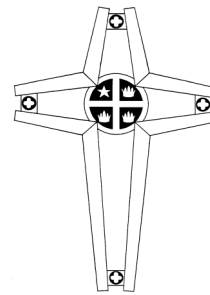


The Star

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany
An ELCA Congregation



Volume MMXXIII
Number 4
April 2023

God calls us to: "**Grow** our relationship with God,
connect with each other, and **serve** the world."



As we enter Holy Week and then into the Great 50 Days of Easter, I find myself wondering where are the signs of new life? Here are some signs I see and hear as I write this.

As I look out my office windows, shoots of green are sprouting up from the plants that have been dormant during the winter. Grass is making its vibrant colors and soon leaves on the mature trees throughout the neighborhood will be taking up space on the branches, adding new life and beauty.

For the last several years, young birds have landed on the windowsill outside my office. They usually stay for a few seconds but then fly away, searching for someone or something else. God only knows if I'll see them again, but this first spring is one of newness for them as they discover the wonders of this part of God's creation.

Meanwhile, down the hall 50 plus children, along with their teachers, are learning, laughing, playing, and being together. Their voices ring throughout the building and, when I walk outside, I hear and see kids playing on the playground. Many times, when colleagues come to Epiphany, they will mention what a joy it is to hear those sounds.

There are lots of sights and sounds of new life surrounding us. Even the pollen, with the sniffles and sneezes it brings to many of us, is a symbol of the new life springing up in our midst.

As we enter the wonderful and holy season of Easter, I wonder - how is it that you see new life? What new shoots of growth is God bringing in your life? Is it a seed that was planted long ago that is starting to bloom? Is it the new growth, something in a neighbor, friend, or family member that you see? Is it something that's happening when you serve through Epiphany?

I'm looking forward to celebrating the heart of our Christian faith. As we journey from the Table and foot washing on Maundy Thursday, to the cross on Good Friday, and finally, the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, I want to invite you celebrate these days with holy wonder and awe. The mystery of our faith is unfolding during these days and it is a thing of beauty that God does in our midst.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Ruell



Hallelujah!! Easter Breakfast is Served!!

Join in the Easter celebration and enjoy the return of Mike & Friends' famous, delicious Easter Breakfast at 9 am in the fellowship hall. A plentiful buffet will include eggs, breakfast meats, grits, hashbrown casserole, biscuits, and fruit (gluten free options available). You don't want to miss it!

Share A Taste of Your Heritage!!

A Fifth Sunday Brunch is being held on Sunday, April 30th following the worship service. We are celebrating all things "Epiphany" by asking everyone to bring a dish to share, showcasing your family's heritage or any family favorite. Drinks will be provided. If you have any comments or questions, contact Kathy Pressley.





The Church has entered the season of Lent, a time of reflection, discernment, and anticipation. Wednesday evening soup and sandwich gatherings have been well attended and we enjoy the ability to sit down and share a meal and wonderful conversations together. Pastor Russell

and Vicar Christina have led Wednesday evening services which includes reflections on beloved Old Testament readings and communion.

The congregation continues to rejoice with the activities of Vicar Christina. She is interacting with the students and providing an appreciated presence at Wake Forest. Together they are participating with other LSM groups throughout the ACC in a fund-raising challenge. The congregation's support is always appreciated and funds raised will remain with our local program.

We have been blessed to be selected to continue our involvement in the Vicar program. Our next Vicar has been matched with us and we look forward to his arrival in August.

The church's outreach programs continue to be appropriately funded by the congregation. We should all be proud of all that the congregation is involved in.

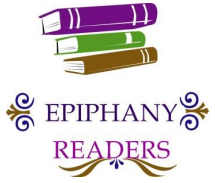
Lastly, Pastor Russell has been given Council approval to submit a Reflective Leadership grant application to the Synod. The plan will include time for retrospective and prospective reflection by Pastor on personal and ELCE ministry and includes coursework and travel. A goal would be to consider forming a network with other similar sized congregations. The submitted proposal will be shared with Council (as will the final report upon completion). The plan will shift some responsibility (1-2 days per month) usually performed by Pastor to others. Pastoral coverage (e.g., worship) will be provided.

The Council wishes to thank every member and friend of the congregation for what they do for the church, and hopes that their Lenten journeys are meaningful as we look forward to the coming celebration of Easter.



