

THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, IL

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



**December
2025**

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Worship with Candlelighting
(A 30-40 minute service designed especially for little ones!)

8:00 p.m.

Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be held
Sunday, December 28 at both
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM



Grace and Peace to you Epiphany Lutheran,

As we come to the close of another year, I am deeply grateful. December is a month that draws us into the warmth of Christmas—a time to celebrate our Savior’s birth, to embrace one another in love, and to pause in awe of God’s faithfulness throughout the year.

Christmas is a season of wonder, hope, and joy.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for each of you. Your welcome, support, prayers, and encouragement are wonderful strengths for a church community to share. Epiphany is a special place whether you have served, encouraged, or simply been present, your faithfulness has been a testament to God’s work among us. Thank you for journeying together, for your resilience, and for our lovely season together in Christ.

To the church council, church staff, volunteers, ministry leaders, and every member—thank you. Your dedication, generosity, and love have sustained your church through joys and challenges alike. I am especially grateful for your openness and for the many ways you have shared God’s love within and beyond our walls. You have been a blessing to me and to the community.

As many of you know, this December marks the end of my time as your pastor. Saying goodbye is never easy, but I do so with a grateful heart, cherishing the memories and relationships built here. Though our paths must soon part, I trust that God’s plans for this church are full of hope and promise and OPPORTUNITY. I encourage you to continue supporting one another, growing in faith, and shining Christ’s light in all you do.

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you, to pray and celebrate with you, and to witness God’s grace in our midst. May God’s peace be with you this Christmas season and always.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Tim Seitz

FINANCIAL UPDATE

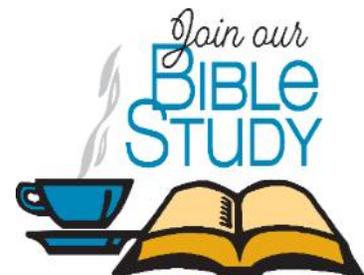
	Current Month			YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Operating Income	\$ 39,980	\$ 55,792	\$ (15,812)	\$ 586,623	\$ 561,570	\$ 25,053
Rooted in Christ	8,548	11,007	2,459	110,010	98,512	(11,498)
Growing in Faith	3,388	2,333	(1,055)	19,859	28,330	8,471
Reaching to Invite and Serve	113	416	303	6,557	4,168	(2,389)
Participation with other Christians in the Mission of the wider Church	3,750	3,750	-	38,900	38,000	(900)
Mission Support	55,219	45,447	(9,772)	409,539	416,816	7,277
Total Operating Expense	\$ 71,018	\$ 62,953	\$ (8,065)	\$ 584,865	\$ 585,826	\$ 961
Operating Fund - Net	\$ (31,038)	\$ (7,161)	\$ (23,877)	\$ 1,758	\$ (24,256)	\$ 26,014

Operating income for October was below budget by \$15.8K. Regular Offerings were \$32.7K during the month which was below budget by \$19.8K. Other income received during the month was \$7.2k which was above budget by \$4K. YTD Operating Income is \$586.6K, which is above budget by \$25.1K.

Total Operating Expenses for the month of October were above budget by \$8.1K. This was driven by higher Growing in Faith expenses due to timing of payments for Youth Ministry Committee and higher Mission Support expenses related to elevator annual testing (\$5.1K), HVAC Maintenance (\$1.7K), Fire Sprinkler Survey (\$1.5K); Light Pole Installation (\$1K). YTD Operating Expenses were \$584.8K which is below budget by \$1K.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - DECEMBER 21

The Sunday Morning Bible Study group will meet Sunday, December 21 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.





Hello Sunday School Families!

I am not sure how we have come to the final month of 2025! It feels like just a short time ago we were learning about Epiphany 100 years ago. As I reflect on 2025, I am so thankful for the congregation, the families, and the

friends. We have brought people together for family events and meals, and have made new friends along the way.

In November, almost 30 people joined in making pizzas. These inter-generational events are so much fun. If you have any ideas for events, please reach out to Kerrie at kidsministry@epiphanyelmhurst.org.

There is a lot happening in December in our Children's Ministry. We will talk about the birth of Jesus in Sunday School. We will also be preparing for and presenting our annual Sunday School Christmas Program. I will share more details on that below. Finally, we will have our 2nd annual Grinch Dinner.

