



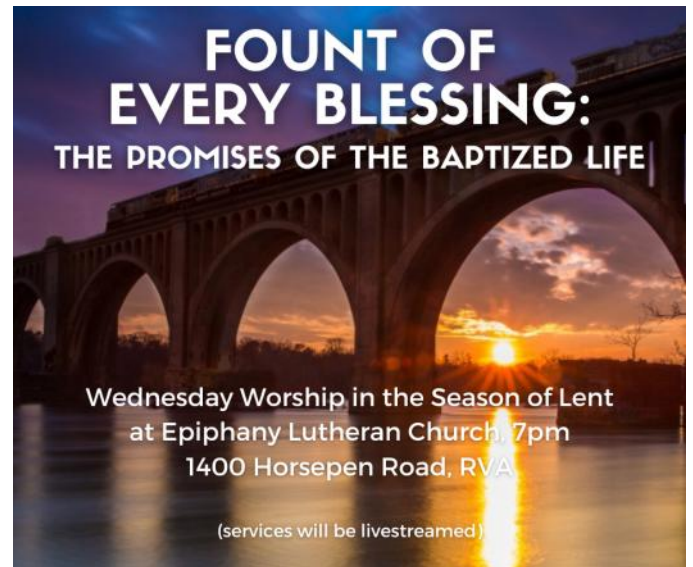
EPIPHANY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

# The Examiner

*The Newsletter of Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA*  
Walk the Journey + Worship the Christ + Witness with Joy

## February 2026

Every May a group of high school students stands in front of the congregation and makes public profession of their faith. Known as confirmation, this ceremony provides these young people with the opportunity to affirm their baptisms and say “yes” to continuing in the life of the church. As one new member of the congregation put it to me recently over a cup of coffee, “Confirmation is where the church looks at these kids and asks, ‘So are you really going to go through with this?’” This individual had not grown up church, nor had he been confirmed himself, but he was pretty perceptive. Confirmation can often feel like a rite that you’ve earned, but it’s really a moment where your commitment is being tested: Are really you going to go through with this “faith stuff” as you enter adulthood?



Truth be told, God gives us umpteen moments throughout our lives (and throughout each day, in fact) where our faith comes into play. We know God is always faithful to us, and we know God’s promises of forgiveness and eternal life are trustworthy and true. Our baptism can never be undone. But can we perceive our opportunities to respond to that grace that clearly? How do we live into the promise we have made to live our faith like we mean it? What shape does our side of the covenant take? Wouldn’t it be nice if we had some simple list to know what “really going through with this” looked like?

Lucky for us, we do! The rite of confirmation, in fact, outlines the life of baptism in five succinct but rich promises, promises we agree to with God’s help and guidance. We hear them each May, but perhaps a little extra “refresher” is good once in a while. Therefore this Lent we will return to the basic promises of baptism, that fount of every blessing:

- To live among God’s faithful people
- To hear God’s word and share in the Lord’s supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the world

Succinct but rich. Easy but hard. Basic but complex. Exacting but life-giving. These are the things we agree to do every time we say “yes” to God’s “yes” for us. Come on Wednesday evenings at 7pm to worship in our sanctuary and reflect as a community on these five promises of our new life in Christ. And join on Sundays as we delve in to them a little deeper in Sunday School.

I look forward to seeing you and thinking together about the fount of every blessing this Lent. *Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for hymns of loudest praise.*

Yours in Christ’s service,  
Pastor Phillip Martin

## Looking ahead - mark your calendars for upcoming events!

- Wednesday, February 18 Ash Wednesday Evening Service - 7:00 pm.
- Wednesday Evening Lenten Services begin on February 25 - March 25 at 7:00 pm.
- Palm Sunday is March 29. Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am.



## Wednesday Lenten Dinners First meal is on February 18

### Price Hall - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

This Lenten season on Wednesday evening, church volunteers will be preparing and serving a main meal, salad, bread, and dessert for dinner or a pancake breakfast dinner. Dinner will be served in Price Hall from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

If you would like to join us for one or all Wednesday dinners, please let us know by signing up in Realm, or on the sign-up sheets located on the table in the Commons outside the Narthex.

If you would like to contribute part of a Wednesday evening meal, please either contact Linda in the Church office or sign-up on the Lenten Meal Menu sheet also located on the table in the Commons outside of the Narthex. If you would like to make a soup, we would like to serve two soups at each meal - one with meat and one vegetarian. You will be advised ahead of time of the number of guests who have signed up for dinner.

Questions? Contact Linda at [lmartin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:lmartin@epiphanyelca.org) or call (804) 282-6066. Thank you.



Annual Ministry Reports are due February 15, 2026. Please email your report to Hanne Hamlin at [hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org). Thank you.

