



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

The Examiner

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

September 2025

Dear Epiphany Friends –

It's wonderful to be back in the saddle after a summer away! I have really enjoyed hearing about your summer, especially the summer service trip to Western NC, which seemed to be a highlight and milestone in people's faith and lives of service. I thought the youth did a phenomenal job "telling the story" during the sermon time at the worship service following their return. I look forward to the fall and continuing to share stories and experiences.

You may remember that over the summer I reflected on the question "what is the new song God is singing in me?" and I asked you to reflect on this question for yourself and for our congregation as well. I would like to share insights and continue to reflect on this question together and will offer us a chance to do this through a Sunday school class on Sundays September 14, 21, and 28. The time will include a Bible study, a

theological reflection together on the sabbath, a time of singing, and I will share some songs I wrote this summer. My hope is that this time will offer us a chance to reflect and share what we sense God is up to in our midst. This class will meet at 10:00 am in the Star Lodge, and all are welcome.

On Sunday, September 28 Epiphany will also host a musical event called "First Light: New Songs of Praise" at 4:00 pm. The concert will feature the One Voice Chorus – an interracial community chorus in Richmond that performs choral music for the central Virginia community and has blessed us with their gifts in worship (and also rehearses at Epiphany) – our Epiphany choir and ensembles, and my band, the Sunslingers. I hope you will come and listen to this music but even more importantly, I hope you will take part in the congregational singing and the reception to follow. This event will last about an hour and is open to everyone. I am grateful to the Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant which is sponsoring and funding this event. In a sense, this is the final piece of our sabbatical experience and a chance to sing the New Song of Faith that God has given us.

Again, I want to say thank you for the generous gift of my renewal leave. Currently, I feel very refreshed and glad to be back and I do hope this Sunday school series and concert will be a blessing for our congregation and community. I'll always be grateful for the time of travel with my family and have already experienced that benefit to our ministry here at Epiphany.

Peace+
Pastor Joseph





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!

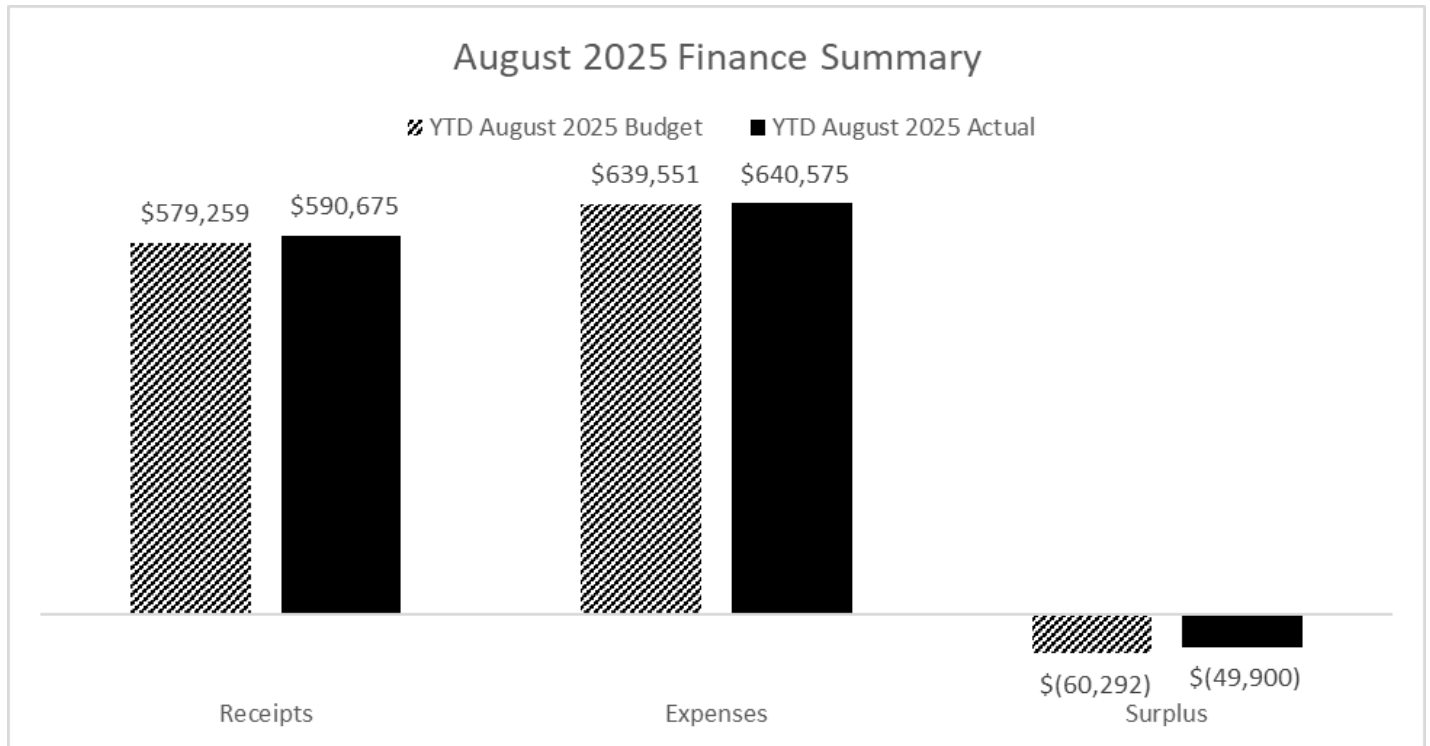
Church Council is in the planning stages of marking this event with celebrations and events that will bring us together and help us look forward to the next decades of God's mission here. They are also planning on embarking on a capital appeal to help pay down some of the congregation's debt, upgrade 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!



