

the STAR



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

DECEMBER, 2018-JANUARY, 2019

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.

CONTENTS

Joy of Giving.....	Cover
From The Pastor.....	2
The Joy of Family Giving	3
Hallowed Hospitality.....	4
Coming Events Calendar	5
Schedules	6
Growing Together	6
Announcements	6
Birthdays.....	7
Anniversaries	7
Prayer Requests.....	7
Congratulations.....	8

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
Office: (314) 752-7065
Fax: (314) 752-7066
Rev. Max Biesenthal
epiphanylutheran@sbcglobal.net
elcstl.org

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



JOY OF GIVING

Did you ever wonder why we give gifts at Christmas? While it's a custom that's been around for centuries, perhaps we should remind ourselves why we do it.

The answer is simple. We give because God gave. At Christmas, we celebrate the gift of the Son of God to the world – a gift that came wrapped in swaddling clothes and was laid in a manger – a gift that forms the basis of our living.

And so we give, not only out of gratitude, but because that's who we are. If God is Giver, and we are made in His image, and redeemed to live as His people, giving is second nature for us (actually, it's a restoration of our 'first' nature, the one lost in the fall).

In fact, we are not who we are meant to be without giving. Giving allows us to express the joy we have in our hearts. It's like we can't help it. The blessings of God overflow in us, and spill over and flow freely to those around us.

A favorite Christmas hymn expresses it well: “Joy to the World.” Indeed, there is joy in receiving the Gift, and there is joy in sharing the Gift.

There are those who say that giving is the barometer of the heart. Those whose hearts are filled with joy give generously and experience even more joy in giving. Those whose hearts are shriveled give grudgingly, and their hearts shrivel even more.

Remember the Grinch? In the beginning of the story, his heart was “two sizes too small”, and his actions were consistent with his heart problem. He resented the joy the Who's of Whoville experienced. And at the end of the story, after he had seen how he had not stopped Christmas from coming, his “heart grew three sizes”, and he shared all he had taken – and more.

There is Joy in the Gift, and Joy in the Giving.

We are Joyful people!

Becky Hagen, a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church, has graduated with a minor in Psychology from Central Methodist University after a grueling fifteen years of night school and studying 24/7.

Becky has worked at University Children's Center these past fifteen years. In addition to her degree, she was chosen from the Center for her “Outstanding Service” to Youth In Need and received a check for \$2000, a round trip airplane ticket, hotel accommodations, and a stipend for meals to attend the HAEYC “Convention of the National Association for Education of Youth and Children,” November 13-18 in Washington, D.C.

Please take time to congratulate Becky and her husband Mark.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

DECEMBER, 2018-JANUARY, 2019 NEWSLETTER

4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116



Return Service Requested





FROM THE PASTOR

HILARIOUS

I own an Impala. I will never buy anything but an Impala again.

I grew up in Detroit, and was a Chevy guy. And then I wandered. I had to step out and test the world. And so I did. VW, Ford, Pontiac, Buick, Hyundai, Honda. I tried a lot of them, and some of them were good cars, but they all left me wanting.

Because at heart, I'm an Impala guy.

So 8 years ago, I came back. I traded in my Pontiac Gran Prix for an Impala. I went to a Chevy dealer and said, "I want an Impala." And two years ago, when it was time for a new car, I went to the same Chevy dealer, and said the same thing, "I want an Impala". And while nothing is certain, I would imagine that the next time I buy a car, I will go to the Chevy dealer and say, "I want an Impala." There is nothing to decide or debate. I will follow my heart.

That's what the passage means in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "God loves a cheerful giver." The Greek word defined as 'cheerful' is hilaros, from which we get the word hilarious. And the word means this – someone who's already inclined, someone whose heart is in it.

God loves those who give because their hearts are already in it. They don't have to be persuaded. They don't have to be shamed into giving. They've already given their hearts, and their wallets and pocketbooks simply follow along.

There are all kinds of reasons people use for why we should give – there are needs, it's a duty, it's right to share.

But there's only one kind of gift God loves, and that's a 'hilarious gift' – one in which the heart precedes the gift.

For me, the most 'hilarious' time in a worship service is when the offerings are gathered. That's when 'hilarious' givers are taking advantage of the opportunity to allow their wallets and pocketbooks to follow their hearts.

Interesting that 2 Corinthians does not say, "God loves a generous giver" or "God loves a big giver". He wants more than that. What he wants is hilarious – our hearts.

