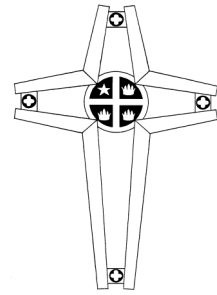


# The Star

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



Volume MMXXIII  
Number 11  
November 2023

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

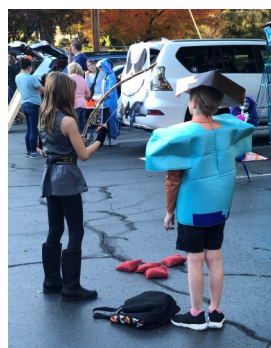
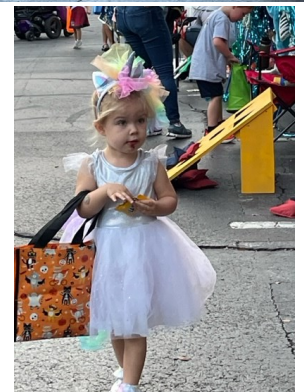
## Trunk-or-Treat 2023!



"We had the older kids tell us jokes for a piece of candy. Two of our favorites:

Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants? In case she got a hole in one.

Why did the student wear glasses to math class? To improve division."





**Kathy Knecht** has been a member of Epiphany for 40 years. My late husband Norman and I joined Epiphany in October 1983. My career was with Forsyth County Government, 30+ years with Social Services,

which provided for me to complete a Master degree in Social Work, and 4+ years with Human Resources. I retired in 2006 which allowed Norm and me to travel extensively for about 12 years. I have served on the Church Council previously with each of our call pastors. This gives me a lot of history of Epiphany but what interests me is how Epiphany is moving forward to what God is calling us to do and be.

As many of you may know I have a 20-year involvement with the last refugee family Epiphany sponsored. Refugee resettlement is certainly an interest and passion of mine. I am also very proud of the work of Epiphany Quilters providing quilts for our seniors in high school at graduation, and our Lutheran World Relief quilts. While over the past 40 years I have spent time in many committees and programs at Epiphany my primary interest is those



**Penny Mothershed** is a life-long Lutheran, growing up in Macedonia Lutheran Church in Burlington. In 1977 she and her family moved to Winston-Salem where she spearheaded the movement to open Ronald McDonald House after the death from a rare cancer of her three-year-old son Alan.

She joined Epiphany in 1982. She has served God by establishing the Epiphany Early Childhood Center, sharing the children's message, teaching Sunday School, participating in dramas, refugee resettlement, lector, Church Council, and various committees. She taught first grade for 15 years in Burlington and continued to serve children as director of EECC for many years, beginning in 1994,

One lesson that she learned from Pastor Norris, her childhood Pastor, was that each of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others as faithful children of God. Serving is a form of worship, a way to express our gratitude for what Jesus has done for us. We must share that love.

Penny appreciates the opportunity to serve others through the years and the stewardship of Epiphany over the years.



**Deborah Spurlock** was born and raised in Pasadena, CA. I was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I joined Christ the Shepard Lutheran Church in the late 1990's. I relocated to NC in 2001. I joined The Epiphany Lutheran Church September 2002.

I serve with the Altar Guild, Prayer Partners, organizing Pew Racks, Stephen Ministry trained, and attend Circle meetings.

I worked as a Pharmacy Buyer until 1998 when I became disabled and could no longer work. I have 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-granddaughter.

Serving in Epiphany's Church Council will allow me to contribute, where needed, to a church and congregation that are important to me.



**Charlene Wellborn** and her family joined Epiphany February 1, 1998. She is a lifelong Lutheran, growing up in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Charlene has worked in various ways in the church including serving on the Christian Education and EECC committees, volunteering and

coordinating Vacation Bible School for many years, and serving on Church Council including one year as secretary. Currently she is working on the Capital Campaign Building Sub Committee, Internship Committee, reconciles the church checkbooks and is a member and past leader of the Dorothy Circle. Charlene is a retired teacher, spending almost all of her years in kindergarten. After retiring from the classroom, she taught reading part time and retired fully in 2020. She and her husband, David, have three grown children and four grandchildren. Charlene enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends (especially her grandchildren) and taking her certified therapy dog on visits each week.

