

the STAR



“We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship Him.”
Matthew 2:2

APRIL-MAY, 2018

VISION

“We are one family of growing followers of Jesus seeking the good of our church and community by channeling service to the students, families, and staff of Woerner Elementary School”

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Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler
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epiphanylutheran@sbcglobal.net
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Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Fellowship: 10:45 am
Growth in the Word: 11:00 am
Sunday School: 11:00 am
Fourth Sunday Fellowship
Potluck: 11:00 am



An example of an outdoor Rumble Ball Pit



A temporary pit used by Epiphany's youth

GET READY TO RUMBLE

Dear Epiphany Member and Neighbor of Holly Hills,

Healthy communities are ones that interact with each other in a variety of ways. Next door neighbors sharing tools, a simple “hi” on a walk through the park, grabbing a bite to eat at the local restaurant, attending the church around the corner, or starting a conversation with someone at a playground are all ways to build up a society’s strength.

Today, your community appeals to you to add another opportunity to continue creating the cohesiveness of Holly Hills. We are asking for donations to build a Rumble Ball Pit at Woerner Elementary School. Rumble Ball (sometimes called “Ga-Ga Ball”) is an inclusive game that only requires a ‘pit’ and a ball. It can be played with only two players - or up to as many people as can fit in the pit! Games are short in time, therefore it allows people to join in every few minutes ... no one is left out of the activity! It is a quick paced pick-up game, allowing people to add as desired.

Being located at Woerner, the school children would be able to enjoy the game at recess time. During the hours school is not in session, the rest of the community would have access to the game. This is a small, but important means for children to play with children, and parents to meet up with parents, and neighbors to engage with each other in a more meaningful way.

Many thanks to our youth for submitting this exciting proposal. The church council and staff will look into the details of funding the project in partnership with Woerner and the neighborhood at large. Also, we will consult our insurance company about liability and risk management concerns. Look for an update on this proposal.

FROM THE PASTOR

SHARE THE LOVE

“What drew you to Epiphany?” Without hesitation, Kianna answered, *“the Love.”*

A few months ago, I sat down to talk with Kianna about why she and her daughters came back to our Foundations Community Nights for the second year. *“They make you feel welcome,”* Kianna said, *“They pray for you, and they’re not judgmental. You can feel the love when someone takes time to acknowledge you.”*

Epiphany started Foundations Community Nights in January 2017. Our goal was to partner with families in our community, especially those who live within the boundaries of Woerner Elementary, the local public school, which serves an area that extends roughly three miles from Epiphany and is home to about 24,000 people. To get reconnected to our local area, four years ago Epiphany worked through the public school district’s program to adopt Woerner as a “faith partner.” We made it our vision to channel service to our community by partnering with the families, staff, and neighbors of Woerner. Foundations Night grew out of this vision. This is when Epiphany (with financial support from our Funding Mission Committee) provides a free meal and then classes for adults and children (chess, sport-stacking, crafts/quilting, and drumming).



Niyanna (left) gets chess tips from Elijah.

Kianna learned about Foundations through a flyer Woerner shared with their families. She registered her daughters Niyanna and Zy’niya. The girls loved the classes. *“We got to meet new people and learn new things,”* Niyanna said *“We can’t wait to come back!”* Kianna said, *“Zy’niya loved her teachers and how they were teaching. There were many people with many different backgrounds coming together.”*

While the girls were in their classes, Kianna attended the adults’ class. *“I liked the teaching about valuing family time,”* she remembered, *“Instead of everybody just getting on their phones, we need to talk to each other and not be isolated.”*

I asked Kianna how she feels about the partnership between the church and the public school. *“I love it! I didn’t know how much the church was doing for the school. It’s a big help. We’re thankful for the way you guys spread God’s love.”*

Kianna sometimes works on weekends, but she and her daughters started coming to Epiphany’s midweek Lent worship services this year, bringing their cousins along too. They’ve been participating in our Gospel in Seven Words project. Niyanna, a Fifth Grader at Woerner, said her favorite verses were *“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son”* and *“Whoever believes in their heart that Jesus is Lord and confesses with their mouth that God raised him from the dead will be saved.”* I asked her, *“Which way of saying the Gospel did you like best?”* She answered, *“Jesus, death’s destroyer, will raise us up.”* *It speaks powerfully to me because I know that Jesus is more powerful than death.*

In Him who destroyed death and brought New Life,
Pastor Zeigler

STICKY FAITH = PEER-TO-PEER + INTERGENERATIONAL

Our national office of youth ministry in St. Louis has been conducting surveys and research during our national youth gatherings for decades. The last survey has been pivotal for the church to understand what has been going on in our church-body, or not going on, to support youth and young adults so that they will remain in the church as they age. It is clear to most, we have done a poor job discipling our children as a national church-body. The research and findings match with what the Fuller Youth Institute discovered in their own national survey to address the loss of young adults after graduation in the Evangelical church. In both cases it was found that parents who genuinely practice their faith in the home, healthy relationships with parents and other adults in the congregation, and involvement in the local church were all key factors. These were not the only factors, but a few that both the LCMS youth office and Fuller Youth Institute found to be true.

Now what does this mean for Epiphany? It means that a traditional, staff lead (by a DCE or pastor), event-oriented youth group will not produce the results it once did in the mid-20th century. We cannot “do” ministry for our children and youth like we used to do it. Now we must spread out the ministry among all our members by encouraging quality time at home discussing the faith and how faith and the Word of God are guiding decisions. We encourage conversations about real topics even if those topics make us blush. We set up a ministry that involves a cross-generational approach to mentoring our students and members and we get our young adults involved in the leadership of the church.

One way this has begun to happen is by identifying a few of our high school students who show a natural concern for others and an interest in learning and growing as followers of Jesus, then we train them up to support their peers. Over the last two months we have trained Josiah, Hannah and Noah in the art of empathetic listening and peer-to-peer teaching. The next step is to get them involved in leading, and teaching within our ministry to youth and children. This is just one piece of creating healthy disciple-making for our children, youth and young adults. Now we need adults of all ages who have these same interests to be participants and partners in bringing up our children in the way the should go. Could it be you? If so, let Pastor Z or Paul T know and we will help connect you with this wonderful ministry opportunity within our church family.

Peace to you in Jesus
Paul Terral
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Sticky faith is created through repeated peer-to-peer conversations and intergenerational social interactions within Jesus' family



Josiah, Hannah, Noah participated in Peer Ministry Training, pictured here in a human pyramid at a youth retreat in 2016.

{GRAND} PARENTING IN THE PEWS

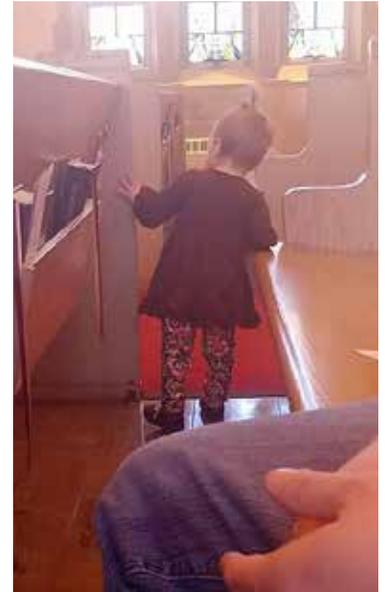
Kids and pews don't always get along. Even for children who "love going to church" it is rare that they really enjoy the part with the pews. There is just something about a hard wooden chair that seems contradictory to the life of a child....and yet it is essential.

The time in the pews with your family is so formative to our children's faith life, not only through the words they hear in scripture, hymn and prayers, but also by the reasons we teach them why we are there. For example, are we there to learn to be quiet, sit still, and behave? Or rather, to listen, participate, and worship with our family in Christ?

Simple actions can make a huge difference. I encourage you as a parent to make some changes in your words, actions, and reasons for being in church with your children. Who knows, maybe you will even benefit too!

Location, Location, Location.

At a sporting event or concert, the highest priced tickets are at the front because you get to see all of the action! Likewise in church, the closer you sit to the front, the easier it is to be engaged with the service...and for the children to see what is going on. Also, there will be other church members surrounding you if you need assistance – most would love the chance to sit by a child again. Make the Move!



Getting in on the action

Watch Your Words

Replace simple phrases you use to help the children become a part of the service, not just an attendant. Replace the words: "Be Quiet" with "Listen," "Sit Still" with "Focus," "It's almost over" with "Can you find where we are in the bulletin?" Your words can make the difference in a child's understanding of why are in church...it's not just to earn stickers on a good behavior chart!

Get Up and Move

Lucky for us, Lutherans get a lot of movement during church! It may not be in the form of rolling down the aisles... but as a call and response there is a lot of standing and sitting and singing. Have your kids stand and sit when the congregation does, fold their hands for prayer, open the hymnals to the proper page when it is time to sing. During the sermon, allow them to doodle quietly, children are always listening to what is going on around them.