Finance Ministry



YTD August, we had receipts of \$590,675 which were 101% of our budgeted receipts of \$579,259 and \$36,982 or 7% higher than 2024.

Expenses were \$640,575 and \$1,024 unfavorable to plan due to the following:

- Christian Ed expense (unfavorable \$2,576) due to earlier than planned spending in Youth and VBS due to sabbatical. Should be on plan for the year.
- Building & Equipment expense (unfavorable \$2,142) as several projects were completed earlier in the year.
- Admin expense (unfavorable \$4,120) due to catch up on tech support billing as we moved from using our church credit card to check payment due to increase in credit card processing fees.
- Several expense categories were favorable partially offsetting the items above.

Church Council Nominating Team

The Nomination Team is now accepting suggestions for individuals to serve on Congregational Council beginning in February 2026.

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

Please leave your suggestions on the purple slips found on the Blue Table under the Announcement Display Monitor and in found in the pews. Place them in the Church Office Dropbox.



Music Ministry

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT – SEPTEMBER 2025

Epiphany Brass

The brass ensemble adds a rich sound to our worship life on many occasions. Our next offering will be for Reformation Sunday, October 26. Please contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org if you are available and willing to play for this service.

It's Time to Start...

All our groups will begin rehearsals this month. If you have questions about any of our music ministries, please refer to the music ministry catalog or contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org.

Chancel Choir (8:30) – begins 8:00 am Sunday, September 7, Sala Music Center.

Chancel Choir (11:00) – begins 10:30 am Sunday, September 7, Sala Music Center – please note that we will be leading worship September 7 and September 14. We will begin Wednesday rehearsals Wednesday, September 17 at 7:15 pm in the Sala Music Center.

Epiphany Ringers – begins 9:30 am Sunday, September 7, balcony – please note we will begin with polishing at this time.

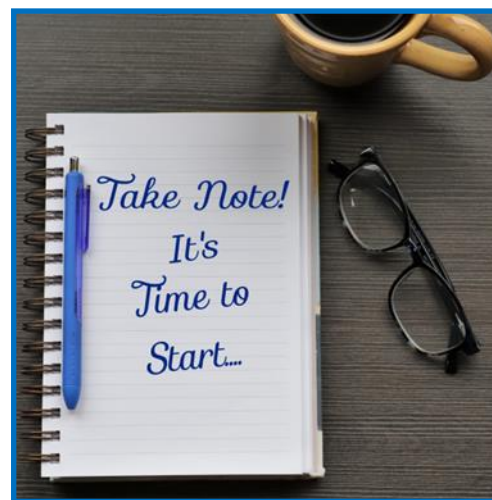
Cherub Choir – begins 6:30 pm Wednesday, September 17, room 104.

Singing Saints – begins 6:30 pm Wednesday, September 17, Sala Music Center.

Junior Handbells – this is part of 'Lil Youths beginning noon Sunday, September 14, Star Lodge with rehearsal in the balcony.

