

## The Examiner

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

## November 2025

### **Words from Our Pastor**

### All Hallows' Eve

Behold October's final garden flower:
defying frost, contrast with autumn's umber,
upright it stands in fading daylight hour,
refusing to submit to winter slumber.
You foolish daisy, clueless to the season!
Why cling to summer, point to yesterday?
This late warm spell, soon finished, is no reason
to protest the embrace of sure decay.
Yet are we also not by death surrounded,
our hope and joy absurd to some, but brave—
so rooted in a soil of life unbounded
whose Finest Bloom has sprung from darkest grave?
Deemed foolish by the world his praise we sing
and serve as heralds for the coming spring.



As days shorten and the temperatures get colder, the church (in the northern hemisphere, at least) finds itself entering an end time. November begins with All Saints celebrations and our reflections on the lives of those who've left us in the past year. The month ends with the very beginning of Advent and its reminder that we await the arrival of Jesus' eternal reign of grace and power, always new, but always destructive to the ways of this world that run counter to God's goodness, ways we are too often party to. On the Sundays in between we will hear some parts of Scripture that sound dark and foreboding. While the rest of the world gears up (too early?) for Christmas joy, the church ponders endings, and we're rather serious about it.

This is good. We know Jesus promises life beyond the cross, so we can see the decay and loss around us from a different perspective. The words of Jesus are always with us, and they assure us of hope, a hope that does not disappoint.

As you move into the church's unique November, be encouraged by the news of our faith and the victory of Jesus' light. Share your faith. Do not lose heart.

Yours in Christ's service, Pastor Phillip

## Congregation Information

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE:**

# The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is set for Sunday, November 9, 2025, 12:15 pm and will be held in Price Hall

We will elect new council members (see bios on the next page) and adopt our 2026 budget.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 12:15 pm in Price Hall. At the meeting, we will elect new council members and adopt the 2026 budget. Immediately following the meeting, lunch will be served in Price Hall. The menu includes sandwich wraps (including gluten free), sides, chips, dessert and drinks.



Will you be joining us for lunch? Please let us know by clicking on the signupgenius link located in the weekly online announcements and the Sunday Bulletin or signing up on the sign-up sheet located on the table in the Commons outside of the Narthex.

### Deadline to sign up for lunch is Sunday November 2, 2025

Please know that you are welcome to bring your own meal if you have any dietary restrictions or would feel more comfortable bringing your own food.

## **Daylight Saving Time Ends!**

On November 1, 2:00 am, daylight saving time will end again and we'll set our clocks back by an hour. Mark your calendars on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>November 1</u> to turn the clocks back one hour before bedtime. Great time to check your smoke detectors too!



## Filled with Joy; Abounding in Hope

## **CONSECRATION SUNDAY 2025: December 7**

During one of our recent worship services our Cherub Choir sang a song that included a loud refrain, "Again I say rejoice!" Their enthusiasm and mastery of the lyrics was so powerful it was as if they were inviting us into a competition. Who can say "rejoice" louder? The wide smiles on the congregation as the children sang made me really wonder who might win!

As the congregation prepares for Consecration Sunday on December 7, we will be reflecting on the ways God has given us opportunities to rejoice. We will also be thinking ahead into 2026 and pondering the hopes we have for ministry here as we walk the journey of faith, worship the Christ, and witness together. Part of that celebration will involve a special worship message on December 7, given by members of our congregation, and a breakfast in the Commons between services. Members will be given the opportunity to respond in their joy and hope by returning a commitment card with their intended giving for 2026.



We are also happy to announce the return of the celebration meal on the evening of Consecration Sunday. At 5:00 pm we will gather for a sit-down meal in Price Hall, graciously prepared by a member of the congregation. Once we are finished eating we will travel to our front lawn for a grand illumination of our Christmas lights display. This year will be the second year that our newly-refurbished cross will shine from the top of the cross.

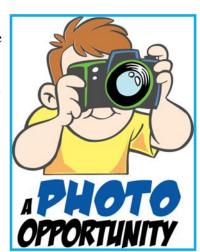
Filled with joy, abounding in hope. This is a refrain that we sing through our faith every Sunday, every week. We hope to see you on December 7 as we consecrate our gifts to the Lord and enjoy fellowship with our church family.

# Picture Days at Epiphany!! Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Commons

Many of you have already uploaded your photo or family photo into the Realm directory but we are still in need of photographs of many of our members for the directory to be truly useful.

Members of Epiphany's Evangelism Team will be available in the Commons on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm to take individual and family photographs and will download the photographs into the Realm directory. You will not have to do a thing but show up and smile!

Don't worry if you are not available on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Evangelism Team plans to hold additional Picture Days in December and January – dates to be announced. Questions? Contact Linda Martin at the Church Office (804) 282-6066.



## Council Nominees for 3-year term beginning February 2026

### **Carl Erickson**

My wife, Erika, and I have been members of Epiphany since 1985 after relocating from NYC. Two of our children were baptized and all three were confirmed at Epiphany. I myself was baptized as an adult here. I am a retired RN having worked most of my career at VCUMC. I currently serve as a volunteer nurse at The Health Brigade, aka Fan Free Clinic.

I have at one time or another served as a Sunday school teacher and confirmation mentor. I currently serve as an usher and reader/communion assistant. I also coordinate Red Cross blood drives at the church. I look at serving on council as my way to "pay back" the Epiphany community for its absolutely essential support of my faith journey.



### Jane Huddle

My husband, Jim, and I moved to the Richmond area in July 2021 to be closer to our two married children and our grandchildren. We joined Epiphany Lutheran Church shortly afterwards. I am currently a choir member, have volunteered with Vacation Bible School, been a Sunday School class leader and was very involved in the Church's implementation of Realm.