**Next meeting: April 19, 2023, 1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall**

The Epiphany Readers' next meeting by Zoom will be at 7pm on Thursday, April 27. The book that will be discussed in April is *The Maid* by Nita Prose. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZQk1sZkVwUT09)

[pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZQk1sZkVwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZQk1sZkVwUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8404 0336

Passcode: 273113

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,83484040336#,,,,*273113# US (Washington DC)



Epiphany friends, because of your generous hearts, WELCA was able to collect 737 food items for Crisis Control Ministries! This goes a long way toward feeding hungry people in our community. Thank you.

During April the circles are donating \$25 non-alcoholic gift cards to be given out to food insecure people who come to Epiphany for help. We invite the congregation to participate in this project by either purchasing a card or making a contribution. Be sure the \$25 card is non-alcoholic and include the receipt with it.

This month Nora Deal Circle will once again host the Maundy Thursday luncheon after the noon service. We invite anyone 65 or older to make a reservation and attend.

Dates:

April 6- Nora Deal Circle hosts the Maundy Thursday luncheon

April 11- Mary Martha Circle- Fellowship Hall-10 am

April 11- Dorothy Circle- Zoom- 7:30 PM

April 22- Spring Gathering- Our Savior's Lutheran Church- Welcome, NC





There will be Encounter: Faith for kids on **Palm Sunday (April 2) at 9:00**, but we will end 5 minutes early to allow families to collect their palms and for children to prepare for Crucifer/Acolyte duties.

Come join us for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday (April 9th)**! We will meet in the church lobby around **9:30** (after the Easter Breakfast) and children will proceed to the “little playground” for preschoolers and the “big playground” for children in grades K-5. The treats in our eggs will be peanut-free and many eggs will contain non-edible items. Don't forget to bring a basket! Rain locations TBD.



Rescheduled Minute to Win It Game Afternoon and Pizza Dinner

Kids, come join us on **Sunday, April 30th from 4:00-6:00** for an afternoon of hilarious Minute to Win It Games! Minute to Win It games are timed tasks that have to be done with a quirky twist (like building a cup tower without using your hands). After we play games, we'll have pizza delivered and eat dinner together! Please call or email Lauren Saldaña if your children would like to attend and indicate how many pieces of pizza/what toppings they would like.



There's still time to register and join us this summer!

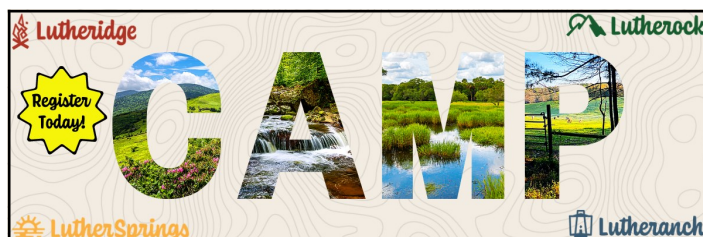
Augsburg Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, in partnership with Lutheridge Camp in Arden, NC, will host Lutheroad Day Camp

on June 12-16, 2023. Lutheroad is open to all children who are currently completing kindergarten through 5th grade. It will be staffed with college-age staff from Lutheridge, trained in youth ministry, who will act as program leaders and counselors for the campers. Campers will be involved in Bible studies, recreation, small groups, worship, crafts, games, and service projects. The daily schedule will be Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:00, and Friday 9:00-12:00. Campers attending Lutheroad will need to bring a lunch each day, and a water bottle. Snacks will be provided each day. On Thursday evening, Augsburg will host an Ice Cream Social where the campers will showcase what they have learned throughout the week. On Friday, camp ends before lunch at 12:00.

Lutheroad will take place at Augsburg Lutheran Church this year (845 West 5th Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101). Please let Lauren Saldana (lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) know if transportation will be a challenge.

Because we are partnering with Augsburg this year, we are able to significantly reduce registration costs! **Registration is \$50.00 per camper**, and due at the time of registration (a huge bargain for a week-long camp). Checks or cash can be sent to the church office made out to the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/XVAoJ2qGPg4SE1NN9>
Call or email Lauren Saldana (336-589-6571 or lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) with any questions!



While you are looking into camps for the summer, please also check out our other Lutheran outdoor ministry camps including Camp Agape Kure Beach (agapekurebeach.org) and Lutheridge or Lutherock (novusway.org). We are blessed to have such wonderful programs within such a short distance of our area. If your child is interested please let Lauren Saldaña (lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) know! There are scholarships available for Epiphany kids who attend!



Easter and new life is the focus of the staff and children this month. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to share the blessings of membership in the ELCA. It is never too late to celebrate the

services we are provided as a Lutheran School and Center. We give God thanks for the gift of education and we continually ask for His blessings on Epiphany Early Childhood Center.

