



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

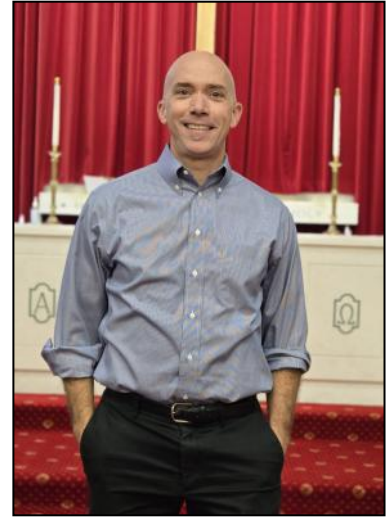
The Examiner

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

September 2026

Words from Our Pastor

At the end of August, Hanne Hamlin stepped away from the front desk after nineteen years as our Office Administrator. Her departure, along with the arrival of the next Office Administrator, will involve a major change for the congregation because that role is so central to so many aspects of our community life. It is perhaps easy to think of the Office Administrator as a desk job with chiefly clerical duties, but Hanne showed us how, at its core, Office Administrator is really a ministry. In fact, you can even see the word “ministry” in the word administrator. And, as the apostle Paul reminded us this summer in one of our recent readings from Romans, “we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness” (Romans 12:6-7). We each bring Spirit-given gifts to each role and function in church life, no matter how public-facing and visible those roles are, and the role of Office Administrator can be a vessel for the Spirit’s work like anything else. As she retires, I thought it might be best to hear from Hanne in her own words how she reflects on her ministry as Office Administrator.



Hanne, what have been your favorite parts of serving Epiphany as Office Administrator?

My favorite parts have been talking to members and guests, having a good laugh, or just listening to events in their lives. A smile can go a long way. Besides it’s contagious!

What have been the most challenging parts of this role?

I would say that would be meeting deadlines. You are part of a team who are very busy and at times you may have to wait to get your information so that you can finish what you are working on. Be understanding and patient!

What gifts do you think are important to be a successful Office Administrator?

A happy disposition for sure. Kindness, caring, patience, and love of what you do and finding the real joy in it.

What changes have you seen in Epiphany in your nineteen years as the Office Administrator?

We have added three wonderful pastors, facilities manager, a finance manager, and a very talented Coordinator of Volunteers. Our Music Director has come years before I got here and he continues to amaze me with his many talents. We have expanded and updated many parts of our building with the Brighten Our light Campaign and now with Epiphany Shines to 75 to help with much needed repairs and mortgage reduction.

We honored Hanne’s service at a reception on August 30, and we are sad to see her depart our office. However, we are glad she will remain as a member of the congregation, sharing her gifts in new ways. Please join me in prayer as the Personnel Team and Council work together in our search for a new Office Administrator. It is exciting to see what God has in store for our future.

Blessings +

Pastor Phillip Martin

We start our Fall-Spring Worship Schedule on September 13!

Early Service remains at 8:30 am

Sunday School begins at 9:45 am

Late Service changes to 11:00 am



RALLY DAY

at Epiphany Lutheran Church

Join us Sunday, September 13th!

Sunday School and Youth Group Kickoff

Congregational Service Project

Picnic Lunch

All are Welcome!

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve Our Neighbors

Looking Ahead!

September 13 - God's Work. Our Hands. Putting 750 personal care kits together for LWR in Price Hall.

September 29 - Liberation Veterans Services Meal

October 11 - Blood Drive in Price Hall

October 25 - Moments of Hope Lunch Service Event.

November 3 - Cookie Bake for Kairos Prison Ministry

November - Thanksgiving Collection

November 15 - Annual Congregation Meeting

December - Giving Tree Collection



Calling All Future Acolytes and Crucifers! (Yes — We Mean You!)

Have you ever sat in worship and thought, "I wonder what it looks like up there, next to the pastors?" Well, here's your chance to find out — and to help lead our congregation while you're at it.

We are looking for new acolytes and crucifers to serve at our 8:30 and later services, and we would love to add some new faces to the team. If you're in about 5th or 6th grade (or older), you're exactly the person we're hoping to hear from. Acolytes help carry the light of Christ into worship, and as you grow taller and stronger over the years, you may graduate to crucifer and carry the cross that leads our procession.



Here's the good news: you don't need any experience, and you definitely don't need to be perfect. Training is provided; it's genuinely easy to learn, and every acolyte and crucifer we have — from the brand-new ones to our high school seniors who've been at it for years — makes little mistakes now and then. That's completely okay. We all serve our Lord Jesus, who welcomes and loves each of us exactly as we are. There are no professionals here, just a wonderful group of kids who have a lot of fun together.

And one of the best-kept secrets? You get to sit up front with the pastors, right by the organ. It's a view of the church you simply can't get from the pews — and it really is something special.

Many of our longtime servers have graduated high school, or have sports, jobs, and other weekend responsibilities, so we have plenty of room for you to jump in and be part of something meaningful. Whether you've been thinking about it for a while or the idea is brand-new to you, we'd love to help you get started.

Interested? Wondering if it's right for you? Have questions? Please reach out to **Markus Groener** at epiphany@groeners.org, send a message through **Realm**, or simply catch me after the 8:30 service — I'm always happy to chat.

Come witness to our community with joy. We can't wait to serve alongside you!

CALLING ALL COLLEGE ADDRESSES!!!

Pastor Joseph would like 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 jbolick@epiphanyelca.org or drop it by the church office when you come to worship on a Sunday. Thank you!!



Church Council Nominating Team

The Nomination Team will soon be accepting suggestions for individuals to serve on Congregational Council beginning in February 2027.

Do you know someone who would be a great person to serve on our church council? Any member can be suggested!

More information will be forthcoming!



Music Ministry

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT – SEPTEMBER 2026

♪ *It's Time to Make Music!*

September means the return of our **Epiphany Music Ministries!** Whether you're a returning musician or have been thinking about joining us for the first time, we would love to have you be part of the music-making this year.

Rehearsals begin this month. For more information about any of our ensembles, please refer to the **Music Ministry Catalog** or contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org.



Chancel Choir – 8:30 am Worship

Sunday, September 13 • 8:00 am.

Sala Music Center

Chancel Choir – 11:00 am Worship

Sunday, September 13 • 10:30 am.

Sala Music Center

Regular Wednesday rehearsals begin **September 16 at 7:15 pm.** in the Sala Music Center.

Epiphany Ringers

Sunday, September 13 • 9:30 am.

Balcony

Cherub Choir

Wednesday, September 16 • 6:30 pm.

Room 104

Singing Saints

Wednesday, September 16 • 6:30 pm.

Sala Music Center

Junior Handbells

Sunday, September 27 • Noon

Junior Handbells is part of **'Lil Youths**, which meets at Star Lodge, with handbell rehearsal in the balcony.



Steel Crossticks

Sunday, September 20 • 12:15 pm.

Sala Music Center

Epiphany Brass

Rehearsal will be arranged based on musician availability as we prepare for **Reformation Sunday**.

Come Make Music With Us!

There's a place for you in Epiphany's music ministry. We look forward to welcoming back familiar faces—and especially to welcoming some new ones!

Come sing, ring, play, and make a joyful noise with us this fall!

Epiphany Ringers Has Room for You!

Have you ever thought about giving handbells a try? Epiphany Ringers has a few openings, and we'd love to welcome some new ringers!

Whether you'd like to ring the big bass bells or some of the smallest bells at the top of the table, there's a place for you. If you've been looking for a way to be involved in Epiphany's music ministry that doesn't involve singing, this could be just the thing!

Epiphany Ringers rehearses Sunday mornings between the two worship services and typically plays in worship about once every three weeks.

No handbell experience? That's okay! A willingness to learn, make music, and be part of the group is what matters most.

Interested or want to learn more? Contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org.



Music Ministry, cont'd

We're looking forward to welcoming back our returning ringers—and we hope to see some new faces around the bell tables this fall!

Make a Joyful Noise! Music Opportunities for Children & Youth

There are plenty of ways for our children and youth to make music, make friends, and be part of worship at Epiphany this year! Whether your child loves to sing, ring bells, play an instrument, or wants to try something completely new, there is a place for them in our music ministry. No previous musical experience is necessary for many of these opportunities—just bring your enthusiasm!

Singing Saints - Grades 2–6

Our Singing Saints learn much more than songs! Through music, games, and movement, children develop musical skills, teamwork, confidence, and an understanding of what it means to help lead worship. The choir participates regularly throughout the year, sometimes joining our adult and other children's choirs for special musical offerings.

Singing Saints generally rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:00 pm. in the Sala Music Center.

Cherub Choir - Age 4 through First Grade

Our youngest singers discover music and faith through musical play and age-appropriate songs. The Cherub Choir provides a fun and welcoming introduction to singing while preparing children to participate in worship throughout the year.

Rehearsals are generally Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:00 pm, and the Cherubs have several opportunities to share their music during worship.

Junior Handbell Choir - Grades 5–8

Want to try something different? Ring a bell!

The Junior Handbell Choir introduces young musicians to the fundamentals of handbell ringing while sneaking in a little music theory along the way. No previous musical experience is necessary. This year, handbells are being incorporated into our 4th-8th Grade Gathering program, with potential opportunities to play during Christmas Eve worship and Youth Sunday depending on the group's progress.

Steel Crossticks - Grades 2–6

Yes, we have steel drums!

Steel Crossticks gives children in grades 2-6 the opportunity to learn to play Jumbie Jams while developing rhythm, ensemble skills, and some music theory. No previous experience is necessary. The group rehearses on selected Sundays after the later worship service and has several opportunities planned to share its music in worship.

Play an Instrument? We Want You!

Young instrumentalists are also encouraged to share their talents throughout the year. Brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, and other instruments can all find a place in worship—whether playing individually or as part of an ensemble. Our youth are encouraged to participate in the many musical opportunities available throughout the congregation.

Something for Everyone

Music ministry isn't about creating professional musicians. It's about giving young people opportunities to participate, learn, serve, build confidence, make friends, and experience the joy of making music together.

From singing and ringing to steel drums and instrumental music, there are opportunities for children from preschool through high school—and we'd love to have them join us!

Come make some music with us. There's a place for you!

Come Sing With Us: Your Voice Belongs in a Chancel Choir

Have you ever sat in worship, listened to the choir, and thought, “*I enjoy singing, but I’m not sure I’m good enough to join*”? If so, this invitation is especially for you.



Music Ministry, cont'd

Our Chancel Choirs aren't simply groups that perform music on Sunday mornings. The choir helps lead worship. Through hymns, anthems, and other musical offerings, choir members help proclaim the message of the day, encourage congregational singing, and create moments that can touch people in ways spoken words sometimes cannot.

And we need you.

You don't need to be a soloist. You don't need a music degree. You don't need to have sung in a choir recently—or ever. What matters most is a willingness to learn, participate, and use the voice God gave you.



Worship Is Different When We Sing Together

There is something powerful about people joining their voices together. One voice may seem small but surrounded by others it becomes part of something much larger.

A strong choir also strengthens the worship experience for everyone. When the choir sings confidently, the congregation sings more confidently. When the choir offers an anthem that connects with the Scripture or message of the day, music becomes another way of hearing and experiencing the Gospel. And when people look toward the choir and see friends and fellow members of the congregation offering their gifts, it reminds us that worship is something we create together.