Steel Crossticks – begins 12:15 pm Sunday, September 21, Sala Music Center.

Epiphany Brass – to be arranged based on those available for Reformation Sunday.



We hope to see returning faces as well as new faces!

Epiphany Ringers has some openings!

We have openings in our bell choir! You could play really big bells in the bass or some really tiny bells at the top. If you have been considering a way to be involved in music ministry that doesn't involve singing, this is for you! We meet Sunday mornings between the two worship services and play in worship about once every 3 weeks or so. If you would like more information or are interested in joining the group, please contact Kevin at kbarger@epiphanyelca.org. We look forward to all our members' return as well as the opportunity to welcome some new folks!

Organ restoration and repair update

Why do we even bother cleaning the organ and what does that really mean? This may be a question that you have had over the past months/years as we have been exploring work on our instrument at Epiphany. We spent a lot of money on the building and installation of our pipe organ. We clean and maintain it as we treat it as an investment. We want to protect our investment and avoid costly repairs or replacements down the road. Our organ was built by a company called Schantz and was installed in 1986.

As we care for our investment, we should have regular maintenance that keeps the instrument clear of dust and debris. Not doing this might lead us to damage down the road. This is different than tuning the organ, which we also do about twice a year.



Continue.....

Over the past couple of years, we recognized that we had not been taking care of our investment as best we could. We entered in an agreement for cleaning and restoration services. We had all the pipes cleaned and serviced early this year – that provides us with cleaner, sharper and even more bright tones from our instrument. Most recently, you may have noticed that we did not have use of the organ for a couple Sundays. During this time, they took apart the console (the part of the organ with the keys where I sit) and cleaned, replaced some tubing that had dry rotted (it was the original), added all new knobs on the console and a fresh finish. (Come up after worship, and I will show you!). We updated now so that we have memory levels, making the instrument more usable in various ways for worship services. We had some reconfiguration done with regard to voicing.

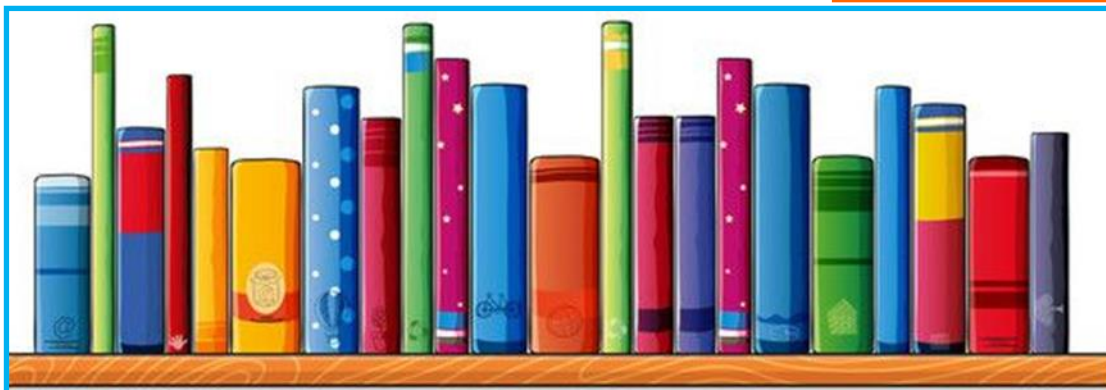
There is one final step left in the project, which is the installation of the celeste (a new sound) which will happen as soon as the windchest, which is being custom made, is complete and arrives. This final step should be completed before Christmas. Once complete, the organ will be completely updated and remain a powerful instrument for use in our worship. It makes it more modernized and accessible for use in other settings including concert organists, choirs or other events that we might wish to explore.

This has been an exciting project and represents the first time since installation that we have done this kind of work, so we are “all caught up” for now with a plan for regularly scheduled cleaning maintenance as we move forward. Thank you to Council for their recognition and funding of this important work.



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.



September Baptism Birthdays



Altar Care

Thank you to those who served in August:

First Service - Bonita and Alvah Wyatt

Second Service - Jeanetta Linka and Mary Sue Oehler

Altar Care for September:

First Service - Poppy Ebbesen and Pamela Bosserman

Second Service - Beth Barger and Bobbie 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.



Upcoming Opportunities to Serve Our Neighbors

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7!

