

the STAR



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

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2018

VISION

Be a community that puts Jesus first, our neighbors second, and ourselves third, by gathering to be served by Him so we can grow to love as He loves.

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Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler
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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



IDENTITY YOUTH WEEK 2018

Epiphany was blessed to host Identity Youth Week for the second year this summer. This is a partnership of South City LCMS Churches aimed at providing a transformative, Christ-centered week of worship, God's word, and service for 7th to 12th grade students.

Each morning started with worship, followed by speakers revealing biblical truths about who God is and why they matter. This year we were blessed by two speakers, one local and one from out of town. Julie Keeley, Director of Christian Education at Peace Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Nebraska, plus Mike Tanney, pastor at St John's Lutheran here in South St Louis, taught us about our God—the Father, who sent His Son and Holy Spirit to save us and make us members of His family. Then mentors hosted discussions, guiding a team of 5-8 students, separated by gender and age range, which helped keep conversations responsive to each group's dynamics.

Afternoons deepened the students' awareness of their part in the world around them through service to our greater community. They put some sweat equity in the neighborhood public school, led games for New American children, planted flowers in the community garden, assisted elderly with yard work, and teamed with other ministries to impact hundreds of people within walking distance of Epiphany.

This year 70 students participated with 54 adult volunteers, in total representing 25 Christian congregations (Lutheran, Protestant, Catholic, and non-denom). Geared toward youth, the week would not be possible without our adult volunteers and donors. This included college students, seasoned saints, and parents of youth. Using musical talents, organizational skills, and elbow grease, they secured donations and action-grants, planned and prepped meals, registered students, led worship, cleaned, counted, and chaperoned. Thank you!



FROM THE PASTOR

REFLECTING GOD'S TLC

It was 92 degrees, but felt like 102. Sweaty and sluggish, five seventh grade boys and I dragged ourselves over to the old brick house just north of Bates Street to complete our mission. Months ago, when I sat in a planning meeting for Identity Youth Week, the phrase “afternoon service projects” sounded great. This was before I knew I’d be trying to motivate five pre-teen boys after a lunch of loaded nachos grande. Departing our air-conditioned fellowship hall to rake decomposed leaves and whatever else Mrs. So-and-So had in mind for us—that was not an easy sell. “Clearly,” I thought, “this would be the low point of my week.” I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Elaine Middendorf welcomed us as we approached the house she had called home with her husband for sixty years, and for the last two as a widow. The boys immediately took to her. She played along with their goofy jokes while giving them crisp instructions on what she expected. Our mission was to clean out her garage. It had been her deceased husband’s “man space.” The dilapidated structure looked more like a shed ... and in need of a lot of TLC.

The boys got right to work. Elaine had a way of bringing out their best behavior. The tones of their voices became more eager. “How can I help?” “What can I do next?” “I’ll carry that for you, Ms. Elaine!”

That morning at church, we heard about how God created us in His image, and how we ruined it with our sin. Made to reflect God’s love, we had become like broken mirrors, or like the corroded tools we were carrying from Elaine’s garage. Rather than throwing us out, God showed us His heart by sending His Son. “I did not come to be served,” said Jesus, “but to serve” (Mark 10). We had heard what Jesus did for us. Now we were getting to reflect it—mirrors of God’s TLC to Elaine, and she to us.

Identity Youth Week is part of our larger vision for Epiphany. We want to see God make us into a community that puts Jesus first, neighbors second, and ourselves third. We believe this will happen only as we gather to be served by Jesus. When He serves us through Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, His promise of forgiveness, and in our shared conversation around the Bible, Jesus accomplishes His service project in us. He repairs the broken image of God.

Mid-way through our afternoon service project, one boy said, “Ms. Elaine, you’re like our general and we do what you tell us.” She handed him a rake, and said in commanding German, “Achtung—attention!” Then she laughed, went inside, and made us another pitcher of lemonade.

In Jesus, Pastor Zeigler



PARTNERING WITH LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Nine year old, T, a foster child in my caseload, had disrupted his placement and I needed to move him. When I arrived, he was waiting for me; a black trash bag on either side of him. Despite knowing what to expect, the sight of this child and all his worldly possessions thrown in to 2 black trash bags, broke my heart.

