

# The Star

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

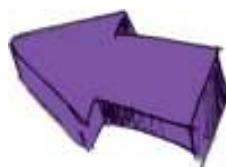


Volume MMXIX  
Number 8  
August 2019

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

## An Important Note About *The Star*

For all of Epiphany's history, our primary way of distributing our monthly newsletter has been using the US Postal Service. It is time to make a change in how we distribute *The Star*.



Over the last several years, the number of people receiving a mailed copy of *The Star* has gone down. Some of this is because our membership declined several years ago. In addition, some in the congregation have asked that we send a digital copy rather than a paper copy.

We have now reached a point where we do not meet the requirements to receive the bulk mail rate from the US Postal Service. That means that the newsletter would cost us approximately three times more than what we currently pay to mail them out just in postage. That does not include the cost of the bulk mailing permit and copy and paper costs.

With all that in mind, starting with the September 2019 issue, we will be switching our primary way of distributing *The Star*. If we have an email address for you, we will be sending *The Star* by email and not mailing a paper copy unless you ask Mickey for one. In addition, *The Star* is also on the website at [www.epiphanyws.org](http://www.epiphanyws.org).

A few questions:

*What about people who have no email addresses?*

According to church records, we currently have 27 households which do not have an email address. Those households will still receive a mailed copy of *The Star* each month.

*How can I get a paper copy of *The Star*?*

Those who wish to receive a paper copy can let Mickey know their preference. In addition, we will keep paper copies of the Star in the Narthex at church, as we do now.

*I have another question about this change. Who can I speak to?*

Talk with Pastor Russell or Mickey Miller.



As the summer winds down and our vacations come to an end, it's time to start thinking about the academic year ahead. Kids will be heading back to school and Encounter: Faith will start again after Labor Day. We are in need of teachers. I would ask that you consider being the smiling face and witness to Christ that a child sees on Sunday morning. It is mostly your presence and guidance that we need. Our curriculum is easy to follow and you will not need to set up a room or gather materials. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. If you have any questions, contact Lauren Saldaña.



We are completely out of food bags in our closet! Please be generous and provide for our hungry neighbors. Each paper bag should be double-bagged and contain all of the items in the list below. Please do not add or subtract anything. Note that this is a new list that was developed with input from Second Harvest Food Bank.

### Food Bag List

Flip top cans and plastic jars preferred

- Instant Oatmeal (individual packs)
- Applesauce 4 to 6 (individual packs)
- 1 can chicken and dumplings (24 oz.)
- 1 green beans (15 oz.)
- 1 lb. spaghetti
- 1 jar spaghetti sauce (24 oz.)
- 2 lb. box or bag white rice
- 1 can black beans (15 oz.)
- 1 can pork and beans (15 oz.)
- 1 can yams (15 oz.)
- 1 jar creamy peanut butter (15 oz.)
- 1 lb. box saltines (4 pk.)
- 1 jar grape jelly (10- 12 oz.)
- 1 mac and cheese dinner (prepared sauce)



God calls Epiphany to:  
**Grow** in our relationship with God,  
**Connect** with each other, and  
**Serve** the world.

-*Epiphany's Purpose Statement*

This month I want to talk about the last part of our purpose statement – **Serve** the world.

A little over 20 months ago, I had my first interview with the call committee at Epiphany. As we talked by Skype, one of the things I realized (and appreciated) about Epiphany was that it was a congregation that feels a strong call to serve. This month, rather than talking about serving in an abstract way, I thought I'd share some ways God is calling the people of Epiphany to serve the world God so loves:

-**Encounter:Faith**, our Sunday school ministry, will be starting in early September. Our coordinator, Lauren Saldaña, is always looking for teachers. If you love working with children, contact her and she'll be happy to have you as a regular or substitute teacher.

-**God's Work. Our Hands.** Sunday is coming the weekend of September 6-8. Projects for all ages are being finalized as we speak and will be publicized in August. Your help is needed to make this weekend a success.

-After a several year hiatus, it's time to revitalize our Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential, Christian caregiving to people in need. They go through a training that will begin this fall. If you're interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or have more questions about how Stephen Ministry works, contact Pastor Russell, Kathy Knecht, or Jim Pierson.

-Patti Deal is working on providing an outreach ministry to our shut-in and homebound members. Her goal is to provide more contact from church members who can't normally join us on a regular basis. If you have more questions or would like to help with that, contact Patti.

