

The Star

Church Office 336-765-6211



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Weekly News and Events
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

“A Very Special Child” Film Presentation after worship today

This year, Epiphany kids are filming a puppet show based on the program “A Very Special Child” by Rev. Anna Strickland. This puppet show is part of A Sanctified Art’s Advent series “How does a weary world rejoice?”. It is written in several acts to tell the Christmas story from the book of Luke and follows the interwoven birth stories of Jesus and John. Please plan to stay after worship **today** to view this wonderful puppet show video in the fellowship hall. We’ll have popcorn and celebrate the hard work of our creative artists!



So far we have collected \$2,952 towards our goal of five ELCA Good Gifts farms. At \$715 per farm, this is a little over four farms. Only \$623 to go!



NO food Backpack packing this Sunday and next Sunday, Dec. 24th. Our schools are on winter break. Packing will resume on Sunday, December 31 at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!!



Just a reminder that any donations that you want to count for 2023 must be postmarked by midnight on December 31st. If you are bringing it in person, it must be here before January 1st. If you have any questions, please call Mickey at 336-765-6211.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY
Office Hours: M-F
9:30 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-5:30 pm
December 17-24, 2023

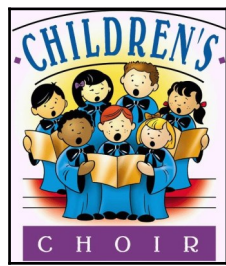
Sun	Last day to order World Hunger Poinsettias! <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Adult Encounter: Faith (Library) 9:00 a m Kids Encounter: Faith (EECC caf.) 9:00 am <i>No Backpacks today</i> Worship 10:00 am YouTube Channel or Facebook Channel Kids Christmas Pageant (FH) After Worship Congregation Council After Worship
Tues	Handbells 6:00 pm Children’s Choir 7:00 pm
Wed	EECC Chapel 10:00 am Widows Might 1:30 pm Staff 3:00 pm Advent Supper 6:00 pm Handbells Warmup (sanctuary) 6:45 pm Mid-Week Eucharist 7:00 pm
Thur	Choir 6:00 pm
Fri	<i>Christmas Eve Observed - Office Closed</i>
Sun	<i>Advent Lessons & Carols - Christmas Eve</i> Worship 10:00 am YouTube Channel or Facebook Channel Christmas Eve Service 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm
Mon	<i>Christmas Day - Office Closed</i>

Underlined events are available online by clicking on the event.

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 22nd and Monday, December 25th.

Children’s Choir - December 19

If your children would like to sing in the Christmas Eve service, please let Lauren Saldaña know (lsaldana@epiphanyws.org).



There will be practices on Tuesday nights, December 19, from 7:00-7:30 during the week with Mr. Patryck and we will also practice with Mrs. Lauren during Encounter: Faith at 9:00 on Sundays. Children will be singing the song “Little Hands” by Carol McClure. The children will sing at the 7:00 Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th.

LET US PRAY FOR...

All who are affected by violence and natural disasters

Leaders of church & state, especially

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA President Joe Biden
 Bishop Timothy Smith, NC Synod Governor Roy Cooper
 Pastor Russell Peek Mayor Alan Joines

Our sister congregations and our missionary in Mexico

Pastor Emily Norris, Deacon Brooke De Jong, and the people of the Dwelling
 Fr. Javier Arias and the people of Christ's Beloved Community
 Pr. David Brondos and the Theological Community of Mexico
 The people of Mupini Parish, Namibia

Active duty military personnel, especially

Travis Gerdes, Randal Middleton, Connor Oldland, David Schultz

Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially

Judy Allison	Pat & Joanne Gill	Nora Schweitzer
Ashley Blackburn	Jonathan Gomez	Liz Shumate
Hannah Kestner Bockover	Carolyn Graham	Sue Slezak
Thomas & Mary Cannon	Pam Holcomb	Libby Smigel
Clark Family	Robin Hoots	Michele Stanfield
William Collette	Katie Lippard	Stephanie Taylor
Judy Crouch	Chad Marion	Laura Turlington
Rose Debruhl	Terry McKinney	Alan Vestal
Paul DeJute	Linda McKenna	Sam Warden
Sylvia Ann Derrick	Allison Morris	Emma Wester
Carl Dubose	Kirsten Nuss	Lynn Wiemann
Dot Elvington	Annette Pardue	Nicole Williams
Howard Flichman	Robert & Mary Peak	Leigh Yamer
Ann Forehand	Shelly Saldaña	

Members in need, especially

The Rev. John Beeg	Chad Kraft	Paul Oldland
Sharen Bond	Jim Lippard	Wanda Rabb
Ann Cannon	Jane Lyerly	Susan Tellefsen
Phil Golden	Jean Mock	

Homebound and Assisted Living Members

Bonnie Bryant	Doris Kent	Polly Rector
Elizabeth Horton	Cole Lippard	Carl Schlager
Bert Joines	Sue Muhler	Robert Walker



Bible Readings for Next Week

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Romans 16:25-27

12/10/23 ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Attendance	107
Visitors	3
Offering	\$7,584.53



GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR DECEMBER

CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY - Saltine crackers

SAMARITAN MINISTRIES - Bib aprons, dish cloths, men's warm winter gloves, socks, toboggans

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE - Paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags; individual snacks & drinks; <https://rmhcpt.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/>

TRINITY GLEN & TRINITY ELMS - Fingernail files, polish, body lotion, body wash, bath items, note cards, fronts of greeting 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

We find ourselves in life's special Season of Hope, and many of us turn our thoughts to the kinder side of life. Kinder eyes to see the vulnerabilities of life. And how we all can answer this urgent question: what are *we* doing today for others?

So many of us wonder in our own hearts and minds if we have much of anything to offer. But we all have something to offer. Just about different things and in different ways. The purpose of this small story is to help us appreciate the large impact we all can make when we choose to help another who on most other days would be out of our line of vision. An important component of this Season of Hope is the hope we bring to even the most humble of people. If we choose to see them. We have no real idea of the good we can do.

Kindness requires no pedigree, or degree with ancient letters, which forecasts the good all of us can do. No gift is too small, as the writings and songs of the season tell us. Just be good for goodness' sake, as our mothers encouraged us to be long ago.

And in the process maybe we begin to find our path to feed that pesky hunger for purpose we all seek in our own lives as well.

One of the most beloved songs of this season is about the humblest of gifts, The Little Drummer Boy. All the young boy has to offer is his simple song. In its revealing ending, it is the smallest of gifts which is exalted the highest in the Heavens. One of our faith's sweetest twists, and the point of it all.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT LIFE ON THE WAY TO THE COURTHOUSE IS THIS: we are all problem solvers for others. You do yourself—and others—a disservice if you do not step out a bit and take more chances to serve others. A chance you can help everyday citizens try to shed the tug and pull of some of life's everyday problems, no matter how ordinary and routine those problems may seem to you. Or how ordinary you feel what you have to offer may be.

Wordsworth understood their importance, calling small acts of our helping hands "little unremembered acts of kindness." We will not get our name up in lights but isn't that the point? Kindness is calibrated in different ways, and sometimes it is sweetly measured out one letter at a time, or in another act of kindness in the disguise of a seemingly ordinary thing.

And in our own imperfect way maybe we make good on our long-ago promise to our moms to be good for goodness' sake, too.

Excerpt from "On My Way to the Courthouse"
 Written by Mike Wells of Mike Wells, PLLC