

the STAR



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

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2018

VISION

Be a community that puts Jesus first, our neighbors second, and ourselves third, by gathering to be served by Him so we can grow to love as He loves.

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Epiphany Lutheran Church

4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
Office: (314) 752-7065
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Rev. Dr. Michael W. Zeigler
pastorzeigler@sbcglobal.net
epiphanylutheran@sbcglobal.net
elcstl.org

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



SMALL STEP FORWARD

On September 9th, we launched our Sunday Morning Small Group meetings with a sum of 50 people participating in four different groups. Small groups have proven to be especially effective in nurturing Christ-centered conversations. In a larger group setting, most folks aren't comfortable with speaking up, asking a question, or offering a prayer.

This small group ministry launch was the culmination of 8 months of planning, preparing, and, more important, prayer. Epiphany's Board of Elders has sponsored and is leading this project. The goal is to deepen our faith in Jesus and relationships with each other through peer-to-peer conversations and intergenerational interactions within God's family, the Church. As our congregation begins a prayerful search for a new pastor, this is a small step toward keeping the main thing the main thing: gathering around Jesus and His Word.



FROM THE PASTOR

TRANSITION

For the last four years, it's been my joy and honor to serve as your pastor. On Oct 1st, I will begin my new position with Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), a global outreach organization that's been serving Jesus for almost 90 years. LHM exists to equip Christian lay people for local outreach and to provide expanded global outreach through broadcast media (radio, internet, satellite tv, and print). LHM currently reaches 100 million people around the world each week with the Good News of Jesus. "Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church" is their motto. Learn more at lhm.org. The Lutheran Hour program airs on Sirius XM Satellite Radio (channel 131), Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, plus the following St Louis stations:

91.5 FM, Sun at 8 a.m.

91.9 FM, Sun at 9 a.m.

850 AM, Sun at 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.



LHM is based in St Louis, so we don't plan on moving. Also, with the invitation of our vacancy pastor (see below), Amy and I have decided to keep our family worshipping with Epiphany. My new position requires a fair amount of travel, but you'll still see us in worship and active in the congregation and neighborhood we've come to dearly love over these last four years.

In Jesus, Pastor Zeigler



With the recommendation of the Missouri District, Epiphany's Board of Elders has elected Pastor Max Biesenthal to serve as our part-time vacancy pastor. He has over 40 years' experience as a pastor and church leader. We are grateful for Max's eagerness to serve as we begin the prayerful process to call a new full-time pastor. To get to know him, we asked Pastor Biesenthal a few questions:

What are some of your favorite features of St Louis?

After living in Chicago and Seattle for the 25 years prior to moving to St Louis, I find St Louis to be an easy city. Traffic is tolerable, the roads are good, even the parking spots are big (Seattle's are tiny). And I love the parks – each neighborhood seems to be anchored by a park. Forest Park is an absolute jewel.

And I love Octobers. I also appreciate the fact that St Louis is centered between our five grandchildren – three in Chicago and two in Northwest Arkansas.

What are some important lessons you've learned from prior work experience?

The thing I have learned in every work opportunity is that God is never finished with me. Life is a journey, and we learn along the way, and everything we experience – good, bad or ugly – prepares us for what comes next. I have been in small churches and very large churches; faith-based institutions and corporations; entrepreneurial endeavors and free-lance engagements; sales and marketing. And in each instance, I have learned to take God seriously, and myself less so.

When you have a day off, what do you like to do?

My hobbies are gardening (flowers and plants, not vegetables); golf; sports of any flavor (I'm a Detroit boy – so go Red Wings!!); reading; and I have a Jigsaw puzzle app on my iPad that provides great relaxation.

Thinking about your childhood church, what memories stand out?

I think about my pastor, who happened to be my Dad. Difficult as it is sometimes to be a PK [preacher's kid], the memories are all warm.

Pastor Max Biesenthal

LIVING IN THE NAME

Often people comment on how happy my daughter Lacie is. Often this compliment is under-received because I think to myself (and occasionally aloud), “Of course she is happy, it’s in her name!”

As my wife Ana and I prayed about what name God had for her, we sensed that God was calling her to be a joyful representation of who He is. So, we doubled down and named her Lacie Jocelyn, which roughly translates to Joyful-Joyful. So clearly, she MUST be the happiest baby ever. And also, you’re welcome for that hymn being stuck in your head today.

Earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to attend our district convention as a lay delegate, along with Pastor Zeigler. Although it was a quick 48 hours, they were able to efficiently pack in time for voting, a few services, more voting, some time for fellowship, some great speakers, and more voting. I’ll go ahead and leave out the explicit voting details, but the highlights for myself were the messages from the guest essayist, Dr. Adam S. Francisco, and the message from our LCMS President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.

Dr. Francisco is mostly an academic historian by trade, but as he spoke, it became apparent that he was really a deep lover of Jesus and His Word and Truth. Speaking from topics such as apologetics, history, and the changing landscape of philosophy in our times, he was able to encourage us in our pursuits of truth and spreading Jesus’ love to all people in our different contexts. I would encourage anyone to check out some of his talks from the convention or at least to read some of the works he has published.

Probably the focal point of our Monday was President Harrison’s speech. He was currently traveling, visiting many conventions around the country, and he has been promoting a theme “Joy:Fully Lutheran”. Early on in his message, he spoke of how the words ‘joy’ and ‘grace’ have the same root (hara) in the Greek language. This point captured me, since I have a daughter whose name means joy, and her mother’s name means grace! I had to pay deep attention at this point, this message is already hitting home!