More than 7000 children enter the custody of the Missouri Children's Division every year. Many of these children enter care with only the clothes on their back – no suitcase of clothes, no toothbrush, no favorite toy. Each one of these children will have an average of 3 different placements during their time in custody; moving the meager belongings they acquire, from one place to another, in a black trash bag.

Lutheran Family and Children Services (LFCS) has spent the last 150 years working to meet the needs of children. Founded as a residence for children left homeless after the Civil War, LFCS has adapted its programs throughout the years to meet the changing needs of children and families in Missouri. Currently, the majority of their funding comes from government grants. This puts limits on their mission to help children and families through the love of Jesus Christ. Thus they desire a return to a private funding base, and have begun to partner with Missouri's Lutheran churches, who in the past, were their primary funders. In the coming months, we will explore the various services offered by LFCS and how we as a church and as individuals can support them in their mission. We will begin with their foster care and adoption programs.

Children who come into state custody often face numerous issues, as a result of the abuse and neglect they have received, including problems with attachment and interpersonal relationships, learning and development, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, aggression and violent behavior, physical health and teenage pregnancy. LFCS works with foster parents in Southwest Missouri and Franklin County, providing them with support and vital services to help them care for the children placed in their homes. LFCS also provides adoption services for these children, as well as private domestic and international adoptions.

To assist them in their mission, we will be collecting new and gently used suitcases and backpacks, as well as new packages of underwear (size 2T through kids' size 14) and socks, during the months of July, August and September. These items will be given to the foster children LFCS serves. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do so directly to LFCS (<https://lfcsmo.org/donate/>) or by writing LFCS on your check and placing it in the offering basket.

by Britney Hawk, LFCS Congregational Advocate



Mike Duggar, President & CEO of Lutheran Family & Children Services, presented a vision of LFCS partnering with local churches to serve some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

SMALL GROUP PILOT PROJECT (FALL 2018)



Who? All who are willing to commit to an 8-week experience of practicing the faith with a small group of other Christ-followers, sharing life together around God's Word. Four couples will lead these groups: Ben & Beth Hayter, Chris & Jen Hartley, Jarred & Ana Irby, and Derek & Jill Perry.

What? Each group will have a time of fellowship, prayer, and Bible Study on Jesus' Parable commonly called "The Prodigal Son," though it's more about the father and his two lost sons.

When? The groups will begin meeting Sept 9th, 2018 from 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon each Sunday until Oct 28th. Each meeting will include snacks and drinks, and two will include a full lunch (Sept 23 & Oct 28)

Where? Each group will gather on site at Epiphany in their designated meeting room. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children under 5 years. Sunday School will be offered for older children.

Why? Life-long faith in Jesus is best nurtured through peer-to-peer conversations and intergenerational interactions within God's family, the Church. With the complexities of our busy schedules, Sunday morning is our best opportunity to let the Holy Spirit make this happen.

CONNECTING THROUGH HOSPITALITY

Just after sunset on May 24, the men of Epiphany gathered with nine guests—Muslim men who had immigrated to the U.S. from the Middle East. We shared a meal with them as they concluded their Ramadan fast for the day. We came to know these gentlemen through connections with our English-as-a-Second Language classes. What was the goal of this event? Were we trying to convert them?

Author Carl Medearis reports a conversation he had with a Muslim-Arab friend. He had asked him, “What’s wrong?” His friend was upset because he thought a mutual friend of theirs, a conservative, evangelical Christian, was trying to “convert” him.

“What do you think he wants from you?” Carl asked.

“He wants me to stop living in the Middle East and stop loving my family.”

Carl, who is also a follower of Jesus, asked him, “What do you think God thinks when He looks down at all 6.5 billion people on earth?”

“He thinks they’re all screwed up,” he answered.

“Yep, that’s what I think God’s thinking too. So what do you think God would like to do with all these messed-up people? Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, nothings, everyone?”

He thought a moment, then said, “God would probably want to help them not be so screwed up.”

“So you might say that God would like to convert all 6.5 billion people on earth. Not to a religion, but to Himself. He would like everyone to be like Him. To be converted to Him. But how would He do that?”

