

the STAR



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

JUNE-JULY, 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

SUMMERFEST!

If you haven't heard the story, let me fill you in. Two years ago, I sat next to the principal of Woerner, Peggy Meyer, down in our fellowship hall. We were hosting an asset mapping event and had invited friends and neighbors from all over Holly Hills. We brainstormed and dreamed up ideas based on all the things we each brought to our table. Peggy offered the school play yard, I offered volunteers and grant writers, a teacher offered his band and soon we had the makings of a community picnic. The picnic was chosen as the best idea, and the neighbors there that night committed to making it happen.

Two years later it finally did! A picnic became a festival and soon we filled the yard with food trucks, a balloon art guy, bounce houses, bands, bubble vans, roving magicians, carnival games and friends. Kids, parents, and neighbors roamed the blacktop, talking and playing together. Community was formed around the kids and their families, and a neighborhood began to come together around them. It was something that God began long ago to work and to will in our neighborhood and we followed His Spirit and guidance.

Thank you all for your presence there and for your willingness to organize, design, advertise, move tables, set up tents, play and clean.

Peace to you in Jesus
Paul Terral
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Lois, Ana, Jen, Chris and other Epiphany members partnered with many neighborhood volunteers to make the event a success.



The bubble truck in action as the storm approached.



COMRADERY

While I was serving on Air Force Reserve Duty in May, I officiated a retirement ceremony for a man who served his country on active duty for 25 years. Senior Master Sergeant Octavius Duffey, III—he goes by “Duff”—and I worked together. Since meeting him seven years ago, he’s become a friend and a brother. I was deeply honored when he asked me to be part of the ceremony.

When you ask people why they serve in the military, many will tell you “comradery.” When I think of comradery, I think of my basic military training. I was 18 years old, first time living away from my family, thrown into this experience with these other young people and over the course of two months, suffering and striving, failing and succeeding together, those ladies became my sisters, those men became my brothers. That’s comradery.

A military retirement ceremony is never about just one person. This one was about the people with Sergeant Duffey in the Command Post on the morning of September 11th, 2001, when every phone in the building rang at the same time. It was about the people with Sergeant Duffey who hit the dirt alongside him 2 minutes and 37 seconds after getting off the plane in Afghanistan when the first of many mortars fell. It’s about the people who were with him on that deployment, and the ones who never came home.

I asked Duff what he remembered about his assignments around the world. He told me, “I was blessed to meet great people.” He said, “It makes me wonder how different I would be had I not met all these people,” these friends, these sisters, these brothers.

Comradery is close to what the New Testament means by the word “fellowship”. Fellowship, like comradery, is what happens when people are drawn together around a common vision, a common life and love. Fellowship draws me out of myself, out of my preferences, fears, and limitations, and links me to others in a greater purpose. Fellowship makes strangers into brothers and sisters.

The New Testament invites all who have ears to hear ... *“have fellowship with us ... and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ”* (1 John 1:4). I have experienced the power of comradery in my nation’s military. This mission is only for this fleeting, passing, mortal life. I yearn for fellowship in a greater mission—a mission inviting all nations into true life, the life of God’s kingdom that will have no end.

Would you be my comrades in this?

In Jesus, Pastor Zeigler



Photo taken at Scott Air Force Base, IL, May 4th, 2018



On Palm Sunday King Jesus gathered many nations for worship and fellowship around His Word



On Easter the risen Jesus brought together over 150 sisters and brothers at Epiphany, most of whom were once strangers

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME



Epiphany has a vision to build. It's not a brick-and-mortar project. Instead, it's something we're building with the bonds of family, friendship, and good neighboring. We want to build a "third place"—a social space between work and home where unrelated people can relate. We want to use Epiphany's property and resources to equip people for self-giving service to their neighbors beyond the stone walls of Epiphany. This involves projects like building a neighborhood "rumble ball pit."

Sometimes it's called "Ga-Ga Ball." *Ga-ga* means "touch-touch" in modern Hebrew. Apparently, the game originated in a Jewish community in Australia. It's a fast-paced, high energy game played in an octagonal pit (basically a kinder version of dodgeball, which means you're less likely to take a ball to the beak). If you visit the blacktop playground at Woerner Elementary during a school recess, you'll get to see it in action. And if school's out, you could even join in on a game because the whole community has access to it.

