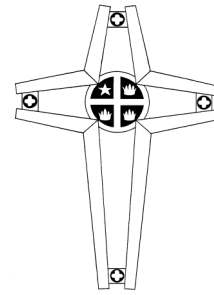


The Star

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



Volume MMXXIII
Number 2
February 2023

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



Dear Epiphany Partners,

February is a busy month at Epiphany. I'll get right to some of what we've got going on and want to invite you to be a part of:

Sunday, February 5: *Epiphany welcomes Pastor Todd Cutter as our guest teacher during Encounter:Faith and guest preacher during worship.* Pastor Cutter is the campus pastor at Lenoir-Rhyne University, our Lutheran college in Hickory. During Encounter:Faith he will be talking about the trends related to spiritual and religious life he is seeing on college campuses with our young adults.

Saturday, February 11: *Denise Henry, Epiphany member, is being ordained to the office of pastor at 2:00 pm at Epiphany.* She has accepted a call as a chaplain at our area Lutheran nursing homes, Trinity Glen and Trinity Elms. This is a special occasion in the life of the church, and I hope you can attend. A light reception follows the worship service.

Sunday, February 12: *The Rev. Dr. David Brondos and his beloved wife, Alicia, will be at Epiphany as our special guests.* They were supposed to be at Epiphany earlier this summer, but a positive COVID diagnosis required a change in plans. Epiphany has sponsored the ministry of Dr. Brondos for many years as he teaches as a professor at a seminary in Mexico City. During the Encounter:Faith time, they will talk about their work in Mexico, and we will hear Dr. Brondos preach in worship. After being at Epiphany, Dr. and Mrs. Brondos will be heading to Christ's Beloved Community to visit with the community there.

Sunday, February 19: *Bold Women's Sunday.* On Transfiguration Sunday, we give God thanks for the witness of women throughout the years. Pastor Julie O'Neal from Burkhead United Methodist Church and Pastor Russell will be doing a pulpit swap that Sunday.

During Encounter:Faith, we will be welcoming Gabriella Drouillard-Moser as our guest teacher. She is a local therapist and has expertise in the intersection of faith and mental health. Her teaching will be great preparation for Lent, which begins the following week.

Tuesday, February 21: *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.* We'll gather for pancakes and other delicious breakfast foods at 6:00 pmon Shrove Tuesday. After dinner, we'll burn the palms from last year's Palm Sunday and use those ashes for worship on Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 22: *Ash Wednesday worship at 12:00 and 7:00.* We'll gather to mark the beginning of Lent with prayers for repentance and renewal, the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, and the Eucharist.

There's always a lot going on at Epiphany. Thanks for the ways you help to make ministry happen in this place!

Pastor Russell





Greetings,

As 2023 begins, we look ahead to what God has in store for Epiphany.

At the January meeting, we began with discussions around Key Area of Focus

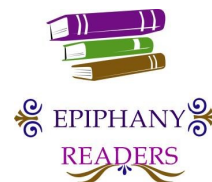
#1: **Renew our Church Home:** organ, solar, other facility repairs. We continue to assess the church facility for projects that will need to be included in a Capital Campaign. Recently another professional did a walk-through citing updates or improvements to make our church building safe and welcoming.

Also discussed were activities for Key Area of Focus #2: **Enhance Communications and Connections** within our Church Family: directory, internal communications. Fellowship continues to be very important to Epiphany members as evidenced by the response and comments after the midweek Advent meals. To that end, more fellowship meals will be offered in 2023, soon with our Lenten suppers prior to midweek Lenten services.

And finally, a health and safety reminder that a defibrillator is located outside the office of our director of music, Patryck Nuss. Instructions are in auditory form for its use; no special training is required.

Blessings to you from your Church Council

The Epiphany Readers' first meeting of 2023 by Zoom will be at 7pm on Thursday, February 23. The book that will be discussed in February is *The Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZZQk1sZkVwUT09)

[pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZZQk1sZkVwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZZQk1sZkVwUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8404 0336

Passcode: 273113

One tap mobile

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Thank you so much to those of you who contributed to the items that WELCA collected for Ronald McDonald House. They were greatly appreciated.

February 19th is Bold Women's Sunday. It is a day to celebrate all women who have acted or are acting boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ. Our guest preacher for that Sunday is the Rev. Julie O'Neal, pastor at Burkhead United Methodist Church.

At the end of the service, the congregation will be given a paper bag to be returned with nonperishable food items that will be donated to Crisis Control. Food will be collected through March 5th.

For the work of Christmas:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman



**Next meeting: February 15, 2023, 1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall**



Lutheroad Day Camp is June 12-16!