Carl compared this to how, when you travel from the U.S. to the Middle East, you need something to change the current from 110 to 220 volts. “That’s called a transformer or converter, right?”

“Right.”

“So what is God’s transformer to get us all back to the way God wants us to be? To change us?”

Carl’s friend gasped and said, “It’s Jesus. I never thought of that—but it’s Jesus. He’s the converter.”

The two friends sat on the deck and prayed that God’s “converter” would change them into the current that can be connected to God. And that He would do this with all of their friends (Medearis, *Speaking of Jesus*, 58–59).

Followers of Jesus are not called to convert people to a different religion. They are called to introduce people to a Person—to Jesus. He is the only one who can transform us.

By practicing hospitality, we’re not trying to change people to look like us or think like us or vote like us. We’re trying to show them Jesus. He will take care of the rest.



Epiphany ESL volunteers and church members connected with guests at a Thanksgiving meal in 2017.



For the last four years, Epiphany has partnered with other LCMS churches to connect through hospitality by hosting the Christian Friends of New Americans Children’s Christmas party.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
August						
			1	2	3	4
			Grill Out - Epiphany 5:30 p.m.	Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	
Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Child Safety Training 11:00 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.		Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.		11
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word – 10:45 a.m. Lutheran School Parents Meeting 12:30 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Church Council 7 p.m.	ESL Training 9:00 a.m.	Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Ice Cream Social 5:30 p.m.	18
Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Financial Review Committee 12:30 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23	24
			ESL Class Registration 10:00 a.m.		Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	25
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31
			ESL Class 10:00 a.m.		Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	
September						
					Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	1
Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Labor Day Office Closed	Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m.		Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Epiphany Stars 12:00 p.m.	8
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. New Member Classes	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Men's Bible Study @ Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Church Council 7 p.m.	Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Kickoff 4:30 p.m.		Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Epiphany Stars 12:00 p.m.	15
Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m. South City Youth Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Men's Bible Study @ Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class – 10:00 a.m. Kids Kitchen – 4:30 p.m. Confirmation – 4:30 p.m. Meal – 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.	Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Epiphany Stars 12:00 p.m.	22
Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Potluck – 10:45 a.m. SCity Youth Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing – 10:45 a.m. SCity Youth Bible Study – 5:30 p.m.	30		Men's Bible Study @ Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class – 10:00 a.m. Kids Kitchen – 4:30 p.m. Confirmation – 4:30 p.m. Meal – 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.		Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Epiphany Stars 12:00 p.m.

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

will resume in September

Bible Study will resume Wednesday, September 12 with Silver Saints at 9:00 a.m.

Sundays through the summer, 11 a.m. Morning Bible Classes – Children K-5

Sundays through the summer, 11 a.m. Morning Bible Classes – Youth and adults



Thanks to Mike Duggar for leading us through a Bible Study inspired by *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis

New Website – check out our new site at elcstl.org. It's still a work in progress, so let us know how we can improve it.



OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings Jan – June 2018: **\$1,896.89**

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

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance Jan – June 2018: **92**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

While you are having your Saturday morning 2nd cup of coffee, Titus Zeigler is climbing high on a ladder putting numbers on the hymn board. Occasionally Jude climbs the ladder for his brother when he is busy doing other commitments. Both boys eagerly look forward to do this important job.

Bill Dorsam



Sunday Fellowship – we're looking for volunteers to support Sun morning fellowship by (1) picking up a pre-paid order at Schnucks, (2) preparing food/drink before worship, (3) serving/cleaning up, (4) sponsoring with a \$45 donation, or (5) praying that God would bless this time. Ana Irby is now managing the schedule. Contact her or the church office to volunteer.

Youth and Family Ministry Director –

at the June voters' meeting, we approved additional budget to hire for this part-time position held by Seminary student, Paul Terral from Aug 2015 to May 2018. Derek Perry is leading the hiring committee with the goal of bringing on a new director this Fall.



SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	ALTAR GUILD
8/5	Elijah Hawk	Judy Marvin	Chris Hartley		Shirley Frederich and Judy Marvin
8/12	Susie Boeyink	Lynn Dancha & Christine Tongay	Derek Perry		
8/19	Lucas Boeyink	George & Brunilda Lluka	Jarred Irby		
8/26	Greyson Barnett	Barbara Troup	Doug Jones	Fourth Sunday Potluck	Andrea Barnett and Lynn Goetz
9/2	Tori Thorne	Marsel & Ella Cuka	Rich Berg		
9/9	Elise Zeigler	Shirley Frederich	Chris Hartley	Small Groups	
9/16	Titus Zeigler	Doug & Rhonda Jones	Derek Perry	Small Groups	
9/23	Hannah Hawk	Jim & Bonny Lang	Jarred Irby	Fourth Sunday Potluck	
9/30	Will Barnett	Fred & Pat Wachter	Doug Jones	Small Groups	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Lois Abernathy August 3
- Douglas Jones August 3
- Chris Seago August 3
- Christine Tongay August 3
- Hope Seago August 5
- Tyler Slama August 9
- Britney Hawk August 10
- Jarred Irby August 10
- Johanna Armstrong August 11
- Bob Johnson August 15
- Alex Marcee August 15
- Rich Kasznel August 18
- Carol Niemeier August 19
- Jill Pfeuffer August 19
- Michael Lawrence August 20
- Jill Perry August 20
- Pam Reilly August 23
- AJ Bernal August 27
- Alicia Marcee August 30
- Becky Hagen 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
- Marylin Brenk September 11
- George Lluka September 11
- Ana Irby September 24
- Sydney Krus September 25

CONGRATULATIONS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Rod & Anna Horton August 1
- Jim & Bonny Lang August 2
- David L & Kimberly Wheeler August 5
- George & Brunilda Lluka August 21
- Thomas & Karen Slama August 23

- Michael & Linda Meyer September 23
- Mark & Becky Hagen September 27
- Fred & Pat Wachter September 27

PRAYER REQUESTS

To be a part of the Prayer Chain

contact Karen Slama at (314) 353.2396.

Homebound

- Johanna Armstrong
- Ron Armstrong
- Howard Blevins
- Bonnie Crites
- Ron Diederichs
- Carolyn Gluesenkamp
- Bob Johnson
- Donna Reek
- Emilee Sutherlin
- Dorothy Zickler
- Kurt & Kathy Zickler

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

- Vince Birkman
- Julia Blevins
- Ken Braniecki
(Lisa Birkman's father)
- Bill Dorsam
- Susan Harris
- Kirk Johnson
- Jim & Bonny Lang
- Charles Marvin
- Vickie Matta
- Millie Phillips



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

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 Frederick
(Shirley Frederick's grandson)
- Aaron Schenone
- Adam Welch
(Fred & Pat Wachter's grandson)
- David Wheeler
(Judy Langdon's son-in-law)

Missionaries

- Hady & Vickie Matta, St. Louis
- Duane & Elizabeth Meissner, Belize
- Gary & Stephanie Schulte, Togo



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

ICE CREAM, YOU SCREAM . . .

Our annual Ice Cream Social is Friday, August 17th, 5:30-7:30pm. The whole community is invited, and the new Kindergarten families from Woerner Elementary School will be our special guests. Along with the ice cream, we'll enjoy music, face painting, and great conversations.

One of the goals of this event is to help these new kindergartners make new friends as they start the school year. Think back on your early school days and how your teachers and other adults inspired you. Similarly, we want to show these children from our neighborhood that they have the support of their neighbors. Here are five ways you can make this event a success:

1. You can volunteer to serve at the event. Sign-up sheets will be posted at the church or you can contact the church office (epiphanylutheran@sbcglobal.net or call 314-752-7065).
2. You can purchase a new school uniform shirt and bring it to the church office. Our goal is to have a new uniform shirt for each kindergartner who attends. Shirts must be either dark blue, light blue or white and in sizes 4-8.
3. You can purchase a package of store-bought cookies. These will be served along with the ice cream. Cookies can be placed in the basket with the uniform shirts or left in the church office.
4. You can invite your friends, family, neighbors and community members to attend the Ice Cream Social.
5. You can attend the evening with the goal of meeting at least one new neighbor.

We hope to see you on the church lawn on Friday, Aug 17th!

