

the STAR



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

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 2017

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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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



THE ART OF INSPIRATION

Inspired.... would be the feeling that I would use to express the opportunity given to watch Ms. Margaret's Ballet Class in early December at our church. Ms. Margaret was a professional ballerina in New York and she brings her expertise to the female students of Woerner Elementary School. She teaches throughout the day almost back to back classes at our church every Wednesday. Her students range in age from 1st graders to 4th graders and they love Miss Margaret and their ballet class.

And it's apparent why. Miss Margaret engages her students. She asks her students to recall various ballet positions and to demonstrate for the class what they look like. This empowers the students and lifts their confidence and you can tell by the smiles on their faces when Miss Margaret validates them. She'll also engage her students with the history of the art of ballet and makes various ballet movements fun and easier to learn by having them imagine they are doing such things as making pizzas, gathering snow and flapping dragon wings.

I can tell you this ... I walked away from this class inspired to teach and to appreciate the talent of amazing teachers like Miss Margaret. I appreciated that I not only witnessed her teaching her students how to perform the art of ballet but also life skills, like how to work together with others, the importance of listening, how to take direction and how following through leads to accomplishment and a boost in self-confidence. These are the type of life skills that will transcend the classroom for these young ladies and serve them well always.

Thank God for teachers like Miss Margaret. Thank God that we get to be touched by her work in our community with these fabulous young ladies! It's truly a blessing and testament to the great work happening all around us. Thank you God and thank you Miss Margaret!

by Tiffanie Schenone

FROM THE PASTOR

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

"They that wait upon the LORD ... shall mount up with wings as eagles"
(Isaiah 40:31)

At the world's busiest airport, an airplane takes off every minute of the day, every day of the year. This would be impossible without air traffic controllers. Their job is simple. Each day, keep 2,600 crisscrossing, passenger-laden aircraft from crashing into each other. It's simple, but not easy. That's why the median annual salary for an air traffic controller is \$127,000.00.

The early Christian Church experienced a mid-air collision. They had grown from a congregation of 120 to 5,000 (Acts 4:4). This wasn't like 5,000 members of Ducks Unlimited, where you pay your fee, get your magazine, and put a bumper sticker on your pick-up. This was like a five-thousand-member extended family: "They were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common" (Acts 4:32). Close-knit, growing, energetic: everything a church should be; they were cruising at 30,000 feet, then ... CRASH.

Complaints. Every church has them. The early church was not immune to this turbulence. Folks were feeling neglected. Somebody brought dinner to this elderly widow, but not the widow next door (see Acts 6). It was a serious problem, especially if the world was supposed to get to know Jesus, in part, by seeing the love his disciples have for each other (John 13:35). So the church found a glide path to protect two non-negotiables for what it means to be the church: (1) preaching God's Word; (2) loving and caring for neighbors in tangible, earthly ways.

It was a stroke of Holy-Spirit inspired organizational genius. They recognized that one person or even one specialized group of people could not do this on their own. Pilots are important. But they need air traffic controllers (and a lot of other people, too). Preachers are important. But they need help. The church's solution? Preachers, you focus on the "ministry of the Word." We'll appoint others to manage flight plans.

God has blessed Epiphany with people, resources, and opportunities to show the love of Jesus to each other and our community. But, we're starting to get some crisscrossing flight plans. Epiphany's elected leaders have been discussing the idea of bringing on a full-time "air traffic controller," not simply to take care of Epiphany's members, but also to coordinate communications and prevent mid-air collisions as we pursue our vision to channel service to the community through Woerner School. As we decide how to move forward, ask yourself: What gifts and talents has God given me? How can I use them—in a small way—to help my church soar "with wings as eagles"?

In Him,
Pastor Zeigler



Flight plans crossing – English as a Second Language Students and Woerner Ballerinas share air space on Wed mornings.



Epiphany's Thursday morning Bible Class and Woerner's Christmas Caroling Troupe happily coordinated glide paths on Dec 15th



Near Miss at Epiphany Metropolitan Airport

CRY BABIES

Have you noticed? In recent months, there has been a new trill rising up from the pews, joining the worship endeavors of Epiphany's congregation. Occasionally one can notice it during the refrain of a hymn. Often it is more evident while reciting confession, and at times it's downright distracting during the sermon itself! What is this interrupting sound you say? Why, the voice of young babies and children in worship. A coo. A giggle. A burp. First attempts to sing. A toddler reciting the Lord's Prayer.