### A note from Barry Westin, Archives member

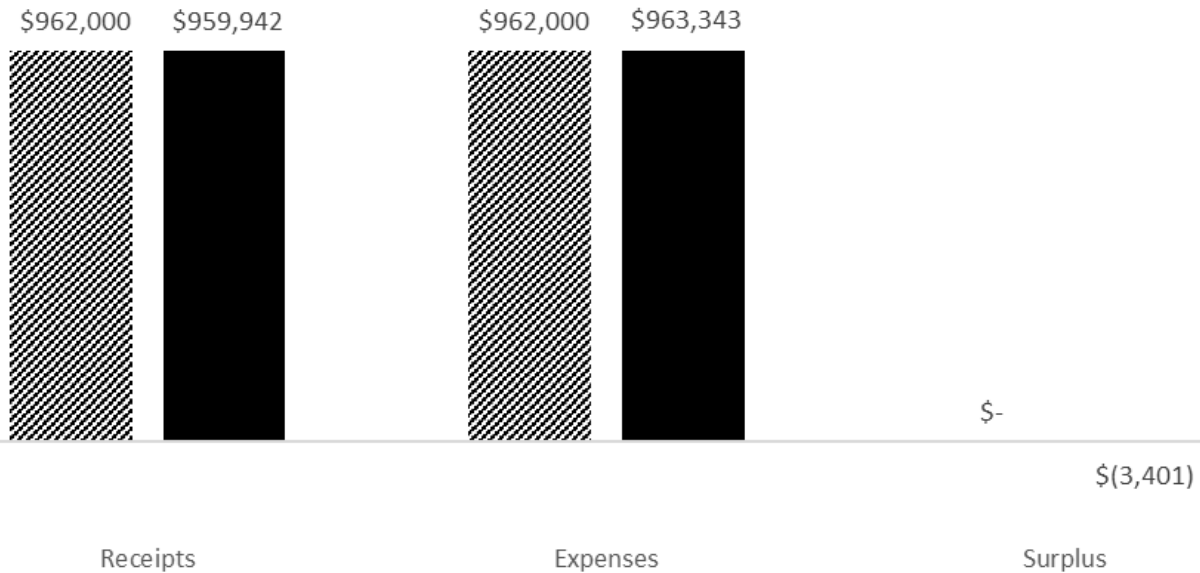
Attention all Epiphany staff members and ministry team chairs.

Please get Hanne your 2025 annual reports as soon as possible if you have not already done so. These need to get to the Archives as soon as possible. We have had some difficulty in the past with some ministry teams not submitting an annual report which leaves the impression that they did absolutely nothing that year which is not fair to those who worked on that team and is also misleading for the writing of any future history of Epiphany. Thank you. Barry Westin

# Finance Ministry

## December 2025 Finance Summary

▨ YTD December 2025 Budget    ■ YTD December 2025 Actual



Due to the generosity of our congregation, our receipts for the year were \$959,942 which was 99% of our budgeted receipts of \$962,000 and \$70,401 or 8% higher than 2024.

Expenses were \$963,343 and \$1,343 unfavorable to plan primarily due to:

- Several PC upgrades to accommodate Windows update
- Property due to cost of goods and services
- Copier supply cost higher than planned

## ATTENTION: REALM ON-LINE GIVING

**Reminder:** for all members who give through Realm on an automated schedule to check your account to ensure the dollar amount is correct and there is no end date of 12/31/2025 if you want your contributions to continue into 2026! You can either renew your automatic giving for the current year or extend the yearly contribution until you decide on the date to end it. Please contact Greg Trone @ [gregtrone95@gmail.com](mailto:gregtrone95@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# Music Ministry

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NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT – FEBRUARY 2026

## *Children's Choir Reminders*

Both the ***Cherub Choir*** and ***Singing Saints*** will meet Wednesday, February 4, 11, 18 and 25 for rehearsal. Rehearsal times for February 4 and 11 are standard: 6:30 – 7:00 pm for ***Cherub Choir*** and 6:30 – 7:10 pm for ***Singing Saints***. For February 18 and 25, please note that rehearsals will begin 30 minutes earlier 6:00 – 6:30 pm.



The ***Singing Saints*** will sing in worship on February 15 (*Nimemwona Bwana*) at the later service only. The ***Cherub Choir*** will sing in worship on February 1 (*I Am the Light*) at both services.

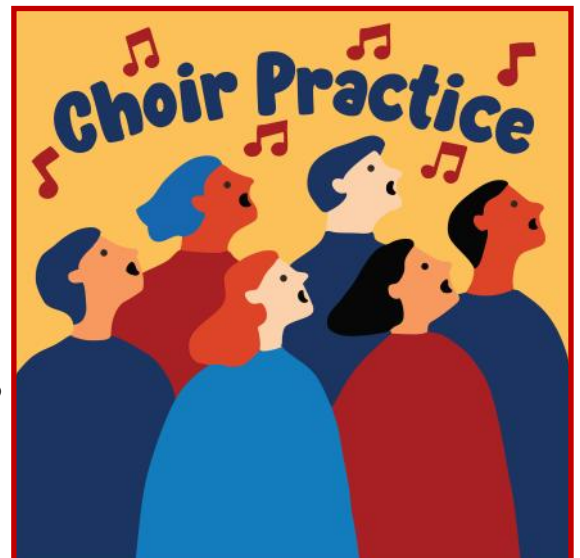
***Steel Crossticks*** will meet at 12:15 pm in the Sala Music Center on Sunday, February 8 and February 22. If you are planning on joining us new, please let Mr. Kevin know so that we are certain we have a sufficient number of drums available. Thank you and hope lots of new drummers will join us! We are close to being ready to play our newest song in worship!