On April 29th, grey-t-shirted representatives of Jesus from Epiphany partnered with Holly Hills Neighbors to build it. We are grateful for the community partners who donated to make this possible: Alderwoman Beth Murphy, Steve Butz (Crawford & Butz Insurance), Mel's Auto Service, Borgemeyer Dentistry, Dan Rataj (State Farm Agent), and the Holly Hills Improvement Association all teamed with Epiphany to fund the project.

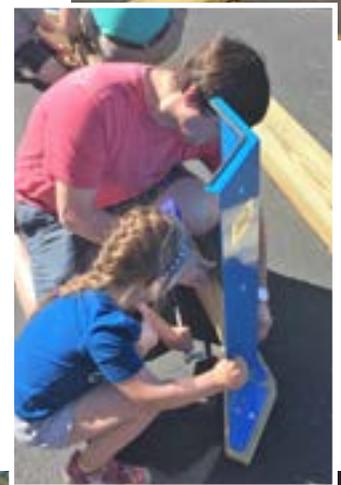
For three years now, the people of Epiphany have been saying we want to partner with Woerner School and all willing neighbors to do good for our community. Building a rumble ball pit is another small, but important effort in putting our neighbors' needs before our own. This is what the Bible calls sacrificial love. We want everyone to experience receiving, giving, and living this kind of love. Why? Because we have come to know sacrificial-love-in-person: Jesus.

Thank you so much for your generous support in helping us construct a rumble ball pit.

The students love it!

Sincerely,

Staff & Students at Woerner School



COMING INTO A CLEARING

Imagine you're hiking a mountain. You set off through a thick forest of pine and aspen groves. The heavy trees and twisting trail make it difficult to see much beyond your immediate vicinity. As you climb, your legs and lungs begin to burn. You start to wonder if this was a good idea. But then you come to the first clearing. And the view takes your breath away. Forgetting the fatigue, you can't wait to see it from the top.

Confirmation in the Christian Church is like coming into this first clearing. The confirmand hasn't reached the goal of the journey, but a significant checkpoint. Some Christian traditions include confirmation as a one of the sacraments, such as the Roman Catholic Church. Other Christian traditions, like the Lutheran Church, don't see it as a sacrament. Rather, it's a response to the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a time for those baptized into Christ to stand and publicly acknowledge before God and all people that they gratefully receive their Baptism as a gift that never stops giving. Included in God's promise at Baptism are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, fellowship in God's family as an adopted son or daughter, and a place in Christ's Kingdom that will never end. Like coming into a clearing, confirmation helps us push through the fatigue and keep moving toward the goal.

Sadly, the practice of Confirmation has often been taken hostage by another metaphor. Too often confirmation is treated like a graduation. When graduates get their diplomas, many say, "I am so glad to be done with that." Graduated means done. This is a very different feeling compared to coming into that clearing. There, we said, "Wow, look how far we've come." And after pausing for a moment to enjoy the view, we're ready to get moving again.

We are on a similar kind of climb with Jesus. But rather than up a mountain, Jesus is leading us into life—true life, life as God had always intended it. We're on the way to life with God in His kingdom that is coming on earth as it is in heaven. On May 13th, we celebrated the confirmation of Will, Susie, Hannah, Derek, and Elise. We paused for a moment to take in the view and say to them, "Look how far you have come!" And together we confessed, "We didn't come this far to stop now."



SUMMER EVENTS WITH EPIPHANY

Check out the calendar for several opportunities for summer fellowship: play rumble/ga-ga ball at Woerner and meet some new neighbors, share popsicles at the Carondelet Park Playground, and grill out with your church family on the Epiphany lawn.