The choir isn't there to entertain the congregation. The choir is part of the congregation—helping the congregation worship.

You May Be Exactly Who We Need

One of the great myths about church choirs is that everyone in them must be an accomplished singer. That's simply not true.

Choirs become stronger because ordinary voices sing together. Some people read music well. Others learn by listening. Some have sung their entire lives, while others haven't sung in a choir since school. Each person contributes something.

Perhaps you've been waiting for someone to personally invite you.

Consider yourself invited.

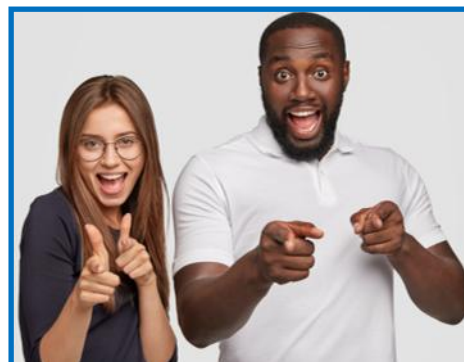
Come to a rehearsal. Sit beside someone who has been singing with us for years. Give yourself permission to learn, laugh, occasionally sing a wrong note, and discover how rewarding it can be to make music with others.

You'll find that choir is about much more than notes on a page. It's about fellowship, friendship, service, faith, and the joy of creating something beautiful together.

Most importantly, it's an opportunity to give something of yourself to worship.

Our worship becomes richer when more people participate. Our music becomes stronger when more voices join together.

There is a chair waiting for you. Come fill it—and bring your voice with you.



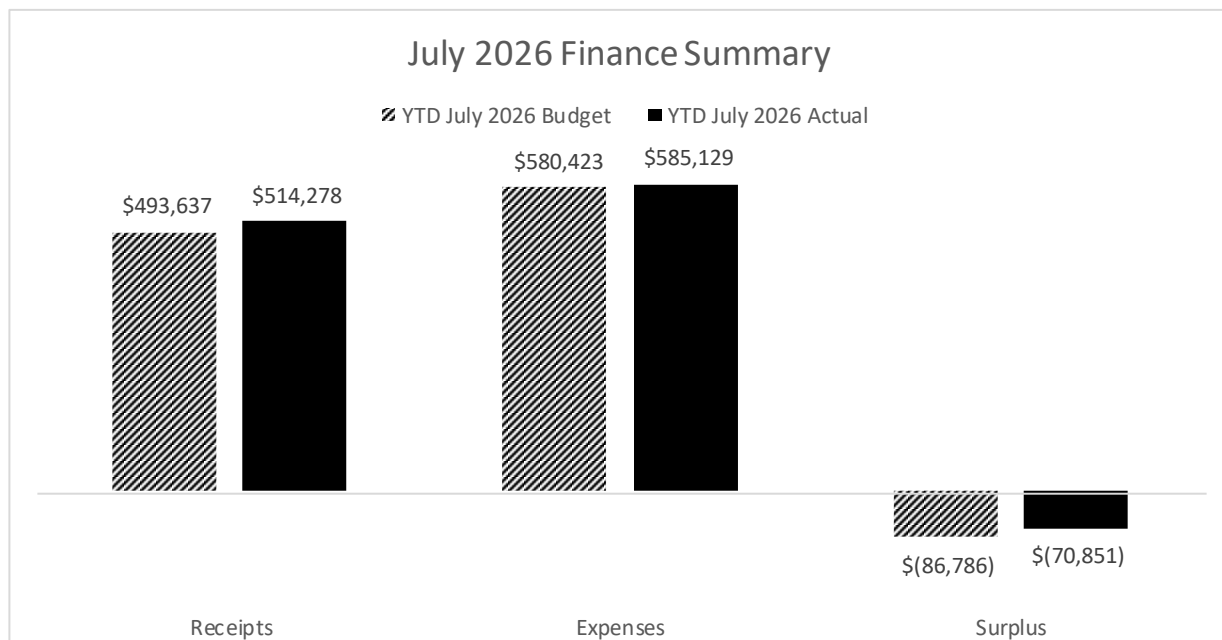
Epiphany Brass

The brass ensemble adds a rich and festive sound to our worship life on many occasions. Our next opportunity to play will be **Reformation Sunday, October 25**.

If you are available and willing to play for this service, please contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org.



Finance Ministry



YTD July receipts are \$514,278 which is \$70,851 ahead of plan and up 7% vs 2025.

Expenses were \$585,129 which is right on plan. Property expense is unfavorable \$6.5k due to electricity bills being higher than normal due to the cold winter.

We have a net deficit of \$70,853 which is less than planned deficit of \$86,786 by \$15,934 due to earlier than planned contributions. We typically run a deficit through the early part of the year and make it up in the 4th quarter.

September Baptism Birthdays



Altar Care

Thank you to those who served in August:

First Service - Bonita and Alvah Wyatt

Second Service - Jeanette Linka and JoAnn Fawley, Linda Martin and Hanne Hamlin

Altar Care for September:

First Service - Poppy Ebbesen and Pamela Bosserman

Second Service - Beth Barger and Bobby Jo Carroll

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

Please contact Linda Martin at 804-282-6066 or lmartin@epiphanyelca.org if you are interested.

The Finance Team Ministry will meet on 4th Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to attend, please let Jim Huddle know.

Jrhuddle1us@gmail.com

704-779-3307



Faith Formation



The new Faith Formation year kicks off on Sunday, **September 13** with an opening information session in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am. We'll sing, share information about children, youth, and adult classes this year, introduce teachers, and pray! Afterwards, we invite children, youth, and parents to attend an Open House in the Faith Formation wing where children can meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and spend time on a short project together. We'll end our time together on Rally Day by heading to Price Hall to help with the service project

and do God's work with our hands!