-Each week, we feed families through the food pantry at Ibrahim Elementary School. Once school starts back, we'll get the backpack ministry up and running again to provide children food during the weekend. If you'd like to help, contact Jim Pierson and he'll be glad to get you involved in this meaningful ministry.

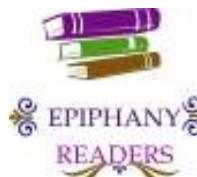
-Speaking of feeding, our partners at Christ's Beloved Community have a food pantry. They're also looking for volunteers. If you can help, please contact Christ's Beloved Community.

-One more in the feeding department... Charlotte Disher is hard at work planning the fall semester. Part of her responsibility is to make plans for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Wake Forest. If you can help with providing a home cooked meal for Wake students on a Tuesday night, contact our Campus Ministry meal coordinator, Patti Deal, or Charlotte.

That's not all! As we say in the announcements each week in worship, "there's always a lot going on at Epiphany." We're a busy, serving church.

In thanksgiving for the ways God's Spirit is calling us to serve the world,

Pastor Russell



Epiphany Readers will meet at 6:30pm on Thursday, August 22nd. The book for the month is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Everyone welcome!

**National Night Out**  
Tuesday,  
**Aug. 6, 6-8 pm**

**Burkhead Church**

**5250 Silas Creek Pkwy.**

**Info: 336-765-6590, x3**

**Website:**

[burkheadumc.org](http://burkheadumc.org)

*Come meet*

*& greet ...*



**local police, sheriffs,  
K-9 friends, firefighters,  
Scouts & other  
community helpers for  
fun & games for all ages.**

**Free food and drink will  
be provided courtesy of  
local restaurants and  
grocery stores.**

**Rain or Shine**



## Summer Heat Creates Safety Concerns

EECC is a five-star learning and childcare center. We are currently undergoing rated review. We reach that rating in several ways—by keeping teacher to student ratio at low levels, by providing recertification opportunities for our staff, by having staff improve their professional development on a regular basis, by keeping files up-to-date, by complying with state child care center regulations, by meeting health and safety standards AND undergoing classroom and facility “unannounced” visits from State Child Consultants. All of this is quite demanding—and nerve wracking for our teachers!

Some of the safety standards include:

- \* keeping children inside if the outside temperature is too hot – or too rainy—or too cold in winter (we had to put this in place in July during the extreme temperatures);
- \* upgrading playground equipment to meet learning needs as well as “fun” elements (we are currently making final plans to begin our playground upgrade);
- \* keeping several inches of mulch/ground cover and making sure it doesn’t allow children to reach over fences or “escape” fencing—or get too hot during the summer;
- \* splash guards and safety lips on counters in areas where diapers are changed and hands are washed;
- \* meet health department standards where food is prepared and served;
- \* upgrade classroom furniture and making sure it doesn’t “snag” or “pinch” students;
- \* keeping many doors locked and electrical outlets covered.

Meeting these safety standards is a constant focus at EECC. When the EECC Committee asks for assistance in the playground area or asks for donations to upgrade furniture, we are supporting EECC’s goal of maintaining a quality childcare and educational program in an aging facility. Be sure to respond in as many ways as you can when asked to donate your money or your time to EECC.

## EECC Activities this Summer

- \* Students explored space, colors, fish, beach stories, rhyming words, Bible verses, and songs!!
- \* Students played with bubbles, water tables, and watched the garden grow!
- \* EECC Committee Members provided morning snacks to parents on the first of each month.
- \* PALS/EECC Summer Camp was held at Burkhead Methodist for children ages 5-8.

*MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> for Ice Cream Social for EECC families and Epiphany members. Bring homemade or bought ice cream (no nuts in ingredients please) and celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year!*

## Giving Education Series

Can I Leave My Home to Charity and Continue to Live in it During My Lifetime?

Yes. Making a gift of a remainder interest in a personal residence, vacation home or farm can provide a donor with income tax benefits from the newly created charitable gift without affecting his or her current income or standard of living.



In this arrangement, a donor deeds his or her personal residence, vacation home or farm to charity but, in the deed, reserves a life estate in the property. At the time that the gift is made, the donor is entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the present value of the charity’s remainder interest in the property. During his or her lifetime, the donor continues to enjoy the full use and possession of the property. This includes paying taxes on the property as well as other maintenance costs. Upon the death of the donor, the charity takes possession of the property without a probate proceeding.

