

Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Elmhurst, Illinois



Annual Congregational Meeting

Our ***Annual Congregational Meeting*** will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. At that meeting we will elect Congregation Council members, voting members for the Synod Assembly, and members of the Endowment Fund Committee. We will also adopt a budget for the coming year and members will have an opportunity to share comments, questions, and concerns about our life together. Please note there will be one worship service this day at 9:00 a.m.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

A Few Words From Pastor Anna



“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.” Isaiah 60:1-2

Dear Epiphany,

This is our namesake month! As our Christmas celebrations turn to recognition of that guiding Epiphany star that brought the wise ones on a journey to the holy child of Bethlehem, we have the opportunity to think about how the warm, steady light of that star will guide our own lives and our congregation into 2018.

As I read over the Isaiah passage we will hear on Epiphany Sunday, I was particularly struck by verse 2. When I read national and global news these days, I think about how it can truly feel as though an ugly, bitter, dark cloud has covered the earth: one that takes the form of blatant bigotry, extremist violence, and the willful ignorance of facts. Today’s news gives us way too many examples of how our individual and system-wide sin prevents us from recognizing the face of God and the glory of the Lord in another person and in God’s good creation.

I have also observed that many of us here at Epiphany may feel as though we are currently walking in Isaiah’s thick darkness. There is a thick darkness, a thick fog of grief enveloping many of us as we think about beloved Epiphany members who have died in the past year or two – some of our dearest friends and family members. That grief, that darkness is real – and to not acknowledge the way it can completely cover us would be to discredit the ability of that brightest Epiphany star to have any way to make its presence known, even in the darkest of nights.

What does it mean, then, with this darkness, for the Lord to arise upon you, and God’s glory to appear over you?

I don’t think I can give a universal answer to that question, because I think the ways in which God’s glory comes to us look different for every single one of the people of Epiphany; from our smallest babies to our oldest and wisest members, all of us at different stages and places and life experiences. But I think sometimes God’s light comes to us in ways that are not necessarily the biggest, brightest stars in the sky or mountaintop experiences. Sometimes it’s the small glimpses of God’s presence that keep us going.

(continued next page)

One way that I personally have been experiencing glimpses of God's presence recently at Epiphany are the ways in which I am fully respected as a single woman of the millennial generation and as a pastor – two identities that many people are not used to seeing together. Recent conversations I've been involved in about the #metoo movement have brought up the awful, dark reality that the number of women who experience the nauseating feeling and/or terrifying experience of being objectified, disrespected, sexually harassed or abused includes clergy who are women as well – and what makes it even worse is that these experiences are often perpetrated by congregation members and colleagues as well. I am SO, so glad that I have not had these experiences at Epiphany: that despite my age and younger-looking appearance, and identity and physical appearance as a woman, I have not had to experience inappropriate comments or actions. Because I am more fortunate in my first call than some of my female colleagues and friends, I truly thank you for your continued support and respect of my pastoral identity in this way. It means more to me than you can imagine. What gives me hope as we all consider the darkness present in our lives these days, is that the glory of the Lord appears to us in each other, as we are present with each other in whatever ways we need to be. Through the love of Christ, we are each other's guiding stars in the nights.

I remain humbled, grateful, definitely still a little overwhelmed (in the best of ways!) and joyful at the innumerable ways in which I have been personally blessed in my first few months at Epiphany. From our intelligent, exuberant confirmation class, full of excitement and curiosity, to our hard-working, deep-thinking, fun-and-Jesus-loving LYO high schoolers, to our dedicated and caring youth and outreach volunteers, to all of the Epiphany families of every size and age who I've been getting to know - you are all truly the guiding star that points me to Christ every day, and the Epiphany light of my life. Thank you.

Epiphany blessings,
Pastor Anna

Men In Mission Christmas Dinner Fundraiser a Huge Success!

The Men in Mission Christmas Dinner Fundraiser held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 in Epiphany Center was another huge success with over 60 people in attendance. The 10 Men in Mission Board members were assisted by 22 volunteers in presenting the event.

Over 20 Epiphany members and families will be provided with food, clothing, toys for kids, and assistance with bills during the Christmas season and the 2018 calendar year as needs arise.