***Junior Handbells*** will meet as part 'Lil Youths on Sunday, February 1. We are close to choosing a date to play in worship for this group as well – we hope lots of these youth will be able to play!

## *Adult Chancel Choirs*

Having a group of voices helping to lead the sung portions of our worship services is such a blessing. And it is easy to be a part of this ministry! For our 8:30 am worship, singers meet in the Music Room at 8:00 am to run through the worship music for the day. For 11:00 am, singers meet in the Music Room at 10:30 am to run through the worship music for the day. The 11:00 am group also typically meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm. We generally finish no later than 8:30 pm – this time allows preparation for additional music.

Regardless of which service you regularly attend, we would love to have you join us if you have a love for singing. Come when you can – we are very flexible in both groups! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Kevin for clarification – or talk with those already in our wonderful choirs! We hope to see (and hear) you! The difference our choirs make is wonderful! There's always room for us to add more seats!



Wednesday evening rehearsals will take place each of the four weeks of February, with the last two weeks being a bit later and immediately following the Lenten worship services.



Hello Members of Epiphany Lutheran Church,

My name is Ryan Urban, and I am a Life Scout with Scouts BSA Troop 804 in Midlothian, Virginia. I am currently working toward the rank of Eagle Scout, and as part of this process, I am planning a service project that supports children and adults in our local community who may be sensory-sensitive or sensory-seeking.

My Eagle Scout Service Project will provide sensory utility carts to four elementary schools and one public library in the greater Richmond area. These carts will be equipped with sensory tools designed to help individuals with ADHD, Autism, Down Syndrome, dementia, and other sensory or cognitive needs, feel more comfortable, focused, and supported, especially in environments that may be unfamiliar or challenging. Each cart costs approximately \$350, not including the sensory materials that will fill them. The total estimated cost of the project is about \$5,000.



If donations exceed the amount needed to complete the project, I will also be creating an additional sensory cart for Epiphany Lutheran Church. This cart could be used to support members of our own congregation; children, youth, adults, or visitors who may benefit from sensory tools during worship, fellowship, or church activities.

I am humbly asking the congregation to consider supporting this project through a monetary donation. You can donate now (through my Venmo) or at the Trivia and Dinner event that will be held March 22. There you can speak with me personally to learn more about my project or ask any questions you may have! My goal is to complete the project by early spring.

Any size contribution will help to make this project possible and create a more inclusive space for our church family and the wider community.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. I am incredibly grateful to be part of a church that values service, inclusion, and compassion for others.

With gratitude,  
Ryan Urban  
Life Scout, Troop 804

**Venmo**  
@Ryan-Urban-59

**Eagle Scout** is the highest rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of Scouting America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. The Eagle Scout rank has been earned by over 2.75 million youth.

Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges, 14 of which are mandatory for the award. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout. Additional recognition can be earned through Eagle Palms, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership, and merit badge requirements.



## February Baptism Birthdays



### Altar Care

**Thank you to those who served in January:**

First Service - Bonnie Garringer, Melissa, Ryan and Nolan Urban

Second Service - Hanne and Rob Hamlin, Lilly Grisham,  
Tracy Bucknam

**Altar Care for February:**

First Service - Poppy Ebbesen and Nancy Nye

Second Service - Jeanette Linka, JoAnn Fawley and Mary Sue Oehler

**Would you like to join the Altar Care Team? We could use your help!**

Please contact Linda Martin at 804-282-6066 or  
[lmartin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:lmartin@epiphanyelca.org) if you are interested.



# Faith Formation



## Sunday School for Children and Youth

Sunday morning learning for children and youth is in full swing! Join us for singing, playing, and learning!

**9:45 AM - Music Opening in Room 104 for Children 2 Years through 2nd Grade**

**10:00 am - Sunday school begins for our younger learners:**

2 YO & 3 YO: Room 102

Pre-K & K: Room 101

1st & 2nd Grade: Room 104

**9:45 AM - 10:45 am - Sunday School for Older Children and Youth**

3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders: Room 201

Middle School: Luther Room

High School: Von Bora Room



## HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION FOR 4TH GRADERS

All 4th graders and their parents or caregivers are invited to a special three-week class on Holy Communion.

Meeting dates are **March 8, 15, 22** during the Sunday School hour.

For some, this will be a class in preparation for first communion; for others, it's a chance to learn about the sacrament they're already receiving. All are welcome!

First Communion will be celebrated on **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at Noon or 7:00 pm services**. All children who have completed the class will be recognized during worship that day.

# Faith Formation—Plan now for Summer!



## Join us for Vacation Bible School

**June 8-12, 2026!**

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Ephesians 6:10

Registration is open! We're looking forward to another summer of forming faith and friendship through Christ! This year's theme will focus on putting on the armor of God and being strong in Christ!

Please fill out the registration information by following the link below and pay the registration fee to reserve your spot.

Cost is \$20. If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Sarah at [slang@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:slang@epiphanyelca.org)

Registration closes May 1 or when we reach capacity. Last year we reached capacity by April!

**[Register Your Child Today!](#)**

Vacation Bible School is open to children 3 years through 5th Grade.

Youth who have completed 6th Grade through High School are invited to volunteer.



Vacation Bible School benefits from the gifts of adults and youth to make it a success! We're in need of a variety of gifts and volunteers who love children and who are passionate about sharing Jesus' love with them!

Check out the Adult & Youth Volunteer Registration form by following [the link](#) for more information about how you might serve this year!

Questions? Ask Pastor Sarah at [slang@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:slang@epiphanyelca.org)



## Faith Formation—Plan now for Summer!



### Summer Servant Day Camp for Middle School Youth!

July 13-17, 2026  
9 am—3 PM

Registration is now open for a new summer day camp experience for Middle School Youth (rising 6th, 7th, 8th graders along with rising 9th graders).

Join Pastor Joseph and Pastor Sarah **July 13-17, 2026** for a week of service-learning, Bible study, crafts, games, songs, and friendship-building. We'll gather from 9 am - 3:00 pm each day and spend part of our time off-site serving in the community. Cost is \$50 and scholarship is available!

Questions? Reach out to [Pastor Sarah](#) or [Pastor Joseph](#). [Register Today!](#)

### Camp Sunday is February 22!

Caroline Furnace is our Virginia Synod's ELCA Camp! Epiphany members have loved and supported this ministry for many years as campers, counselors, board members, and volunteers!



On Sunday, February 22 Tom Powell, director of Caroline Furnace, and others will be on-site at Epiphany to share more about its ministry. Join us to learn more!

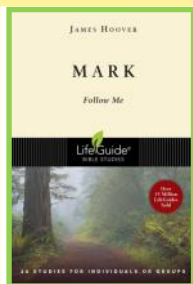
Caroline Furnace offers programs for grades 1 through 12 as well as a week of Family Camp. Horse camp is always a favorite! Check out Caroline Furnace's summer camp schedule for fun adventures in the mountains of Virginia!

### ELCA Summer 2026 Camp Scholarship Applications are available!

Epiphany is again thrilled to be able to provide a 50% scholarship for the price of tuition for any program at an ELCA camp in the summer of 2026 (one per child). Fill out this scholarship form and return to the Epiphany office. Scholarship forms can be found in the Commons.



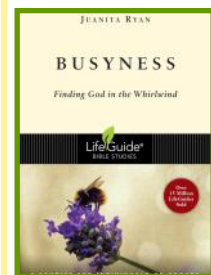
# Faith Formation for Adults



## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**Tuesdays, 10:30-Noon in the Parlor**

Our group continues studying the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four canonical Gospels and is known for its fast-paced, action-oriented narrative of Jesus's ministry, from his baptism to his death and resurrection. Join us!

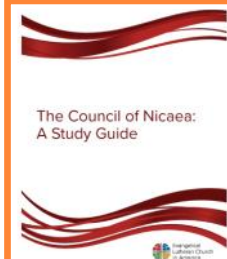


## MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

**Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm**

Moms' Bible Study (MBS) is open to moms of any age, with kids of any age. All moms are welcome! We recently began a new book *Busyness: Finding God in the Whirlwind*.

Questions? Contact Amy Boyle [aimandbub@msn.com](mailto:aimandbub@msn.com) or 804-347-2724.



## The Church Meeting that Never Ended: The Council of Nicaea on its 1700<sup>th</sup> birthday

**9:45-10:45 am**

**Star Lodge**

**Sundays, February 1 & February 15**



Pastor Phillip will lead a 4-week discussion on this foundational statement of the church's faith.

Topics will range from Emperor Constantine's influence, to the role of Women in the Council of Nicaea, to the establishment of Easter's date and the church's chief Creed. We will look at historical aspects of this important event and how it still impacts our faith and the church today.



## Blessed and Stressed

**Sundays, 10:00 am**

**Parlor**

Blessed and Stressed is a gathering for parents of younger children that meets in the parlor during Sunday school hour (beginning at 10:00 am). . The purpose of our gathering is to provide a casual setting where we can socialize and support each other. We will have a discussion topic and hear prayer requests each week. Join us!



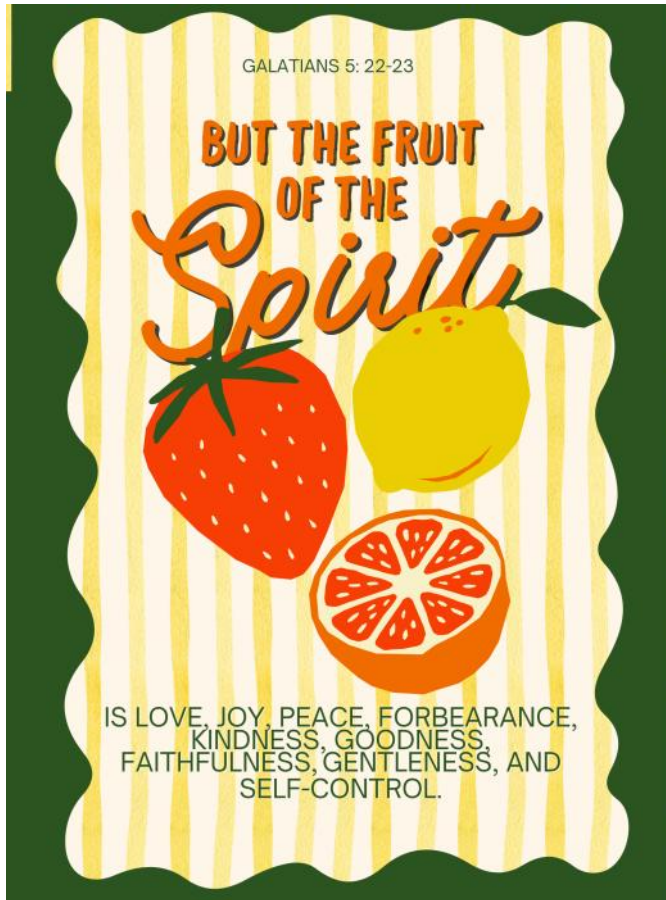
## Fount of Every Blessing: The Promises of the Baptized Life

**Sundays in Lent: February 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29**

**9:45 am—10:45 am, Star Lodge**

Join one of the pastors on Sunday mornings for a deeper dive into the Fount of Every Blessing. On Wednesdays in Lent during our mid-week worship, we'll be exploring the five baptismal promises, which are made whenever someone is baptized. On Sundays, we'll explore more deeply the previous Wednesday's theme and share in conversation and Bible study. Explore with us what it means for our daily lives when we promise together to: live among God's faithful people, hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, proclaim the Good News of God in Christ in word and In deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

# Faith Formation



Step away from the noise of everyday life and into a space designed for rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. **Rooted & Growing** is a women's retreat centered on the **Fruits of the Spirit** found in Galatians 5:22–23—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Together, we will explore what it means to be rooted in Christ and how the Spirit produces fruit in our lives. Through worship, biblical teaching, small-group connection, reflection, and prayer, women of all ages will be encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and one another.

This retreat is an invitation to:

- **Abide in God's presence and rediscover joy**
- **Grow in spiritual maturity and inner peace**
- **Be refreshed in heart, mind, and soul**
- **Leave empowered to live out the Spirit's fruit in everyday life**

Whether you are seeking rest, clarity, healing, or renewed purpose, this retreat offers a welcoming place to be seen, known, and strengthened in Christ.

The retreat fee is \$30, with scholarship options available for those with need. Your registration includes a delicious lunch from Taste.

Registration is now open! Follow the [link](#) to register online or look for paper forms in the Commons.



# Youth Ministry 2025-2026

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*All youth of Epiphany are welcome at any events listed. Friends are always welcome to join you at any event as well! Parents are always welcome to join as well, but it is not necessary. Our Timothy Ministers, who are our adult leaders, assist Pastor Joseph with ministry. All events take place in the Star Lodge from noon to 2:00 pm unless otherwise stated.*

## Youth+News

Dear High School Families --

This weekend has the chance of being absolutely wild and as you may have heard, we are **rescheduling Winter Celebration from this weekend to February 13-15 (same time schedule – Friday evening to Sunday noon).**

If you weren't able to attend this weekend but the new dates make it possible for you to attend YOU CAN STILL REGISTER at [VASYNOD.ORG](http://VASYNOD.ORG)

Our group will meet up at Target in Short Pump and drive together to Eagle Eyrie, stopping along the way to eat dinner together and then from there we'll head to the retreat. During the weekend, we'll meet other seventh and eighth grade students from Lutheran congregations from around Virginia

This retreat is a TON of FUN! We sing songs, play games, and have small group discussions on God and life (and the food is really good too!). I hope you will come with us!! The cost of the event for youth is \$150 but Epiphany will cover \$100 and ask you to pay the remaining \$50. For adults the cost is \$50 but we will cover half and ask you to pay \$25.

There are two ways to register: 1) at [vasynod.org](http://vasynod.org), 2) or with the form sent to you by email and mailed to your home. Please let me know if you still need it. Also, please speak with me if additional financial assistance is needed. Epiphany would like to cover the difference because we believe this event is so much fun and so transformational that we want to do everything we can to make it easy for you to participate.

