

# THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELMHURST, IL



ROOTED IN CHRIST • GROWING IN FAITH • REACHING TO INVITE AND SERVE

JANUARY, 2022



## Annual Congregational Meeting

February 6, 2022  
10:45 a.m.

It's that time again! Our Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 6, 2022**. Information regarding location will be forthcoming.

The agenda will include:

- Reception of reports from officers, staff, committees, and program areas
- Election of Congregation Council members
- Election of Synod Assembly voting members and Nominating Committee members
- Election of Endowment Fund Committee Members
- Adoption of a budget for 2022
- Updates on renovation project and the ***Second Mile Appeal***.
- Vote on proposed new Constitution and Bylaws.

All Epiphany members, friends, and guests are welcome to attend the meeting. Confirmed and contributing members are eligible to vote.

Information for attending the meeting via ZOOM and by telephone and instructions for voting will be made available closer to the date of the meeting.

*Please join us as, together, we consider what God has in store for our congregation in the coming year!*

## A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR RON

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope this turning of the calendar to a new year finds you full of joy and promise for blessed days to come.



We turn the calendar amid renewed threats of COVID-19 with its dastardly variants. Our plans for “normal” Christmas Eve worship were hijacked by a surge that has us all hunkering down again. Once again, we find ourselves confused and uncertain about the best ways to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. And, all the while, questions about mask usage and vaccines are mired in political debate and not based on love of neighbor as they ought to be. Anyone else feel powerless about now?

Father Thomas Keating, an American Trappist monk and one of the developers of centering prayer, once shared some great wisdom about where God is in our trying times.

*This is an extraordinary life, a marvelous universe, and the fact that it's plagued with evil manifests how humble God is that he lets his creation get into such messes from time to time to allow anything to happen but with always the same purpose of finally getting us to allow him to love us.*

Father Keating also wrote a now-famous prayer which acknowledges our powerlessness and the value of turning over all of life to God. It's a difficult prayer for those of us who like to be in control, but it tells a critical truth—God is in charge, not us. It's a good prayer for the beginning of another year of uncertainty and a prayer I pray when I have the courage. May it welcome our new year as a family of faith.

### THE WELCOMING PRAYER Father Thomas Keating

*Welcome, welcome, welcome.*

*I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.*

*I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.*

*I let go of my desire for power and control.*

*I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval, and pleasure.*

*I let go of my desire for survival and security.*

*I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.*

*I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen.*

I'll see you in church this Sunday!

*Pastor Ron*

## RENOVATION REPORT

Our **Rejoice & Renew** construction project nears substantial completion. During the early part of January, the elevator will become operational allowing Fellowship Hall to be used by all congregational members. The washrooms have been renovated and a cleaning crew will be employed to “spruce up” the lower level.



The Sunday School hallways have new lights and a new ceiling. Our volunteer “holy rollers” paint crew continues to paint areas throughout the building.

The updated electrical switch gear has been significantly delayed but hopefully will be completed by the end of January.

The new Vallette Street entrance will be available after the railings have been installed. During the second or third week in January, the metal soffit should be completed and the new lighting system will be apparent.

The new roof has been completed and the new rooftop heating and air conditioning units will be used after the switch gear upgrade is completed.

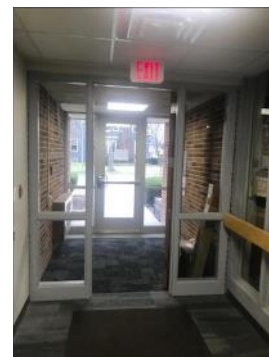
New doors have been installed at the Hillside and the Adult Care entrances. The hardware for the upgraded handicapped electrical door opening parts has been delayed but should be completed soon.

In summary, the construction will be substantially completed by the end of January and we soon will have a celebration for our renovated church!

*-Chip Johnson*



New doors installed at the ACC entrance.



New doors installed at the Hillside entrance.



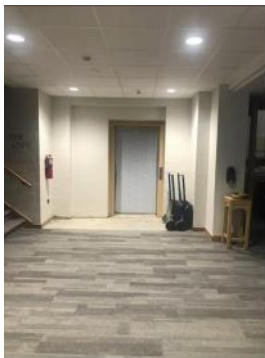
New windows in the Vallette Street entrance.



Stained glass windows have been successfully relocated!



New doors in the Vallette Street entrance.



The elevator is almost complete!



The coffee bar is nearing completion!