Sunday, September 13—Rally Day

9:45 am—Kick-off for ALL AGES in the Sanctuary

10:00—10:25 am—Sunday School Open House in the Faith Formation Wing

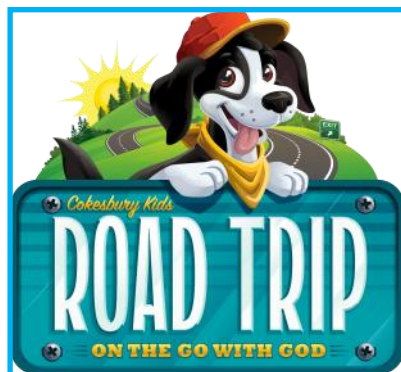
10:25-10:45 am—Sunday School Families join the service project God's Work, Our Hands in Price Hall



Sunday School Registration for Children and Youth

Sunday School kicks off on September 13 with Rally Day!

Help us plan for the year ahead by sharing information about your child on [this simple registration form](#). Registration is NOT necessary to attend but if you have things you want teachers or staff to know about your child(ren), filling out the form can be helpful!



VBS 2027

Save the Date!

Join us June 14-18, 2027 for a Road Trip as we travel with God! Registration will open in January 2027.

Faith Formation

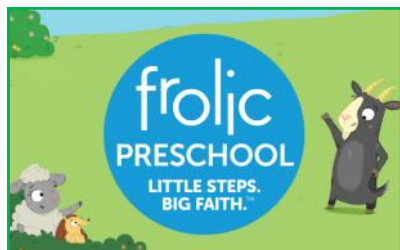


Sunday School Opening (Birth through 2nd Graders)

Room 104

9:45—10:00 am

All of our littlest learners (birth through 2nd Graders or all the classes that meet on the first floor of the Faith Formation wing) are invited to join with our friends Ms. Alice, Mr. Scott, and Ms. Susan for our Sunday School Opening! We'll sing songs, celebrate birthdays, and pray before we head to our different Sunday School classes at 10 am.



2 YO & 3 YO Sunday School

Room 102—10 am

Two year-olds and three-year-olds are invited to their own special class designed just for them! They'll explore faith through storytelling, prayers, music, and play each week in a classroom setting.

Teachers: Karen Myers, Emily Loughren, Janet Johnson



Pre-K and Kindergarten Sunday School

Room 101—10 am

Pre-K and Kindergarteners are invited to explore faith concepts the way they know best—through play! Through storytelling, prayers, music, ritual and play space, children will engage faith stories each week.

Teachers: Caryn Palmgren, Casey Stapleton, Hanne Hamlin, Helen Nass and Katrina Thatch



1st & 2nd Graders

Room 104—10 am

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Graders are invited to explore the Bible in a fun, interactive way through videos, interactive games, and creative crafts!

Teachers: Gary Hobson, Brad Williamson, Madeline Myers, and Jennifer Baker

Faith Formation



3rd, 4th, 5th Graders

Von Bora Room (2nd Floor)

9:45 am—10:45 am

Third, fourth, and fifth graders are invited to explore the readings for each Sunday and their Whirl Bibles in a fun, interactive way through videos, interactive games, and creative crafts!

Teachers: Donna Josephson, Alicia Diehl, Mike Peyton



Middle School Class

(6th, 7th, 8th Graders)

Luther Room

9:45 am—10:45 am

Youth will have a chance to explore the Old Testament using a curriculum called Here We Stand.

Teachers: Kellie Brown, Dyan Troxel, Jerod Brown



High School Class

(9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Graders)

Location TBD

9:45—10:45 am

Join us for an exciting year of faith exploration and service. Friends are always welcome!

**Teachers: Megan Edwards, Dan Nelson, Dana Lauder, and
Pastor Joseph Bolick**

Faith Foundations for Families

Epiphany partners with families to help fulfil 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. Check out the dates for 2025-2026!!



Spark Story Bible Presentation

Two Year Olds

Sunday, September 20

Room 104, 9:45 am

We welcome two year olds to Sunday School and to deeper engagement with the stories of the Bible by presenting a Spark Story Bible they can read at home.



Learning About Worship

Kindergarteners and their Parents

Sunday, October 4

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 25 Exploring the Bible: Sundays, November 8 & 15 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 25 followed by two classes in November about how to use their new Bibles. **A parents' only meeting is set for Sunday, October 4 to share details about the Bible presentation.**



Lord's Prayer Class

1st & 2nd Graders & Their Parents

January 10 & 17, 2027

All 1st and 2nd graders and their parents or loving adult are invited to a two-week class on the Lord's Prayer. Join with one of the pastors to learn more about how Jesus teaches us to pray! Questions? Email Pastor Sarah at slang@epiphanyelca.org



Holy Communion Class

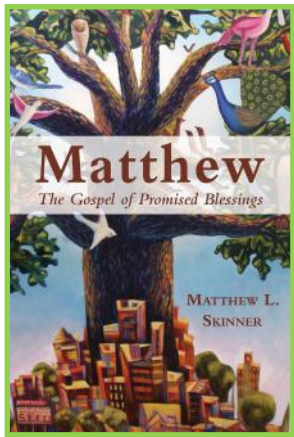
4th Graders & Their Parents

March 7, 14, & 21 2027

Whether your 4th Grader is already receiving Holy Communion or is ready to begin, these classes set aside time with one of the pastors to learn about this meal and make plans for receiving communion on Maundy Thursday, March 25.

Faith Formation for Adults

Mid-Week Opportunities



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:30-Noon in the Parlor

Begins September 15

This fall our group begins with a study of the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus and his message as full of tender compassion and urgent warning. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus. Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

The group begins Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30 am in the Parlor. Join us!



MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 5-6:30 pm

Begins September 17

Epiphany Moms' Bible Study (MBS) is moving to a new time on Thursday EVENINGS! Our first meeting will be **September 17, 2026 at 5:00 pm** in the Parlor.

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!

Sunday Morning Opportunities

Adults are invited to gather every Sunday of the program year for an adult faith formation program. Topics range and may include Bible studies, book studies, church history, current social issues, parenting, grandparenting, and more! If you have a topic to suggest, speak with Pastor Sarah Lang!

This year, we're looking forward to highlighting the history, ministry, and promised future of Epiphany as we Shine to 75! More information about September's classes can be found in Epiphany's weekly emails and Sunday morning bulletin. Stay tuned!



EPIPHANY YOUTH GROUP

Hey, Epiphany Youth and Families!

There's a lot happening in the life of Epiphany's youth this year—and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Epiphany Youth Group (EYG) is a ministry for, with, and by our 7th –12th grade youth and the adults who walk alongside them as Timothy Ministers. At its heart, EYG is about three things: growing closer to God, growing closer to one another, and serving the world God loves.

We believe youth ministry is about being a community shaped around relationships, conversation, worship, service, fun, and opportunities for youth to lead.

Our EYG Sunday Gatherings take place about every other week, generally from noon–2:00 p.m. in Star Lodge, and lunch is included. A typical Gathering looks something like this: lunch, a game, worship, Scripture discussion, small groups, prayer, and various kinds of fun. It's a simple rhythm, but there is a lot packed into those two hours!

Below I have attached a complete calendar of the schedule for these regular gatherings as well as special events, retreats, and more but I wanted to highlight the first few events quickly coming up:



- **Rally Day Picnic** - Sunday, September 13 - 7th –12th Grade Youth: Join us for lunch at the congregation picnic after the second service! Then stick around to help lead outdoor activities for our younger children, including face painting, popcorn, sno-cones, and games! It's a great way to kick off the new year together.
- **First EYG Gathering** - Sunday, September 20 - 7th–12th Grade Youth: Come to our first Epiphany Youth Group (EYG) Gathering of the new year! We'll meet in the Star Lodge immediately after the second service for lunch, games, fun, and time together.
- **Puerto Rico Service Trip Interest Meeting** - Sunday, September 27 - Youth currently in 8th through 12th grade and a parent are invited to join us during Sunday School to learn about and begin registering for our summer service trip to Arecibo, Puerto Rico June 27 - July 3, 2027.

There will undoubtedly be other opportunities that emerge along the way, but many of our activities are already planned in the calendar for the year below.

YOUTH MINISTRY 2026 – 2027

Epiphany Youth Group, or EYG, is ministry for, with, and by, seventh through twelfth grade youth and their adult leaders, Timothy Ministers. Our Sunday "Gatherings" are the heart of EYG ministry, and we meet about every other week as we grow closer to God and one another, and as we serve the world God loves. Lil Youth is our youth group with the same mission and focus; except it's for fourth through sixth grade youth and meets once a month.

Unless otherwise specified, our gatherings happen in Star Lodge from noon to 2pm and include lunch.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 13 - Rally Day! First Day of Sunday School and Congregation Picnic

EYG Youth are invited to make sno-cones, hand out popcorn, and lead games

Sunday, September 20 – First EYG Gathering!

Sunday, September 27 – First Lil Youth Gathering!

Sunday, September 27 – Puerto Rico Summer Service Trip interest meeting during Sunday School

For youth currently in 8th through 12th grade and your parent(s)

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 4 - EYG Gathering (to include a brief crucifer training)

Sunday, October 11 – Lil Youth Gathering (to include a brief acolyte training)

Sunday, October 18 – EYG Gathering

Planning Meeting for the Year – bring your ideas!

Sunday, October 25 - Trunk or Treat

Immediately after second worship service – EYG and Lil Youth to lead carnival games

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 8 – EYG Gathering

Sunday, November 15 – Lil Youth

Also the Annual Congregation Meeting – Lil Youth meet in Star Lodge after lunch in Price Hall

Friday to Sunday, November 20-22 - Lost and Found Retreat (7-8th grade)

Sunday, November 29 - EYG, 12-5pm, meet in Star Lodge -- Leaf-Raking Service Project

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6 - Lil Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13 - EYG Christmas Party, 5-9PM

JANUARY

Sunday, January 10 – EYG Gathering

Monday, January 18 - EYG and Lil Youth MLK Service Project, 9am - Noon

Friday to Sunday, January 29-31 - Winter Celebration Retreat (9-12th grade)

FEBRUARY

Sunday, Feb 7 – EYG Gathering

Sunday, February 21 – Lil Youth Gathering

Sunday, February 28 – EYG Gathering

MARCH

Saturday – Sunday, March 6-7 -- 7th Day Retreat (5-6th grade)

Sunday, March 14 – EYG Gathering

APRIL

Sunday, April 4 – EYG Gathering

Sunday, April 11 – Lil Youth Gathering

Sunday, April 18 – EYG Gathering

MAY

Sunday, May 2 – Youth Sunday

Youth lead worship at 8:30 and 11AM

Sunday, May 16 – Confirmation and Banquet

Sunday, May 23 – Final Sunday School and Celebration

To Be Determined -- Class of 2027 Party

SUMMER

Friday to Sunday, June 11 – 13: Synod Assembly/Youth Assembly

Monday to Friday, June 14 – 18: Vacation Bible School

Sunday to Saturday, June 27 – July 3: Summer Service Trip to Puerto Rico

For current 8th through 12th Grade

Monday to Friday, July 12- 16: Middle School Servant Week

For current 4th through 6th Grade

Sunday to Friday, June 18 – 23: Kairos (Rising 9th-12th grade) retreat at Roanoke College



Lil Youths!