REGISTER TODAY!

JUNE 12-16, 2023



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!

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 counselors 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.



Sunday, February 12th is the big game, but here at Epiphany, kids will be getting their game faces ready for the Super Bowl of Caring! All children and youth are invited to stay after worship in the Narthex to help collect money for hunger relief in our community. We will provide children with pots and cans to collect the congregation's noisy offering. Please see Lauren Saldaña if you have any questions.

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



There will be a movie night for all children on **Sunday, February 19th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. Come in your pajamas and prepare to get cozy! Children can bring pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, or a comfy portable chair to sit on. We will have popcorn and drinks available. This is a drop off event, but parents are welcome to stay and enjoy the movie with us.

Because we are partnering with Augsburg this year, we are able to significantly reduce registration costs! **Registration is only \$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 Lutheran Church of the Epiphany.

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



EECC Looking to the Future in 2023

The preschool years have a special role to play in a child's growth and development. Many of the patterns for learning, growth, and for later social success are laid down in the preschool years. However, the big difference between a preschool program and later school curricula lies in the way young children learn.

We firmly believe that young children learn not so much through being taught (filling a bucket), as by exploration and experimenting with actual objects and by having concrete experiences (lighting a fire). For example, a child learns the concept of round not by having someone tell him/her what is or what it looks like but by holding and touching, playing with objects, and comparing, drawing and cutting around shapes. Research shows that young children learn best through experimentation. Spoken language follows thought and activity rather than being separate from it. This process of encouraging learning that is appropriate to the child's age and stage of development is called "developmentally appropriate practice" by the National Association for Education of Young Children or NAEYC. This is also our approach to early education as we will make available a rich variety of materials, as well as encourage hands-on activities that give children the opportunity to explore the world around them in many ways.

The congregation of Lutheran Church of the Epiphany has always been a huge supporter for the preschool. We currently serve 50 children, 18 months to 5 years. We are providing a partial scholarship for one family and scholarships through Smart Start and DSS are accepted for those who need extra help. We have an optional year available for students who miss the cut off for public school or need another year of growth before Kindergarten.

We always welcome the gift of your time and talents to the preschool, as well as, donations of consumable supplies, snack foods, teacher resources. Thank you all for your continued care, prayers and support.

In His service,
Lisa Nichols, Director



Fabulous February Food Ministries at Epiphany!

Updates from Outreach Committee on Food Ministries:

We are now serving 117 students at Ibrahim Elementary for the weekend food bag program. Added three more students since the first of the year!

We have served 12-15 families at the Ibrahim food pantry twice a month touching almost 150 people each month! We distributed eggs in January in addition to two food bags! You know how expensive eggs are, so getting a dozen eggs at our pantry enables each family to stretch their \$\$!!

Our CBC "work team" shows up several times a month at Christ's Beloved Community driving UHaul rental trucks, unloading trucks and loading freezers and shelves, and helping to distribute food!

THANKS to all the Sunday morning "packers" who are so diligent! We have a double delivery to pack on Sunday Feb. 12th. We will need extra hands that morning and a couple extra cars/trucks to deliver these boxes on Tuesday and Wednesday that week.

Thanks to everyone is part of our Fabulous Food Teams!

Praying for Change on MLK Day

God of the word of comfort and the word of challenge,

Today is the day we honor a pastor and prophet, a tireless campaigner for civil rights and the conscience of the nation, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We give you thanks that you raised up such a witness for the beloved community and gave him words and deeds that still stir many and fill us with hope, even as our eyes are opened to the truth of lingering injustice. Help us honor his memory, not by simply paying lip service or by quoting lines often taken out of context; but let us listen more deeply to the plea he and those who stood with him and the Christ who anointed him that we may work for justice in small ways and in large, in daily human relationships and encounters and in systemic changes that lift up those who have been pushed down and recenter those who have been pushed to the margins.

May we give honor to Dr. King by acknowledging there is still much work to be done and then set about doing it, inside our own hearts and communities as well as in a wider world. Let justice roll down. Amen.

(prayer by Derek Weber, January 2023, from [Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism](#))

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.



Congratulations to Stephanie Lynn Wright, granddaughter of Marty Wylie, on her graduation from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Media Management Law & Policy with a Specialization in Creative Industry Management (Whew!) on December 17, 2022.

Stephanie will be the Publicity Coordinator for the Screen Actors Guild in Los Angeles, California. She will be writing press releases and statements, planning red carpet events, and being the in-between for the members/actors and the press.



Fun at Lego Night!



GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY

- CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Instant potatoes, saltine crackers
- SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Ground coffee (regular), peanut butter, toothbrushes, toothpaste (sample size)
- RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** - Paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags; individual snacks & drinks; <https://rmhcpt.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/>
- TRINITY GLEN** - Kleenex, Puffs, etc.
- 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
Early Childhood Center Director, Lisa Nichols
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Web Site: www.epiphanyws.org

2023 Congregation Council

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

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

All victims of war and violence

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

Simon Andrew Connolly	Randal Middleton
Travis Gerdes	David Schultz

For those who rejoice, especially

Debbie Spurlock at the birth of her granddaughter, Gianna Louise on January 1st. Parents are Jessica & Luther Anderson, sister Laila and brother Wilson.

Jim & Cathy Henricks at the birth of their grandson, Liam James Corbin on January 2nd. Parents are Jennifer & Braden Corbin.

Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially

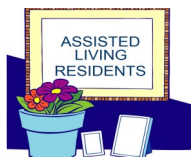
Judy Allison	Carolyn Graham	Jane Ritchie
Arnold Boliek	Linda Grale	Joanne Ritchie
Gail Bonsall	Pam Holcomb	Karen Rose
Thomas Cannon	Jean Jarvis	Janie Sapen
Clark Family	Cynthia Jeffies	Jim Schwartz
Mark Crouthamel & Family	Sebastian Kahabek	Nora Schweitzer
Nathan Daugus	Greg Kurosko	Gail Shirley
Rose Debruhl	PJ Lenihan	Sue Slezak
Sylvia Ann Derrick	Chad Marion	Germaine Smith
Carl Dubose	Linda McKenna	Michele Stanfield
Emily Ferriter	Janette Mickey	Earl Taylor
Howard & Bea Flichman	Angie Mitchell	Laura Turlington
Tara-Lynn Flick	Mark Moore	Alan Vestal
Andrea Francos	Allison Morris	Meg Wester
Jeffrey Gaither	Lisa Nichols	Nicole Williams
Pat & Joanne Gill	Robert & Mary Peak	Ruochong Wong
Jonathan Gomez	Andy Powless	John Wooding

Members in need, especially

Sharen Bond	Jim Lippard
Ann Cannon	Kathleen Malone
Chad Kraft	Wanda Rabb

Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of

Mary Risteen	Richard Jensen
Dan Wilkers	Jim Cochrane
Richard Golden	Catherine Lyerly
Virgil Lee Smith	



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	Polly Rector
Joyce Kohfeldt	Virginia Schmitz
Cole Lippard	Robert Walker

February Birthdays

John Hood	2/1
Jonathan Sloop	2/1
Zach Baker	2/2
Sawyer Walters	2/2
Sloan Walters	2/2
Lois Steichen	2/5
Jim Pierson	2/6
Susan Schmitt	2/7
Denise Henry	2/8
Chad Kraft	2/10
Megan McLaughlin	2/11
Luke Sherman	2/14
Anna Wellborn	2/18
Kaitlyn Mullane	2/22
Liam Nye	2/22
Nicole Kaluzne	2/23
Lauren Walsh	2/23
Kathleen Malone	2/28
Jeremy Sloop	2/29

February Baptisms

Laura Arens	2/1
John Beeg	2/1
Kevin Forrest	2/1
Linda Konkler	2/1
Evan Muday	2/1
Judy Mountjoy	2/2
Mitzi Silverstein	2/3
Hayden Sloop	2/12
Joe Cannon	2/21
Chris Schultz	2/22



We received thanks from:
Crisis Control Ministries

Are you interested in learning more about the causes of homelessness, including how US housing policies have contributed to making the homeless the fastest-growing demographic in America?

Join the Dwelling for Witnessing Homelessness, an 8-week community education course which meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm beginning February 21. As part of this course, you will meet local housing activists, hear stories from people experiencing homelessness, and learn more about how you can partner with agencies in our city to advocate for creative solutions.

To register, visit TinyURL.com/WitnessingHomelessness.
Or, for more information, contact Michael at Michael@theDwellingWS.org.

Witnessing Homelessness
Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm
February 21-April 11
@ the Augsburg Community Center

Join the Dwelling for an 8-week course which explores the history and causes of homelessness and seeks to connect community members to local activists advocating for fairer housing policies.

Register at:
Tinyurl.com/WitnessingHomelessness

Holy Light, Holy Darkness



In the strictest sense, white is the absence of color. You can't mix any colors together to get white. Conversely, black is the sum of all colors—what you obtain by mixing all colors on the spectrum together. Now many of you know what I look like. Very light complexion. So much so that I've laughed through the 40+ years I've known my mother-in-law because, as often as not, the first thing she says when she sees me (usually to Wendy) is “Tim's color wasn't good!” Or to me directly, “Tim, are you okay? You look so pale!” For 20 years I responded simply, “No, I think I'm okay, really.” But for the past 20 years I usually just say, “Nana. Look at me. These are my people.” The colorless ones.

