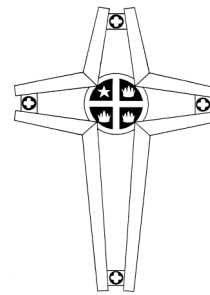


# The Star

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



Volume MMXXIII  
Number 1  
January 2023

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



2023 looks to be an exciting year for Epiphany. But before I talk about 2023, I want to take a minute and close out 2022 by saying "thank you" to all of you. We had a strong year in 2022 and it happened because of you.

2023 marks the 61<sup>st</sup> year of ministry for Epiphany. We've been through a lot of exciting times together, and this coming year is no exception.

Earlier this fall our Council came up with three key areas of focus for 2023. They are:

## 1. Renew our church home.

Over the last several years we've done a great job of maintaining our church home with some important things. A couple of examples: many of our HVAC systems have been replaced. We've made the switch to LED lighting throughout the building. We've replaced the carpet in the narthex. We've replaced the playground equipment. We've upgraded several parts of our "digital" infrastructure.

With all those improvements, we still need to do some work on our facility so it can serve the next generation well. This will most likely mean we will need to have a capital campaign.

## 2. Enhance communications within our church family.

We continually need to look at how we communicate. The pandemic taught us the importance of live-streaming and Zoom meetings. Are there other steps we need to be taking? For instance, it's been many years since we had an updated pictorial directory.

## 3. Expand our outreach.

One of the specific things related to this is that we believe God is calling us to help resettle a refugee family coming to our country. Epiphany has done this several times in its history and it is time for us to step up again. We don't know how yet, but we do know this will be something we need to focus on in 2023.

How can you help? What gifts and skills do you have to help make these goals happen? I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can serve.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ruell*



Join us for our annual meeting after worship on Sunday, January 29th. We will review 2022 and look forward to 2023.



There will be a public forum to learn about the proposed 2023 Budget on January 19th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to review our plans for ministry next year or raise questions or concerns prior to the annual meeting is welcome.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your congregation council! Our December meeting was used to elect our new 2023 officers, thank 2022's officers, welcome the new members to the Council and to say "thank you" to the members who roll off.

Our 2023 council's officers are: Chris Schultz, President; Betty Benardo, VP; Terry Wiley, Treasurer; and Mark Tellefsen, Secretary. We welcome Patti Deal, Dan Meckley, and Mark Tellefsen to Council and offer our farewell to Clinton Moyer, Jeanie Saphar, and Janet Wallace. Thank you for your service the last three years. We have enjoyed working with you, and we look forward to working with you again in the future in different roles. As members, we are working toward the same purpose: **grow** our relationship with God, **connect** with each other, and **serve** the world.

We are excited about 2023. Our plans are to renew our church home with some facility upgrades and long-needed repairs. We are enhancing our connections within our church family by creating a church directory – with pictures – an online version and a printed version. We are continuing to reconnect in person after a long COVID-imposed separation. Watch the calendar for Parish Life updates so that you can participate in activities. Last, but not least, Epiphany is expanding our Outreach in the community by joining with Lutheran Services to help with Refugee work/resettlement.

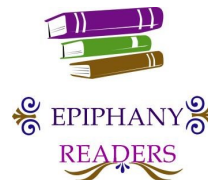
Please do not hesitate to contact one of the council members with comments, concerns or suggestions. Happy New Year!!

Epiphany Congregation Council



**No meeting in December**  
**Next meeting: January 18, 2022, 1:30 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

The Epiphany Readers' first meeting of 2023 by Zoom will be at 7pm on Thursday, January 26, 2022. The book that will be discussed in January is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484040336?pwd=NVBsSUNKaVBPeWJsZzZZZQk1sZkVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 8404 0336  
 Passcode: 273113  
 One tap mobile  
 +19292056099,,83484040336#,,,,\*273113# US (New York)  
 +13017158592,,83484040336#,,,,\*273113# US (Washington DC)



Epiphany is such a generous congregation. Thanks to all of you who have responded to WELCA's requests for contributions to various organizations during 2022.

WELCA's spotlight organization for January is Ronald McDonald House. We will be collecting cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and 13-gallon trash bags. Kool Aid Jammers and individually packaged snacks such as chips, peanuts, Cheez-Its, peanut butter crackers, etc. are needed for their snack cart.

Ronald McDonald House also collects pop tops from cans. These are sold to Omni Source, and the money is used to send siblings of sick children whose families are staying in the house to day camp at the YMCA during the summer.

Please put your contributions in the box in the narthex or the Ronald McDonald box under the coat rack.