**Meet our Congregation Council candidates for 2024! Elections will be held on Sunday, November 12th after worship. You must be present to vote.**



Our congregation assembled 48 Welcome Bins for Refugee families. EECC families also participated in this project. They have been delivered to the synod office in Salisbury for immediate distribution. Well done, Epiphany!

We are now delivering weekend food bags to 81 students at Ibrahim Elementary School each week and another 32 bags to Smith Farm Elementary every other week. FYI—we deliver DOUBLE loads before each long weekend and holiday break in the school schedule. Thanks to the “baggers,” “box lifters,” and delivery crews for making this happen each week. All this is made possible by Joyce Kohfeldt’s generous gift. Sending a special “Thank you” up to Joyce in Heaven! She knew what it meant to do God’s Work with Our Hands (and backs!!)

Epiphany Builders built a handicapped ramp for a special friend of the congregation. And they are heading up to Lutherock soon to use their gifts for enhancing the buildings there. So proud of this group of special people!

Special thanks to the CBC “Crew” who donate their time and energy to stocking the shelves of the food pantry at Christ’s Beloved Community. Over 120 families are served on each distribution day. We serve another 12 families at the Ibrahim Elementary School food pantry twice a month. Epiphany is making a difference in the lives of people here in our community.

We will be providing 25 families at Ibrahim with turkey dinners this year. Watch the weekly Star to see how you can help!

You can start buying winter hats, gloves and socks and a toy/puzzle for Ibrahim students. We will be sponsoring 75 children this year. The “Angel Tree” will appear sometime this month so you can select your special child/children. The church will supply face masks and books for each student as well.

The Outreach Team has also been working on the budget for 2024 activities. It will be a new year full of opportunities for Our Hands to do God’s Work!

Questions? Ideas for Outreach Team? Talk to Jackie or Jim Pierson.

Thanksgiving season reminds us to be grateful for our many blessings. During the month of November our circles will be collecting a special Thankoffering. In the early 1800's women's groups gave out small Thankoffering boxes as a visible reminder of blessing received. These boxes were collected in November, and the money received was used for church projects and to support foreign missionaries.

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided in 1988 that Thankofferings would be used to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. The ministries include our many online and printed communication channels, our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders, support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into the business meetings of our Triennial Conventions, and more.

Thankofferings help us show gratitude for God's blessings and give us a tangible way to express that gratitude. These offerings are a tradition grounded in our celebration of community and of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

**Dates:**

- November 9- Nora Deal Circle- Fellowship Hall-11:30am
- November 14- Mary Martha Circle– Annie Mueller’s home @10am
- November 14- Dorothy Circle- Church-7pm



On Monday, December 4th, I will be making a special trip with new toys, books, games, underwear, and socks for the more than 600 children who our Epiphany elves help to make Christmas a happy and joyful time. These items should be unwrapped and placed in the designated fellowship hall area.

I never take this project for granted, but am always overwhelmed with the love and generosity that flows from Epiphany to these faraway mountains.

Peace and Joy,  
Kathleen Tucker



The calendar looks very busy for Council and the Congregation through the end of the year into early 2024! We need to approve both next year's operating budget and the capital spending plan as quickly as possible for the congregation to then approve! Behind the scenes the

committees, including the capital campaign, are working hard to get the quotes we need to make good decisions!

Meanwhile the Council nominating committee is also looking for a minimum of three new candidates to go up for the vote at the congregation-wide meeting on November 12th after worship! Thanks to the exiting Council members, Diana Stindt, Matt Imboden, and Terry Wiley, who are finishing their three-year terms!

