



The Epiphany Star ✨ *December 2022*
Newsletter of Epiphany ✨ *Lutheran Church*
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,

The Season of Advent and Christmas are upon us, and preparations are being made to celebrate the Greatest Gift ever given to this world... the birth of Jesus the Christ on that faithful night. I know some people are upset because Christmas decorations were being put up before Thanksgiving. There is an order of events, and it shows up in the calendar. Yet, while traditions are important, and I will talk about them shortly, maybe if putting up Christmas decorations makes a person happy then maybe we should allow them. How are you planning to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in your life?

The Season of Advent and Christmas have always been one of my favorite times of the year. For those of you who really know me... that is saying a bunch since I do not like the cold that comes this time of year. It warms my heart to sing Christmas Carols and to gather with family and friends. This year is extra special as we welcome two new members to the family: Taylor Norberg (husband to Rebecca), and Elyse Swihart (soon to be wife of Jonathan... Dec 17!).

So why is the Season so special? When I was growing up, every weekend during the entire month of December was filled with family/Christmas parties. Sometimes the gathering was huge- over 400! Sometimes the gathering was small- maybe 15. It didn't make a difference the number of people... it was gathering with them and reconnecting. Unfortunately, the years have caused most of those gatherings to stop. The memories still exist and cause me to remember a time when the pace of life seemed so much slower. There is a part of me that wants to slow down and take it all in again to recharge the batteries. What about you? What are some of the family traditions that you do still to do that matter most to you?

The Season of Advent and Christmas can also be difficult on emotions as the people that have meant so much to us in our life are no longer with us. Be sure to take a moment, pause remember their life, and lift a special prayer to God in thanksgiving for them. Life is truly a special gift from God.

Join me through out this Advent and Christmas season by reaching out and giving thanks to the people in your life. Gather on Christmas Eve at 7pm at Epiphany Lutheran Church to celebrate and worship the precious gift God gave our world...

Jesus the Christ. Give the most precious gift you have... yourself to those you love.

Blessings,
Pastor Richard Hartman

Dates to Remember

December 3rd - 9:00am Decorate Church for Christmas

December 7th and 10th - 10:00 am Quilting

December 11th - 8:45 am Council Meeting

December 24th - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 25th - NO Services

January 1st - 9:00 AM ONE SERVICE

STATEMENT
Our Mission
STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

We are Christians, called by God, committed to:

Sharing the Gospel,

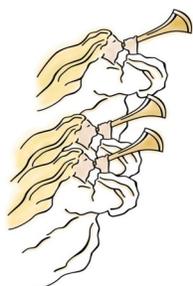
Serving others as Christ taught us, and

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.

Angels Among Us!



We have members of our congregation who do many things behind the scenes, and we want to take the time to recognize just a few in this month's issue! Thank you, Angels!

All Saints' Crosses were placed to honor the memory of loved ones
Decorations were placed to prepare for Advent and Christmas
Improvements/Upgrades through many designated Building Fund donations have been allowed to not go into debt and still make some major upgrades to our building. (see more details in newsletter)

Weather-Related Cancellations

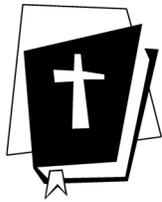
Snow has already arrived in our area this year, and with it comes the possibility of weather-related cancellations.

In the event that hazardous weather could affect safe travel to worship, Pastor Hartman along with David York, Church Council President, will make the decision whether to cancel services and every effort will be made to contact members. Stay safe out there!

We will put the announcement on
Our Facebook Page
And we can have virtual services!



***Make sure we have your
correct phone number.***



December Bible Readings

December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18th
Lessons and Carols

December 24th
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25th
1st Sunday of Christmas
NO Services

January 1, 2023
One Service 9:00 am

Join us for Worship this month!

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



Wednesdays
November 30th
December 7th and 14th
at 6:30 pm

Friday, December 24th
7:00 pm

No Service
December 25th

One Service January 1st
at 9:00 am



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service



Mission Moment December 2022

Thank you to everyone who donated items to St. James. We have quite a collection of warm winter items to help keep families in the area warm during the winter weather. I will be taking those items to St. James in the next few weeks, so if you have anything else you would like to donate, please bring it soon.

