

THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, IL

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



October 2026

Whole Hearted 2027



Epiphany is looking forward to 2027!

Connections between ministry and generosity will be discussed in worship on the
Sundays of October 11th, 18th, and 25th.

Our Commitment Sundays at Epiphany will be
November 1st and November 8th.

A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR DON

Overnight temperatures have dropped into the 40's, York High School had its homecoming last weekend, and I have purchased my 2027 calendar. We are definitely in the Fall season.

Epiphany is beginning to look ahead to 2027, and a key component of that is growing in generosity. Thank you for your responsiveness to Epiphany's Whole Hearted Sundays in May and August. Thank you for sustaining your generosity through the summer months, even if away on some weekends.



We're keeping the Whole Hearted theme as we approach Commitment Sundays at Epiphany on November 1st and November 8th. On these Sundays, in addition to making our current offerings, we'll communicate our intentions for giving to Epiphany in 2027.

Please look for 2 eblasts or letters in October from the Generosity Team, one early in the month and one later. These are intended to offer resources for spiritual growth and also to communicate what growth in generosity can open up for Epiphany in 2027.



We'll also give a few minutes to connect ministry and generosity in worship on the Sundays of October 11th, 18th, and 25th.

When gas and gasoline prices are rising and in front of us daily, it's understandable that we'd lean away from making additional commitments. But I'm grateful to be serving a church that had its most recent capital appeal and building project during the pandemic. Hardly a stable time. And the church I served for a long time had two capital appeals and building projects during a significant recession. When the Holy Spirit and the people of God work together, amazing things happen!

May this be such a time for Epiphany.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don Wink

FINANCIAL REPORT – AUGUST 2026

	Current Month			YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Operating Income, less Special Gift	\$54,464	\$46,642	\$7,822	\$ 450,555	\$383,086	\$ 66,969
Rooted in Christ	7,002	5,538	(1,464)	57,899	59,754	1,855
Growing in Faith	2,729	3,678	949	26,685	29,424	2,739
Reaching to Invite and Serve	864	417	(447)	4,067	3,336	(731)
Participation with other Christians in the Mission of the wider Church	833	833	(0)	7,567	7,164	(403)
Mission Support	41,724	36,166	(5,558)	339,801	320,376	(19,425)
Total Operating Expense	\$53,152	\$46,632	\$ (6,520)	\$ 436,019	\$ 420,054	\$ (15,965)
Operating Fund - Net	\$1,311	\$ 10	\$ 1,301	\$ 14,036	\$ (36,968)	\$ 51,004
Operating Fund - Net + Special Gift	\$1,311	\$ 10	\$ 1,301	\$ 125,036	\$ (36,968)	\$ 162,004

Operating income for August was above budget by \$7.8K. Regular Offerings were \$51K during the month which was above budget by \$9K. This was due to the August Whole Hearted initiative which generated over \$7,000 of identified Whole Hearted gifts. Other income received during the month was \$3.5K, which was below budget by \$1.1K. YTD Operating Income above budget by \$67K exclusive of the special gift of \$111K. YTD Regular offerings of \$407K which is above budget by \$63K.

Total Operating Expenses for the month of August were above budget by \$6.5K. The primary driver of the variance to budget was increased spend in Rooted in Christ related to the Praise Band (\$1.4K). In addition, Mission Support was above budget due to increased spend in Building Maintenance (\$5.5K) related to the repair of the blower belts and air handler. All other categories below or just slightly above budget for the month. YTD Operating Expenses above budget by \$16K.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Call Committee has interviewed a slate of candidates presented by the Synod. We hope to announce more updates in the near future.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Hello Sunday School Families!

Our first two weeks of Sunday School have gone well! I enjoyed getting the kids back in their classrooms with our rotational story. Learning about The Red Sea, and how Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt by parting it, has been a fun rotation. I was reminded of one of the reasons I do not like Jell-O; I apparently cannot get it to set, no matter what I do. The older kids were good sports and went along with the more liquid/ice version.



