

THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, IL



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

JUNE, 2023

“Wild Life!” Vacation Bible School at Epiphany



Monday, June 19 – Thursday, June 22, 6-8 p.m.

Ages: entering Kindergarten – entering 5th Grade

Cost: \$20/child, payable by cash/check to “Epiphany Lutheran Church”
Venmo @EpiphanyElmhurst

Children will:

- Start each evening with dinner and fellowship.
- Experience an interactive, fun-filled week with learning, crafts, games, and music.
- End the week with a family concert and ice cream social!



Registration is now open! Sign up here!

<https://www.epiphanyelmhurst.org/vacation-bible-school>



Volunteer help will be needed! If you’d like to volunteer for Vacation Bible School, please email Kerrie Samuelian, kerriesamuelian@gmail.com. Volunteers 18+ years working directly with children must pass a background check.

A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR RON

On the next page, you will see Bill Edwards' letter informing you about our financial situation and encouraging you to prayerfully consider your gifts toward God's work at Epiphany.

When your congregation leadership recommended the 2023 budget, we knew it would be a challenge. For the first time in many years, we carry significant debt. We believed then—and still do—that Epiphany is up to the challenge. When we presented the budget, we promised that we would keep you informed about our progress toward meeting the budget.



Here's what your leadership is doing to address the issue:

- We are negotiating the refinancing of our mortgage to a longer term. The mortgage is now amortized for a duration of 10 years. That's a little more aggressive than we had planned, but we wanted to take advantage of the low interest rates and get the debt paid off a little quicker. Pat Jones, our treasurer, is negotiating a longer period and lower monthly mortgage payments.
- The staff and Congregation Council are carefully monitoring expenditures and working to keep spending below budget levels until things improve.
- We have postponed our offerings to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the ELCA. We expect to catch up on our budgeted amount to share in the mission of the wider church, but we are postponing our payments temporarily to help with the cash flow.

Here's what you can do:

- Please check your records to see if you are current on your estimate of giving. If you are behind, please consider catching up.
- If you are up to date with your giving estimate, perhaps you could consider increasing your level of giving. Did you receive a large tax refund or a bonus at work? Consider designating a portion of that to God's work at Epiphany.
- Please consider your level of giving over the last several years. Have you been giving the same amount? (We have found that members who give electronically are less likely to increase their giving from year to year.) Inflation has affected the church as it has individuals and families. Would you consider giving Epiphany a mid-year "raise"?
- Are you new to Epiphany and have not yet begun to share in the mission of the congregation through your financial gifts? Perhaps regular giving would be the next step in your active engagement.

You should know that we are not in a financial crisis. God has still blessed Epiphany with abundance. We have plenty of cash, and the bills are being paid. We simply need to increase gifts to meet the challenging goals we made for ourselves in 2023. These are exciting times to be the church. I believe that God has given us all that we need to do what we're called to do here. I pray that you do, too.

-Pastor Ron

THOUGHTS FROM BILL EDWARDS

Bill Edwards, a member of the Congregation Council and the Stewardship Committee shares some thoughts about our giving to Epiphany’s mission.



To my fellow Epiphany Church family members,

We need your help. At a recent Congregation Council meeting, we learned that our projected giving is running behind our budget projections. At the same time, our expenses have held true compared to our objectives. While the first two months of the year were strong due to some initial gifts, the last two months (March and April) show concerning deficits. (See chart below.)

The fact that we are running behind can be attributed to a number of reasons, and not one of them can be fixed easily. To address the problem now, we are asking everyone to try to offer a little more in your personal stewardship estimate for the balance of this year. Our ability to meet the needs of our congregational family and be a resource to our community starts with our personal commitments.

We all know Epiphany does great things in our own lives and for our community. Your support is appreciated and valued, but we need a little more at the moment.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Edwards

Member, Congregation Council and Stewardship Committee

GIVING SUMMARY January-April 2023

	Total Gifts	Budget	Variance
January	66,568	63,900	2,668
February	84,945	57,900	27,045
March	49,713	58,900	(9,187)
April	49,182	69,300	(20,118)
Year To Date	250,408	250,000	408

LYO AND GROUP WORK CAMP



Celebrate summer! LYO movie/game nights are planned for Wednesday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. in the LYO room. The LYO weekly e-news will continue to run occasionally during the summer, so please stay tuned for event updates. If you are not getting the e-news and would like to, please contact the office or Pastor Anna.