We take the beginnings of faith foundations to heart in our daily practices. When we share our love and attention with the children in their natural world and encourage, love and support them, we are united in spirit with the many other Lutheran schools and centers. When we sing "This Little Light of Mine" and "We are Marching in the Light of God" we reflect the light of Christ around Epiphany, the community, and the into the world. Thank you for helping us shine the light of God's love on the staff, children, and families of EECC.

In His Service,
Lisa Nichols



MommyGrippeta.com



Kathleen Tucker's next trip to Nora, Virginia is planned for Monday, May 1st. Items can be left in the parking lot corner of the fellowship hall. She will pick them up on Friday, April 28th at noon. Thanks so very much for your generosity.



Campus Ministry Fundraiser Update

Our LSM group has raised over \$700 during March Madness! We appreciate your contributions so much. We are currently in third place, down from second place behind two much bigger schools. The deadline has been extended until Easter Sunday, April 9th.

You can give through Epiphany's online giving platform by going to <https://www.epiphanyws.org/give>, clicking "donate" and including "Wake LSM" in the notes section with your gift.

Thank you for your continued support of LSM!



Your donations to Lutheran Services Carolinas Be the Light campaign should be made online at <https://lscarolinas.net/be-the-light-gift/> or by writing a check to Lutheran Services Carolinas. In the memo line write Be the Light - Epiphany Winston-Salem. Send checks to:

Lutheran Services Carolinas
PO Box 947
Salisbury, NC 28144



cereal
Collection

Sunday, April 2nd is the last day to donate cereal for **Wee Care! Cereal Drive**, which benefits Crisis Control. There is a large box in the narthex. Let's help EECC gather some cereal!

If you have milestones to celebrate, please contact Mickey Miller.



Our Epiphany Family

Help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know if there are those who need to be included.



THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- Bruce & Margaret Lanier 4/16
- Mark & Susan Tellefsen 4/19
- Paul & Mitzi Silverstein 4/27

We wish you many more years of happiness!

Congratulations to Eagle Scout *Pierson Cline*, grandson of *Ann Shideler*. Pierson was awarded his rank of Eagle after much hard work. His service project was done three years ago (pre-pandemic) while he was on a mission trip in Honduras with his church group. Ask Ann about it - it's quite a story!

You might notice a new face around the church building. If you do, please welcome *Jose*! He is our new person responsible for keeping Epiphany and EECC clean. Jose has over 13 years of experience. Welcome!



Large print bulletins and service music are available on Sunday mornings. Just ask an usher when you come into the building.

- GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR APRIL**
- CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Instant oatmeal, saltine crackers
 - SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Ground coffee (regular), sugar, dish towels, foot powder, socks, ground beef (50 lbs.)
 - RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** - Paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags; individual snacks & drinks; <https://rmhcpt.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/>
 - TRINITY GLEN** - Soap
 - TRINITY ELMS** - Fronts of greeting cards, baby lotion, body wash, bath items, deodorant, snacks, note cards
 - CBC FOOD PANTRY** - Volunteers to take food donations from church to CBC and to work stocking shelves/distributing food twice a month
 - EECC** - Cheerios, raisins, applesauce (individual, plain)
 - IBRAHAM FOOD PANTRY** - Diapers/pullups sizes 2-6

Ministers, All the People of Epiphany
Pastor, Pastor Russell Peek
 Email: pastorrussell@epiphanyws.org
Vicar, Christina Nesslage
 Email: vicar@epiphanyws.org
Director of Music, Patryck Nuss
 E-mail: music@epiphanyws.org
Director of Children's Ministries, Lauren Saldaña
 E-mail: lsaldana@epiphanyws.org
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Epiphany E-mail: epiphanystaff@epiphanyws.org
Web Site: www.epiphanyws.org

2023 Congregation Council

Officers:	Non-Council Officers:
Chris Schultz, Pres.	Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.
Betty Benardo, VP	Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll
Terry Wiley, Treas.	
Mark Tellefsen, Sec.	
Members:	
Patti Deal	Dan Meckley
Matt Imboden	Diana Stindt
Sarah Lischer	Pastor Russell Peek

"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV

LET US PRAY FOR...

Leaders of church & state, especially

<i>Our Congregation Council</i>	<i>Pastor Russell Peek</i>
<i>Christ's Beloved Community</i>	<i>President Joe Biden</i>
<i>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</i>	<i>Governor Roy Cooper</i>
<i>Bishop Timothy Smith</i>	<i>Mayor Allen Joines</i>

All victims of war and violence
The people of Turkey and Syria

Our sister congregations and our missionary in Mexico

The people of Mupini Parish, Namibia and Pr. David Brondos.
The people of Christ's Beloved Community.