On Sunday, October 4th, our Sunday School kids will showcase what they learned in the Music Rotation at the beginning of service. All kids are welcome to join in. We can't wait to share what we have learned!

In October, we will be learning the story of The House on the Rock. You can see below which rotation each grade level is in each week.

Please use the QR code below to register for Sunday School. This is very helpful to make sure I have all the pertinent information on Sunday morning.

We will be continuing with family programs again this year. Please talk to Kerrie if you have any ideas of what we could do! Our first family event will take place on Friday, October 23rd. We will be having the first Epiphany Sunday School Chili Potluck. Bring a pot of your favorite chili recipe to share. Bring a copy of the recipe as well. This is open to all families of Epiphany. I will bring cornbread and mac & cheese (for those who don't like chili). Watch for a signup starting October 4th!

I would like to put a few important dates on the calendar now so we can hopefully get ahead of any conflicts:

- Sunday, October 4th - First Bible Presentation for 4th graders (and anyone who needs a bible)
- Saturday, December 19th - Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal and Grinch Dinner
- Sunday, December 20th - Sunday School Christmas Program and Christmas Party during Sunday School
- Sunday, March 21st - First Communion for 5th graders and anyone else who may be ready

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE (CONT.)



If you are interested in serving as a Sunday School teacher or helper for the upcoming school year, please speak with Kerrie Samuelian. We would love some extra hands. All materials are provided. Thank you for prayerfully considering joining our team. We also love having high school helpers!

Thank you for all the support you provide for your children. Their love of the Bible is evident each week! My favorite moments are the children sharing their interpretation of the stories.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

KidsMinistry@epiphanyelmhurst.org or 630-388-9228. Have a safe, happy, and blessed year!

God Bless!

-Kerrie Samuelian

Director of Children's Ministry

Month	Sunday School Story Focus
October 2026	House on the Rock
November 2026	Wandering in the Wilderness
December 2026	Advent and Christmas
January 2027	Mary and Martha
February 2027	The Wedding at Cana
March 2027	The Lord's Prayer
April 2027	The First Sin
May 2027	Fruit of the Spirit

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Event	When	Who
First Bible Class	Sunday, September 27th @ 10:45am	4th Graders and at least one parent
First Bible Presentation	Sunday, October 4th during 9:30am service	4th Graders and their families
Epiphany Chili Pot Luck	Friday, October 23rd @ 5:00pm	All Epiphany Families and Friends
Sunday School Christmas Program and Grinch Dinner	Saturday, December 19th – Time TBD	All Sunday School families for rehearsal; ALL church families for Grinch Dinner
Sunday School Christmas Program	Sunday, December 20th during 9:30am service	All Sunday School families
First Communion Class	Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 14th and Monday, March 15th	5th Graders and at least one parent
First Communion	Sunday, March 21st during 9:30am service (This is Palm Sunday)	5th Graders and their families

Date	Pre-K/K	1st/2nd	3rd/4th	5th/6th
October 4th	Art	Cooking	Science	Art
October 11th	Science	Art	Cooking	Cooking
October 18th	Music	Music	Music	Music
October 25th	Cooking	Science	Art	Science



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Register today for the 2026-2027 Sunday School Program!

Preschool through 6th grade!
Every Sunday during the 9:30am service!



Teachers & Helpers always
welcome!



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Register today for the 2026-2027 Confirmation Program!

7th & 8th Graders!

Every Wednesday from 5:30-6:45pm!



We would love small group leaders!
(No prep or experience needed)

Confirmation Sunday will be on October 25 at the 9:30 service.



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Register today for the 2026-2027

LYO Program!

All High Schoolers WELCOME!

Most Sundays at 10:45am or 6:30pm!



Volunteers appreciated for GWC &
Special Projects!

LYO IS BACK!

With the school year kicking off, we are excited to announce that LYO is back this Fall, and we can't wait for another great year!