If you would like to explore this or other options for making a donation to a charity, contact your financial advisor, attorney, or the ELCA national office for more information.

## Back-to-School Ice Cream Social Sunday, August 25th at 5pm

Let's celebrate the dawn of a new school year with ice cream! Epiphany Early Childhood Center families, the Epiphany worshiping community, and guests will join in this celebration. Come and bring some ice cream to share (no nuts, please.) Also, please invite others to join us. Everything but the ice cream will be provided, down to the sprinkles! There will be a prize for the best homemade ice cream. Another prize will be offered for the most unique flavor of purchased ice cream. Watch for additional information in the weekly editions of The Star throughout the month of August.



*MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> for Ice Cream Social for EECC families and Epiphany members. Bring homemade or bought ice cream (no nuts in ingredients please) and celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year!*



Jim Pierson has returned from Stephen Leaders Training. Our leadership team is ready to begin offering training for the re-activation of our Stephen Ministry at Epiphany. We still have room for several more individuals to join the class. Please pray and fully consider if you have gifts to be part of this caring and supportive ministry. Feel free to talk with Pastor Russell, Jim Pierson, or Kathy Knecht if you have an interest in being part of this exciting ministry. We welcome any questions or concerns individuals might have regarding Stephen Ministry. You can offer Christ's caring to others.



Contact Charlotte  
any questions

On Thursday afternoon July 18, Thom Burleson, Pastor of Parkway Presbyterian Church, and I worked at the Ibrahim Food Pantry along with one high school and one upper elementary youth from Parkway. It was quite a learning experience for us all! The youth learned about sorting out the edible from the inedible produce, something they had never done before. And I, Charlotte, learned the ABC's of the Food Pantry process: from the food delivery and weigh-in through the set-up and check-in process, all the way to clean-up.

The power of serving with those in need is exemplified by the following interchange: one of the Parkway youth was overheard asking Jackie Pierson how often Epiphany hosts the Food Pantry at Ibrahim. When Jackie responded, "every week," this youth was surprised and amazed and told Jackie she wished she could come and work at the Ibrahim Food Pantry every week. So, if you haven't volunteered at the Ibrahim Food Pantry in a while, it might be time to once again feed your soul and some families at Ibrahim too!



Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. More than 12 million people worldwide are trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation. More than 80% of trafficking victims are female. 50% of trafficking victims internationally are under the age of 18.

At the 2014 and 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Conventions, members voted to bring awareness to, and prevent human trafficking. At our Epiphany Women's General meeting on September 22nd, we will have a speaker from a local organization called World Relief, tell us more about this topic and what their organization is doing to fight this.

Combating human trafficking is a long-term fight that begins with addressing each survivor's safety and basic needs. World Relief Triad helps survivors acquire housing, food, clothing, interpretation, medical services, mental health services, legal services, transportation, education, and job development. Meeting these needs is the start of rebuilding each survivor's capacity for trust and relationships so that, over time, they can rebuild their lives.

## FLYP

Save the Date: Our first Youth Fellowship Meeting of the 2019-20 church year will be Sunday, September 8th from 6:00-8:00pm at Parkway Presbyterian Church, 1000 Yorkshire Road, 27106. We will begin our meetings with dinner, followed by a guided discussion on eight hard questions about God and faith, using a study book entitled "Can I Ask That?" There will also be time set aside for fellowship, games and/or planning service projects.



## Nora Youth Mission Trip Video Presentation

During the September 29th Fifth Sunday Brunch, the youth will be showing a video, created by our own Michael Schwamb, of their June Mission Trip to Nora, Virginia. We hope you will make plans to be there!



We received letters of thanks from:

Crisis Control Ministry  
Habitat for Humanity Forsyth County  
Lutheran Services Carolinas

We wanted to be sure and express our sincere gratitude for the beautiful baptismal blanket that members of Epiphany created for Oliver. It will be treasured. We also hope to take it as a welcome reminder that we can look forward to cooler, more snuggle-worthy weather in the near future :)

Lauren & Matt Imboden

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the quilt, my copy of *Oh the Places You'll Go*, and the check. I really appreciate everything that the congregation has done for me as I prepare to go off to college. I read through all of the notes in my book and they were all so amazing, I'm going to miss this congregation.