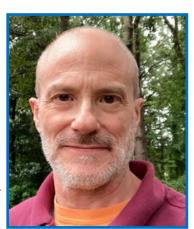
My career was in Information Technology at Duke Energy Corporation in Charlotte, NC and I have extensive knowledge of computer applications and implementations. My previous Church in Charlotte was Myers Park Baptist Church, where I was elected to the Board of Deacons (similar to the Church Council responsibilities). I also served in many leadership roles, including the Chair position of the Finance Committee, the Human Resources Committee, the Worship and Music Committee, the Information Technology Group and Co-Chair of the Annual Stewardship Campaign. I believe my background and skills will be helpful and I am pleased to be nominated for service on the Church Council.



### **Matt Greenshields**

Matt and Nancy have been members here at Epiphany since 1986. During that time, Matt served a term as Treasurer and two terms on Council including the offices of Secretary, Vice President, and President. Matt served as a 5th/6th grade teach along with Rob McClintock for 25 years prior to the Pandemic, when the Holy Spirit called him to adult faith formation leadership. Matt also serves as an usher, lay assistant, lectionary reader, leader of the Liberation Veterans Service meals, and is active on the Community Service Ministry Team.

Matt received his bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University, an MBA from Indiana University, and retired last July from a 40+ year career in market research. Matt and Nancy have been married 41 years and are blessed with three children-Jack, Kimberly, and Mike- as well as two beautiful granddaughters Maeve and Quinn.



## **Insights for Your Upcoming Holiday Visits**

As the holidays approach, many of us may be visiting with family and friends we haven't seen in awhile. While visits and catching up are sources of joy and connection, they can also sometimes be a source of anxiety if you will be visiting with a loved one who is experiencing new or progressing memory loss. You may be anxious about how to interact with your loved one, perhaps anticipating what will have changed, how they will be, how you will handle it. If any of this connects with where you find yourself this holiday season, take heart and take a breath.

Perhaps the best thing to remember as you anticipate your upcoming visits is that **your presence matters**. *Isolation is among the most common social and spiritual concerns those with memory loss and their caregivers face*. Your presence in and of itself is already a gift.

And while we rest in that confidence of this truth, here are a few tips that may help you find your footing when visiting loved ones with memory loss over the next few months:

**Resist the urge to quiz and question.** It can be tempting to ask questions like, "do you know who I am?" or "Where are we right now?", but doing so can sometimes raise the anxiety of your loved one with memory loss. Instead, offer information freely: "Hi Aunt Sue, it's me, Holly!" or "It's so good to be here at Catherine's house with you, mom! Isn't her living room beautiful?"

Remember that individuals with memory loss can have a lowered ability to assert themselves in conversation. Offer a good pause when waiting for someone with memory loss to respond. While our impulse may be to keep talking or fill in perceived gaps, allow some time for your loved one to share whatever comes to mind. If it takes you in a different direction than the conversation was originally going, ride that wave and see where it takes you.

Its ok to feel unsure about what's helpful, what to say, what to do. But don't let that uncertainty keep you from showing up.

Have a few simple activities in mind. Knowing that conversation can be difficult for folks with memory loss, think about some other ways to share time together. Listening to Christmas hymns or looking at old pictures can provide meaningful opportunities for connection beyond words.

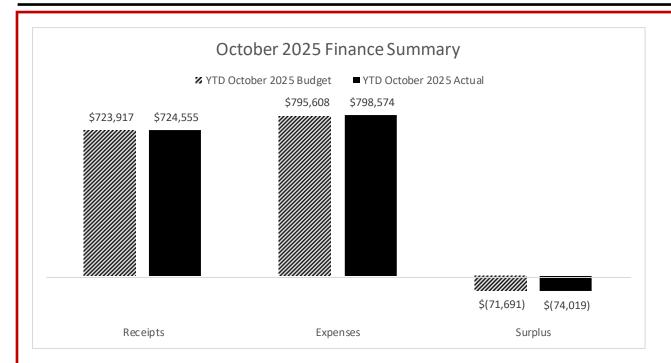
And finally, when in doubt, hold their hand. As we will celebrate in this upcoming Advent and Christmas season, there is a true gift in an embodied presence. You—your flesh and bone, your breath abiding with your loved one matters. The road we walk with those who face memory loss is not easy. But our God is with us and gives us grace as we navigate the journey together.

Blessings, Pastor Sarah Menke Visitation Pastor





## Finance Ministry



YTD October, we had receipts of \$724,555 which were 110% of our budgeted receipts of \$723,917 and \$57,588 or 9% higher than 2024.

Expenses were \$798,574 and \$2,966 unfavorable to plan due to the following:

- Synod expense favorable by \$2,890 as annual meeting was virtual so no in person expense.
- Admin expense unfavorable \$8,463 due to timing of billing for IT services partially offset by several smaller favorable expense categories

### Altar Care Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday morning, when you enter the sanctuary, you find the table set and prepared for Holy Communion. Epiphany's Altar Care team plays a vital role in the life of our community of faith by ensuring that the sanctuary is prepared for worship services. This dedicated group of volunteers is responsible for the care and preparation of the altar, linens and sacred vessels used in our liturgy. Their quiet, behind the scenes work allows our worship to proceed smoothly and reverently. Serving on the Altar Care team is a meaningful way to contribute to the spiritual life of our community, offering your time and talents in service to God and the Congregation.

The Altar Care team needs volunteers for this ministry. Team members volunteer one or two months a year. Volunteers work in teams of two and prepare the sanctuary and clear up after the service for either the early or late service on each Sunday that falls within their volunteer month. Typically, the amount of time to prepare for the service and clear up after the service takes approximately an hour but on special occasions it may take a bit more time.

Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. If you are interested and would like to learn more about altar care, please contact Linda Martin in the church office (804) 282-6066 or <a href="martin@epiphanyelca.org">lmartin@epiphanyelca.org</a>. Thank you.

## Finance Ministry

### 2026 Budget Questions and Answers

What is the budgeted income for 2026 and how does it compare to 2025 Budget? For 2025, we budgeted income of \$962,000. For 2026, we are budgeting 977,100. The changes are as follows:

Offerings: Increase of \$17,300 vs 2025 budget. When compared to our actual/forecasted offerings for 2025, it is a \$32,208 increase which is 3.5% higher.

Interest Income: Decrease of \$3,200 as the invested balances are projected to decline from 2025 due to spending on mortgage payments in excess of general fund support, sabbatical grant, stained glass window, Sanctuary AC replacement and organ repairs which had been granted/reserved over the last few years.

### How does the budgeted income for 2026 compare to forecasted income for 2025?

It is difficult to know as a large portion of our offerings are received in December. At this point, we believe that our offerings for 2026 will be \$32,208 ( $^{\sim}$ 3.5%) higher than our forecasted offerings for 2025.

Forecasted interest income primarily from Vanguard holdings is budgeted to be \$3,200 lower than 2025 as our cash balances are expected to decline from 2025.

You can help! If you plan on making a significant offering in December, please consider moving some of that giving to before December. Also, please consider an increase in your pledge for 2026.

### Why do we have budgeted interest income of \$25,100?

Money not needed in the checking account is currently invested in Money Market Funds which are currently earning close to 4%. We have reduced our interest income budget by \$3,200 for a total of \$25,100 as planned spending was high in 2025 (see previous question) and balances are projected to be lower throughout 2026. Interest income is also impacted as we need to move funds to our checking account to ensure we have adequate coverage to pay expenses.

### What are the major changes in expenses in 2026 vs 2025?

Overall Personnel expenses are increasing \$21,174 or 4.3% higher than the 2025 budget due to merit increase and 13% increase in benefit cost

We have budgeted a 3% increase in Property expense of \$3,934 to ensure we have funds on hand for the continuing increase in costs for building/system repairs, maintenance services and supplies.

We have budgeted a decrease in our BOL Mortgage Reserves, of \$20,394, as much higher revenue growth would be needed to continue to fund reserves at current level.

### What is the relation between our mortgage payments and the budget?

Our actual payments of \$145,000/year are \$95,000 greater than the mortgage reserve transfers in the budget for 2026. Mortgage reserve transfers are monies we set aside each year to build up our reserve for future mortgage payments in addition to our Brighten Our Light funds.

The \$145,000 includes additional principal payments of \$14,000/year.

We are using funds collected during Brighten Our Light and annual payments from the Endowment Fund to supplement the mortgage reserve transfers in the budget to make our mortgage payments. We will need to increase these reserve transfer amounts in the budget each year until we can fully meet our mortgage payments out of the budget.

### When will we need to refinance our mortgage?

Our mortgage balance is \$1,774,000 (as of the end of October).

Our current mortgage rate is 3.875% with a remaining amortization term of 20 years. That rate will reset in 2029. We need to plan for a higher interest rate as current interest rates for our type of loan are considerably higher than 3.875%.

## Music Ministry

### NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT - NOVEMBER 2025

### Children's Corner

The Singing Saints, Cherub Choir and Junior Handbells will meet on November 5 and 12 for rehearsal. Cherub Choir meets from 6:30 – 7:00 in room 104. Singing Saints meet in the Music Room from 6:30 – 7:00. Junior Handbells meet as part of 'Lil Youths on Sunday, November 16 at noon (meet in the Star Lodge). Anyone interested in Steel Crossticks should meet on Sunday, November 9 at 12:15 in the Sala Music Center – this is during the Annual meeting – we will be quick so you can go back and join your parents!



The Singing Saints have a busy month and will be part of worship leadership on November 13. The Cherub Choir will be a part of worship leadership on November 2, while the Singing Saints will help lead us on November 9.

### Epiphany Brass

We are now putting together those that will play for a special anthem on Sunday, November 23 and also for Christmas Eve (at the 7:00 and 9:00 services). If you are interested and available to help out, please contact Kevin at <a href="kevinbarger@epiphanyelca.org">kevinbarger@epiphanyelca.org</a>.

### Why do we have a choir?

Music plays an integral part in our worship service. Can you imagine a Sunday morning worship service at Epiphany without any music at all? It would definitely be a different experience! To help with the musical parts of our worship, we are fortunate to have two chancel choirs (one for each service) to lead and guide us. Besides adding beauty to the service, they help to proclaim the Word. They help us to retell the Gospel story.

Our choirs assist in proclaiming the gospel in worship:

- •The choirs supply rehearsed voices to help worshipers sing new or perhaps more difficult hymns.
- •The choir adds to the joy of hymn singing by offering special settings either of particular stanzas or as part of anthem offereings.
- •The choir assists the pastor, too. It shares our Scripture readings, often with a different take than we might hear fromwords alone.

Choirs anthems are carefully chosen to reflect the theme of the day. In these anthems, the good news is again proclaimed in a different fashion than we might hear from the pulpit.

Have YOU considered being a part of this important ministry? We are always looking for additional voices to join us. All are welcome – with all levels of musical experience. Come join us Sunday mornings at 8 or Wednesday evenings at 7:15 – it is rewarding work!



## We can't reach you if......

That's right! We can't get mail to you, call you or even email you, if we don't have the correct information.

Having the information is very important when visits are made throughout the year by our pastors in particular.

So, send an email with your updated information to Hanne Hamlin in the office,

hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org or give the office a call at 804-282-6066



### POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS

### ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, November 30th

Please consider donating a poinsettia plant to decorate our Chancel this Christmas. The cost of each plant is \$15.00. Payment is due with your order. Checks should be made payable to "Epiphany Lutheran Church" with a notation in the memo line "Poinsettia Order."

Please place your order form and payment in the envelopes provided and place the envelope in the drop box outside of the Church office. Questions? Contact Linda Martin in the Church office. Thank you.



### **Altar Flowers - Price Increase**

Our Florist, Coleman Brothers, have kept our weekly cost for each vase at \$20.00 since at least 2010!

Prices for flowers, containers, shipping, etc., have all increased over the years at the wholesale level. Coleman Brothers has done its best to send us weekly Sunday flowers at no extra cost to us.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the new cost for one vase of flowers will be \$28.00.

Please remember altar flowers are NOT part of our budget. We have weekly altar flowers thanks to your generosity in remembering your loved ones, honoring's, or celebrations.

Your altar flowers, when delivered to members who are hospitalized, homebound or home recovering have this note attached:

These flowers have been in the Sanctuary of the church. They have heard the hymns that were sung, the prayers that were offered, and the sermon that was preached. Now, they come to you, and in their silent way are telling you of God's love and healing power, and the wish of the members of Epiphany Lutheran Church that you be blessed with faith, hope, health, and happiness.



## November 2, All Saints Sunday - Those We Remember

Shirley Spangler Lary Diehl Debbie Turner

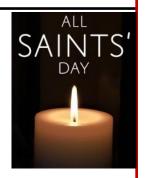
Nancy Fouse Mary Lee Leigh Gayle Farrow

Herb Nichols Alice Hack Wilson Johnson

Bill Van O'Linda Barb Van O'Linda Kent Hill

Jimmy Sturcken Shirley Nunnally Art Gunlicks

\*Not pictured - Nancy Caruso





## Congregation News

## What is Service?

To understand the definition of service to others, consider these key points:

- Involves actions aimed at helping individuals or communities.
- Focuses on selflessness and altruism rather than personal gain.
- Can take many forms, including volunteering, mentoring, or providing support.
- Enhances social connections and fosters a sense of community.
- Encourages empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives.
- Contributes to personal growth and fulfillment through acts of kindness.

So the question is, what are you being called to do? We have many, many ways you can get involved. Maybe you only have time to give a gift to Giving Tree? Make lunches for MoHope? Cookies for the Prison Ministry, Property needs, serving as usher, or lay assistant? The list can go on!

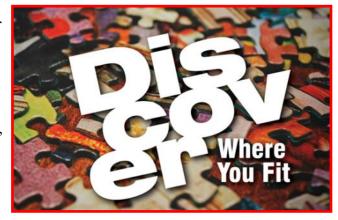
I see many opportunities here at our church.

Did you know that we have ministries here that are inactive because we can't find volunteers?

Ask God through prayer for his guidance on ways in which you can feel the fulfillment in your heart. We have plenty of ways to get involved on a one time basis or even as it fits your schedule.

Call Hanne Hamlin or Linda Martin in the church office or email us!

804-282-6066, Hanne, hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org or Linda, lmartin@epiphanyelca.org





The Archives Team which up to now has been totally male is looking for women members. Some rudimentary knowledge of the use of laptops is needed. Hopefully the meetings will be limited to once a month. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about the history of Epiphany, especially with our 75th anniversary coming up in 2027. If you are interested, please call Hanne in the church office. 804-282-6066. If you would first like to know more about what you would be doing as an archivist call Barry Westin at 804-263-3885. We hope to hear from you!





## **November Baptism Birthdays**



### **Altar Care**

### Thank you to those who served in September:

First Service - Poppy Ebbesen and Pamela Bosserman Second Service - Beth Barger and Bobbie Jo Carroll

### Altar Care for October:

First Service - Bonita and Alvah Wyatt, Janet and Bob Johnson Second Service - Margaret Risher and Jean Henry

## 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.



## **Upcoming Opportunities to Serve Our Neighbors**

**Thanksgiving Box Collection** - October 19 - November 13

**Giving Tree Begins - November 18** 

**Liberation Veterans Dinner** – December 30



## 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! We will not gather on Sunday, November 30 for Sunday School. Join us instead in Price Hall at 9:45 am for an Advent Workshop for families, children, and adults!

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



### **Exploring the Bible**

Third Graders and Their Parent(s)
Sundays, November 16 & 23

Children who recently received new study Bibles on October 19 are reminded of the two upcoming classes on November 16 & 23 to learn more about their Bibles! A parent(s) is encouraged to attend along with their child(ren). We'll gather at 9:45-10:45 am in the Conference Room to explore the Bible and make crafts that can be used with the Bible.



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

## Vacation Bible School will be June 8-12, 2026!

Registration will open in early 2026. As you look towards summer plans and camps, we'll hope you'll save the date and plan to participate!

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.

## Faith Formation

## **Faith Foundations for Families**

Epiphany partners with families to help fulfill the baptismal promises we make together by presenting Bibles at significant milestones in children's lives and teaching children about important parts of our faith—
like how and why we worship and Holy Communion. Here's what's been happening
and a preview of what's next!

### **Bible Presentation**

On October 19, seven of our children received new Bibles during worship (from left to right below: (Hunter Christopherson, 8:30 am; and Stella Ragusa, Wren Hill, Charlie Tehovnik, Luke Duignam, Jasper Martin, and Jaquelyn Lauder, 11:00 am). We're so grateful for the ways Epiphany fulfills its baptismal promises to its children "to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures."







## **Learning About Worship**

Kindergarteners and their families gathered with Pastor Joseph on October 5 for a special class!

