



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

The Examiner

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

October 2025

Words from Our Pastor

Every Sunday during worship I sit right across the giant ranks of pipes above the choir. They are loud and they are shiny, and I like hearing Kevin make them sing. But I've learned that most of the work done by the organ is actually in the wall behind the pipes. In a small room accessible through a door in our main hallway stands a ladder that leads up to a vast system of bellows, wind chambers, and fans that actually make the organ function. The pipes are showy and visible on the outside, but the air flowing behind it is the key to its sound.

This is a lot like how the congregation works, too. There are "up front" things that get our immediate attention when we become involved in a congregation—things like worship, youth programs, service projects and Bible studies—but behind all of it are the indispensable supportive structures that help make the church our ministry home.

As it happens, Epiphany has undertaken enormous improvements and repairs on some of our building's big-ticket supportive structures in the past two years. So much of it goes on behind-the-scenes, and unless you've served on Council you might not be aware of just how extensive these efforts have been. Here's a summary of the main items:

In 2023 we replaced our boiler for about \$80,000. Capital Boiler Works gave us a brand new, more efficient boiler that heats the sanctuary and the Faith Formation Wing.

In 2025 we began maintenance work on our pipe organ. You may have read about that project in Kevin's article in a recent newsletter. This project encompassed a long-overdue cleaning and the addition of new sound features that increase the versatility of the instrument. That work is slated to be completed in late fall of this year, but I can already hear the difference in the organ! All told, that work cost the church approximately \$50,000.

In 2025 we also contracted with Willet Stained Glass to repair some warping and regular wear and tear to our stained glass windows. Some of that work has been focused on the large Jesus window in the narthex, the one that is illuminated at night for people to see as they drive by. This work will total around \$79,000 and was completed on September 28! Without attention to this wear and tear we risked losing that beautiful window.

And if you worshiped with us this summer, you are aware that our 27-year-old sanctuary air conditioner finally "gave up the ghost." After receiving various bids, Council has opted for a new system built by James River Air. This project came in at just under \$90,000 and will be completed by the end of this year...plenty of time to get ready for summer 2026.

Cumulatively that is some really heavy lifting for the congregation in the finances department. Thanks to the generosity of specific individual donors over the past year, and thanks to the Epiphany Endowment Fund and our own budget reserves, which are funded through your offerings, we have been able to meet these needs without directly approaching the congregation. While we are still reeling from all of the repairs happening at once, we are grateful for the way that God has provided through you and through those who've gone before us in this time of need.

Pipe organ, HVAC, stained glass windows...rarely do any of these, by themselves, become the impetus for a person to be involved in a congregation. And yet, without features like these, much of our "up front" ministry



would be difficult to undertake. Things would be too cold, too hot, not as beautiful, and too quiet!

Thank you for the ways in which you support the “behind-the-scenes” ministries and aspects of our congregation’s common life. And thanks to God for the gift of this building—and all of its rooms—where so much of Christ’s ministry can occur. And a special thanks to the “behind-the-scenes” people too, who’ve arranged and advised the repairs and maintenance: Rob Hamlin, Steve Collins, Will Klick, and Kevin Barger.

Yours in our Lord’s service,

Pastor Phillip

Epiphany turns 75 in 2027!

That’s right! We are a little more than a year away from celebrating a major birthday in the life of our congregation, giving God thanks for the way the Spirit has led and formed ministry here for three quarters of a century!