Epiphany will also rent a 12 passenger van and we'll travel together (we leave from Target in Short Pump on Friday at 4:00 pm (or a little later if needed) and return on Sunday at 3:00 pm).

I hope you'll join us for this awesome retreat!



**Winter Celebration**  
OUR ANNUAL WINTER FAITH FORMATION EVENT FOR 9TH  
THROUGH 12TH GRADE YOUTH & THEIR ADULT ADVISORS

**RESCHEDULED**  
**for FEB. 13-15!!!**





Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Richmond, Virginia

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
1 John 4:7

## ***YOUTH MINISTRY***

*Epiphany Youth Group, or EYG, is ministry for, with, and by 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth and our adult leaders, called Timothy Ministers, and gathers about every other week. Lil Youth is our youth group for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth, which meets once a month. These "Gatherings" are the heart of our ministry as we grow closer to God, one another, and as we serve the world God loves. Unless otherwise specified, our gatherings will be in Star Lodge from noon to 2:00 pm and include lunch. Parents are always welcome but not required to attend.*

**Our next EYG Gathering will be on February 8 -- Super Bowl Sunday -- from noon to 2PM!** After both worship services we will be standing in the commons and collecting money for Souper Bowl of Caring, a nationwide grass-roots effort to change the game for hungry families!

Our whole congregation is invited to support hungry families by bringing in can openers and cans of chicken noodle soup on February 1 (the Sunday before the Super Bowl) and February 8 (Super Bowl Sunday) to donate to Moments of Hope feeding ministry.



On February 8 we will have lunch in Star Lodge, then transport the food we collect to Moments of Hope, and then return for some pre-game activities before heading out at 2:00 pm for those who want to watch the game.



**We also have an EYG Gathering on Sunday, February 22 -- All 7th through -12th Grades are invited to gather in the Star Lodge from 12-2:00 pm!**



Dear Fifth and Sixth Grade Families —

**7th Day** is our annual overnight faith sharing event for youth in **5th and 6th grades** and their adult advisors. In 2026, 7th Day will take place from noon **Saturday, March 7th** to 1:30 pm **Sunday, March 8th** at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center.

During the weekend, each youth participant is part of a **"Shepherd Group"** with 5-6 other youth and adult leaders. Along with other Shepherd Groups, participants will explore a story of the Bible through drama, games, crafts, and music. Then everyone is together in a large group setting for singing, worship, and a presentation from our 7th Day Planning Group youth! In the evening youth and adults will have time to relax in their **Cottages** with their congregation and other congregations from Virginia to talk about their 7th Day experience!

**Cost is \$50 per youth or adult participant. Early Registration ends February 9th, 2026.**

There are two ways to register: 1) at [vasynod.org](http://vasynod.org), 2) or with the form sent to you by email and mailed to your home later this month. Also, please speak with me if additional financial assistance is needed. Epiphany would like to cover the difference because we believe this event is so much fun and so transformational that we want to do everything we can to make it easy for you to participate.

Epiphany will also rent a 12 passenger van and we'll travel together (we leave from Target in Short Pump).

I hope you'll join us for this awesome retreat!

**Early Registration discount ends Feb. 9, 2026!**

# Lil Youths!

## Epiphany's YOUTH GROUP just for 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

We invite you to join us for our monthly gatherings this year which will include games, crafts, service projects, music, and much more!



Each gathering will begin in Star Lodge at noon with lunch and ends at 2:00 pm. We hope that each family might volunteer to provide lunch once during the year so that we can enjoy a nice meal together. We'll send you a link to a sign-up genius soon by email and you can sign up to provide lunch if you're able.

There will be a music element to each gathering and we'll use these times to prepare for leading worship on various Sunday mornings but if you prefer not to do music there will also be an alternate activity. Here is our meeting schedule for the year:

Sunday, February 1—noon to 2:00 pm in Star Lodge!

Sat-Sun, March 7-8 "7<sup>th</sup> Day" Retreat at Eagle Eyrie Center (in Lynchburg) more info to come!

Sunday, April 19—noon to 2:00 pm in Star Lodge!

Sunday, May 17 —noon to 2:00 pm in Star Lodge! Field Day!

Friends are always welcome! Likewise, parents are always welcome to stay but are not required to attend. We look forward to a year of fun and growing in faith!

Peace+

Pastor Joseph and Mr. Kevin



# Property Ministry

It was quite the eventful start to the new year. We got the star and other decorations down safely until next year. There is an ongoing discussion as to how we will redefine who and how this is done in the future. Safety is the main concern.

Martin Luther King Day was a great success with the youth and adults taking on service projects for the church and community. At least one quilt was made, a Trex bench was assembled, and stepping stones installed for the ELNS drop off loop.



