



*The Epiphany Star* ✨ *February 2025*  
*Newsletter of Epiphany* ✨ *Lutheran Church*  
6606 Maplecrest Rd  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
260-485-5122

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,

The month of February is often thought of as the “Love Month” because of having Valentine’s Day on February 14. There are more roses sold on that very day than any other. It is a tradition to buy those you love roses. I was born in Richmond, IN and it is known as the Rose City, because a lot of the roses sold to florists are grown there.

Did you know that the word “LOVE” is one of the most widely used in the Bible? It is used over 500 times! The word love, I think is also one of the most widely over used words in the English language. How many times have you heard, “O, I just love that shirt... that dress... that car... that house. All these things are inanimate objects and cannot feel any emotions. You can say that you love your dog or cat and that is perfectly fine. Why because they do have emotions. Sometimes they really let you know how they are feeling.

During the month of February, I know Outreach is asking us to consider giving a special gift to “show a little love to Epiphany.” I would strongly ask you to consider that gift... to make that gift truly special. Think about all the things we get from our congregation. It is a safe place to come and worship God. Epiphany is a great place to gather with family and friends to worship God. We reach out into the community both locally and beyond to share God’s love to people who don’t even know who we are.

Jesus taught his disciples that “they will know that you are one of my disciples when you love one another (John 13:25). It is one thing to say these words, it is another to actually love one another. Love is not an easy emotion to express. Some people have great difficulty making that happen. Others express their emotions more freely.

During the month of February, take a moment to express your love to Epiphany Lutheran Church with an extra special love offering to our faith community.

Blessings on your February!

In Christ,  
Pastor Richard Hartman

**Ways we were blessed by Thrivent - past 5 years**

**Choice Dollars - \$12, 053 to Epiphany**  
**These are the dollars Thrivent lets you designate to non-profits**  
**You choose each year based on your accounts with Thrivent.**  
**Earned 2024 dollars - Deadline is March 31, 2025**

**\$960 Raised though Fundraisers**

**89 Action Teams. \$22.250 in seed money**

**3335 Volunteer Hours**  
**Economic impact \$104,885**

**We have 69 Benefit Members**  
**each can do 2 Action Teams per year (138)**  
**If each member did 2 per year**  
**That would be \$175,000 seed money in 5 years!**  
***If you want info on how to do it ask Dia or Pastor.***

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, some Saturdays

**Dia:** Wed & Thurs 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Other evenings times as needed and available  
Please use email or text to reach me.

**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!**

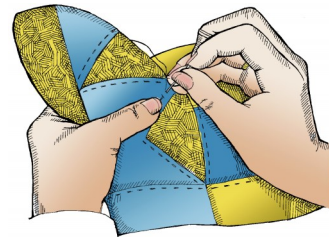
We have members of our congregation who do many things behind the scenes, and we want to take the time to recognize just a few in this month's issue!  
Thank you, Angels!



**Christmas Decorations** were put away for another year  
**Juice and Wine** were provided for Holy Communion each week  
**Newsletters** were mailed to homebound church members & visitors  
**Communion Bread** was baked for us!

### **Comfort Ye My People**

Our quilting group will meet on  
Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and  
Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-12.  
We have 21 Quilts completed.  
And 24 in process.  
Busy people at home sewing tops  
and finishing edges!



QUILTING GROUP

## **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,

1924

**LOOKING BACK GROWING FORWARD**

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SENIOR CHRISTIAN CARE

2024

**Our Mission: “Sharing Christ’s Love with the ones you love!”**

### **Lutheran Senior Care Ministry Update February 2025**

Rev. Mark Neubacher is our new Board President  
and Chris Essig is the new Treasurer.

Children in local Lutheran schools made 600 cards  
to share with residents of facilities our chaplains serve.

Our grant request to the Lutheran Foundation has been approved.

Our Executive Chaplain is visiting Lutheran School Students and recently  
visited Central Lutheran School to interact with the students.

Our LSCM video is available on the website  
and is a great overview of LSCM activities.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support for this ministry!  
Sue

**Join us for Worship**  
**this month!**

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

Also found on Facebook LIVE  
and YouTube

Worship Mondays at 7:00 pm

Wednesday Meal and Bible Study  
6:00 Meal 6:30 Study  
**Please join us!**

February  
Bible  
Readings



**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Presentation of Our Lord Sunday**

Malachi 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-34

**February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**5th Sunday of Epiphany**

Isaiah 6:1-13

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**

**6th Sunday of Epiphany**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7th Sunday of Epiphany**

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-43a



Welcome to new Members  
Richard and Cherry Raber

Richard (Rick) Raber was born in Fort Wayne and was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church and he was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran. He works for Champion Homes as a Side Wall Builder and last worshipped at St John's in Decatur.

