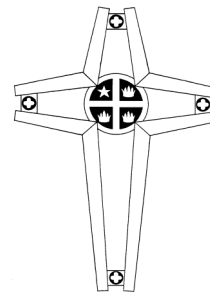


The Star

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



Volume MMXXIV
Number 2
February 2024

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



Dear Epiphany Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended the January 28 Annual Meeting. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

-The congregation approved the following:

- minutes from 2023 congregation meetings,
- the 2023 Annual Report,
- recognized leaders in the congregation concluding their terms of service in 2023,
- Zach Baker and Kathy Knecht to three-year terms as Endowment Committee members, and Budgets for Epiphany and EECC for 2024.

-We heard an exciting update about our capital campaign.

- Capital Campaign Chair, Dave Hinshaw, informed the congregation about the process we've used so far.
- We were introduced to the campaign theme, Renew and Rejoice.
- Jim Pierson shared the work of the Facilities Team to identify and prioritize projects.
- Received a helpful document, included in this month's Star, that outlines the scope and phases of these important projects.

Congregation members will be needed to help with various opportunities related to Renew and Rejoice in the upcoming months.

-2023 Treasurer, Terry Wiley shared a financial report.

- Both Epiphany and EECC had a financial surplus for 2023 and are in strong financial positions.
- The congregation approved allocating Epiphany's surplus to Capital Replacement, Prior Year Retained Earnings, and to our ministry partners.

-We gave God thanks that we received 2 estate gifts in 2023.

-We were introduced to Realm, a secure, online directory for Epiphany. All Epiphany members with email addresses will be receiving an invitation to create a Realm account in the next few days. Be sure to watch your inbox and your junk/spam box for an email from notifications@onrealmmail.org inviting you to join Epiphany's Realm page. The invite expires in a few days so please try to log in as soon as possible after you receive the email.

Instructions on how to set up a Realm account were emailed out to all congregation members the week of January 29.

Thanks, Epiphany, for all the ways you grow, connect, and serve. God has given us so much and I am thankful to serve alongside you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ruell

Mid-Week Lenten Suppers and Worship Begins on February 21

All are invited for a light supper at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Worship at 7 pm in the Sanctuary every Wednesday beginning February 21.

If you'd like to help with meals, please contact Kathy Pressley or the Church Office.

During a 30-minute Worship Service with Communion, we'll be looking at saints for the Lenten season. Throughout our history, the Church has commemorated the lives of saints who have used their gifts to serve God and neighbor. All saints, famous or those known only to God, witness to God's love and inspire us in our daily lives.

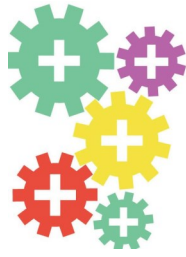
Feb. 21 – Elizabeth Fedde

Feb. 28 – John and Charles Wesley

March 6 – Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

March 13 – St. Patrick

March 20 – Oscar Romero



Encounter: Faith Together

Adult Encounter: Faith During Lent “Consider Your Own Call”

Starting February 18, you are invited to an exciting series called “Consider Your Own Call” at 9 am in the Library near the Sanctuary. We will hear stories of how God’s Spirit is calling people to service using their gifts and skills and discuss how God is calling us.

February 18 - Pastor Michael Dickson

Pastor Dickson is a pastor at First Lutheran in Greensboro and Coordinator for Social Justice and Advocacy Ministries for the NC Synod. In addition to presenting during Encounter: Faith, he will be our guest preacher in worship.

February 25 - Sandra Cline

Sandra is a familiar face in the Lutheran Church and has served in a variety of roles. She describes herself as “kinda” retired and serves as an ambassador for Global Refuge, formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

March 3 - Pastor Cassie Overcash

On Bold Women’s Sunday, we welcome Pastor Overcash, who is an Assistant to the Bishop for the NC Synod. She will be our guest preacher and presider in worship.

March 10 - Pastor Jennifer Ginn

Pastor Ginn has retired from parish ministry and now lives out her call as a writer and coach for church workers. She will be our guest preacher in worship.