True, not all of the noises made by this infantile crowd are pleasing to the congregation's ear. Some of the most ghastly sounds stem from these souls squalling in selfishness. Internal questions arise in anguished adults thinking, "What is going on?" or "What can I do to stop this chaos?"

Embrace it.

To the onlookers asking "What is going on? What can I do to stop this chaos?" Embrace these families. Offer a helping hand with the children not in 'a fit'. Recognize that the parents are instilling a habit of church attendance for their family at a time when it feels easier to just stay home. Get to know the children. Learn their names. Greet them by name. Watch as they receive the forgiveness of sins, kneeling at the rail next to you.

Parents who are asking, "What is going on?" and "What can I do to stop this chaos?" Embrace these moments as another opportunity to teach patience, forgiveness and love. Know you have the support of a congregation that understands you are developing a learner of God's Word. Recognize that by not distracting children with technology or gimmicks, you are teaching them essential skills of focus and the ability to digest the discussions around them. Get to know the other congregants, and don't be ashamed to ask for assistance if needed. Learn their names. Greet them by name. Watch as your family's hearts and thoughts are shaped by the community of Jesus followers.

Embrace it. Each one of us is a small, but important part of Jesus's kingdom.

by Amy Zeigler



*Baptism for Hope Elizabeth on Nov 27th.
And she didn't even cry!*



*Kids were encouraged to come to worship
in their jammies on Christmas Day.*

TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH WOERNER SCHOOL



We had over 180 guests for the Woerner Ballet recital on Wed, Jan 25th plus about 120 participants for our first Foundations dinner and classes later that evening. We couldn't have done this without our amazing leaders and volunteers, both from within the congregation and the wider community. Thank you for helping Epiphany show our neighbors the love of Jesus in simple, tangible, earthly ways. Together we are advancing our vision to be a family of Christ-followers working for good in our church and community by channeling service to our community through Woerner Elementary School.

Feb 22nd – 5:45 p.m. – “Foundations”

Free dinner, classes for children (chess, sport stacking, dance, and ceramics), and a short seminar to help parents and guardians equip their students for success. Mark your calendars for Mar 29, Apr 26, and May 31.



WILLING HANDS

The Willing Hands group has served the people of Epiphany for years (previously, they were called the “Pot Holders”). Recently, they served a luncheon for our departed brother Rodney Schury, and comforted his widow, Ruth, during the visitation. A month earlier, they served for the funeral of our sainted sister Mary Mathae, who served many-a-luncheon with the Pot Holders. We asked Mary’s daughter Jane about this:

Jane, what did it mean for your family to have the luncheon after your mom’s funeral?

Having the luncheon at the church after the funeral was one of the most special and enjoyable events of the day ... Upon my mom’s death, when the church and Willing Hands offered to provide the meal, I was so relieved to know the entire event would be in their capable hands. At a time when everything seemed confusing and different and unsure, here was something that would be familiar, reliable, and comforting. It was a huge burden lifted from me at a difficult time.

It meant so much to me knowing that the same ladies of the church who were my mom’s longtime friends and fellow church workers had taken the time to lovingly prepare a meal in my mom’s honor. The food was delicious, and the tables were decorated and well-arranged. It was nice to be able to sit down and be served ... One of the Willing Hands ladies had even been so thoughtful as to prepare one of my mom’s own casserole recipes, the Sour Cream Noodle Bake, which I recognized immediately. I was so touched by it—nothing ever tasted so good! I felt surrounded by love and support. It helped to gently begin the closure process.

What do you think your mom would have said about it?

I know my mom would have thought it was so nice that the Willing Hands ladies, her friends in Christ, had gone to the time and expense of preparing this meal in her memory and in support of her family and friends. My mom would have thought the food was delicious, and she especially would have been touched knowing someone was so thoughtful as to have prepared one of her own casseroles.