Luke Sherman

Thanks from Ronald McDonald House

Hot meal and leftover canned ingredients. Your thoughtful gift in honor of Penny Latham is greatly appreciated!



Our final group of Mission Trip participants consisted of David Thrasher, Calvin Sherman, Michael Schwamb, Julia Nicholson, Lee Ann Meckley, Scott Lichtenhan, Charlotte Disher, and Ian Comstock (Lee Ann's nephew). I asked each participant to reflect on where they saw God on the trip, what they learned about their faith and other people, what new skills they learned and what were the highlights, both work-related and during free-time, of the trip for each of them.

Jesus was seen in the curious toddlers, who were residents of the house where we built a porch railing. Two of our chaperones saw Christ in the eyes and through the actions of our youth participants. God was seen in the sense of community created within our mission group. Another witnessed our Triune God at work in the Community Center and through its Director, Mary White. The Holy Spirit was felt by one of our youth in the Bluegrass music, which was played for us in the community of Pound.

Our youth learned although the work was hard and the rain incessant, they still really enjoy helping others. One expressed a true sense of belonging when surrounded by others doing God's work. And another learned that fueling his own faith through service and a sense of community is vital part of his spiritual growth. All our adult chaperones, some of us more than others, learned new depths of patience! One learned to pass his own valuable carpentry skills on to our youth for their future use. And, yet another learned by sharing his personal journey with Christ, he opened the door for some of our youth to do the same.

Although we are each gifted differently, we were reminded throughout the week that each of those God-given gifts compliment each other in a group and strengthen the whole to accomplish amazing things! Through the strength and encouragement of others in community, we can overcome our fears and discomforts to get the job done. We learned more about ourselves as we worked closely with others from varying backgrounds. One youth was reminded that God works in mysterious ways, which we don't always understand, but we can let go and trust things will proceed according to God's plan.

All of our youth learned basic carpentry skills as well as the use of and safety around various power tools. One experienced a strong sense of identity within our group and learned he is able to bring Christ to others through service with them in community.

For our youth, the highlight of their free time was the down time spent relaxing together in the evening playing games, talking, and joking around. Our chaperones enjoyed the day trip to the Breaks Interstate Park and the beauty of Kentucky from the overlook. One of our chaperones was deeply moved by the sense of community and generosity shown to us at the Bluegrass jam session and potluck we attended in the town of Pound.

Of course, for all of us, the highlight of our work experience was seeing our beautiful finished product, knowing that our hard work paid off and it was a job well done! An unsafe front porch was transformed into a beautiful and safe space for the family to enjoy and on which the toddlers can safely play. "Indeed, it was very good."

Summer has been very hot! But it's now half over, and perhaps we'll enjoy some more moderate weather as we begin to prepare for the upcoming fall activities. We trust that each of you has found some time for rest and relaxation during the summer season.

Our Vacation Bible School (theme: ROAR VBS), was held from Sunday, July 28 to Thursday, August 1. We thank all who gave of their time and special talents to support VBS, the parents who brought their children to participate, and adults who participated in the adult VBS! We would like especially to acknowledge Beth Craft, Emily Phillips and Lauren Saldaña for organizing the VBS again this year.

God calls us to: **Grow** in our faith with God, **Connect** with each other, and **Serve** the world! You may recognize this statement as our new Epiphany Purpose Statement. One of the Key Areas of Focus for the Congregation Council this year is to encourage and support the integration of our purpose statement throughout the ministries at Epiphany. We are very encouraged by what we see. Likely you have noticed that we hear the purpose statement during announcements each Sunday at the beginning of worship. Pastor Russell also often talks about our purpose statement, and we hear it mentioned during the children's lesson at Sunday worship. The Strategic Planning Ministry Team will tie elements of the plan being developed to the purpose statement, as will the Stewardship Ministry Team as they develop plans for the coming year. We encourage you to consider how our purpose statement can guide your participation in ministry at Epiphany!

A great example of living out our purpose statement was the mission trip organized by our youth to Nora, VA, in June. We thank the adult leaders (Charlotte Dishner, Scott Lichtenhan, David Thrasher, and Lee Ann Meckley), and the youth who participated, for providing services and support to those in need in Nora. Clearly an opportunity for all involved to grow, connect, and serve.

Another Key Area of Focus for the council this year is to support our Childcare Center's staff and the EECC Committee as they go through the re-accreditation process. We were delighted to get a recent update on this, indicating that the visit by reviewers from the State went very well. Our EECC will remain a 5-star program for the next three years.