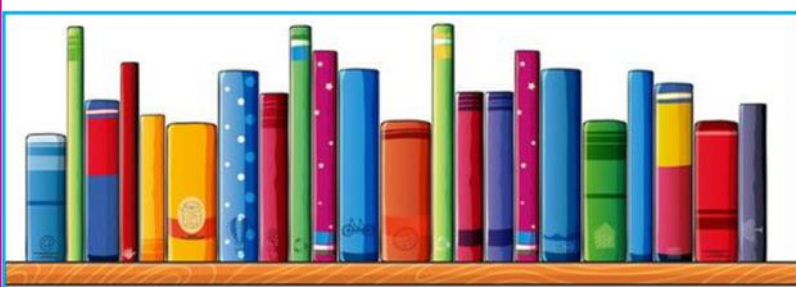
Church Council is in the planning stages of marking this event with celebrations and events that will bring us together and help us look forward to the next decades of God’s mission here. They are also planning on embarking on a capital appeal to help pay down some of the congregation’s debt, upgrade aspects of our physical plant, and position us for vibrant ministry in the years ahead.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to be a part of organizing this momentous birthday celebrations and the accompanying effort to support Epiphany’s future, please contact Missy Hill at melissadavishill@me.com or Mike Dunavant at dmdunavant@gmail.com. We are currently putting together a steering team that will begin meeting in the next few months. We’d love to have your input and energy!



We Like to Read Too!!

We are in need of children and young adult books for our library stand in the Commons. If you are on a housecleaning binge and clearing out books, please consider donating them to our mini library. Each Sunday we see kids and youth looking through the shelves for a book. It would be great to be able to offer them a variety of books from which to choose. Please drop off your donations in the Church office. Thank you.



Music Ministry

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT – OCTOBER 2025

Children's Corner

The Singing Saints and Cherub Choir will meet October 1, 15, and 22 this month! Cherub Choir meets from 6:30 – 7:00 pm in room 104. Singing Saints meet in the Sala Music Center from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. Cherub Choir will participate in worship on Sunday, October 12 and Singing Saints will participate in worship on Sunday, October 19 at both services.



Steel Crossticks will meet October 19 from 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Sala Music Center. We will be working with the intention of playing in worship on Sunday, November 16. We have purposely streamlined rehearsals for this group, so attendance is very helpful!

Junior Handbells will be meeting as part of our 4th-8th grade gatherings. This will take place October 12.

If you haven't made a decision about participating in Singing Saints, please note that Singing Saints is open to all students in second – sixth grades, and we are looking for anyone that would like to join us! We welcome all!



Epiphany Brass

Members of our brass ensemble will be playing in worship on October 26 (both services). If you are interested in playing and will be available for that day, please contact Kevin as soon as possible, if you have not already done so (kbarger@epiphanyelca.org).

Limited Time? Join us for Reformation Sunday!

We will have special chancel choir music at the 11:00 service on Sunday, October 26. If you can't commit to rehearsals regularly, this might be a great opportunity for you to join the group for a limited trial run! We will be singing *God Is Our Refuge* by Zebulon Highben. We will rehearse the Reformation Sunday piece at the beginning of Wednesday evening rehearsal on Wednesday, October 15 and 22 at about 7:30 pm. If you just want to do this piece, you will be free to go as soon as we finish and move on to other pieces. Please consider joining us for this festive service!





EPIPHANY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Enjoy these autumn blossoms from the Epiphany community garden as we give thanks for another successful growing season. Located behind our garage near the back parking lot, the Epiphany Community Garden has been a ministry of the congregation since 2010! This year we had seven different individuals and groups tend twelve plots. Tomatoes, asparagus, peppers, potatoes, squash, and various herbs were grown and harvested. Thank you to Chris and Bill Crouch and Sallie Bartholomew for keeping this ministry thriving!



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.



Rally Day Service Projects



Thank you to everyone that came to help us with our Rally Day, God's Work. Our Hands Projects on September 7th.

From sorting collections to tying knots in the quilts and securing the quilt borders we had a very successful morning!



October 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

Blood Drive - October 12

Thanksgiving Box Collection - October 19 - November 9

Moments of Hope Lunch Service – October 25

Giving Tree - later in November

Liberation Veterans Dinner – December 30





The Faith Formation Team along with EYG will host a Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26! Members and friends of Epiphany are invited to decorate their trunks and distribute candy to Epiphany's trick or treaters! This year we're asking individuals and families who want to host a trunk to [sign-up](#). There will be prizes for silliest trunk, spookiest trunk, and best overall trunk decorations!

Youth, children, and families are invited to dress up and join in for an afternoon of festive fun! We'll trick or treat, create crafts, play games, and we'll gather for lunch before the festivities begin. [Sign-up](#) to be included in a lunch count. A free-will offering will be collected to off-set the cost of lunch.

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 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

Parents--please help us gather important info about your child as we begin this year. If you haven't filled out a [Sunday School form](#) yet, it's not too late!

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!



Learning About Worship

Kindergarteners and their Parents

Sunday, October 5

9:45 am Room 101

Why do we worship? What do we do in worship? What are the different parts of our worship space for exactly? Come explore with Pastor Joseph some of the answers to these questions in a hands-on, experiential way!

Bible Presentation: Sunday, October 19

Exploring the Bible: Sundays, November 16 & 23

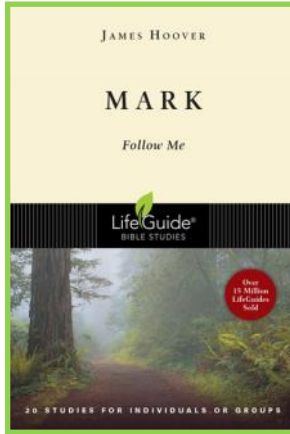
3rd Graders & Their Parents

Third graders are beginning to read more and more independently and to mark this milestone, Epiphany presents 3rd Graders with a new study Bible. The presentation happens during worship on Sunday, October 27 followed by two classes in November about how to use their new Bibles.



Faith Formation for Adults

Mid-Week Opportunities

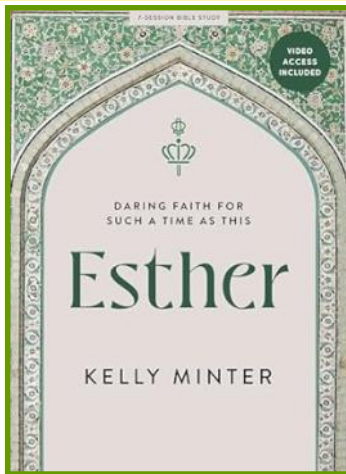


TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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!

Our first book will be *Esther: Daring Faith for Such a Time as This* by Kelly Minter. Questions? Contact Amy Boyle aimandbub@msn.com or 804-347-2724.



Faith Formation for Adults

Sunday Morning Opportunities



New(er) Members' Classes

Sundays, October 5, 12, 19

Bonhoeffer Room, 1st floor, 9:50-10:45 am

Are you interested in joining or learning more about Epiphany or have you recently become a new member? If so, you are invited to a three week class that serves as an introduction to the Epiphany community. Join with Pastor Phillip, Pastor Joseph, and others as we get to know one another, our community, and learn about the mission we share to Walk the Journey, Worship the Christ, and Witness with Joy.

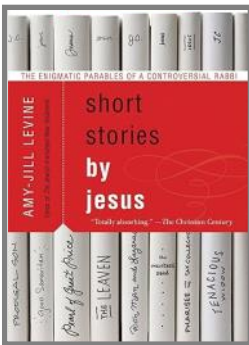


Blessed and Stressed

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!



Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi

Sundays, October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2, 9

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.



Realm 2.0: A (Re-)Introduction to Epiphany's Online Engagement

Sunday, October 26

Price Hall, 9:45—10:45 am

Join us in Price Hall for a (re)introduction to Epiphany's database and online directory. This information session will be perfect for people new to Epiphany or for those who have questions about how to use Epiphany's online giving and directory.

Haven't signed up yet for Realm? It's not too late! Come learn how Realm can help you connect!

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

Hey Epiphany Youth and Parents ~

Registration is OPEN for our YouthWorks Summer Service Trip to **Harrisburg, PA, Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 26**, and all current eighth through twelfth grade students are eligible!

