

the STAR



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

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2018

VISION

“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”

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Epiphany Lutheran Church

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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

THE GOSPEL IN SEVEN WORDS

Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn't looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles' Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. "In seven words or less," she says, "tell me what you believe as a Christian."



Image downloaded from christiancentury.org, article, "The gospel in seven words."

What would you say? How would you put it? Are you prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to "believe with your heart" and "confess with your mouth" the good news of God's love for us in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share. But are we prepared to share it?

During this season of Lent, we're going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. The sermons in our midweek worship services will be more like workshops. We will work together to formulate faithful responses to the request: "Tell me the gospel in seven words or less." There's no one "right" answer. Come listen to others and share your ideas. Contribute to the conversation!

Here's the plan (dinner starts at 5:30 pm, worship at 6:45 pm):

Feb 14: (Ash Wednesday) The Gospel in Seven Words

Feb 21: Preparing to Confess

Feb 28: Foundations Community Night – no service this week

Mar 7: Captivity and Freedom

Mar 14: Death and Life

Mar 21: Isolation and Community

Mar 29: (Maundy Thurs) 7 Words—"Jesus Comes to Feed My Hungry Soul"

Mar 30: (Good Friday) 7 Words—"Jesus is Lord, Even Over My Death"

Apr 1: (Easter Sun) 7 Words—"All is Vanity? Jesus is Worth it."

Many thanks to the Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger, professor of practical theology at Concordia Seminary, for providing resources for this rich and thought-provoking series!

A PUZZLING CONVERGENCE

I have a puzzle for you. There are four pieces: (1) a group of six Anglo-Saxon men, whose average age is 62.8; (2) a young African-American woman with five children in her care; (3) a dozen boxes filled with multicolored quilts ready to be shipped to Africa for a Lutheran Women's Missionary League World Relief project; and (4) a 14-year-old girl with one dislocated, black-and-blue elbow waiting to be rushed to the hospital. The puzzle is, how could these pieces come together in a single evening?

It is the night of Oct 19th, 2017. Six members of Epiphany's Man Cave Fellowship gather to share food, visit, and listen to a presentation on "skills every man should acquire." Tonight's topic is on how to be a sharp dressed man.

A couple of hours earlier, a woman drove by the church sign and read, "Man Cave Here, tonight, 7 pm: food, darts, brotherhood." She's on her way to pick up her two daughters at the neighborhood elementary school. Next, she will be picking up her three nephews and watching them for the night. Last year, she and her daughters came to this church's "Foundations Community Nights." They enjoyed dinner with neighbors and the girls participated in Chess and Sport Stacking classes. She sees the sign and decides to bring the kids over later to check it out. It's a safe place for her family. Whatever "Man Cave" means, she knows they will be welcome there.

Around the same time, other members of the church arrange to pick up dozens of quilts and blankets for a mission project. They've coordinated with the men of the Man Cave to help carry the boxes to their car.

As the boxed-quilts wait to be loaded, a young gymnast at a nearby gym approaches the uneven bars to practice her routine.

The men begin their presentation on how to make a suit work for you, not against you. They hear children's voices coming down the stairs. One man goes to investigate. He recognizes the woman and the children from last year's Foundations nights. The men realize there may have been a misunderstanding about the target audience for the night's event. But, no matter, flexibility is the key to hospitality. They decide to defer the talk on how to coordinate your socks with your slacks. They break out a chess board and a few sport stacking sets, inviting the children to share some snacks. Man Cave continues with a slight detour.

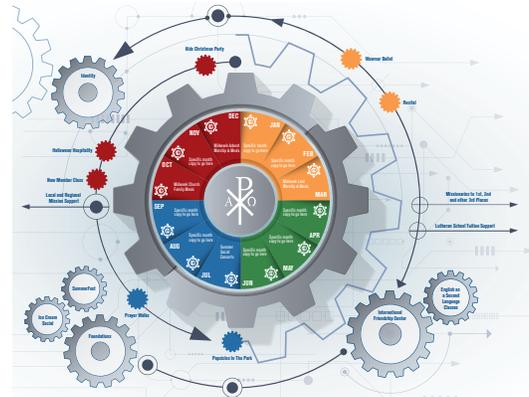
Minutes later, the mission project coordinators arrive and it's time to move the boxes. The men, the five children, and their mom make short work of it. With the help of this *ad hoc* mission crew (whose average age has dropped to 36.8), the colorful quilts have officially begun their overseas journey.