Planning also continues on the playground upgrade. While some steps are being taken to prepare for the upgrade, much of the work will be done by a contractor. The plans and budget for this project will be presented to the congregation at a specially called meeting for approval. Stay tuned.



You will also be hearing more from the Strategic Planning Ministry Team, which has been hard at work developing a strategic plan for Epiphany. They will be meeting with our committees to solicit feedback on the current draft, and are working on a timeline to present the plan to the Congregation Council for review and comment in December, and then present it to the congregation at our annual meeting in January. The team has identified several concepts for possible use of our rental properties in ministry at Epiphany. After further consultation, review, and discernment, a recommendation regarding the rental properties will be incorporated in our Strategic Plan. We appreciate the good work done to date by the team, and look forward to receiving the plan and working together to implement it in the coming years.

With the choirs taking their well-deserved summer break, we have enjoyed special music provided by our Music Director Patryck Nuss and various of our members with their offerings of instrumental music and song. Thanks to all who have brought us beautiful music over the summer months!

We are also pleased with the ongoing development of the Stephen Ministry program. Two of our members have now been trained as leaders, Kathy Knecht and Jim Pierson, and other members are being trained to assist in this ministry. If you have an interest in this program, please speak with Pastor Russell or with either of the leaders.

The Congregation Council welcomes Mike Spain as a newly-appointed council member, and welcomes two council officers, Mitzi Silverstein as Treasurer, and Jackie Pierson as Assistant Treasurer for Payroll. We thank them for their willingness to serve in these roles. These appointments were made by the Congregation Council to fill existing vacancies.

Coming soon will be Rally Day, kicking off our new year of Encounter:Faith on September 8, and on the same day we will celebrate "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday with several service projects. Look for more details during the weeks ahead!

We look forward to your continued involvement and support of the ministry at Epiphany!

God's Peace,  
Your Congregation Council

# August Servers

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jennie Hinshaw
<b>Congregational Care</b>	Connie Queen and Carolyn Wiley (meals) Carole Witte (cards)
<b>Head Ushers</b>	Jeanie Saphar and Mike Spain
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	8/4      Lew Saphar 8/11     Sue Bowers 8/18     Leann Pace 8/25     Jim Henricks
<b>Acolytes</b>	8/4      Luke Sherman 8/11     Julia Nicholson 8/18     Will Matthews 8/25     Julia Nicholson
<b>Lector</b>	8/4      Lauren Imbolden 8/11     Chuck Kraft 8/18     Catherine Lyerly 8/25     Jane Lyerly
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	8/4      Elizabeth Horton and Mike Spain 8/11     Norm & Kathy Knecht and Kelly Lichtenhan 8/18     Catherine & Jane Lyerly 8/25     Dan & Lee Ann Meckley
<b>Greeters</b>	8/4      Lewis & Janet Hardy 8/11     Harold & Judy Landis 8/18     Dan & Lee Ann Meckley 8/25     Cory & Emily Phillips
<b>Open/Close Church</b>	8/4      Mike Spain 8/11     Schuyler Darstein 8/18     Adrian Finley 8/25     Jim Pierson
<b>Flowers</b>	8/4      Rodger & Inez Eckard / Dottie & Clarence Peoples 8/11     Norm & Kathy Knecht 8/18     Larry & Nancy Grush 8/25     Dan & Margaret Brock
<b>Sanctuary Light</b>	8/4      Joe & Brenda Middleton 8/11     Joe & Brenda Middleton 8/18     Janice Barnett 8/25     Susan Vestal



Bob, Sarka and Linda were among the first refugees Epiphany helped resettle. I recently saw Sarka and she asked me to give you this message: "Would you kindly tell the church members who remember me, that I never forgot how they helped me and my family." Sarka is a phlebotomist at Novant Hospital.

