



The Epiphany Star ✨ *February 2012*
Newsletter of Epiphany Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Epiphany,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen

Do you know why February 22 is an important date for you to have marked on your calendar? It is Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of the Season of Lent. Lent is a very special time in the Church year, but also a special time in our faith development. It is a time that calls each of us to a special relationship with Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. We get to have an opportunity to spend some time praying, thinking, and talking about the significance of what Jesus really did for each of us on the cross. It is more than just a “season”, it really should be a way of life for us as followers of Jesus.

So often I get asked, “Why is the Season of Lent such a downer? I mean all of the music is so dark and dreary. Can’t we have some happier music in our worship services?” The Season of Lent gives each of us an opportunity to seek a deeper meaning to what Jesus did when he took all of our sins upon him and offered his earthly life as a sacrifice for our sins. This is no small matter as Jesus was without sin. He didn’t break any of the laws that were established by God our Creator. What he did was offered himself as the ultimate sacrifice to have our sins forgiven so we can spend eternity in heaven. The weekly worship services, especially the mid-week Lenten services focus on the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made. The music and liturgy reflects the solemn nature of that sacrifice. The music isn’t peppier because that would mean that we are excited that we killed Jesus. Each week we will confess our sins but there will be no absolution (forgiveness) until Maundy Thursday. Why? It is to give us time to reflect on the gift that Jesus gives to us. This gift is freely given by Jesus and one that we so desperately need in our lives.

Why do we have the “imposition of ashes” on Ash Wednesday? The service of “imposition of ashes” is a remembrance of what Jesus told his disciples when he said, “From dust you came and to dust you shall return.” Each and every one of us will eventually die to the earthly shell. There will come a time when we will be called to “The Church Triumphant” and celebrate the life we lived here on this earth. With the “imposition of ashes” on Ash Wednesday, it is a physical reminder that we came from dust and to dust we shall return. This also has reference to the Creation story of

Genesis when God formed us out of dust and breathed life into the nostrils and Adam and Eve were created.

I would encourage you to take a moment each week on Wednesday evenings starting at 6p.m. for dinner with worship then at 7p.m. The two hours you spend eating and being fed spiritually may do your soul good. Wednesday evening does not replace Sunday/Monday worship, but is in addition to the primary worship times. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen our souls and fine tune our bodies for the work that God is calling us to follow. You know you need to eat dinner anyway - this way someone else is cooking for you and besides it feeds you both physically and spiritually.

See you on Ash Wednesday to begin the season of Lent. God bless you!

In Christ,
Pastor Richard

Our Mission

We are Christians, called by God, committed to:
Sharing the Gospel,
Serving others as Christ taught us, and
Creating disciples for witness.

Epiphany Lutheran Church's Vision Statement:
A Christian family of God committed to sharing the Gospel and serving others, through joyful worship, education and fellowship.

Comfort Ye My People

Our quilting group will be meeting Sunday, February 26th at 9:00 am. There is something for everyone of all ages to help. Please join us and help us to be a blessing to others!



Quarterly Congregational Breakfast Meeting



Quarterly Breakfast Meeting
The Church Council will be providing breakfast for the next Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, February 19th at 9:00 am. Sausage gravy, biscuits, ham, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee cakes, donuts, and juice will be provided. Please sign-up on the bulletin board outside Jodi's office so we know how much food to prepare. All are welcome!



Pastor's officepastor@epiphanyfw.com
Jodi's office jodi@epiphanyfw.com
Pastor's homerlhart49@frontier.com

WEB SITE:

[Epiphany Lutheran Church](http://www.epiphanyfw.com)

www.epiphanyfw.com



Please feel free to stop in or call for any of your Pastoral needs. Our office hours are as follows:



Pastor: Sunday - Thursday 8:00am-2:30 pm and some Saturdays as well as Mondays and Wednesday evenings.

Jodi: Mondays 11:30 am - 3:00 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:15 am - 3:00 pm.

* Due to unusual circumstances, these hours may be subject to change.

Mission Moment

Thanks everyone for supporting your favorite teams in our Souper Bowl collection. For all you Colts, Lions and Packers fans - there's always next season. We want you all to know that your kindness means that your neighbors in need can look to the family of God to help them. Let's fill the table by Super Bowl Sunday!

During Lent we will again be focusing on feeding the hungry in our local community. As in years past, we will be collection food for the Associated Churches Food Bank in their Fishes and Loaves collection. We will put an emphasis on canned fish such as tuna and salmon, as well as crackers and "Tuna Helper" products, but any type of food is welcome. When we practice the disciplines of Lent - prayer, fasting, study of God's Word, and giving, we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. May we all use this special, penitential season to deepen our faith and renew our walk with Christ.