Together with Pastor Joseph and their parents, children learned about the different parts of worship and explored how God's love meets us through the Word and Sacraments (baptism and Holy Communion). From the pulpit, children proclaimed, "The Gospel of the Lord!" and from the altar, "The Lord be with you!"

At the font, they splashed in water and were marked with the sign of the cross.

We're grateful for the ways children share their gifts of joy, wonder, and creativity with our community and especially during worship!

## Faith Formation

## Advent Resources & Devotions Available for use at Home



**For Families**—Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany.

**For Children and Youth**—An Advent Calendar.

Count the days leading to Christmas by opening windows on this calendar each day. Each day's message adds a

character to the pop-up Nativity scene.

**For Adults**—An Advent Devotional book written by members and friends of Epiphany! This year in Faith Formation, we're gathering around

the theme "God is Love!" and dwelling on the passage from 1 John 4:7-8 that reads: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Advent and Christmas are perfect seasons to reflect upon the ways in which God is Love! During Advent, we clear pathways in our lives, in our minds, and in our hearts for God's love to make a home in us. We pray urgently, especially during Advent, for the places and people in the world who long for peace, hope, love, and joy. Together, in community, we await the final Advent of God's love when Christ will return. Throughout the season of Christmas, we give thanks to God for the gift of love made known in Jesus who comes to dwell among us with vulnerability and grace.

Join friends of Epiphany as we reflect upon the gift of God's love this Advent.



# All About Advent: An Intergenerational Advent Event! Sunday, November 30—Price Hall 9:45-10:45 am

Adults, children and youth of all ages, families and friends are invited to an Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 30 between services (9:45-10:45 am) in Price Hall.

In past years, we've created Advent wreaths, and we'll offer that again this year and MORE! Time will be set aside for a brief Advent devotional, families can make wreaths to take home AND to share with a homebound member. Additional Advent activities will be available for children and families. Supplies will be provided.

Advent begins Sunday, November 30! This is a perfect opportunity to prepare the way for your own families and our homebound. Join us!

## Faith Formation for Adults

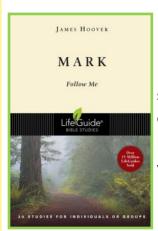


Advent Wreaths for the Homebound Sunday, November 30 9:45-10:45 am in Price Hall

Join us in Price Hall on Sunday, November 30 for our Advent Intergenerational Event! Participants will have a chance to create Advent resources to use at home for themselves AND/OR cre-

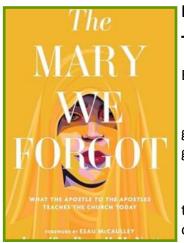
ate an Advent Wreath to gift to a homebound member. This year we're asking for volunteers to deliver the gifts. Sign-up <a href="here">here</a> if you're able to deliver a gift or two and share joy this Advent!

## **Mid-Week Adult Opportunities**



## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY 10:30-Noon in the Parlor

This fall our group is 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. It emphasizes Jesus as the **Messiah and Son of God** who came to serve and suffer, with a focus on his crucifixion as the culmination of God's plan. Join us!



### **MOMS' BIBLE STUDY**

## Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

Epiphany Moms' Bible Study (MBS) has moved to Thursday EVENINGS!

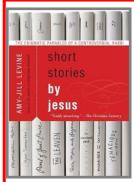
Moms' Bible Study (MBS) is open to moms of any age, with kids of any age. Our group started almost 20 years ago, and as our kids have grown, so has our group. All moms are welcome!

In November, we begin a new book *The Mary We Forgot*, a book that traces the ministry of Mary Magdalene, the first apostle of the good news and a model of discipleship for both men and women today.

Questions? Contact Amy Boyle aimandbub@msn.com or 804-347-2724.

## Faith Formation for Adults

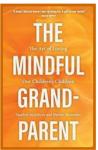
## **Sunday Morning Opportunities**



Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi Sundays, November 2, 9, 16

Star Lodge, 9:45—10:45 am

Join Pastor Tom Bosserman and Matt Greenshields for this interactive study of Jesus' parables using Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Short Stories by Jesus*. Each week the group will read a different parable by Jesus, view a short video, and share in discussion.



Faith-filled Grandparenting: Continued Conversation!

9:45-10:45 am

**Bonhoeffer Room** 

November 2, 9, 16, 23; December 7, 14

Join with facilitators Jim and Jane Huddle and other church members for conversation about grandparenting today! Participants can ask questions, share experiences, receive advice/ideas and learn ways to incorporate your faith and values in the interactions with your grandchildren and children. New topics will be offered for discussion (so it won't be a repeat

for those that attended last year). Recent and experienced grandparents are welcome!



Blessed and Stressed 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). Sunday school is available for children ages 2 and up. If you have children who are not yet old enough for Sunday school, they are welcome to join us in Blessed & Stressed or can also play in the staffed nursery. 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!



Three Conversations on Dickens' A Christmas Carol

9:45-10:45 am

Star Lodge

November 23, December 7, 14

"Three Conversations on Dickens' A Christmas Carol" is a three session class reflecting on the continuing influences of Dickens' novella, the work of the spirits, and the themes of hope, redemption, and transformation. Read or watch a telling of this story ahead of the classes if you can. Join with Tim Gorde, new(er) member of Epiphany and retired United Methodist minister, for this engaging Advent class!

## Youth Ministry 2025-2026

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 --

Winter Celebration is a weekend retreat which will take place Friday, January 23rd through Sunday, January 25th, 2026 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. Your friends are welcome to come with us.

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

Winter Celebration
OUR ANNUAL WINTER FAITH FORMATION EVENT FOR 9TH
THROUGH 12TH GRADE YOUTH & THEIR ADULT ADVISORS
Jan. 23-25, 2026 - Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg

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, 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!

Early Registration discount ends Dec. 15, 2025!