I'm not being entirely frivolous here. Polarities of colorless vs. colorful, white vs. black, and light vs. dark abound in our culture. Trouble is, dominant cultures always define what any simple realities mean. Even worse, dominant and oppressive cultures assign value to one or the other side of analogies and opposites. I knew by the time I was four that the cowboys in the white hats were the good guys, and those in the dark hats were the bad guys. That's how we were taught to see things. Likewise skin tones. Light skin or clothing is *fair* or *pure*, like Snow White. Dark is evil. Think Maleficent or Darth Vader.

We are coming to realize as both culture and church that these stereotypes are not only not helpful, they are at their most insidious (even if subconsciously) purveyors of White privilege and supremacy. I can lecture until I'm blue in the face about the baptismal garment derivation of the liturgical *alb*—literally translated “white”—that resurged in the liturgical renewal of the 1960s. That it signifies purity and baptism from the (all-White) European church. It's even biblical, as in the Transfiguration or in Revelation's crowd dressed in white robes who have been through great tribulation and have been washed in the blood of the lamb. But white robes too often mean terror for people who don't look like me.

And then there's the season of the church year nearly upon us. Epiphany. Revealed. Made manifest. It juxtaposes light and darkness. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” Or even the star that the Magi follow to Jesus. But consider this. Light isn't the only thing that reveals; in fact, too much light blinds. Stars, including the Bethlehem star, are not visible during the day. That is to say that night, or darkness, is what reveals them. It's not “light good, dark bad.” It is light/darkness in tandem, as Genesis reminds us. “There was evening and there was morning, the first day.” Creation itself, like the seed in the dark earth, germinates in the darkness. A new life grows in the darkness of the womb.

The thing about light is that its reflection is what allows us to see any and all color. Including, of course, black, which again IS the sum of all color. As [Steven Thorngate notes in *The Christian Century*](#) (Dec. 2022, p. 58), “Many Christians would like to excise light/dark from our liturgical text—or at least exclude them from new ones—and for pretty persuasive reasons.” I commend his observations to you for pondering and discussing—his assertion that “Light/dark language is elemental. Can we embrace its richness while also seeking to avoid the harm it can do?” He offers six guidelines for consideration in using light/dark imagery and juxtaposition.

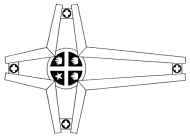
Like so many things as a White man in a dominant (White) culture, I am finding new struggle with Epiphany imagery and I resonate with Thorngate's six considerations to help guide our processing of how we cause no harm through imagery to which the dominant culture assigns pejorative connotations. Not easy work, but necessary. I also commend to you the recent book [God's Holy Darkness](#) by Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick. It's appropriate for all ages, children to adults, to help us lift up the beauty and necessity of darkness as part of God's good creation and rhythm of nature itself, night and day.

As a baby step this Epiphany, contemplate that as brilliant as the star that led the Magi to Jesus may have been, they never could have seen it except at night—holy light made visible by holy darkness that in contrast and interplay become a beautiful part of God's glorious creation. At the very least, be aware and careful with language. Remind folks that white = no color, and black = all color. While both have power and purpose, the greatest beauty is the intricate interplay and contrast of the whole spectrum—both poles and everything in between.

Blessed Epiphany.

Walking with you,

NC Synod Bishop



February

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			1 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir VC Out	2	3	4
5 After Worship WELCA Board Meeting (FH)	6 7 pm Internship Comm.	7 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	8 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	9 11:30 am Nora Deal Cir. (FH) 6 pm Worship	10	11 2 pm Denise Henry Ordination
12 Souper Bowl of Caring	13 7 pm Executive Comm.	14 Valentine's Day 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Dorothy Circle	15 10 am EECC Chapel 1:30 pm Widows Might 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	16 6 pm Finance	17	18 10 am Epiphany Quilters
19 Bold Women's Sunday 6 pm Movie Night (FH)	20 Presidents Day 6 pm EECC Comm. 7 pm Congregation Council No School	21 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (FH) 6 pm Handbells	22 Ash Wednesday 10 am EECC Chapel Noon Ash Wednesday Svc. 3 pm Staff 7 pm Ash Wednesday Svc.	23 6 pm Choir 7 pm Epiphany Readers	24	25
26	27	28 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells				