

THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, IL

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



June
2026

The Holy Spirit Is Moving



A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR DON

Best Day Ever!

As a child I looked forward to receiving gifts on two days each year: My birthday and Christmas. These gifts were sometimes things that I expected, sometimes things that I had hoped for, and sometimes things that were beyond both. Christmas dinner was chosen by my parents, but I got to choose the meal for my birthday dinner. I was fortunate in having a birthday almost exactly six months apart from Christmas. So there were no "combination gifts" that blended the two days. I felt sorry for people whose birthdays fell in late December or early January; it seemed like they received a little less as a result.



But what if Christmas and our birthday happened on the same day, and their overlapping didn't diminish our overall celebration, and didn't reduce our overall receiving of gifts? With God, the days we celebrate reinforce, even supercharge each other with God's gifts such that we may call each day the **BEST DAY EVER!**

Last Sunday was just such a day. What we celebrated as Pentecost Sunday is also the overlapping celebration of a Christmas of sorts and a birthday of sorts. At Christmas we mark God entering the world in and as the person of Jesus. At Pentecost we mark God entering the church in and as the Holy Spirit. Our human birthday celebrates the growth of a small cluster of cells to a whole body, with the potential to live in the world. Pentecost is, again, in a way, the rapid growth of a small cluster of Jesus-followers to a body of sufficient size to reach the whole world.

And there are gifts! The most immediate gifts of Pentecost are those that communicate and receive the message of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit is active in the faith that professes Jesus as Lord and in the faith that believes. Almost as immediately those who believe become part of a family of faith, sustained in mutual love by the same love with which Jesus loves us.

And...more gifts! The Holy Spirit doesn't show up empty-handed, but gives to each member of this family of faith something that the whole family needs. Our gifts are received by us and enhanced when put to use for our family of faith.

And...we can't forget the food! Our family meal whenever we gather, whether at Pentecost, Christmas, Easter, or most times in between is that of Jesus himself, giving us full and abundant life in his name.

What do you think? Best day ever? Pentecost makes every day better...until Jesus comes again and there is no more lesser or better, only Jesus all in all.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	Current Month			YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total Operating Income, less Special Gift	\$52,698	\$58,042	\$ (5,344)	\$ 248,780	\$196,518	\$ 52,262
Rooted in Christ	6,499	8,538	2,039	27,238	35,402	8,164
Growing in Faith	2,736	3,678	942	12,350	14,712	2,362
Reaching to Invite and Serve	227	417	190	428	1,668	1,240
Participation with other Christians in the Mission of the wider Church	833	833	(0)	4,233	3,332	(901)
Mission Support	44,520	45,166	646	178,166	162,663	(15,503)
Total Operating Expense	\$54,816	\$58,632	\$ 3,816	\$ 222,415	\$ 217,777	\$ (4,638)
Operating Fund - Net	\$(2,118)	\$ (590)	\$ (1,528)	\$ 26,365	\$(21,259)	\$ 47,624
Operating Fund - Net + Special Gift	\$(2,118)	\$ (590)	\$ (1,528)	\$ 137,365	\$(21,259)	\$ 158,624

Operating income for April was below budget by \$5.3K. Regular Offerings were \$48K during the month which was below budget by \$2K. Other income received during the month was \$4.7K which was below budget by \$2.3K. YTD Operating Income was above budget by \$52.2K exclusive of the special gift of \$111K. YTD Regular offerings of \$227K which is above budget by \$51K.

Total Operating Expenses for the month of April were below budget to \$3.8K. All categories were below budget. YTD Operating Expenses above budget by \$4.6K.

WHOLE HEARTED OFFERING—SUNDAY, MAY 31

"Whole Hearted" is a special offering on Sunday, May 31st in which:

- Every Epiphany member or household is asked to participate
- Whatever we had planned to give that day, or perhaps already given for that day, give something more



Why do this now?

- We think about our finances on a frequent if not daily basis, but for many of us, only once a year when it comes to church;
- Our generosity might not keep up with changes in our financial circumstances (or with changes in operational costs at church);
- Epiphany is experiencing a lot of energy around the calling of a new pastor to lead us. We can help fund dreams for new ministries as we pray for a new leader.

"Whole Hearted" encourages each of us to challenge ourselves to let our faith inform our giving, and for our giving to deepen our faith. Think and pray about the dreams you have for the future of Epiphany, and give toward that vision. When we all give together with the Holy Spirit guiding us, much can be accomplished. We look forward to celebrating together.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

-Epiphany's Generosity Team

*Bill Edwards, Mike Lewis, Paul Rimington, Meghan Schleich
Pat Jones - Treasurer, Pastor Don Wink*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES

Advanced Degree Graduate

Kate Mueller received her Master of Business Administration from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.