Cherry Raber was born and baptized in the Philippines. We will have to get the how they met from them, because they were married here at Epiphany June 29, 2024.

They bring with them Rick's two children Caroline & Max.

Please welcome them into our church family.

## **Seven Ways to Deal with Anxiety and Stress**

1. **Admit There is a Problem** - that requires a lot of humility, anxiety can make us feel weak where others are strong. The temptation is to keep pushing and hope it goes away. That usually leads to a crash.
2. **Stop Self Medicating in Unhealthy Ways** - you learn to cope in your own way. A response to stress can be snacking constantly on junk food, drink to take the edge off, camp out in front of the television for hours. None of these are healthy ways to deal with stress or anxiety. We know this, what we don't realize is that this response can work against our body's ability to fight back and get healthy, not to mention what it can do to our soul.
3. **Take Care of Yourself Physically** - In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he encourages believers to remember that our body is a living temple, one that has been bought at a great price, and therefore we ought to glorify God with it. Taking care of our bodies is a spiritual endeavor. Physical health is connected to mental health. Regular exercise has been shown to significantly reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. Look up the anxiety moment in the Bible 1 Kings 19 - Elijah is so overwhelmed by his circumstances that he wants to end his life. God didn't give him a pep talk, instead he gave him a meal and let him go to sleep. Twice! Learning to rest is an important part of taking care of the body. Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is take a nap.
4. **Be Intentional About What Goes into Your Mind** - Philippians 4:8 Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable. If any thing is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things. Paul is saying what ever we fill our minds with has a profound effect on us. Filling one's mind with the right things.
5. **Don't neglect the spiritual.** We live in a world at war. God wants us to flourish and Satan would like us to suffer. Make a habit of utilizing the power of prayer. Use your supportive Christian Community to help you with the lies Satan tries to have you believe.
6. **See a Doctor** - Sometimes it is exactly what we need. Some medications can help tremendously, don't be afraid to ask about treatments.
7. **Embrace the Blessing of Brokenness** - sometimes getting out of bed is a struggle when you are anxious or depressed. It creates a dependency never experienced before. Hold on to Jesus through prayer, Psalm 23 can be a lifeline. Don't miss what God has for you right now.



**Mission Moment for February 2025**  
**February Outreach - is for Epiphany.**

As Pastor's article talks about Love.  
We are asking that you consider giving a gift  
to "show a little love to Epiphany".  
Make that gift truly special! Go back and read his article again.

That love can be in the form of a special monetary gift,  
a gift card or donate items we have to purchase  
to keep the building clean and usable.  
Paper products, pine sole, disinfectant spray, toilet bowl cleaner,  
windex, air fresheners, Dawn, leftover containers or Lysol wipes.

Show Epiphany love and come in and dust, clean the pews,  
clean the kitchen, refrigerator, stove or ovens.

Thank you all in advance for your love to Epiphany.

Thank you to everyone for all the baby items  
collected for Associated Churches " A Baby's Closet "  
We have car seats, diapers, wipes, clothing, baby wash.  
All the baby things to deliver.

Love and Blessings, Vickie and Cindy





## February Baptismal Birthdays

*Rachel Jancso      Jessica Williams*  
*Erin Robinson      Ron Jancso*  
*Chuck Lehman      Taylor Norberg*  
*Anderson Bowman*

**“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 this month!

## Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Our next Quarterly Congregational Meeting is scheduled for  
Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am.  
Breakfast starts at 8:45 am

Don't miss out on this chance to be involved in the life of our church!  
All are welcome!

	<b><u>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Feb. 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Feb. 16<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b>
	Presentation of Our Lord Sunday	5th Sunday of Epiphany	6th Sunday of Epiphany	7th Sunday of Epiphany
<b>Organist/ Pianist</b>	Amanda	Alicia	Alicia	Amanda
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Steve Haag	Rebecca Norberg	Amber Logan	Jim Davis
<b>Lector/ Communion Assistant 8:00 am</b>	Sue Johnson	Sue Davis	Nancy and Richard Lee	Cheryl Ralston
<b>Lector 10:15 am</b>	Mike Rumfield	Nina Haag	Rebecca Norberg	Steve Haag
<b>Communion Assistant 10:15 am</b>	Mark Herb	Cathy Rumfield	Jack Swanson	Dia Herb
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Haag's	Rumfield's	Herb's	Pickett's

### **Financial Summary**

<b>January</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Bills Paid</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1/5/2025	3,118.29	1,772.60	1,345.69
1/12/2025	2,924.51	5,964.70	<b>(3,040.19)</b>