March 17 - Matt Sherman

Matt is a high school principal at Blythewood High School, near Columbia, SC. Before he became principal in 2018, Matt has worked in education as a special education teacher, football coach, as well as an elementary and high school assistant principal.

March 24 – Your Story

After hearing the stories of people throughout Lent, we will take some time to share our own stories of how God has called or is calling us to serve in the church and in the world.

**HAPPENING NOW!!!
RECYCLE ALKALINE
BATTERIES**



Does your family use alkaline batteries?? When they are used up, do you throw them in your family trash? Right now, that’s the only place we can dispose of alkaline batteries in our state. Even though alkaline batteries no longer contain lead, they still leach chemicals into the ground soil at our landfills and eventually into ground water. Bring your used batteries to the church office (place scotch tape over both ends first) and drop them into the white bucket beside the copier. When the bucket is full, it will be shipped to Terracycle company who will recycle it properly. Check out other items that Terracycle can recycle for you (free of charge or for a fee) at <https://www.terracycle.com> (Burt’s Bees products, toothpaste tubes, Entenmann’s Little Muffin bags, Herbal Essence products, etc.)

YOU CAN make a difference in small ways as we Care for Creation at Epiphany!



We are looking for new ideas for fellowship opportunities for 2024 and we need your help. We are looking for things that members of our

congregation are interested in participating in and will have fun doing. We know everyone is not interested in the same things. No, you are not on another committee and there is no long-term commitment. This is all about fun and fellowship.

We’re planning to have a meeting on Sunday, February 4, immediately after church and you are welcome to attend and invite others. It will be a brainstorming meeting and all ideas are welcomed. We’re also looking for members to coordinate fellowship activities.

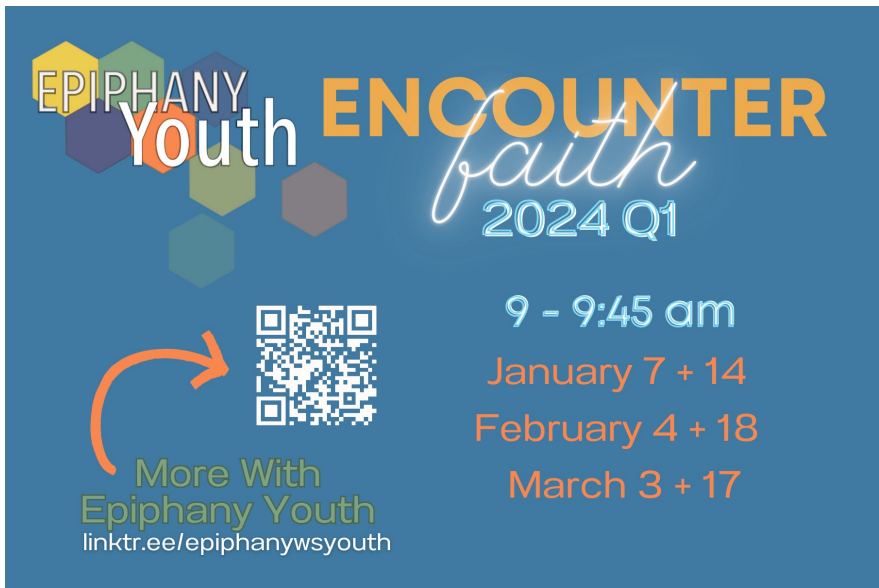
Please contact Jeanie Saphar at jsaphar@outlook.com or Kathy Pressley at Kpressley15@gmail.com if you have suggestions or questions.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us for Mike Spain & Crew’s famous pancake supper!

**February 13th
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**



EPIPHANY Youth ENCOUNTER faith 2024 Q1

9 - 9:45 am
January 7 + 14
February 4 + 18
March 3 + 17

More With Epiphany Youth
linktr.ee/epiphanywsyouth

Youth Encounter Faith!

