

THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, IL

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



March
2026



Worship Schedule for Holy Week and Easter



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Palm Sunday

March 29

8:00 and 9:30

Maundy Thursday

April 2

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 3

7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 5

8:00 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 Children and Family Worship with Holy Communion
11:15 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR DON

OBSERVING LENT



We observe Lent each day as the sun rises earlier and sets later than the preceding day. The word "Lent" comes from "lengthening" and refers to the lengthening of days. From Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday we will gain two hours of daylight. Woo Hoo!!

Lent is also a season to grow spiritually. We might say that our capacity to see things as they are is enhanced not only by extended daylight, but by extended and deepened connection with God. This connection is an awareness of God's presence in both the beauty and the struggle of our lives.

The church has historically emphasized prayer, charitable giving, and fasting as practices that increase our awareness of God's presence. Our worship gatherings this year focus on the ministry of Jesus, in particular as he has face-to-face encounters that change the lives of those around him.

We had a strong turnout for our Ash Wednesday services last week. I encourage you to join us on Sundays and Wednesdays through the remainder of Lent whenever you're in town. Sunday times remain 8 and 9:30, and Wednesday begins with soup supper at 6 with worship following at 7. Take note of fresh insights, and also timely reminders of God's activity in the brightening world around us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don

WEEKLY LENTEN SUPPERS

Weekly Suppers are again on Wednesday evenings this Lenten season. These simple suppers of soup, salad, bread and dessert are held downstairs in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. prior to the 7:00 Lenten service. There's always PB&J for those who don't care for what's on the menu. A free will donation is collected.



Various groups within the church host the weekly suppers. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Ingrid Durham at

imdurham@yahoo.com or (630) 805-1332.

JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS

6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 Service



The menu will usually include:

Soup and/or Chili

Salad

Bread

There's always PB & J and dessert!

Your Hosts:

March 4th – Hannah's Circle

March 11th – Church Council

March 18th – Sunday School

March 25th – Confirmation

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello Sunday School and Church Families!

I pray that everyone is having a joyous February filled with love! In Sunday School we have been learning about all of the people who loved baby Moses and how God protected him many times. I think it is pretty safe to say the kids love our Cooking and Games workshops the best.

In March, we will learn about The Last Supper. This is the last time that Jesus shared a meal with his disciples before paying the ultimate price for our sins. I am really looking forward to this rotation because I think that while children have heard about the Last Supper, we have not talked about it in detail. On the following page, you will see the different rotations the children will work through during this lesson.

I want to highlight a few events that are coming up quickly:

Sunday, March 15 at 10:45 a.m. and Monday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.—Any child interested in receiving First Communion is asked to attend one of these classes **with a parent**. Classes are less than one hour and help prepare the student for receiving this sacrament. Classes will be held in the Conference Room. Traditionally, children in 5th grade receive this sacrament. If you have a younger child who you would like to consider receiving First Communion this year, please speak to either Pastor Don or Kerrie. **First Communion will take place Sunday, March 22 at the 9:30 service.**

Wednesday, March 18 Lenten Supper is hosted by Sunday School Families

Please know that families are always welcome at the Wednesday evening Soup Suppers and Lenten Services. Supper is served beginning at 6:00 and service is at 7:00. On March 18, the Sunday School teachers will be providing the food for the Soup Supper.

Friday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. - FAMILY DINNER Thank you to Oriental Trading for giving me inspiration for our next church-wide family event. We will be enjoying an Asian-themed meal together. There will be a signup in Epiphany Center on the bulletin board. Please sign up with the number of people attending.

Lastly, save the date for **Vacation Bible School 2026 - ReNEW the GREEN VBS - June 22-25, 2026**. Stay tuned for more information.



Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. KidsMinistry@epiphanyelmhurst.org or (630) 388-9228.

God Bless!