## Important Dates and INFORMATION

### Please note:

- There is no service on New Year's Day.
- Beginning January, there will only be one service on Sunday—9:30 a.m.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 3.
- Annual reports are due Friday, January 14, 2022.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School will take an extended winter break from Sunday, December 26 – Sunday, January 16, and will resume on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Please make sure you have filled out a registration form if your children are participating in Sunday School! Both paper and digital versions of the form are available – please ask Pastor Anna if you need help.

Masks are currently required in worship and in Sunday School. Please make sure your child understands this responsibility. Also, please take your child to the bathroom before worship begins.

Thank you to our Sunday School leadership team and teachers/volunteers who have agreed to serve this year! We can always use more hands so please let us know if you are willing to help!

*-Kristin Banta, Ralph and Emily Barszcz, Rhonda Berg, Amy Jones, Marcie Raia, Kerrie Samuelian, Meghan Schleich, Anna Wick*

We also want to make sure we are welcoming all Pre-K youth families and all new to Epiphany families! Please contact Pastor Anna if you are not receiving Sunday School emails and would like to be added to the Sunday School email list.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation schedule for January:

**Wednesday, January 5– NO CONFIRMATION, Winter Break**

**Wednesday, January 12, 19, 26** — Confirmation class, 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Please contact Pastor Anna with any questions about Confirmation.



## LYO

### LYO JANUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**Sunday, January 2 – NO LYO—Winter Break**

**Sunday, January 9—LYO, 10:45 a.m.**

**Sunday, January 16—NO LYO**

**Sunday, January 23—LYO, 10:45 a.m.**

**Sunday, January 30—LYO, TBD**

## LYO

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE SUMMER 2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS!

**Our travel dates: Friday, July 22 - TBD (but no later than Saturday, July 30, 2022)**

**Actual Gathering dates: Sunday, July 24 - Thursday, July 28**

**Exact pre- and post-gathering activities TBD** but will include time at camp and additional service opportunities

**Exact cost TBD ASAP** - will be similar to work camp cost

Vaccination or negative COVID test 72 hours prior now required to attend



Fundraising opportunities (with potentially more to be added):

--Butterbraids sales, April, 2022

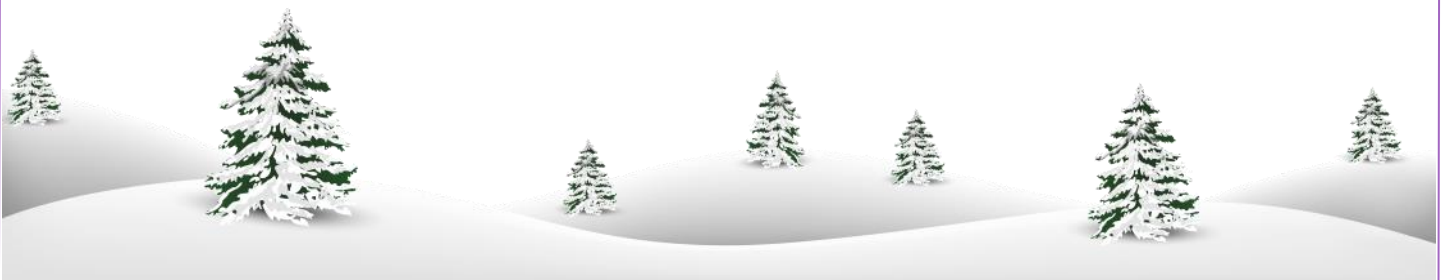
***When you are ready to register, let Pastor Anna know!***

## MEMORIAL DONATION RECEIVED

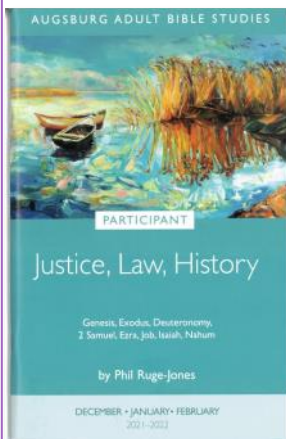


A donation in memory of Beverly Harrigfeld Brown was received from Marjorie Wyatt.

Donations in memory of Dianne Hallongren were received from Jim and Linda Kiesow, Marilyn Kosik, and Scott Sutherland (donation to Epiphany's Endowment Fund).



## WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY



### Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)

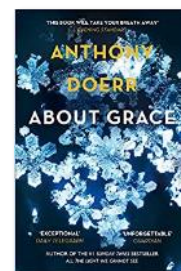
Pastor Ron will lead a Wednesday Adult Bible Study on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom). Meeting dates are January 5, 12, 19, and 26.