The individuals and families who are assisted through our event are referred by the pastors. For funds derived from the Men-in-Mission event, priority is given to Epiphany members. Identities of those receiving assistance is kept very confidential and is known to only a few individuals.

Merchandise and donated gifts worth more than \$ 6,000 were distributed among the winners of the fundraiser's events. 33 individuals won at least one prize.

Men in Mission is extremely grateful to the more than 50 individuals, families and businesses who contributed a total of over 250 prizes to the event. Values of prizes ranged from \$5.00 to \$275.00. A significant number of cash donations were also received.

Prize winners were:

Grand Prize

Rich Leabru

Silent Auctions

Pastor Ron Feltman

Jeff Simon

Wes O'Dean

Live Auctions

Rich Leabru

Roy Schroeder, Jr.

50/50

Jeff Simon

Prize Drawing Packages

Christal Schubert, Margaret

Leabru, Jackie Darling, Rodney

Durham, Elaine Magnesen,

Dee Schram, John Swasko,

Brendan Connor, Lila Peters,

Donna Swasko, Dieter Werner,

Ruth Clark, Phil Darling, Kurt

Fowitch, Joel Haggar, Clyde

Helwink, Laurie Hier, Steve Hier,

Rich Leabru, Barb O'Toole, Arlene

Taylor, Greg Taylor, Joyce

Urness.

Door Prizes

Areina Connolly, Jackie

Darling, Laurie Hier, Tracy

Hunt, Don Leabru, Elaine

Magnesen, Pat McGonigle,

Wes O'Dean, Mike Peters,

Roy Schroeder, Sr., Will Sly,

Donna Swasko, John Swasko,

Linda Welin, Dieter Werner

The Men-In-Mission organization exists to assist others in need and we could not do this without the help and participation of our Epiphany congregation which proved again this year just how much of a caring heart beats within it. Thank you, one and all!

An Invitation

Pastor Anna has been invited to preach and preside for the Wednesday midweek service at the Lutheran Center in the ELCA Churchwide office building, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 11:15 am. All are invited and welcome to attend. Garage parking is available. Please let Pastor Anna know if you will be coming!

LYO January and February Calendar – Regular Meetings

Sunday, January 7 – LYO, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 14 – LYO TBA (Pastor Anna preaching)

Sunday, January 21 – LYO, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 28 – LYO, 9:30 a.m. (Pastor Anna out of town)

Sunday, February 4, 11, 25

LYO January and February Calendar - Special Events

January TBA

Saturday, February 10 – “Parents’ Night Out” - LYO Group Work Camp Fundraiser, evening, exact times TBA

Presidents Day Weekend TBA – LYO Winter Getaway Retreat

Help Wanted

Help is needed in the nursery on Thursday mornings from 8:00 -9:00 a.m. from January 18 - April 26, 2018. Amy Pilny, Cleo Tengroth, and Sue Wilson graciously give their time to the moms of Praying For Our Children. They watch the babies, preschoolers, and afternoon kindergartners while the moms pray on Thursday mornings. Sue's work schedule shifts after the New Year and we will need to find a volunteer to fill in for her. Sue, thank you for making the kids feel welcomed and allowing the moms to pray! You will be missed! If you are interested and available, please contact Amy Wilson at amykwil33@comcast.net or (312) 933-3989.

Father's Divine Love Ministries

To date approximately \$7,500 has been pledged or raised toward the goal of \$15,000. This is enough to get the project started. Thank you, Epiphany!

However, if you haven't participated and want to, it's not too late. Please prayerfully consider a donation of any size to help establish a starter flock of 1,000 chickens with all the necessary items needed to bring them to maturity: chicks, feed, medicines and equipment.



Water Tank



Inside Troughs



Poultry House



Ways to contribute:

Cash or check

- You can use pew envelope.

Online:

- Visit worldorphans.org/donate
- Use Code UGA115
- Type "Father's Divine Love Ministry" in Notes section

Company Matching:

- Need domestic charity
- **FDLM** uses World Orphans.
- Make Checks payable to "World Orphans."

Write "Father's Divine Love Ministries" in memo line.