To help us stay connected and make sure you receive important updates, please send us your family's current contact information, including:

- Parent Name(s)
- Youth Name(s)
- Email Addresses
- Phone Numbers



Please send this information to LYO leader Charlie Sutton - charliejsutton@gmail.com

SEWING PROJECT TO HELP THE HOMELESS



With the beginning of fall, many of us are still cleaning and donating before winter is here. LYO, with the help of Nikki and Charlie Sutton as well as me, is hoping to make some easy winter hats and scarves for the homeless.

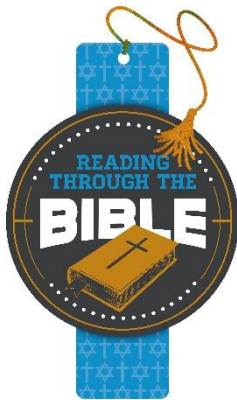
If you have any remnants of fleece that you would like to donate, please place them in the bin labelled "*Fleece Remnants for Hats and Scarves*" by the Table of Sharing. It only takes a half yard of fleece to make two hats. The sewing is simple.



Perhaps some LYO'ers will pick up a new skill!

Thank you in advance,
-Linda Welin

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Sunday Morning Bible Study group will meet in the Conference Room (across from the Church Library) from 10:45 a.m. – noon on Sundays, October 11 and 18. For more information, please contact Phil Darling at (630) 291-0721 or John Swasko at (708) 650-1047.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will continue to meet every Wednesday in October (7, 14, 21, and 28) from 10:30 a.m. – noon in the Conference Room.

Please BYOB – Bring Your Own Bible.

No preparation is necessary! Even if you've never participated in Bible Study before this, you will feel welcome. We hope you will join us.

WEDNESDAY
BIBLE
STUDY



EPIPHANY MISSION TEAM (EMT) CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER SAVE THE DATE!

Tired of hearing about the Golf Outing? Well, let's change the subject!

EMT will host its Annual Christmas Dinner and Fundraiser, and it will be sooner than you think!



Christmas Dinner
and Fundraiser

**Thursday evening
December 10, 2026
Fellowship Hall**

Join us for a great meal plus raffles, contests, auctions, and a whole lot of fun.

Look to the November and December STARs plus the Sunday announcements as more details emerge.

LUNCH & MORE – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29



Our first Lunch & More for the new season will be from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2026. Bob Agnoli, a licensed clinical social worker and member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, will give a presentation on Grief, Loss, and Healing. There is no charge for this event. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, October 23rd.

GREEN TEAM UPDATE

Be a Good Steward of the Resources You No Longer Need.

Elmhurst hosts its Quarterly Electronics and Textile Recycling on **Saturday, October 24 from 8 a.m. – 12 noon** at the Public Works Facility (985 S Riverside Drive, Elmhurst).

Turn your unwanted clothing, shoes, and accessories into insulation, carpeting, or cleaning rags. RewearAble sorts through all donations to pull out items that are suitable for reuse. All other items are recycled. RewearAble is a nonprofit that provides sustainable employment for adults with disabilities.



Acceptable items include:

- Clothes ANY KIND: tops, bottoms, socks, outerwear, underwear, accessories, paired shoes, suits, swimsuits/cover ups, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and baseball caps
- Shoes, handbags, bedding, belts, towels, cloth tablecloths, napkins, and placemats, Visit https://www.elmhurst.org/services/public_works/garbage_recycling_yard_waste_or_anic_waste/special_city_recycling_drop_off_events.php for the full list of accepted electronic items and other details.

Have Items to Repair Instead of Recycle?

Bring your favorite things to SCARCE's 8th Repair Fair on **Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon** - 800 S. Rohlwing Rd., Unit D, Addison, IL.



