

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Sunday, February 16, is an extremely important day for the future of Epiphany Lutheran Church and for how it will proceed in the future. I am extremely excited that **Bishop Kevin Strickland** has chosen to share that day with Epiphany. He will lead worship, eat a box lunch with us and lead a follow-on conversation that will last a couple of hours. It will cover Epiphany's past, present and future. Bishop Strickland will also help Epiphany set some short term goals for this interim period.

Bishop Strickland wants to hear from all of Epiphany's members and wants to hear all voices and opinions on each subject that he lays out for us to discuss. Sometimes church leaders speak for the whole group and minority opinions or ideas do not get expressed. However, this is one conversation that will be set up by Bishop Strickland so that each person has a chance to express their thoughts and ideas so that he gets a true composite understanding of Epiphany. Sometimes the Spirit speaks through still, quiet voices or speaks when one voice adds an idea to another's voice. You just may be the voice that Epiphany most need to hear to move forward as God is leading.

Consequently, as your Interim Pastor, I strongly urge each person to be present that day and plan on staying to the end. **You matter! Your past experiences, your hopes and dreams, and your ideas matter to Epiphany's future.** So, unless you have a very important prior engagement (such as your mother's 100th birthday 😊), please plan on being at Epiphany **Sunday, February 16**. This is not a Sunday to miss. Epiphany is the body of Christ and it is hard to be a whole body with parts missing. Epiphany needs you to be present that day.

In the interim, please, pray daily for Epiphany and its future direction. Praying and being open to the workings of the Spirit are the most important things you can do to prepare for this sacred time of conversation together.

Grace, peace, and prayers for all,

Pastor TroyAnn