Jane with the Willing Hands Ladies after Mary’s Funeral

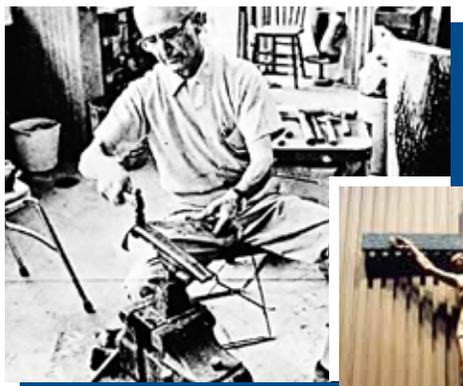


Ruth with her brother Charlie at Rodney’s visitation

A BETTER OBSERVER

Hillis Arnold (1906–88) was the artist who created the wooden cross with Christ figure that hangs above Epiphany’s altar. He was one of the St Louis area’s most famous artists. A photo of Epiphany’s crucifix is part of the Hillis Arnold Collection at the Missouri History Museum. When Hillis was six months old, he suffered from spinal meningitis and lost his hearing. Later he said, “Because I am deaf, I am a better observer.”

During our Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:45 p.m. (Mar 1st – Apr 5th), we will work together to become better observers by reflecting on the details of Mr. Arnold’s cross and Christ figure. We pray that God will use this work of art to help us more clearly see His work in us.



Hillis Arnold working in his studio in 1966



Hillis Arnold Cross at Epiphany



EVENT DETAILS

Feb. 12th – Valentine Gift Sale

The Willing Hands group is asking for homemade treats and craft items with a Valentine flair to sell for our fundraiser. Anything from cookies, candy, small breads and other treats to other hand-crafted items can be donated. Please have your items at church by Sat, February, 11th.

Then don't forget to come downstairs after the service to purchase a gift or treat for your Valentine.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
February			1 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Elders 6:30 p.m.	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	8 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Silver Saints 11:00 a.m.	10	11
12 Valentine Gift Sale 11 a.m.	13 Church Council 7 p.m.	14 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	15 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. LWML 11 a.m. Man Cave Fellowship 7 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	22 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations Dinner and Classes 5:45 p.m.	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	24	25 Youth/Family Mission Morning 9:00 a.m.
26 Potluck 11:00 a.m.	27	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough				
March			1 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Service	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	8 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Lent - 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Service	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Silver Saints 11:00 a.m.	10	11
12	13 Church Council 7 p.m.	14 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	15 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Lent - 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Service	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. LWML 11 a.m. Man Cave Fellowship 7 p.m.	17	18
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26 Potluck 11:00 a.m.	27	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Panera Loughborough	29 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations Dinner and Classes 5:45 p.m.	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	31	

SCHEDULES



DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	ALTAR GUILD
2/5	Elijah Hawk	Stephanie & Rich Kasznel	Bill Dorsam	Andrea Barnett and Julia Blevins
2/12	Will Barnett	Karen & Tom Slama	Chris Hartley	
2/19	Alex Pfeuffer	Vanessa Riley	Chris Pfeuffer	
2/26	Tori Riley	Algerta Kuzhilla	Rod Horton	
3/5	Susie Boeyink	Susan Harris & Lois Abernathy	Rich Berg	Shirley Frederich and Judy Marvin
3/12	Hannah Hawk	Christine & Chris Tongay	Derek Perry	
3/19	Elise Zeigler	Denisa Mitre/Ana & Ilia Stefo	Bill Dorsam	
3/26	Tori Riley	Millie Phillips	Chris Hartley	

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study at Panera on Loughborough & I-55

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study at Epiphany, restarts in January

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study on the Gospel of John

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Children K-5 – we're learning about God's Story in Jesus

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Youth – we're discussing the Bible readings we hear in the church service

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Adults – we're discussing the meaning of Jesus' command,
"Go and be reconciled to your brother (or sister in Christ)"
(Matthew 5:24)

Third Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Man Cave: darts, washers, food, brotherhood

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Review for 2016

Average weekly worship attendance for 2016: 101

Total Gifts for 2016 (designated and unrestricted): \$145,240

Total Unrestricted Offerings 2016 (for the general budget): \$107,422

Offering Goal to Support the Budget: \$120,000 (\$12,578 shortfall)

Total Interest Income from Legacy Gifts: \$432,063

Interest Income Transferred to Support Budget: \$192,500

Interest Income for Mission Fund: \$100,000

Interest Income Reinvested: \$139,563 (32%)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for Supporting the Cookie Sale!

In Dec, we had a fundraiser to support missionary work to share Jesus at home and abroad through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The proceeds totaled \$402 and will be used for future projects. LWML is a nation-wide organization that raised and dispersed \$1 million for missions in the last two years. Our local chapter, which meets on the third Thursday of the month at 11 a.m., is a part of this good work. To donate, look for the "LWML Mite Box" in the sanctuary.

Introducing the Silver Saints!