ABOUT HARRISBURG: From one capitol to another, Harrisburg is about 3 and a half hours from Richmond and the capitol of Pennsylvania. We will have the opportunity to serve with a local children's program, community garden, food bank, and assist neighborhood associations with small home repair, community beautification and cleanup projects in order to share God's love. In the evenings let's plan to visit Hershey's Chocolate World for a chocolate tour and explore and enjoy the beauty of Harrisburg.

Registration is now open!



All students who are currently in eighth through twelfth grades are invited to REGISTER by sending a check for \$100 to be made to Epiphany Lutheran Church. You can mail it to 1400 Horsepen Road, Richmond, VA 23226 or put it in my hand when we see one another. The check should have "Harrisburg" and your name in the memo line.

There will also be registration paperwork to complete in the spring but for now your check will secure your place. We currently have set aside 25 spaces for adults and youth for this trip.

Registration will close on Sunday, October 26.

On January 15, or before if you like, participants are asked to complete payment for the trip with an additional \$180. Epiphany will cover the cost of travel (we'll rent vans) and extra activities and most meals are provided by YouthWorks, however, you may wish to bring a small amount of additional money for ice cream or other treats in the evenings. We will return to Epiphany by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 26.

By registering you agree to try your best to attend 3 Getting Ready sessions in the months prior to the trip (April, May, and June), and participate in a Sunday morning worship service when we return to tell the story of God's work through us to our Epiphany Congregation.

As always, if you would like to join us for this trip but the financial cost is too much, please let me know and we will be very happy to take care of the cost so that you can join us. These requests are completely confidential.

This trip is an exciting opportunity to grow closer to God and to one another, to explore the gifts God has given us to share, to follow Jesus in helping and healing our neighbors, to see a part of God's creation most of us haven't experienced, to meet youth from congregations all over the United States who will also be serving with YouthWorks in Harrisburg for the week, and to experience hospitality as we are welcomed into a new community.

If you have any questions at all about the experience please let me know.

Joseph

Pastor Joseph





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 7th through 12th grade youth and our adult leaders, called Timothy Ministers, and gathers about every other week. Lil Youth is our youth group for 4th through 6th 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 2pm and include lunch. Parents are always welcome but not required to attend.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 5 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm
Sunday, October 12 – Lil Youth (4-6th Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm
Sunday, October 12 – Lost and Found (7-8th Grade Retreat) registration due to church office
Sunday, October 19 – Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm
Sunday, October 26 ~ Epiphany Youth Group and Lil Youth – Trunk or Treat and Carnival Games

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 9 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm
Sunday, November 16 ~ Lil Youth (4-6th 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 (4-6th 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 (9-12th grade)

FEBRUARY

Sunday, Feb 1 – Lil Youth (4-6th 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 (4-6th 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 (4-6th 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 updated mailing info to

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





Dear 7th and 8th Grade Families --

Lost and Found is a weekend retreat which will take place Friday, **November 21st through Sunday, November 23rd** 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 we'll head to the retreat. During the weekend, we'll meet other seventh and eighth grade students from Lutheran congregations from around Virginia – last year there were 52 youth and 31 adult leaders for a total of 83 participants.

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 4pm (or a little later if needed) and return on Sunday at 3pm).

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



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 4th 5th and 6th 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, October 12
Sunday, November 16
Sunday, December 7
Monday, January 19 – MLK Service Day 9am - noon
Sunday, February 1
Sat-Sun, March 7-8 “7th 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+

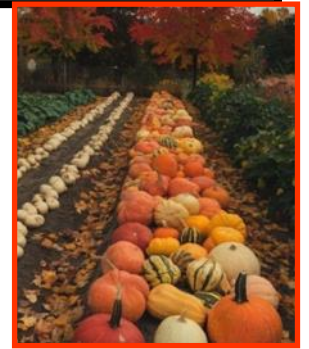
Pastor Joseph and Mr. Kevin

Property Ministry

October 2025

September turned out to be every bit of the jam-packed month we thought it would be. So much to relate, I'll try to fit it in one article!