We have again adopted a military family for Christmas. This year we have a family of six. The four children are two boys and two girls ages 7 to 10. The tree full of ornaments with the family's wish list is up. Please help this family out by taking an ornament or two so we can give this family a wonderful Christmas. As always, if you would like to donate money instead of shopping, just let me know and I will do the shopping for you.

In January, we will again be having a "Baby Shower for Jesus" to support the Associated Churches Baby's Closet.

Items most in need include diapers, diaper ointment, crib sheets, lotion, shampoo, bottles, onesies, nail clippers, rattles, and teething rings.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our missions.

Alicia Davis
Outreach Chair



Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Update December 2022
Our Mission: "Sharing Christ's Love with the ones you love!"

We had our annual meeting with our chaplains and Ambassadors on November 10th at Suburban Bethlehem Church with 60 in attendance. I attended as a Board member (last time) and Ambassador for Epiphany.

The Board has three new members:

Rev. Tim Graham of Messiah Lutheran Church; Jim Dowling of St. John's Lutheran Church; and Brenda Mundroff of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

The ministry continues to thrive and we are filling a great need for elderly residents without church homes in our community.

Please consider joining me as an Ambassador for Epiphany if you have love for the residents our chaplains serve. It is a wonderful ministry!

Peace!

Sue

Christmas Family

Mom, Dad and 4 Kids ages 7-10

Pick and ornament off the tree.

Take top piece, fill out bottom piece.

Place ornament in container.

Purchase gift and wrap.

Return by December 11

Place name tag on box with name and Family #19



THANK YOU!

We have been extremely blessed these past 2 years to receive designated gifts to our Building Fund. These have been one time donations and regular weekly/monthly donations.

Our Treasurer has faithfully put those monies in a designated Building Fund Savings Account to be used only for building improvements and upgrades. Because of these donations we have been able to make multiple improvements/upgrades without going into debt or jeopardizing our General Fund for day to day expenses.

Here is a list of the items we have been able to do from the building fund and a few future projects:

1. Purchase and install all the electronic equipment for streaming our services and screens for in service use.
2. All new gutters and downspouts on church, fellowship hall and garages.
3. Fellowship hall, kitchen and entrance flooring.
4. New toilets purchased and installed in ALL bathrooms
5. Baby changing station purchased and installed in nursery
6. Fellowship Hall and Hall entrance painted.
7. LED lighting purchased and installed through out the entire building, all classrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, storage rooms and undercroft.
8. New church website designed and easily updated.

Future projects - Church entrance to be same flooring Hall entrance. Poured epoxy floors in all bathroom and painting of the hallway. Will be using a Thrivent card for the painting and need some volunteers to tape and paint - probably next summer.



December Baptismal Birthdays

Rozlynn Everhart Sandy Hedin Don Spohr
Christina Alliger Jordan Robinson Aleesha Herb
Dottie Zimmerman

“Happy birthday!” to those who celebrate their second birthday during the month of December! Martin Luther said, *“When you wash your face remember your baptism.”* Take time to remember and celebrate this month!

 <i>Worship Assistants</i>	<u>Dec. 4th</u> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<u>Dec. 11th</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent	<u>Dec. 18st</u> Lessons & Carols	<u>Dec. 24th</u> Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	<u>Dec. 25th</u> No Services
Organist/ Pianist	Amanda		Amanda	Amanda	
Assisting Minister	Alicia Davis	Jim Davis	Dia Herb	Rebecca Norberg	X
Lector 8:00 am	Nancy Lee	Sue Johnson	9 per service	x	X
Lector 10:15 am	Shane Pickett	Cathy Rumfield	9 per service	Becky Roemer	X
Communion Assistant 8:00 am	Richard Lee	David York	X	X	X
Communion Assistant 10:15 am	Steve Haag	Rebecca Norberg	X	Mike Rumfield	X