



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

The Examiner

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

June and July 2026

In our culture summer is typically a time of relaxation and rest. The academic year has ended. Sports (other than baseball) take a break. People use this time for extended vacations and breaks from the day-to-day. At Epiphany, summer of 2026 will be marked by a time of staff transition as we say goodbye to two of our office personnel.

Debbie Sexton, who has served as our Finance Manager since early 2016, will be retiring at the beginning of June. She will graciously stay on in a slightly diminished role until we find a new person for that position, and she will remain as the Finance Manager for Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School, but her days as our very capable and friendly team member here are drawing to a close. Debbie has been instrumental in updating our financial reporting to council and the congregation. She has deftly managed our bookkeeping, and she helped oversee two different bank transitions during her tenure. Additionally, she helped manage the account begun by our 2018 capital campaign, *Brighten our Light*, and the current *Epiphany Shines to 75* campaign. Debbie also went above and beyond to move our financial reporting from Shepherds Staff (hard-drive data management system) to the cloud-based Realm system we use today. She is amazing! When she came to Epiphany our operating budget was \$707,380. The congregation's operating budget for 2026 is \$977,100. She has helped three Treasurers (Georgianna Hahn, Tim Sparks, and Jennifer Edwards) expertly manage this 28% increase to our ministry's budget, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.



At the end of the August our Office Administrator, Hanne Hamlin, will also retire. Hanne has served at the helm of our office since 2007. Many of you have interacted with Hanne in some way or another because she manages and improves so many areas of the congregation's communications. She assists the finance team and Endowment Board in their record-keeping. She designs and produces our Sunday bulletins, funeral bulletins, newsletters, and helps publish our weekly Constant Contact email. She keeps the office stocked with the materials it needs, dispenses church keys and alarm codes, handles many vendor relationships, stewards the church calendar and the pastors' visitation schedules, and keeps track of outside groups who use our facility. Truly a keystone member of our team, Hanne touches in some meaningful way just about everyone else's ministry on a regular basis. She is a multi-tasking genius and we will miss her so much! There will be more information about how we can recognize her time of service among us before she departs this role. I am thankful to say she will be remaining a member of the congregation, so we will continue to have her around!

The remaining staff ask for your prayers and patience as we navigate these two staff departures. Our Personnel Team (Jane Lanham, Paul Speidell, Fran Caruso, and Dave Hess) is already working on a process for transition and finding new people to serve in these roles. We wish Debbie and Hanne both a happy retirement and extend our thanks to them for all the ways they have helped us walk the journey, worship the Christ, and witness with joy.



Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Phillip



Epiphany Shines to 75 is off to a great start! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have already surpassed our initial \$750,000 pledge goal. As of May 17, 68 families have pledged a total of \$725,395.04. Combined with the \$103,640 endowment disbursement approved by the congregation, our current anticipated total is **\$829,035.04!**

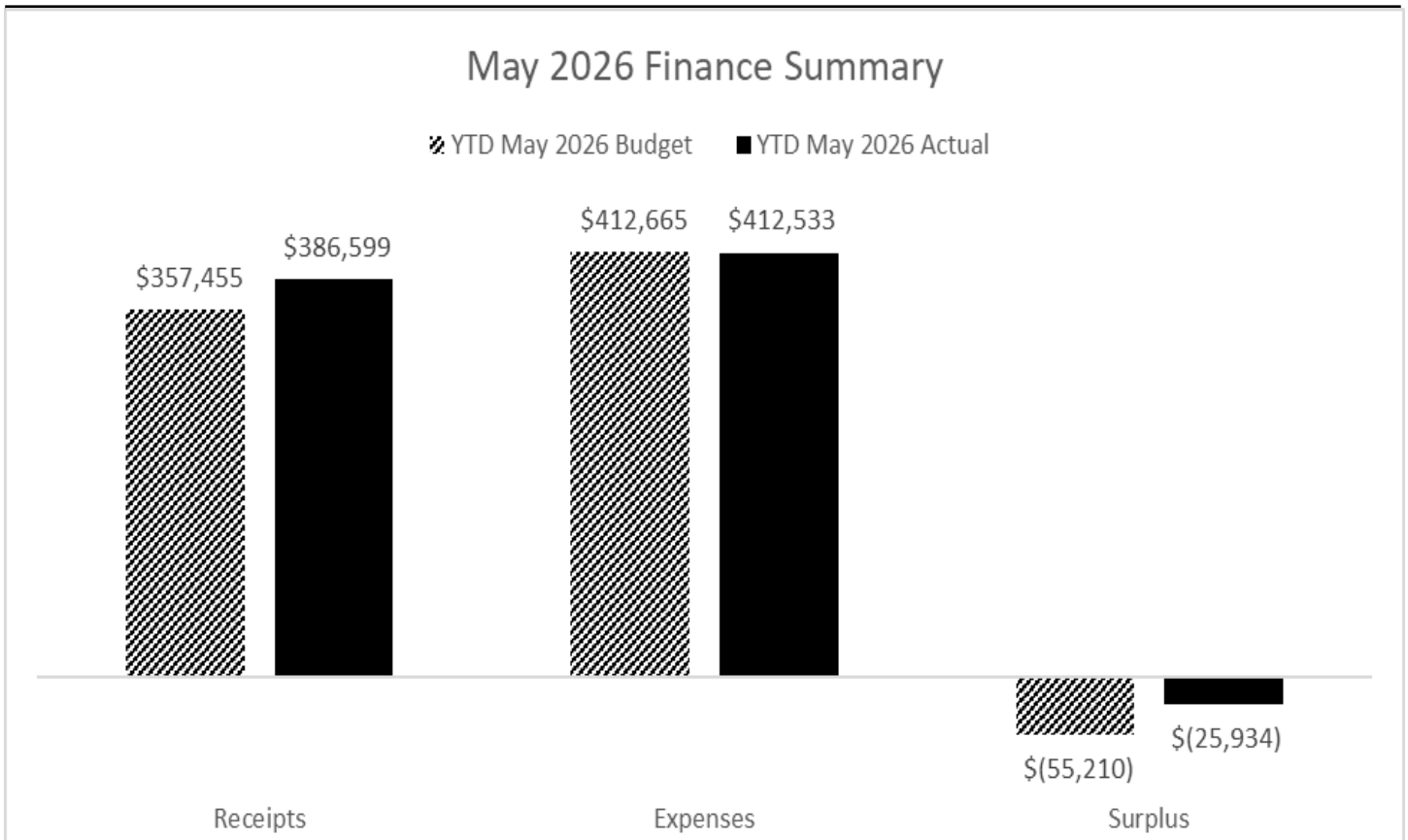
This enthusiasm shows our immense potential to go even further. Every dollar raised directly helps reduce our mortgage principal, which stood at \$1,734,951.87 as of April 30. Lowering this debt secures our financial footing as we head into Epiphany's next 75 years.

Our ultimate hope is for a majority of our 400 connected families to participate. **Every gift—no matter the size or frequency—makes a meaningful impact.** We hope you'll consider giving as you can—one time gifts or small gifts ultimately lead us to a stronger future!

- **Submit Your Pledge:** Please communicate your pledge by **Sunday, June 7.**
- **Track Our Progress:** Check out the campaign thermometer in the Commons to watch our momentum grow as we move into summer!

Thank you for your faith and support!

Finance Ministry



YTD May receipts are \$386,599 which is \$29,144 ahead of plan and up 15% vs 2025.

Expenses were \$412,533 which is right on plan. Property expense is unfavorable \$5k due to electricity bill higher than normal due to cold winter mainly offset by several favorable expense categories.

We have a net deficit of \$25,934 which is less than planned deficit of \$55,210 by \$29,276 due to earlier than planned contributions. We typically run a deficit through the early part of the year and make it up in the 4th quarter.