Repair experts will be on site for:

- Knife and handheld tool sharpening
- Household/Small electronics repair
- Costume jewelry repair
- Minor sewing repairs and alterations
- Crystal, glassware, and porcelain repair

More details at <https://www.scarce.org/event/repair-fair/>

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



We are supporting the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry with our weekly collections. It serves residents of Elmhurst, Addison, Bensenville, Berkley, Hillside, Lombard, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, and Villa Park. In 2025, it served 35,400+ people in need, and that number keeps growing. We are grateful for your generosity at Epiphany in helping provide food for our neighbors in need!

On the next page is a flyer that lists the pantry's most needed items. Please remember to check the expiration dates and also, please, no dented cans. **Also, candy, soda, or energy drinks are not currently being collected by the food pantry.**

The Outreach Committee is looking for help in delivering these items to Yorkfield Food Pantry a few times per month. We are currently covered through November. Please contact Lisa Budris at lbudris@hotmail.com if you are able to commit to a month of deliveries.

You would simply keep an eye on the Table and make a delivery when needed. We are anticipating two times per month. Thank you in advance for your assistance! With your help we will be able to keep this great ministry going!

ELMHURST YORKFIELD FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Canned Proteins:

- Tuna (in water)
- Chicken
- Salmon

Canned Vegetables (low sodium preferred)

- Green Beans
- Peas
- Corn
- Mixed Veggies

Canned Beans (low sodium preferred)

- Black Kidney
- Pinto
- Garbanzo
- Lentil

Canned Soup (low sodium preferred)

- Chicken Noodle
- Cream of Mushroom
- Cream of Chicken
- Vegetable Beef

Plain Oatmeal

Peanut Butter

Cereal

- Plain Cheerios/Toasted Oats
- Shredded Wheat
- Great Grains Raisin Dates and Pecans
- Great Grains Crunchy Pecans
- Total – OR – Bran Flakes
- Rice or Corn Chex
- Rice Krispies/Crispy Rice
- Corn Flakes

Personal Care

- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Feminine Pads and Tampons
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent

Dog and Cat food donations are accepted and appreciated.





Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Children's Community Services
 Intact Family Services and Recovery Programs
 1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 170
 Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
 PHONE 847.635.4690
 FAX 847.635.7061

September 1, 2026

Lisa Budris
 Joan Halvey
 Epiphany Lutheran Church
 314 W. Vallette St.
 Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dear Lisa, Joan, and everyone at Epiphany,

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know how grateful we are for you and everything that you do. Between everything that you collected for our program, plus the generous donation from SCARCE in Addison, we were able to send our kids off to school feeling confident and excited. We cannot thank you enough for thinking of us when you received the SCARCE items, how wonderful it is to have all these levels of support. We appreciate your patience navigating our Mindful Giving campaign as well. It was a learning experience for all of us. To everyone who went through that site and to everyone who went shopping the old-fashioned way, it's all very much appreciated. Not only does this help the parents in our program feel some relief for themselves, but also relief for their kids knowing that they will have everything they need for their first day of school and beyond. Please enjoy these last few weeks of summer before we find ourselves missing it (but seriously, is anyone else looking forward to fall?).

Sincerely,

The Staff of LSSI – Intact
 Danielle Sico

Katherine Mcnerney
 Tarnan King
 Jazzy R. Smith

Kathy Albert

Alyssa Cardenas
 Monica Camacho
 Melissa Vizcarra
 Daniel

Melissa Bulson
 Lauren Mickelson
 Maeni Amin
 Kelly Lazee
 Shantia Enica

Arlette Ramos
 Diantha Roldan
 Tereki Doby
 Kayla Faria
 Talita Jones-Smith
 Shanes' Thurston - Chae
 Dawnna Dorellon - Hall
 Raegan Carpenter - Fan
 Jory Haeis
 Tikouya McCoy
 Danielle Watson
 Raven Spence

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a ministry of the Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Sharkey nels

IT'S MINISTRY FAIR TIME!

Fall is here, bringing with it a renewed sense of purpose and an opportunity to get involved!