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 with lunch right after the 11am service and go until 2pm (unless noted otherwise below).

We hope that each family might volunteer to provide lunch once during the year so that we can enjoy a nice meal together. Often families choose to work with another family to share the task together. Check out the sign-up below.

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, September 27 - Our First Gathering of the year!

Sunday, October 11 - Will include an acolyte training

Sunday, November 15

Sunday, December 6 - Christmas Party

Monday, January 18 - MLK Service Day (9am - noon)

Sunday, February 21

Sat-Sun, March 6-7 "Seventh Day" Retreat at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg for 5-6th Graders

Sunday, April 11 - End of year celebration

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!

We hope to see you soon —

Pastor Joseph and Mr. Kevin

EYG - From Pastor Joseph

Our next Summer Service Trip will be to Puerto Rico during the week of **Sunday, June 27 through Saturday, July 3, 2027.**

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

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

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

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

Please join us for our Puerto Rico Service Trip Interest Meeting- Sunday, September 27 during the Sunday School to learn about and begin registering for our summer service trip to Arecibo, Puerto Rico June 27 - July 3, 2027.

As you think about this opportunity, you may want to consider that the total cost per person will be about \$1,000, which will require some light fundraising (think car wash, talent show, etc). The portion we will ask you to pay is \$150 in the fall and an additional \$280 in January for a total of \$430. Epiphany will cover the difference. As always, *if you would like financial assistance please just speak with me.*

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

Peace+

Joseph



Property Ministry

Progress

facilities article September 2026

August was expected to be a lively month, and boy it did not disappoint. Just hitting the highlights and looking ahead to September will take some ink, and there are many people to thank too!

With our approaching cleanup party at the end of the month, Bill Crouch made sure our power washer was ready for action. Steve Collins, Macon Sizemore and Tod Mitchell helped me move those huge heavy cabinets previously used by our quilters down to Room 104. This enabled Tod and I to patch the flooring and install the cove moldings. After some painting touchups Room 201 is now ready for Sunday School and ELNS use.

Shine to 75 funding enabled (finally!) the installation of new flooring in Room 104 in the education wing. Those following these articles will know that I've been trying to get this done for quite a few years. It was a project moving cabinets, files and furniture before an intense 3 days of removing 2 layers of carpet and scraping the glue off the music half of the room. The result is now a beautiful floor for the ELNS office and our young music ministry area. All the thresholds have been corrected on both floors.



All the education wing carpets received their annual cleaning as well as those in the Nursery, Commons, and Conference Room. I also had the communion rail area taken care of.

Five new permanent coat hook shelf/strips have been installed in the Education Wing with 2 more under construction. Command hooks could only do so much, and it was time for a sturdier solution.

Our water bill was finally cut by 2/3 now that (hopefully) all hidden leaks have been discovered and eliminated. You'll notice all our towel dispensers are now the same and hands-free. All soap and sanitizer units are also new. Hanne brokered this deal to consolidate everything under one company to simplify ordering and ultimately reduce costs. We'll be donating our old equipment, and we could use a volunteer to deliver to Habitat for Humanity.

Our entryway landscape is now refreshed thanks to our congregations' donations and coordinated by Faye Coppage.

Which brings us to the end of August. Many thanks to all who helped make our cleanup day on the 29th a success. Jason Roma and sons were already on the job before 9:30. Bill Crouch was loading his trailer with limbs and branches while Stu Gloyer roamed the property applying roundup. Brian Hellinga worked a weed eater, and Nancy Wilfong was in her element weeding our serviceberry trees. Phillip, Melinda and Jasper got the picnic area on the large playground mulched before I could get around to help! Stephanie Hamlett and I worked on reconfiguring the storage of our Chrismon tree and Christmas decorations.



Property Ministry, cont'd

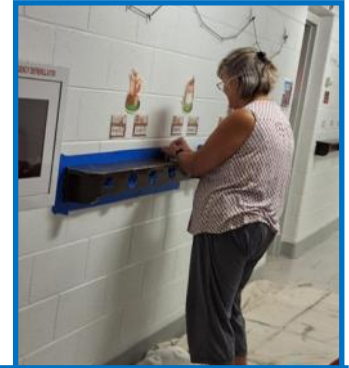
Macon Sizemore was everywhere, assembling shelving as well as completely weeding the severely overgrown Columbarium center circle. Hanne was busy repainting some of the hall shelving in the education wing. Jim Behrens was in his zone taking apart one of our water fountains to initiate repairs. And of course, there was power washing. It was a productive day, and many people approached me beforehand to let me know they wished they could come but had a scheduling conflict. To them and everyone else, I say, if the spirit moves you, there are still a few items we couldn't get to!

Now in September Rally Day anchors the month. We'll need a bit of help setting up on Saturday the 12th, and here's hoping we'll have good weather this year. Once that event is over, work in Price Hall will continue on the new Audio-Visual system installation. New window treatments shouldn't be far behind, and there's a possibility that we could be looking at new flooring in there as soon as October.

Exciting times! Stay tuned!

Rob Hamlin

Facilities Manager



Fellowship Ministry



Join us on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship. We will gather at Strangeways Brewing, 3110 West Leigh Street, Richmond, 23230

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



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

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

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



Fellowship Ministry, cont'd

Women's Circles

The Clara Sullivan Circle will meet on Wednesday September 9, 10:00 am in the Parlor. Light refreshments will be served while we hear about everyone's summertime adventures! 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

Margaret Miller Circle Welcome Back: The Margaret Miller Circle will gather for our first meeting of the new church year on Tuesday, September 8, at 10:30 am. at the home of Sally Trone in celebration of our Annual Fall Luncheon. We will be doing our annual planning while beginning our study of Women of the New Testament.