Mail to: World Orphans,

P.O. Box 1840, Castle Rock, CO 80104

For online & company matching, please let us know via email or anonymous note offering plate or left in church so FDLM can track the donation through World Orphans. Note: Funds that FDLM receives via World Orphans are decreased by a small percentage due to World Orphan's administrative costs but the benefit of the employer match far outweighs the deduction. If you do not have an employer matching program, it is preferable to make your donation through Epiphany.

Why Set Up a Poultry Operation?

With your help, FDLM can raise healthier children and move toward sustainability.

Once fully in production, the Poultry Project will:

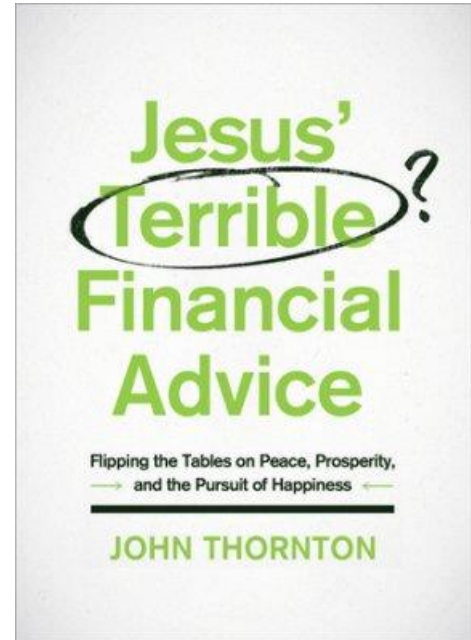
- Provide FDLM consistent income through the sale of chickens and eggs
- Give orphans, caregivers and community nutritional high protein meals
- Assist FDLM orphan costs for medical care and school tuitions
- Create jobs for adults & daily tasks for children impacting the dependence syndrome

FDLM (www.dignityforafrica.org) in Jinja, Uganda, is an orphanage led by Pastor David Livingstone Zijjan and his wife Sarah. We are proud to support this ministry focusing on children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Epiphany Outreach teams have visited FDLM twice. David and Sarah have visited Epiphany on a number of occasions.

Check It Out!

People familiar with the story of the pious rich man who asked Jesus how to obtain eternal life think they know the moral, but with his usual detachment, John Thornton notes that most readers, the disciples, and the rich man missed Jesus' point. Neither eternal life nor wealth is the most important issue. The most important issue is being with God, here and forever. Jesus' Terrible? Financial Advice discusses why money, which usually represents the result of toil and always represents potentially anything, can be a blessing, a curse, a stumbling block, or a vault spring. Equality, equity, and generosity are all principles that can be used to distribute money, love, and grace--both human and divine. "So, what would it look like if you follow Jesus' terrible financial advice? In a worst-case scenario, you might look a lot like Him." (Generosity!) This short book is recommended for readers who need a hand with inductive reasoning. (Equity!) Many other new books have also just been shelved, and each can be checked out for FREE! (Equality!)

--Assistant Librarian Teri



Everything Is Awesome - Bricks 4 Kidz Winter Break Engineering Camp! (Ages 5-10)

Join us during winter break from **Tuesday, January 2 through Friday January 5, from 9:00 a.m. to noon** for a week of LEGO engineering fun! Campers will construct one-of-a-kind models from a variety of their favorite exciting themes: Super Heros, Pokemon, Dinosaurs, Star Wars and much more!!! Campers will use our proprietary project kits to engineer interactive, motorized moving models that come to life! Our one-of-a-kind kits and model plans incorporate beams, gears, axles, motors, battery packs and other technical LEGO components! Also throughout the week, campers will have an awesome time experiencing our dynamic activity stations with daily take home craft projects featuring fun LEGO activity games with prizes! Activity stations include amazing color kit 3-D models, mosaic builds, zip lines, crafts, and imagination creative free play! Each camper will build a custom LEGO mini-figure character to take home at the end of the week. In this camp Everything Is Awesome!

