

the STAR



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

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 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”

CONTENTS

A Third Place	Cover
From The Pastor	2
Make Friends	3
Meet Ben & Beth.....	4
Youth Update	4
Coming Events Calendar	5
Schedules	6
Growing Together.....	6
Announcements/Stewardship.....	6
Birthdays.....	7
Anniversaries	7
Prayer Requests.....	7
Advent Sermon Series	8

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler
pastorzeigler@sbcglobal.net
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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



Over 150 people from Woerner School gathered at Epiphany (a new 3rd place for all of them) last January to see their daughters' ballet recital.

A THIRD PLACE

Ballet, ESL, Foundations, Silver Saints, Identity, adding an Operations Manager, Ice Cream Social, Community picnic, Prayer-walking, Bible class at Bread Co. What do all these seemingly disparate activities have in common? The transcendent goal of bringing this community to the Lord Jesus Christ and the near-term goal of making 4045 Holly Hills Boulevard a “Third Place” in the life of the Woerner School District, our community.

A Third Place is a place you reflexively go beyond (1) your home and (2) your workplace (or as a younger person, beyond your home and school—a retired person beyond your home and say, the Y). You go there to engage in the life of your neighborhood; to be involved in missions of good (not necessarily overtly religious in nature) for the betterment of your neighborhood (an example would be cleaning out the basement of a disabled neighbor as a group); to learn practical life skills (examples: ESL, Foundations, Silver Saints, Identity, and more to come); to find meaning, purpose, and fellowship in this chaotic, electronic life of ours. One day soon, perhaps you go to 4045 Holly Hills to participate in the Arts or to learn about entrepreneurship (which is a very long word for: “starting a business”). We want 4045 Holy Hills to be the “go-to” place of our community.

I have been told that there are 24,000 people (and an almost equal number of souls, 😊) in the Woerner School District. I could say it in a crass, retail way, and say, that the future of Epiphany Lutheran Church depends on the amount of foot traffic we generate through 4045 Holly Hills. There is no harm in asking people “to come to Church,” however, most people today (desperately in need of Jesus) are perfectly unaware of this need or they are unaware of the essential place that fellowship with other Christians plays in the Christian life. Epiphany as a third place would be “. . . all things to all people, that it might by all means, “bring some to the saving life of Jesus.

Rod Horton, Board of Elders

SLOW SOLUTIONS

Each year 6 million children die shortly after birth. There are lifesaving solutions for the problem of infant mortality. They just haven't spread. Why not? It's not because the solutions are too expensive or too complicated. They are simple, low-cost, and have been known for years. So, what's the problem?

Dr. Atul Gawande worked with the Indian government, a country whose infant mortality rate is especially high. He noted that there are 29 practices proven to help newborns survive. Some of them focus on simple measures to keep the baby warm. In parts of India, they don't have reliable electricity to power baby incubators, and newborns often die from hypothermia. Therefore, birthing attendants are urged to take the newborn's temperature and then warm the baby through skin-to-skin contact with the mother.

Health officials in India are trying to change practices to prevent newborn deaths due to hypothermia. This is a difficult task for two reasons: (1) the problem is invisible and (2) the solution is uncomfortable. When I think of a baby suffering from hypothermia, I picture a shivering child with blue skin. But that's not what it looks like. It's a child who's just a few degrees too cold and too sluggish to feed. And it's not until the baby goes home that she starts to lose weight, develops pneumonia, and dies. This could have been prevented if the newborn's temperature was regulated by her mother's skin. However, this practice is uncomfortable. When a mother delivers in a hospital room without reliable heating, she is often cold and is ready to have someone else take the baby. So, they swaddle the newborn separately, someone else holds her, but no one notices that her temperature is dropping.

Skin-to-skin contact between mother and newborn is a good example of a slow solution. It's a solution that works, but is hard to see. It can be uncomfortable. It goes against conventional wisdom. Plus, there's no immediate reward for doing it; nor is there a quick consequence for not doing it.

Likewise, the good news that "all who call upon the Lord Jesus will be saved" is a slow solution (Rom. 10:13). It's hard to see how calling upon Jesus helps. There doesn't seem to be an immediate reward. People who don't call on Him seem to do okay. Plus, the solution is uncomfortable. Turn my life over to Jesus in faith? Sacrifice my time to worship Him and share life with His people? Give my energy and money to further His kingdom? Yes! It's the only solution to a hard-to-see problem: separation from God that leads to death and hell . . . often without anyone noticing.

How do you spread a slow solution? Long term, face-to-face social interaction is the only way. Our digitally connected world makes us expect that ideas will spread without the hard work of building trust through personal relationships. But slow solutions need time to gestate.