Our February Lenten Supper Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

- * Hosted by our Fellowship Committee
- * Serving Spaghetti Dinner

February 29th

- * Hosted by our Choir
- * Serving Tacos

All are welcome! There is a sign-up sheet outside Jodi's office on the bulletin board. Please sign-up so we know how much food to prepare.



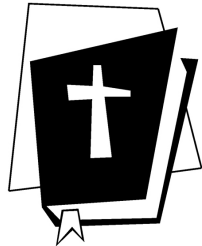
Our March Lenten Supper Schedule will be in our next month's newsletter!

We need VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Homebound Meals is a local non-profit organization that has delivered hot balanced meals to one of the most vulnerable populations in our community since 1971. We do this for less than the cost of a latte! We currently have **2 routes open**. Volunteer drivers pick up the meals from Canterbury Nursing & Rehab — already packed into Homebound coolers. Please call us at 422-3296 and let us tell you more about our program and how it works.

In Service,
Barb Umber
Homebound Meals, Inc.

February
Bible
Readings



Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten Season on February 22nd. Join us for worship each Wednesday at 7:00 pm during this Lenten Season. The liturgy for Midweek Lenten Services this year comes from work written by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl called Unfailing Light.

February 5th:

First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 12th:

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

February 19th:

Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 26th:

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Join us for Worship this month!

Every Sunday at 8:00 am
and 10:15 am

Every Monday at 7:00 pm
Sunday School classes for
all ages at 9:00 am! Please
join us!

The Women's Bible Study group will meet Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 pm here at the Epiphany. We're studying the biblical women in Jesus' life using the Bible. If you have any questions, contact Liz Nickel who will be our leader at 485-6956 or e-mail her at jitney41@gmail.com. All are welcome and bring a friend!

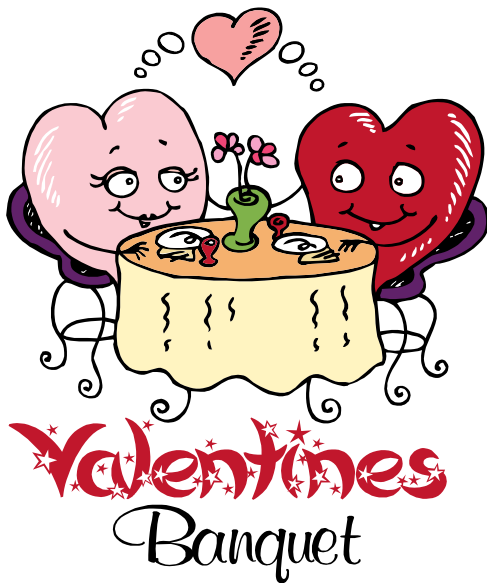


Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School classes continue to meet on Sundays at 9:00 am lead by Deb Crawford. The topic is The Return of The Prodigal Son written by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Please join us and bring a friend!

Valentine's Dinner and Dance

Epiphany Lutheran Youth Group presents a Valentine's Dinner and Dance on February 11th beginning at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$25 per couple which includes social time with appetizers through 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm including: Salad, Spaghetti with Tomato & Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, and Dessert. Dancing will begin at 7:00 pm and run through 9:00 pm. Christian Care will be provided here at the church for your children during this event. All the proceeds will be going toward the National Youth Gathering Trip for the Youth this summer. Join us for an evening of romance and relaxation with your significant other put on by our Youth Group!





Attention High School Students

Valparaiso University invites you to Lutheran Higher Education on Valpo Sunday, February 5th. Discover the educational opportunities, high quality and affordability of Valpo. Valpo visit days in Spring 2012 are Monday, February 20th (President's Day) and Saturday, April 21st. To register online, visit valpo.edu/admission/visit. Can't make any of these dates? Set up a personalized visit by calling 219-464-5011.

Debra Albers
Interim Director of Church



Angels Among Us!

Did you know that we have Secret Angels here at Epiphany? We do! We have members of our congregation who often times do many things behind the scenes and we want to take this time to recognize just a few in this month's issue! These Angels don't necessarily want to be identified. However, here are some of the gifts they have received from Him they share with all of us here! Angels, you know who you are!

The Bulletin Board in the narthex was decorated
A Luncheon Was Provided for the Ministerium Meeting
Christmas Decorations were put away
Chapel Escorts helped out at Lutheran Life Villages
Snow Removal cleared our Epiphany Drive and Parking Lot



Youth Slave Auction

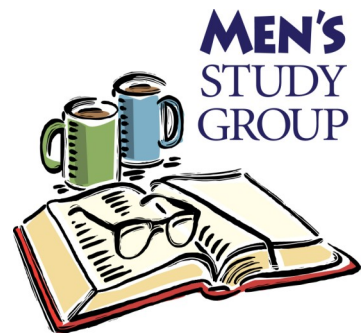
We are auctioning off our Youth on March 11th following second service! Our 5 Youth that will be attending the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans are filled with talents. They are willing to provide you with their gifts they have been given by working for you for a fee. This can be a spring clean-up outside and or in your house, painting, washing your car or whatever else you can think of. Be thinking of things you have been meaning to get done that you will be able to conveniently put these willing hands to work! What will be your starting bid?