## 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 2025 - 2026**

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.

### **NOVEMBER**

Sunday, November 9 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm—we will be hosting the Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church Youth Group!

Sunday, November 16 - Lil Youth (4-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Friday to Sunday, November 21-23 ~ Lost and Found Retreat (7-8th grade)

Sunday, November 23 - Winter Celebration (9-12th Grade Retreat) registration due to church office

Sunday, November 30 ~ Epiphany Youth Group, 12-5:00 pm, meet in Star Lodge (Leaf Raking)

#### **DECEMBER**

Sunday, December 7 ~ Lil Youth (4-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm Sunday, December 14 ~ Epiphany Youth Group Christmas Party (7-12th grade) Caroling and tacky lights, 5-9:00 pm.



## YOUTH MINISTRY 2025 – 2026 (continued)

### **JANUARY**

Sunday, January 11 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Monday January 19 ~ Epiphany Youth Group and Lil Youth MLK Service Project, Star Lodge, 9:00 am – noon

Friday -Sunday, January 23-25 ~ Winter Celebration Retreat (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade)



### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday, Feb 1 - Lil Youth (4-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, February 8 - Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Winter Olympics, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, February 8 ~ 7th Day Retreat (5-6th Grade) registration due to church office

Sunday, February 22 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

### **MARCH**

Saturday - Sunday, March 7-8 ~ 7th Day Retreat for 5-6th grade

Sunday, March 8 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, March 22 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

### **APRIL**

Sunday, April 12 - Epiphany Youth Group (7-12th Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday April, 19 - Lil Youth (4-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Friday - Saturday, April 24-25 - Synod Youth Summit - Location and details to follow

Sunday, April 26 Epiphany Youth Group (7-12th Grades) Star Lodge, Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

### MAY

Sunday, May 3 Epiphany Youth Group (7-12th Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm, (Youth Sunday planning)

Saturday, May 9 - Youth Sunday final rehearsal (if-needed)

Sunday, May 10 Youth Sunday! Youth lead worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am!

Sunday, May 17 - Lil Youth Field Day (4-6<sup>th</sup> Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

\*Class of 2026 Graduation Party\* - Details and location to follow

### CALLING ALL COLLEGE ADDRESSES!!!

The church office needs updated mailing addresses for all of our college/university students. If you are at college/university or have a child at college/university this fall, please send <u>updated</u> mailing info to

<u>hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org</u> or drop it by the church office when you come to worship on a Sunday. Thank you!!



### Hello Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade Families!

We know that this is an exciting time of the year for you with lots of new adventures and we're so excited to invite you to join us for...

## 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, November 16

Sunday, December 7

Monday, January 19 – MLK Service Day 9:00 am - noon

Sunday, February 1

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

Sunday, April 19

Sunday, May 17 - 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**

## Property Ministry November 2025

So, for a November article I relate all the events from October, and there was a lot going on. Seems as though once October arrives, all thoughts go to the end of the month with Halloween. Then it's November and we look

ahead to Thanksgiving, then as soon as December hits it's Christmas. Happy New Year! It all goes by so fast in the last quarter, I get motion sickness just typing this!

Let's slow down and reflect on just how much has been accomplished in October. While we eat a piece of Halloween candy...

Russ Johnson and I started the month with a long-awaited installation of a piece of playground equipment that had been on order by Melinda Martin, Director of Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School (ELNS). The "disco daisy" is now a rockin' favorite on the small playground.



Russ continued with power washing the front of the church brick which you'll see in some of the before and after pics shortly. Then it was on to weed whacking the drain pool out front. Looks like a golf course now!

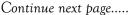






I was able to finish cutting back the large camellia tree that had been blocking the Luther Rose stained glass panel behind the organ. It's a subtle change, but light now streams in unobstructed for Sunday worship.

I hope you all enjoy the new feature in our bulletin, the stained glass scavenger hunt. We have so many beautiful panels that are worth discovering.



## Property Ministry, cont'd

Steve Collins continues to assist the team as we replace/upgrade lighting fixtures and bleed radiators before the cold weather sets in. He also is keeping an eye on James River as we await our Sanctuary AC replacement. Parts have been ordered, and installation is scheduled to begin this month. We've replaced one of the classroom units as well.

An anonymous donor approached me regarding our plantings (or lack thereof) at the front of the church. During our last cleanup gathering in August, we removed some dying bushes outside the Narthex. That area and the walkway ramp sorely needed some TLC. This donor provided the 3 cherry laurel plants for the Narthex area, as well as 9 miniature Japanese laurel bushes for the ramp area. Russ whacked the dying brush along the walkway, and I removed the stumps along the building. A bit of work, but they are all installed, mulched, and

should beautify our "front lawn" for many years. Faye Coppage has agreed to help maintain this area, as she has for the liriope plantings under our main cross.

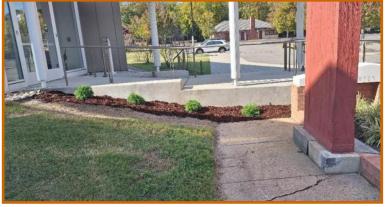












## Property Ministry, cont'd





Cryptomeria Globosa Nana

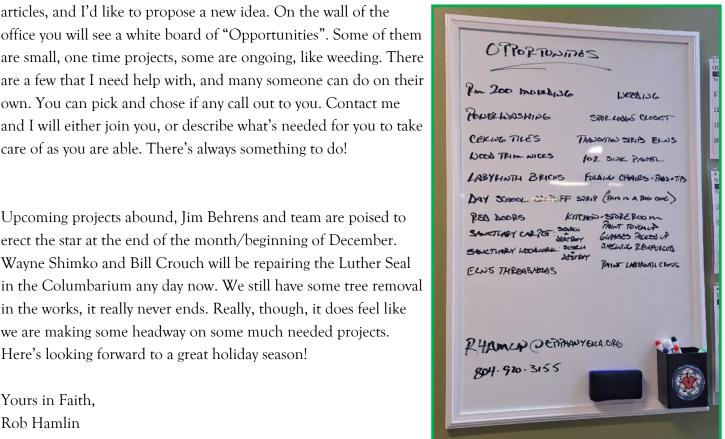


That's an opportunity for anyone willing to pitch in to help. You all have read my gentle pleas for help in past articles, and I'd like to propose a new idea. On the wall of the office you will see a white board of "Opportunities". Some of them are small, one time projects, some are ongoing, like weeding. There are a few that I need help with, and many someone can do on their own. You can pick and chose if any call out to you. Contact me

care of as you are able. There's always something to do!