Sixteen people gathered for a vision-casting meeting on Jan 26th for this newly formed social ministry in-reach to our congregation and out-reach to our neighborhood designed for seniors age 55 and up. Our Thursday Bible Fellowship has stepped forward to be the core group around which to build this ministry. The plan is to gather the Silver Saints on the *second Thursday of the month*, starting **Feb 9th**. We will meet for "**Spiritual wellness**" (fellowship around the Bible) at **10 a.m.** and then for "**physical wellness**" at **11 a.m.**, starting with some snacks and drinks, followed by a wellness-for-seniors presentation by a health professional. In the future, we plan to partner with Lutheran Senior Services to also offer free health screenings. Bring a friend on Feb 9th! Contact Sara at s.fischer12@yahoo.com to see how you can be a part of this ministry, either by volunteering or attending.

Save Your Cotton Scraps!

Please save cotton scraps or donate scissors and quilting notions to share with the English as a Second Language group. Epiphany volunteers are working with 12 ladies from the group to make quilts for their homes. Mark for "ESL." Contact Julia Blevins with questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Michele Edstrom February 2
- Judy Marvin..... February 3
- Amy Allen..... February 4
- Daniel Frederich..... February 4
- Andrea Young. February 4
- Cole Aycock..... February 6
- Chris Pfeuffer February 7
- Nick Hagen February 9
- Grace Driskell..... February 10
- Melissa Kirkpatrick..... February 10
- Lorene Tate February 10
- Susan Driscoll February 13
- Dorothy Zickler February 13
- Melissa Perez February 15
- Mark Hagen February 18
- Michael Mara February 18
- Trevon Allen..... February 21
- Ron Armstrong February 25
- Andrea Reynolds..... February 26
- Don Fassold..... February 28
- Hady Matta February 29
- Ruth Schury February 29
- Daniel Matta March 7
- Jayme Gallo..... March 10
- Mike Reilly March 10
- Sharon Kirkpatrick March 12
- Katie Krick March 14
- Melissa Schrum..... March 16
- Angela Langdon March 17
- Donna Benson..... March 18
- Kimberly Wheeler..... March 21
- Farah Matta..... March 23
- Wil Degenhardt March 24
- Dawn Walters..... March 24
- Howard Blevins March 26
- Michael Lamb March 26
- Emanuela Cuka March 27
- Noah Boeyink March 27
- Kevin Jones March 29
- Zackary Stovall March 31



- Lee & Paula Seward February 2
- Dave & Judy Roeder February 15
- Howard & Julia Blevins February 17

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Homebound**
- Bonnie Crites
 - Donna Reek
 - Emilee Sutherland
 - Dorothy Zickler
 - Kurt & Kathy Zickler

- For God's grace, health & healing**
- Vince Birkman
 - Ken Braniecki (Lisa Birkman's father)
 - Carolyn Gluesenkamp
 - Kirk Johnson
 - Vickie Matta
 - Dorothy Zickler
 - Kathy Zickler
 - The Miyazaki Family (expecting a baby)

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



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

- 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)

The new Paschal candle was a gift from Ruth Schury in memory of her beloved husband, Rodney.



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY-MARCH NEWSLETTER

MR GASTLER - THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!

After serving as Epiphany's Choir Director for six years, Greg Gastler will step down to recover some time in his very full schedule. Greg commented, "I am now in need of recovering some of the margin in my personal, professional, and family life. Despite some conflicting thoughts, I believe it best to suspend my service as choir director ... However, I am open to joining the congregation in music ministry again in the future. Jenny and I wish to remain friends of the congregation, open to supporting and assisting in special congregational activities or events as our energy and time allows. Thank you to the membership, especially the choir members and their families, for their love and encouragement over these past six years. It has been a rewarding joy to work together to give God praise in worship with both adults and children. We hope that all will regard our departure as an attempt to allow God to work through someone new in your midst."

As we thank Greg for his service, we welcome Matthew Kusch (with his wife Hailey ... a talented violinist and signer) as our interim director starting Feb 19th. When we asked Matthew about leading the choir, he replied, "I have talked it over with Hailey, prayed, and thought about leading the choir while I serve at Epiphany, and I would very much like to do it ... I thank you for the wonderful opportunity and I look forward to serving both the Church and God in this new way."



Mr. Gastler leading the children's choir



Matthew, our new choir director, visiting with Officer Andrew at our Ice Cream Social in August