Active duty military personnel, especially

Travis Gerdes
Randal Middleton
David Schultz

Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially

<i>Judy Allison</i>	<i>Pam Holcomb</i>	<i>Karen Rose</i>
<i>Gail Bonsall</i>	<i>Jean Jarvis</i>	<i>Janie Sapen</i>
<i>Thomas & Mary Cannon</i>	<i>Cynthia Jeffries</i>	<i>Jim Schwartz</i>
<i>Clark Family</i>	<i>Sebastian Kahabek</i>	<i>Nora Schweitzer</i>
<i>Rose Debruhl</i>	<i>Greg Kurosko</i>	<i>Liz Shumate</i>
<i>Sylvia Ann Derrick</i>	<i>PJ Lenihan</i>	<i>Sue Slezak</i>
<i>Carl Dubose</i>	<i>Chad Marion</i>	<i>Germaine Smith</i>
<i>Emily Ferriter</i>	<i>Linda McKenna</i>	<i>Michele Stanfield</i>
<i>Howard Flichman</i>	<i>Terry McKinney</i>	<i>Earl Taylor</i>
<i>Tara-Lynn Flick</i>	<i>Kendra Miller</i>	<i>Stephanie Taylor</i>
<i>Andrea Francos</i>	<i>Angie Mitchell</i>	<i>Laura Turlington</i>
<i>Jackson Franklin</i>	<i>Mark Moore</i>	<i>Alan Vestal</i>
<i>Peter Funch</i>	<i>Allison Morris</i>	<i>Emma Wester</i>
<i>Pat & Joanne Gill</i>	<i>Robert & Mary Peak</i>	<i>Nicole Williams</i>
<i>Jonathan Gomez</i>	<i>Andy Powless</i>	<i>Ruochoong Wong</i>
<i>Carolyn Graham</i>	<i>Jane Ritchie</i>	<i>John Wooding</i>
<i>Linda Grale</i>		

Members in need, especially

<i>Sharen Bond</i>	<i>Chad Kraft</i>
<i>Ann Cannon</i>	<i>Jim Lippard</i>
<i>Joyce Kohfeldt</i>	<i>Wanda Rabb</i>

Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of

Phyllis Jacobs
Arnold Boliek



Elizabeth Horton, Homestead Hills
Bert Joines, Homestead Hills
Doris Kent, Forsyth Court
Sue Muhler, Brookdale Senior Living
Carl Schlager, The Stratford, High Point



Bonnie Bryant
Cole Lippard
Polly Rector

Virginia Schmitz
Robert Walker

April Birthdays

Lewis Hardy	4/2
Caroline Peek	4/2
Dana Walters	4/2
Martha Oldland	4/5
Henry Harris	4/6
Diana Nicholson	4/8
Bill Phipps	4/8
Lil Flichman	4/10
Bob Walker	4/11
Bill Flichman	4/12
Leann Pace	4/13
Deborah Walker	4/13
Connor Oldland	4/14
Maxwell Saldaña	4/14
Bev Minick	4/15
Charlie Wiley	4/16
Brad Hively	4/18
Wayne Sloop	4/18
Ryan Davis	4/19
Laura Spain	4/19
Solomon Pace	4/20
Haley Oldland	4/22
Becky Yarborough	4/22
Jessi James	4/24
Jennie Hinshaw	4/29
Steve Reich	4/29
Janet Wallace	4/30
Billie Holbrook	4/30
David Matthews	4/30
Tyler Toborg	4/30

April Baptisms

Beth Craft	4/1
Anne Forrest	4/1
Kathy Knecht	4/1
Kelly Lichtenhan	4/1
Jonathan Sloop	4/1
Deni Thrasher	4/1
Sophie Spanos	4/2
Calvin Sherman	4/3
Jeremy Sloop	4/4
Larry Grush	4/5
Casey Davis	4/6
Liam Nye	4/8
Zach Baker	4/10
Jackie Pierson	4/10
Sawyer Walters	4/10
Sloan Walters	4/10
Chad Kraft	4/11
Kay Conrad	4/12
Elinore Imboden	4/12
Tan Bunjang	4/15
Nicole Kaluzne	4/15
Lauren Walsh	4/15
Connie Siris	4/17
Chelsea Walker	4/18
Sue Muhler	4/18
Rodger Eckard	4/27
Jonathan Lichtenhan	4/28



We received thanks from:

ELCA Good Gifts
The Dwelling

Thanks to everyone for the cards, calls, prayers and donations at the death of my brother, Arnold.