College Graduates

Kali Becker graduated from Western Illinois University with a degree in Sociology and minors in Forensic Chemistry and Religious Studies. She was accepted into Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Emily Doering graduated from Central Michigan University with a major in Environmental Studies, and minors in Business and Hospitality.

Jackson Hall graduated from Indiana University (National Champs!) with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree from The Media School.

Kara Jensen graduated from Macalester College with a major in Chemistry (Biochemistry) and minors in Biology and Psychology. She will be attending Rosalind Franklin University in the fall to pursue a masters in Biomedical Sciences.

Jack Jones graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Landon Redfearn graduated as a James Scholar from University of Illinois, Gies College of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Finance.

Seth Witzel graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES (CONT.)

High School Graduates

Landon Beerhalter graduated from York High School. He will be attending University of Georgia and plans to study Business.

Cayley Getz graduated from Wheaton North High School.

Mason Hildy graduated from York High School and will be attending Syracuse University and plans to study Architecture.

Lucas Prine graduated from York High School. He will be attending Otterbein University with plans to study Musical Theater.

George Redfearn graduated from York High School. He will be attending Babson College and plans to study Entrepreneurship and Finance.

Liam Rees graduated from York High School. He will attend Ball State University majoring in Musical Theatre.

Nate Rickenbrode graduated from York High School. He will be attending Carthage College and plans to study Engineering and play baseball.

Drew Vogel graduated from York High School. He will attend the University of Denver and plans to study Business.

8th Grade/Middle School Graduates

*Maddie Banta**

*Kate Jones***

*Ella Bonuso**

*Brinkley Mabry**

*Adelaide Chapman**

*Maddie Schlech**

*Sabrina Gibbs**

*Asher Wahl**

*Hadley Hedworth**

** will be attending York High School*

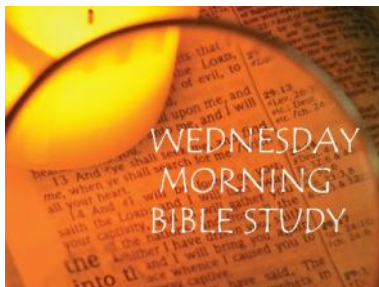
*** will be attending Timothy Christian High School*

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Call Committee continues to work distilling the feedback provided. This feedback directly impacts the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). We hope to submit the MSP in the next couple of days. This is an important step to translate Epiphany's needs and opportunities to potential Pastoral candidates.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday Morning Bible Study will continue to meet every Wednesday (June 3, 10, 17, and 24) from 10:30 to 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'll join us.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE



Our Epiphany Confirmation class celebrated our end of year party with games at Activate Oak Brook. We were grateful that the students were willing to play a few rounds at the beginner level for our sake!

We spent this year studying the Bible together using a curriculum called Echo the Story 36. Beginning with Creation and going in the order of the books of the Bible, we focused on 36 different Bible stories. For each story we reflected on an image, watched a video to orient ourselves within the Bible, listened to a retelling of the story, and reflected together on the story, focusing on what the story taught us about God and ourselves. We were grateful to Pastor Don for joining us last month to answer questions about the New Testament and guide our study of the book of Revelation!

Our graduating 8th graders are done with class and will be officially welcomed and confirmed next fall on Reformation Sunday (October 25).

Confirmation classes will resume in September. We'll send more details in August about a family meeting and schedule. If you know someone who would be interested in joining us next fall or would like more information, please reach out to us in person or at confirmation@epiphanyelmhurst.org.

Thanks,
Chris and Katie Wilbur

JOIN THE HANNAH CIRCLE—MONDAY, JUNE 1

The Hannah Circle will have its last get-together until September, on Monday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m. They will have a dinner in Fellowship Hall.

New members are always welcome!



JOIN THE ROMEOs—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 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, June 17. Contact David Norquist (630) 310-0934 or Rich Leabru (630) 334-9108 for more information.

JOIN THE JULIETs—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

The JULIETs will be gathering at Phase 3 Brewing Co. on Spring Road in Elmhurst at 6 p.m. on June 17. Please RSVP to Lisa Budris at lbudris@hotmail.com by Monday, June 15 so that we will have the correct number of seats.