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

The Katie Luther Circle will meet again on Thursday, September 10 with Stephanie Horacek as our hostess. Final plans/invitations will go out about a week before this date. We meet at noon (occasionally in the evening) for a potluck meal on the second Thursday of each month September through April. If you are interested in joining or visiting our group, please contact Tatter Hartmann at 804 338 3578 or maryhartmann279@gmail.com.



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

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club cordially invites you to our Friday, September 18th program at 11:00 am.

"Creating Impact with Petite Designs" located in the Commons area at Epiphany Lutheran church.

Workshop Leaders:

Club members Gail Goodrich Harwood, Stephanie Horacek, and Leslie Lovingood.

This will be a casual, fun and engaging time to "think small". We will be following "design 101" instructions to create a "Petite Design 6"6"x6" and a staging panel.

Members and guests should bring clippers, greenery boxwood), and twigs or small branches.

Design containers, floral foam, staging and floral materials will be provided.

Workshop fee: \$10.00 cash or check payable to SHGC and given to our club treasurer on the day.

Reservations for the workshop must be made by September 11.

Email Stephanie Horacek: Stephanie.horacek@gmail.com



Community Service Ministry

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

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

Community Service Ministry Team Meeting

The Team is meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Come and see what we do to help our community. Ideas? Bring those too! Questions? Contact Peggy Hinson at psumd76@verizon.net or (703) 472-8701.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

QUILTERS INGATHERING

September 19, Noon until 2:00 pm

The quilters are sponsoring another ingathering. We will be sending quilts, school kits, fabric kits from our church along with quilts and kits from other Lutheran churches to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse. Once there, the boxes will be repacked and sent to disaster sites, refugee camps, and our neighbors in need.

We will need a good number of strong helpers that can help load the boxes onto the truck from Lutheran World Relief. Please save the date and watch weekly bulletins and Constant Contact for more details closer to the date.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**



Community Service Ministry, cont'd

God's Work. Our Hands. and Rally Day Picnic Sunday, September 13

Join us for a service project in Price Hall between services and a picnic on the Church lawn (or inside if inclement weather) at 12:15 pm.

This year for our GWOH project we will assemble **750 personal care kits** for Lutheran World Relief. **We need many hands to help with this project and hope you will join us in Price Hall between the services to assemble and pack up the kits.**

Our Rally Day picnic will begin at 12:15 pm. The Church will provide chicken and hot dogs as well as desserts and drinks. Attendees are asked to bring one of the following dishes to Price Hall before the second service begins:

Last name A-J – bring a salad

Last name K-R – bring fruit or veggies

Last name S-Z - bring some sort of starch (e.g., potato salad, rice dish, etc.)



Please let us know whether you will be joining us and the number of people in your group either by signing up through this SignUpGenius link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4CAFAA22A6FE3-57795454-rally#/>

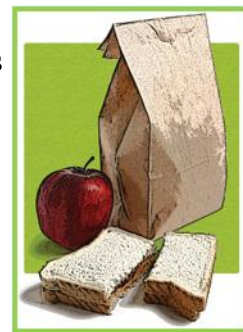
or by signing up on the sign-up sheet located on the table in the Commons outside of the Narthex, or calling Linda Martin at (804) 282-6066.

In the interim, we are collecting boxes (copy paper legal and letter size are perfect) for packing and shipping the personal care kits. Please no boxes smaller than paper boxes and no larger than the boxes that bananas are shipped in. Boxes may be dropped off in Price Hall (look for the posted sign). Thank you.

Mark Your Calendar! October 24th, 2026 – Moments of Hope Lunch Event

The Community Ministry Team will be providing over 400 bag lunches to folks in need on Saturday, October 24th, 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 venue at 601 Azalea Avenue. Please note that we have been asking for 300 bag lunches, but because of the growing needs that MoHope is seeing, that number has increased considerably.

Watch for the SignUpGenius in Constant Contact or Sunday bulletin for those who want to help us with the preparation of the bag lunches. We've had such overwhelming support from our congregation each and every time we've had this event, so we hope that we can count on you again to assist us even with the growing number of needed lunches. 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.



We will also be preparing little Halloween bags filled with candy to hand out as well. If you'd like to contribute, that would be greatly appreciated. ***No candy with peanuts and no hard candy, please.***

Look for more detailed information in the coming weeks in the emailed Weekly Announcements.

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Liberation Veteran Services Dinner – Tuesday, September 29th

You are invited to help share a warm meal, fellowship, and Christ's love with veterans at Liberation Veteran Services, located at 5503 1/2 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23225. On Tuesday, September 29th, our church will serve dinner as part of this meaningful ministry, and we would love for you to take part. If you would like to help with meal preparation, please meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 pm.

Please consider signing up to provide one or more of the needed items below through SignUpGenius, or by contacting Linda Martin in the church office:

- Chicken casseroles (3 slots available)*
- 24 all beef hotdogs
- Two 28 oz. cans of green beans (3 slots available)
- Two 28 oz. cans of baked beans (3 slots available)
- One pan of brownies, serving 24 (2 slots available)
- Two dozen ready-to-serve dinner rolls (2 slots available)
- 12-pack of cola, such as Coke or Pepsi (1 slot available)
- 12-pack of lemon-lime soda, such as Sprite or 7-Up (1 slot available)
- 12-pack of diet cola, such as Coke Zero (1 slot available)
- Volunteers to serve dinner (4 slots available)

*A copy of the chicken casserole recipe is available through the SignUpGenius link.

Food and beverage donations should be delivered to the church kitchen by 3:00 pm. on Monday, September 28th. Those volunteering to serve dinner should arrive at the church kitchen on Tuesday, September 29th, by 5:15 pm. to help load the food.

Thank you for helping us extend hospitality and share Christ's love with those who served our nation. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4CAFAA22A6FE3-65304964-copy>



Stephen Ministry

CAN YOU HOLD UP A BOTTLE OF WATER?