Music Ministry

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR SUMMER

If you are interested in sharing your musical talents during worship in the summer months, please talk with Kevin or visit him Sunday mornings! We are so fortunate to have many talented individuals willing to share their talents to enhance our worship experience as our choirs take a well-deserved break for the summer months. This opportunity is open to all musicians of all skill levels and all ages. Contact Kevin at 804-513-0726 or kbarger@epiphanyelca.org if you have questions.



National Garden Week June 7-13

In celebration of National Garden Week, members of Sleepy Hollow Garden Club (the club that meets here at Epiphany) will be distributing bee-friendly wildflower packs between services on June 7th. Happy planting!



June and July Baptism Birthdays



Altar Care

Thank you to those who served in May:
First Service - Pamela Bosserman and Stephanie Hamlett
Second Service - Bobbie Jo Carroll and Beth Barger

Altar Care for June:
First Service - Bonita and Alvah Wyatt
Second Service - Jean Henry, Linda Martin, Hanne Hamlin

Altar Care for July:
First Service - Michele Frese and Stephanie Hamlett
Second Service - Chris Crouch and Tracy Bucknam

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 if you are interested.



The Finance Team Ministry will meet on 4th Tuesday, June 23 and July 24 at 7:00 pm.
If you would like to attend, please let Jim Huddle know.
Jrhuddle1us@gmail.com
704-779-3307



Faith Formation



Faith Formation Volunteers for 2026-2027

We're already planning for Sunday School in 2026-2027, and we're looking for teachers who love children and are willing to share their faith! If you're interested in serving as a Sunday School teacher next fall and spring or are interested in learning more, talk with Pastor Sarah (slang@epiphanyelca.org).

2026 Confirmands

We rejoice that 11 of our youth affirmed their baptisms on Sunday, May 17!



Pastor Phillip Martin and Zachary Diehl



Front row: Addison Ozlin, James Newman, Hudson Pickels, Caroline Samos, Heidi Carlson
Back row: James Edwards, Mark Hodges, Ben Brown, Jake Nelson, Ryan Urban, Pastor Phillip Martin



Summer Servant Day Camp for Middle School Youth

July 12-18, 2026

Please hold in prayer our 18 middle school youth, high school youth volunteers, and adult volunteers who will be serving all across Richmond in July!

Faith Formation—Plan now for Summer!



VBS 2026!

June 8-12

9:00 am—Noon

VBS Closing Program!

Friday, June 12 @ 11:30 am

Sanctuary

The congregation is invited to the VBS Closing Program on Friday, June 12 at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Come to hear about what we've learned and shared this week and to sing songs! We'll close our time together with Kona Ice Treats in the playground loop near the Franklin Street entrance.

VBS Set-Up & Decorating

Sunday, June 7

11:30-2:00 pm

All volunteers, adult and youth, are invited to join us on Sunday, June 7 for set-up and decorating. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by following the [link](#).

Youth or adults who were not able to attend the training event in April will meet briefly at 11:30 am for a training .



Snack Item Donations

Thank you for your generosity with providing snack donations for VBS! Donations are now due back! Place on the table in the Commons. Thank you!

EYG - From Pastor Joseph

Here is an update on our plans for our Summer Service Trip in 2027 ~

First of all ~ many thanks to everyone who filled out the SurveyMonkey. Far and away our group's preference is the week of **Sunday, June 27 through Saturday, July 3**. For now I'd encourage you to hold these dates. I have requested this date from YouthWorks and when I get a green light we will begin registering ~ I hope in the next few weeks.

This experience is for youth who are current rising 8th through 12th grade students (and those who will have completed 8th through 12th grade at the time of the trip).

As I shared before ~ Puerto Rico is part of the United States and passports are not needed to travel, and yet this is a big adventure. Parents are welcome to join us ~ indeed we will need several of you to join us to make this happen!

Imagine this experience for our group! It will include four solid days of service along with strong relational connections to the communities we visit. We will be serving in a place where Spanish is the primary language which will give our group an opportunity to step into a genuine cross-cultural experience. There will be fun evening activities and we will take part in the vibrant culture by learning local history from local leaders and enjoying regional cuisine.