Encounter: Faith is a 45 minute time for a deeper dive into scripture, prayer, and our lives for **6th - 12th grade students.**

Upcoming Events:



HOCKEY GAME

»»»» MARCH 10 ««««

JOIN EPIPHANY + MAPLE SPRINGS YOUTH AS WE HEAD TO THE



MEET AT EPIPHANY AT 3PM

COST \$14 FOR GAME



SPARK's Good Friday

Good Friday, March 29, 2024
9:00am - 1:30pm

Love Out Loud Yadkin Shore House
2400 Forbush Rd East Bend, NC

Join with local youth groups for an Easter experience involving breaking bread together, spiritual formation and serving others.

Join Epiphany Youth and other local youth groups as we serve on Good Friday with SPARK.

Sign Up with Liz - we'll carpool to and from the church.

Breakfast + Lunch Provided.




FIELD TRIP Vibes

April 8th
9 am
\$20

Join Epiphany Youth and Our Friends at Maple Springs as we enjoy the Science Center on the last day of Spring Break!




Want to Get Involved? Get Coffee?
Have Questions?

Liz Dinkins
336-589-6879
ldinkins@epiphanyws.org

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Website](#) | [Calendar](#)



Outreach is Planning!

2024 will be an exciting year for the Outreach Team! Epiphany’s Food Ministries continue to be an active, vital part of the congregation’s outreach into our community. And when we say “our community” we are not just talking about the Sherwood Forest area (which sees our outreach daily when parents are dropping off and picking up our students at our Epiphany Early Childhood Center). We extend our food ministries into the Walkertown area of Forsyth County (Ibrahim Elem. School) and into Kernersville (Smith Farm Elem.), into the South Main St. area of Winston-Salem (CBC Food Pantry), and into downtown Winston-Salem (at Cities with Dwellings and Samaritan Ministries).

We are currently serving 88 students at Ibrahim Elementary School with weekend bags of food and have added 32 students at Smith Farm Elementary EACH WEEK! Our food pantry at Ibrahim regularly serves 12-20 families twice a month. We support CBC’s community food pantry weekly as we pick up food at Second Harvest Food Bank and deliver it to CBC, unload the truck, and stock the shelves. We recently donated 80 “To-Go Bags” to The Dwelling when they opened their “White Flag” warming center during the cold weather.

All these food ministries need “people power” to pack items, deliver items, and distribute food. Unlike other food ministries, we do NOT lack funds—thanks to Joyce Kohfeldt’s legacy donations to Epiphany to fund food ministries at Epiphany. The Outreach Team is planning to honor Joyce’s memory by expanding food ministry programs in as many ways as we can over the next few years. Watch for “packing party” times to pack backpacks, compile Welcome Kits for Refugees, put together bags for homeless and others who need food items, and to collect and distribute other items to charities we support now and in the future. Please contact Jim Pierson (Outreach Chair) or Jackie Pierson (Assistant) at jackiejimpierson@gmail.com if you would like to be part of the Planning Committee of the Outreach Team. Outreach includes food ministries, Epiphany Builders, charities listed in the budget, Campus Ministry, and synod’s Refugee Program. We need your ideas, your time, and your enthusiasm for doing God’s Work in our Community.



Just a reminder that February 11th is the last day to bring items for Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to those who have already donated. Items needed include single serve breakfast and snack items, paper products, and 13 gallon trash bags. This is also a good time to turn in any pop tops from cans that you have been saving.

Bold Women's Sunday will be on March 3rd. Women will be serving in various roles during the service. Pastor Cassie Overcash, assistant to the Bishop for the NC Synod, will be our guest preacher and presider that day. We will also begin our annual food drive for Crisis Control on that Sunday.

Dates:

February 8-Nora Deal Circle- Valentine's celebration in the Fellowship Hall- 11:30 am

February 13-Mary Martha Circle- Fellowship Hall- 10 am

February 13-Dorothy Circle- church-7 pm

February 28- WELCA in charge of Lenten Supper

Epiphany Family,

Thank ou so much for your love and support for refugees! The welcome kits you assembled are going to great use by families who have recently arrived in the US.

We are grateful for your partnership. We would love to find more ways for you to connect in the coming months!

Peace,
Salisbury New Americans Program

To Epiphany Congregation, Jackie Pierson, and Pastor Peek:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of science fair materials, and also for donating your time to judge our projects. We could not have done this without you, and I truly appreciate it.