Upcoming projects abound, Jim Behrens and team are poised to erect the star at the end of the month/beginning of December. Wayne Shimko and Bill Crouch will be repairing the Luther Seal in the Columbarium any day now. We still have some tree removal in the works, it really never ends. Really, though, it does feel like we are making some headway on some much needed projects. Here's looking forward to a great holiday season!

Yours in Faith, Rob Hamlin Facilities Manager



## Fellowship Ministry



## Guys' Night

Join us on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship. We will gather at The Answer Brewpub 6008 West Broad Street Richmond 23230. 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 October 8, in the Parlor.

Brenda Barnes gave our devotion, based on a passage from the book, <u>Jesus Calling</u>. As we go about our daily lives, always remember that Jesus walks with us - in the good and more difficult times.

During our program we learned about some of the ministries our Epiphany congregation supports. Circle members shared their knowledge of the different organizations in which they are involved.

Our next regular meeting will be November 11. We will meet in the Church Parlor. Carol Diehl will give the Devotion. The Program will be collecting items for those individuals & families staying at the Reinhart House. Afterwards, we will meet for lunch at Jason's Deli (Willow Lawn).

**Items suggested for collection** – Clorox Wipes, Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer, a gift card from Walmart or Kroger.

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 will gather to meet this month on Tuesday, November 11, at 10:00 am. in the Commons. We will be studying the women of the Old Testament. We welcome you if you would like to join us to learn more about these special women.

Last month we studied Sarah, the matriarch in the Bible, the mother of nations. See below our pictures taken at our October meeting below.



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.

**Katie Luther Circle** will meet on Thursday, November 13. Invitations will be emailed a week before that date. If you are interested in joining our circle, please contact Tatter Hartmann at 804 338 3578 or maryhartmann279@gmail.com

# Christmas Tea



## Women's Christmas Tea – All Ladies Invited! Wednesday, December 3, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 pm in Price Hall

The Women of the ELCA are hosting our annual Christmas Tea and invite all ladies of the congregation to join us. We will be serving a variety of teas in our fine China Teacups and finger foods.

This year there is a **White Elephant Gift Exchange**\*. Please bring a wrapped gift (or in a gift bag) with no identification on it, worth no more than \$10, quite possibly something you already have and would like to re-gift. There will be extra wrapped gifts on hand, should you need one for any reason. Look forward to having a fun time!

The recipient of our donations this year will be **Safe Harbor**. **Donations most needed are gift cards to Kroger or Walmart in the amounts of \$25-\$35.** Safe Harbor will be in a swing location preparing for their upcoming move so these gift cards will help the women purchase necessary items while waiting to move to their new location. Safe Harbor provides the support that survivors of sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking need to overcome their crisis and to transform their lives. https://safeharborshelter.com.

### \*What is a White Elephant Gift Exchange?

A White Elephant Gift Exchange is a party game where amusing, impractical, or festive gifts are exchanged for the entertainment of all. The goal of a white elephant gift exchange is to entertain party-goers rather than to give or acquire a genuinely valuable or highly sought item.

Each participant supplies a gift. Gifts are placed in a central location where everyone can see them. Ladies' will be given a number prior to the start of the game for their turn to select a gift.

The first person opens a wrapped gift and their turn ends. On subsequent turns, each person has the choice to either unwrap a new present or to steal another's. When a person's gift is stolen, that person can either choose another wrapped gift to open or can steal from another player. Each gift can only be stolen two times per game (which means the third holder of the gift keeps it). At the end of the game, the first player is allowed to steal someone else's gift, even a gift that is out of play.

## 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!



## Our October 25, 2025 Ministry- Moments of Hope Saturday Lunch Serving

On behalf of the Community Service Ministry Committee, we thank all of you who participated in providing 10 (or more!) lunches for Mo Hope's Saturday Lunch Serving on October 25. 320 lunches were delivered and what was not served at the lunch was taken to the Moments of Hope Resource Center. A special thank you to the Little Youth Group for assembling the Halloween candy bags and to our team of Community Ministry Members who volunteered to make this ministry so successful and seamless.

Some congregational members may not know a lot about Moments of Hope ministry. Below is a brief explanation from their website about what they do.

"Moments of Hope Outreach operates a resource center in the city of Richmond. MoHope provides emergency shelter to our unsheltered neighbors, operates a food pantry, and hosts a weekly community outreach luncheon rain or shine with a mobile pantry, health screenings, bike shop, clothing ministry, fellowship and prayer. We began as a one-man homeless outreach in late 2014, began serving Saturday lunches in late 2015, became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2016, launched our emergency shelter program in 2017, and opened our food pantry in January 2019. "Mo Hope" serves Caroline, Hanover, Henrico and King William counties, and the city of Richmond, Virginia.

More details and ways to help can be found on their website at MomentsofHopeoutreach.org. Or you can follow them on Facebook at Moments of Hope Outreach. We plan to have two lunch servings again in 2026. We hope that you will support this worthwhile organization at these future events.