Children will rehearse for the Christmas Program during Sunday School on November 23rd and December 7th. We will also have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13th at 4:00 p.m. This will be followed by our Grinch Dinner at 5:00 p.m. If your child is interested in having a speaking part, please email me to confirm attendance at both the dress rehearsal and the program the weekend of December 13th and 14th. All are welcome to the performance on December 14th during the 9:30 a.m. service. We will perform at the beginning of the service and will head down to Sunday School afterwards for a small party and ornament making. We will serve some refreshments to enjoy with families after service.

Our lessons in December shift to the birth of Jesus. This is a familiar story but it is foundational to our lives as Christians.

If you haven't already, please provide your information for the Sunday School registration.

God Bless!

-Kerrie Samuelian

Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Event	When	Who
Christmas Program Rehearsal & Grinch Dinner	Saturday, December 13th 4:00pm rehearsal 5:00pm dinner	Anyone and Everyone
Sunday School Christmas Program	Sunday, December 14th during 9:30 service	Anyone and Everyone
Family Event TBD	Friday, January 23rd	Anyone and Everyone
First Communion Class	Sunday, March 15, 2026 Monday, March 16, 2026	5th Graders and their parent(s)
First Communion Celebration	Sunday, March 22, 2026	5th Graders and their families

Sunday School Date	PK/K Rotation	1st/2nd Rotation	3rd/4th Rotation	5th/6th Rotation
December 7th	Art Workshop	Music Workshop	Video Workshop	Music Workshop
December 14th	Group Lesson / Party	Group Lesson / Party	Group Lesson / Party	Group Lesson / Party
December 21st	Video Workshop	Art Workshop	Music Workshop	Art Workshop
December 28th	No SS	No SS	No SS	No SS

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY NIGHT PICTURES



Pizza Night! Making our own pies. Fun for all ages!



Lillie Samuelian sharing a story with our 1st/2nd grade class.



Ms. Maureen practicing "I'm So Blessed" with our 5th and 6th graders.



Our 3rd and 4th grade sheep playing games to learn our story.

PICTURES FROM OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS PLANTING FLOWER BULBS



HANNAH'S CIRCLE - DECEMBER 8



Our Christmas Party will held on Monday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rimington's house. If you have never attended, consider doing so. We always welcome new members.

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

JOIN THE JULIETS—DECEMBER 10

The JULIETs will be meeting at 12:30 p.m., December 10th for lunch at Modern Plates (119 N. York Street, Elmhurst). There will also be an optional \$15 grab bag.

Please reach out to Lisa Budris at lbudris@hotmail.com to RSVP. Hope to see you there!



JOIN THE ROMEOs—DECEMBER 17



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, December 17.** Contact David Norquist (630) 310-0934 or Rich Leabru (630) 334-9108 for more information.

MEN IN MISSION CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER



6:15 – 9:15 PM
Thursday, December 11
Fellowship Hall

**Door Prizes, Raffles,
Live Auction items,
Games, Silent Auction items,
Split the Pot**

Through this event we provide families in need with food, clothing, and help with medical, utility, and housing expenses

How you can help

- ◆ **Buy a ticket** - \$22.00 per person (adults only). Tickets will be on sale after services on November 30 and December 7. They are also available through the Church Office.
- ◆ **Donate items** - We will gratefully accept donations of prizes. Please be sure donated prizes are new & unused and if possible, in the original packaging. Items may be brought to the church office. Please let Tom Connolly know (630) 290-4025 if you are donating an item.
- ◆ **Donate money** - We gratefully accept donations if you are unable to attend, either cash, or checks made out to Men In Mission. We honor requests for anonymity, if desired.

Questions? Please contact Tom Connolly at (630) 290-4025, or speak to any of the Men In Mission Board Members: Rodney Durham, Greg Lippert, Steve Martich, David Norquist, Gary Sanders, Roy Schroeder, Scott Sutherland, and John Swasko.

WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

From now through the end of the year, donations on the Table of Sharing will benefit our neighbor, the Westchester Food Pantry, where some of our Epiphany members volunteer. In the first six months of 2025, the food pantry served over 2,800 households and that number is increasing each month as food insecurity in our area continues to grow. Please place unopened, unexpired items in the basket on The Table of Sharing (across from Del's Place).

Westchester Food Pantry Wish List

- Cereal
- Pasta sauce
- Jelly
- Condiments (salad dressing, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, etc.)
- Meals in a can (Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore, Chunky Bowls, etc.)
- Cat and Dog food (canned and dry food varieties)



We encourage you to also support the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry by dropping off items at 1083 S. York Road. There is a convenient/clearly labeled donation closet on the north side of that building.

