



The Epiphany Star ✨ *December 2024*
Newsletter of Epiphany ✨ *Lutheran Church*
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,

It is hard for me to imagine that we are about to start the season of Advent. The season of Advent is the first season of the new Liturgical calendar in the Church. The season of Advent traditionally lasts for four weeks beginning on the Sunday closest to November 30 (which is the exact day this year 2024). The first observance of Advent was in the mid-sixth century and lasted six-weeks. This was shortened to four weeks during the pontificate of Gregory the Great (590-604). The season of Advent is noted in the sanctuary by the “Blue” paraments on the altar and the banners on the wall. Advent is observed by most Christian denominations as a time of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) and the second coming of Christ.

During the season of Advent, we will be “marking time” with our Advent wreath. The tradition of the Advent wreath dates to 1839 when a German Lutheran Pastor- Johann Hinrich Wichern invented an Advent wreath that most resembles the ones we use today. There are four candles on the wreath representing the four Sundays in the Season. Each of the four candles on the wreath represent a variety of themes. The theme we will be using will be: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

The season of Advent is a very special time for us as followers of Jesus. The Season invites us to take some time away from our crazy schedules to plan ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and to spend some time reflecting on the second coming of Jesus. We will gather on Wednesday at 6p.m. for a meal, at 6:30p.m. we will have a short devotion/Bible study and then choir at 7:15p.m. This is similar to our regular schedule of meal, study, and choir. We will be using a devotion/study that was written by the ELCA World Hunger program.

I know many of us have a variety of events and gatherings that will pull us in a variety of directions during the season of Advent. Many of those gatherings are traditions with family and friends that are important to our lives. It is also important for us to spend time with God and renewing our relationship there. The season of Advent is the perfect time to strengthen your relationship with the One who created you. Deeping your faith and love of God.

I want to wish you and your family a very blessed Season of Advent and may you have a truly blessed Christmas!

Blessings,
Pastor Richard Hartman



Dates to Remember

December 4th and 7th - 10:00 am Quilting

December 8th - 8:45am Council Meeting

December 24th - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 29th - ONE Service 9:00am

STATEMENT
Our Mission
STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

We are Christians, called by God, committed to:

Sharing the Gospel,

Serving others as Christ taught us, and

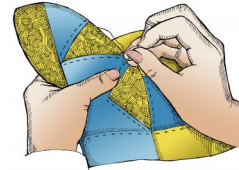
Creating disciples for witness.

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.

Comfort Ye My People

Our quilting group will meet on December 4th & 7th at 10:00 am. Thank you for being a blessing to others all around the world this year. See you in January!



QUILTING GROUP

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 -9- 3:00 pm
 Starting in January Dia will be working tax season and nights at church.
 Always available by text and email.

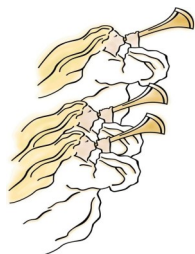
E-mail Us:

Pastor's office pastor@epiphanyfw.com
Pastor's homerlhart49@frontier.com
Dia's office dia@epiphanyfw.com

WEB SITE:

Epiphany Lutheran Church 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

Weather-Related Cancellations

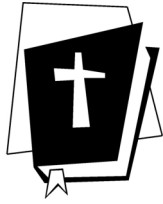
Snow has already arrived in our area this year, and with it comes the possibility of weather-related cancellations.

In the event that hazardous weather could affect safe travel to worship, Pastor Hartman along with the 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 1st
1st Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 8th
2nd Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 15th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 2:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 22nd
4th Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55

December 24th
Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 29th
1st Sunday of Christmas
ONE Service 9:00 am
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

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
December 4th, 11th, 18th



December 24th
7:00 pm

ONE SERVICE
December 29th
At 9:00 am

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>W</i>
1 1st Sunday of Advent. 8:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Worship Service <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm</i> <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>	2 7:00 pm Worship	3	4 10- 6:00 A 6:30 M 7:15 C
8 2nd Sunday of Advent. 8:00 am Worship Service 8:45 Council Meeting 10:15 am Worship Service <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm</i> <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>	9 7:00 pm Worship	10	11 6:00 A 6:30 M 7:15 C
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Worship Service <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship</i> <i>and Sunday School</i>	16 7:00 pm Worship	17	18 6:00 A 6:30 M 7:15 C
22 Lessons and Carols 8:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Worship Service <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship</i> <i>and Sunday School</i>	23 NO WORSHIP	24  7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	25 N <i>Zo 1:</i>
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 am ONE Worship Services <i>12:00 - 3:30 pm Zo Baptist Worship</i> <i>And 9pm-3am and Sunday School</i>	30 NO WORSHIP	31 NO WORSHIP	

MERRY
CHRISTMAS





Mission Moment December 2024

Thank you to everyone who helped us support **Saint James Lutheran Church** in New Haven with their clothing bank in November. I'm sure a lot of people are going to be warmer this year because of your generosity.

December we are buying items for **two military families**. 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 a gift for you. All gifts need to be wrapped and returned by Sunday, December 8th.

We will also continue to collect items this month for the **Children's Comfort Kits**. Any items you can purchase to help us fill these shoeboxes would be greatly appreciated.

Items Needed

Crayons, small notebook, bubbles, stress ball, hand sanitizer, small plush animal, playdoh

Pastor Hartman will be delivering these after Christmas to Lutheran Disaster Response in North Carolina.

Thank you for a wonderful year of missions.
Blessings, Vickie and Cindy.

1924

LOOKING BACK GROWING FORWARD

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SENIOR CHRISTIAN CARE

2024

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Update December 2024

LSCM had a special presentation at their Annual Ambassador Dinner and Meeting on November 14th.

Matthew Leighty, Executive Director of Worship Anew, presented a Barna report that was produced in partnership with Worship Anew titled Aging Well:

A Renewed Vision for Ministering to Older Adults.

It addresses how we can better serve seniors by seeing them as assets, not liabilities and essential rather than inconsequential.

Thank you for your prayers and support of LSCM and we wish you a Blessed Christmas Season!

Peace! Sue

Military Christmas Families

We have TWO Families

Family of 4 - Mom/Dad and 2 boys ages 2 1/2 & 5.

Family of - Parent 2 girls ages 6 & 14, one boy age 10.

Wrapped gifts due back by December 8th.

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

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.

Richard and Cherry Raber

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 260-485-5122

	<u>Dec. 1st</u>	<u>Dec. 8th</u>	<u>Dec. 15th</u>	<u>Dec. 22nd</u>	<u>Dec. 24th</u>	<u>Dec. 29th</u>
	1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	Lessons & Carols	Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	ONE Services 9:00 am
Organist/ Pianist	Alicia Davis	Alicia Davis	Amanda Pickett	Amanda Pickett	Amanda Pickett	Amanda Pickett
Assisting Minister	Rebecca Norberg	Jim Davis	Alicia Davis	Amber Logan	Rebecca Hartman	Dia Herb
Lector Communion Assistant 8:00 am	Cheryl Ralston	Sue Davis	9 Sign Up	Richard & Nancy Lee	X	X
Lector 10:15 am	Mike Rumfield	Steve Haag	9 Sign Up	Melissa Hartman	Shane Pickett	Alicia Davis
Communion Assistant 10:15 am	Nina Haag	Jack Swanson	Rebecca Norberg	Dia Herb	Cathy Rumfield	X
Altar Guild	Haag's	Davis's		Herb's	Pickett's	X

**Please let me know if you can read for
Lessons and Carols on December 22nd.
I need 9 readers for 8:00 and 10:15.
Thank you!**

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