Trying to stay on time and to avoid bumping into holidays at year's end, Council will meet a week earlier, on the second (instead of third) Mondays, November 13th and December 11th.

Thanks also to everyone keeping up their donations to our regular 2023 operating budget because we are still favorably well ahead of expenses year to date.

Advent is nearly upon us and is also expected to be a busy season this year! It's sandwiched tightly between December 3rd and Christmas Eve which is the 4th Sunday in Advent, so we'll only have enough time for three midweek Wednesday services to keep us spiritually focused on the coming of our Lord! And please get ready for three worship services on Christmas Eve, regular Sunday morning, as well as afternoon and evening!



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



**“Over the River and through the woods to Grandmother’s house we go...”**

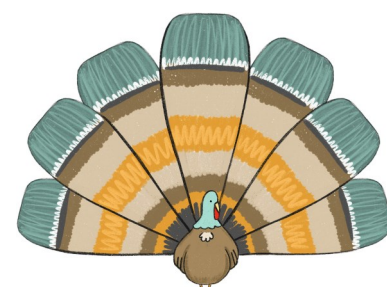
It has been said that grandparents are the closest thing to unconditional love this side of heaven. Some of us never knew our grandparents or are separated from them by family situations or geography. Yet we can all appreciate the extremely significant role they play in the life of a child. At EECC, we are blessed to know many of our students' grandparents, whether they live in the area or visit from afar. We want to pay tribute to the special people in our lives we call our grandparents!

In talking with EECC children and parents, we learned that grandparents are known by a rich variety of names. Here, in no particular order, is a sampling: Lovey, Dovey, Grumpy, Mimi, Pops, Grandmama, Granddaddy, Gammy, Grandpa, Gamma, Gaga, Wizzy, T, Granny, Yummy, Poppy, Abu, Abuelita, Nanny, GP, Papa John, Maji, Meemaw, Popsy, Pappy, Pop, Gigi, Grandmommy, Gram, Nana, Opa, Beebob, Papa, Honey, and the list goes on....

We want to thank the grandparents of EECC for their time, wisdom, kindness, and influence. You make a difference in this world, especially in the lives of your grandchildren. Whether you visit from out of town and take time to share your story with us, or live here and are well known to us, we commend you and the special place you have in the hearts of our children. Please know that whether you are near or far, your grandchildren love you and speak of you often. You are important and vital to their upbringing - and we appreciate you!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and if you are not able to visit a grandparent, be grateful for the people that fill that role in your lives. Give them a call or send a card to let them know they are in your thoughts. Families are all different and we are grateful for all of the ways that we come together as family at Epiphany!

In His Service,  
 Lisa Nichols, Director



**GIVE THANKS**



There will be NO Encounter: Faith on Sunday, November 26th for a Thanksgiving break.



### Christmas Pageant Filming (Mid/Late November)

Preparations for our children's Christmas Pageant are underway! This year, Epiphany kids will be filming a puppet show based

on the program "A Very Special Child" by Rev. Anna Strickland. This puppet show is part of A Sanctified Art's Advent series "How does a weary world rejoice?". It is written in several acts to tell the Christmas story from the book of Luke and follows the interwoven birth stories of Jesus and John. If your child is a budding artist, set designer, or voice actor, we will have a part for them. This year, there is no need to be in front of the camera as our puppets will be doing all the acting! The film will debut on December 10th after worship. In order to have everything done and edited by that time, we will start filming in November. **We will have a puppet and set creation party on Sunday, November 12th 3-5 and filming will start Sunday, November 26th.** Please let Lauren Saldana know what times/days your children are available to participate. Snacks will be provided. If you have any audio/visual experience and would like to help out, please contact Lauren Saldaña at [lsaldana@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lsaldana@epiphanyws.org)

### Advent Kits

Due to the great success of the Lent kits, the NC Synod is offering Advent kits for families. Please let Lauren Saldaña know if your family would like to receive one. This kit will include activities for whole families as well as individual children. We hope to have the kits assembled and ready by the first Sunday in Advent (December 3rd).



