



*The Epiphany Star* ✨ *December 2023*  
*Newsletter of Epiphany Lutheran Church*  
*Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,

The final month of 2023 and the First Season of the new Liturgical calendar are upon us. It is hard for me to wrap my thoughts around the idea that another year is just about to pass us by! How is that possible?

2023 has been a year filled with Great Expectations and some not-so-great events. As a church body we have slowly come out of the Covid-19 pandemic like a butterfly comes out of its cocoon. While we were anxious to get our lives back to “normal” we still live in the real fear that this virus can kill us. Our worship life has slowly brought our hearts and souls back to life through music and gatherings (both “in person” and “online.”). We have started having more Fellowship events where we can gather to celebrate life! The challenge for us will be to celebrate the life God has given to us but be mindful of our health. To be thankful to God for everything we have in our lives!

So, what will 2024 bring to us? What kind of celebrations will you and your family have? I for one will be celebrating Melissa and my 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! I will be celebrating 24 years of ministry as your Pastor here at Epiphany Lutheran Church! Life and blessings are not to be overlooked.

December 2023 will have Mid-Week Advent devotions on Wednesdays. The evening will start at 6p.m. for a light dinner of soup/stew, bread, and vegetables. Then at 6:30p.m. we will have our devotions and a time to share some stories of how God has blessed your life in 2023. All of this will be in the Fellowship Hall. We will have our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7pm with Holy Communion and Candlelight. This service is always very meaningful to me. I say, “It can’t get any better than this!” Then God always wows me the next year.

During this month of December make sure to take some time to enjoy life, family, and friends. One thing the pandemic has taught me is to not take life for granted. Live each day to its fullest and let those whom you love know it! God be with YOU! Happy December 2023 and Merry Christmas.

Pastor Richard Hartman

### **Dates to Remember**

December 2nd - 9:00am Decorate for Christmas

December 6th and 9th - 10:00 am Quilting

December 10th - 8:45am Council Meeting

December 24th - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 31st - ONE Service 9:00am

STATEMENT  
**Our Mission**  
STATEMENT  
STATEMENT  
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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 meet on December 6th & 9th at 10:00 am. Thank you for being a blessing to others all around the world this year. See you in January!



**Thrivent Action Teams**

Epiphany has 83 Thrivent Members in our Congregation.

Each member can ask for \$250 in funds twice a year.

That is 186 x \$250 = \$46,000 that can go towards Epiphany & Missions.

*See Pastor or Dia for details and how we can make this happen!*



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

**Pastor:** Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Monday evenings

**Dia:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:- 3:00 pm

Starting in January Dia will be working tax season and nights at church.

Always available by text and email.

**E-mail Us:**

Pastor's office..... pastor@epiphanyfw.com

Pastor's home .....rlhart49@frontier.com

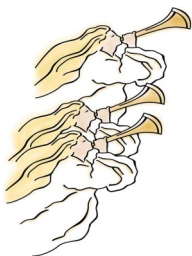
Dia's office..... dia@epiphanyfw.com

**WEB SITE:**

Epiphany Lutheran Church

[www.epiphanyfw.com](http://www.epiphanyfw.com)

## 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

### **Addition to the M&M Mini Fundraiser**

The quilting group has been cleaning out our room and organizing.  
We have found some crafts left over from prior years.

SO - we have a table set up in the narthex with items for you to purchase  
And we ask for a donation in with the Mini Fundraiser \$\$\$.  
Check it out might be something you need!

### **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 Sue Johnson, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

## December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

## December 17<sup>th</sup>

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

## December 24<sup>th</sup>

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

## December 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Eve 7:00 pm**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20

## December 31<sup>st</sup>

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

ONE Service 9:00 am  
Isaiah 61:20-62:3  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

## Join us for Worship this month!

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



## Wednesdays 6:00 pm

Light supper at 6:00 pm  
Followed by Devotion at 6:30 pm

November 29th

December 6th, 13th, & 20th



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm

ONE SERVICE  
December 31st  
At 9:00 am



## **Mission Moment December 2023**

This month we are buying items for 2 military families. We have 5 kids and two Moms, both Dads are deployed.