Have you been thinking about how you can make Epiphany's ministries part of your personal or family routine? Now is a great time to explore the many ways you can connect, serve, and have fun together.

Representatives will be available after each service on October 18 to share information about the many service and social opportunities Epiphany has to offer.

Come check it out and find a ministry that's right for you!

Questions? Contact Jill Mueller at jillam519@gmail.com

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

~Psalm 133:1

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

~Romans 12:4-6



SERVE AT EPIPHANY

Your time, talents, skills, creativity, and caring can make a difference.

Find a Place to Help

There are many ways to serve — and we'll train you where needed. At Epiphany, we are like one big family — and like any family, we encourage everyone to help! Please consider how your skills and interests align with the opportunities outlined here, and please reach out to the below and reach out to the listed contacts to learn more or sign up.

Many of our volunteers only donate one or two hours of time per month — but this makes all the difference!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Help us run the weekly worship services — from music to technology. We need YOU!

Music Team

Play in handbell choir, offer the gift of vocal or instrumental music during a worship service, or make music with our praise band.

Contact: Donna Johnson donna fj@comcast.net

Usher Team

Greet people, hand out bulletins, and facilitate the offering and communion.

Contact: Beth Kunes oakstreetpond@gmail.com

Readers and Communion Assistants

Present the readings and prayers and/or serve communion during the service.

Contact: Donna Lamoureux dlam57@hotmail.com

Altar Guild

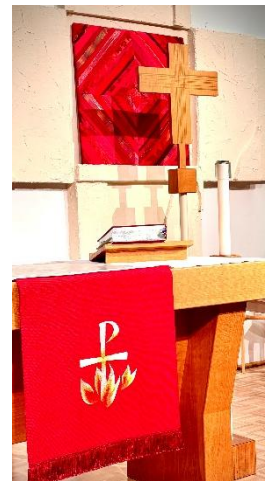
Prepare the elements for communion and periodically update the sanctuary décor to match the liturgical season.

Contact: Annelle Fletcher ajfletcher18@gmail.com

Technology Team

Provides technology for our worship services and maintains the IT-related systems for the church including providing Sunday morning streaming services. Ages 14+ welcome.

Contact: Anna Wick anna_c_wick@yahoo.com



While we are happy to have your help on any team listed, highlighted teams are those with the greatest areas of need currently. Please consider joining these teams!

SERVE AT EPIPHANY (cont.)

KIDS AND YOUTH

For teachers, planners and those who enjoy working with littles, kids and youth

Nursery Team

Helps maintain the nursery space and entertain our youngest members during services. Anyone age 10+ is welcome!

Contact: Rhonda Berg rhonda@dill.net

Sunday School Team

Works in conjunction with ministry leadership to organize Sunday School, Vacation Bible School (VBS) and other activities for children in grades K-6. Sunday School and VBS teachers and assistants are always needed – ages 14+ welcome!

Contact: Kerrie Samuelian kidsministry@epiphanyelmhurst.org



Youth Team

Works in conjunction with our youth leadership to provide opportunities and resources for youth in 7th to 12th grades. This team is involved in planning for LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization), summer Group Work Camp and Confirmation.

Contact: Katie Wilbur katie.swierenga@gmail.com

BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH

These behind-the-scenes groups need your professional skills!

Generosity Team

Encourages the generous giving of time, talent, and financial resources by church members for God's work in the congregation and beyond.

Contact: Paul Rimington pdrimington@comcast.net

Finance Team/Endowment Committee

Works in conjunction with the church treasurer to see that financial gifts given to church are spent according to the approved budget and managed with good stewardship. Creates the yearly church budget and counts donations.

Contact: Pat Jones, Treasurer jonespjj@gmail.com

While we are happy to have your help on any team listed, highlighted teams are those with the greatest areas of need currently. Please consider joining these teams!

SERVE AT EPIPHANY (cont.)

BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH (cont.)

These behind-the-scenes groups need your professional skills!

