

# THE STAR

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELMHURST, IL

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



March  
2024



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

### PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.\*

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28

7:00 p.m.\*

### GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29

7:00 p.m.\*

*Please note that there will be no Saturday service on March 30.*

### EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Traditional Worship with Holy Communion          |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Children and Family Worship with Holy Communion* |
| 11:15 a.m. | Traditional Worship with Holy Communion*         |

*\* Indicates services that will be streamed live on YouTube and Facebook.*

## A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR RON

Earlier this week, our new Congregation Council met for its second time this year. The first thing I share with you about that is that you should be very pleased with the group that is leading us this year. They are a wonderful group, full of passion and creativity. I know that great things will happen under their leadership.



The second thing I want to share is that Council is working on a slight revision of our organizational structure, especially how our committees (soon to be called “teams”) are organized and how they relate to one another. (You’ll be hearing about that later. Stay tuned!) One of the things we are doing is making sure that all our “teams” understand what their **purpose** is. I’ve insisted on that because it is an essential operational principle for healthy organizations—you cannot know **WHAT** you should do until you know **WHY** you are doing it.

Now, there are a lot of reasons churches do things that aren’t very helpful. The most common one is, “Because we’ve always done it that way.” Another one that isn’t so common is, “Because we don’t know what else to do.” I’ve often wondered how we might structure our church or organize our ministries if we didn’t have the past as a guiding force. (And to be clear, I think that would be a huge mistake, because the church’s past shapes our future in important and healthy ways.) But isn’t it true that without answering “why?” about our mission and ministries we’re taking the easy way out?

I’d like to pose a few questions like the ones being addressed by the Congregation Council. How would you answer them?

- We should offer robust, high-quality, diverse worship experiences. Why?
- We should offer challenging educational opportunities for folks to grow in their faith. Why?
- We should reach out to our community and world with acts of justice and mercy. Why?
- We should invite our neighbors to be a part of our community of faith. Why?
- We should give generously to the work of Christ in this location. Why?

Being the church is tough. Churches are complex organizations and expensive to run. Why do we bother? I hope you’ll consider the “why” of your involvement in the church, and that knowing why will lead you to a deeper sense of the importance of the church—our church—in the life of our members, our community, and our wider world. The “why” of the church is rich and valuable. I pray that our sense of “why” will lead us to deeper faithfulness.

I’ll see you in church this weekend.

*Pastor Ron*

## EASTER CHOIR



Epiphany is looking for singers for Easter Sunday! **The Choir will be singing at the 11:15 a.m. service on March 31**, and all church members and guests are invited to participate. One rehearsal will be held, following the Palm Sunday service on March 24, and will be approximately 45 minutes in length. The more members we have for the choir, the better! Please reach out to Clay Corso with any questions.

## LENTEN SUPPERS

All are welcome to attend the soup and bread suppers that take place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent prior to the 7:00 p.m. service. A free-will donation is taken.

Suppers will be hosted by:

- ♦ March 6: Hannah Circle
- ♦ March 13: Sunday School
- ♦ March 20: Church Council



We hope you will join us.

## Easter Lilies



Would you like to help beautify our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter lily? To place your order, please complete the form below and put it in the offering plate. Please include payment of \$25 per plant with your order. **Orders are due Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday).** You may pick up your plant(s) after any of the services on Easter Sunday.

Please contact Donna Lamoureux with any questions at (630) 564-7149.

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### EASTER LILY ORDER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER OF LILIES: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT OF \$25 FOR EACH PLANT ORDERED. CHECKS OR CASH MAY BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR DELIVERED/MAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lots of happenings in Sunday School this spring! We have consistently had over 25 kids each week joining us in our four classes! As we are learning the journey of Jesus to the cross, we are also preparing for summer and beyond.

One of the more exciting things the team is planning is for Vacation Bible School! The dates for this year are June 17-20, 2024! We will be meeting from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Our theme this year is I Wonder. Please go to

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx9ltdEzO-ExzlyWPNbi-c7vcDkq6l\\_Mht-JoKZR0NnO\\_l3A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx9ltdEzO-ExzlyWPNbi-c7vcDkq6l_Mht-JoKZR0NnO_l3A/viewform) to sign up. Invite your

friends and neighbors to join us for vacation bible school! We would appreciate adult volunteers as well as teen volunteers. For teen volunteers, we are asking they be at least entering eighth grade. There will be an orientation for all volunteers the week before VBS.