Joyfully,
Max Biesenthal



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you

- Kathryn Zickler.....December 1
 - Braden Vallejo.....December 2
 - Josiah ZeiglerDecember 3
 - Adeline PerryDecember 6
 - Lazien Mitre.....December 7
 - Michael MeyerDecember 8
 - Tyler RichertDecember 9
 - Billy Barnett..... December 11
 - Emily Seals..... December 12
 - Linda Meyer..... December 13
 - Chelsea Lawrence December 15
 - Susie Boeyink..... December 20
 - Nathan Kuzhilla..... December 20
 - Barbara Troup..... December 21
 - Amy Zeigler December 22
 - Ron Diederichs..... December 23
 - Dea Kuzhilla December 23
 - Judy Langdon..... December 25
 - Adam Welch..... December 26
 - Christian Mitre December 31
-
- Youssef Matta..... January 1
 - Charles Marvin January 7
 - Judy Eickhoff.....January 15
 - Billy Horton.....January 16
 - George Goetz.....January 17
 - Lynn GoetzJanuary 17
 - Christine Laughlin.....January 19
 - Andrea Barnett January 22
 - Kirk Johnson..... January 22
 - Thomas Slama January 23
 - Tony Stout..... January 27
 - Stephanie Kasznel January 28

CONGRATULATIONS HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Hady & Vickie Matta.....December 17
 - Jack & Britney Hawk.....December 19
-
- Charles & Judy Marvin..... January 14
 - Billy & Alicia Horton January 6
 - Marsel & Ella Cuka January 25

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



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

- 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)
 - Susan Harris
 - Kirk Johnson
 - Jim & Bonny Lang
 - Charles Marvin
 - Vickie Matta
 - Millie Phillips

- 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)
 - 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

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Sundays 10:45 a.m.
Fellowship for all

Sundays 11:00 a.m.
Growing in the Word for Adults

Sundays 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
for children in grades K-5

Sundays 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
Youth grades 6-12

January 27
Fourth Sunday Potluck 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
with Silver Saints (a health and wellness clinic) every
Second Wednesday

Third Thursdays
6:00 p.m. Man Cave

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings
Average weekly offerings Jan – October 2018: \$1,765
Average weekly offerings needed to support the budget: \$2,466

Attendance
Average weekly worship attendance Jan – October 2018: 90

SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	Nursery	ALTAR GUILD
12/2	Eli Hawk	Susan Harris	Derek Perry	Amy Zeigler & Hannah Hawk	Lynn Goetz & Judy Marvin
12/9	Hannah Hawk	Barbara Schrader	Chris Hartley	Algerta Kuzhilla & Dea Kuzhilla	
12/16	Will Barnett	Rich & Diane Berg	Rod Horton	Judy Eickhoff	
12/23	Dea Kuzhilla	Judy Eickhoff	Doug Jones	Andrea Barnett & Brianna Meyer	
12/24	Children’s Program	Tony & Desiree Stout	Derek Perry		
12/24	Candlelight	Vince & Lisa Birkman	Rich Berg & Rod Horton		Andrea Barnett & Carol Niemeier
12/30	Brianna Meyer	Millie Phillips	Doug Jones	Barb Schrader & Will Barnett	
1/6	Titus Zeigler	Jarred & Ana Irby	Derek Perry	Ana Irby & Elise Zeigler	
1/13	Greyson Barnett	Chris & Jennifer Hartley	Jarred Irby	Andrea Barnett & Susie Boeyink	
1/20	Elise Zeigler	Hady & Vickie Matta	Doug Jones	Judy Eickhoff & Hannah Hawk	
1/27	Tori Thorne	Derek & Jill Perry	Chris Hartley	Algerta Kuzhilla & Dea Kuzhilla	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Decorate The Church For Christmas –
Come help decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Christmas on Saturday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to help! Light refreshments served, contact Jarred Irby for more information or call the church office at 314-752-7065.

Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner – December 9, sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Bring a dish to share (meat will be provided). We’ll sing Christmas carols, play a share-a-gift game (bring gifts \$5 and under, wrapped). Please bring non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

Foundations – coming Wednesdays in February. Volunteers for registration, class electives, kitchen, greeters and youth workers will be needed. For more information contact Jarred Irby, Youth and Family Director at 314-494-9918.