Let me begin by thanking everyone who helped make Rally Day a success. So much effort by so many, too many to name individually. We had the lawn mowed, tents erected, tables set out, only to have mother nature chase us inside with the rain. It was a great day in spite of that with a good turnout.



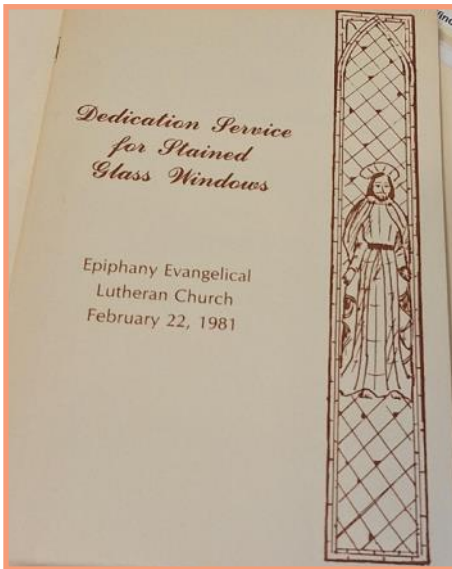
The most exciting thing to comment on is our stained glass. Repairs were scheduled to begin on Monday the 22nd but instead began on Thursday the 18th. Kit Sherwood and crew from Willet Stained Glass Studios put in long hours on our project.

Of our 42 glass panels, 28 were contracted to repair/conserv. During repairs, 2 additional windows were discovered to need attention. New structural support bracing was either installed or re-welded. Every window facing Horsepen Road now has a vented, 1/4" protective acrylic covering system in individual perimeter frames. Cracked glass pieces were either replaced or stabilized with a special epoxy. Where needed, caulking was replaced and painted inside and out. This is most easily observed on the panels lining the commons' Sanctuary wall.

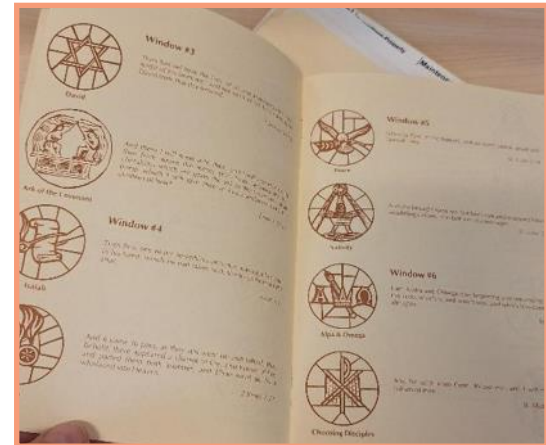


Property Ministry, cont'd

Our main Jesus panel in the Narthex was installed in 1993, and it too needed attention.



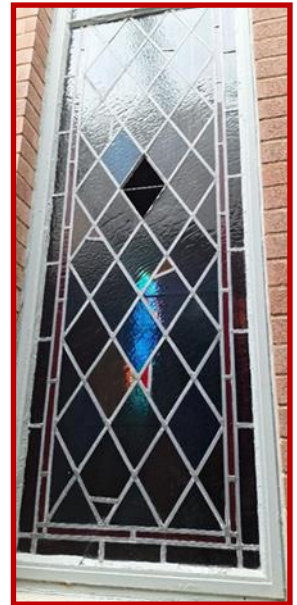
The main Sanctuary panels were dedicated in 1981, and I found an interesting bulletin from that service. Each of the icon inserts has a corresponding Bible verse. I'll share some in future articles.



During the walkthrough a few pieces that had been stabilized still show a visible crack. I'll be contacting Willet to determine the cost of replacement. It's a wonderful feeling to know that the overall issue of our stained glass conservation and repair, begun in 2022, has now been completed.



In other big ticket news, James River has ordered our AC equipment, with a lead time of 5 weeks before arrival. In the meantime, they will be removing the old unit, pouring a new concrete slab, and fabricating the necessary ductwork. Hopefully this project will be completed by November.