Other Sunday School items in the works include hosting the Lenten Soup Supper on March 13th! Join our families for food and fellowship before a short Lenten Worship Service.

Looking towards next year, if you are interested in helping in Sunday School, please contact Kerrie Samuelian.

God Bless!

## LYO BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER FOR GROUP WORK CAMP



LYO is selling Butter Braids as a fundraiser for the Group Work Trip this summer. **We'll be selling them through March 9.** You can buy them from your favorite LYO student or by using this link:

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/3ec4d512-dc4e-47f6-b842-9812470be1ad>

*(If purchasing online, the "Emily B" option shares the proceeds with all the students.)*

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY



The Sunday Morning Bible Study group will meet on Sundays, March 10 and 24 from 10:45 a.m.-noon. All sessions will convene in the room directly across from the church library. For more information contact Phil Darling at (630) 291-0721 or John Swasko at (708) 650-1047.

## READING WITH THE REV

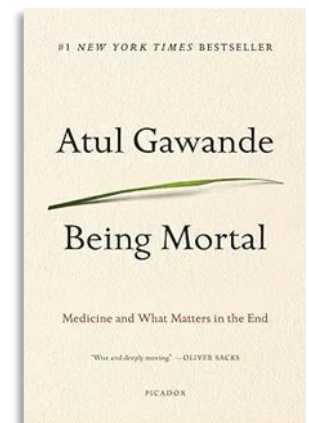
**Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Online: <https://whereby.com/epiphanymeetings>

This month's selection: ***Being Mortal***, by Atul Gawande

When it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should. Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced. Nursing homes, devoted above all to safety, battle with residents over the food they are allowed to eat and the choices they are allowed to make. Doctors, uncomfortable discussing patients' anxieties about death, fall back on false hopes and treatments that are actually shortening lives instead of improving them.

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Here he examines its ultimate limitations and failures—in his own practices as well as others'—as life draws to a close. Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal* shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life—all the way to the very end.



Gather with other readers as we discuss this important book!

UPCOMING DATES: April 23  
May 21

***Mrs. Bridge***, by Evan S. Connell  
***Three Mothers***, by Anna Malaika Tubbs

INTERESTED IN  
  
BAPTISM?

Are you interested in having your child baptized at Epiphany? If so, please speak with or email Pastor Ron,  
[Ron.Feltman@EpiphanyElmhurst.org](mailto:Ron.Feltman@EpiphanyElmhurst.org).

## 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 2024 will mark the 59th 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 these past nearly 60 years and welcomed additional help in 2022 to carry on this special tradition.

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

THANK YOU!



## MEN IN MISSION UPCOMING DATES PANCAKE BREAKFAST and DINNER/FUNDRAISER

### MEN IN MISSION PANCAKE BREAKFAST -- SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Please mark your calendar for the Men in Mission Annual Pancake Breakfast!



8 a.m. to noon, Fellowship Hall

All you can eat: Pancakes, sausage, bacon and fresh fruit -- plus coffee, tea, milk, orange juice & water

- Ages 12 years + \$6.00
- Ages 3-11 years \$4.00
- Under 3 years FREE
- Family Price \$14.00

Tickets on sale after services in the foyer March 2-3, March 9-10, March 16. Or you can pay at the door on March 17.

Can't attend? Donations are always welcome!

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

We hope to see you there!

### MEN IN MISSION DINNER/FUNDRAISER –TUESDAY, MAY 14



- 6:00—9:00 p.m.
- Fellowship Hall
- Tickets on sale in April

## BAPTISM OF NOAH PATRICK GRAHAM



Noah Patrick being held by Pastor Ron and surrounded by his parents, Becca and Brian Graham.



Noah Patrick Graham was received into God's family through the sacrament of holy baptism February 25, 2024. Noah is the son of Becca and Brian Graham.



Noah Patrick and Pastor Ron are all smiles following Noah's baptism!

## JOIN THE ROMEOs—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Are you retired or working from home and would like to get out? The ROMEOs usually meet the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at Fresh Start Café. They will meet next **Wednesday, March 20**. Contact David Norquist (630) 310-0934 or Wes Odean (630) 605-1147 for more information.



## IN MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED



An donation in memory of Joan Schroeder was received from Wilbur Lippert.

A donation in memory of Keith Olson was received from Nancy Beneditz on behalf of The Evans Benenditz Missionary Trust Fund.



## UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY FOR DISPLACED IMMIGRANTS (ICDI)

From the ICDI:

*"This month, approximately 5,000 more people arrived in the city, bringing the total number of migrants to 35,275. Among them, 13,353 people are currently living in shelters, while 12,121 people have been resettled."*

That is why, Epiphany, we will continue to do our small part to help. We will continue to gather items for snack packs which will be distributed to hungry migrants as they arrive in Chicago. **We still have plenty of granola bars but need individual sized packages of nuts, dried fruits or gummy snacks, chips or pretzels, apple sauce, and cookies.** Confirmation class will assemble these items into ICDI snack packs.

We are also collecting \$10-\$15 dollar Subway or McDonald's gift certificates. These gift certificates will be distributed to migrants as well. Please place these donations into the bin on the Table of Sharing in Epiphany Center.



You can utilize the ICDI Amazon wish list to order items like underwear and coats. These items are sent directly to an ICDI sorting center, one of which is at Elmhurst Presbyterian church.

For more information about ICDI check out their website at [ICDIchicago.org](http://ICDIchicago.org). The link for their Amazon wish list is: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QOQ3B78SIJ/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QOQ3B78SIJ/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

Any other questions, please reach out to Karen Norquist, at [knorquist@comcast.net](mailto:knorquist@comcast.net).

Thank you, Epiphany, for your continued generosity!

## EPIPHANY SOUPER BOWL RESULTS



### SOUPER BOWL RESULTS *And the winner is.....*

Thank you, Epiphany, for supporting the Yorkfield Food Pantry and voting in the Epiphany Souper Bowl. The votes cast were –

**Kansas City Chiefs: 65**  
**San Francisco 49ers: 36**

Great job! Epiphany backed a winner, including the Yorkfield Food Pantry.

## PRESCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SCHEDULE SPRING BREAK— WEEK OF MARCH 25



We are blessed to have many children present in our building throughout the week. Listed below are weekday time periods that our parking lot will be busiest due to drop-off and pick-up times for the children.

### Monday—Friday

**8:15 - 9:00 a.m.**

**11:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**11:45 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.**

**2:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

Epiphany members and guests are still welcome to access the building during these times but are advised that parking and main parking lot entrance will be busy.

**Please note that the preschool will be on Spring Break from March 25-29. Classes will resume Monday, April 1.**

## OUR HEALTHY CHURCH POLICY

Worshippers and guests to the church building are no longer required to wear a mask. We know that some feel more comfortable and safe continuing to wear a mask, and you are welcome to do so. We ask for respect for whatever choice is made regarding mask-wearing.

We have resumed offering Holy Communion at the altar. The pastors and worship assistants will offer a wafer and an individual cup of wine. Intinction (dipping the wafer into the common cup of wine) is no longer an option. Again, we know that some will be more comfortable continuing to receive the elements in their seats. Those who wish to commune in their seats should let an usher know and the elements will be brought to you in your seat.



## PICTURES FROM AROUND EPIPHANY!



Cakes in honor of First Communion were served on February 4 following the service. This year's First Communicants were:  
Hannah Hinrichs, Anna Koludrovic,  
Blake Hosler, and Lilly Koop.

To the right is a photo from our Wednesday Worship. This Lent we are focusing on the last words of Jesus from the cross. Services include video reflections from United Methodist pastor Susan Robb.

We hope you'll join us at the 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. services (March 6, 13, and 20).



The Franklin Middle School Choir performed for Adult Christian Care on Tuesday, February 13. The event was open to all. What beautiful music!

Epiphany's Praise Band played for the Synod Ordination Service held at Epiphany on February 11. The following pages show more pictures from this service.





## PICTURES FROM THE SYNOD ORDINATION HELD AT EPIPHANY



On February 11, Epiphany was blessed with hosting the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Ordination Service! A full assembly gathered for the ordinations of four new rostered leaders.