Property Team

Ensures proper repair, maintenance, and protection of the building, property and grounds of the church and parsonage. Identifies and repairs smaller issues and gets quotes and contracts for larger ones. Handy people needed!

Contact: Marty Jensen call/text 630-605-6414

Communications Team

Provides communications to both members and visitors, welcomes and follows up with new attendees, manages signage, advertising, website, newspaper, and social media.

Contact: Kristin Hall kristinandersonhall@gmail.com

Green Team

Implements ways to keep the church operations “green” and provides and communicates recycling opportunities.

Contact: Andrea Redfearn andreadfearn@yahoo.com

CARE & COMMUNITY

Care for those in our church community and the wider community of Christ.

Hospitality Team

Supports events at the church that involve food and fellowship including Sunday coffee, funeral luncheons, Lenten Soup Suppers and special events. We can use consistent helpers (and usually food too!) at these events.

Contact: Ingrid Durham imdurham@yahoo.com



Epiphany Cares

Works toward the care of members and guests of Epiphany who are elderly, ill, bereaved, or in need of care due to difficult circumstances. Opportunities are available to visit and help those in need - we will train you!

Contact: Judy Samuelian judy.samuelian@gmail.com

While we are happy to have your help on any team listed, highlighted teams are those with the greatest areas of need currently. Please consider joining these teams!

SERVE AT EPIPHANY (cont.)

CARE & COMMUNITY (cont.)

Care for those in our church community and the wider community of Christ.

Outreach Team

Provides opportunities for members and guests of Epiphany to reach out in service to those in need through direct services or advocacy. Runs regular events throughout the year and can use team members to help plan and organize. **Currently in need of a chair to run the Table of Sharing.**

Contact: Lisa Budris lbudris@hotmail.com

Epiphany Mission Team (EMT)

Runs three large fundraisers annually – the Pancake Breakfast, the Golf Outing, and a Christmastime Dinner – to raise money to help members and neighbors in need. Join the board and/or help run fundraisers.

Contact: Tom Connolly tcac51581@yahoo.com



GET INVOLVED

Learn, Connect, Grow

Find a Place to Belong

Join us for fun, fellowship, serving, and learning! We have many ongoing groups and organized events at Epiphany that need your participation. Whatever time or abilities you have, there is a place for you here.

Please contact the person listed for each group to learn more or watch the weekly announcements for details about getting involved at Epiphany.

READ, STUDY, & MEET

Join us at these Bible study, book, and discussion groups.

Adult Bible Study

Meets two Sunday a month after the 9:30 service. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: John Swasko jswasko@gmail.com

Pastor's Bible Study

Meets weekly on Wednesday mornings. Join us!

Contact: Pastor Don donwink17@gmail.com

Book Discussion Group

Meets every other month in the evening at Donna Johnson's home to discuss a book together. All readers are welcome!

Contact: Donna Johnson donnaaj@comcast.net

Men's Group

Meets every other Saturday to read Scripture, pray, and discuss. New members are welcome.

Contact: Mike Lewis jmlnd1@comcast.net

GET INVOLVED (cont.)

FOR KIDS AND YOUTH

From Pre-K through high school, there is a place for everyone. Join when you can!

Sunday School and VBS

Epiphany offers Sunday School on Sunday mornings for Pre-K through sixth grade during the school year. Vacation Bible School (VBS) for grades K–6 meets for one week in the evenings during the summer.

Contact: Kerrie Samuelian kidsministry@epiphanyelmhurst.org

Confirmation

This two-year program for seventh- and eighth-grade students explores the Small Catechism, the Bible, and Lutheran worship. Students meet on Wednesday evenings during the school year.

Contacts: Chris and Katie Wilbur confirmation@epiphanyelmhurst.org

Lutheran Youth Organization

Epiphany's high-school youth group, Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO), meets on Sunday evenings during the school year and takes an annual summer trip to Group Work Camp. All high-school students are welcome!

