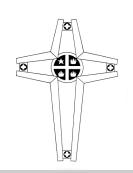


The Monthly Newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany
An ELCA Congregation



Volume MMXXIV Number 3 March 2024

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

Dear Epiphany Disciples,

We're in the middle of the Lenten season. I hope it's been a meaningful time filled with chances to learn and grow in the God who

loves us with an everlasting love in Jesus.

Throughout the Lenten season, we're talking about the importance of stories. On Sunday mornings, we're welcoming several guests to our church to talk about how God is moving in their lives and in the lives of the organizations they work with. I hope you can be present for Encounter: Faith at 9 am and in worship at 10 am.

On Wednesday nights, we gather for a light supper at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm. Keeping with the theme of stories, we will be talking about the lives of saints. This brief worship service is filled with time for reflection, singing, the Word, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It is always a great time for fellowship and worship.

As a reminder, something I usually like to emphasize during Advent and Lent is the importance of hospitality. Regular church goers will see people that may come during these times. Here are some helpful hints to remember:

- -Never, ever guilt or shame anyone who occasionally comes, even if you're being sarcastic. Not only is it bad hospitality, but it also doesn't work because it gives them less incentive to come back again. It is always much better to greet someone with a warm welcome with sincere words like, "I'm so glad you're here."
- -It's usually better to say something like, "Hi I'm (Name). I'm having a hard time remembering your name." or "I don't think we've met before, I'm (Name)" rather than saying, "Are you a visitor?"

If you ask, "Are you a visitor?" you're putting them on the spot. If they're especially suspicious, they'll wonder if you're out to get them to join the church. It also doesn't get to a person's name, which is important in building a relationship.

If you say you're having a hard time remembering someone's name, you're putting it on you. It's a different way to ask the question, but it matters.

-We don't have assigned seats here at Epiphany. If someone sits where you normally sit, it's not the end of the world.

Wishing you a blessed, holy season!

Yours in Christ,

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	3 0 11	
Sunday, 3/3	9 am 10 am	Encounter:Faith 3rd Sunday of Lent Bold Women's Sunday
Wed, 3/6	6 pm 7 pm	Lenten Supper Lenten Eucharist
Sunday, 3/10	9 am 10 am	Encounter:Faith 4th Sunday of Lent
Wed, 3/13	6 pm 7 pm	Lenten Supper Lenten Eucharist
Sunday, 3/17	9 am 10 am	Encounter:Faith 5th Sunday of Lent
Wed, 3/20	6 pm 7 pm	Lenten Supper Lenten Eucharist
Sunday, 3/24	9 am 10 am	Encounter:Faith Palm Sunday
Thurs, 3/28	Noon 1 pm 7 pm	Maundy Thursday Service Senior Lunch Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, 3/29	Noon 7 pm	Good Friday Service Good Friday Service
Sunday, 3/31	9 am 9:30 am 10 am	Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship

Who is Your Plus One?

In a previous church I served, they had a habit of making sure there was at least one empty chair at every meeting. They did this as a tangible reminder to always be thinking about who else they could involve in the life of that congregation.

I like that idea a great deal and I think it's time for us to start thinking about that same question as well. Who else can we involve in the life of our congregation? Is there someone you could invite to worship on Sunday morning?

With that said, it doesn't have to be something on Sunday morning. You could invite someone to come to our Tuesday morning Bible study, Saturday morning's quilting group, Widows Might, unloading boxes of food for our backpack ministry or over at Christ's Beloved Community, or something else. But I wonder, is there one person you could invite to come to something at Epiphany?

Some tips on inviting others:

-What you're doing matters. There's a difference between saying something like, "We need more people to help unload boxes of food (or whatever you're doing)." versus "We have this group of people who help unload boxes of food for hungry kids in our community (or whatever it is you're doing). It's a really important part of my faith because (fill in the blank)."

-Offer to pick them up and to take them out (your treat) for lunch or coffee afterwards. You could say something like, "How about I come and get you at 10:45 and after we're done, we can go to (fill in the blank of your favorite place)?"

-If they can come, then make sure to practice hospitality. Introduce them to others, make sure they know what they're doing. Do all you can to make them comfortable.

-It's ok if they say no! Don't get offended.

Who is your +1 for things happening at Epiphany?

Minor Variation is Wake Forest University's premier all-female Christian a cappella ensemble. It has been a couple of years since we have had the opportunity to hear them. They will provide the service music on April 7th. Their music is always enjoyable, so plan to be there.





March 10th



Can you help fill the table?