-Kerrie Samuelian

Director of Children's Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

Event	When	Who
First Communion Class	Sunday, March 15, 2026 @ 10:45am Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 7:00pm	5th Graders or other interested children and their parent(s)
Sunday School Teachers serve Lenten Soup Supper	Wednesday, March 18th @ 6:00pm	All are welcome!
First Communion Celebration	Sunday, March 22, 2026	5th Graders and their families
Family Dinner	Friday, April 10, 2026 @ 6:00pm	All are welcome!
Vacation Bible School 2026	Monday through Thursday, June 22nd through 25th 5:30pm-8:00pm	Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade

Sunday School Date	PK/K Rotation	1st/2nd Rotation	3rd/4th Rotation	5th/6th Rotation
March 1st	Group Lesson - Video Workshop	Group Lesson - Video Workshop	Group Lesson - Video Workshop	Group Lesson - Video Workshop
March 8th	Cooking Workshop	Bible Skills & Games Workshop	Art Workshop	Bible Skills & Games Workshop
March 15th	Bible Skills & Games Workshop	Art Workshop	Cooking Workshop	Cooking Workshop
March 22nd	Art Workshop	Cooking Workshop	Bible Skills & Games Workshop	Art Workshop

PICTURES FROM PARENTS NIGHT OUT



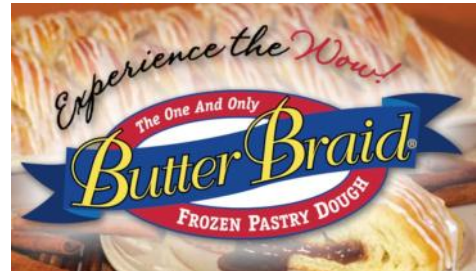
FUN
WAS HAD BY
ALL!



LYO BUTTER BRAIDS FUNDRAISER

Butter Braids are on sale! The profits will go towards LYO's summer trip to Hazlet, NJ for Group Work Camp. **You can purchase them before and after the church services on March 1 and March 8.**

Butter Braids will be available for pickup on Sunday, March 22, just in time for Easter!



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 8 AND 22



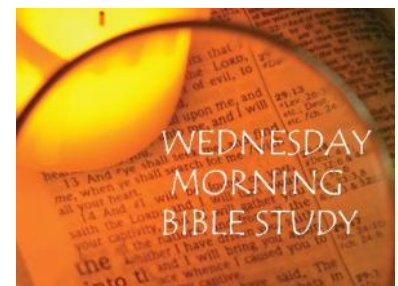
The Sunday Morning Bible Study group will meet Sundays, March 8 and 22 from 10:45-noon. We will meet in the Conference Room (directly across from the Church Library). For more information, please contact John Swasko at (708) 650-1047.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

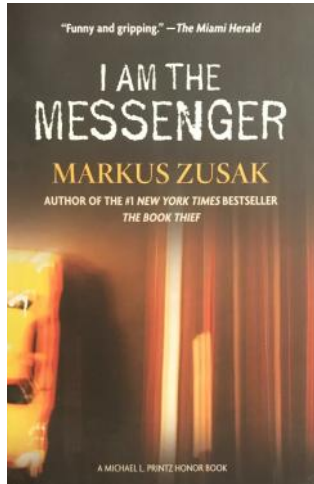
Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet **Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 10:30 to noon in the Conference Room.**

Please BYOB—Bring Your Own Bible (if possible).

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



EPIPHANY BOOK GROUP — MARCH 24



The book group will discuss *I Am the Messenger*, by Markus Zusak. It is about a young cab driver who does not see much of a future for himself, is hopelessly in love with his best friend, and devoted to his dog, the Doorman. His routine life moves along until he unexpectedly stops a bank robbery. This story is laugh-out-loud funny, sometimes touching as well as exciting and suspenseful. Addressing the issues of making one's life meaningful and how we may impact one another, this book promises to be the basis for a lively discussion lead by Brigette and John Hoaglund.

We will meet at the home of Donna Johnson on March 24th at 7:00 p.m., in the grotto room as usual. Please consider joining us; we will welcome you!

HANNAH'S CIRCLE — MARCH 2

The Hannah's will meet Monday, March 2 at Epiphany, at 6:30 p.m.

If you have never attended, consider doing so. We always welcome new members.

Questions? Please call Marianne Wachholz at (630) 988-8475.



JOIN THE ROMEOs—MARCH 18



Are you retired or working from home and would like to get out? **The ROMEOs will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Fresh Start Café on Wednesday, March 18.** Contact David Norquist (630) 310-0934 or Rich Leabru (630) 334-9108 for more information.