Contacts: Charlie and Nikki Sutton lyo@epiphanyelmhurst.org

GET INVOLVED (cont.)

SOCIAL GROUPS

Groups are available for women, men, and couples – everyone is welcome!

Dinner Groups

Small groups meet monthly at each other's homes to share food and fellowship. New groups form each fall, and we are always looking for interested people.

Contacts: Larry and Peggy Magnesen elmag@aol.com

Hannahs

A group of women who meet monthly on Monday evenings at the church for food and fellowship. New members are welcome!

Contact: Marianne Wachholtz wachs191@sbcglobal.net

ROMEOs

A group of men who meet for breakfast on the third Wednesday of each month at Fresh Start Cafe. New members are always welcome!

Contacts: David Norquist david.norquist@outlook.com and Rich Leabru rleabru@comcast.net

JULIETs

A group for women who go out to eat together monthly. They alternate between lunch and dinner to accommodate different schedules. New members are always welcome!

Contact: Lisa Budris lbudris@hotmail.com



GET INVOLVED (cont.)

EVENT PARTICIPATION

These organized events need your participation and generosity!

Outreach Events

There are many ways to participate in outreach events at Epiphany! Here are some events that would appreciate your participation:

- **Table of Sharing:** We are usually collecting something different each month. Stop by the Table of Sharing in the lobby area to see what is currently being collected.
- **Blood Drives:** We hold two blood drives at our church each year.
- **Tree of Love and Caring:** Each year we get information from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) about families in need of Christmas presents for their children. Stop by the Tree of Love and Caring after services in November to choose a child.
- **LSSI Baskets:** Each spring we help create either Easter or spring baskets for families in need and your donations are needed.
- **Food Pantry Volunteering:** We set up opportunities to help at food banks during the year and can always use extra hands.



Contact: Lisa Budris lbudris@hotmail.com

Epiphany Mission Team

The Epiphany Mission Team (EMT) holds three big annual events:

- **Pancake breakfast** – in the spring at church
- **Golf Outing** – in the fall at a local golf course
- **Fundraising Dinner** – around Christmastime at church

By participating in these events, you help the EMT raise money to help Epiphany members and neighbors in need.

Contact: Tom Connolly tcac51581@yahoo.com

“EPIPHANY TABLES” ARE BACK!

Would you like to better know some of your fellow Epiphany members? Epiphany Tables is a dinner group program where you will have the opportunity to dine as a small group three to four times over the course of a year.

The program is open to both singles and couples. Dinner groups are typically made up of 6-8 people. Each single or couple takes one turn hosting their group for dinner (or whatever meal works best). It's a wonderful opportunity get to know new people and spend time with old friends in our church family.



Watch for the sign-up poster on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. We will contact you in December with the names and contact information for your group. The program will begin in early 2027. If you have questions, please email Larry and Peggy Magnesen at elmag@aol.com.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Are you interested in serving at Epiphany but have limited time to commit? Then maybe the Endowment Committee is an excellent opportunity for you. The committee manages the investments of the Endowment Fund and the annual community donations from the church. The committee meets three to four times per year. If interested, please contact Chuck Sutton at chucksutton@mc2energyservices.com or Ingrid Durham at Ingrid.durham@comcast.net to learn more.

CAN YOU HELP WITH HOSPITALITY?



Do you enjoy coffee on Sunday morning before, during, or after church? Do you look forward to Sundays when there is a celebration that features cake? There is one person to thank - **Judy Samuelian**. She makes sure there is coffee every Sunday and buys and cuts the cakes for us when needed. Judy is on Epiphany's Hospitality Team, and she needs more help! Hospitality hosts funeral luncheons, provides Sunday morning coffee, provides treats for special celebrations, and hosts the Lunch & More Series. The Hospitality Team does appreciate those who help occasionally with making coffee or cleaning up after coffee service, and those who volunteer to bring food or help at luncheons, but we need more people to step up on a

more consistent basis and share the workload. Judy has taken on all the responsibility for Hospitality while I've been out of state for several months. Having more members on the team would help cover during summer months and times when we just can't be there, as well as preventing burnout. Someone to run coffee service on Sunday just once a month would be a wonderful help! If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Ingrid Durham at imdurham@yahoo.com. My thanks to Judy for all she does.