## **The Giving Tree**

Epiphany's Giving Tree supports families in our community at Christmastime. This year we will have 222 stars on the tree! The Giving Tree goes up on November 18 and gifts are due back on December 9. This

community outreach ministry takes a lot of volunteers. Take a look at this sign-up genius and see where you can help. <a href="https://">https://</a>

www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4CAFAA22A6FE3-59347204-giving

Thank you for your generous support of this community service ministry. It is exciting to be able to offer gifts to the families in our neighborhood.

Questions? Contact Amy Boyle aimandbub@msn.com or 804-347-2724



## Community Service Ministry, cont'd

## **Thanksgiving Meal Ministry**

Your generosity and support has made it possible to provide over 100 Thanksgiving baskets (reusable bags) to four Henrico County public schools, however we are still in need of monetary donations.

If you are able, please consider making a donation that will go towards purchasing gift cards (\$25) at any grocery store, so our families can buy any needed perishable food items.



The Community Service Team thanks you!

### **Liberation Veteran Services**

I want to thank everyone who helped with the Liberation Veteran Services meal on September 30. Your efforts made it possible for us to feed 18 veterans that evening and they were very grateful for the fine dinner you prepared. Meal providers included:

Jean Henry

Mary Sue Oehler

Peggy Hinson

Beth Ann Gustafson

Joyce Stahl

Ramona Schaeffer

Linda Martin

Faye Coppage

Bonita Wyatt

Brenda Barnes

Jane Wilson

Tanya Dolphin



Our next opportunity to serve the veterans will be on Tuesday, December 30. We'll have the Sign-Up Genius posted in early December for our food and serving needs. Please let me know whether you have any questions!

Matt Greenshields 804-306-7720 nwgreenshields@comcast.net

## Community Service Ministry, cont'd

### 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

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.

### ALWAYS COMING BACK

A good boomerang comes back to you when you throw it. Of course if it doesn't come back then it's just a stick—coming back is the key.

Sometimes in our lives there are things that don't come back—places where we grew up, school friends, clothing styles, cars, and special songs. More importantly, there are also family and friends we lose, jobs that are taken away, a vigorous health in decline, or a spouse no longer married. With serious life situations individuals can experience depression, anxiety, or isolation and not know what to do or if there is anyone to talk to.

A Stephen Minister will be there for you and will always come back to you. For about an hour every week your Stephen Minister will listen to you without judgment, listen to you in strict confidence, and listen to what you are really saying. It is only when you let your feelings out that Christ can come in with his healing love and care. A Stephen Minister will continue coming to see you as long as you want him or her.



If you or anyone you know needs a Stephen Minister or you want to know more about the program, please contact Pastor Phillip or Ben Droste (Stephen Leader). For almost twenty years men and women with various life conflicts have been helped by Epiphany's Stephen Ministers and their Christ-centered care.

## Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School News



October has been a busy and fun-filled month at ELNS. We spent time learning about pumpkins and doing numerous pumpkin-related art projects, lessons, and units. We even did some pumpkin carving and some pumpkin science experiments. Of course, we also participated in many spooktacular activities in our classes as the excitement built throughout the month for Halloween. At ELNS, that frenzy culminated in our annual Halloween Parade. All students and staff were invited to wear their costumes and we

had a little parade for our parents and families to watch. After the parade, we had a lovely picnic complete with a little trunk-or-treat and even a face painter for our entire ELNS community to enjoy together.

In November, our school theme will be thankfulness. We will take time to remember the many things for which we can be thankful as well as find ways to share our blessings with others. Each class will make a turkey box and work throughout the month to fill it with food and items that can be donated to the food pantry. Our students will also use their art skills this month to create Thanksgiving cards that will be placed in the Thanksgiving food boxes given to families through the efforts of the Epiphany community service team.

Turkeys will also be at the top of our thoughts in November as we prepare for Thanksgiving! There will no doubt be lots of turkeys created in a variety of ways in our classes as well as some gobbler related songs and stories shared. Each classroom learns about the season in different ways with some classes learning about traditional thanksgiving foods and habits, some learning about the historical participants in Thanksgiving, and some talking about the manners expected of us when we sit down with our family to share the Thanksgiving meal no matter what that might look like in our home. Learning to use "please" and "thank you" is also another way to show we are thankful each and every day.





While we are practicing our thank yous, we want to be sure to say thank you to the members of Epiphany for their continued support. We appreciated all of the school supply donations to help us get our school year started this fall. We also want to say a HUGE thank you to Rob Hamlin and all of his volunteers who help keep the education wing and playgrounds in tip-top shape for us throughout the year. Thank you to all who have helped install our new playground equipment, make sure our doors, lights, and fire equipment are all in good working order, and so much more!

We wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving as we all take time to remember and be thankful for our many blessings.

Sincerely, Melinda Martin Program Director



## Members in Our Prayers

During illness or recuperation ~

For those serving in the Armed Forces ~

For the families and friends of those who died ~

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them ~





### **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 slang@epiphanyelca.org Visitation Pastor - The Rev. Sarah Menke smenke@epiphanyelca.org Director of Music Ministry - Kevin Barger kbarger@epiphanyelca.org Office Administrator - Hanne Hamlin hhamlin@epiphanyelca.org Coordinator of Community Life - Linda Martin lmartin@epiphanyelca.org Finance Manager - Debbie Sexton dsexton@epiphanyelca.org 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 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



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **In-Person Worship Times**

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

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Online Summer Worship Times on} \\ \underline{\textbf{YouTube}} \end{array}$ 

September 7-May 17 **11:00 am** 

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranRVA

■ Instagram: epiphanyelca

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