It's now 8:30 p.m. The men clean the church kitchen. One gets an urgent phone call. His eldest daughter has fallen from the uneven bars and is badly hurt. A friend from Man Cave gives him a ride to the gym where the ambulance is presently arriving. Anticipating an agonizing night in the hospital with his wife and injured daughter, he arranges for his three younger children to stay with his friend's family until the following morning. It's the first time they've spent the night anywhere without their parents.

How did this puzzle come together? The answer is in what sociologists call a "third place." It's a gathering spot between your work and home. It's where unrelated people come together to relate, build social capital, and offer mutual aid. America has too few third places. Suburban sprawl, long commutes, and highspeed home entertainment via broadband Internet have isolated us.

Three days after this puzzling convergence, the members of Epiphany voted to adopt the vision and values of a 10-year strategic plan: *open this property as a third place centered on Jesus, where neighbors gather socially to give and receive His self-sacrificing love.* God-willing, these four pieces will become a kaleidoscopic part of a greater puzzle we are getting to see God's Spirit solve in our midst.

Pastor Zeigler



Epiphany Third Place Project

QUALITY MATTERS

In their vast research on youth culture and development, Search Institute has discovered the following:

The quality of the relationships in the family predict thriving and build character strengths much more than demographic factors. A large number of strong relationships in a young person's life correlate with a decrease in high-risk behaviors, such as alcohol and tobacco use. And youth with strong family relationships tend to be more resilient in the face of stress and trauma. [Relationships First, www.search-institute.org/relationships]

Fuller Youth Institute (FYI), using Search's data, takes this one step further into the realm of faith and faith retention in our youth. This "large number" of quality relationships in the home, and in the local congregation (the family of faith), reinforces these familial bonds and adds value and significance to faith in God and faithfulness in life for our students, young and old.

This begins and is most important in home life, but it also extends into congregational life. What parent doesn't truly want quality relationships with their kids? And who doesn't want their kids to thrive? In reality though, we just don't do what it takes to cultivate this in our homes and communities. I watched an interview with a high school student who pointed out the irony in parents wanting quality relationships with their teens, but never actually making the effort to take time to build those quality relationships. Time was the issue for this teenager. Time is the issue for all of us. Quality time together has to happen for quality relationships to develop.

What choices do we make with our time—with those crazy daily schedules? Do these choices work against you and your kids? How do those choices add or take away from quality family relationships? And how does the family of faith we have in Epiphany Lutheran add to those quality relationships? What choices do we make as a church to encourage healthy relationships with each other and our youth?

Whatever we decide to do, it has to start with quality time together. That is step number one for your family and mine. Do what it takes to BE together in our homes. Then, we can start working on quality time and relationships as a church, a family of faith, in our "third place."

Peace to you in Jesus

Paul Terral

Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Game Day at Epiphany on Oct 29th, 2017



Ela, Alex and Victoria at the Easter 2017 breakfast

THE GREATEST TREASURES

Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits."

Music has power. It can influence our emotions, consoling us when we are sad, pumping us up when we need to be productive, or giving us joy when listening with friends. Music can also be used to glorify God and enhance our spiritual experience. The church has used music from its very beginning for these very reasons. Singing especially can help us to connect emotionally to the topic of the song. Since songs stick in our heads so easily, they can also help us to memorize stories and concepts that are important to our faith. So, I commend singing to you. Singing with great gusto. Use the treasury of hymns and spiritual songs that are at your disposal. Let them uplift you, and let them drag you down to sorrow and repentance. Let them wash over you and form you as they tell the story of God with music.



The children make a joyful noise unto the Lord to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus

Here at Epiphany we have a rich history of using God's gift of music for his glory and our edification. If you have the gift of singing or making music in any way I encourage you to use those gifts in God's service. We have many opportunities for music here especially in the choir. Choir is even a great opportunity for people who just want to get their feet wet in a musical experience. It does not take incredible talent, but when we all come together we can make truly beautiful music.