He has been on the prayer list for several years and been in declining health for the last 6 months. He passed in his sleep after a visit with his children and I was able to tell him goodbye on Sunday before he passed on Tuesday.

Sincerely,
Bobbie Martin

Your Voice Matters



One of the things I hear with disturbing frequency goes something like this: “This is a top-down church. The ELCA churchwide expression, the churchwide assembly, and the synod make decisions that are completely out of touch with me and my congregation. Nobody ever asks our opinion. The churchwide and synod actions don’t reflect the views of my community, my congregation, and me.”

I actually ponder that a lot. I worry about it a lot. I firmly believe, even amid today’s culture wars, polarizations, and anxiety, that most of us ultimately don’t have to “have our way.” But just like in interpersonal relationships, we do need to be seen, sincerely heard and understood, acknowledged, and valued. Minus any one of those things, we can’t really be in relationship together in any hopeful way.

Congregations are the foundational Word-Sacrament-and-Serving building block of this church in its three expressions. There is no synod or churchwide expression without congregations. Synods are just congregations working together to do things we can’t do on our own. Like agencies and institutions such as Lutheran Men in Mission—celebrating 100 years this month and providing disaster response, spiritual renewal retreats, and more—Lenoir-Rhyne University. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of L-R, Lutheran Services Carolinas, Agape+Kure Beach, NovusWay (Lutheridge and Lutherock in NC), Women of the ELCA Synodical Women’s Organization, Lutheran Youth Organization, Twin Lakes, The Mission Fund (supporting 10 mission congregations in NC), Region 9 Archives, the Home Mission Foundation, and the NC Synod Foundation which includes the Michael Peeler and Virginia Casey Funds.

Synods also help facilitate the call process for rostered pastors and deacons as well as Synod Authorized Ministers and Lay Preachers, help congregations with planning and vitality, help manage and fund over a dozen Lutheran campus ministries in NC, manage the Candidacy process for the preparation of rostered ministers, help mediate and guide conflict situations, provide continuing education for both lay and rostered ministers, help provide for the care and nurture and renewal of rostered ministers, help facilitate communication among all members of the NC Synod (are you **signed up for our e-news?**), and help congregations arrange to share ministry or ministers that keep them both vital and sustainable. And much more.

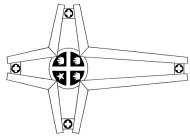
So, now there I go, telling you all what WE do—the NC Synod, the synodical expression of this church—and not listening to your input. So, where is your chance for input? Lots of ways. Those of us on the bishop’s staff are eager to be invited into your congregation, and one thing we can do when we come besides preach is to have a session where congregants can bring questions and concerns to us. Another thing you can do is write to or call the synod office. We get lots of calls, letters, and emails. All ELCA social statements provide localized workshops and/or input forms, encouraging the whole population of the ELCA to respond. Synod resolutions and memorials are other opportunities for input. (These used to be discussed at annual spring conference meetings—which, let’s face it, had dreadful attendance—but we’re hoping to change that with a new format for spring meetings.)

Walking with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim".

NC Synod Bishop





April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9 am Adult Encounter: Faith 9 am Encounter: Faith 9:40 am Backpack Prep 10am Worship	3 7 pm Internship Comm. Spring Break thru 4/7	4 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells Spring Break	5 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	6 Maudy Thursday Noon Maundy Th. Service 1 pm MT Senior Lunch 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service Spring Break	7 Good Friday Noon Good Friday Service 7 pm Good Friday Service Office & EECC Closed Spring Break	1
9 9 am Easter No E: F 9 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Egg Hunt	10 Easter Monday Office & EECC Closed	11 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Dorothy Cir.	12 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	13	14	15 10 am Epiphany Quilters
16 Epiphany Builders @ Lutherock thru 4/22	17 6 pm EECC Comm. 7 pm Congregation Council Builders @ Lutherock	18 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM Builders @ Lutherock	19 10 am EECC Chapel 1:30 pm Widows Might (FH) 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir Builders @ Lutherock	20 6 pm Finance Builders @ Lutherock	21 Builders @ Lutherock	22 Builders @ Lutherock
23	24	25 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM	26 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	27 7 pm Epiphany Readers	28	29
30 5th Sunday Brunch 4-6 pm Minute to Win It and Pizza						