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Wed, Jun 13, 6:30 pm	Rumble Ball	Woerner School Playground – meet neighbors
Wed, Jun 20, 6:30 pm	Popsicles in Park	Carondelet Playground – free treats to share
Wed, Jun 27, 5:30 pm	Grill Out	Epiphany lawn – bring meat to grill/side to share
Wed, Jul 11, 6:30 pm	Popsicles in Park	Carondelet Playground – free treats to share
Wed, Jul 25, 6:30 pm	Rumble Ball	Woerner School Playground – meet neighbors
Wed, Aug 1, 5:30 pm	Grill Out	Epiphany lawn – bring meat to grill/side to share



"Have fellowship with us" (1 John 1:3)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
June					1	2
3 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	4 Identity Youth Week 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	5 Identity Youth Week 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	6 Identity Youth Week 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	7 Identity Youth Week 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	8 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	9
10 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LCMS MO Convention	11 LCMS Missouri District Convention	12 Church Council 7 p.m. LCMS Missouri District Convention	13 Rumble Ball Woerner School Playground 6:30 p.m.	14	15 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	16
17 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	18 Brenda on Vacation	19 Brenda on Vacation	20 Popsicles in the Park – Carondelet Playground 6:30 p.m. Brenda on Vacation	21 Brenda on Vacation	22 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	23
24 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, Potluck & Congregational Mtg 10:45 a.m.	25	26	27 Annual Calendar Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m. Grill Out at Epiphany 5:30 p.m.	28	29 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	30
1 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. LWML – 12:00 p.m.	2	3 Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	7
8 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	9	10	11 Popsicles in the Park – Carondelet Playground 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	14
15 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	21
22 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Potluck 10:45 a.m.	23	24	25 Rumble Ball Woerner School Playground 6:30 p.m.	26	27 Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	28
29 Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Game Day 10:45 a.m.	30	31			July	

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

will resume in September

Bible Study will resume Wednesday, September 12 with Silver Saints at 9:00 a.m.

Sundays through the summer, 11 a.m.

Morning Bible Classes – Children K-5

Sundays through the summer, 11 a.m.

Morning Bible Classes – Youth and adults

We're discussing Christian life through the lens of the best-selling book, *Mere Christianity*.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings through April 2018: **\$1,961**

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

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance through April, 2018: **92**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Identity Youth Week

June 4 – 7, Faith, food, friends, mission. Please pray that God will work powerfully in the lives of the youth and volunteers who participate in this year's Identity Youth Week. Each morning starts with breakfast, followed by worship and a speaker, with mentors hosting discussions. After lunch, students and mentors are sent around South City St Louis to serve in the name of Jesus.



SMALL GROUP PILOT PROJECT



Who? All who are willing to commit to an 8-week experience of practicing the faith with a small group of other Christ-followers, sharing life together around God's Word. Four couples will lead these groups: Ben & Beth Hayter, Chris & Jen Hartley, Jarred & Ana Irby, and Derek & Jill Perry.

What? Each group will have a time of fellowship, prayer, and Bible Study on Jesus' Parable commonly called "The Prodigal Son," though it's more about the father and his two lost sons.

When? The groups will begin meeting Sept 9th, 2018 from 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon each Sunday until Oct 28th. Each meeting will include snacks and drinks, and two will include a full lunch (Sept 23 & Oct 28)

Where? Each group will gather on site at Epiphany in their designated meeting room. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children under 5 years. Sunday School will be offered for older children.

Why? Life-long faith in Jesus is best nurtured through peer-to-peer conversations and intergenerational interactions within God's family, the Church. With the complexities of our busy schedules, Sunday morning is our best opportunity to let the Holy Spirit make this happen.

SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	ALTAR GUILD
6/3	Titus Zeigler	Rich & Diane Berg	Rod Horton	Susan Harris, Hawk Family	Shirley Frederich and Lynn Goetz
6/10	Lucas Boeyink	Will Degenhardt	Derek Perry	Armstrongs	
6/17	Will Barnett	George & Lynn Goetz	Doug Jones	Marvins Josiah Zeigler	
6/24	Greyson Barnett	Joe & Patti Krick	Rich Berg	Fourth Sunday Potluck & Congregational Meeting	Judy Marvin and Carol Niemeier
7/1	Eli Hawk	Judy Eickhoff	Chris Hartley	Ruth Schury	
7/8	Elise Zeigler	Perry Family	Rod Horton	Julia Blevins	
7/15	Dea Kuzhilla	Algerta Kuzhilla	Derek Perry		
7/22	Hannah Hawk	Billy & Andrea Barnett	Doug Jones	Fourth Sunday Potluck	
7/28	Susie Boeyink	Carol Niemeier	Rich Berg	Fifth Sunday Game Day	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

