

the STAR



“We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship Him.”
Matthew 2:2

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 2016

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Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler

pastorzeigler@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Fellowship: 10:45 am

Growth in the Word: 11:00 am

Sunday School: 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday Fellowship

Potluck: 11:00 am

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epiphany-stl.org



Woerner Principal Peggy Meyer, staff, and two students with perfect attendance. At the end of year assembly, the students received new bikes provided by a member from Epiphany.

PRINCIPAL THOUGHTS ON EPIPHANY'S VISION

On June 26th, Epiphany adopted the following vision for this next season of ministry:

We are one family of growing followers of Jesus seeking the good of our church and community by channeling service to the students, families, and staff of Woerner Elementary School.

As Epiphany's leaders sought to form a clear vision for our near-future, we took note of five factors:

1. We are led by our faith in Jesus to love and serve the people around us.
2. We have been blessed with a super-abundance of legacy gifts.
3. We have been blessed with a growing worshipping community.
4. Good vibes from the Epiphany – Woerner partnership go back 75 years.
5. Woerner is a microcosm of need and potential for good in our community.

With this in mind, we decided to focus our social outreach efforts on serving and channeling service to the 400 students, 275 families, and 40 staff members of Woerner.

In July, Pastor Zeigler sat down with Woerner's Principal, Peggy Meyer, to talk about this vision. Here are some highlights:

PZ: Given that we're a Christian Church and you're a public school, what would the SLPS District and Woerner families think about this vision?

PM: The St. Louis Public School District supports partnerships with local churches. We are very comfortable with this partnership and are excited about the possibilities it creates.

Turn to page 2 to read more of the discussion with Pastor Zeigler and Woerner's Principal, Peggy Meyer.

MUSH!

Fairbanks Alaska is home to the largest (and perhaps only) dog mushing museum in the world. The term “mush” supposedly comes from the French word “*Marche!*” Back in the day, locals heard the French Canadian fur trappers holler at their restless sled dogs, “*Marche!*” to give them permission to “Go!” To the locals, it sounded like “mush” and the rest is history.

The dogs featured at the Fairbanks Mushing Museum are the Olympic athletes of the canine world. In a race like the thousand-mile Iditarod from Anchorage to Nome, the dogs will run as much as a hundred miles in a day, with each animal consuming the caloric equivalent of 24 Big Macs. And you thought Michael Phelps ate a lot. As with our Olympians, sled dogs come in many shapes and sizes. But they hold one attribute in common: restlessness—an insatiable desire to “Go!”



Martin Luther once described the faith that resides in a follower of Jesus in similar terms: “When it comes to faith, what a living, creative, active, powerful thing it is. It cannot do other than good at all times” (*Preface to Romans*). Luther was echoing what St. Paul said about faith some fifteen hundred years earlier: faith works through love (Galatians 5:6). Like an Alaskan Husky, faith doesn’t like to sit still.

The thing about faith is that it’s not about us. Sure, we’re involved. We’re along for the ride. We exercise faith and live by faith. But faith is a power out in front of us. It pulls us forward. You and I might not feel especially lively, creative, active, or powerful. With the way the summer is going, you might feel like me: sluggish and sweaty. But faith is still out in front, pulling. St Paul said faith is God’s gift (Ephesians 2:8). Luther echoed: “Faith is something God effects in us.” God’s energizing “*Marche!*” comes as we experience the church’s absolutions, songs, Scriptures, sermons, sacraments, and social life. Spend some time with the church. Then hold onto the sled.

Sometimes people adopt sled dogs as household pets. But it often ends in disaster: a frustrated owner, hyperactive dog, and in the backyard—holes half-way to China. Sled dogs don’t domesticate well. They are born and bred to work. The same can be said of faith.

Faith needs an outlet, a path on which to run. This is partly why we adopted a vision statement at our last congregational meeting. We need ways to channel our faith to let it run at God’s call. As individuals, our faith will pull us in many directions, working for good for our families, friends, employers, customers, and neighbors. As a congregation, we want to channel good works toward the families of Woerner Elementary. By doing so, we will point these families to the object and energy of our faith: Jesus. So are you ready? Hold on, now. *Mush!*

Pastor Zeigler

Continued from the cover story

PZ: What should we strive to do (or not do) in this partnership?

PM: We envision this partnership as a wonderful opportunity for both organizations. We are hoping to not only accept support and assistance from the members of Epiphany Lutheran Church, but to also form positive relationships and work collaboratively for the betterment of our neighborhood and community.