I'm asking for 8 people to provide a dish for the March 13th Wednesday Lenten Supper at 6pm. The dish can

be a large batch of soup, a tray sandwiches (equivalent of 1 loaf) or a main dish. We like to have the food at the church by 5:45 pm, if possible. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can let me know via email at kpressley15@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your help!

Kathy Pressley







Fresh produce and eggs in refrigerator waiting for distribution to families at Ibraham Food Pantry



Women ELCA

Thank you to everyone who made contributions to Ronald McDonald House during January and February. Immediately following the noon Maundy Thursday service, Nora Deal Circle will once again host a luncheon for Epiphany's staff and anyone 65 and older. We invite you to make a reservation when the time comes and attend.

March 3 is designated by the ELCA as Bold Women's Sunday. This is a day set aside to celebrate Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. A woman can be bold in prayer, service to others, in advocacy, or through hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. Epiphany will celebrate by having women participate in all areas of our worship service. Our guest preacher will be Pastor Cassie Overcash, Assistant to the Bishop, North Carolina Synod.

This is also the day that WELCA will begin our annual food drive for Crisis Control. This will run from March 3rd-24th (Palm Sunday). Last year we had a goal of 610 items and actually collected 737! I invite the congregation to include this as part of your Lenten discipline this year.

Dates:

March 12--Mary Martha Circle- Fellowship Hall- 10 am

March 12-- Dorothy Circle- church- 7 PM

March 28-- Nora Deal Circle hosts Maundy Thursday luncheon

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart"





9am in Youth Room

March 3 + 17 April 21 May 5 + 19

High Schoolers

Still Interested in the Youth Gathering? July 16-20 in New Orleans

Epiphany is partnering with Christ Beloved Community and we have SIX STUDENTS signed up!

Contact Liz to join us!

upcoming events

FRI - March 10

Youth Hockey Game @ Carolina Thunderbirds 3pm | \$14

SUN - March 29

Community Youth
Good Friday Service Day
with SPARK

MON - April 8

Youth Outing to Greensboro Science Ctr Friends + Parents Welcome 9am | \$20

Sign Up for All Events + Join Our Weekly Email

by Emailing Liz
Idinkins@epiphanyws.org
or visiting
epiphanyws.org/youth





We're about halfway through the semester at Wake and our students are having a great time growing together.

We're prepping for an overnight retreat in April - worshipping with Episcopal Student Fellowship on Sunday Afternoons and appreciating great food provided by Epiphany Families!

Keep your eye out for this years
T-Shirt for sale - which we'd love
to be repped by Wake Alumnus
and Epiphany Members in
addition to our current students!

Stay in the loop by joining our weekly email or following us on Facebook or Instagram!











Greetings from your Church Council,

The Church Council is overseeing the various areas of ministry at Epiphany during this busy start of the year. Most immediately, the church remains in good financial standing. Our Parish Ministry

has coordinated the offering of a light meal at 6:00 pm prior to each of the midweek Lenten services.

One of the Council's Key Areas of Focus for 2024 is Youth and Campus Ministry. Thanks to Liz Dinkins, our Director of Youth and Campus Ministry, groundwork is being put in place to strengthen Youth Ministry.

The second Key Area of Focus for the Council this year is our Capital Campaign, "Renew and Rejoice". Events are unfolding during the Lenten season regarding the campaign. You will receive information about events as well as hear from some of our members. This is an exciting time at Epiphany.

The Council is grateful for the support of the congregation as together we do God's work and learn what else He has in store for Epiphany.

God's Blessings, Your Council



Next meeting: March 20, 2024 1:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Epiphany Readers will not meet in March. The next Epiphany Readers meeting will be at Judy Mountjoy's house at 7pm on Thursday, April 25. The book that will be discussed in April is America's First Daughter by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

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



EECC Celebrates Chinese New Year













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.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Leinbach Park



Come out to Leinbach Park (3635 Sally Kirk Road Winston-Salem, NC 27101)

on Sunday, March 17 from 2-4PM to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We may or may not find a leprechaun, but we will definitely have some green snacks! Don't forget to wear green! Rain date: 3/24.



Come join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday (March 31st)! 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 nonedible items. Don't forget to bring a basket! Rain locations TBD.

For Representation for All of God's Children

Lord, we thank you for the increasing number of children's books with diverse characters and storylines. We pray that all children in school will see people of their backgrounds and cultures presented positively in their classrooms. Amen.

(a prayer from Racial Justice Prayers, Church of the Servant, February 2023 https://www.churchoftheservantcrc.org/february-2023 -anti-racism-prayer-calendar/.)

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!









There are still quite a few openings for chancel flowers, as well as the sanctuary light. Flowers are \$60 and sanctuary light is \$8.



Take a look and see if you would like to sign up for any of the available dates.