Different Ages, Different Tactics

The nursery is for toddlers under 4 years old, so a lot of this training happens in those early years – but parents of teenagers are far from exempt! As a worship offering, have them hand over all electronic devices. Tired? Remind them that they can nap in the afternoon – even if it means skipping their "other" event. If this is repetitive – make sure they are home and in bed early on a Saturday...remind them that church comes first in our lives.

Don't Give Up

Making church a priority is not always easy, there are so many simple things that can get in the way. But if you make the commitment to your family to go weekly – these other events are secondary to your main commitment of church. In the pews, stay diligent, but remember we are all working together to impact our children.

Amy Zeigler



Pastor on Air Force Reserve Duty – April 25 – May 3

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Easter Breakfast 1 8:00 a.m. Choir Practice – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m.	2 Constitution Working Group 6:00 p.m.	3 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet 10:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	5 	6 Epiphany Stars Home School Group 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	7 Holy Yoga Experience Event 9:00 a.m.
8 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	9 	10 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Church Council 7 p.m.	11 Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet 10:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Year Confirmation 4:30 p.m.	12 	13 Epiphany Stars Home School Group 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	14 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
15 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	16 	17 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	18 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Year Confirmation 4:30 p.m.	19 Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	20 Epiphany Stars Home School Group 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	21 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
22 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m. Small Group Leaders 5:00 p.m.	23 	24 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	25 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m.	26 	27 Epiphany Stars Home School Group 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	28 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m. Church Spring Cleaning 9:00 a.m.
29 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Games 10:45 a.m.	30 				<h1>April</h1>	
<h1>May</h1>		1 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	2 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 10:00 a.m. 3rd Year Confirmation 4:30 p.m.	3 	4 Epiphany Stars Home School Group 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	5
6 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	7 	8 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	9 Silver Saints – 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet Performance – TBD ESL – 10:00 a.m.	10 	11 AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	12
13 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Confirmation 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	14 	15 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Church Council 7 p.m.	16 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL 10:00 a.m.	17 Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	18 AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	19 Holly Hills SummerFest @ Woerner Elementary 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
20 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	21 	22 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	23 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL 10:00 a.m. Seago/Fischer Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.	24 	25 AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	26 Seago/Fischer Wedding 2:00 p.m.
27 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m. Financial Review Committee – 12:30 p.m.	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	30 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL 10:00 a.m.	31 		

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Panera on Loughborough & I-55

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study

Second Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Silver Saints

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Children K-5

We're learning about the life of Jesus.

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Youth and adults

We'll be starting a Bible study on *Mere Christianity*, a classic book by C.S. Lewis.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings for Jan/Feb 2018: **\$2,450**

Average weekly offerings needed to support the budget: **\$2,466**

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance, 2018: **87**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Events

April 19 –Man Cave, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

April 25 –Foundations, 5:15 p.m.



New Bible Study Series

On April 8th, we will begin a discussion of Christian life through the lens of the best-selling book, *Mere Christianity*. Drawn from radio talks given in England by C.S. Lewis during World War II, the book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Christian Faith. Lewis was raised as a Christian, lost the faith in college, then, in his thirties, was reconverted to Jesus. If you're interested, order a copy of the book (for around \$12 on-line). Mike Duggar, President/CEO of Lutheran Family & Children Services (also an enthusiastic and experienced Bible teacher), will be leading the discussion.

Together In Mission (TIM)

A partnership between congregations & missionary families. Epiphany sponsors two overseas missionaries (Meissner's in Belize and Shulte's in Togo). We are committed for \$4000 per year. These commitments are over & above our congregation's budget, so please consider giving something extra for our missionaries. Mark your donation "TIM".

SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	ALTAR GUILD
4/1	Tori Thorne	Billy & Andrea Barnett	Rod Horton, Derek Perry	Easter Breakfast	Andrea Barnett and Judy Marvin
4/8	Titus Zeigler	Rich & Stephanie Kasnel	Doug Jones	Rich & Stephanie Kaznel Karen Slama & the Matta Family	
4/15	Will Barnett	Susan Harris	Rich Berg	Ruth Schury & Marylin Brenk	
4/22	Eli Hawk	Perry Family	Chris Hartley	Fourth Sunday Potluck	
4/29	Susie Boeyink	Hawk Family	Rod Horton	Fifth Sunday Game Day	
5/6	Hannah Hawk & Addie Stout	Lois Abernathy	Derek Perry	Michael & Chelsea Lawrence	Shirley Frederich and Lynn Goetz
5/13	Eli Hawk & Lucas Boeyink	Judy Roeder	Doug Jones	Joe & Patti Krick & Barb Troup	
5/20	Elise Zeigler	Mark & Becky Hagen	Rich Berg	Susan Harris	
5/27	Brianna Meyer	Jarred & Ana Irby	Chris Hartley	Fourth Sunday Potluck	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