Erica Frost
Testing Coordinator
Ibrahim Elementary School



From your church council: We are starting our new year. The president is Dan Meckley, vice president is Matt Imboden, secretary is Mark Tellefsen and treasurer is Chris Schultz. Our other members are Betty Benardo, Patti Deal, Debbie Spurlock, Penny Mothershed, and

Kathy Knecht. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, please see one of us or Pastor Russell.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in Intent to Give cards. If you have not turned in your card, it's not too late! Please put your envelope in the offering plate or slip it under the church office door. We appreciate your support of our church.

After Easter Sunday, our capital campaign will begin. The funds raised will be used to renew our church home with facility upgrades and long-needed repairs. If you think of something that may need to be addressed, please contact one of the council members.

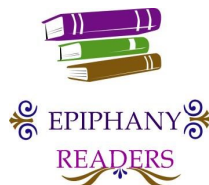
May your year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon you a bright, healthy, and peaceful 2024.

Epiphany Church Council



**Next meeting: February 21, 2024
1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall**

The Epiphany Readers will meet by Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, February 29th. The book that will be discussed in February is *The Enigma Affair* by Charlie Lovett. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



To Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://bit.ly/EpiphanyReaders>



The Faith of Young Children Nurtured at Epiphany Early Childhood Center

One way we partner together with families is through conferences, or parent/teacher talks. The following information is shared with families and staff, as part of the way we share in faith development with children. Pray for us as we start a new year of ministry at EECC.

The faith of young children Parenting Raising Faithful Preschoolers©2001 Augsburg Fortress

Faith growth in childhood involves many central needs: for approval and support, for a sense of belonging and assurance, for involvement in family life, and for exposure to a broader world. A child's faith life can be nurtured in a variety of ways that meet those needs. A key to faith growth is to develop a child's imagination and provide an order and routine that the child can trust.

To grow in faith, children need to experience God as a gracious parent and creator of all the good gifts they have. They can be encouraged to find God in the wonders around them, and to realize that God is part of all life. Although children may not find the words to describe their idea of God, God will speak and be revealed to them in ways they can understand.

Growth in faith is also nurtured when children develop an attitude of belonging to a church family, with its rituals, symbols, and stories. This happens when children experience church as the place where they find friends, loving acceptance, and happiness: where they can celebrate God's love and care in prayer and ritual.

Children need us to talk about Jesus in very human terms, emphasizing his goodness and kindness. When telling Bible stories or speaking about Jesus:

- Emphasize Jesus' caring and love for others.
- Make his life real for them by showing they can be kind, loving, and helpful, like he was.
- Imaginatively retell favorite Bible stories to children in language appropriate for them, using situations they may have experienced and will understand.

Our challenge is to develop children's sense of awe and wonder and instill in them a sense of thanksgiving and community as we introduce them to God, our creator, and to Jesus, our Lord.

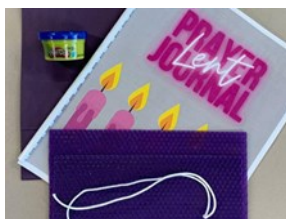
In His Service,
Lisa Nichols, Director



Sunday, February 11th is Super Bowl Sunday, but here at Epiphany, kids will be participating in the Souper 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.

Lent Kits Available for Families

The season of Lent is coming soon (Ash Wednesday is February 14th) and we will once again have Lent kits provided to us from the NC Synod. Lent kits are available for families with pre-readers up to 5th graders. There will be several activities/crafts and devotionals for children to help guide them through these 40 days. Please let Lauren Saldaña know if your children would like one.



Lenten Challenge in Encounter: Faith for Kids

In Encounter: Faith this Lenten season, we will be taking a look at the books of the Bible and learning which ones are in the New Testament and the Old Testament. We will also be practicing how to find a chapter

and verse in the Bible. By Easter, children will be able to find a verse in the Bible without having to know the page number! If you have any questions, please let Lauren Saldaña know.

Escape Game for Kids 2/25 4-5:30

Children are invited to come out and participate in an "Escape Room" where we will work together as a team to figure out a series of riddles/puzzles in order to find a solution to a problem. Escape games encourage children to work together and cheer on each other to work towards a common goal. Their reward will be a delicious pizza dinner! Please email Lauren Saldaña (lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) to sign your child up and indicate what type of pizza (pepperoni or cheese) they would like to eat.