GROUP WORK CAMP: Wausau, WI

Friday, July 21—Saturday, July 29



Total payment of \$575 is due now.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME!

Please contact Pastor Anna ASAP (by the end of June)

Participants, please fill out your participant registration forms by FRIDAY, JUNE 23.

LYO WEEKEND AT THE LAKE— SUTTON'S HOUSE IN WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Friday, July 21—Sunday, July 23

Come enjoy tubing, water skiing, two kayaks, two paddle boards, a wooden boat, a pontoon boat, a fire pit, and bags set for evening activities! The Suttons have many beds and space for air mattresses as needed. Even if you can't attend the full week of GWC, you can participate in our faith-building devotional time and fun as well. We will work on group transportation/car-pooling on both ends as needed. We would LOVE to host a large Epiphany group, so please join us! Please let Pastor Anna know if you'll attend.



INTERESTED IN

BAPTISM?

Are you interested in having your child baptized at Epiphany? If so, please speak with or email Pastor Anna, Anna.Roper@EpiphanyElmhurst.org.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!



Epiphany is looking for musicians of all ages and experience levels to play during the offering at our weekend services. If you or a family member is interested in performing music during the Saturday or Sunday service at any point throughout the summer, please contact Clay at Clay.Corso@EpiphanyElmhurst.org. If you need piano accompaniment, Clay is able to provide that as well!

JOIN THE ROMEOs

Are you retired or working from home and would like to get out? The ROMEO's will meet at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 21, at the Fresh Start Café. Contact David Norquist (630) 310-0934 or Wes Odean (630) 605-1147 for more information.



GO GREEN WITH EPIPHANY!



Spring has sprung! The colorful blooms and songs of the birds remind us of all the beauty God provides us through nature. If caring for His creation resonates with you, consider being a part of revitalizing Epiphany's Green Team! We will help the church be good stewards of the environment through special collections, donation drives, and other sustainability initiatives. Contact Andrea Redfearn at andreadfearn@yahoo.com with questions or suggestions or if you would like to join this group!

FUNERAL USHERS NEEDED

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:13

Are you looking for a way to serve others and practice hospitality without a huge time commitment? Then consider serving as a greeter/usher at Epiphany funerals. Your hospitality will go a long way to support our members and visitors in their time of need.



To volunteer or to get more information, please contact Beth Kunesch at (630) 542-0416 or oakstreetpond@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Live Stream Sunday Services



Are you social media savvy? We need a Sunday morning live stream host to interact with our online worshippers. We are also looking for additional members for our **Communications Committee**. Help us keep in touch with our members and community in various ways. If interested, please contact Ingrid Durham at imdurham@yahoo.com or (630) 805-1332.

Coffee/Clean-Up in Del's Place

A sign-up sheet for Sunday morning coffee/clean-up volunteers for Sundays in June is available in the Epiphany Center. Thank you to all who help with this ministry of hospitality! New volunteers are always welcome, and the coffee is easy to make. Please contact Pastor Anna if you're willing to help. Thank you!



Readers/Communion Assistants



A sign-up sheet (through July 2) is available for Readers/Communion Assistants on the bulletin board in the Epiphany Center. Please sign up for whatever date works for you. Thank you for serving!

POWER TO BE SHUT OFF FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Please note that power will be shut down in the entire building Friday, June 16 for some planned work. The staff will be working remote that day. The best way to contact staff will be through email or via text.



Weekend services will take place as scheduled. The Church Office will re-open Monday, June 19 at 8:30 a.m. Thank you for your understanding!



ANNOUNCING THE NEW HOME FOR BUTTONS AND BOWS PRESCHOOL!