### For the example of St. Nicholas

Loving God, we thank you for the example of St. Nicholas, who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do. Give us the courage, love and strength of St. Nicholas, so that, like him, we may serve you through loving our brothers and sisters. Amen.

*(from Amy Welborn, author of St. Nicholas of Myra: A Saint for Advent and Christmas)*



**Lutheroad is Coming!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

DAYCAMP 2023



**JUNE 12-16, 2023**

More details to come.



Our children made “Piggy Banks” in December to collect money for our ELCA Good Gifts collective church contribution. Our goal is to be able to afford 1 whole pig

using all the children’s collected offerings. Piggy Banks are due back at church by Epiphany (Friday, January 6th). **That means if you are bringing it on a Sunday, please have them in by Sunday, January 1st.**

**LEGO Night Sunday, January 15th 3:00-5:00**

Come join us for a creative night of building with LEGOs! Children can bring any LEGOs they have (or might have received at Christmas) and we will provide base plates for them. We will be going through a series of bible stories and making LEGO vignettes to illustrate them. We will also have DUPLO blocks available for younger kids and extra LEGOs for kids who need them. A fun “buildable” snack and refreshments will be provided.



(Easter LEGO scene by Niamh Newton <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-52238199>)

**There will be no Encounter: Faith on January 1st, 2023. Encounter: Faith will return on Sunday, January 8th at 9:00 in the EECC cafeteria.**

Please put the week of **June 12-16, 2023** on your calendar. This year, we will be partnering with Augsburg Lutheran Church to host Lutheroad Day Camp. We have already begun the planning and preparation for an awesome week. Because we will have more campers this year, we are holding Lutheroad at Augsburg as it has a larger facility. I hope this will give our kids an opportunity to meet new friends and see what another Lutheran church in the area is like. Let all your friends and neighbors know and get ready for another wonderful week of worship, fun, and memories! Registration info is coming soon.



**Intergenerational Crafting**



# EECC Happy Birthday, Jesus Party!



Away we went, that early morning of December 5th, to the Binns-Counts Community Center in McClure, VA, with TWO sleighs full of Christmas for the children who live in those mountains. Mike Spain's truck, with Jim Pierson as co-pilot, was loaded with eight beautiful bicycles donated by a loving Epiphany family, and my car was filled to the rooftop with Epiphany's gifts - an amazing array of toys, games, books, balls and bats, socks and underwear to delight the many youngsters who would receive them.



The ladies who volunteer at the center had been very busy for weeks filling bags for the preschool children and the special needs children at the school. We saw 200 filled bags, ready and waiting for their party, with over 400 yet to be filled! The joy of this most special job shone in everyone's face as they told us how this incredible event unfolds. They said to us, "You always bring us what we need!"



After everything was unloaded and we had some good, but brief, visiting time, we headed back down the mountains to NC, but before we left, there were lots of shared hugs of gratitude and genuine friendship.



Thank you, thank you, to all who sent gifts to these dear children who will have a joyful, happy Christmas. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful ministry.

God's Peace and Joy this Holy Season,  
Kathleen Tucker



Nora,  
Virginia



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.



The LSM gang at the Lighting of the Quad at WFU



EECC classes sing for the Mary-Martha Circle

### GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR JANUARY

**CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Beef stew, saltine crackers

**SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Canned fruit, sugar, deodorant, high efficiency laundry detergent packs/pods, 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** - Deodorant

**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](mailto:pastorrussell@epiphanyws.org)

**Vicar,** Christina Nesslage

Email: [vicar@epiphanyws.org](mailto:vicar@epiphanyws.org)

**Director of Music,** Patryck Nuss

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**Director of Children's Ministries,** Lauren Saldaña

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**Web Site:** [www.epiphanyws.org](http://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**

<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*

**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**

<i>Simon Andrew Connolly</i>	<i>Randal Middleton</i>
<i>Travis Gerdes</i>	<i>David Schultz</i>

**Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially**

<i>Judy Allison</i>	<i>Pat &amp; Joanne Gill</i>	<i>Jane Ritchie</i>
<i>Arnold Boliek</i>	<i>Richard Golden</i>	<i>Joanne Ritchie</i>
<i>Gail Bonsall</i>	<i>Jonathan Gomez</i>	<i>Karen Rose</i>
<i>Thomas Cannon</i>	<i>Carolyn Graham</i>	<i>Janie Sapen</i>
<i>Clark Family</i>	<i>Pam Holcomb</i>	<i>Jim Schwartz</i>
<i>Mark Crouthamel &amp; Family</i>	<i>Sebastian Kahabek</i>	<i>Nora Schweitzer</i>
<i>Nathan Dagus</i>	<i>Greg Kurosko</i>	<i>Sue Slezak</i>
<i>Rose Debruhl</i>	<i>PJ Lenihan</i>	<i>Germaine Smith</i>
<i>Sylvia Ann Derrick</i>	<i>Chad Marion</i>	<i>Michele Stanfield</i>
<i>Carl Dubose</i>	<i>Linda McKenna</i>	<i>Earl Taylor</i>
<i>Emily Ferriter</i>	<i>Janette Mickey</i>	<i>Laura Turlington</i>
<i>Howard &amp; Bea Flichman</i>	<i>Angie Mitchell</i>	<i>Alan Vestal</i>
<i>Andrea Francos</i>	<i>Allison Morris</i>	<i>Nicole Williams</i>
<i>Jeffrey Gaither</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Mary Peak</i>	<i>Ruochong Wong</i>
	<i>Andy Powless</i>	<i>John Wooding</i>

**Members in need, especially**

<i>Sharen Bond</i>	<i>Chad Kraft</i>	<i>Kathleen Malone</i>
<i>Ann Cannon</i>	<i>Jim Lippard</i>	<i>Wanda Rabb</i>
<i>Jim Cochrane</i>		

**Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of**

*Amy Deal*



*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*  
*Joyce Kohfeldt*  
*Cole Lippard*  
*Polly Rector*  
*Virginia Schmitz*  
*Robert Walker*

**January Birthdays**

Sue Muhler	1/4
Laura Arens	1/6
Ann Cannon	1/6
Brighton Lapidus	1/7
Lizzie Blank	1/8
An Bunjang	1/9
Amanda Reich	1/9
Marie DuBois	1/10
Morgan Tacik	1/10
Mike Spain	1/12
Joanne Stallings	1/18
Joe Cannon	1/21
Connor Forrest	1/21
Matt Imboden	1/23
Santiago Saldaña	1/23
Chris Schultz	1/23
Gloria Muday	1/25
Oliver Imboden	1/26
Lee Ann Meckley	1/27
Debra Sloop	1/27
Calvin Sherman	1/28

**January Baptisms**

Marjorie Cassady	1/1
Bob Martin	1/1
Darlene Martin	1/1
Clinton Moyer	1/1
Marilyn Mullane	1/1
Leann Pace	1/1
Terry Wooding	1/1
Dan King	1/3
Grady Watson	1/9
Betty Benardo	1/12
Jared Hunter	1/13
Alex Saphar	1/14
Cailee Wilcut	1/18
Cole Lippard	1/24
Lauren Robins	1/25
Santiago Saldaña	1/27
Henry Sloop	1/27
Charlene Wellborn	1/27
Lindsey Robins	1/29
Ann Cannon	1/31



**Make A Note**

**Sue Muhler:**  
 Address

*Call the church office for information.*



<i>Jared &amp; Corey Wilcut</i>	<i>1/1</i>
<i>Jim &amp; Jackie Pierson</i>	<i>1/4</i>
<i>Lew &amp; Jeanie Saphar</i>	<i>1/14</i>

**We wish you many more years of happiness!**



**We received thanks from:**

**Samaritan Ministries**  
**Trellis Supportive Care**

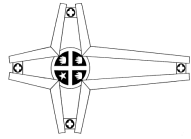
# Christmas Eve Gingerbread Church Made by Calvin Sherman



Calvin Sherman made this gingerbread church and shared it with the congregation after the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. It was a very special send-off on Christmas Eve!



Thanks, Calvin!



# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day Epiphany Sunday No E:F	2 Office Closed for New Year's Day Winter Break	3 11 am Bible Study (AL) Winter Break	4 10 am EECC Chapel Noon Staff Lunch 6 pm Choir	5	6	7
8	9 7 pm Executive Comm. 7 pm Internship Comm.	10 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Dorothy Circle	11 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	12 11:30 am Nora Deal Cir. 6 pm Worship	13	14
15 3-5 pm Lego Night	16 MLK, Jr. Day Office & EECC Closed 7 pm Congregation Council	17 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	18 10 am EECC Chapel 1:30 pm Widows Might (FH) 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	19 6 pm Budget Forum (FH)	20	21 10 am Epiphany Quilters
22	23 6 pm EECC Committee	24 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	25 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	26 7 pm Epiphany Readers	27	28
29 After Worship Annual Meeting (FH)	30	31 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells				Every Sunday 9 am Adult Encounter: Faith 9 am Encounter: Faith 9:40 am Backpack Prep 10am Worship