PZ: How will we know when it’s successful?

PM: When relationships are built, and people’s needs are being met on both sides, this will be success.

PZ: What gets you excited about the plan we’ve laid out for the coming year?

PM: I am very excited about the events we have scheduled. I am also excited about the community service projects that we will be partnering to complete. A big part of our school’s focus on character development involves service learning, and we are always looking for new projects.

Keep reading this issue to learn more about Epiphany’s plan to channel community service to Woerner, and through Woerner, back to the community.

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Years ago, my wife Amy and I attended a motorcycle safety class together. The instructor told us, "Keep your eyes up on the road well ahead of you." The temptation is to fixate on the patch of road just ahead of your front tire. This is dangerous, especially when you're trying to take a curve in the road. With eyes down, you overreact with jerky, haphazard movements. But with your eyes up, you steer safely and smoothly.

This September, we will celebrate our congregation's 75th Anniversary. This is a momentous milestone. It deserves planning and energy to honor the past and celebrate what God is doing in the present.

During these celebrations, I also encourage you to keep your eyes on the road well ahead. Ask yourself, what might God do with Epiphany in the next 75 years? How can our vision boldly and smoothly move us forward in the next five years? How can I be involved?

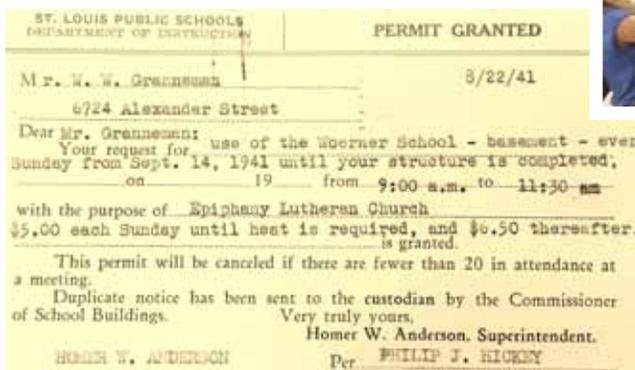
Here are some ways you can be involved:

- Come to Worship and Bible study every week; we can't be a united family of growing Christ-followers without gathering to worship and learn.
- Come to the Generations Connect family camp-style gatherings on Aug 1-4; learn how to develop a daily devotional practice that fits with your life situation.
- Be a volunteer reading buddy at Woerner; the commitment times are flexible and the reward is incalculable; go to www.slps.org, click on "Community" then "volunteer services" or call Eleanor at 314-345-4577 or eleanor.hungerford@slps.org
- Help with the Ice Cream Social for Woerner Kindergarten Families on Aug 19th; this event will help us make a great first impression on new families.
- Help with our ESL class focused on Woerner moms starting Weds on Sept 7th; the needs of local refugees are great, but our God is greater . . . let Him show you.
- Pray that God would increase our faith and expand His kingdom; we can't accomplish anything worthwhile without prayers offered in faith.

Not every new congregation started makes it 75 years. That we've come this far is a miracle from God. I don't know God's plans for Epiphany over the next 75 years. I do know that the best way we can cooperate with Him is to keep our eyes up and focused being His disciple-making disciples here in South St Louis.

Pastor Zeigler

Epiphany members gather for Generations Connect to build relationships as we prepare to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.



SMALL TOWN IN THE BIG CITY

During our last youth night we decided to play some volleyball. The ten of us set up the net and began to play. It was a perfect night to be out. As my team began to take the lead I noticed someone walking through the alley. It was Mark Hagen who was walking his dog. He waved. All the kids waved. I thought, wow, a member of the church is walking through the neighborhood. Keep in mind that in the suburbs of Texas, no one lives in the same neighborhood as the church. We all commuted in from somewhere else. So this kind of caught me off-guard. Nevertheless, we continued to play. Then from the house next door, Dr. Aaron Schenone appears! He waves. Then in a kind of shock I watched his neighbor, David Kovar, walk out into his backyard and wave. I could not believe this!

On a single evening three of our Epiphany families are out messing around—in the neighborhood we are trying to serve! Can you hear my excitement? I hope so. Here is why I am so excited—In many cases a congregation's membership will have to commute to the building for events like worship or youth night. Because of this their presence in the neighborhood is somewhat artificial and a relationship has to be built over time if they wish to connect with their neighbors.

