca/clwr/>

Let me thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support of our neighbours. As scripture reminds us: *"The same One who has put seed into the hands of the sower and brought bread to fill our stomachs will provide and multiply the resources you invest and produce an abundant harvest from your righteous actions"* (2 Cor. 9:10/The Voice).

Denise Dennis, Stewardship



A Little Christmas This Month

In a recent episode of the CBS comedy series *Georgie and Mandy's First Marriage*, Mandy – an “on the scene” television reporter covering a local church charity event – made an “on air” reference to God as ‘She’! I thought nothin of it; after all, God – as “everyone knows” – is *beyond* gender. Right?

Well, our precocious nine-year old granddaughter, Chelsea, begs to differ! When I asked her how she felt about calling God ‘She’; *she* vigorously shook *her* head and said, emphatically, “If God is a ‘She’, how could Mary have had Baby Jesus?!” The answer is revealed in Angel Gabriel’s response to that very question, posed by Virgin Mary herself, in response to the revelation that she had been chosen to give birth to God’s Messiah: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you ...” (Luke 1:35).

The coming of the Holy Spirit is what the Day of Pentecost is all about. On the fiftieth day after Easter, the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and giver of life”, according to the Nicene Creed, came upon the newly-conceived community of *Messianic Jews*! The Christian church is the *offspring* of God’s marriage covenant with the *still chosen* Jewish people of Israel!! The church has *not displaced or replaced Jewish faith or Jewish people!!!*

Luke’s story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47) tells how the Holy Spirit inspired these Jewish believers in Jesus to invite people of diverse languages and religious traditions to peace and unity within the one true God’s multi-cultural human family promised by a choir of heavenly angels serenaded lowly Bethlehem shepherds on the very first Christmas Eve of Jesus’ birth: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will ...” (Luke 2:14).

According to the Gospel of John, God chose to communicate *His/Her* love – since God is a *trinity* of divine persons, it would perhaps be more appropriate to say ‘*Their*’ love – by sending the Son of God, into the world in the divine humanity of Jesus Christ (John 1:14). To proclaim the good news of God’s love authentically, credibly, and inclusively, has always been the mission of God’s chosen people – first in Israel, and now also in the Christian church, indeed in faithful people of any and all religions! Veni, Sancte Spiritus! Come, Holy Spirit!

Pastor Peter Lisinski



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

APRIL 2026	RECEIVED	SPENT	SURPLUS(DEFICIT)
OFFERINGS	\$3,180.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE RENT	2,575.00		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL RENT	1,500.00		
AMMS PARSONAGE UTILITIES	347.99		
AMMS FELLOWSHIP HALL UTILITIES	1,245.52		
GST/PST RECEIVABLE	112.56		
AMMS PARSONAGE PROPERTY TAX	1,472.00		
CURRENT MONTH TOTALS	\$10,433.07	\$8,223.32	\$2,209.75
YEAR TO DATE TOTALS	\$51,081.57	\$41,958.08	\$9,123.49
CIBC BANK BALANCE AT APRIL 30, 2026			41,170.29
CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE END OF APRIL			229,225.70
SCOTIA BANK NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 3.04% MATURING OCTOBER 26, 2026			30,000.00
CIBC NON REDEEMABLE GIC AT 2.80% MATURING OCTOBER 19, 2026			30,000.00
CIBC FLEXIBLE GIC AT 2.154% MATURING OCTOBER 19, 2026			20,000.00

Yours in Christ, Nalini Badley, Treasurer

Visioning Update on Property Redevelopment

Over the past few months there have been several meetings with the Estonian Relief Committee (ERC), operators of Ehatare, on the proposed sale terms and redevelopment of the church property. Congregation approval will be requested once the final terms and sale price of the church property has been agreed to.

The ERC is, also, in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals, from the province, for the proposed long-term-care facility. The project budget will be submitted to the province this summer. They have also met with the City of Toronto to discuss required approvals and design and development requirements.

The ERC is also finalizing negotiations on a financing package to purchase the church property and redevelop the site.

Architects have also been hired by the ERC, to design the proposed new building that will incorporate a long-term-care facility, the needs of our congregation, and plans to renovate their existing building. Our requirements have been shared with the architects.

We have been advised that it is the ERC's intention to undertake required engineering studies on the church property beginning in the summer. Details will be shared with the congregation when they become available.

Frank Dietz / Gordon Vollmer

*I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard;
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke not a word.*

*I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind);
I asked for priceless treasures rare,
Of a more lasting kind.*

*I prayed that He'd be near to you
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessings fair,
And friends to share your way.*

*I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
But that you'd know His loving care
I prayed the most of all.*

Author Unknown