### Save the Date:

### Sunday, December 3rd after worship Advent Wreath and Craft Making Party

Come celebrate the start of the Advent season and make some special crafts to take home. We'll have treats and hot cocoa and enjoy fellowship as we prepare for this special time. This event is intergenerational and all are welcome to attend!

### ELCA Good Gifts Collection Starting 11/12

We will once again have our congregation and children participate in collecting money for ELCA Good Gifts. In Encounter: Faith on November 12th, children will make a piggy bank or barnyard collection box to collect their money in. This year, we hope to raise enough money to buy a goat for a farming community in need. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. What's more, goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, and they provide an opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others. Children will collect money throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons and return their collections during offering on Sunday, January 7th. Our goal for the whole congregation is to be able to purchase 5 family farms (\$715 a piece)! To find out more about ELCA Good Gifts, please visit: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>



### Children and Youth Needed for the Christmas Eve Service

This year we will continue the Epiphany tradition of having Children and Youth lead our worship on Christmas Eve. Please let Lauren Saldaña or Liz Dinkins know if your child will be available to participate on Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th. We will have a special children's choir performance that evening and we will need readers, ushers, an acolyte, crucifer, and other important roles. The children's choir will need to start practicing soon, so please let Lauren Saldaña ([lsaldana@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lsaldana@epiphanyws.org)) know what days and times your children are available.



## Hey All!

Youth Encounter Faith Has Begun - we'll be meeting the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month to dive in before service (9am)  
(Nov 5, 19 + Dec 3, 17)

This month (Nov 18) we're having a **Service Day + Friendsgiving** where we'll be enjoying shared snacks and making no-sew blankets for Spark's Cozy Bundle! ([SPARK](#) welcomes all families needing cozy and warm sleeping gear to come get warm pajamas, a blanket and book for each child in your family before the holidays!)

Please bring a snack to share and RSVP so we can make sure to have enough blanket creation supplies for everyone!

**Friends + Families Welcome!**  
[Facebook Event](#)

In December we'll be having a **Christmas Party!** (See the flier, [website](#), or [facebook](#) for more details)

Want to Get Involved? Get Coffee?  
Have Questions?

Liz Dinkins  
336-589-6879  
[ldinkins@epiphanyws.org](mailto:ldinkins@epiphanyws.org)

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

**ENCOUNTER**  
*faith*  
**YOUTH 6TH - 12TH**  
1st and 3rd Sunday @ 9am  
lutheran church of the epiphany  
*youth room*

**Service Day + Friendsgiving**  
Saturday, Nov 18th  
11am - 3pm

Join Epiphany Youth for a Friendsgiving Snack-Share + Service Day

We'll be making No-Sew Blankets to benefit SPARK's Cozy Bundle (providing, blankets, PJ's, + books to kids!)

Bring a snack or dessert to share!  
Friends + Family Welcome to Come + Stay!

RSVP or Questions: Liz Dinkins  
336.589.6879 or [ldinkins@epiphanyws.org](mailto:ldinkins@epiphanyws.org)

*epiphany youth*  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
*Friends + Family Welcome!*

**FRIDAY DEC 8, 2023**  
**6 - 9 PM**  
5220 Silas Creek Pkwy, WSNC

**GAMES (WITH PRIZES)**  
**SO MANY COOKIES**  
**CHRISTMAS CHEER**

Questions or Rsvp  
Liz Dinkins  
336.589.6879 | [ldinkins@epiphanyws.org](mailto:ldinkins@epiphanyws.org)



## LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT MEALS

Tuesday Evenings Throughout the Semester

We're having a great semester with our college students and they're loving the food you've made!!