The Wednesday Adult Bible Study will be using the Augsburg Adult Bible Study program, a year-round Bible study that is released quarterly and is based on a six-year cycle as found in the International Uniform Lesson Series (National Council of Churches). Written by an array of accomplished theologians, this series provides terrific insights into scripture through questions, prayer, suggested memorization, and daily readings. This session is entitled **Justice, Law, and History** and will include studies of Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, Ezra, Job, Isaiah, and Nahum.

## READING WITH THE REV TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

### *About Grace*, by Anthony Doerr

About Grace revolves around David Winkler and the profound impact his dreams have on his life. In the past, David had dreamed of a death that came to pass. So, when David dreamed that he accidentally drowned his infant daughter, he feared that it would also come true. To prevent the dream from becoming a reality, David abandoned his wife and infant daughter Grace. Now, twenty-five years later, he returns to apologize and make things right.

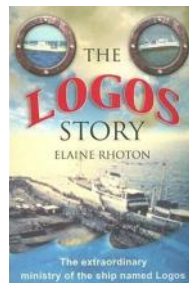


### Future selections include:

- February 22 *Eden Mine*, by S. M. Hulse (chosen by Ellen Lippert)
- March 22 *Home*, by Toni Morrison (chosen by Donna Johnson)
- April 26 TBD (to be chosen by Ken Schroeder)
- May 24 TBD (to be chosen by P. Ron)

We hope you will join us for these discussions!

## CHECK IT OUT!



"These and other Christians said that the start of church growth in that area could be linked directly to the visit of the *Logos*." What was the *Logos*? The *Logos* was a world-ranging ship that transported a book store, housed missionaries and their families, hosted seminars and worship services, and physically represented Christian love for strangers. Elaine Rhoton wrote The Logos Story to tell the facts, legends, and gossip of the eighteen years of service--with some planning years as a bonus. The slim volume is a dry but detailed telling of the range of human emotions and the vagaries of a ship. The completion of church construction and redistribution of displaced objects will mean that the books in the

library can one again be checked out for FREE!

-Assistant Librarian Teri

## THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO DONATED TO THE TREE OF LOVE AND CARING



The Outreach committee extends a huge thank you to everyone who provided gifts for children through our Tree of Love and Caring. About 80 gifts were received. Your generosity helped make this a joyous Christmas for many children!



## THANK YOU FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



As I write this, I am about to conclude my third month as the Director of Music at Epiphany, and I am filled with immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve this wonderful faith community. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to my fellow staff members and musicians—all of whom have worked so hard this year to craft a wonderful worship experience. I would like to thank the church council and congregation, who have placed a great deal of trust in me I taking on the role of Director of Music. I have truly discovered a passion for service through music, and Epiphany has offered me the spiritual and financial support to continue growing. The tradition of wonderful music runs deep at Epiphany, and I am grateful to continue this legacy. I am looking forward to what the year 2022 brings for all of us here at Epiphany!

With gratitude,

*Clay Corso*

Director of Music

The women in Hannah's Circle enjoying holiday fellowship.







## BIRTHDAYS

2	Anna Ernst	18	Patrick Barton, Ruth Blair,
3	Mason Hildy, Cindy O'Malley, Diane Solem	20	Annelle Fletcher, Donna Lamoureux
4	Charles McGarry	21	Riley McGirk
7	Daryl Bartleson	21	Layla Dudley, Philip Ganser, Carina Innocentini, Sarah May
8	Tammy Banasek, Gary Sanders, Sr.	22	Linnea Wethekam
9	Deborah Hawkins, Laura Kociak, Greg Lippert	23	Samuel Carson, Mike Hartley, Ellen Hartley
10	Frank Parello, Anna Wick	24	Jon Phillips
11	Mary Schmuhl	25	Karen Bircher, Molly Loeser, Justin Martich
12	Erik Hoaglund, Natalie Hradil	27	Jacob Evans
13	William French, Michael Kriz, Roy Schroeder, Jr.	28	Paula Bublitz
14	Kristen McGirk	29	Jaiden Chavez, Claire Heinle, Ian McPhee, Margaret McPherson
15	Anna Finnerty, Chuck Sutton	31	Madeline Sly
16	Cheri Richards		