Not so with us. We are already in the neighborhood and many of us have been for a long time. So, when you consider this and how we have decided as a congregation to focus our missional efforts toward seeking the good of the church and community by focusing on the families, students, staff and faculty of Woerner Elementary, well, hopefully you can see my excitement. We are already in a position to serve just by simply being neighbors. This is an incredible opportunity. When we take the opportunity to serve our neighbors, to minister to them and help them, we will be fulfilling our agreed upon mission.

So how do we proceed? The possibilities are endless but a good place to start is getting to know your neighbors. As you talk, you listen for needs that you and Epiphany may be able to meet. Don't worry about big programs or events yet. Just listen and serve and love your neighbor as yourself. The Spirit of our Lord will lead the way. We only need to keep our eyes and ears open.

Paul Terral, Director of Youth-and-Family Ministry



Thank you!

We packed about 100 blessing bags on Sunday, July 24th to give out to folks in need. Thank you to everyone who helped!

COMING EVENTS



Generations Connect – family camp-style gatherings for small ones to seniors at Epiphany’s fellowship hall

	MON, AUG 1	TUES, AUG 2	WED, AUG 3	THUR, AUG 4
6:00–6:30	Snacks/Fellowship	Snacks/Fellowship	Snacks/Fellowship	Snacks/Fellowship
6:30–7:15	Songs & Devotion	Songs & Devotion	Songs & Devotion	Songs & Devotion, with Lord’s Supper
7:15–8:00	Crafts/Games	Outdoor/Indoor Games	Crafts/Games	Roast S’mores over fire pit

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	2 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	3 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	4 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	5	6
7 New Council Members Installed	8 Church Council 7 p.m. Epiphany	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Ice Cream Social 6 p.m. for new kindergarten families at Woerner	20
21	22	23	24 Youth Confirmation Classes resume on Weds 4:30 p.m.	25 Bible Study Fellowship resumes every Thurs 10 a.m.	26	27
28 Fellowship Potluck 11 a.m. Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Tim Saleska	29	30	31	August		
September				1	2	3
4 Guest Liturgist Rev. Eldon Winker	5	6	7 ESL classes Epiphany on Weds 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Elders’ Meeting 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10
11 Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer	12 Church Council 7 p.m. Epiphany	13	14	15 Man Cave Fellowship 7 p.m. Epiphany	16	17 Miller/Robben Wedding 1:30 p.m. Epiphany
18 Guest Preacher Rev. Will Miller	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Anniversary Banquet 11 a.m. Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Tony Troup	26	27	28	29	30	

SCHEDULES



DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	ALTAR GUILD
8/7	Will Barnett	Rhonda & Doug Jones	Rich Berg	Andrea Barnett and Lynn Goetz
8/14	Paul Gallo	Tiffany Gallo	Bill Dorsam	
8/21	Hannah Hawk	Carol Niemeier	Derek Perry	
8/28	Brianna Meyer	Jill & Derek Perry	Chris Pfeuffer	
9/4	Alex Pfeuffer	Judy Marvin	Rich Berg	Judy Marvin and Carol Niemeier
9/11	Elise Zeigler	Andrea & Billy Barnett	Rod Horton	
9/18	Josiah Zeigler	Diane & Rich Berg	Bill Dorsam	
9/25	Will Barnett	Linda & Mike Meyer	Derek Perry	

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Theme verse: "LORD, in Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed" - Exodus 15:13

August 28th—Opening Service & Potluck Meal

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Tim Saleska, Professor, Concordia Seminary

September 4th—Pilgrimage Service

Service begins at Woerner Elementary School and progresses to Epiphany
Guest Liturgist: Rev. Eldon Winker, Emeritus Pastor, Epiphany

September 11th—Service of Remembrance

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President, Concordia Seminary

September 18th—Service of Expectation

Guest Preacher: Rev. Will Miller (Epiphany Fieldworker, 2005–2007)

September 25th—Anniversary Service & Banquet

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Tony Troup (son of Epiphany)

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings, Jan. – Jun. 2016: \$2,188.81

Average weekly offerings needed to support the budget: \$2,466

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance, Jan. – Apr. 2016: 96

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for the generous gifts you gave us as our going away present. Wow! We were so humbled by your generosity and love! . . . Thank you for embracing, supporting, encouraging, and loving our family this past year. We are all settled into our new place in Iowa and are blessed to have been embraced by another lovely congregation. Thanks for all you do, and keep up the great work at Epiphany! It's truly a special place to be. We won't forget your kindness!