Lutheroad is June 10-14 at Epiphany!

We are once again partnering with Augsburg Lutheran Church to bring Lutheroad Day Camp to Winston-Salem! Lutheroad will be **held at Epiphany** the week of June 10-14, Mon-Thurs 9-4 and Friday 9-12. Day Camp is open to children who will be completing Kindergarten through fifth grade. As always, Lutheroad is staffed with college-age counselors from Lutheridge, trained in youth ministry who will act as program leaders for the campers. Snacks will be provided each day, but campers must bring their own lunch and water bottles. Throughout the week campers will have Bible studies, games, small groups, Worship, craft time, and a service project. On Thursday evening, we will host a special program for friends and family where campers will showcase all that they have learned during the week! Registration is only \$50 per camper for the whole week and is due to the Epiphany office upon registration. Checks can be made out to the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany. If you are writing a check, please write Lutheroad and your camper's name(s) in the memo section. Scholarships are available. Space is limited, so check out the flyer and scan the QR code or go to the registration website <https://forms.gle/9HLY5D4PybNizxyt6> for more information and to sign up today!

The Lutheran Church of the Epiphany and Augsburg Lutheran Church present

Lutheroad Day Camp

June 10-14, 2024
M-Th 9:00-4:00, Fri 9:00-12:00

\$50 per camper for the whole week!

Held at Epiphany this year!

More info and registration at: <https://forms.gle/NNcZXBQ1216dA3Gy7> or scan QR code

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.

A Celebration of Life for John Wooding

Saturday, March 9, 2024 - 1:00-4:00 pm
Woodland Hall at Triad Park
9652 W Market St, Kernersville, NC

The Wooding family is hosting a celebration of life gathering for John Wooding, on March 9, at Triad Park (follow signs to Woodland Hall) starting at 1:00 pm. Barbecue from Prissy Polly's in Kernersville & beverages will be provided.

Please email Terry at tmwooding@gmail.com or text her at 336-813-6776, with name & number attending by February 10.



Fellowship Luncheon

You are invited to join us for lunch on Sunday, Feb 25, 2024 at Mojito Latin Soul Food. It is at 723 Trade St, NW, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. They have a wide variety of very good Latin soul food. They

do not open until 12:00 and do not take reservations but we should be able to get a table. Please let Jeanie Saphar (336-414-2856) or Kathy Pressley (336) 749-4889) know if you are interested in attending and if you would like to car pool.

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, body 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

THE DWELLING - New T-shirts, new underwear, new socks, mouth care products, shower supplies

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

Pastor of Visitation, Pastor Joanna Stallings

Email: jstallings@epiphanyws.org

Director of Music, Patryck Nuss

E-mail: music@epiphanyws.org

Director of Youth & Campus Ministry, Liz Dinkins

E-mail: ldinkins@epiphanyws.org

Director of Children's Ministries, Lauren Saldaña

E-mail: lsaldana@epiphanyws.org

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Web Site: www.epiphanyws.org

2024 Congregation Council

Officers:

Dan Meckley, Pres.
Matt Imboden, VP
Chris Schultz, Treas.
Mark Tellefsen, Sec.

Non-Council Officers:

Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.
Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll
Terry Wiley, Asst. Treasurer

Members:

Betty Benardo
Patti Deal
Kathy Knecht
Penny Mothershed
Debbie Spurlock
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 any form of violence