Donna Reek April 9
 Mariela Mara April 13
 Clio Miyazaki April 19
 Jack Hawk April 20
 Pam Clark April 21
 Hannah Tongay April 23
 Sam Lluka April 24
 Caylie Slama April 25
 Bonny Lang April 27
 Jude Zeigler April 30

Bill Dorsam May 1
 Chris Hartley May 1
 Mildred Phillips May 3
 Zack Boeyink May 4
 Marsel Cuka May 4
 Janet Smart May 4
 Fred Wachter May 7
 Eli Hawk May 9
 Carolyn Gluesenkamp May 11
 Evie Hawk May 19
 Alex Pfeuffer May 21
 Greyson Barnett May 24
 Sam Hawk May 25
 Riley Voss May 25
 Roman Bernal May 27
 Paula Gaertner May 27
 Ronald Littrell May 30
 Lisa Birkman May 31

CONGRATULATIONS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Douglas & Rhonda Jones April 19
 Mike & Pam Reilly April 19
 Lucas & Emily Seals April 22
 Rich & Diane Berg April 29

Jesse & Susan Driscoll May 1
 Derek & Jill Perry May 15
 Billy & Andrea Barnett May 25
 Ron & Hazel Littrell May 28



PRAYER REQUESTS

To be a part of the Prayer Chain

contact Karen Slama at (314) 353.2396.

**I OFFER THIS PRAYER
 IN THE NAME OF
 JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD
 AMEN**

Homebound

Johanna Armstrong
 Ron Armstrong
 Bonnie Crites
 Carolyn Gluesenkamp
 Ron Diederichs
 Donna Reek
 Emilee Sutherlin
 Dorothy Zickler
 Kurt & Kathy Zickler

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

John Bernthal
 Vince Birkman
 Ken Braniecki
 (Lisa Birkman's father)
 Susan Harris
 Kirk Johnson
 Jim & Bonny Lang
 Vickie Matta
 Brenda Wilson

Missionaries

Hady & Vickie Matta, St. Louis
 Duane & Elizabeth Meissner, Belize
 Gary & Stephanie Schulte, Togo

Serving as Police Officers

Jonathan Baublitz
 (Desiree Stout's brother)
 Andrew Kleffner
 Mark McMurry
 Don Reynolds
 Mike Scego
 (Charlie & Judy Marvin's son-in-law)

Serving in Military

Patrick Coil
 (Mary Kay Sansone's son)
 Paul Frederich
 (Shirley Frederich's grandson)
 Aaron Schenone
 James Welch
 (Fred & Pat Wachter's son-in-law)
 Adam Welch
 (Fred & Pat Wachter's grandson)
 David Wheeler
 (Judy Langdon's son-in-law)



3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WOERNER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL LOT

MUSIC BY DR. DODSON

INFLATABLES • GAMES
FOOD TRUCKS • 50/50 RAFFLE
FACE PAINTING • AND MORE



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Return Service Requested

APRIL-MAY NEWSLETTER

SMALL GROUP PILOT PROJECT (FALL 2018)

This coming Fall, we're looking for eager recruits to be a part of Epiphany's Sunday morning, intergenerational Small Group Bible Study Pilot Project. Are you interested?

Who? All confirmed members and friends of Epiphany are eligible. We're especially looking for those willing to commit to an 8-week experience of practicing the faith with a small group of other Christ-followers, sharing life together around God's Word. Eight individuals have volunteered to lead these groups: *Ben & Beth Hayter, Chris & Jen Hartley, Jarred & Ana Irby, and Derek & Jill Perry.*

What? Each group will have a time of *fellowship, prayer, and Bible Study* on Jesus' Parable commonly called "The Prodigal Son," though it's more about the *father* and his *two lost sons*.

When? The groups will begin meeting **Sept 9th**, 2018 from 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon each Sunday until Oct 28th. Each meeting will include snacks and drinks. Two will include a full lunch (Sept 23 & Oct 28).

Where? Each group will gather on site **at Epiphany** in their designated meeting room. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children under 5 years. Sunday School will be offered for older children.

Why? Life-shaping, sticky faith in Jesus is best nurtured through peer-to-peer conversations and intergenerational interactions within God's family, the Church. With the complexities of our busy schedules, Sunday morning is our best opportunity to let the Holy Spirit make this happen.



Small group leaders met together weekly for 6 weeks this winter to prepare for the pilot project.