How much does a 12 Fl. Oz. bottle of Deer Park water weigh? Is it 4 ounces? Is it 8 ounces? Maybe it's 1 pound. So how long can you hold that single bottle up? Can you hold it up for 5 minutes? Or 30 minutes? How about an hour? Can you hold it up for one day?

It's not the weight of the bottle that becomes a factor, it's how long you can continue holding up that one bottle. The longer you hold it up, the heavier it becomes and the more of a burden it weighs on you.

So how long can you endure a burden by yourself? Job loss, illness, anxiety or depression, or loss of a loved one are burdens that confront many of us at some time in our lives. The burden may seem light in the beginning, but the longer you alone hold up that burden the heavier it becomes. The weight of that burden is too much for one person to bear alone.

Jesus said, "Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

You are never alone, Christ is here for you. A Stephen Minister will help you to bring your arm down and bring the Peace of Christ to you.

A Stephen Minister is a trained and commissioned member of our congregation who will provide Christ-centered comfort and care. He or She will be there for you and listen in confidence and without judgment for weeks, months, or longer. Your shared concerns are brought out so that the healing power of Jesus Christ can come in. Through talking, listening, scripture, and prayer, you are blessed with peace.

If you want to know more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Phillip or Ben Droste (804-741-3751), the Stephen Leader. It is a program designed for persons in need of someone to listen and to care.



Community Service Ministry, cont'd

Hello Hanne and Epiphany Family!

I hope your summer is going well!

I believe that Dr. Kristin Powell and Jim Huddle are a part of your fantastic congregation at Epiphany and we are SO blessed to have them as members of a couple of our Mountain Medical Teams that serve in Honduras! I've also heard Dr. Powell speak at events for Friends of Barnabas and I love her passion and enthusiasm for our mission! She is awesome!

I've attached a little link above that highlights some of our extraordinarily-awesome kiddos with Down Syndrome. We're bringing some awareness to them this summer as we continue to provide life-changing support and healthcare for fifteen (15) of them in our Healthy Kids program. We love them and they inspire us!

If you all have a protocol for sharing this video, [Extraordinary Children](#) and story with your great folks at Epiphany, we'd be so grateful!

Thank you for all that you all are doing in RVA to touch lives and share Jesus!

Blessings!

Joseph

Joseph Sedivy, RN

Development Coordinator

804.744.5624, Opt. 3/ (C) 804.629.8449

www.fobf.org

Heal, Educate, Empower.



The mission of Friends of Barnabas is to empower families in Honduras through healthcare and education.

House of Hope Collection for Liberation Veteran Services

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Community Service Ministry Team's House of Hope household and personal care collection to support Liberation Veteran Services. Your generous donations provided much needed and appreciated resources to help these veterans rebuild their lives.



Thank you to everyone who sent us condolences at the death of Wayne's sister.
It meant a lot to us.
Wayne and Lisa Shimko



My Epiphany Family,
I cannot begin to express my love for this congregation. The love, joy, and support that you have given me these 19+ years is so appreciated. I thank you for the wonderful reception and your more than generous love offering. I may not be in the office sitting in the Office Administrator chair, but plan to continue to follow Jesus wherever he may lead me in service. You will definitely see me around!
Much love and blessings,
Hanne Hamlin "Your Retired Office Administrator"

A Special Thank You from enCircle

Dear Joseph and Sarah,
Than you so much for your incredible generosity, and for the generosity of your congregation and youth volunteers!
Our entire team was stunned by the passion and kindness shown by the middle school volunteers, and we are beyond grateful for the food donations, the time spent assembling food kits, and the welcome-back-to school banners your group created. It was a genuine joy to witness such an amazing day of service, and even more rewarding to see the smiles on our staff's faces when we delivered the food kits to our Roanoke Minnick School. Our school principals arrived shortly afterward, and the food kits have since been distributed among our schools to help families in need.
Your generosity did not stop there, and please accept our incredibly heartfelt THANK YOU for your additional donation of \$3863. Because of the immense support we receive from Epiphany, children are reuniting with their loved ones, adults with disabilities are living with dignity in caring homes, and Minnick students are thriving in supportive, inclusive classrooms. Your generosity extends beyond your financial gifts; it shows those we serve that they have a passionate community standing behind them.
Thank you for walking alongside enCircle for so may years and for all you continue to make possible.
In peace,
Ashtyn Porter
Grants and Systems Coordinator



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
kbarger@epiphanyelca.org

Office Administrator -
@epiphanyelca.org

Coordinator of Community Life - Linda Martin
lmartin@epiphanyelca.org

Finance Manager - Elizabeth Hurst
ehurst@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.

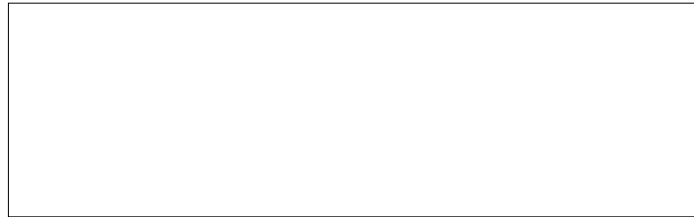
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday

9:00 am - Noon on Friday (Pastors off on Fridays)

Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church
1400 Horsepen Road
Monument Ave. at Horsepen Road
Richmond, VA 23226
Phone: 804-282-6066
Fax: 804-282-6067
www.epiphanyelca.org



Address Service Requested



In-Person Summer Worship Times

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

Summer Worship on YouTube

May 24 - September 6
10:30 am

In-Person Worship Times

September 13-May 23
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Online Worship Times on YouTube

September 13-May 23
11:00 am

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranRVA



Instagram: epiphanyelca