For more information and to register visit bricks4kidz.com/oakbrook or call (630) 448-2451

Memorials

In Memory of Bob Haley given by:

Roy Schroeder, Sr.
Pat McGonigle
The Witzel Family
Wilbur & Grace Lippert
Wanda & Gary Block
Paul & Barb Rimington
Rich & Margaret Leabru
Sandy & Tom Johnson
Scott & Julie Miller
Alfreda & Dave Krusnis
Steve & Liz Heppner
Karen Durdevic
Tom & Michele Samek
Muriel Lippert
June Carollo
Dick & Betty O'Toole

Organ Fund Memorial for John Tanis given by:

Keith & Irmgard Olson

In Memory of Dorothy Bonthron given by:

Mary K. Hanson
Heather Shinpaugh
Mary Lou Cain
Linda Szczepanski
Steven & Susan Shaffer
Edith Heisler
Gerda Hofmann
Dean & Suzanne Mennecke
Bruce & Catherine Mendenhall
Scott & Julie Miller
John & Deaneann Bonthron
Paul & Barb Rimington
The Casey Family
Grace & Wilbur Lippert
Delores Barney
Steve & Peggy Alexander
Douglas Bonthron & Sally Wolford
Jon Kawamura
Greg and Arlene Taylor

Genevieve Scaro

Longtime volunteer Genevieve Scaro is simply amazing! At 85 years young, she volunteers every Saturday at the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry, makes quilts for the Shriner's Hospital, is responsible for all of the paintings and decorating at the food pantry, and now makes quilts and handmade gifts for cancer patients at Hinsdale Hospital. What a blessing to touch so many lives!

(submitted by Tammy Churchill Pesenti for Elmhurst Etalk)



Genevieve and her daughter Genice at Hinsdale Hospital

Epiphany Endowment Fund

Listed below are donations made to the Epiphany Endowment Fund:

In Memory of Judy Billingsley from:

Anita Esposito

In Memory of Betty Lange from:

Art & Arlene Ahlgrim
Ruth Circle

In Memory of Gary Sanders, Jr. from:

Greg and Arlene Taylor

In Memory of John Tanis from:

Greg and Arlene Taylor
Dan and Marianne Wachholz

In Memory of Del Grosser from:

Greg and Arlene Taylor

In Memory of Ben Dochoff from:

Greg and Arlene Taylor

In Memory of Bob Haley from:

Cindy O'Malley
Joyce Urness
Art & Arlene Ahlgrim
Dan and Marianne Wachholz
Vern and Elaine Magnesen

In Memory of Bill Kalstrom from:

Dan and Marianne Wachholz

In Memory of Dorothy Bonthron from:

Dan and Marianne Wachholz
Vern & Elaine Magnesen
Anne Chilstrom
Art & Arlene Ahlgrim
Cindy O'Malley

Thank you for giving the gift that keeps on giving.

-The Epiphany Endowment Fund Committee

Thank You From The Tree of Love and Caring

Thank you for the support for the Tree of Love and Caring. Because of your generosity, 74 children in foster care will be receiving gifts this Christmas.

Blessings,
Lisa Budris and Linda Anderson

Thank You From The Bonthrons

Thank you to our extended Epiphany family for your cards, donations, visits, caring words, and prayers for our mom, Dorothy Bonthron, both while she was so sick and once she had passed. Epiphany and its members meant so much to our mom, and your support meant so much to us. She was truly a special lady who will be missed by all.

Scott and Brett Bonthron

January Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Carlson
- 2 Anna Ernst, Alexander Matkovic, Sky Strehlow, Isaiah Persenico
- 3 Richard Becker, Cindy O'Malley, Carole Laramie, Diane Solem, Mary Phelps, Adam Zablovdic, Mason Hildy
- 4 Cindy Rotermund, Brandon Diaz
- 5 Pat Parello, Kevin Woerner, Victoria Larsen
- 6 Joanna Todd, Elizabeth Pena
- 7 Daryl Bartelson, Craig Bordelon
- 8 Gary Sanders, Sr., Susan Gross, Tammy Banasek, Troy Oder
- 9 Greg Lippert, Deb Hawkins, Laura Kociak
- 10 Frank Parello
- 11 Mary Langer, Mary Schmuhl, Ryan Persenico, Stephanie Persenico, Brianna Fetterhoff
- 12 Natalie Hradil, Lucas Lindgren
- 13 Roy Schroeder, Jr., Robert Dickert, Michael Dickert, Michael Kriz
- 14 Genevieve Scaro, Ray Matkovic, Kristen McGirk, Benjamin Koval, Mason Fuller
- 15 Charles Sutton, Anna Finnerty
- 16 Christine Nutile, Cheryl Richards, Denise Deike
- 17 Rachel Moser
- 18 Ruth Blair, Annelle Fletcher, Bruce Josephs, Patrick Barton, Amber Mell, Riley Simons
- 19 Scott Grigoletto
- 20 Riley McGirk, Christina Lazas
- 21 Alan Grigoletto, Philip Ganser, Carina Innocentini, Sarah May
- 22 Linnea Wethekam
- 23 Michael Hanley, Samuel Carson, Ellen Hartley
- 24 John Phillips, Alexandra Sieber, Sayler Simons
- 25 Molly Loeser, Justin Martich
- 26 Cailey Dufort, John Gutterman
- 27 Jacob Evans
- 28 Paula Bublitz, Abigail Ziberna
- 29 Amy Vesely, Jennifer Dickert, Claire Heinle, Ian McPhee, Rylei Warren, Hannah Lynch, Jaiden Chavez
- 30 Bradley Gabrielsen
- 31 Lauren Healy, Madeline Sly