For volunteer opportunities or to make monetary donations, please visit the pantry websites:

Westchester Food Pantry: westchesterfoodpantry.org

Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry: EYFP.org

TREE OF LOVE AND CARING



Thank you all who signed up to provide Christmas gifts for children whose families are involved with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)'s Intact Family Services program through the Tree of Love and Caring. **Please return all gifts by 9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 7, in the Community Room** so that the Outreach Team can prepare them for pick up by LSSI.

Thank you Epiphany for once again helping to brighten the holidays for families in need!

UPDATE FROM YOUR STILL ACTIVE 100TH ANNIVERSARY TEAM

Our church wide celebration will come to an end on December 14th. Please note there is still time to order merchandise that honors Epiphany's 100th year. There will also be Christmas ornaments for sale after church services.

A time capsule is being completed and will be placed in the east side of the front stairs on Vallette Street with a bronze plaque sealing the opening.



Finally, there is a 100 year celebration booklet that highlights the past 100 years up to the present. This booklet will be placed in the time capsule and also will be available to Epiphany members who would like a copy.

The 100th year celebration committee appreciates the responses from the Epiphany community to the many activities that occurred throughout this celebratory year.

PURCHASE ITEMS TO CELEBRATE OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Many items can be purchased to celebrate Epiphany's 100th Anniversary – hooded sweatshirts, travel mugs, pet bandanas, and more!

Sample items are displayed in Del's Place.

Please check out the website: Shop.EpiphanyElmhurst.org.

100th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS ARE BACK FOR A LIMITED TIME!

A limited number of 100th Anniversary ornaments are available for purchase. They are \$20 each. If you missed the chance to get one last year, are new to Epiphany, or would like one for a gift, now is your chance.

Text or call Andrea Redfearn at (312) 316-7975 if you would like to purchase one. I will also be in the Epiphany Center before and after the 9:30 services on most Sundays.



PICTURES FROM THE JULIETs NOVEMBER DINNER



The JULIETs met for dinner on Wednesday, November 12th at Maggiano's in Oak Brook. The ladies celebrated Barb Odean's birthday that evening.



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS BY DECEMBER 20

Poinsettia
Orders Due
DECEMBER 20



It's time to order your Holiday Poinsettias! They will beautify the church Christmas Eve, and then they are yours to take home following a Christmas Eve service.

Price: \$25 per plant

Please print out the order form on the first page of this Constant Contact. You can put the completed order form and payment in the offering plate or drop it off in the Church Office. **All orders are due by Saturday, December 20.**

If you have any questions, please call Donna Lamoureux at (630) 564-7149.

Thank you!

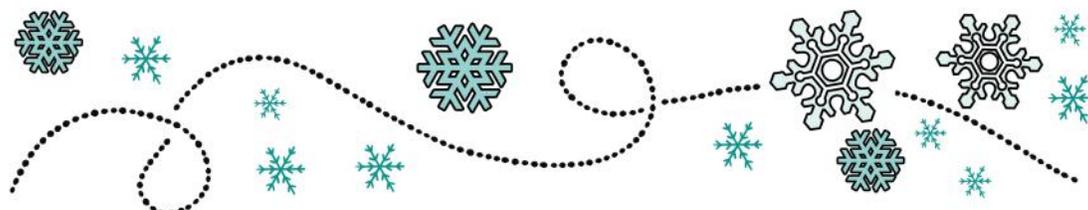


BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | James Morrell, Brian Schleich | 14 | Graham Biery, Madeline Schleich |
| 3 | Scott Bonthron, Charlie Sutton | 15 | Marilyn DeVries, Erin Lewis |
| 4 | Charlotte Hall, Adam Haukland
Kim Mehring | | Jacob Lupa, Julia Neri |
| 5 | Taylor Allen, Josie Heard | 17 | Erin Ewald, Kristi Gibbs |
| 6 | Gracie Durham, Tony Hall | 19 | Karen Fitzer |
| 7 | Madyson Hudson | 21 | Erik Berg |
| 8 | Tessa Martin, Madden Michalski
George Redfearn | 23 | Victoria Biery |
| 10 | Joan Lux, Joy Wieska | 24 | Travis Allen, Nathan Wick |
| 12 | Phyllis Field, Rachael Gould | 25 | Lori Lewis |
| 13 | Kaylee Ewald, Rebecca Hartley
Blair Porter | 27 | Owen Stufflebeam, Arlene Taylor |
| | | 28 | Kim Kortez |
| | | 29 | Jessica Sutherland |
| | | 30 | Nancy Langer |
| | | 31 | Camden Hildy |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 8 | Robert and Judy Scheuerman | 28 | Christian and Erin Ewald |
| 16 | David and Joyce McGowan | 30 | Tracy and Cathy Hunt |
| 20 | Colleen and Michael Korzen | | |