Kay Conrad



### Leaders of church & state, especially

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton      President Trump  
 Bishop Timothy Smith      Governor Cooper  
 Pastor Russell Peek      Mayor Joines

### Our sister congregation and our missionary in Mexico

The people of Mupini Parish, Namibia and Pastor David Brondos

### Active duty military personnel

Jay Collette	Tim Hawkins
Simon Andrew Connolly	Randal Middleton
Travis Gerdes	David Schultz

### For those who rejoice, especially

Matthew & Lauren Imboden at the baptism of their son, Oliver Walter Imboden on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah Lischer and Orin Sadler at their marriage on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Family & friends of the congregation in need

Chuck Allen	Chris Haugen	Robert & Mary Peak
Baby Indiana	Larry Hostetter	Lemien Pierson
Arnold Boliek	Randy Johnson	Jane Ritchie
Rev. Partee Boliek	Wanda Johnson	Audrey Rubio
Andy Brulle	Judy Knapp	Lillian Sarich
Reece Burdette	Annie Landis	Peggy Scholz
Paul & Edna Carr	PJ Lenihan	Emily Schultz
Anita Cirba	George Lippard	Nora Schweitzer
Kris Cowdrey & Family	Becky Marion	Mike & Sue Slezak
Emily Ferriter	Naomi Meckley	Germaine Smith
Robin Fisher	Julie Mellander	Michele Stanfield
Ron Gainer	Janet Miller	Bill Stenberg
Carolyn Graham	Allison Morris	Winston White
Pete Hanner	Bill Moser	Nicole Williams
Stephanie Hansen	Andy Motz	Ruochong Wong
Dave Hardy	Joan Murphy	

### Members in need

Sharen Bond	Amy Crump	Susan Pester
Mary Ann Borwick	Jim Lippard	Wanda Rabb
Ann Cannon	Kathleen Malone	Carl Schlager
Jim Cochrane	Andy McMurray	Marty Wylie

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

Gladys Shue

  
 Barbara Coley, Forest Heights Senior Living  
 Community  
 Doris Kent, Forsyth Court  
 Marge Leister, Homestead Hills  
 Helen Preston, Homestead Hills  
 Martee Umberger, Trinity Elms Rehab



Bonnie Bryant  
 Cole Lippard  
 Virginia Schmitz  
 Robert Walker

### August Birthdays

Brady Artz	8/1	Becky Alson	8/1
Clarence Peoples	8/2	Jim Cochrane	8/1
Mary Jane Beeg	8/3	Inez Eckard	8/1
Mica Bunjang	8/3	Mica Bunjang	8/5
Marty Wylie	8/3	Henry Royals	8/5
Brad Davis	8/4	Emily Toborg	8/8
Andrew Finley	8/5	Jon Tucker	8/9
Carolyn Wiley	8/8	Bradley Davis	8/10
Sara Reich	8/9	Carrie Carter	8/12
Jordan Baker	8/10	Tyler Toborg	8/19
Sandy Hunter	8/10	Sharen Bond	8/22
Jonathan Miller	8/10	Shelley Hood	8/22
Sophie Spanos	8/10	Lois Steichen	8/22
Norm Knecht	8/11	Billie Holbrook	8/29
Jim Lippard	8/11	Alice Harris	8/30
Jessica Reich	8/11	Guenter Pfitzner	8/30
Hayden Sloop	8/11		
Janice Barnett	8/12		
Katherine Shaner	8/13		
Mark Tonnesen	8/13		
Judy Landis	8/14		
Matthew Meckley	8/14		
Guenter Pfitzner	8/15		
AJ Bronk	8/17		
Charlotte Disher	8/18		
Emily Phillips	8/18		
Henry Royals	8/18		
Dorothy Hanson	8/19		
Don Hoirup	8/19		
Mark Lane	8/19		
Diana Stindt	8/19		
Sue Bowers	8/21		
Dave Konkler	8/21		
Harold Landis	8/22		
Evan Muday	8/22		
Andrew Craft	8/23		
Arnold Herbison	8/23		
Patryck Nuss	8/24		
Jean Darstein	8/25		
Lucie McCormick	8/27		
Liz Tacik	8/28		
Cathy Henricks	8/29		
Jeanne Sturiale	8/29		

### August Baptisms

Becky Alson	8/1
Jim Cochrane	8/1
Inez Eckard	8/1
Mica Bunjang	8/5
Henry Royals	8/5
Emily Toborg	8/8
Jon Tucker	8/9
Bradley Davis	8/10
Carrie Carter	8/12
Tyler Toborg	8/19
Sharen Bond	8/22
Shelley Hood	8/22
Lois Steichen	8/22
Billie Holbrook	8/29
Alice Harris	8/30
Guenter Pfitzner	8/30