Men's Bible Study!

The Saturday morning Men's Bible Study entitled "Courageous - A Living Bible Study." will take place on Saturday, February 11th at 7:00 am. We will be using movie clips from the movie "Courageous" and studying these four topics:

- 1) Courageous Call: fighting for your family
- 2) Courageous Priorities: valuing what matters most
- 3) Courageous Legacy: impacting future generations
- 4) Courageous Faith: standing for Christ

Whether you are married or not - whether you have children or not - this study has something that will impact you in your daily life and cause you to grow in your faith and as a leader. Plan now to get up a little early on Saturday mornings once a month to join this "Courageous" group. You won't be disappointed.





Baptism Birthday

February Baptismal Birthdays:

Rachel Jancso

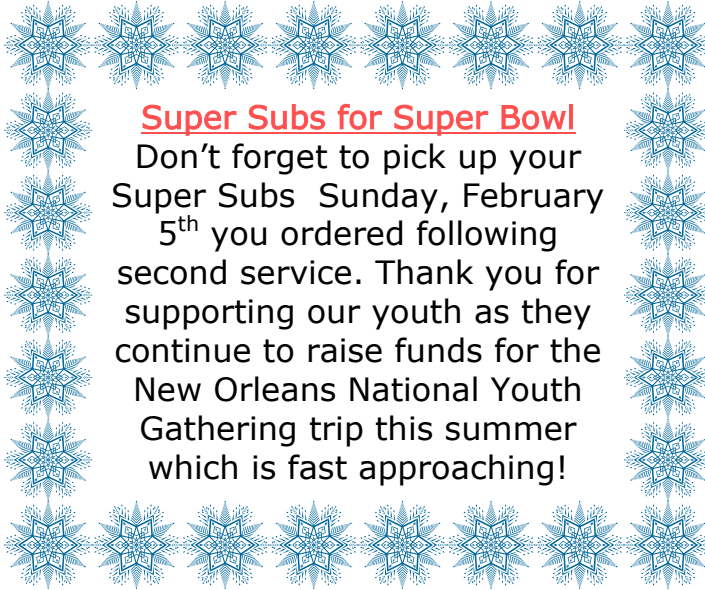
Jessica Williams

Nancy Vonderau

Erin Robinson

Ron Jancso

“Happy birthday” to those who celebrate their second birthday during the month of February! Martin Luther said, *“When you wash your face remember your baptism.”* Take time to remember and celebrate with your family by using the special booklet *“Celebrating Your Baptismal Birthday”* (found in the narthex tract rack).



Super Subs for Super Bowl

Don't forget to pick up your Super Subs Sunday, February 5th you ordered following second service. Thank you for supporting our youth as they continue to raise funds for the New Orleans National Youth Gathering trip this summer which is fast approaching!




GOOD FRIDAY

Crosses for Holy Week

The Crosses are coming back! We will be setting up a time to assemble more crosses and have them line our drive for Good Friday, April 6th.

We currently have 50 made and our goal is to make 30 more. More details to come.

 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	<u>February 5th</u>	<u>February 12th</u>	<u>February 19th</u>	<u>February 26th</u>
	WOV Setting 5	Camp Sunday	LBW Setting 2	Taizé
Organist / Pianist	Sara Davis	X	Sara Davis	Amanda Pickett
Assisting Minister	Melissa Hartman	Alicia Davis	Liz Nickel	Jane Dawkins
Lector 8:00 am	Jared Meunier	Anne Lohman	Deb Crawford	Sue Johnson
Lector 10:15 am	Ron Michael	Nancy Lee	Melissa Hartman	Ron Roemer
Acolyte	Rozlynn Everhart	Elizabeth Lohman	Jordan Robinson	Michael McKenna
Communion Assistant 8:00 am	Renee Meunier	Jared Meunier	Deb Crawford	Tammy Aschliman
Communion Assistant 10:15 am	Mike Rumfield	Dave Black	Kurt Unrue	Cathy Rumfield
Altar Guild	Jodi McKenna	Need	Need	Need
Greeter (s)	Vonderau's	Denny & Karen Payne	Swanson's	Clinkenbeard's

THIS MONTH USHERS

Capt. Bill Vonderau Denny Payne

Josh Clinkenbeard Jim Davis