Dr. Gawande interviewed a nurse in India who had been paired with a mentor to instill those birthing best practices. When her mentor had asked why she didn't take the baby's temperature, she was annoyed at first. She didn't see why it mattered. They delivered a dozen babies every day. She didn't have time to take all their temperatures! After a few months, the nurse started warming up to her mentor. She started taking the babies' temps. What caused the change? "She was nice," the nurse said. "She was nice?" the doctor repeated. "She smiled a lot. It wasn't like talking to someone who was trying to find mistakes. It was like talking to a friend."

"Bear with one another in love . . . Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace . . ." (Colossians 3-4).

Pastor Zeigler



Image from "Slow Ideas" by Atul Gawande, *The New Yorker*, Jul 29, 2013.

MAKE FRIENDS

August marked the conclusion of our first year of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes through our International Friendship Center (IFC) in partnership with People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO). We had a volunteer appreciation lunch and asked everyone: "Did you develop any new friendships?"

Diane said: "I have gained a very dear friend. The first time she came for class we just clicked. She is a very warm and caring person. She invited me to her home and we've had lunch twice. Each time she has made way too much food because she wants to share all the foods that represent her country. I have met her children and they compete for my attention. They love having company! She has shared some very personal things with me and I feel honored to have gained her trust."

Rhonda shared: "Not long after we started classes I was asked to pick up one of the ladies from Afghanistan and her two small children. On our rides, I found out that her husband was teaching her to drive, that she loved to cook, and that she missed her parents very much. We developed the bond of friendship, it didn't matter I was old enough to be her grandmother, or that we couldn't understand everything we said to each other. Our cultures and religions are different and she was in a church for the first time when attending our classes. Rhonda also said when her friend drives by Epiphany, her children now point and exclaim, "Church! Church!"

Lynn commented: "Every face you see has a story to tell and their stories are filled with courage, hard work and sometimes loneliness. They have left families behind, traveled far and many were married at the young age of 13. One day they wanted to put hijabs (head coverings) on us. When they removed theirs one of the young ladies had dyed her hair red! One shared she likes to teach Arabic Zumba. One shared she loves make-up. In many ways, we are more alike than different. When we were discussing members of the family, I shared I have no sisters, only four brothers and that made me sad. I would have liked a sister. They said they would be my sisters!"

Lynn, who is not a member of Epiphany, also shared this: "I have been blessed by being accepted and included by the most amazing group of people! When John greets us at the door each Wednesday his kindness and gentle ways rock our world and sets the stage for the rest of the morning . . . Pat in the kitchen – always with a kind word and beautiful smile . . . Britney in the day care center – so friendly, welcoming and always willing to help . . . our teachers (Jane, Andrea, and our fearless leader, Rhonda) – the amount of talent, intelligence, caring . . . it is an honor to work beside you!"

How do the students feel about ESL at the Epiphany IFC? Diane said, "My new friend told me that she likes coming to our church because we are sincere about helping people . . . at Epiphany she feels we are just trying to help them. They feel safe with us."

Jesus said, "I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9)



ESL Class at the Epiphany IFC

MEET BEN & BETH

Benjamin Hayter is Epiphany's new first year Seminary Fieldwork student as well as our new part-time choir director. Ben met his wife Elizabeth in college at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Beth's originally from Pennsylvania. She's currently studying for a Master's Degree in Chemistry at St. Louis University. Ben's dad is a pastor in Union, Missouri and his mom is a deaconess at the LCMS International Center in Kirkwood.

Ben, what have been some difficulties in adapting to life at the seminary?

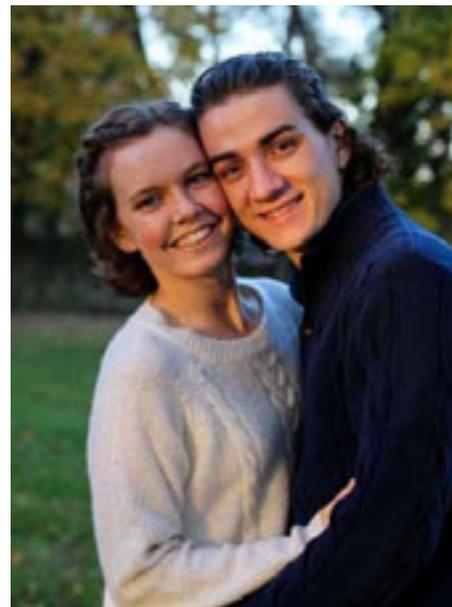
So far the toughest thing for us has been time management. At the seminary your focus is divided by many different aspects of life. You have academics, community events, fieldwork obligations, part time jobs, and family life, as well as several other minor commitments that pop up throughout the year. Learning to balance these things and prioritize has been and will continue to be a growing experience.