We couldn't be more thrilled to formally announce the new home of Buttons and Bows Preschool to the community! The preschool staff will begin moving into their classrooms on Friday, June 23. Please feel free to introduce yourself this wonderful group of teachers when you are in the building.

Thank you to Margie Gotsch for designing this beautiful sign! Once again, **WELCOME BUTTONS AND BOWS!**

THANK YOU FROM MEN IN MISSION

Spring Dinner & Fundraiser



Thank you, Epiphany!

Your generous participation on May 2 allows us to help individuals and families in need with expenses for food, clothing, medical care, utilities, and housing.

...And we sure had a lot of fun together!

-- Your Men in Mission



SENIORS PERFORM FOR ACC ON JUNE 15



The Notables Senior Choral Group has graciously volunteered to perform for Adult Christian Care (ACC) on Thursday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome to enjoy the beautiful music performed by this eleven member musical group. Special thanks to Margie Gotsch for bringing us together!

OUR HEALTHY CHURCH POLICY

Worshippers and guests to the church building are no longer required to wear a mask. We know that some of you feel more comfortable and safe continuing to wear a mask, and you are welcome to do so. We ask for respect for whatever choice is made regarding mask-wearing.



We have resumed offering Holy Communion at the altar. The pastors and worship assistants will offer a wafer and an individual cup of wine. Intinction (dipping the wafer into the common cup of wine) is no longer an option. Again, we know that some will be more comfortable continuing to receive the elements in their seats. Pre-packaged elements will continue to be available in the Epiphany Center. Those who wish to commune in their seats may remain there.

We ask that those who are ill or showing signs of COVID-19 please worship using our live streaming option.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN HOST END-OF-YEAR BRUNCH



On April 27, the Praying for Our Children group hosted a brunch at Del's Place after holding their weekly meeting in the Epiphany Center.

We are blessed to be able to serve this group once again!



PICTURES FROM SPRING CLEANING DAY



Thank you to all those who helped out on our Spring Cleaning Day/Mulch Fest! Your hard work is greatly appreciated. Epiphany's grounds look great!



PICTURES FROM THE SEASONED CITIZENS TRIP TO CANTIGNY PARK



The Seasoned Citizens visited Cantigny Park on May 24. The weather was perfect for time spent touring beautiful outdoor gardens and the war museum. A good time was had by all!

We are looking forward to spending more time together soon!





BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Kim Haukland, Erin McGarry | 15 | Annette Edwards, Charlie Toreja |
| 2 | Gus Anderson, Suzan Ganser,
Neil Sutton | 16 | Scott Hawkins |
| 3 | Shirley Swanson | 17 | Eleanor Wilbur |
| 4 | Bruno Albarello
Carole Poltrock | 18 | Wanda Block, Peter D'Agostino,
Catherine Wilcox |
| 5 | Pamela Pozeck | 20 | Nathan Kriz |
| 7 | David Wyman | 21 | Linda Anderson, Patricia Samar |
| 8 | Brandon Allen | 22 | Lily Beerhalter |
| 9 | Areina Connolly, Rod Durham,
Simon Hildy, Morgan Mehring,
Olivia Wenzel | 23 | Simon Redfearn |
| 10 | Ashley Beine, Michelle Crowley | 24 | Lyla Crowley |
| 11 | Tracy Hunt, Karen Norquist | 25 | Adeline Roy, Bill Rudhman |
| 12 | Cleo Tengroth, Suzanne Wilcox | 26 | Debbie Biery, Donna Johnson,
Emma Johnson, Ryan Pickell |
| 13 | Madison Jones, Olivia Martin,
Mark Morrell, Matthew Rees | 27 | Rebecca Knapp, Chris Samuelian |
| 14 | Ingrid Durham | 28 | Ken Cripe |
| | | 30 | Larry Magnesen |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Michael and Kristin Dudley | 21 | Bryan and Patricia Keller |
| | David and Gina Wentzel | 24 | Michael and Kristine Hanley |
| 3 | Pat and Amy Jones | 25 | Steve and Roxanne Rickenbrode |
| 6 | Andrew Hebert and Grace Safien
Marty and Tiffany Jensen | | Bob and Lori Vierow |
| 10 | Ed and Jennifer Martin | 26 | Pat and Jenny Barton |
| 16 | Greg and Ellen Lippert | 28 | Glen and Suzan Ganser |
| 18 | Maureen and Nate McPherson
Bill and Janet Rudhman | | Ty and Lois Hodgson |
| 19 | Andy and Marcella Raia | | Tim and Kristin Thomas |
| 20 | Larry and Peggy Magnesen | | Lito and Jenny Toreja |
| | | 29 | Scott and Letitia Bonthron |