If you have any interest in joining the choir feel free to contact me at hayterb@csl.edu or just talk to me in person. Also, if you can play any musical instrument, let me know. We would love to increase our use of instrumental groups in worship.

Benjamin Hayter
Choir Director

YOUTH UPDATES



February 4 – Youth guys serve and clean during fellowship hour, Youth girls meet with mentors during Sunday School (Paul will pick up the snacks at Schnuck's and the guys will help serve and clean up.)

February 4 – Youth fellowship event, UpperLimits Rock Gym, 4-6pm (We will meet there, climb, and debrief)

February 15 – Man Cave, 7-8:30pm,

February 28 – Foundations

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 5:15 p.m. – "Foundations" –

Free dinner, classes for children Kindergarten through 8th grade (chess, building, drumming, paper creations, and sport stacking), and a short seminar to help parents and guardians equip their students for success. Mark your calendars for March 28, and April 25. Register at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eeydgejejbdt71yk/start>

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| <h1>February</h1> | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 2 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | |
| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 4 Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Youth Event@Upper Limits 3:00 p.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 9 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | 10 |
| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 11 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Small Group Leaders 5:00 p.m. | 12 | 13 | Silver Saints – 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 14 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 12:30 p.m. & 6:45 p.m. Lenten Meal – 5:30 p.m. | 15 | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 16 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | 17 |
| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 18 Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Small Group Leaders 5:00 p.m. | 19 | 20 | Bible Study – 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 21 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Lenten Meal – 5:30 p.m. Lenten Worship 6:45 p.m. | 22 | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 23 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | 24 |
| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 25 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m. Small Group Leaders 5:00 p.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |
| | | Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. | Foundations 5:15 p.m. | | | |
| <h1>March</h1> | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 2 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | |
| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 4 Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. Epiphany Youth Event 4:00 p.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Epiphany Stars Home School Group 9 10:00 a.m. AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. | 10 |
| Daylight Savings 11 Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. | 12 | 13 | Silver Saints – 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 14 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Lenten Meal – 5:30 p.m. Lenten Worship 6:45 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17 |
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| Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. 25 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. | Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Woerner Ballet & ESL 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m. | Maudy Thursday Worship Service 7:00 p.m. | AI-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Good Friday Worship 7:00 a.m. | Holy Yoga 9:00 a.m. Prepare Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m. |

SCHEDULES



| DATE | ACOLYTE | GREETERS | ELDERS | ALTAR GUILD |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2/4 | Susie Boeyink | Rich & Diane Berg | Chris Hartley | Andrea Barnett and Judy Marvin |
| 2/11 | Will Barnett | Barb Schrader | Derek Perry | |
| 2/18 | Eli Hawk | | Doug Jones | |
| 2/25 | Elise Zeigler | Chris & Jennifer Hartley | Rich Berg | |
| 3/4 | Hannah Hawk | Ron Littrell | Rod Horton | Carol Niemeier and Lynn Goetz |
| 3/11 | Dea Kuzhilla | Wil Degenhardt | Derek Perry | |
| 3/18 | Greyson Barnett | Judy Eickhoff | Doug Jones | |
| 3/25 | Titus Zeigler | Lynn Dancha | Rich Berg | |

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Panera on Loughborough & I-55

Second Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Silver Saints

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Children K-5

We're learning about the life of Jesus.

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Youth and adults

We're discussing how to learn from both "The Bible and the Book of Nature".

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings for 2017: **\$2,069**

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

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance, 2017: **96**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany welcomes Woerner Girls' Ballet Class

Once again, we are blessed to provide our parlor room for ballet on Wednesdays, January 17 – April 25. There are 4 classes with a total of 80 girls, meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Last year, the young ladies greatly appreciated a small snack at the end of the class. Contact the church office if you're interested in assisting our current volunteers help with the snack.