What are some things you have enjoyed since moving back to St. Louis?

Elizabeth and I love going out to eat many of the different treats that St. Louis has to offer. Since coming back we have thoroughly enjoyed Ted Drew's frozen custard, and the delicious burgers that are served at Seamus McDaniel's.

As a seminary field worker, what would you like to learn?

I am excited to learn about all the physical elements of a functional church. I look forward to learning about reaching out to the nearby community, even if it is made up of people who are not just like me. I also hope that by observing Pastor Zeigler, I will learn some technical skills, specific to being a pastor.



YOUTH UPDATE



Youth Gathering at the Goetz's Lakehouse in September

Youth Retreat: On October 20-22, 2017 our confirmands (6th-8th grade) are invited to join us for the annual Missouri District youth retreat. It is a great time for our students to grow together as a group, have some fun and hear from great speakers alongside students from all over the state. Contact Paul Terral to RSVP or with any questions at pqterral@gmail.com.

The Man Cave: Young men as well as seasoned men of Epiphany are invited to join us every third Thursday of the month for our Man Cave evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. We will snack, talk and develop our "manly skills" – from computer and sheet rock repair, to grilling an excellent burger or sharpening those dull kitchen knives. Join us as we grow together in faith and life.

Sunday School is growing! With a growing church comes a growing children and youth ministry areas. We are in need of Sunday School teachers and discussion leaders for our students. If you are interested in helping please talk with Paul Terral or Amy Zeigler. K-4th, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12 grades are open areas for service.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 a.m. Holly Hills Grills 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	2	Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Elders 6:30 p.m. Altar Guild 6:30 p.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	7	
8 Worship with Communion 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 a.m.	Church Council 7 p.m.	10 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	11 Silver Saints – Spiritual Wellness 10:00 a.m. Silver Saints – Physical Wellness 11:00 a.m.	12 13 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	14	
15 Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 a.m.	16	17 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	18 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. LWML 11:00 a.m. Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	19 20 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	21	
22 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Meal 11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 p.m.	23	24 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	25 26	27 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	28	
29 Worship with Communion/New Member Welcome 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 p.m.	30	31 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Halloween Hospitality Hut 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.			<h1>October</h1>		
<h1>November</h1>			ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	1	2	3 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	4 Kitchen Fall Cleaning 9:00 – 12:00
5 Daylight Savings Ends Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 p.m.	6	7 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m. Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	8 Silver Saints – Spiritual Wellness 10:00 a.m. Physical Wellness 11:00 a.m. Harmon-Besel Rehersal 5:30 p.m.	9 10 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Harmon-Besel Wedding 2:00 p.m.	11	
12 Worship with Communion (First Communion) 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 a.m.	13 Church Council 7 p.m.	14 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	15 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	16 LWML 11:00 a.m. Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	17 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Wedding 5:00 p.m.	18	
19 Worship 9:30 a.m. Growing in the Word 11:00 a.m.	20	21 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	22 23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	
26 Worship with Communion 9:30 a.m. Church Potluck 11:00 a.m.	27	28 Men's Bible Study Panera Loughborough 6:30 a.m.	ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Youth Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Kids in the Kitchen 4:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	29 30	Bible Study 10:00 a.m.		

SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	ALTAR GUILD
10/1	Tori Riley	Chris & Jill Pfeuffer	Doug Jones	Andrea Barnett and Julia Blevins
10/8	Susie Boeyink	Hawk Family	Chris Hartley	
10/15	Greyson Barnett	Shirley Frederich	Rod Horton	
10/22	Elise Zeigler	Carol Niemeier	Rich Berg	
10/29	Hannah Hawk	Tom & Karen Slama	Chris Hartley	
11/5	Will Barnett	Algerta Kuzhilla	Derek Perry	Judy Marvin and Carol Niemeier
11/12	Dea Kuzhilla	Fred & Pat Wachter	Doug Jones	
11/19	Brianna Meyer	Tony & Desiree Stout	Rod Horton	
11/26	Elijah Hawk	John Bernthal	Rich Berg	



GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Panera on Loughborough & I-55

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Children K-5

We started a new round of classes using the book study "The Story" for all ages and in conjunction with the adult study, designed to draw us deeper into God's rescue story through Jesus and recorded in the Bible.

Sundays, 11 a.m.