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our members: Dolores Barney, Gwen Becker, Ruth Blair, Penny Brecht, Curt Clifford, Marjorie DeSombre, Bill Friberg, John Halen, Wilbur Lippert, Molly and Rich Loeser, Joan Lux, Wes Odean, Joy Wieska

We extend our sympathies to the family of Christine Pfaff who died May 9, at the age of 57.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS*

Our friends: Jolene Allen (friend of Scott and Debbie Hawkins), John Austin (friend of the Witzel family), Tyler Bailey (Arlene Taylor’s nephew), Greg and Sue Bukowski (friends of Sandra Vaughn), Jenny Dias Da Costa (friend of the Schleich family), Donna and Gary Diven (sister and brother-in-law of Gary Sanders, Sr.), Kathleen Duda (daughter of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Laura Dybas (friend of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Eleanor Feld (aunt to Lisa Budris), Jim Feltman (Pastor Ron’s father), Vern, Donna, and Kara Field (son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter of Phyllis Field), Jeffrey Fuka (friend of Dolores Barney), Sylvia Graham (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Robert Groh (brother-in-law of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Lorna Hansen (Amy Rimington's mother), Jan Harms (Jen Mann's mother), Jan Henderson (friend of Deb and Scott Hawkins), Hannah Hodgson (Lois Hodgson’s daughter-in-law), Neil Kleinbort (friend of Shirley Swanson and Ted Mandigo), Linda (friend of the Ernst family), Lindsay Larson (Andrea Redfearn's niece), Marianna Levy (Gerard Duda’s sister), Mary Liles (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Karen McCaa (Amy Pilny’s sister), Carolyn McLaughlin (friend of Dolores Barney), Michael McPeters (Aimee McPeters’ brother), Evan Thomas Mevis (Ruth Blair's grandson), Gail Nerison, O'Brien family (friends of Amy VanDenBrook), Diane and Mike Parra (friends of Penny Brecht), Joseph Paumier (Ben Paumier’s father), Nancy Peterson (friend of the Tengroths), the Pickering family (friends of Chris Wilbur), Emily and Christopher Pierce (friends of Lila Peters), Eileen Pietraszek (long-time, former member of Epiphany and current member of Hannah’s), Carol Raimondi (friend of Kerrie Samuelian), Amber and James Randall (friends of Gwen Becker), Kim Redlich (friend of Rod Durham), Lisa Reichardt (friend of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Stan Reynolds (friend of the Rudhmans), Rosemary (friend of Sandy Vaughn), the Rowley family (friends of Nancy Innocentini), John Rossi, Denise Sanders (Gary Sanders’ daughter), Pat Schoeneberg (friend of Annelle Fletcher), Colleen Schramm (friend of Nancy Innocentini), Schroder family (friends of the Halveys), Seidenfuss family (friends of Keelie Witzel), Carole Streetz (friend of Lisa Budris), Jenna and Bryce Taft (extended family of Phyllis Field), Irma Tena (friend of the Johnson family), Lena Troye (relative of the McGonigles, McPhersons and Tengroths), Alex Vickney (Ashley Beine’s brother), Kurt Walters (relative of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Mary and George Witzel (Joe Witzel’s parents), David Livingstone Zijjan (Pastor of Father's Divine Love Ministry)

STAFF DIRECTORY

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In the event of a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Pastor Feltman at (339) 203-7214 or Pastor Roper 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 Deadline for submissions for the July/August, 2023 edition is Monday, June 26.