### For the upcoming ELCA churchwide assembly

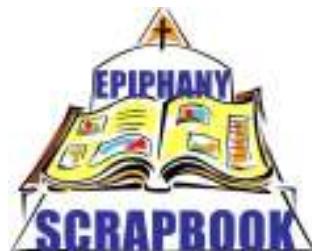
Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by your wisdom, as this church prepares to gather in assembly. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

--Six weeks of prayer prior to assembly



Roger & Inez Eckard	8/3
Schuyler & Jean Darstein	8/4
Joel & Diana Nicholson	8/11
Scott & Kelly Lichtenhan	8/14
Larry & Nancy Grush	8/16
Jonathan Miller & Katherine Shaner	8/25
Jim & Cathy Henricks	8/31

We wish you many more years of happiness!



Our newest baptized member, Oliver Imboden, and his proud family.



First night VBS dinner.



#### GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR AUGUST

**CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Saltine crackers, cooking oil

**SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Cold breakfast cereal, pasta (any type), toothpaste (sample size), socks, high efficiency laundry detergent packs/pods, ground beef (50 lbs)

**RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** - Preemie clothes and diapers; single-serve snack items; singer-serve meals and breakfast items; sugar, creamer, milk; gift cards

**TRINITY GLEN** - Kleenex, Puffs, etc.

**TRINITY ELMS** - Fronts of greeting cards, baby lotion, body wash, bath items, deodorant, snacks, note cards

**IBRAHAM FOOD PANTRY** - Shampoo, laundry soap, dish soap (all available at Dollar Tree)

**EECC** - Bubbles (large size refill), old tennis balls

Learning VBS songs.

## What bishops do

I've spent last week from early each morning until dark each night at Lenoir-Rhyne University with 13 high schoolers from all over Region 9 in the ELCA. Though "Bishops' School" has been happening for decades, several years ago it started rotating around to happen on the territory of the six Region 9 synods (comprising eight states, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). This year is the first year in its long history that the event has been in North Carolina. The school is a chance for high school students to dive deep into theology. Some of them are interested in professional church vocations. Some aren't.

The bishop doesn't lead the whole thing by a long shot, but I did get a chance to lead worship, teach one of the sessions, and spend an hour with the youth telling my call story. All of that was fun. The part that was a bit daunting to me was the hour-long session called "What Does a Bishop Do?" I mean, how do any of us talk to 16- and 17-year-olds for an hour about what we do at work and keep their attention? But it made me think, yet again, what DO I do? Why? What SHOULD I be doing?

There are actually multiple pages in every synod's constitution that outline an answer. It begins by saying "As the synod's pastor..." Many pastors introduce me and think of me as "the pastor to the pastors." That's not entirely accurate. A bishop is pastor of the synod, which is primarily made up of congregations. During my first year, I asked during a Q & A session in a parish I was visiting, "Who knows what synod means?" A well-meaning woman answered, "It's like a union for pastors." Well, no. Perhaps that's how she's perceived it, but a synod is foundationally a group of congregations—not a group of clergy. We intentionally lift up in our new synod vision: Vital Congregations. Then, Healthy Leaders. In that order. Congregations call pastors and deacons. Therefore, being pastor of a synod means primarily having oversight and responsibility for congregations.

Constitutionally, a bishop has "primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations" and its rostered ministers. Only a bishop can ordain. Bishops advise and counsel our affiliated agencies and institutions (and serve on many of their boards). A bishop also interprets the mission and theology of the whole church to the synod and its congregations and attests letters of call. Much, I've learned, in such attestations is vouching that congregations followed proper procedure. If someone questions the following of proper procedure, the bishop sometimes is called in to void a decision and call for a "re-do," following proper procedure. I'm required to consult regularly with the Conference of Bishops and other bishops and "foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion."

Did you know that the bishop is mandated to "serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments"? I'm also charged with seeing that "the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect." Other duties include "supervision over the work of the other officers," to "coordinate the work of all synodical staff members," to "appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made," to "be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod," and to appoint interim pastors when congregations are vacant and facilitate the call process when congregations seek a rostered minister.

If you ask my wife, what that looks like in real life is that I drive a lot, I'm gone a lot, I preach and speak way more than I ever did (and thus lots of prep time), I get—and try to answer—more than 200 phone calls, emails, text and FB messages a day, go to lots of meetings, and manage conflict and give pastoral care.