Sun. Morning Bible Classes

Youth and adults

The book study "The Story" designed to draw us deeper into God's rescue story through Jesus and recorded in the Bible.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings, Jan – August: **\$2153**

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

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance, Jan – August 2017: **98**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keeping Woerner Warm: We will collect hats, coats and mittens for the students at Woerner Elementary School again this year. Many of Woerner's students come from low income and/or immigrant/refugee families who cannot afford to properly clothe their children or are not prepared for the harsh winter weather. Principal Meyer greatly appreciates having a box of hats, coats and mittens to take from when students come to her office needing these items, and the smiles on the kids' faces brighten up a cold and dreary winter day. Please bring in new or gently used (no stains or tears) hats, coats and mittens – children's sizes 5-14, October 15th thru November 26th. Donations can be placed in the basket in the narthex or dropped off in the church office. If you have any questions, or would like to make a monetary donation and have us shop for you, please see Britney Hawk (britneyhawk@yahoo.com).

Sharing Tree: For the past two years, we have sponsored needy families from Woerner Elementary School for Christmas, and we plan to do so again this year. For those not familiar with the Sharing Tree, this is how it works: Principal Meyer gives us the information for 2 or 3 needy Woerner families. We then put those needs on tags, on the Sharing Tree, and those who are able, take a tag and purchase the item(s) listed. All of the items are returned to church, sorted by family and then delivered to Woerner before Christmas break. The Sharing Tree will go up Sunday, November 19th and gifts will be due back to church by Sunday, December 10th. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this program, please see Britney Hawk (britneyhawk@yahoo.com).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

Algerta Kuzhilla.....October 1	Brunilda Lluka..... October 25	Vickie Matta..... November 5
Hannah HawkOctober 2	Lucas Boeyink October 27	Sabrina Benson..... November 8
Juniper PerryOctober 3	Robert Dehn..... October 27	Robert Reynolds.....November 11
Lynn DanchaOctober 4	Kevin Driskell October 27	Emera MuellerNovember 12
Trinity Langdon.....October 7	Douglas Rapley October 28	William Horton IIINovember 13
Vanessa Riley.....October 7	Rasheedah Krus..... October 29	Joseph Krick.....November 14
James WomackOctober 8	Carlin Langdon..... October 29	Alketa MaraNovember 16
Lynn BlattnerOctober 9	Christopher Tongay October 29	Jo Ann OrrNovember 17
Nicholas Lee October 18	Joseph Kirkpatrick..... October 30	Sarah Fischer.....November 24
Angela Lluka October 18	Castle Langdon October 30	Tony Spain Jr.November 26
Michael Williams October 19	Addelynn Stout November 1	Charleigh Williams.....November 26
Alexander Hodge October 20	Nicki Vitale..... November 1	Bill YaegerNovember 26
Kierra Murray October 22	Michael Zeigler..... November 1	Tiffany GalloNovember 27
Anna Horton..... October 23	Marlene Kleffner..... November 3	Keith LundNovember 27
John Bernthal..... October 24		



Timothy & Dawn Walters..... October 5
John & Lorene Tate Sr.October 12
Richard & Lynn BlattnerOctober 17
Anthony & Desiree Stout.....October 19
Christopher & Christine TongayOctober 21
Vincent & Lisa BirkmanOctober 26
Kirk & Tina Johnson November 17

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Homebound

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

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
James Welch
(Fred & Pat Wachter's son-in-law)
Adam Welch
(Fred & Pat Wachter's grandson)
David Wheeler
(Judy Langdon's son-in-law)



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

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

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

Missionaries

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

Other Requests

Woerner School
Craig & Paula Donofrio returning
from the mission field in Eurasia



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Are you ready for the next installment? The Last Jedi, officially Episode VIII in the Star Wars saga, opens in theaters on Dec 15th 2017. Crossing at least three generations of viewers, Star Wars has become a standard feature in our cultural landscape. Christians, for about 2,000, have been hijacking pop culture and using it to bring glory to Jesus. Continuing in this tradition, our Sunday sermons during the season of Advent will explore how the Star Wars storyline can help us unlock the mysteries of the Bible.

Okay, clarification: we're not going to talk about how God is like the Force. Because He's not. And yes, we know Star Wars lets us escape into a fantasy world, but the Bible shows us the real world. Those things aside, what can we learn?

This Advent, we're going to see how the first six Star Wars episodes center on a central character (Anakin Skywalker, a.k.a, Darth Vader) much like the Bible's storyline centers on the single, real life character, Jesus of Nazareth. These Advent sermons will help us more clearly see Jesus at the center of the Bible, the Church, the world, and our individual lives.



**THE LORD
BE WITH YOU**