Rally Day Barbeque Lunch - September 7

Liberation Veterans Dinner - September 30

Blood Drive - October 12

Thanksgiving Box Collection - October 19 - November 9

Moments of Hope Lunch Service - October 25

Liberation Veterans Dinner - December 30



Faith Formation



The new Faith Formation year kicks off on Sunday, September 7 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!

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

10:00—10:45 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 7 with Rally Day!

Help us plan for the year ahead by sharing information about your child on [this simple registration form](#).

Receiving this information helps us plan for teachers, supplies, curriculum, and helps us plan for the best experience for your child. Thank you for your help!



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, Ms. Ramona, 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: Kristy Anderson, Karen Myers. Fran Stanford-Molina

Helper: Olivia Anderson



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, Janet Johnson

Helper: Riley Stapleton



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

Faith Formation



3rd, 4th, 5th Graders

Room 201 (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 questions about faith and the Bible using a curriculum called re:form.

Teachers: Max Stanford-Molina, Dyan Troxel, Jerod Brown



High School Class

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

Von Bora Room (2nd floor)

9:45—10:45 am

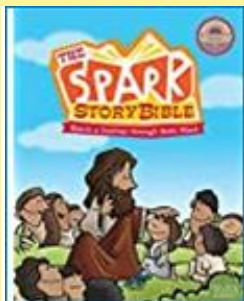
Join us each week as we explore the TV series the Chosen. Each week, we'll watch an episode and share in discussion. Throughout the year, there will also be service projects and other creative activities. Friends are always welcome!

Teachers: Kellie Brown, Dan Nelson, Dana Lauder

Faith Formation

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 14

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 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 26

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. **A parents' only meeting is set for Sunday, October 5 to share details about the Bible presentation.**



Holy Communion Class

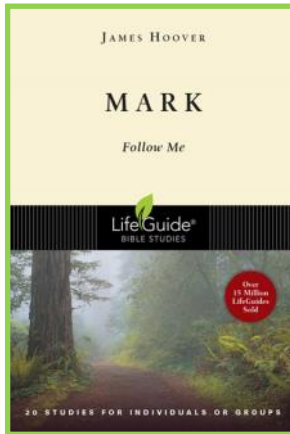
4th Graders & Their Parents

March 8, 15, 22, 2026

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, April 2.

Faith Formation for Adults

Mid-Week Opportunities

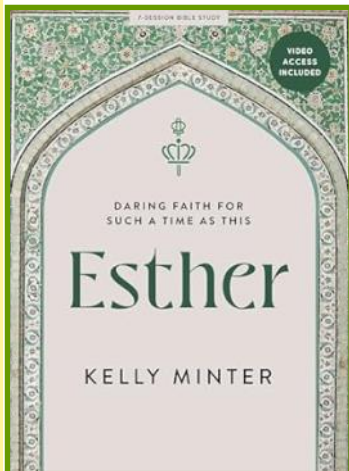


TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:30-Noon in the Parlor

Begins September 9

This fall our group begins with a study of 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. The group begins Tuesday, September 9 at 10:30 am in the Parlor. Join us!



MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

Begins September 11

Epiphany Moms' Bible Study (MBS) is moving to Thursday EVENINGS! Our first meeting will be September 11, 2025 at 7:00 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!

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



A New Song: Reflection on Sabbath and Re-Creation Sundays, September 14, 21, 28

10:00—10:45 am

Star Lodge

Psalms 98 proclaims, "Sing to the Lord a new song!" Join Pastor Joseph for reflections on this sabbatical theme. Over the three week class period, we'll spend time in Bible study, theological reflection about sabbath keeping and re-creation, sing hymns and songs together, consider what new song God is singing in us, and maybe even attempt writing a song together! All are welcome!



Blessed and Stressed

Begins September 14

10:00 am

Parlor

Blessed and Stressed is a gathering for parents of younger children. Beginning Sunday, September 14th, we will meet 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!

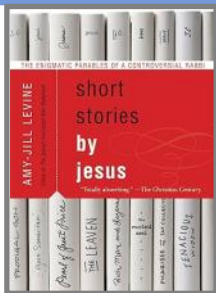


New(er) Members' Classes

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.



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.

