

the STAR



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

JUNE - JULY, 2016

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GENERATIONS CONNECT

The other day I read an article called *How to Be A Good Dad*. It really captured my imagination. The fundamental question of the article was, "Where do they (kids) learn to be a dad or mom, a husband or wife?" For us in the Church the question might be—how do our children learn what it means to be a Christian?

Another group I've run across puts the question like this—How do we instill "sticky faith" in our children? Or, how do we create life-long faith in the generations coming behind us?

This is from the Fuller Youth Institute. They found that nearly half of our youth will walk away from their faith upon graduating from high school. That is bad news. It seems that with all our great schools, youth ministries, youth clubs, and so on, we have missed the mark. Who took on the responsibility of teaching our children to be followers of Jesus? Who taught them to be dads and mothers and so on? What happened?

The good news is that researchers concluded that parents have the most influence in the child's life. Parents are the influencers well into their child's adult life. If we can create an environment in our homes where faith is center stage, talked about, and integrated into our decisions, we may have a chance at a faith that sticks.

This summer we will learn how to create this environment in our homes and church. We will gather a few evenings to sing, pray, play and study God's Word together. Whether you are a parenting pro or just beginning, come, learn and share as we intentionally teach the generations of Epiphany to love the Lord and to love each other.

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Director of Youth-and-Family Ministry

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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler

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Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Fellowship: 11:00 am

Growth in the Word: 10:45 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Fourth Sunday Fellowship

Potluck: 10:45 am

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FROM THE PASTOR

“ARE WE DONE?”

“I quit the church, but kept my faith.”

Have you ever heard someone say this? Results from religious surveys, state that there’s a growing category researchers are calling the “Done’s.” Alongside the older categories like *Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, and None*, there’s now the *Done*. It’s a label to describe those who used to participate in an organized religious community, but now have decided they’re *done*. Many of these folks still consider themselves *spiritual*, but no longer *religious*. They still believe, but no longer attend church or seek membership.

Some of you reading this may identify with the *Done’s*. But others may be upset with them. If you’re like me—someone who was raised in the church, whose parents made weekly church attendance a nonnegotiable priority, someone who is convinced of the necessity of being committed to a local church—then you might feel like the person who says they *believe in Christ but don’t participate in Church* is like the person who says he feels strongly about politics, but doesn’t vote.

Some people care about politics but don’t vote because they think the *system is broken*. It’s possible that a politically-concerned person could decide to stop using what they think is a broken system, but still be politically active in other ways. On the other hand, how can anyone change the political landscape of a country committed to a government “by the people” without voting? Why not try *reforming* the system instead of rejecting it?

I can see how the *Done’s* might want to retain their beliefs, but no longer attend church. Perhaps they think the system is broken. Maybe they think church-goers spend too much time squabbling about who left the mess in the kitchen? Or that we worry too much about the color of the new carpet? Or that we don’t talk about how our beliefs influence our daily decisions? Or that we reduce spirituality to sitting in a pew for one hour a week? If so, I can understand why they would give up on this system.

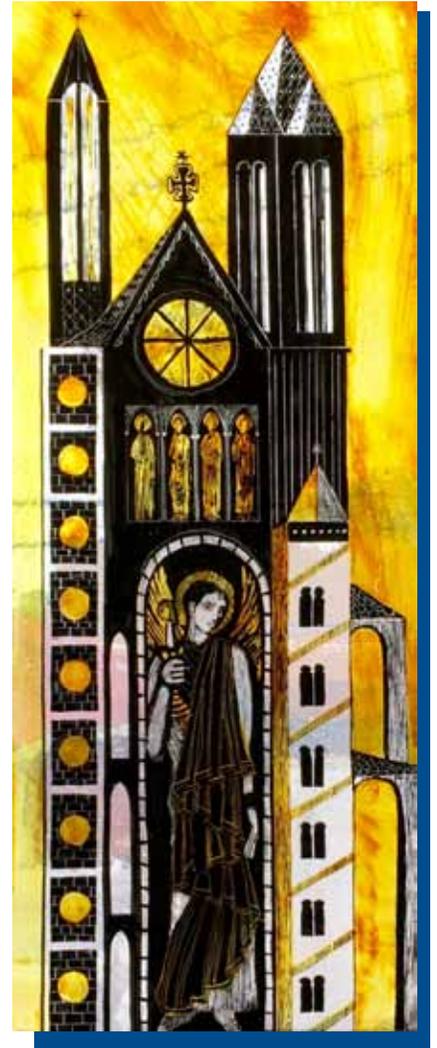
On the other hand, I also want to ask, “How can anyone be committed to Christian beliefs and spirituality without being committed to gathering with other followers of Jesus?” The Bible tells Christians, “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). How can someone believe this yet say to their fellow Christians, “I have no need of you”?