EPIPHANY'S CALL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED!

Epiphany Church Council is excited to announce the Epiphany Call Committee! The members are:

- Rhonda Berg
- Tom Connolly
- Kristin Hall
- Nate McPherson
- Barb O'Toole
- Patrick Parks



Thank you all for your service.

The call committee will start working right away. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for this committee as they choose our next pastor, and please respect that the committee may not be able to share many details with us as they go through the process.

DISTRIBUTIONS FROM EPIPHANY'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund was established to enhance the mission of Epiphany apart from the general operation of the Congregation. Interest accrued throughout the year is used to make donations primarily to organizations outside of Epiphany. Donations to the Endowment Fund are welcomed and encouraged. Monies donated to the fund are added to the principal balance which is invested in CDs and Treasury Notes.



In January the Endowment Fund Committee met and voted to distribute \$1,000 to each of the following organizations:

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry
Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network

Northern Illinois Food Bank
Lutheran School of Theology of Chicago
Adult Christian Care

In addition, the church boiler loan was reduced by \$2,500.

A recent donation to the Endowment Fund was given by Carole Poltrock in memory of:

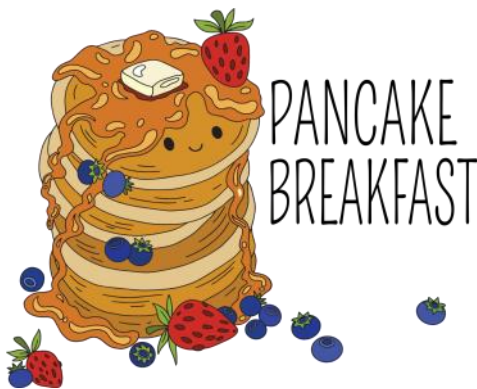
Dolores Barney
Wilbur Lippert
Wes Odean

Lila Peters
Cleo Tengroth

MEN IN MISSION ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 15, 2026

**8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Epiphany Fellowship Hall**



**All you can eat Pancakes,
Sausage, Bacon, Fresh Fruit
Plus Coffee, Juices, Milk**

Ages 12 and older ... \$7

Ages 3-11 ... \$4

Under 3 ... free

Family price ... \$15

Tickets on sale after services on March 1 and 8.

Or you can pay at the door.

Cash and checks are accepted forms for payment.

Proceeds go toward helping those in financial need at
Epiphany and in the community.

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCT DONATIONS TO BENEFIT ELMHURST-YORKFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Our focus for the next several months is to provide personal care products to the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry. Personal care items include toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine pads and tampons, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo, baby wipes, and laundry detergent.



Thank you again for your continued generosity.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

PAINT RECYCLING NOW AVAILABLE IN ILLINOIS

Household paint, stain, and varnish will be accepted at SCARCE with a limit of 5 gallons per household. There is no charge associated with this collection. SCARCE is one of [29 locations](#) in DuPage County accepting paint for recycling through [PaintCare](#). Reduce waste and protect our water with proper disposal of paint.



BATTERY RECYCLING - NEARBY LOCATIONS

There has been some conflicting information about battery recycling programs. [The Battery Network](#), a non-profit, lists several drop-off locations, but not all are accurate. The following locations have confirmed that they accept household batteries.



- DeWalt Factory Service Center - 901 S Rohlwing Rd. Suite A, Addison
- Chicago Communications - 200 W Spangler, Elmhurst
- Regional Household Hazardous Waste Site - 156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville

JOIN THE JULIETs—MARCH 11



The JULIETs will meet for lunch at 12:30, on Wednesday, March 11th with a place to be determined.

Please save the date!

PICTURES FROM THE JULIETs FEBRUARY DINNER



A TALE OF TWO CROSSES

The two large crosses in the chancel area during Lent and Easter have an interesting story to tell:

In August of 1963 Pastor Robert Hooker came to Epiphany from a church in Woodstock, Illinois bringing us the concept of the two crosses. From a photograph and a sketch of the “Living Cross” as it had been made by his church choir in Woodstock, Altar Guild members assisted by Epiphany men devised a “Rugged Cross” for Lent 1964 using the 1963 Christmas tree. The Christmas tree symbolizes the birth of Christ and its transformation into a cross reminds us of Christ’s death. The purple drape speaks of royalty - Christ the King. The crown of thorns symbolizes Christ’s suffering, humiliation, and death.