Office Volunteers needed – January 10, 11, 14 and 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please call the church office at 314-752-7065 if interested. No experience necessary just a warm and willing heart to serve and greet people.



THE JOY OF FAMILY GIVING

Years ago, my wife and I were hosting a Christmas party for the young adult Bible studies that we were leading. This was a gathering of all the Bible studies, and it was a typical evening of food, a silly gift exchange, and the good ol’ Christmas cheer. During the party, there were some whispers about a woman in our group who was going through a divorce, and was really struggling with finances for herself and her son. Her immediate family lived far away, and her mom was in bad health as well, so we were a surrogate family in a sense. Somehow, in about 20 minutes, she was pulled to the side and given an envelope with about \$600.



Now I have no idea who contributed what money, or how twenty young adults could come up with that much cash on the spot. I hesitate to say it was a “miracle”, but it was definitely impactful to her, and a big answer to prayer I’m certain. If I get to heaven and I find out Jesus threw in a couple 50 dollar bills, I will not be that surprised!

I wonder how often we imagine “giving” in the context of family. I find myself having to repent of looking through a lens of self-preservation with my resources, and instead praying that God helps me to look through the lens of his grace, and how important it is to find faith and peace in His Word, as well as the community of disciples He has blessed me with!

As a leader of the Bible study, I actually did not lead any of the initiative to help out a fellow “family member”, nor did I contribute anything financially (they did it too quickly, I was too busy hosting!) I still felt great joy to even be in that house that evening and a part of that community. I think that part of existing as a proper family whether that be as biological or spiritual families, is that we let Jesus be the center of how we manage our resources, and we make sure we celebrate how good God is for being the hope we cling to!

Jarred Irby
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

LWML COOKIE SALE ON DECEMBER 9

They are requesting a batch of your favorite cookies from the bakers of the congregation. The cookies will sell for \$7 a pound and you may select your favorites. Cookies may be brought to church on the morning of December 8th and December 9th before service.



HALLOWED HOSPITALITY

This Halloween as the throngs of children came to Leona Street for their free candy, we once again set up our hospitality hut as a way of providing a service of love to the community in the name of Jesus. Before the festivities could begin we had to assemble the goodie bags to hand out. Through the many hands of the youth, we were able make this happen on a Wednesday night. Each bag had three or four pieces of candy and card from the church with information about who we are on one side and the statement, “Jesus loves you...and so do we!” on the other. We had about 13 volunteers from the Church come on that big night to help set up our tent and sanitation station and hand out candy, and throughout the course of the night we handed out around 1500 bags of candy!

This was my first time participating in Halloween at Epiphany, and boy was I surprised. So many people came out from the community dressed up in so many different costumes. This was a great opportunity for us to offer the community a place to use the restroom, get first-aid, and even receive some candy in the name of Jesus. The community was very grateful for our support. We heard this vocally the night of and even received a card signed by community members expressing their appreciation. Thank you guys for being a part of this. See the joy in the service that you give to your neighbor. For we also serve Christ in serving our neighbor.

Benjamin Hayter



PURCHASE A POINSETTIA

We will again decorate the chancel area with poinsettias during Christmas. You can help by purchasing a plant for \$8.00 Special envelopes are in the narthex; be sure to include your name and/or envelope number. You can also give online at epiphanystl.ccbchurch.com, click on “Give” and choose Poinsettias from the drop down. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day service.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
December						1 Decorate the Church for Christmas 9:00 a.m.
2 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	3	4	5 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service 6:45 p.m.	6 Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	8
9 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Christmas Potluck & Party 10:45 a.m.	10 Church Council 7 p.m.	11 CFNA Christmas Party 5:00 p.m.	12 Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service 6:45 p.m.	13	14 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	15 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
16 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service 6:45 p.m.	20	21 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	22 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
23 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship – 10:45 a.m.	24 Children’s Program 5:00 p.m. Candlelight 11:00 p.m. Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 No Bible Study No ESL Class	27	28 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	29 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
January						
		1 Office Closed	2 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. No ESL Class	3	4 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	5 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
6 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Take down Christmas decorations 11:45 a.m.	7	8 Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9 Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	10	11 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	12 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
13 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	14 Church Council 7 p.m.	15	16 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	17 Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	18 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	19 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
20 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	21	22	23 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	24	25 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	26 Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m.
27 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday Potluck 10:45 a.m.	28	29	30 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.			