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

<i>Judy Allison</i>	<i>Carolyn Graham</i>	<i>Annette Pardue</i>
<i>Ashley Blackburn</i>	<i>Linda Grale</i>	<i>Robert & Mary Peak</i>
<i>Hannah Kestner Bockover</i>	<i>Pam Holcomb</i>	<i>Wyatt Axel Petersen</i>
<i>Thomas & Mary Cannon</i>	<i>Robin Hoots</i>	<i>Steve Reno</i>
<i>Clark Family</i>	<i>David Howard</i>	<i>Nora Schweitzer</i>
<i>William Collette</i>	<i>Kathy Hoyle</i>	<i>Sue Slezak</i>
<i>Judy Crouch</i>	<i>Jean Jarvis</i>	<i>Michele Stanfield</i>
<i>Rose Debruhl</i>	<i>Katie Lippard</i>	<i>Laura Turlington</i>
<i>Paul DeJute</i>	<i>Chad Marion</i>	<i>Alan Vestal</i>
<i>Sylvia Ann Derrick</i>	<i>Susan Martz</i>	<i>Emma Wester</i>
<i>Carl Dubose</i>	<i>Linda McKenna</i>	<i>Lynn Wiemann</i>
<i>Howard Flichman</i>	<i>Allison Morris</i>	<i>Nicole Williams</i>
<i>Pat & Joanne Gill</i>	<i>Kirsten Nuss</i>	<i>Leigh Yarner</i>
<i>Jonathan Gomez</i>		

Members in need, especially

<i>The Rev. John Beeg</i>	<i>Jim Lippard</i>	<i>Jean Mock</i>
<i>Sharen Bond</i>	<i>Jane Lyerly</i>	<i>Wanda Rabb</i>
<i>Ann Cannon</i>	<i>Judy Meisinger</i>	<i>Susan Tellefsen</i>
<i>Chad Kraft</i>		

Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of

Terry Peyton
Paul Oldland
Dot Elvington
Liz Shumate



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



Bonnie Bryant
Doris Kent
Cole Lippard
Polly Rector
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



Make A Note

Doris Kent:
New Address

Call the church office for information.



We received thanks from:

Crisis Control Ministries
Habitat for Humanity
Samaritan Ministries

Epiphany Congregation and Staff

The Oldland family and friends want to thank the congregation and staff for organizing the memorial service for Paul.

The service was very beautiful and meaningful, especially the choir and the music.

I have appreciated so much the many cards and prayers that have touched my heart. Words cannot express my gratitude and thanks to Epiphany members for your kindness, love, and support from this congregation.

God bless,
Martha Oldland

Please thank the congregation for their prayers, cards, and phone calls. My health condition cannot be fixed due to a very weak heart, so I must live with my condition. I get very short of breath if I go out in the cold air, so I hope to return to church in the spring.

Jean Mock



RENEW & REJOICE

Lutheran Church of the Epiphany

After months of planning and evaluating our facility that hosts and shapes our ministry together, we are excited to share the project list for our proposed Renew & Rejoice Capital Campaign.

We had two forums in the Fall of 2023. The first forum was on September 30, 2023, when Epiphany members were invited to discuss the current state of Epiphany's organ and future options to ensure we have an organ to help lead singing praises to God in worship. Many Epiphany members have spent countless hours maintaining and fixing the organ since it was installed in the 1970's. Recently, we discovered a potential safety hazard. We are thankful for the dedication of people throughout the years to keep our organ going, but the time has come for us to replace our organ with a new instrument that will serve us in worship for generations to come.

In October of 2023, we invited the congregation members to a presentation about our needs and sent them off to look at our facilities and make recommendations for improvements and repairs. The Capital Campaign Projects Team worked through each recommendation and determined if the need was better suited for a potential capital campaign or regular annual maintenance. An example of regular maintenance would be power washing the sidewalks.

Next the team prioritized the potential campaign projects considering safety, mitigating more long term damage, and pairing multiple projects that would help keep the overall costs down.

We are grateful for their hard work and faithfulness to this process. We are confident in their choices and on Monday, January 15, the Congregation Council voted to take the proposed list to the congregation. Our base goal for the proposed campaign includes \$1,250,000 in projects and our challenge goal is \$1,600,000.



PROPOSED PROJECTS

To help us manage cost and project implementation, the Capital Campaign Projects Committee has provided 3 Phases for our review.

PHASE 1 PROJECT LIST \$750,000

While the safety of the organ is first and foremost, our concern for implementing Phase 1 of the projects, other repairs and updates to the sanctuary will help renew our worship space and make it more inviting for members and new visitors searching for a church home. By pairing these projects we limit our overall time out of the sanctuary and the number of trips for contractors to do the work. All costs are estimated and a contingency to cover the cost of fundraising and price increases due to inflation or unexpected costs have been added to each phase.