This will be a chance to experience the church working in a truly unique way and we will be addressing the effects of poverty and natural disasters in a community that manages daily life with limited resources. Most service projects will include supporting children, older adults, and marginalized communities through relationship-building and hands-on projects. YouthWorks has been serving in the metro area since 2005 so the partnership runs deep.

As you think about this opportunity, you may want to consider that the total cost per person will be about \$1,000, which will require some light fundraising (think car wash, talent show, etc). *The portion we will ask you to pay will be: \$350 (this includes all food and lodging)*. Epiphany will cover the difference. As always, if you would like financial assistance please just speak with me.

This is a thrilling opportunity to take part in ministry with individuals, churches, schools, and service organizations invested for the long run, through four days of meaningful service, a unique cultural experience, relationship-building, and fun.

I'm grateful to partner with you in this. I will request a deposit of \$100 just as soon as we hear from Youthworks that we're registered!

Peace+

Joseph



Our final Prep Gathering for Harrisburg will be **Sunday, June 14, from noon to 2:00 pm** where we'll have pizza and go over the final details, many of which you can find in these links.

On **Sunday, June 21** we will all worship together at the 10:30 am service and then depart immediately afterwards.

On **Sunday, June 28** we will present our pictures and stories to Epiphany during worship at both services. We will have a chance to plan this together and everyone who is able is asked to participate in some way ~ telling a story or offering a prayer, etc.

As always, please continue to pray for Harrisburg, PA, our community partners, and one another, that we may be witnesses to the love of Christ.



Epiphany Youth Group
SUMMER SERVICE TRIP
to HARRISBURG, PA
Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 26
All current 8th through 12th grade youth are eligible!

Faith Formation—Plan now for Summer!



Summer Servant Day Camp for Middle School Youth!

July 13-17, 2026
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Registration remains open for a new summer day camp experience for Middle School Youth (rising 6th, 7th, 8th graders along with rising 9th graders). There are 16 youth registered! Does that include you?

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 9:00 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!](#)



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 the scholarship form found in the Commons on the table under the monitor and return to the Epiphany office.

Property Ministry

A Full Summer

facilities article June/July 2026

Property gets into the spotlight as the Shine to 75 campaign continues. There has been such a great response; our congregation is truly generous and invested in the spirit and future of the church. I feel the awesome responsibility to complete the implementation of all the items you approved.

In the normal life of repairs and upgrades, our outside cross and sign lights have been switched to LED. They'll shine for another 75 without us having to replace the expensive bulbs they once used.

Our Nursery ladies will be pleased to see much needed cushion replacements for their rockers.



Our altar drape has been cleaned and treated with fire retardant.

Way back when Brighten our Light got underway staff was relocated to a trailer outside Price Hall, remember that? Tuckahoe Electric finally removed the cumbersome power box from above the nursery door and will return to remove the final piece on the outside of the building. They upgraded the lights in the Franklin St hallway and will soon begin the upgrades to the kitchen lighting as well as installing the wiring for the new AV system planned for Price Hall.

We are still waiting for the finalized contract for the new AV system, but we have consulted for the protective cabinet for the new screen. New motorized window shades are also in the works. The quilters will be busy relocating their massive store of fabric and equipment downstairs to their newly installed cabinets. Room 201 will be refurbished for use by ELNS for this fall's session.

Contracts for the Narthex, Sala Music center and Star Lodge roof replacements have been signed and scheduling is imminent. Last winter's ice storm presented the need for a snow/ice guard above the day school's drop-off doors, and it was added to the roof work proposal.

Many other details too numerous to fit in one article are in the works. June and July promise to be a tight choreography of construction, vacations, and a service trip.

By the time we meet again on these pages in August, I should have much more to report!

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Rob Hamlin
Facilities Manager



Fellowship Ministry



Join us on Thursday, **June 18th** at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship. We will gather at **Center Of The Universe Brewing Company**, 11293 Air Park Road Ashland, Va. 23005.



Join us on Thursday, **July 16th** at 7:00 pm. We will gather at **Kindred Spirit Brewing**, 12830 West Creek Pkwy. Richmond 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** will not meet in June, July or August.

Our next meeting will be on September 9, 2026.

The **Clara Sullivan Circle** regularly meets on the second Wednesday of the month from September through May.

Please join us! 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

We Are Strong Women And Love Sharing Our Life Gifts: We will rest for the summer and then come together in the Fall 2026.

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.

The Katie Luther Circle will meet again in September. If you are interested in joining our circle, contact Tatter Hartmann at 804 338 3678 (phone or text) or at maryhartmann279@gmail.com.



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Dear Epiphany Friends,

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for all of you! You supported me and my family with your prayers, cards, notes, texts and phone calls during the long period of John's declining health, his death and then my long hospitalization and recovery.

You came to John's funeral and welcomed our extended family with open arms. You gave us hugs, handshakes and kind words at the reception and then sent us home with food. You made meals for us between his death and the funeral.

I am also grateful for the livestreaming of services. I only missed one service while I was in the hospital and that was because I was in the Emergency Department!

I am almost back to normal - by the time you read this, you may have seen me at church. Such is the power of your prayers.

What a blessing to have the pastoral leadership and support we have and the kind and generous members of this church. Thank you.

In Christ,
Tatter Hartmann



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, August 18 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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 parts of our ministry is to offer our congregation the opportunity to request and provide a Prayer Shawl for someone they know who is in need of comfort. 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.



Simply go the church office and Hanne or Linda can assist you with your need.

The Prayer Shawl is a symbol, 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

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.



God's Work Our Hands

This year, the Community Service Ministry Team is planning a special project for Epiphany's God's Work Our Hands congregational event to coincide with *Epiphany Shines to 75*. The project will benefit Lutheran World Relief. If anyone has a Thrivent Grant for 2026 available, please consider donating it to the Community Service Ministry Team who will use the grant monies to purchase items needed for the project. Questions? Contact Linda Martin in the church office. Thank you.

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

LAMB's Basket June Collection of Food and Monetary Donations

Sunday, June 7 through Sunday, June 28 are the dates for our LAMB's Basket Food Drive. As always, we encourage you to contribute throughout the year as the need is great.

At this time, they are in need of

Canned or Non-Glass Jar of Pasta Sauce, 16 oz. box of Spaghetti, Canned Meat (chicken or tuna), Canned Potatoes, Canned Soups, Large & Regular Boxed Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Corn and Peas, Mac and Cheese or Velveeta Shells & Cheese, Peanut Butter, Small & Large Jars of Jelly.

They also need afterschool snacks for the children such as Cheez'It Snacks & Similar Bagged Snacks, Snack Crackers, Pop tarts, Granola and Fruit Bars, Juice Boxes, Pudding Cups and Jello Cups.



NO GLASS CONTAINERS AND PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON THE FOOD THAT YOU SEND!

How can you help?

There are a variety of ways that you can help us help our community:

- Collected food can be brought to the church for us to distribute. Please leave your bag of food in the hall directly off the Narthex in the basket to the right of the information table.
- Any checks (made out to "LAMB's Basket") can be put in the mailbox directly to the right of the office door or mailed to the church office c/o Cheryl Hamm.
- You can order food online and have it delivered to the church:

Epiphany Lutheran Church
c/o Linda Martin
1400 Horsepen Rd.
Richmond, VA 23226



Questions? Give Cheryl Hamm a call at (804) 399-7650 or email her at cherylhamm1906@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of this much needed assistance to provide to those who are in need!

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Liberation Veteran Services Dinner – Tuesday, June 30

Join us on Tuesday, June 30, as we share a meal and fellowship with veterans at Liberation Veteran Services, located at 5503 1/2 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23225. We will be serving dinner, and we would love for you to be part of this meaningful ministry.



Those volunteering to serve dinner should arrive at the church kitchen on Tuesday, June 30, by 5:15 p.m. to help load the food. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love to those who served our nation. Food and beverage donations should be delivered to the church kitchen by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4CAFAA22A6FE3-64246555-liberation>

Chicken casseroles (3 slots available)*

Two 28 oz. cans of green beans (3 slots available)

Two 28 oz. cans of baked beans (3 slots available)

One pan of brownies, serving 24 (2 slots available)

Two dozen ready-to-serve dinner rolls (2 slots available)

12-pack of cola, such as Coke or Pepsi (1 slot available)

12-pack of lemon-lime soda, such as Sprite or 7-Up (1 slot available)

12-pack of diet cola, such as Coke Zero (1 slot available)

Volunteers to serve dinner (4 slots available)

*A copy of the chicken casserole recipe is available through the SignUpGenius link and on the table in the Commons outside of the Narthex.



Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Save the date – Sunday, July 5 through Sunday, August 2 House of Hope Collection for Liberation Veteran Services

This year, beginning Sunday, July 5, the Community Service Ministry Team's *House of Hope* ministry will be collecting various household items for Liberation Veteran Services ("LVS"), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that provides homeless Veterans with the tools and resources needed to help them get back on the right track towards self-sufficiency. LVS's holistic program provides homeless Veterans with a place to sleep, eat and feel safe as well as individual case management, mental health and substance abuse services, employment skills, financial literacy skills, recreation, and permanent housing support. To learn more about LVS log onto <https://www.lvsrva.org/about-us/>. Please consider donating one or more of the items listed below to provide much needed resources to help these Veterans as they work to rebuild their lives.



House of Hope

- July 5 & 12** **Bathroom Items** (e.g., bath and hand towels, washcloths, bathmats, bath soap, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper)
- July 19** **Bedroom Items** (e.g., extra long twin sheet sets, twin blanket, twin bedspread, pillows and pillowcases)
- July 26** **Household Items** (e.g., cleaners, laundry detergent, dishwashing and dish detergents, sponges, dish cloths, dish towels, paper towels, napkins, tissues, food storage containers, aluminum foil, clear wrap)
- August 2** **Personal Items** (e.g., deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, combs, brushes, hand lotion, body lotion, first aid items)

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Dear Epiphany Kairos Cookie Bakers,

On behalf of the entire Kairos team and the 18 men who graduated from the April 30 - May 3 Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at Greenville Correctional Center S2, thank you for the love you poured into every dozen cookies you baked. The cookies you baked and donated were far more than a treat — it became a doorway to hope, fellowship, and healing. Also, each inmate in the cellblocks (over 700) received a hand-delivered bag of a dozen cookies through their cell doors, even if they were not part of the Kairos short-course on Christianity.



Throughout the weekend, the men repeatedly said that the cookies reminded them that someone on the outside still sees them as human, still believes they matter, and still cares enough to do something for them with no strings attached. Several men said the cookies made them feel “human again.” That is no small thing in a place where dignity is often in short supply.

And one man said something that captures the heart of this ministry: **“This weekend is about us. They love us. It feels so human.”**

Thank you for being part of what God accomplished on this weekend at Greenville.

With gratitude,
Rob McClintock & The Kairos #88 Team

Members in Our Prayers



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - The Rev. Phillip W. Martin, Jr.
pmartin@epiphanyelca.org

Pastor - The Rev. Joseph L. Bolick
jbolick@epiphanyelca.org

Pastor - The Rev. Sarah E. Lang
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Visitation Pastor - The Rev. Sarah Menke
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Director of Music Ministry - Kevin Barger
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Finance Manager - Debbie Sexton
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Facilities Manager - Rob Hamlin
rhamlin@epiphanyelca.org

Technology and Media Support - Turner Barger
tbarger@epiphanyelca.org



We will be in the office during these listed times.

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday

9:00 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



Address Service Requested



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


In-Person Summer Worship Times

May 24 - September 6
8:30 am and 10:30 am

Summer Worship on YouTube

May 24 - September 6
10:30 am

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 Instagram: epiphanyelca