Fellowship Luncheon

You are invited to join us for lunch on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at Childress Vineyards at 1000 Childress Vineyards Rd, Lexington, NC 27295. We have reservations for 12:00 pm. It will take us

about 30 minutes to get there. They have a strict reservation policy; everyone must be at the restaurant before they will seat us and we only have 15-minute window so please don't linger. 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.

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: Idinkins@epiphanyws.org

Director of Children's Ministries, Lauren Saldaña

E-mail: lsaldana@epiphanyws.org

Early Childhood Center Director, Lisa Nichols

E-mail: lisanichols@epiphanyws.org, 336-768-2140

Office Manager & Financial Secretary, Mickey Miller

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Help keep the prayer list up-todate. Please check the prayer list in the weekly and monthly Stars to see if there are names on there that you

requested and let the office know if they can come off the list. We are happy to pray for those who need it, but it is easy to ask for someone to be on there and then forget to remove them when appropriate. Thanks for your help.

GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR MARCH

CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY - Instant grits, saltine crackers

SAMARITAN MINISTRIES - Canned fruits and vegetables (large #10 cans), disposable razors, high efficiency laundry detergent packs/pods

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

TRINITY GLEN - Hair bows, pins, scrunches for hair (please, no hairspray)

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

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



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
AU ' (' C)	

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

For those who rejoice, especially

Jim & Cathy Henricks at the birth of their granddaughter, Diana Ruth Henricks on February 17th. Proud parents are The Rev. James & Christina Henricks. Diana was born premature and will be in the hospital for a while. She is doing well, but the Henricks family would appreciate prayers.

Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially

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Judy Allison Ashley Blackburn Hannah Kestner Bockover Thomas & Mary Cannon Clark Family William Collette Judy Crouch Rose Debruhl Paul DeJute Howard Flichman Pat & Joanne Gill Ellen Golden Jonathan Gomez	Carolyn Graham Linda Grale Pam Holcomb Robin Hoots David Howard Shane Huffman Jean Jarvis Tonya Lawson Chad Marion Susan Martz Linda McKenna Allison Morris Kirsten Nuss	Annette Pardue Robert & Mary Peak Wyatt Axel Petersen Steve Reno Nora Schweitzer Sue Slezak Michele Stanfield Laura Turlington Alan Vestal Emma Wester Lynn Wiemann Nicole Williams Leigh Yarner

Members in need, especially

The Rev. Stephen Ball	Ann Cannon	Jane Lyerly
The Rev. John Beeg	Chad Kraft	Jean Mock
Sharen Bond	Jim Lippard	Wanda Rabb

Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of

Kathy Hoyle Doris Kent Sue Mathis



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



Bonnie Bryant Cole Lippard Polly Rector Robert Walker

March Birthdays

Kay Conrad	3/1
Ellen Palmer	3/5
Larry Robins	3/6
Glenn Rabb	3/7
Carla Youngquist	3/7
Deni Thrasher	3/7
Terry Lane	3/11
Debbie Spurlock	3/11
Ray Mohrmann	3/12
Nancy Grush	3/14
Kathy Knecht	3/16
Chelsea Walker	3/16
Tan Bunjang	3/18
Gretchen Pfitzner	3/19
Lauren Saldaña	3/19
Marc Shideler	3/20
Margaret Lanier	3/24
Lillian Robins	3/27
Ava Phillips	3/29
Jackie Pierson	3/29
Terry Wiley	3/31

March Baptisms

Dave Christensen	3/1
John Hood	3/1
Kathleen Malone	3/1
Emma Clark	3/9
Sue Kraft	3/13
Wendy Watson	3/14
Teagan Caesar	3/17
Tracy Smith	3/18
Gretchen Pfitzner	3/19
Jane Lyerly	3/22
Kaitlyn Mullane	3/22
Anna Wellborn	3/24
Susan Schmitt	3/30
Laura Wiley	3/30
Troy Pressley	3/31
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Wilbur & Sharen Bond: New Address

> Larry Grush: New Cell Number

Call the church office for information.



Lewis & Janet Hardy 3/12 Tim Jordan & Norma Wells 3/24

We wish you many more years of happiness!



We received thanks from:

Lutheran Services Carolinas Ronald McDonald House Samaritan Ministries Trellis Supportive Care

Synod staff prayed for Epiphany by name last week. "We are indeed excited to witness all the things God does through the people of Epiphany."

The Rev. CeCee Mills



Together, We Welcome

When Bishop Smith invited this synod to join his *Bishop's Challenge* in the spring of 2022, he led with this charge, "As a church called to welcome the stranger, and as the North Carolina Synod, we are asking you to help us care for and welcome refugee families."