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

Epiphany Youth and Families ~

It's wonderful to be back after a summer away! I've heard awesome things about the service trip to Western North Carolina (and can't wait to hear much more about it) and its exciting that our regular gatherings and a fresh year of fun, learning, and service is quickly approaching!

It all begins soon: **September 7th is RALLY DAY at Epiphany!**

On Rally Day all 7th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us for our first EYG Gathering of the year. After you're finished with lunch at our church picnic on the lawn please head to the Star Lodge – we'll get going with our time together at 12:45 pm with a welcome to new and returning students, an overview of the year, and of course, lots of fun!

Our theme this year will be "GOD IS LOVE" as we follow Jesus who teaches us to trust in God's love and to love our neighbor as ourselves – all so that love grows and grows. One of our first tasks this fall will be to select a site for our service trip in summer 2026.

I am including our EYG (7-12th Grade) and Lil Youth (4-6th Grade) Calendars for the year (which also includes synod retreats) so please check out these dates and make plans to join us!

Peace+

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph".

Pastor Joseph

P.S. ~ To receive texts about events, upcoming activities, and reminders, you can sign up for our remind app text messages. Just text the number 81010 with the message @eygrva ~ If you are like me, reminders are always helpful!



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.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 7 ~ Rally Day! Welcome Back! Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) meets in the Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, September 14 ~ Lil Youth (4-6th Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, September 21 ~ Epiphany Youth Group (7-12 Grades) Star Lodge, 12-2:00 pm

Sunday, September 28 - "Sing a New Song" Concert 4-5:00 pm in Sanctuary, with reception to follow

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, 5-9:00pm.

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

SUMMER

June 8 - 12 (Monday-Friday) ~ Vacation Bible School

June ~ Summer Service Trip - location/dates selected in September/October during EYG Gatherings

Sunday to Friday, June 21 - 26 Kairos (Rising 9th-12th grade) retreat at Roanoke College

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!!



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, September 14

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

Property Ministry

September 2025



Here we go again...

September! School year, church year, last quarter, all new once again. The pace always seems to pick up right now as our calendars fill up before the holidays. How will we get it all done?

Quite a lot got done August 16th on our fall cleanup Saturday. It was a great turnout! It was great to get this scheduled in before the ELNS teachers returned to prep for the new day school session. Jean Henry got started on the Columbarium.



Nanci Wilfong tackled the walkway serviceberry trees and more.



Jason Roma brought Torin, Taavi and Caius and the family was a powerhouse team plowing through the fence line and labyrinth.



Dying bushes were removed from the balcony stairwell area.



Property Ministry, cont'd

Phillip, Melinda and Jasper Martin helped everywhere. Kathy Kaufmann was instrumental in pew restocking and organizing a load of plates we want to send to a good home.



Bill Linka roamed the property lifting limbs.

Hil Richardson and Brian Hellenga thoroughly cleaned the front side of the property bordering Horsepen, among other things.



Other members, like Stew and Marilyn Gloyer couldn't make it on cleanup day, so they came a day earlier to tidy up. Many of you come in on a regular basis to weed, like Tom Girton, and to all of you I say Thank You! We were able to cross off a lot of items on the list, but a few remain, so contact me if you have a free hour or so for some constructive ministry projects.

Bids are in for the our AC replacement. Council and Finance will now review, details soon. Thankfully the weather seems to continue it's mild tack.

Master craftsmen continue working hard on our organ.
Almost finished!



Rally looms large on the 7th. Set-up will commence on Friday the 5, 9-11:00 am and continue Saturday, 9-11:00 am. Let us know if you can help with pavilion and table placement. Also, we need popcorn, sno-cone, and face painting personnel!

See you soon!

Rob Hamlin

Facilities Manager

Fellowship Ministry

Guys' Night



All men of the church are welcome to join us

on Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm for an evening of fellowship.

We will gather at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery West Creek. 820 Sanctuary Trail Drive 23238.

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



Celebrate the Drama of Autumn

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club has 10 seats available for a Floral Design Workshop “Celebrate the Drama of Autumn” on Friday September 19th,

This will be a casual and fun time to play with color and texture as we create fall designs using instructions to create a Simple Design.

Members and guests should bring clippers, greenery (no boxwood), and twigs or small branches. Design bowls, floral foam and flowers will be provided. Workshop fee is 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 12th.