"Reason for Living"

Sunday mornings we will be listening to the seemingly contradictory, yet surprisingly complementary messages of The Book of Ecclesiastes and The Gospel of Mark. At the outset, Mark and Ecclesiastes sound like opposites. Yet if we listen carefully, we will hear how they harmonize in leading all to the only eternally satisfying reason for living: knowing Jesus and making him known.



Welcome to the Family

We welcomed Marilyn and Cain Brenk into God's family through Baptism on Dec 17th



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Patrick Flynn.....February 1
- Michele EdstromFebruary 2
- Judy Marvin.....February 3
- Andrea YoungFebruary 4
- Chris PfeufferFebruary 7
- Tori Thorne.....February 7
- Nicholas Hagen.....February 9
- Susan Driscoll February 13
- Dorothy Zickler..... February 13
- Henry Kleffner..... February 16
- Mark Hagen February 18
- Michael Mara February 18
- Matilda Perry..... February 23
- Ron Armstrong February 25
- Lacie Irby February 26
- Don Fassold..... February 28
- Ruth Schury..... February 29

- Daniel Matta March 7
- Stephanie Mitre March 8
- Jayne Gallo.....March 10
- Mike ReillyMarch 10
- Hanna SchenoneMarch 11
- Katie Bernal.....March 14
- Kimberly Wheeler.....March 21
- Farah MattaMarch 23
- Wilmar Degenhardt.....March 24
- Noah BoeyinkMarch 27
- Emanuela CukaMarch 27



CONGRATULATIONS
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Judy & David RoederFebruary 15
- Howard & Julia BlevinsFebruary 17



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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Homebound

- Bonnie Crites
- Carolyn Gluesenkamp
- Ron Diederichs
- Donna Reek
- Emilee Sutherlin
- Dorothy Zickler
- Kurt & Kathy Zickler

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

- John Bernthal
- Vince Birkman
- Ken Braniecki
(Lisa Birkman's father)
- Susan Harris
- Kirk Johnson
- Jim & Bonny Lang
- Vickie Matta

Missionaries

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

Serving as Police Officers

- Jonathan Baublitz
(Desiree Stout's brother)
- Andrew Kleffner
- Mark McMurry
- Don Reynolds
- Mike Scego
(Charlie & Judy Marvin's son-in-law)

Serving in Military

- Patrick Coil
(Mary Kay Sansone's son)
- Paul Frederich
(Shirley Frederich's grandson)
- Aaron Schenone
- James Welch
(Fred & Pat Wachter's son-in-law)
- Adam Welch
(Fred & Pat Wachter's grandson)
- David Wheeler
(Judy Langdon's son-in-law)



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
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Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY-MARCH NEWSLETTER

LOOKING BACK, HEADING FORWARD

The New Year is upon us, and naturally we begin to look at the habits and rituals we have created over the past year. Where have we spent our time?

Home . . . work . . . sporting venues . . . community events? Going a little deeper, we may evaluate the friendships developed in these circles, ones we intended to cultivate or some that have fallen into our environment for better or worse.

These places and people you are surrounded by impact the way you see the world, the way you speak to your neighbor, and the way you react to everyday situations.

THIS IS NO SMALL MATTER.

2018 has arrived. With love and support, I challenge you to glance at the past. Evaluate what you are instilling for your family's future.

Look at where the majority of your time is spent. Are you racing around the city trying to get from one function to the next with hardly a breath of conversation in between? Are you shoveling down fast food, because "nobody has time" for a quality meal together? Are you overbooked, splitting the family in different directions nightly to get everyone to their special event on time?

Are the people that surround your family and children ones you want them to model their habits after? Do they use language and conversation in a way that encourages and uplifts those around them? Do they live in a manner that values the same things you do? Do they love *first*, and *then* figure out the details?

Viewing our own reactions and choices, are we spending our time practicing patience, kindness and self-control? Is our stance one of inviting conversation, or a frazzled mess stressing from one space to the next? Are we engaging in the community of people around us at the moment, or on our cell phones looking up information or casually scrolling through the lives of others—or the life we dream about?

Each of these questions, I am struggling through, evaluating, and constantly challenged to assess. Some days I am coiled in failure. Other days I see moments of the person God calls me to be, and the life I hope my family will embrace.

Amy Zeigler