As always, all are welcome!



EPIPHANY MISSION TEAM (FORMERLY MEN IN MISSION)

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



Save the date for the Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser.

This year's event will be held Sunday afternoon, September 20 at the Lombard Golf Course.

Watch for details to come!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE LSSI SPRING BASKETS PROJECT

A huge thank you to the congregation for the generosity and support in donating over 450 items for the LSSI spring baskets! Your assistance comes at a critical time as we head into summer when assistance may not be as plentiful. We also want to thank the Sunday School kids for their help in filling the baskets. Their enthusiasm and excitement was amazing, and they filled 25 baskets!



- Community and Global Outreach Committee



ADULT CHRISTIAN CARE (ACC) NEEDS



Most needed supplies that are used daily:

1. Regular Ground Coffee and Coffee Filters
2. Powdered Coffee Creamer (like Coffee Mate)
3. Napkins and Paper Towels
4. Facial Tissue boxes (2-ply/160 count)
5. Antibacterial Dishwashing and Hand Soap
6. Small and Large Paper Plates
7. Small and Medium Paper Bowls
8. Hand Lotion (Pump Bottle)
9. Pink Lemonade Powdered Drink Mix
10. Snacks: Granola Bars, Popcorn, Peanut Butter, Crackers, Cinnamon Graham Crackers, etc.
11. Scotch Tape, Post-it Notes, Black Sharpies
12. Small Plastic Spoons and Forks

Your donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you so much!

- *The ACC Members*

IN MEMORIAL DONATIONS



In memorial

Donations in memorial of Tad Renstrom, Jr. were received from: Tom and Elaine Rath, Roger Renstrom, Karen Shannon, and Scott Sutherland.

PICTURES FROM THE JULIETs LUNCH ON MAY 20



The JULIETs met for lunch at Pinstripes on Wednesday, May 20 and celebrated Vicki Johnston's (pictured below on the left) and Peggy Magnesen's (pictured below on the right) birthdays.





BIRTHDAYS

1	Kim Haukland, Erin McGarry	15	Annette Edwards, Charlie Toreja
2	Gus Anderson, Suzan Ganser Neil Sutton	16	Scott Hawkins
3	Shirley Swanson	17	Eleanor Wilbur
4	Bruno Albarello, Carole Poltrock	18	Wanda Block, Peter D'Agostino Catherine Wilcox
7	David Wyman	20	Nathan Kriz
8	Brandon Allen, Rich Leabru	21	Patricia Samar
9	Melanie Becker, Areina Connolly Rod Durham, Simon Hildy Morgan Mehring	22	Lily Beerhalter
10	Michelle Valencic	23	Simon Redfearn
11	Tracy Hunt, Karen Norquist	24	Lyla Crowley
12	Suzanne Wilcox	25	Adeline Roy, Bill Rudhman
13	Madison Jones, Olivia Martin Mark Morrell, Matthew Rees Cricket Sawosko	26	Debbie Biery, Allison Davis
14	Ingrid Durham	27	Donna Johnson, Emma Johnson Ryan Pickell
		27	Rebecca Knapp, Chris Samuelian
		28	Ken Cripe
		30	Larry Magnesen

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Michael and Kristin Dudley	20	Larry and Peggy Magnesen
3	Pat and Amy Jones	21	Bryan and Patricia Keller
4	Eric and Tiffany Dunn	25	Steve and Roxanne Rickenbrode Bob and Lori Vierow
6	Andrew Hebert and Grace Safien Marty and Tiffany Jensen	26	Pat and Jenny Barton
10	Ed and Jennifer Martin	28	Glen and Suzan Ganser
16	Greg and Ellen Lippert		Ty and Lois Hodgson
18	Maureen and Nate McPherson Bill and Janet Rudhman		Tim and Kristin Thomas Lito and Jenny Toreja
19	Andy and Marcella Raia Walter and Cricket Sawosko	29	Scott and Letitia Bonthron

IN OUR PRAYERS

OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST*

Members:

- Marilee Bodnar
- Joan Lux
- Karen Norquist
- 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)
- 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 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
Clay Corso	Director of Music	Clay.Corso@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Kerrie Samuelian	Director of Children’s Ministries	Kidsministry@EpiphanyElmhurst.org
Charlie and Nikki Sutton	Directors of LYO	charliejsutton@gmail.com
		ntsutton15@gmail.com
Joan Halvey	Congregation and Office Manager	Joan.Halvey@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 July/August 2026 edition is Monday, June 22.