ROMEOs – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Are you retired or working from home and would like to go out? Join the ROMEOs! **The ROMEOs will meet for breakfast on Wednesday, October 21, at 9:00 a.m., at Fresh Start Café.** Contact David Norquist at (630) 310-0934 or Rich Leabru at (630) 334-9108 for more information.



JULIETs – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21



The JULIETs will meet on Wednesday, October 21 for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at a place yet to be determined. We hope you will join us. All are welcome!

PICTURES FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL



Stay tuned for more pictures in the November edition of The STAR.





BIRTHDAYS

1	Catherine Duhig, Matthew Lupa James O'Malley, Sami Sutton	17	Morgan VanDenBrook
2	Jeff Kociak, Marianne Wachholz	18	Kristin Banta
3	Danielle Swenson	19	Trent Martin, Linda Welin
4	Phil Gotsch	20	Nancy Innocentini, Susan May Paul Mehring, Kari Paumier
5	Kali Becker, Aiden Getz Abigail Keslinke, Kerrie Samuelian	21	Jamie Hosler, Drew Vogel
7	Pat McGonigle	22	Kara Jensen, Roxanne Rickenbrode
9	Shirley Dochoff, John Frahm Chris May	23	John Banta, Jennifer Damer Gerard Duda, Stacy Hildy Jonathan Markwald, Jeff Wincentzen
10	Erica Gibbs, Steve Martich Tom Wethekam	25	Asher McPherson, Clark McPherson Walter Sawosko, Diane Wyman
12	Barbara Brunk, Eric Gotsch	26	Sue Werner
13	Steve Rickenbrode	27	Meghan Schleich, Ava Villareal
14	Bradley Hanebuth, Blake Hosler	28	Nathan Rickenbrode
15	Cassie Reichert, Eric Wentzel	29	Jonathan May
		30	Marilee Bodnar, John Swasko

ANNIVERSARIES

2	Tim and Alece Hall	18	John and Donna Swasko
3	Keith and Elizabeth Keslinke Marc and Emily Winkler	19	Chris and Janis Foster
6	Kelly and Chris Reynolds	20	John and Kristin Banta Riley and Kristen McGirk
8	John and Kim Haukland	21	Anthony and Alicia Alfano
14	Angela and Robert Hedworth Chris and Katie Wilbur	24	Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun
15	Matthew and Erin McGarry	27	Gerard Duda and Joan Lux
		30	Bruno and Brenda Albarello Markus and Amy Roy



OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST

Members:

- Gerard Duda
- Adam French
- Joan Lux
- Carole Poltrock
- Paul Rimington
- Randy Wiegel
- Joy Wieska



Family and friends of members:

- John Austin (friend of the Witzel family)
- Kathleen Duda (daughter of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda)
- Jorn Inge, Lena and Maria Troye (relatives of the McGonigles, McPhersons, and Tengroths)
- Arlene Lown (mother of Amy Jones)
- Meredith Johnson (friend of David Chudik and Lisa Budris)
- Becky McFalls (friend of Joy Wieska)
- Carole Streetz (friend of David Chudik and Lisa Budris)
- Mary Witzel (mother of Joe Witzel)

If you would like to be on Epiphany's prayer list or if you would like to add a family member or friend, please call Joan at (630) 832-8457. We will keep each request on the list for four weeks. If after four weeks you would like to renew the request, please let Joan know.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Don Wink	Interim Pastor	Donwink17@gmail.com
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Paul Halvey	Custodian	Paul.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org

In the event of a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Pastor Don at (224) 639-2769.

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

Submission deadline for the November 2026 edition is Friday, October 23.