January Anniversaries

- 2 Vince and Cindy Hradil
- 3 Gary and Allison Wilson
- 9 Dieter and Susan Werner
- 21 Mark and Naniya Kammerdiener

In Our Prayers

Our members: Dolores Barney, Todd Becker, Wayne Bell, Marie Buford, Jennifer Damer, Sienna Dudley, John Field, Bill Friberg, Bruce Josephs, Babette Halen, Martha Haley, Josie Heard, Joyce Hill, Catherine Knapp, Jennifer Moser, Bob Sutherland, Marlene Tegmeyer, Maria Terracciano

Our friends: Eli James Becker (grandson of Gwen and Richard Becker), Bill and Virginia Bonham (Bill Friberg's brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Evelyn Boutin (Lito Toreja's sister), Greg Bukowski (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Laverne Budris (Lisa Budris' mother), Don Feld (Lisa Budris' uncle), Gwen Gorman (daughter of Glen and Elsa Heinemann), Sylvia Graham (friend of Sandra Vaughn), Keith Groenwald (former member), Andy Hamblin (Jan Davis' son), Lorna Hansen (Amy Rimington's mother), Jan Harms (Jen Mann's mother), Christa Johnson (friend of the Hedricks), John Johnson (Janet Rudhman's brother), Robert Kampf (friend of Daryl Bartelson), Kevorak Kahvedsian (friend of the Haidles), Jan Kopas (nephew of Mary Langer), Neil Kleinborg (friend of Shirley Swanson), Bob Krzyzewski (Lila Peters' brother-in-law), Cindy Krzyzewski (Lila Peters' niece), Lindsay Larson (Andrea Redfearn's niece), Greg Lechowski (friend of Joe Schram), Bill Lentine (father of Trisha Graham), Marlene Lundgren (Lila Peters' sister-in-law), Karen McCaa (sister of Amy Pilny), Betsy McKeever (Kristin Hall's aunt), Evan Thomas Mevis (Ruth Blair's grandson), Marie Mueller (mother of Keelie Witzel), Gail Nerison, Nancy O'Leary and Family (Sue Mooshool's sister), Patti Paul (friend of Curt Clifford), Joseph Paumier (father of Ben Paumier), Betty Patch (Lori Trimble's mom), Andrew Peters (grandson of Lila Peters), Joe Pilny (David Pilny's father), Amber and James Randall (friends of Gwen Becker), John Rossi, Brandon Shores (Kim Ptak's cousin), Marge Swanson (Shirley Swanson's mother), Pat Swanson (Shirley Swanson's sister-in-law), Joan Sturino (sister of Dawn Sanders), Bill Tarnow (friend of Joe Schram), Irma Tena (friend of the Johnson family), Matt Toole (friend of Phyllis Field), John VanFleet (friend of the Tengroths), Jeff Vidt (Sue Kostecki's brother), Diane Viise (family of Annette and Bill Edwards), Eric Von Schaumburg (husband of Lindsay Rudhman), David Wells (son-in-law of Elsa and Glen Heinemann), Betty Zelent (Cindy O'Malley's mother)

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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: info@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Deadlines for submissions for the February edition are due Friday, January 19.