Similarly, the 1964 Christmas tree was fashioned into a cross which became our first “Living Cross” for Easter 1965. This cross was wrapped in chicken wire and stuffed with moss. It is soaked in water for several days; flowers and greenery are added the day before Easter. Our “Living Cross” reminds us of Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection. The white lilies symbolize Christ’s purity, His resurrection, and His promise of hope and eternal life.

Easter 2026 will mark the 61st anniversary of our “Living Cross” which is a focal point in the chancel area on Easter morning. Approximately 175 lily heads, several bunches of baby’s breath, and bundles of leather leaf are used to assemble the display. Altar Guild members were primarily responsible for the cross’s completion for most of those years and welcomed additional help in 2022 to carry on this special tradition.

If you would like to make a donation to help purchase supplies for the cross this year, please use a pew envelope and mark it “Living Cross.”

Thank You!



PICTURES FROM AROUND EPIPHANY



PICTURES FROM AROUND EPIPHANY



Thank you to the Franklin Middle School Choirs which performed for ACC in February. What beautiful way to spend an afternoon.





BIRTHDAYS

2	Parker Jones, Seth Witzel	19	Grady Wick
3	Patricia Keller	20	Cindy Hradil
4	Andy Raia	21	Hendrix Reynolds, Bob Vierow
6	Melissa Behrens	22	Joe Clifford, Norm Damer Steve Hier, Jim Mueller
7	Briella Dudley, David Norquist	23	Ralph Barszcz, Tom Michalski Amy Papoccia
8	Morgan Dunn	24	Mary Fries, Calvin Knapp David McGowan
9	Matthew Markwald, Mark Redfearn	25	Hannah Gould, Jack Heinle
10	Lillie Samuelian, George Stratton	26	Tyler Dunn, Taylor Marti
11	Juliana Innocentini, Kyle Johnson Ted Mandigo	27	Grant Gibbs
12	Jackson Hall	28	Camryn Barton, Donna Swasko
13	Ellen Lippert, Lydia Samuelian Rion Stufflebeam	29	Matthew McGarry, Dane Swenson
14	Emmett Bending, Luis Sanchez Sloan VanDenBrook, Joe Witzel	30	Chris Foster, Susan Kostecki Meghan Kriz
15	Alicia Alfano, Tiffany Dunn Janis Foster	31	Rhonda Berg, Andrew Gotsch

ANNIVERSARIES

3	Cathleen and Erik Anderson	21	Paul and Barbara Rimington
18	Eric and Denise Porter	22	Kim and Adam French
20	David and Marilyn Heinle	28	Rod and Ingrid Durham



IN OUR PRAYERS

OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST*

Members:

- Barb Brunk
- Karen Norquist
- Randy Wiegel
- Joy Wieska



Family and friends of members:

- John Austin (friend of the Witzel family)
- Zygmunt Laganowski (friend of the Lipperts)
- Arlene Lown (mother of Amy Jones)
- Carol McFalls (friend of Joy Wieska)
- Conor Rowe (relative of the Rudhmans)
- Jorn Inge, and Lena and Maria Troye (relatives of the McGonigles, McPhersons, and Tengroths)
- Mary Witzel (Joe Witzel’s mother)

We extend our sympathies to the family of Robert Lown (father of Amy Jones) who died February 7, at the age of 77.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jeffrey Clark (son of Ruth Clark) who died February 8, at the age of 71.

**If you would like to be on Epiphany’s prayer list or 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 4 weeks. If after 4 weeks, you would like to renew the request, please let Joan know.*

STAFF DIRECTORY

Don Wink	Interim Pastor	Donwink17@gmail.com
Joan Halvey	Congregation and Office Manager	Joan.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Clay Corso	Director of Music	Clay.Corso@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Kerrie Samuelian	Director of Children’s Ministries	Kidsministry@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
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 Deadline for submissions for the April 2026 edition is Friday, March 20.