Our last meeting this semester with our WFU Campus Ministry is Tuesday, December 5th -

There are still a few weeks we would love Epiphany members to provide welcome and a bit of home for these students through meals (dropped off at Epiphany beforehand). **If you're able to provide a meal for about 5 students sign up [here](#).**

This semester we're enjoying partnerships on Wake events with Episcopal Student Fellowship and UKirk (PCUSA).

In Addition - I'm working to start a Campus Ministry Committee to support the work Epiphany is doing in partnership with Wake Students - If you're Wake Alumni, Lutheran Student Movement Alumni, or have a heart for college students / college ministry I'd love to chat with you! Please reach out and let me know!

Lastly, I'd love for you to follow us on social media:

[Wake LSM \(College\) Instagram](#) | [Wake LSM \(College\) Facebook](#)

Or Set a Meeting with Me [Here](#) or [ldinkins@epiphanyws.org](mailto:ldinkins@epiphanyws.org) or 336-589-6879

Peace Be With Y'all

The Epiphany Readers' next meeting by Zoom will be at 7pm on Thursday, November 16th. The book that will be discussed in November is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



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

## Fellowship

We really enjoyed our last brunch at Sander's Ridge and had requests to have another one. So, mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 12th**. We've made reservations at **JOLO Winery and Vineyards with Restaurant** located at 219 Jolo Winery Ln, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041. It's about a 30-minute drive, so please let me know if you want to carpool.

Their menu is at <https://www.jolovineyards.com/dine>. Please let Jeanie Saphar or Kathy Pressley know if you plan to attend.



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, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dinkins!



Marty Wylie's grandson, Alex Wright, has passed the bar on the first try and will be a lawyer in a firm in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Congratulations, Alex!

Thank you to everyone for providing wonderful dishes for the Spooktacular Brunch! Some very special items were on the menu including Goblin Eyeballs, Dragon Eggs, Dragon's Blood Punch, A Creepy Taco Spider, several varieties of Jack-O-Lanterns, Teeth and Tongues and Batoreos! Despite how they sound, they were all delicious!



### GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER

**CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Sugar, flour, baking items, saltine crackers

**SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Ground coffee (regular), sugar, disposable razors, hand lotion and soap (sample sizes), 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** - Body lotion, body wash, bath items

**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

**EECC** - Cheerios, raisins, applesauce (individual, plain)

**IBRAHAM FOOD PANTRY** - Diapers/pullups sizes 2-6

### 2023 Congregation Council

**Officers:**

Chris Schultz, Pres.  
Betty Benardo, VP  
Terry Wiley, Treas.  
Mark Tellefsen, Sec.

**Non-Council Officers:**

Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.  
Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll

**Members:**

Patti Deal  
Matt Imboden  
Sarah Lischer

Dan Meckley  
Diana Stindt  
Pastor Russell Peek

**Ministers, All the People of Epiphany**

**Pastor,** Pastor Russell Peek

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

**Director of Music,** Patryck Nuss

E-mail: [music@epiphanyws.org](mailto:music@epiphanyws.org)

**Director of Youth & Campus Ministry,** Liz Dinkins

E-mail: [ldinkins@epiphanyws.org](mailto:ldinkins@epiphanyws.org)

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

E-mail: [lsaldana@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lsaldana@epiphanyws.org)

**Early Childhood Center Director,** Lisa Nichols

E-mail: [lisanichols@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lisanichols@epiphanyws.org), 336-768-2140

**Office Manager & Financial Secretary,** Mickey Miller

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





Ms. Meg's son brought a crane for the kids to see



Assembling boxes for refugees



Organ Forum



The Nye family at Lutherock Fall Festival



Epiphany Builders  
hard at work!

The end result!