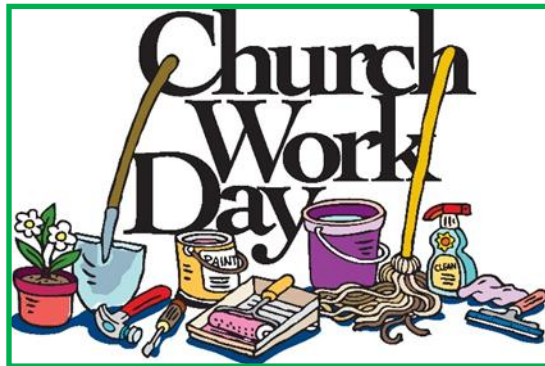
Final adjustments to our Boiler necessitated by the new AC unit being installed were completed just in time for us to NOT have in person service for 2 Sundays courtesy of Mother Nature. As this is being written we have just cleared the sidewalks and parking lot enough to reopen the Preschool and church office.

A big thank you to a great crew of volunteers who helped accomplish this. Jennifer Edwards provided a tip for a local company to help us dismantle the ice rink that was our parking lot, many thanks.

The usual maintenance stuff is ongoing around your church. Numbers for Capital improvement projects are being checked and updated for the upcoming campaign.

I hope you will join us on March 14<sup>th</sup> for our next Cleanup Party.

Thanks,  
Rob Hamlin  
Facility Manager





# Fellowship Ministry



Join us on Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship.

We will gather at Rare Olde Times, 10602 Patterson Ave Henrico, VA 23238.

All men are welcome. We hope to see you there! For more information contact Joe Barnes (804) 836-5394.



## Men's Lunches

Epiphany has two men's lunches that meet every month led by the pastor(s). Come join in fellowship and lunch!

**The Second Tuesday** of the month is our Men's "Manna" Lunch which meets at 11:45 am, at Tony's Italian Restaurant, (3409 Cox Rd, Richmond, VA 23233)

**The Third Tuesday** of the month is our Tuesday Men's Lunch which meets at 11:45 am, at Frank's West-located at 11238 Patterson Ave, Richmond, VA 23238 (Tuckahoe Village Shopping Center)



# Fellowship Ministry, cont'd

## Women's Circles

**The Clara Sullivan Circle** met on January 14 in the parlor.

Mary Sue gave the devotion based on Isaiah Chapter 51. In this chapter we are reminded to Listen to the Lord. He calls us to remember He is faithful to us and promises comfort and salvation in difficult times.

During our meeting, we filled Winter Blessings Bags for senior ladies that will be distributed through Moments of Hope; and prepared birthday and Valentine cards to be sent to Epiphany seniors.

**The next Clara Sullivan Circle meeting** will be on Wednesday February 11 from 10:00 - 11:00 am. We will have a Valentine coffee and snacks social. Please bring a snack to share. Please call Eileen or Bonita if you are interested in more information about the Clara Sullivan Circle. We will be glad to talk with you and include you in the email chain. Everyone is welcome!

**Call, text, or email:**

Eileen Johnson: 804-513-3005 jay3boating@gmail.com

Bonita Wyatt: 804-347-5357 bwyatt@microtelsystems.com

**The Margaret Miller Circle** is Back Strong And Sharing Our Life Gifts: We will gather to meet this month on

Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00 am in the Commons.

We will be sharing a devotion based on Kindness To All and delectable treats. Please check out the picture from our meeting in January. We welcome you if you would like to join us to share this special time.

We welcome the opportunity to share our circle with others. If interested in joining our circle or have any questions, please contact Donna Josephson (804) 883-5955.



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

**Katie Luther Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 12. We normally meet at noon. Please watch for the invitation email a week or so before the meeting. If you are interested in joining our circle, please contact Tatter Hartmann at 804 338 3578 or [maryhartmann279@gmail.com](mailto:maryhartmann279@gmail.com).

# Women's Circles

**The Clara Sullivan Circle** met on January 14 in the parlor.

During our meeting, we filled Winter Blessings Bags for senior ladies that will be distributed through Moments of Hope; and prepared birthday and Valentine cards to be sent to Epiphany seniors.



## Upcoming Opportunities to Serve Our Neighbors

**Liberation Veteran Services** - Tuesday, March 31

**Easter Baskets** - Sunday, March 8 & 15





# Community Service Ministry

The Community Service Ministry Team offers many ways for you to serve others. These opportunities are perfect for families and individuals with a busy schedule, work and school commitments and holiday seasons.

Chose one or more of these opportunities to do God's Work through you today!



## Community Service Ministry Team Meeting

The Team is meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Come and see what we do to help our community. Ideas? Bring those too! Questions? Contact Peggy Hinson at psumd76@verizon.net or (703) 472-8701.



CARITAS creates a safe space to heal and time to rebuild for Women who are experiencing homelessness and/or addiction. Epiphany Lutheran Church has a long tradition of supporting Caritas. Long before Caritas had a dedicated building, our church provided a safe place for homeless to live and eat for at least two weeks each year.