What would the church look like if more of us agreed to reform rather than reject it?

Recently, I heard a 32-year old woman say she was a committed Christian, but had decided to “quit” the church. “Now,” she said, “I’m a part of an *intentional community* of other Christians who meet together in each other’s homes, read and discuss the Bible, encourage each other, sing, pray, share a meal, and celebrate the Lord’s Supper together.”

Hmmm. What does that sound like to you?

Pastor Zeigler



“EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW”

Unlike learning calculus, the most preferred teacher for learning the faith is always the child's father and mother. But parents don't always have the experience to do this as well as they would like to. Thankfully, other members of the Body of Christ come alongside to help.

Tiffany Gallo, who's been volunteering to teach our early elementary children, gave us an inside look at what goes on in the Epiphany “parlor” on Sundays from 11:00 – noon. She and Amy Zeigler have been leading the children through God's great rescue story recorded in the Book of Exodus.

“The kids love the crafts!” says Tiffany. Each week Miss Amy uses the completed craft from the prior week to review the story and the kids say what they remember. “As they do this, I see them helping each other and talking about the lesson amongst themselves.” One word to describe it? “Precious!” As each child takes a turn re-telling what God has done for His people, you can see them growing in their faith: “They have a feeling of, *I know this!*”

Again, “knowing” is more than mastering how to factor complex polynomials. Knowledge in a biblical sense is *relational*. It's about becoming better acquainted with and dependent upon God and His people. What do our kids “know” after they leave Sunday school? Miss Tiff says, “I believe our group will remember Miss Amy reading to them as they cuddle around.” Parents and teachers have the God-given opportunity to help us *know*—experientially—what it means when God says He is “compassionate and gracious ... slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6).

“Whether hugging and comforting each other during story time, or lending a helping hand during crafts,” says Tiff, “I love watching the kids love each other”—a life skill much more crucial than calculus.



“OUT OF THE MOUTHS’ OF CHILDREN”

Did you go to Sunday School growing up? If you did, think about what you remember? Probably not a lot of details from individual lessons. However, you might remember the tone of those lessons. You probably remember how your teacher treated you, talked to you, and involved you. Your chances of remembering any content from school go way up if you present something to a group of people, especially if you’ve spent weeks preparing and reviewing what you were to present.

All these educational and developmental insights were part of the behind-the-scenes work to have our Kindergarten through Fourth Grade Sunday School students retell the highlights of how God brought the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. They did this for the congregation during our Fourth Sunday Fellowship Potluck on April 24th.

The students spent the last few months hearing what God did for His people. They reenacted scenes, sang songs, and created artwork to commemorate God’s mighty work. All the while, they were building relationships with each other and with the adult teachers and mentors. Over time, these experiences are what develop lifelong followers of Jesus.



“CHURCH IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL - HOW?”

These days, how often does a Church get invited to a public school’s open house? Not very. That’s why we were so excited when the community outreach organizer from Woerner Elementary School called and said, “Principal Meyer would like you all to be here with us.” How did this happen?