As it turns out, that very big goal—that 70% of the synod's congregations engage in the work of welcome—is being accomplished by way of many,

many partnerships and small efforts that combine for unimaginable ministry. Consider this story from Good Shepherd, Raleigh.

We have been working in collaboration with members of the Beth Meyer Synagogue here in Raleigh, and have received advice and support from both the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, LIRS). We formed a "Circle of Welcome" (a HIAS program) consisting of about five members from Beth Meyer and about five members from Good Shepherd. Together we raised about \$12,000 to help the Ukranian family transition. The Bishop's Challenge \$1,000 grant from the synod was an extremely helpful addition to the funds we raised for the Ukraine refugee family we have been helping transition into the United States under the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services' Uniting for Ukraine program. The family consists of a mother and her 13-year-old daughter. They have been in the United States for about three months.

The Circle of Welcome has been focused on coordinating housing, internet and phone connectivity, obtaining a Social Security number, and arranging English language lessons for the mom through Wake Tech Community College (the mom speaks English at a beginner/intermediate level, but wishes to become more proficient to improve her work opportunities). We have also arranged benefits including SNAP and TANF. The daughter has some significant learning disabilities which have taken time to understand, but she is in middle school and the Circle has helped establish an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) which is now in place for the daughter. We have lined up a car for the family and the mother is studying for the written driving test now.

The Circle has met with the mother to set financial goals. Six months of transitioning support is the HIAS Circle of Welcome goal, and the funds we have raised are just enough to cover those six months.

In just this one instance of welcome, the partners include Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raleigh; Beth Meyer Synagogue, Raleigh; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); Global Refuge (formerly LIRS); U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services; and the NC Synod, ELCA. The way this effort has connected so many different communities—including an interfaith partnership—points to the **synod's core value of relationship** in such a clear way. Just as we belong to one body in Christ, we belong to each other. Inspired by the Gospel, we will choose to live and work together for the sake of the world.

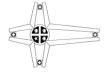
Imagine this, though: this valuable ministry—this work of welcome—has partners that extend even further. The mini-grants given to congregations participating in the Bishop's Challenge came from the ELCA's AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities). Pastor Michael Dickson, as NC Synod Coordinator for Social Justice and Advocacy Ministries, has stewarded the Bishop's Challenge along with the bishop and other synod staff. And, pivotal in the work, the members of the synod's Immigration and Refugee Ministry Team are volunteers from congregations all across the synod who have given their time to this effort.

Last but not least—is you! Your partnership as a congregation member in this synod, a giver of Mission Support, is so critical to this meaningful work. In his **bishop's reflection from December 2022**, Bishop Tim shared:

We have the resources and the calling to be welcomers now in a fractured and hurting world, even as we pray that, were we the ones fleeing our homes and countries in fear for our children's lives, someone somewhere would welcome us with kindness and hospitality. Most profoundly, we know that Christ welcomes all in love and compassion and calls us to do the same. Join us, won't you?

This work of welcome is a shared effort. This shared effort comes together in big ways through seemingly small partnerships and giving. Your Mission Support dollars may feel small but they add up to accomplish ministry that is life-giving and life-changing. Thanks be to God!

Story Attribution: Synod Staff





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					-	7
3 Bold Women's Sunday 9 am Youth E:F	4 .	5 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm Handbells 6 pm LSM	6 10 am EECC Ch. 3 pm Staff 6 pm Lenten Supper 7 pm Evening Prayer	7 6 pm Choir	ω	O
10 Daylight Saving Begins 3 pm Youth Hockey Game	6 pm Endowment Comm. 7 pm Executive Comm. 7 pm CC Lead Gift Team Meeting	12 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Dorothy Circle (FH)	13 10 am EECC Ch. 3 pm Staff 6 pm Lenten Supper 7 pm Evening Prayer	14:30 am Nora Deal Cir. (FH) 5-8 pm CC Team Meetings 6 pm Choir	15	16 10 am Epiphany Quilt- ers
17 St. Patrick's Day 9 am Youth E:F	18 6 pm EECC Committee 7 pm Congregation Council	19 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	20 10 am EECC Ch. 1:30 pm Widows Might (FH) 3 pm Staff 6 pm Lenten Supper 7 pm Evening Prayer	21 6 pm Choir	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 11 am Bible Study (AL) 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	27 10 am EECC Ch. 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	28 Maundy Thursday Noon Maundy Th. Svc. 1 pm MT Senior Lunch 7 pm Maundy Thursday Svc.	29 Good Friday Noon Good Friday Svc. 7 pm Good Friday Service Office & EECC Closed	30
31 Easter No E:F 9 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Egg Hunt						