Kevin reports that the major work on our organ is complete. A few details remain but he claims we have new sounds for the future of our Music Ministry. The difference could definitely be heard this past Sunday, September 28, especially with the Postlude!

We contacted Green Solutions recently to address concerns of mold remediation in the ELNS wing. A lingering musty smell prompted analysis, and not surprisingly, the proposal is not cheap. We will study when the church can proceed with this. Hopefully, we've solved the problem of water incursion in rooms 200 and 201, so that should help.

Continued.....

Property Ministry, cont'd

I can tell I'm running long here so let me close with a plea for help. A spring and fall cleanup Saturday is not enough to stay ahead of all the issues of a church and property of this size. Our building and sign need power washing.



Areas like the columbarium and beyond need weeding.

We've received a replacement piece of playground equipment that I could use a hand with installing. It's a bit overwhelming to coordinate from a part time position. Drop me a line if you can help!

Don't forget Trunk or Treat at the end of the month!

Rob Hamlin
Facilities Manager



Fellowship Ministry



Guys' Night

All men are welcome to join us on Thursday, October 16th at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship. We will gather at Final Gravity Brewing 6118 Lakeside Ave. Richmond 23228. We hope to see you there!
For more information contact Joe Barnes (804) 836-5394.



Invitation-Sleepy Hollow Garden Club has 10 seats available for a fun Program- "Getting Ready for America's 250th Year Anniversary".

Date: Friday, October 17th 2025
Time : 11:00 to 12:00 Noon
Location: Great Big Greenhouse
2051 Huguenot Rd.
Midlothian VA.

Program-Presenter-Doug Hensel well known horticulturalist, Meadow Farms Nurseries and Landscaping-Assistant General Manager,part of the Meadow Farms team since 1977. He is a Master Gardener and Virginia Certified Horticulturalist.

For the program Doug will demonstrate how to plant an innovative container using bulbs that will produce red, white and blue blooms next spring and summer in honor of our Country's 250th year.
(This initiative has been encouraged by Virginia Federation of Garden Club's President Sally Harrison who will be attending the program).

Optional : Shopping at the GBGH then lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Registration deadline is October 10th
Email:
stephanie.horacek@gmail.com
Ph: 804-307-0063



Fellowship Ministry, cont'd

Women's Circles

The Clara Sullivan Circle met on September 10, in the Burger Commons.

Corky McCullough gave our devotion, based on Proverbs and Isaiah, that reminds us God is always available to guide us, even when we are not aware of His Presence.

Tatter Hartmann was our Epiphany delegate to the 2025 Virginia Synodical Women's Organization Annual Convention, held in Fredericksburg, VA. She gave us a very informative update from the July meeting. This year's theme was "Mended Women." The 2026 theme will be "I Am Worthy."

The 2025-2026 WELCA Yearbooks were distributed and discussed. Thank you, Eileen, for compiling the Yearbook!

Our next regular meeting will be **October 8, 10:00 am** in the Burger Commons.

Brenda Barnes will give the Devotion. The Program will be "Getting to Know Our Epiphany Lutheran Church Ministries."

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@microtel systems.com

The Margaret Miller Circle We are back and anxious to welcome you to our WELCA gathering! We will gather to meet this month on Tuesday, October 14 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.

At our September meeting we were blessed to have Tatter Hartmann give us an update of what she learned while attending the VSWO Convention in July 2025. Also, as you can see from the pictures (next page) we were served a magnificent luncheon by Sally Trone.

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, October 9, Noon in the Burger Commons. Email invitations will go out the weekend before. If you are interested in joining our circle, please contact Tatter Hartmann at 804-338-3578 (phone or text) or maryhartmann279@gmail.com



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

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)





The Margaret Miller Circle met last month (September) at the home of Sally Trone

Left to right: Nancy Pridgen, Kyle Clements, Donna Josephson, Peggy Hinson, Carole McCullough, Marilyn Gloyer, Tatter Hartmann and Sally Trone.