Fall Festival at  
Lutheridge



More Trunk-or-Treat Fun



**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*  
*David Schultz*

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

|                                 |                               |                            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Judy Allison</i>             | <i>Linda Grale</i>            | <i>Wyatt Axel Petersen</i> |
| <i>Ashley Blackburn</i>         | <i>Becky Hartsook</i>         | <i>Steve Reno</i>          |
| <i>Hannah Kestner Bockover</i>  | <i>Pam Holcomb</i>            | <i>Shelly Saldaña</i>      |
| <i>Thomas &amp; Mary Cannon</i> | <i>Robin Hoots</i>            | <i>Nora Schweitzer</i>     |
| <i>Clark Family</i>             | <i>David Howard</i>           | <i>Liz Shumate</i>         |
| <i>Rose Debruhl</i>             | <i>Jean Jarvis</i>            | <i>Sue Slezak</i>          |
| <i>Paul DeJute</i>              | <i>Katie Lippard</i>          | <i>Michele Stanfield</i>   |
| <i>Sylvia Ann Derrick</i>       | <i>Chad Marion</i>            | <i>Laura Turlington</i>    |
| <i>Carl Dubose</i>              | <i>Linda McKenna</i>          | <i>Alan Vestal</i>         |
| <i>Howard Flichman</i>          | <i>Terry McKinney</i>         | <i>Emma Wester</i>         |
| <i>Tara-Lynn Flick</i>          | <i>Allison Morris</i>         | <i>Lynn Wiemann</i>        |
| <i>Pat &amp; Joanne Gill</i>    | <i>Kirsten Nuss</i>           | <i>Nicole Williams</i>     |
| <i>Jonathan Gomez</i>           | <i>Annette Pardue</i>         | <i>John Wooding</i>        |
| <i>Carolyn Graham</i>           | <i>Robert &amp; Mary Peak</i> | <i>Leigh Yarnier</i>       |

**Members in need, especially**

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>The Rev. John Beeg</i> | <i>Jim Lippard</i> |
| <i>Sharen Bond</i>        | <i>Jean Mock</i>   |
| <i>Ann Cannon</i>         | <i>Wanda Rabb</i>  |
| <i>Chad Kraft</i>         |                    |

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

*Denis Larkin*  
*Matthew Good*



*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*  
*Cole Lippard*  
*Polly Rector*

*Virginia Schmitz*  
*Robert Walker*

**November Birthdays**

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Anne Forrest    | 11/1  |
| Rita Planitzer  | 11/3  |
| Carole Witte    | 11/6  |
| Terry Wooding   | 11/6  |
| Jared Hunter    | 11/8  |
| Lindsey Robins  | 11/9  |
| Alyssa Darstein | 11/11 |
| Bobbie Martin   | 11/11 |
| Griffin Sloop   | 11/12 |
| Laura Canrobert | 11/14 |
| Troy Pressley   | 11/15 |
| Jane Lyerly     | 11/17 |
| Dan Meckley     | 11/17 |
| Pat Nuss        | 11/17 |
| Wanda Rabb      | 11/17 |
| Jenny Vann      | 11/25 |
| Joshua Golden   | 11/26 |
| Sarah Gerdes    | 11/27 |
| Diane Deal      | 11/28 |
| Mickey Miller   | 11/28 |
| Emily Nicholson | 11/28 |
| Lorna McLeod    | 11/29 |
| Lily Forrest    | 11/30 |
| Larry Grush     | 11/30 |
| Patrick Mullane | 11/30 |

**November Baptisms**

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Cheryl Hartzell   | 11/1  |
| Ron Hartzell      | 11/1  |
| Doris Kent        | 11/1  |
| Ardel Meisinger   | 11/1  |
| Diana Stindt      | 11/1  |
| Enya DuBois       | 11/3  |
| Jennifer Henricks | 11/5  |
| Conner Forrest    | 11/8  |
| Lily Forrest      | 11/8  |
| Katrina Pfitzner  | 11/8  |
| Dorothy Hanson    | 11/10 |
| Emily Matthews    | 11/12 |
| Brenna McCormick  | 11/12 |
| Carter Meckley    | 11/19 |
| Jackson Meckley   | 11/19 |
| Julia Nicholson   | 11/20 |
| Robert Walters    | 11/22 |
| Ann Mohrmann      | 11/25 |
| Christina Kraft   | 11/26 |
| Carole Witte      | 11/26 |
| Don Witte         | 11/26 |



|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Kevin &amp; Anne Forrest</i>        | <i>11/1</i> |
| <i>Lorin Lapidus &amp; Tracy Smith</i> | <i>11/7</i> |

We wish you many more years of happiness!