Love,

Pastor Eric, Jill, Julia, Cal, and Hazel Hauan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Shirley Frederich July 28
- Masin Frederich August 2
- Austin Aycock August 3
- Tyler Slama August 9
- Britney Hawk August 10
- Johanna Armstrong August 11
- Jinming Lam August 12
- Karen Meinberg August 13
- Bob Johnson August 15
- Alex Marcee August 15
- Carol Niemeier August 19
- Jill Pfeuffer August 19
- Laura Driskell August 21
- Pam Reilly August 23
- Brianna Meyer August 25
- Alicia Marcee August 30
- Becky Hagen August 31
- Kelsey Hyatt August 31
- Emilee Sutherlin September 1
- Dominic Welch September 3
- Carol Trautman September 7
- Kay Poppen September 8
- Bonnie Crites September 10
- Victoria Cuka September 10
- Elise Zeigler September 10
- George Lluka September 11
- Evelyn Perez September 18
- Michael LaJeuness September 25
- Richard Blattner September 28

PRAYER REQUESTS

To be a part of the Prayer Chain
 contact Karen Slama at (314) 353.2396.

- Homebound**
 Bonnie Crites
 Donna Reek
 Mary Mathae
 Emilee Sutherlin
 Dorothy Zickler
 Kurt & Kathy Zickler

- For God's grace, health & healing**
 Vince Birkman
 Ken Braniecki (Lisa Birkman's father)
 Cheryl Cieszynski (Britney Hawk's mother)
 Carolyn Gluesenkamp
 Bonny Lang
 Rod Schury
 The Perry & Terral Family (expecting a baby)

- Serving as Police Officers**
 Jonathan Baublitz (Desiree Stout's brother)
 Andrew Kleffner
 Mark McMurry
 Don Reynolds

- Serving in Military**
 Patrick Coil (Mary Kay Sansone's son)
 Paul Frederich (Shirley Frederich's grandson)
 Aaron Schenone
 David Wheeler (Judy Langdon's son-in-law)
 Adam Welch
 James Welch (Michele's husband)



**I OFFER THIS PRAYER
 IN THE NAME OF
 JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD
 AMEN**

CELEBRATING YOUR ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rod & Anna Horton Aug 1 | Tony & Trista Spain Sept 6 |
| Jim & Bonny Lang Aug 2 | Scott & Rachel Atkinson Sept 15 |
| David & Kimberly Wheeler Aug 5 | Mike & Linda Meyer Sept 23 |
| George & Brunilda Lluka Aug 21 | Toby & Kay Poppen Sept 24 |
| Tom & Karen Slama Aug 23 | Mark & Becky Hagen Sept 27 |
| Ilia & Ana Stefo Aug 29 | Fred & Pat Wachter Sept 27 |



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Return Service Requested

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Through our partnership with Woerner Elementary School, we can begin to meet the needs of some of the families who have fled worn-torn countries seeking asylum in St Louis. There are currently 135 families at Woerner Elementary for whom English is a second language. One of the biggest needs these families face is the challenge of learning English and American culture. Women (mothers) especially have a difficult time because they don't usually work outside the home.

We are developing a program to demonstrate the love of Jesus by offering tangible help and friendship to these families. The program will be run by Rhonda Jones (Epiphany member since 2012), in collaboration with Danielle Phillips (ESL Teacher at Woerner), and in partnership with Hady and Vickie Matta, new members of Epiphany and missionaries to refugees in St Louis with POBLO—People of the Book Lutheran Outreach.

The class and friendship center will be open to all, but targeted toward the mothers of Woerner students. The ESL class will begin on Wednesday, September 7th, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and meet weekly, every Wednesday, during the school year. In addition to learning English, we will help participants be involved with their child's education, and eventually, with other skills such as sewing and cooking.

We need helpers to make this work. The **immediate need** is for in-class tutors and infant/ young child care givers. You don't need to commit to every week—just whatever fits with your schedule. We are also seeking a person to fill a **paid child-care position**. This person will be in charge of the nursery and will be required to be there every Wednesday. All of these roles will present opportunities to let the love of Jesus shine through us. For more information on this program, please contact Britney Hawk, Chairperson for the Board of Discipleship.



Epiphany members and guests received training on setting up an International Friendship Center on Apr 30th. Epiphany's IFC will begin with ESL classes on Sept 7th focusing on families at Woerner Elementary