♪ Organ \$588,000

Rather than attempt to rebuild or repair the numerous issues with the existing organ, including an electrical issue, we have elected to replace the organ with a pipe organ from Lewtak Organ Builders of Mocksville, North Carolina.

♪ Sanctuary Repairs & Contingency \$162,000

These repairs include repairing the crack in the Narthex floor, updating the pews, cushions, carpet, and hardwoods.

PHASE 2 PROJECT LIST \$500,000

Our Phase 2 Project List is included in our base goal for the potential campaign. Our parking lot has damage below the surface that requires a full replacement for future safety. In addition, we believe the other updates in Phase 2 will make us more welcoming and inviting for new visitors. They will help beautify the grounds and provide additional accessibility.

♪ Parking Lot \$182,000

Our parking lot is showing signs of failure called alligator cracks. Because a large portion of the parking lot has significant cracking that has compromised the foundation, it is necessary to repave the parking lot.

♪ Office Windows \$175,000

There are many windows at our church home that are from the 1960's. Replacing these windows will increase our energy efficiency and lower the church's energy bills.

♪ Other Updates & Contingency \$143,000

These updates include adding building signage, adding columbarium niches, and building a walkway canopy. They also include landscaping our beds and adding solar panels to the building.

PHASE 3 CHALLENGE GOAL PROJECT LIST \$350,000

We believe we will reach our challenge goal. The projects listed here don't have immediate safety concerns, but they were projects you shared that mattered to you as members of the congregation.

♪ Kitchen Updates \$175,000

The Fellowship Hall kitchen will be remodeled to add commercial stoves and other appliances for church gatherings and possibly new ways we could serve our neighbors.

♪ Other Updates & Contingency \$175,000

The Fellowship Hall and the EECC (Epiphany Early Childcare Center) floors will be replaced. New chairs will be bought for the Fellowship Hall, the office bathrooms will be updated, and we will improve our assistive listening system for the sanctuary.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL TOGETHER

To fully attain our challenge goal of \$1,600,000, the following gifts in the quantities listed will need to be received by our Epiphany community members.

The campaign will launch officially after Easter of this year. If you would like to make a down payment on your future total commitment, you may do so, but we are not quite ready to ask you for that 3-year commitment just yet.

Number of Gifts	Value of Gift Over 3 Years	Running Total
1	\$250,000	\$250,000
1	\$150,000	\$400,000
1	\$100,000	\$500,000
1	\$75,000	\$575,000
2	\$50,000	\$675,000
3	\$36,000	\$783,000
4	\$24,000	\$879,000
6	\$15,000	\$969,000
8	\$12,000	\$1,065,000
8	\$9,000	\$1,137,000
8	\$6,000	\$1,185,000
9	\$3,600	\$1,217,400
10	\$1,800	\$1,235,400
11	\$1,095	\$1,247,445
5	\$600	\$1,250,445
Total		\$1,250,445

CHALLENGE GOAL

Number of Gifts	Value of Gift Over 3 Years	Running Total
1	\$300,000	\$300,000
1	\$210,000	\$510,000
1	\$150,000	\$660,000
1	\$125,000	\$785,000
1	\$90,000	\$875,000
2	\$60,000	\$995,000
3	\$36,000	\$1,103,000
5	\$24,000	\$1,223,000
5	\$18,000	\$1,313,000
8	\$12,000	\$1,409,000
8	\$9,000	\$1,481,000
8	\$6,000	\$1,529,000
10	\$3,600	\$1,565,000
10	\$1,800	\$1,583,000
15	\$1,095	\$1,599,425
1	\$600	\$1,600,025
Total		\$1,600,025

The Peace Child



We, as North American Christians, take so much for granted. Most of us were born into a Christian home. Many of us had parents and grandparents who passed along the faith. Few have ever been persecuted for our Christian beliefs and values. We take for granted the fact that, on any given Sunday morning, we can wake up and make a choice about whether or not we go to worship. But allow me to share with you about a place where that has not always been the case.