## ANNIVERSARIES

2	Vince and Cindy Hradil	9	Dieter and Susan Werner
3	Gary and Allison Wilson	13	Brian and Meghan Schleich



**IN OUR PRAYERS**

*\*(Please contact Joan Halvey if we missed anyone.)*

**OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST\***

Dolores Barney, Gwen Becker, Curt Clifford, Marjorie DeSombre, Sienna Dudley, Bill Friberg, John Halen, Mary K Han-son, Joyce Hill, Wilbur Lippert, Molly and Rich Loeser, Christine Pfaff, Rich Schmuhl, Joan Schroeder, Audrey Seifried, Marlene Tegmeyer, Bill Thiel

We extend our sympathies to the family of Dianne Hallongren (wife of Gene) who died on November 29. We also extend our sympathies to the family of Richard Becker (husband of Gwen, and father of Melenie and Eric) who died on December 11.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS\***

Dave Allen (Justin Allen's dad), Jolene Allen (friend of Scott and Debbie Hawkins), Al Anderson (father of Penny Brecht's daughter-in-law), John Austin (friend of the Witzel family), Ed and Laverne Budris (parents of Lisa Budris), Greg Bukowski (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Jennifer Bush (sister-in-law of the Mehrings), Melissa Carnall (friend of Anna Ernst), Donna and Gary Diven (sister and brother-in-law of Gary Sanders, Sr.), Kathleen Duda (daughter of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Wanda Farmer (friend of Wanda Block), Eleanor Feld (aunt to Lisa Budris), Sylvia Graham (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Robert Groh (brother-in-law of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Alyssa, Jeff and Jennifer Hagen (Jon Markwald's cousins), Lorna Hansen (Amy Rimatington's mother), Jan Harms (Jen Mann's mother), Jan Henderson (friend of Deb and Scott Hawkins), John Johnson (Janet Rudhman's brother), Tracy June (friend of Amy Jones), Robert Kampf (friend of Daryl Bartelson), Kevorak Kahvedsian (friend of the Haidles), Jan Kopas (nephew of Mary Langer), Linda (friend of the Ernst family), Lindsay Larson (Andrea Redfearn's niece), Marianna Levy (sister of Gerard Duda), Rev. Mark Matthews (friend of the Halveys), Karen McCaa (sister of Amy Pilny), Maureen McCoy and family (friends of the Redfearns), Sean McLaughlin (friend of Dolores Barney), Chelsea McPherson (sister-on-law of Maureen McPherson), Evan Thomas Mevis (Ruth Blair's grandson), Michael (friend of the Jones family), Debbie Morocco (sister of Beverly Keller), Adam Scott Morris (Gary and Wanda Block's grandson), Parker Morrow (friend of many Epiphany members), Gail Nerison, O'Brien family (friends of Amy VanDenBrook), Diane Parra (friend of Penny Brecht), Michelle Parris (friend of Cathleen Anderson), Joseph Paumier (father of Ben Paumier), Karen Peterson (friend of the Mehrings), Nancy Peterson (friend of the Tengroths), the Pickering family (friends of Chris Wilbur), Joe Pilny (David Pilny's father), Steven Q. (friend of the French family), Carol Raimondi (friend of Kerrie Samuelian), Amber and James Randall (friends of Gwen Becker), Linda Rosengren (friend of Dolores Barney), John Rossi, Karen Scott (friend of Curt Clifford), John Sears (John Pozeck's brother-in-law), Seidenfuss family (friends of Keelie Witzel), Paula Serfling-Nugent (Marlene Tegmeyer's daughter), Fred Steinberg (friend of Lisa Budris), Joan Sturino (sister of Dawn Sanders), Steve Swanson (friend of Kelli Comise), Irma Tena (friend of the Johnson family), Mary Thoen (Wanda Block's mother), Matt Toole (friend of Phyllis Field), Alex Vickney (brother of Ashley Beine), Jeff Vidt (Sue Kostecki's brother), Kayleigh Wieska (Joy Wieska's granddaughter), Kathleen Zayad (Lynn Howell's sister), David Livingstone Zijjan (Pastor of Father's Divine Love Ministry), Maria (sister of Brendan Connor).

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

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Joan Halvey	Office Administrator	Joan.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Clay Corso	Director of Music	Clay.Corso@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Jason Schmuhl	Cleaning Ninja	

**In the event of a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Pastor Feltman at (339) 203-7214 or Pastor Ernst at (773) 991-2719.**

**Thank you to everyone who submits articles to *The Star*. Articles submitted are subject to review by the editor. Any significant revisions will be discussed with the author of the article. You may email contributions to: [Joan.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org](mailto:Joan.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org) Deadline for submissions for the February, 2022 edition is Friday, January 21.**