Left to right: Jackie Collins, Kyle Clements, Donna Josephson, Marilyn Gloyer, Sally Trone, Carole McCullough, Tatter Hartmann Nancy Pridgen, and Peggy Hinson.

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!



Donations

Our congregation is a very caring, generous one whenever an appeal is made to help the less fortunate. For those who are unfamiliar with nonprofit organizations, perhaps this information will guide you.

Epiphany, through the Community Service Team, supports LAMB's Basket, Safe Harbor, Moments of Hope, encircle, elementary schools, to name a few. The clients of these groups ride buses, car pool, walk, even ride bicycles to receive benefits. Many of them use laundry mats. Most live in apartments with little storage space.

When shopping for your donations, please keep this in mind. Please do not buy the large sizes—i.e. as Costco and Sam's Club. Those large sizes are just fine for your home, but transportation and storage of them can be quite unmanageable for clients.

Epiphany Blood Drive

Save the Date - October 12 - For Epiphany's Final Blood Drive in 2025

The final blood drive for 2025 will be held Sunday **October 12** in Price Hall from 8:00 am to 12 noon. If you have not had the opportunity to donate yet this year, now is your chance to join Epiphany's ongoing support of not only the Richmond community but of all of Central Virginia and beyond.



As I'm sure you know there continues to be a great need for blood. But, did you know ...

- A person in a major car accident can require up to 50 units of red blood cells
- 3% of trauma patients require 10 or more units of blood in 24hrs
- In surgery 8 out of 10 trauma patients who died bled too much

This is not to mention the need for ongoing treatment of those with cancers, blood disorders, clotting, chemotherapy, burns, sickle cell anemia, all can require transfusions.

Your ongoing support of this life saving mission continues to be appreciated by our Red Cross partners and of course the many blood recipients you have impacted.

As you know, the need for blood is great and never ceases. You have already contributed to the lives of so many and is greatly appreciated. We hope your generous support will continue on October 12.

We hope to see you on October 12 and don't forget to tell your friends, neighbors and coworkers about Epiphany's drive. Here is the sign up:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=epiphanyrva>

Questions? Call Carl Erickson 804 873 5163.

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Thanksgiving Meal Ministry

Continuing in Epiphany's long standing tradition of providing a Thanksgiving meal for our neighbors, the Community Service Team will again collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations.

On Sunday October 19th, grocery bags with an attached list of food needed to feed a family of six will be available to take home and fill.

For those who prefer not to shop, envelopes will also be available for monetary donations. Monies collected will be used to purchase gift cards so our families can buy a turkey.

Please consider taking a bag home and purchasing the following items:

- 1 box of Jiffy Cornbread Mix,
- 1 38 ounce can of green beans,
- 1 large box of instant potatoes, 8-10 servings size
- 1 can of cranberry sauce,
- 2 cans (NO GLASS) of turkey gravy,
- 2 boxes of Stove Top (or store brand) stuffing
- 1 box of brownie mix..

Donations are due back at church no later than Sunday, November 9th. Contact Brenda Barnes (804-339-1417) for more information.

"For I was hungry and you fed me" Mathew 25:35



Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Caritas is just one of many organizations supported by Epiphany and our Community Service Ministry Team.

Caritas has many programs including the William M. Walker Healing Place for Women which is an 140-bed peer-based recovery program, 47 Recovery Residences – Sober-living apartments for program graduates, an emergency Women's shelter with 28 beds as well as supporting a men's shelter. The mission of Caritas is to create a safe space to heal and time to rebuild. The purpose of Caritas is to create an active community of caring for people experiencing homelessness and/or addiction.