Email Stephanie Horacek

Stephanie.horacek@gmail.com



Fellowship Ministry, cont'd

Women's Circles

Clara Sullivan Circle will meet on September 10, 10:00 am in the Rob Burger Commons.

Corky will give our devotions. The new 2025 – 2026 WELCA yearbook will be distributed. Tatter attended the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization Convention in July and will give us an update. We will sign birthday cards for Epiphany members who are 80+. Light refreshments will be served while we "catch up" with everyone's summertime activities!

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

Welcome Back! Margaret Miller Circle will gather for our first meeting of the new church year on Tuesday, September 9, at 11:00 am at the home of Sally Trone in celebration of our Annual Fall Luncheon. 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, September 11. 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)



Community Service Ministry

Epiphany Blood Drive

First of all, kudos to all who came to donate at our last drive. Although we didn't meet Red Cross' goal for the drive we still managed to collect 21 units which means improving and potentially saving the lives of up to 63 individuals. Many thanks to all of our donors and a happy welcome to those who gave at Epiphany for the first time.

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

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 transfusions for those with blood (including clotting) disorders, cancers requiring chemotherapy, and burns.

FYI, our next blood drive will take place **October 12** in Price Hall. We hope to continue to expand our list of donors, at Epiphany and outside of the congregation so please help by spreading the word to neighbors and coworkers about Epiphany's drive.

We look forward to seeing you on October 12. Sign up is open at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=epiphanyrva>

Peace, Carl Erickson



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.

Community Service Ministry, cont'd

SNEEZING IN CHURCH

Church is the best place to sneeze, bar none.

Really? Why is that?

Because in church the immediate response is care and concern by many, many people all around you with a sincere “Bless you!” Where else can you be and have so many people immediately focused on you and your well-being, people who care?

Sometimes you may sneeze in a store or an office and a nearby person will respond with a kind but automatic, “Bless you.” Someone may even say, “Gesundheit.” You nod your head in thanks.



What happens when you sneeze without anyone near you? Nothing.

What happens if the problem is more than a sneeze that no one can readily see or hear?

All of us experience a life situation at one time or another—illness, depression, loss of a loved one, career disruption, divorce, anxiety, and many more problems. It is better to have someone near you to say, “Bless you,” than to try to manage the problem alone, without anyone’s help.

A Stephen Minister will be that person standing with you in private and behind the scenes. For about an hour every week your Stephen Minister will listen to you without judgment, listen to you in strict confidence, and listen to what you are really saying. It is only when you let your feelings out that Christ can come in with his healing love and care.

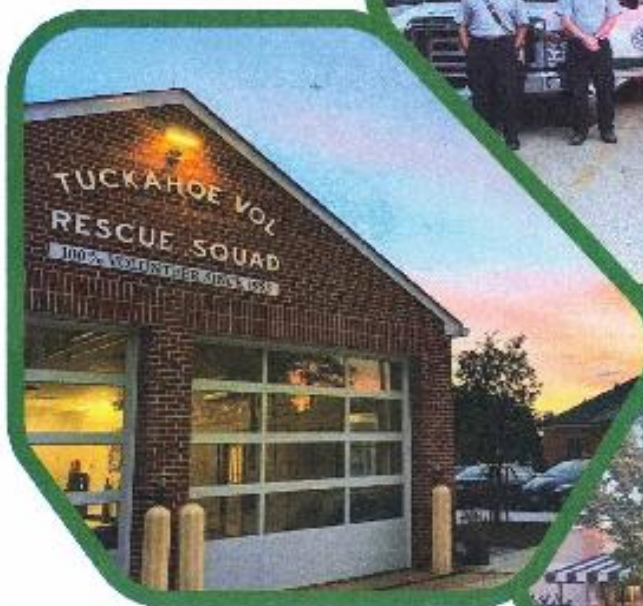
If you or anyone you know needs a Stephen Minister or you want to know more about the program, please contact Pastor Phillip or Ben Droste (Stephen Leader). For almost twenty years men and women with various life conflicts have been helped by Epiphany’s Stephen Ministers and their Christ-centered care.



Did you know? Back in 1952-53, Tuckahoe Rescue Squad was stationed in what is now our Star Lodge? Pastor Sala blessed the first truck from the station. If you happen to see Chris Kannewurff (works for the Squad) at the late service, ask him questions about the station!



Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad



OPEN HOUSE

All ages are welcome! Come meet our dedicated volunteers, who take pride in helping our community and have been "neighbors helping neighbors" since 1953.

- Touch-A-Truck
- First Aid - CPR Demonstrations
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Food and Fun!

SEPT 21ST 12PM-4PM

1101 Horsepen Rd, Richmond, VA 23229

Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School News

Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School and **Clothes Bin®** have partnered to collect and recycle old clothing, shoes and textiles!

Don't throw your items away,
just place them in the **green** recycling bin in our parking lot
the next time you come to church!

Every pound of recycled items supports **ELNS!**

Below is a list of items that can be placed in our bin:

Clothing: pants, jeans, skirts, dresses, suits, shorts, shirts, tees, tanks

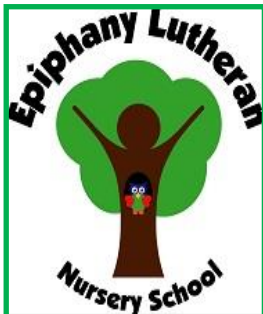
Footwear: shoes, boots, heels, sneakers, sandals, socks, tights

Undergarments: bras, underwear, slips, camisoles

Accessories: hats, belts, ties, scarves, headbands

Handbags: wallets, totes, luggage, backpacks, briefcases

Linens: towels, sheets, comforters, blankets, tablecloths



As you clean out the old and bring in the new,
you can help the environment and **ELNS** too!

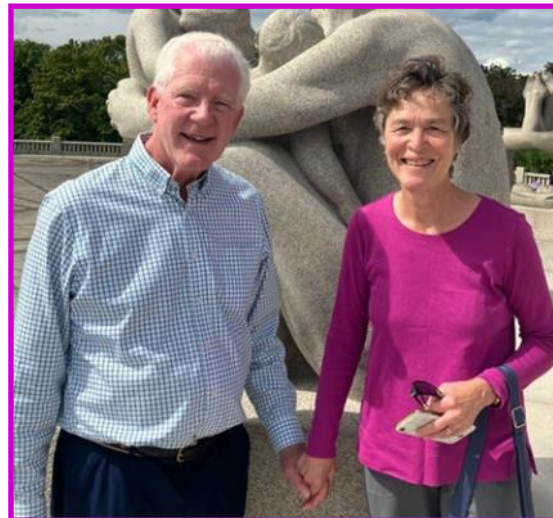


Happenings in the Congregation

We are so glad to welcome back into Epiphany's membership Pastor Chris Price and his wife, Terry. Chris is Epiphany's Pastor Emeritus, having served as pastor of this congregation from 1983 until his retirement in 2013. "Emeritus" is an honorific title that is bestowed on someone who retires from a position of distinction, which Chris most certainly did!

It does not give Chris any official role on our church staff, but his presence with us, along with the experience he received as a parish pastor, will bless us in many other ways. After "retiring" from Epiphany, Chris served four years as an Assistant to the Bishop of our synod, and then served twice as an interim pastor in local congregations. In short, and in his own words, he is ready to be in the pew where he can appreciate pastoral ministry rather than provide it. The Price's headshots are already uploaded into Realm. He and Terry are thankful to find a congregational home among us, especially now that their daughter and son-in-law, Megan and Rob Ragusa, and their grandchildren, Stella and Nick, are members here too. Please join me in welcoming them back and receiving the many gifts they bring.

Phillip Martin



A note from Habitat for Humanity, Hanover and King William

We know you have many choices when it comes to your charitable giving, and we are truly grateful you chose to support Hanover and King William Habitat for Humanity last year.

Thanks to your generosity, three families moved into safe, stable homes, and eighteen more households received critical repairs that helped them remain safely in the homes they love. Many of these included seniors now able to age in place with dignity.

This year, we hope to dedicate four homes and help even more families through our repairs program. Your continued support makes this possible.

Together we are building brighter futures for families in our community.

Dear friends:

Once again I want to express my thanks for the lovely altar flowers from Sunday, August 31. Thanks also to Marcia Donovan who graciously delivered them. They really made my day! Thanks for remembering me.

In Christian love,
Carolyn Kronk



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 - 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



Address Service Requested



In-Person Worship Times


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

**Online Summer Worship Times on
YouTube**

September 7-May 17
11:00 am



www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranRVA

 Instagram: epiphanyelca