It started about 75 years ago, before Epiphany had a building. The congregation’s founders partnered with Woerner Elementary to secure a worship space in the school basement, which we used as a makeshift sanctuary for five years. In the decades that followed, Epiphany members maintained ties with Woerner, either by sending their kids to school there or by social ministry outreach to the students and families.

Thanks to these community-minded members from Epiphany’s past and present, we continue to be blessed with an excellent relationship with the school.

Epiphany is an officially recognized faith partner to Woerner Elementary’s 400 students, 275 families, and 40 staff members. Woerner is a community school, with its students and families living in the local area, less than three miles from the school (and Epiphany). Woerner is fully accredited and was recently recognized as a National School of Character. God’s people at Epiphany are grateful for this partnership and eager to seek the good of our community by continuing to serve Woerner’s students, families, and staff.

COMING EVENTS



Generations Connect – This summer, as we prepare to celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we've planned a series of gatherings to help us grow and serve together while reaching out into our community.

Popsicles in the Park: Share free popsicles at the Carondelet Playground, visit with neighbors, and be Jesus' peculiar people out in the neighborhood.

Pickup Kickball: Meet at Epiphany and walk to the park for a friendly game of kickball for all ages. Cheerleaders, coaches, fans, and hecklers needed!

Generations Connect: Enjoy fun activities for all ages; share snacks, stories, and desserts. Worship, sing, pray, and grow together as maturing followers of Jesus.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
June			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Popsicles in the Park 7 p.m. meet at Carondelet Playground	10	11
12	13 Church Council 7 p.m. Epiphany	14 PickUp Kickball 7 p.m. meet at Epiphany	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	23 Popsicles in the Park 7 p.m. meet at Carondelet Playground	24	25
26 Fellowship Potluck 11 a.m. Congregational Meeting to elect church council	27 PickUp Kickball 7 p.m. meet at Epiphany	28	29	30		
July					1	2
3	4	5	6 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	7 Popsicles in the Park 7 p.m. meet at Carondelet Playground	8	9
10	11 Church Council 7 p.m. Epiphany	12 PickUp Kickball 7 p.m. meet at Epiphany	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Generations Connect gathering at Epiphany 6 – 8 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Fellowship Potluck 11 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 1-4 Generations Connect "Family Camp" 6 – 8 p.m.

SCHEDULES



DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	ALTAR GUILD
6/5	Josiah Zeigler	Barb Troup	Rich Berg	Shirley Frederich and Judy Marvin
6/12	Elise Zeigler	Kay Poppen	Bill Dorsam	
6/19	Will Barnett	Millie Phillips	Rod Horton	
6/26	Paul Gallo	Patti & Joe Krick	Mike Meyer	
7/3	Hannah Hawk	Karen & Tom Slama	Rick Berg	
7/10	Brianna Meyer	Pat & Fred Wachter	Chris Pfeuffer	Julia Blevins and Barb Troup
7/17	Alex Pfeuffer	Ruth & Rod Schury	Bill Dorsam	
7/24	Elise Zeigler	Andrea & Billy Barnett	Mike Meyer	
7/31	Josiah Zeigler	Bill Dorsam	Rod Horton	

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Study
Panera on Loughborough & I-55

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Women’s Bible Study at Epiphany

Sundays, 11 a.m. – Children K-5 – We’re learning the story of Israel wandering in the wilderness. Children will learn the faith through hands on activities, singing, and re-telling the Bible’s Big Story of God’s work in the world through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Sundays, 11 a.m. – Youth and adults:
“Living by Faith – A Study of Galatians”

What does your faith have to do with the rest of your life?