*A huge thank you to all the volunteers who served to help make this a special event.*

## MORE PICTURES FROM THE SYNOD ORDINATION HELD AT EPIPHANY





## BIRTHDAYS

2	Parker Jones, Mark Russo, Seth Witzel	19	Grady Wick
3	Patricia Keller, Christopher Pratt	20	Dolores Barney, Cindy Hradil
4	Andy Raia, Rachael Schrage	21	Hendrix Reynolds, Bob Vierow, Matthew Anderson
6	Melissa Behrens	22	Joe Clifford, Norm Damer, Steve Hier, Jim Mueller
7	Briella Dudley, David Norquist	23	Rafal Barszcz, Connor Hanley, 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	Michael Carson, Tyler Dunn, Taylor Marti
11	Juliana Innocentini, Kyle Johnson, Ted Mandigo	27	Grant Gibbs
12	Jackson Hall, David Nelson	28	Camryn Barton, Donna Swasko
13	Ellen Lippert, Lydia Samuelian, Rion Stuffelbeam	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	Garry and Lyncherri Howell	22	Kim and Adam French
	Eric and Denise Porter	28	Rod and Ingrid Durham
20	David and Marilyn Heinle		



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

## OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST\*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Our members:** Dolores Barney, Gwen Becker, Ruth Blair, Barbara Brunk, Curt Clifford, Phil Darling, Marjorie DeSombre, Sheila Durbin, Bill Edwards, Tony Hall, Wilbur Lippert, Molly Loeser, Joan Lux, Wes Odean, Mark Redfearn, Donna Swasko, Joy Wieska

We extend our sympathies to the family of Doug Lippert (brother of Greg Lippert), who died February 13. We extend our sympathies to the family of Carl H. Buerger (brother of Ruth Clark) who died February 28.

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS\*

**Our friends:** Jolene Allen (friend of Scott and Debbie Hawkins), John Austin (friend of the Witzel family), Tyler Bailey (Arlene Taylor's nephew), Donna Blair (friend of Jill Setterlun), George Bringman (father of Bill Bringman), Greg and Sue Bukowski (friends of Sandra Vaughn), Casey (friend of Stacy Hildy), Kone Chansey (friend of Jill Setterlun), Dettman family (friends of the Redfearns), Jenny Dias Da Costa (friend of the Schleich family), Amy Dill (sister-in-law of Rhonda Berg), Donna and Gary Diven (sister and brother-in-law of Gary Sanders, Sr.), Kathleen Duda (daughter of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Laura Dybas (friend of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Eleanor Feld (aunt to Lisa Budris), Jim Feltman (Pastor Ron's father), Vern, Donna, and Kara Field (son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter of Phyllis Field), Jeffrey Fuka (friend of Dolores Barney), Robert Groh (brother-in-law of Joan Lux and Gerard Duda), Lorna Hansen (Amy Rimington's mother), Jan Harms (Jen Mann's mother), Jan Henderson (friend of Deb and Scott Hawkins), Marilyn Hirtle (friend of Phyllis Field), Hannah Hodgson (Lois Hodgson's daughter-in-law), Lindsay Larson (Andrea Redfearn's niece), Nadine Mandigo (sister-in-law of Shirley Swanson and Ted Mandigo), Marianna Levy (Gerard Duda's sister), Karen McCaa (Amy Pilny's sister), Barbara McKay (Lila Peters' niece), Carolyn McLaughlin (friend of Dolores Barney), 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), Gail Nerison, O'Brien family (friends of Amy VanDenBrook), Jim Pacini (friend of many Epiphany members), Joseph Paumier (Ben Paumier's father), Nancy Peterson (friend of the Tengroths), the Pickering family (friends of Chris Wilbur), Emily and Christopher Pierce (friends of Lila Peters), Eileen Pietraszek (long-time, former member of Epiphany/member of Hannah's), Carol Raimondi (friend of Kerrie Samuelian), Amber and James Randall (friends of Gwen Becker), Kim Redlich (friend of Rod Durham), Lisa Reichardt (friend of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Rosemary (friend of Sandy Vaughn), the Rowley family (friends of Nancy Innocentini), John Ross, Colleen Schramm (friend of Nancy Innocentini), Karen Scott (friend of Curt Clifford), the Specht family (friends of Andrea Redfearn), Carole Streetz (friend of Lisa Budris), Pat Swanson (Shirley Swanson's sister-in-law), Jenna and Bryce Taft (extended family of Phyllis Field), Irma Tena (friend of the Johnson family), Lena Troye (relative of the McGonigles, McPhersons, and Tengroths), Kurt Walters (relative of Bill Bringman and Jill Setterlun), Mary Witzel (Joe Witzel's mother), David Livingstone Zijjan (Pastor of Father's Divine Love Ministry)

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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**In the event of a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Pastor Feltman at (339) 203-7214 or Pastor Julie Grafe at (847) 921-7036.**

**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](mailto:Joan.Halvey@EpiphanyElmhurst.org)**

**Deadline for submissions for the April, 2024 edition is Wednesday, March 20.**