The country is Papua New Guinea (PNG). The year is 1922. The first American Lutheran missionaries, Edward and Adina Piatt, with their daughter Lois, arrive in this foreign land where 800 different tribal languages are spoken. They witness a primitive culture where cannibalism is still practiced. They live and work in a place where the terms “Luther League,” “WELCA” and “pot-luck suppers” are foreign words.

Fast forward to the year 1988. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is born out of a merger of three different church bodies. Part of the vision and dream is that all 65 synods of the ELCA have a companion or partner synod somewhere else in the world. The North Carolina Synod is assigned the Yabim District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea and a beautiful relationship is born. In the past 36 years, we have exchanged prayers, camp counselors, resources, and visits from our bishops and staff. And it has been the support of our congregations that has made this relationship possible.

You may be wondering what has happened in Papua New Guinea since the Piatt family arrived in 1922 to make such a relationship a reality. Today 90% of those who live in PNG are Christian. And 25% of those are Lutheran. The Lutherans are the largest Protestant presence in this country which did not gain its independence until 1975. The interesting fact about those first missionaries who arrived in 1922 is that they struggled for years and years to learn the languages and culture and build the trust level to be able to share the good news of the gospel. The first baptism did not take place for almost ten years after they arrived. And there is a very powerful, true story that is told in PNG about an experience that led to that first baptism.

It seems that in the 1930s there was still much fighting between the tribes or family clans that make up this country. The custom or tradition that led to peace was that when two tribes could not achieve peace through fighting and warfare, they would exchange a baby from one tribe to the other. In other words, when a truce was called, the first baby born in one tribe would be given to the other tribe to raise and nurture; the tribe that received the baby would do the same, giving their firstborn to the other. This custom worked through the agreement that as long as these children lived, there would be no fighting between the tribes. They called it the exchange of the “Peace Child.”

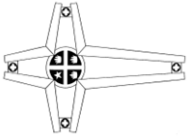
Well, when the first Lutheran missionaries learned of this custom, they had an “ah-ha” experience, and a breakthrough was made. They picked up on this notion of a Peace Child, and they explained to the locals that Jesus is God’s Peace Child. They shared that God gave God’s only son to live and die and rise again so that we might live in peace. And since that day, millions of Papua New Guineans have come to know Jesus Christ as the “Peace Child.”

As we celebrate God’s presence during this season of Epiphany, we are reminded that through the waters of Baptism, we are called, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world. For Jesus Christ is our Epiphany. Jesus Christ is our Peace Child.

Thankful for our partnership,

Pastor Phil Tonnesen,
Acting Bishop, NC Synod, ELCA





HELLO February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9 am Adult Encounter: Faith 9 am Kids E:F 9:30 am Backpack Prep 10am Worship				1	2	3
4 9 am Youth E:F After Worship WELCA Board Meeting (FH) After Worship Fellowship Meeting	5 6:30 pm CC Steering Committee	6 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	7 10 am EECC Ch. (LN) 3 pm Staff 5 pm Worship Comm. (AL) 6 pm Choir	8 11:30 am Nora Deal Cir. (FH)	9	10
11 Supper Bowl of Caring After Worship CC forum (FH)	12 7 pm Executive Comm.	13 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study (AL) Noon CC forum (FH) 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (FH) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Dorothy Circle (FH)	14 Ash Wednesday 10 am EECC Ch. (LS) Noon Ash Wednesday Svc. 3 pm Staff 7 pm Ash Wednesday Svc	15 6 pm Finance 6 pm Choir	16	17 10 am Epiphany Quilters
18 19 9 am Youth E:F	19 Presidents Day 6 pm EECC Comm. 7 pm Congregation Council	20	21 10 am EECC Ch. (PR) 1:30 pm Widows Might 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	22 6 pm Choir 7 pm Epiphany Readers	23	24
25 After Worship Fellowship Luncheon @ Mojito Latin Soul Food 4-5:30 pm Kids Escape Room	26	27	28 10 am EECC Ch. (LS) 3 pm Staff 6 pm Lenten Supper 7 pm Evening Prayer	29 6 pm Choir		