Many people keep their faith in Jesus in a small compartment of their lives along with family, work, friends, and hobbies. Once a week (or perhaps less), they do an activity related to “faith,” like attending a church service. In this study, we will learn from a man named Paul, who will challenge us with a fresh understanding—faith is not something we fit into our busy lives, but **the one thing that lets us live as God’s people.**

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings, Jan. – Apr. 2016: \$2,148
Average weekly offerings needed to support the budget: \$2,466

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance, Jan. – Apr. 2016: 95

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BlessingBags, July 24th: We’re collecting supplies to create **blessing bags**, one gallon Ziplock bags filled with food and personal care items, to keep in the passenger seat, and give to those in need. Please bring donations to the church office. Here is what we need:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Toothbrush | Hand sanitizer |
| Toothpaste | Granola bars |
| Soap | Energy bars |
| Deodorant | Tuna/cracker packs |
| Shampoo | Trail mix |
| Combs | Raisins |
| Tampons/pads | Peanuts |
| Sunscreen | Fruit cup |
| Chapstick | Applesauce cup |
| New socks | Gum/hard candy |
| New underwear | Hot cocoa mix |
| Inexpensive gloves | Spiced cider mix |
| Hand-warmers | Coffee mixes |
| Band-aids | Bottles of water
(mini size) |
| Baby wipes | |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Emily DriscollJune 2
- Eddie Foster.....June 2
- Zakary Littrell.....June 4
- Mark McMurry.....June 5
- Paige Frederich..... June 15
- Paula Seward..... June 18
- Joshua Hyatt..... June 21
- Angela Mueller..... June 22
- Judy Roeder June 22
- Sophia Lamb..... June 23
- Jacob Atkinson June 26
- Diane Berg June 29
- Desiree Stout..... June 30
- Rich Berg July 1
- John Heinicke July 3
- Karen Slama..... July 3
- Jennifer Hartley..... July 5
- Derek Pfeuffer July 5
- Tina Johnson July 7
- Jim Lang..... July 7
- Travis Lee July 7
- Andrew Smart July 7
- Pat Wachter July 7
- Titus Zeigler July 8
- Alex Cuka.....July 10
- Mary Mathae.....July 10
- Carl Hester.....July 11
- William BarnettJuly 12
- Vince Birkman.....July 12
- Ashley HodgeJuly 13
- Tyler Krick.....July 15
- Rosie Williams.....July 16
- Mark SlamaJuly 17
- Abigail YeagerJuly 17
- Kurt Zickler.....July 19
- Evan DriscollJuly 20
- Patti KrickJuly 20
- Chris MuenchJuly 24
- Amber HodgeJuly 26
- Julia Blevins.....July 27
- Scott Atkinson.....July 28
- Michelle Welch.....July 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

- 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)



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

C E L E B R A T I N G
 YOUR
ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrea & Matt YoungJune 1	Marlene & Roger Kleffner..... July 1
Bill & Jan Dorsam.....June 6	Rich & Stephanie Kasznell July 18
Chris & Jennifer HartleyJune 8	Douglas & Jennifer Rapley July 18
George & Lynn Goetz June 11	Michael & Amy Zeigler July 26
Laura & Dennis Stoval..... June 18	Tiffany & Jeff Gallo July 27
Michelle & James Welch..... June 19	Joe & Patti Krick July 28
Chris & Jill Pfeuffer..... June 21	
Kurt & Kathy Zickler June 22	



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Return Service Requested

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Received by baptism:

Hanna Schenone (pictured here) and Henry Kleffner (pictured on the front page)

Received by transfer:

Chris & Jennifer Hartley, with children Zachary, Noah, Susie, Lucas

Received by adult confirmation (instruction in the Small Catechism):

Aaron & Tiffanie Schenone with their newly baptized daughter, Hanna
Bruce Miyazaki

Aaron's confirmation verse was Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."

Tiffanie's verse was 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Bruce's verse was Luke 9:16: "Taking the 5 loaves & the 2 fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke them. Then He gave them to the disciples to set before the people."



This May Epiphany members toured Oasis International Ministries to St. Louis refugees at 5035 Gravois (pictured). In the coming months, Epiphany will partner with local missionaries (Hady & Vickie Matta, originally from Egypt) to start an International Friendship Center (IFC) to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. This outreach will be open to all, but will focus on serving the 135 ESL families enrolled at Woerner Elementary School. To help with the IFC or ESL classes, please speak to Britney Hawk, Rhonda Jones, or Diane Berg.