When Caritas finally opened a building for their targeted population, we turned our mission to preparing meals for 75-100 women at least three times a year. This past year we provided 3 dinners for 70 clients. Each time we had at least 5 to 7 church members help cook the meals in the church kitchen and transport the food to Caritas the next day. In November we used our leftover money and were able to donate 25 pairs of gloves off the Caritas wishlist. We have also volunteered at Christmas celebration events and donated many items such as gloves, sheets, blankets and coats.

Look for announcements in the coming weeks on how we will continue this worthwhile ministry that Epiphany has supported for many years.

## Blood Drive Cancelled

Although our Blood Drive was cancelled on February 1, please continue to support blood donation by going to this link to find a site: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Our next scheduled blood drive is on May 31.  
Many thanks to all of you for supporting this mission.

Carl Erickson





# Community Service Ministry, cont'd



Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve dinner for veterans in need at the Hull Street facility for Liberation Veterans Services back on December 30. We had the privilege of serving over 30 veterans that evening and they told me to tell all of you how thankful they were for dinner. Our next opportunity to serve will be on Tuesday, March 31. Please be on the lookout in early March for the Sign-Up Genius link in the Constant Contact weekly email bulletin for ways to provide for that dinner. Thanks again!

## EASTER BASKETS ARRIVE MARCH 8!



Once again, we will partner with enCircle, Moments of Hope and Safe Harbor. On Sunday, March 8 and 15, Community Service Team members will be at various tables located in the commons offering empty Easter Baskets to congregation members who would like to bring a little Easter joy to these children and adults.

Each basket has a numbered tag indicating gender and age. PLEASE LEAVE THIS ATTACHED. If you would like to help, please write your name on the sign out sheet next to your basket number, take a basket, and fill it with assorted items. A suggestion list, cellophane bag, and a piece of tulle (to use as a bow) will be in each basket.

All baskets will need to be **returned by Sunday, March 22, 2026. We will be delivering on Monday!**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

*Our Mission Statement: The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been created to provide comfort for those in need of God's embrace.*

One of the most important part of our ministry is to offer our congregation the opportunity to request a Prayer Shawl for someone you know that is in need of comfort. Simply go the church office and Hanne can assist you with your need.

The Prayer Shawl is a symbol, a garment, shroud, canopy, or cloak which envelopes the wearer both physically and spiritually, in prayer and celebration, in joy and sorrow. The Prayer Shawl is a commanded blessing, given by God.



*We will be sharing our skills by working from home unless there is a need to start meeting back at the church. Should anyone be interested or need more information, or product, please contact Jackie Collins at [ejc070944@gmail.com](mailto:ejc070944@gmail.com)*

We are interested in sharing our shawls with the Epiphany homebound. Let us know if you know of someone that would benefit from our shawls. We are blessed to have such workmanship.

There are so many reasons for us to share a prayer shawl with those we care about: those with health issues; those in distress; those who mourn; those who travel or move away from friends and/or family; new baby; graduate; newlyweds; to name a few.

# Community Service Ministry, cont'd

## Lamb's Basket January 2026 Food Drive

Our January Food Drive was amazing! So far (as of January 18), we collected 862 pounds of food and \$1450.00 in checks and cash. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation.

Thank you for your continued support for this food pantry. As always, the need for food does not end just because we don't have a food drive, so feel free to drop off food in the basket right next to the display table across from the office at any time!



# Members in Our Prayers

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## **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor - The Rev. Phillip W. Martin, Jr.  
[pmartin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:pmartin@epiphanyelca.org)

Pastor - The Rev. Joseph L. Bolick  
[jbolick@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:jbolick@epiphanyelca.org)

Pastor - The Rev. Sarah E. Lang  
[slang@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:slang@epiphanyelca.org)

Visitation Pastor - The Rev. Sarah Menke  
[smenke@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:smenke@epiphanyelca.org)

Director of Music Ministry - Kevin Barger  
[kbarger@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:kbarger@epiphanyelca.org)

Office Administrator - Hanne Hamlin  
[hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org)

Coordinator of Community Life - Linda Martin  
[lmartin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:lmartin@epiphanyelca.org)

Finance Manager - Debbie Sexton  
[dsexton@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:dsexton@epiphanyelca.org)

Facilities Manager - Rob Hamlin  
[rhamlin@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:rhamlin@epiphanyelca.org)

Technology and Media Support - Turner Barger  
[tbarger@epiphanyelca.org](mailto:tbarger@epiphanyelca.org)



***We will be in the office during these listed times.***

9 am - 3 pm Monday through Thursday

9 am - Noon on Friday (Pastors off on Fridays)

Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1400 Horsepen Road  
Monument Ave. at Horsepen Road  
Richmond, VA 23226

Phone: 804-282-6066  
Fax: 804-282-6067  
www.epiphanyelca.org



### **In-Person Worship Times**

September 7-May 17  
8:30 am and 11:00 am


### **Online Summer Worship Times on YouTube**

September 7-May 17  
11:00 am

Address Service Requested



**[www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranRVA](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranRVA)**

 Instagram: epiphanyelca