During July and August, I have scheduled:

- a two-day summit at Southern Seminary with Region 9 bishops
- a day-long pre-ELCA Assembly prep meeting with all NC Synod voting members
- a two-day Region 9 meeting in Atlanta around Women in Ministry issues
- a two-day family wedding (niece)
- at least one ordination (at LTSS)
- a Region 9 Bishops' Annual three-day retreat near Gatlinburg, TN
- a two-day Lenoir-Rhyne Board meeting
- six evening meetings with congregations
- all but two Sundays preaching
- two monthly appointment days
- one-week family beach vacation
- one-week Triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- a three-day Candidacy retreat
- a day-long Boundary training
- a two-day trip for retirement events at coastal congregations
- and, finally, departing for a three-week trip to Papua New Guinea for a Companion Synod visit—the first from our synod in at least 12 years.

All this is in addition to normal days in the office, staff supervision, conflicts that arise, call process, phone calls, emails, messages, etc. Then after this summer hiatus, things get busy in September and October. I am privileged to walk this journey with you. This is just a little glimpse into what I talked about with the high schoolers on the topic of "What bishops do." And, I'm still open to your suggestions as to the "should."

Walking with you,

*Tim*

Bishop Tim Smith



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 10 am Worship				1 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	2	3
4 After Worship Threads of Love After Worship WELCA Board Meeting	5 6 pm EECC Comm.	6 6 pm National Night Out @ Burkhead UMC	7 10 am EECC Chapel 7 pm Strategic Planning (CR)	8 11:30 am Nora Deal Circle	9	10
11	12 6:30 pm Exec. Comm.	13 11 am Mary-Martha Circle Birthday Lunch @ Sherwood 6:30 pm Dorothy Circle @ Betty Benardo's	14 10 am EECC Chapel 12:30 pm Staff Lunch 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Worship Comm.	15 6 pm Finance	16	17 10 am Epiphany Quilters
18	19 7 pm Congregation Council	20 6 pm Stewardship (CR)	21 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff Meeting	22 6:30 pm Epiphany Readers (CM)	23	24
25	26 5 pm Ice Cream Social (FH)		Charlotte Out	27	28 10 am EECC Chapel 3 pm Staff Meeting	29 30
						31

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#### 2019 Congregation Council

**Officers:**

Joe Middleton, Pres.

Kathy Pressley, VP

Ellen Palmer, Sec.

Mitzi Silverstein, Treas.

**Non-Council Officers:**

Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.

Judy Mountjoy, Recording Sec.

Paul Oldland, Asst. Tr. Payroll

Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll

**Members:**

Margaret Brock

Andrew Craft

Schuylar Darstein

Lindsey Finley

Lewis Hardy

Mike Spain

Pastor Russell Peek



Women of the ELCA at Epiphany have been very pleased with the congregation's response to our efforts to help Christ Beloved Community (CBC). We want to say THANK YOU to all the congregation. You have donated household items as well as food items which benefit the children and families during this summer season when school is out. During June and July Bill and Elaine Davis have taken our donations about every two weeks to the pantry. We will continue during August to collect the items needed in the fellowship hall.

Please review the list of items needed and determine how you can assist CBC to expand their pantry to meet the growing needs. Donations can be brought anytime and placed in the collection boxes. Again, summer is a time when many of us have various activities and vacations but we can remember our neighbors in need with one or two food items or household items that can make a huge difference to struggling families. Please continue to help!

Sisters in Christ,  
Kathy Knecht, Vice President  
Epiphany's Unit Women of the ELCA

#### Christ Beloved Community Pantry Needs List

**Household Items**

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Kleenex

Dish Detergent

Bath Soap

Baby Wipes

Laundry Detergent

Dryer Sheets

**Foods**

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Tuna

Spaghetti O's / Ravioli

Baked Beans (cans)

Canned Tomatoes

Ground Coffee

Canned Milk

Instant Oatmeal (packs)

**For special family birthdays: Cake mixes and canned frostings**

#### Upcoming Events:

Aug. 4	After Worship	Executive Board of Women of the ELCA
Aug. 8	11:30am	<b>Nora Deal Circle</b> Lunch @ The Sherwood
Aug. 13	11:00am	<b>Mary-Martha Circle</b> Birthday Lunch @ The Sherwood
Aug. 13	6:30pm	<b>Dorothy Circle</b> @ Betty Benardo's
Sept. 22	After Worship	<b>General Meeting and Luncheon</b>