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our members: Karen Ayers, Gwen Becker, Ruth Blair, Marilee Bodnar, Barbara Brunk, Curt Clifford, Marjorie DeSombre, Theresa Doering, Ingrid Durham, Bill Edwards, Mary Fraser, Molly Loeser, Joan Lux, Karen Norquist, Jessica Sutherland, Sandy Vaughn, Sue Werner, Randy Wiegel, Joy Wieska

Family and friends of members: Allan Ahrens (brother of Jill Mueller), Jolene Allen (friend of Scott and Debbie Hawkins), John Austin (friends of the Witzel family), Tyler Bailey (Arlene Taylor’s nephew), Nick Bertino (brother of Stacy Hildy), Angela Block (daughter of Wanda and Gary Block), Greg and Sue Bukowski (friends of Sandra Vaughn), Casey (friend of Stacy Hildy), Kone Chansey (friend of Jill Setterlun), Jenny Dias Da Costa (friend of the Schleich family), Amy Dill (sister-in-law of Rhonda Berg), Kathleen Duda (daughter of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Laura Dybas (friend of Jill Setterlun and Bill Bringman), Wanda Farmer (friend of Wanda Block), Eleanor Feld (aunt to Lisa Budris), Randy Fenwick (relative of Jill Setterlun and Bill Bringman), Steve Fliss (friend of Jill Setterlun and Bill Bringman), Robert Groh (brother-in-law of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Jieun Han (friend of Cathleen Anderson), Lorna Hansen (Amy Rimington’s mother), Jan Harms (Jen Mann’s mother), Kimberly Hulmes (friend of Joy Wieska), Bernard Jennings (friend of Virginia Johnson), Zygmunt Laganowski (friend of the Lipperts), Leila Lane (friend of Joy Wieska), Lindsay Larson (Andrea Redfearn’s niece), John and Pat Leinweber (friends of the Halveys), Steve Lesniak (friend of the Bergs), Marianna Levy (Gerard Duda’s sister), Robert and Arlene Lown (parents of Amy Jones), Nadine Mandigo (sister-in-law of Shirley Swanson and Ted Mandigo), Carolyn McLaughlin (friend of Cathy Hunt), Michael McPeters (Aimee McPeters’ brother), Evan Thomas Mevis (Ruth Blair’s grandson), Donna Mueller (sister of Jim Mueller), the Mueller family (friends of the Allens), the Nelson family (friends of Cathleen Anderson), Gail Nerison, O'Brien family (friends of Amy VanDenBrook), Darya Osman (niece of Mary Ashe), Joseph Paumier (Ben Paumier’s father), Nancy Peterson (friend of the Tengroths), the Pickering family (friends of Chris Wilbur), Eileen Pietraszek (long-time, former member of Epiphany/member of Hannahs), Mark R. (friend of Jill Setterlun and Bill Bringman), Carol Raimondi (friend of Kerrie Samuelian), Lisa Reichardt (friend of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Karen Rivas (Amy Wachholz-Rivas’ mother-in-law), the Rowley family (friends of Nancy Innocentini), Connor Roe (grandnephew of Janet and Bill Rudhman), John Ross, Trey Samuelian (grandson of Judy Samuelian; nephew of Chris and Kerrie Samuelian), Colleen Schramm (friend of Nancy Innocentini), Carole Streetz (friend of Lisa Budris), Alaina Sullivan (relative of Jill Setterlun and Bill Bringman), Pat Swanson (Shirley Swanson’s sister-in-law), Irma Tena (friend of the Johnson family), Jorninge and Lena Troye (relatives of the McGonigles, McPhersons, and Tengroths), Kurt Walters (relative of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Judy and Kim Willis (friends of Sandy Vaughn), Mary Witzel (Joe Witzel’s mother), David Livingstone Zijjan (Pastor of Father’s Divine Love Ministry), Valerie Zulevic (niece of Mary Ashe)

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Kerrie Samuelian	Director of Children’s Ministries	Kidsministry@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Paul Halvey	Custodian	Paul.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Tim at (617) 710-9687.

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 January 2026 edition is Tuesday, December 23.