The tree is set up with the ornaments and the items they are requesting. Please help us make their Christmas nice.

If you don't want to go shopping, you can donate cash or a gift card and we will purchase the gift for you. All gifts need to be wrapped and returned by Sunday, December 10th.

Thanks so much for all your support this year. We could not support all the different organizations without your help!

Vickie & Cindy

We are taking a 2nd batch of winter items to St. James clothing bank. Gloves were purchased and will be delivered to St. Joseph's Women Shelter

1924

# LOOKING BACK GROWING FORWARD

2024

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SENIOR CHRISTIAN CARE

## **Lutheran Senior Care Ministry**

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry  
is celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2024.

They are asking each congregation to have 2 Ambassadors who Volunteer to share the ministry of LSCM with their congregations.

The chaplains have weekly services at the senior care facilities  
In the Fort Wayne community.

More than 600 residents are served every week.

Because of the faithfulness of the chaplains,  
The residents and staff are developing relationships them.

## **Military Christmas Families**

We have TWO Families both Dads deployed

Family of 3 - Mom and 2 boys ages 6-10.

Family of 4 - Mom and 3 girls ages 10-11-14.

Wrapped gifts due back by December 10th.

If you don't want to get out and shop you can donate  
and we will shop for you. Gift cards for gas and groceries  
and restaurants are always welcome additions to gifts.

Talk to Vickie, Cindy or Dia





# 7 Tips to Manage Stress & Mental Health During the Holidays

## **Plan Ahead**

Have a plan in place to holiday tasks and activities.

## **Be Realistic**

Don't stress yourself out trying to make it perfect.

## **Don't Worry**

Don't feel obligated to complete every small thing on your list.

## **Just Say NO**

If you have too much on your plate, let family and friends know.

## **Stay Active**

Exercise is a great way to deal with holiday stress and anxiety.

## **Set Aside Differences**

Enjoy other's company and talk about topics that bring happiness.

## **Acknowledge Your Feelings**

Have a plan in place for all your holiday tasks and activities.



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS*





## 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!

We are welcoming 2 new members in December.

Look for some information from them in next months newsletter.

Thomas Eishen

Terrie Kitchen

I will be putting together a new directory with all the updated information.

If you have had a change in address or phone number please let me know.

[dia@epiphanyfw.com](mailto:dia@epiphanyfw.com) 260-485-5122

 <i>Worship Assistants</i>	<u>Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></u> 1st Sunday of Advent	<u>Dec. 10<sup>th</sup></u> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<u>Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></u> Lessons & Carols	<u>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></u> 4th Sunday of Advent	<u>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></u> Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	<u>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></u> ONE Services 9:00 am
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Alicia Davis	Alicia Davis	Amanda Pickett	Alicia Davis	Amanda Pickett	Amanda Pickett
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Amber Logan	Jim Davis	Mark Herb	Rebecca Norberg	Rebecca Norberg	Dia Herb
<b>Lector Communion Assistant 8:00 am</b>	Cheryl Ralston Dave York	Richard & Nancy Lee	7 Sign Up	Sue Johnson	X	X
<b>Lector 10:15 am</b>	Mike Rumfield	Nina Haag	7 Sign Up	Melissa Hartman	Shane Pickett	Alicia Davis
<b>Communion Assistant 10:15 am</b>	Steve Haag	Jack Swanson	Rebecca Norberg	Dia Herb	Cathy Rumfield	X

**Please let me know if you can read for  
 Lessons and Carols on December 17th.  
 I need 9 readers for 8:00 and 10:15.  
 Thank you!**

dia@epiphanyfw.com  
 260-485-5122  
 260-402-0230 text