We received thanks from:

Crisis Control Ministry  
 ELCA Global Missions  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Lutheran Services Carolinas



*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1*

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

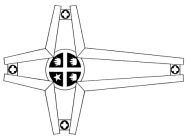
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Things you can do:

- \* Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA [here](#).
- \* Join our partner Churches for Middle East Peace for prayer every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time. Register [here](#).
- \* Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [govtrak](#).
- \* Support Lutheran Disaster Response [here](#).

*You may notice that we sometimes publicize statements and other information from organizations of which we are members. We will never share information that did not go through our internal vetting process, so you should feel free to share such information on behalf of your church.*



# November

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Every Sunday<br><b>9 am</b> Adult Encounter: Faith<br><b>9 am</b> Encounter: Faith<br><b>9:30 am</b> Backpack Prep<br><b>10am</b> Worship      |   |   | <b>1</b><br><b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel<br><b>3 pm</b> Staff<br><b>6 pm</b> Choir                                 | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>                                     | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b><br><i>Daylight Saving Ends</i><br><b>9 am</b> Handbells Warmup (sanc.)<br><b>After Worship</b> Budget Summit | <b>6</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b> Steering Committee | <b>7</b><br><b>11 am</b> Bible Study<br><b>6 pm</b> LSM<br><b>6 pm</b> Handbells  | <b>8</b><br><b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel<br><b>3 pm</b> Staff<br><b>6 pm</b> Choir                                 | <b>9</b><br><b>11:30 am</b> Nora Deal Cir.                          | <b>10</b>                                    | <b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b>   |
| <b>12</b><br><b>After Worship</b> council Elections<br><b>After Worship</b> JoLo Winery Lunch  | <b>13</b><br><b>7 pm</b> Congregation Council | <b>14</b> <b>10 am</b> Mary-Martha<br><b>11 am</b> Bible Study<br><b>3 pm</b> Stephen Leaders (CR)<br><b>6 pm</b> LSM<br><b>6 pm</b> Handbells<br><b>7 pm</b> Dorothy Cir. (CM) | <b>15</b><br><b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel<br><b>1:30 pm</b> Widows Might<br><b>3 pm</b> Staff<br><b>6 pm</b> Choir | <b>16</b><br><b>6 pm</b> Management<br><b>7 pm</b> Epiphany Readers | <b>17</b>                                    | <b>18</b><br><b>10 am</b> Epiphany Quilters<br><b>11 am-3 pm</b> Youth Service Day & Friendsgiving (YR) |
| <b>19</b><br><b>7 pm</b> Thanksgiving Service (Burkhead UMC)   | <b>20</b><br><b>6 pm</b> EECC Committee       | <b>21</b><br><b>11 am</b> Bible Study<br><b>6 pm</b> LSM<br><b>6 pm</b> Handbells   | <b>22</b><br><b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel<br><b>3 pm</b> Staff<br><b>6 pm</b> Choir                                | <b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b><br><b>Office &amp; EECC Closed</b>    | <b>24</b><br><b>Office &amp; EECC Closed</b> | <b>25</b>   |
| <b>26</b> <i>No Encounter: Faith</i>   | <b>27</b>                                     | <b>28</b><br><b>11 am</b> Bible Study<br><b>6 pm</b> LSM<br><b>6 pm</b> Handbells   | <b>29</b><br><b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel<br><b>3 pm</b> Staff<br><b>6 pm</b> Choir                                | <b>30</b>   |  |   |