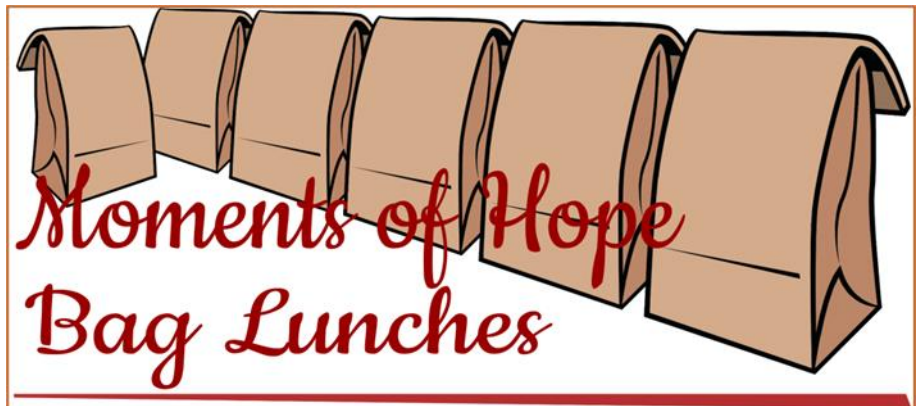


On October 23 members of Epiphany will prepare a meal at Epiphany for Caritas clients and deliver it that week end. Please reach out to Barb Hammer (warrenhammer519@comcast.net) or Kim Johnson (jkecjohanson@gmail.com) if you wish to participate in this service opportunity.

October 25 – Moments of Hope Lunch Event

The Community Ministry Team will be providing over 300 bag lunches to folks in need on Saturday, October 25, through the non-profit in Hanover called Moments of Hope.

We will be preparing and packaging these meals to deliver on that day to their current location for Saturday Servings at 601 Azalea Avenue. Folks in need have not fully learned of this new location, and it is not on a bus line. They are sending vans to the bus stop to give rides so the number of guests is picking up, but not to the extent that it had been in the past.



There is a sign-up sheet through SignUpGenius for those who want to help us with the preparation of the bag lunches. We had such overwhelming support the last time, and we hope that we can count on you again to assist us.

You can sign up for as many lunches (in groups of 10) as you wish. As before, we will be preparing simple but filling bag lunches, and we turn to you, our congregation members, to assist in any way you can in getting this done.

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

100 dozen home baked cookies needed Can you help meet the goal??

Rob McClintock is a volunteer with Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. and assigned to the Greenville Correctional Center. His team is scheduled to meet and share the Good News with inmates November 6 through November 9. Volunteers are asked to bring with them on their assigned weekend 100 dozen home baked cookies which the volunteers will distribute to the inmates.



Epiphany has really rallied in support of this ministry in the past, and your efforts have truly been a blessing to the incarcerated.

If you can help Rob with this ministry and bake some cookies please let us know by signing up on signupgenius or on the sign-up sheets on the table in the Commons outside of the Narthex. You will also find on the table a copy of the instructions for baking the cookies and suggested cookie recipes provided by the Kairos Prison Ministry. Please take one.

*Cookies should be delivered to the church office no later than **Monday, November 3 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.***



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4CAFAA22A6FE3-49327558-cookie#/>

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

We are in need of more people who would love to help us in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls!

One of the many ways we can share God's love with family, friends and neighbors, is through the giving of a prayer shawl made by the members of Epiphany's Prayer Shawl Ministry Team.

A prayer shawl is not only a symbol of one's love and caring for the recipient, but also is a garment, shroud, canopy, or cloak that envelopes the wearer both physically and spiritually in prayer and celebration, in joy and in sorrow.

There are many reasons to give a prayer shawl: health issues, distress, mourning, moving away from family or friends, new baby, graduation, newlyweds, to name a few. Do you know someone who would welcome the warm embrace of God's love by receiving a prayer shawl? If yes, the Church office can assist you with your shawl selection.



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, 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.

Happenings in the Congregation



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
slang@epiphanyelca.org

Visitation Pastor - The Rev. Sarah Menke
smenke@epiphanyelca.org

Director of Music Ministry - Kevin Barger
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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



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

 Instagram: epiphanyelca