- Emily Driscoll June 2
- Hailey Krus June 2
- Judy Roeder June 22
- Sophia Lamb June 23
- Zachary Slama June 23
- Cain Brenk June 26
- Diane Berg June 29
- Desiree Stout June 30

- Rich Berg July 1
- Eli Bonzano July 1
- John Heinicke July 3
- Karen Slama July 3
- Donnie Bonzano July 5
- Jennifer Hartley July 5
- Derek Pfeuffer July 5
- Barb Schrader July 6
- Tina Johnson July 7
- Jim Lang July 7
- Andrew Smart July 7
- Pat Wachter July 7
- Titus Zeigler July 8
- Will Barnett July 12
- Vince Birkman July 12
- Alex Cuka July 12
- Hady Matta July 12
- Derek Perry July 15
- Tim Krus July 17
- Mark Slama July 17
- Kurt Zickler July 19
- Evan Driscoll July 20
- Patti Krick July 20
- Denisa Mitre July 2
- Julia Blevins July 27
- Shirley Frederich July 28
- Michelle Welch July 28
- Susan Harris July 31

CONGRATULATIONS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Matthew & Andrea Young June 1
- Bill & Janice Dorsam June 6
- Andrew & Patricia Kleffner June 7
- Chris & Jennifer Hartley June 8
- George & Lynn Goetz June 11
- James & Michelle Welch June 19
- Chris & Jill Pfeuffer June 21
- Kurt & Kathryn Zickler Sr June 22

- Tim & Rasheedah Krus July 1
- Rich & Stephanie Kasznel July 18
- Douglas & Jennifer Rapley July 18
- Lazien & Denisa Mitre July 26
- Joe & Patti Krick July 28

PRAYER REQUESTS

To be a part of the Prayer Chain

contact Karen Slama at (314) 353.2396.

Homebound

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

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

- 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



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

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.
St. Louis, MO 63116

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER

JOHN BERNTHAL – SERVANT IN THE LORD’S HOUSE

John was born to Pastor Otto and Christine Bernthal in rural Missouri, on October 24th, 1927, the fourth of five children. The Bernthal’s moved to St Louis when John was 13. Even though he was a year younger than the other freshmen, he started attending Roosevelt High. He remembered feeling “so alone,” a country boy in a large, city school. After a couple of years, his family moved again, now to rural Illinois where his dad was called to be a pastor. John graduated high school there at the age of 16.

After graduation, John moved back to St Louis and worked for the Frisco Railroad for 19 years. Next, he got a job at Concordia Publishing House, where his dad worked when they were in St Louis. A consummate people-person, John thrived as a manager there. Later he became a top salesman before retiring in 1990 after 27 years of faithful service.

In 1952, John married his beloved wife Eunice. They were blessed with two daughters, Diane and Karen. When Eunice suffered with dementia during the last years of her life, John cared for her with Christ-like patience and compassion. One person who observed this commented, “John is the sweetest man on earth. I’ve never known anyone like him. The way he treated his wife—I’ve never seen a man like that ... kind, generous, compassionate.”

Almost as much as he loved his Lord and his family, John loved music. He used to watch his one-room-schoolhouse teacher play the organ at church, energetically working the keys and pedals. John decided that one day he too would play. Largely self-taught, John served as Epiphany’s organist and children’s choir director for 60 years, from 1946 to 2006. A year after John started, in 1947 the pastor wrote of his 20 year-old-organist, “Mr Bernthal has accomplished much in such a short time.” He could not have anticipated how much God would go on to accomplish through his servant.

Age 91, John fell asleep in Jesus on May 21, 2018. The inscription on his tombstone will read:

“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23, verse 6).

John began playing organ for Epiphany at the age of 20



John & Eunice at a home Bible study group in 1965



John at fellowship in 2015



John welcomed our Woerner Ballet students and ESL students in 2017