As he spoke to a room of regional pastors and lay people from different backgrounds, he was able to speak to specific issues and challenges we as a church and denomination are facing. As expected, he was encouraging in ways that our many churches are overcoming those challenges today, and how we look to overcome them in the future. But what I personally took away from this talk is that this point of being Joy:Fully Lutheran is less about overcoming challenges, and more about living out our identity as a church and what’s important for us to hold onto.

The good news is that as we look forward as a large denomination, and even for small yet mighty local church at Epiphany, we are able to hold onto our identity in Christ, and the hope of what it is to come. Even as we move into the future with some uncertainty, we still are able to be bursting with joy.

If someone was to visit our church, and they would ask, “how is it that you all are so happy and full of hope?” I hope that we could reply, “Well, it’s because of Jesus, it’s in His name that we find Joy!”

For more information on “Joy:Fully Lutheran” visit www.joyfullylutheran.org

By Jarred Irby
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Jarred (pictured with his wife Ana and daughter Lacie) began serving as Epiphany’s Director of Youth and Family Ministry as of Sept 1st. He is also a newly elected member of Epiphany’s Board of Elders.

JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN
1 THESS 5:16-24

**“EVEN AS WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE WITH SOME UNCERTAINTY,
WE STILL ARE ABLE TO BE BURSTING WITH JOY.”**

FIRING ON FOUR CYLINDERS

Driving on a mis-firing cylinder is dangerous. The cylinder is the spot in your car's engine where internal combustion takes place. This is the source of your car's power—the torque that turns your wheels. A mid-size car normally has four cylinders. If one isn't firing, why can't you just get along with three? Well, that's like a horse running on three legs. Also, if you have a problem with one cylinder, it's likely to lead to problems with the others. If you've got a bad cylinder, you need to get it fixed right away.

The Christian's life is like a car powered by four cylinders. The Bible reveals four sources of power to become and remain a faithful follower of Jesus (1) receiving baptism and returning to its promises; (2) participating in the Lord's Supper; (3) listening to preaching; and (4) Christ-centered conversation with brothers and sisters in the faith.



Just like the four cylinders in your car all run on the same fuel, so also with the four cylinders of faith: God's Word powers them all. So, why four? Why not just one? A four-cylinder engine provides for ideal balance, torque, and efficiency. In a similar way, God wants His Word to power our faith in four ways, not just one. The first three—Baptism, Lord's Supper, and Preaching happen in the larger gatherings of the church. Many Christians think these are enough. But God designed us to run on all four. That last one—Christ-centered conversations with brothers and sisters in the faith—is as needful as the others. Talking with other Christians about Jesus and His work in our lives gives us the extra boost we need to speak of Him with our neighbors and joyfully live for Him in our schools, jobs, and neighborhoods. Faith, powered by the Word, drives us into God's world!

Is this the fourth cylinder you've been missing? Gathering in a smaller group with other Christ-followers is the answer. If you couldn't commit to one of Epiphany's groups this Fall, look for more opportunities in the near future.

LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES



Rates of suicide are on the rise. In Missouri, on average, every 8 hours a person takes their own life. Teens, preteens, adults, moms, dads, the elderly, police officers, military personnel . . . No part of the population has been left untouched. 1 in 5 American adults have a mental health condition, and the mental health of our youth is worsening at an alarming rate. Feelings of stress, anxiety and depression are pervasive in our society. People are overwhelmed with the responsibilities of life and the unexpected crises that seem to keep hitting ever harder and faster.

Lutheran Family and Children Services is committed to meeting each person where they are in their struggle and through a host of services, provide them with the guidance, resources and treatment they need.

Services include: Maternal Mental Health Services to promote the well-being of families; School Counseling through licensed, professional counselors on-site at over 70 Lutheran, Public and Private schools throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area; Child, Youth, Individual, Couples, and Family Therapy; Older Adult Services; and Post Adoption Counseling.

If you are interested in learning more about the mental health services the LCFS provides or in setting up an appointment, please contact them at 314-787-5100. As 2018 draws to a close, please support LFCS and their mission with your planned end-of-year giving. Donations can be made to them directly via their website lfcsmo.org or by writing LFCS on your check and placing it in the offering basket.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	6	
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. South City Youth – BOUND – 5:30 p.m. Holly Hills Grills – 1:00 p.m.	7	8 Church Council 7 p.m.	9	10 Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	11	12 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	13
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. South City Youth – BOUND – 5:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	18 Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	19 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	20
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m. South City Youth – BOUND – 5:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	25	26 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	27
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Celebration Potluck 10:45 a.m. Congregational Voters Meeting – 12:30 p.m.	28	29	30	31 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Halloween Hospitality 5:00 p.m.	<h1>October</h1>		
<h1>November</h1>					1	2 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	3 Fall Kitchen Cleaning 9:00 a.m.
Daylight Savings	4	5	6	7 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	8	9 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	10
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	11	12 Church Council 7 p.m.	13	14 Silver Saints 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m. 3rd Place Youth Night 6:00 p.m.	15 Man Cave 7:00 p.m.	16 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	17
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:45 a.m.	18	19	20	21 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Meal – ESL Families 5:00 p.m.	22 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed Worship – 9:30 a.m.	23 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	24
Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship Communion 9:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday Potluck 10:45 a.m.	25	26	27	28 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	29	30 Epiphany Stars 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers: Bulletin & Starlet 11:00 a.m.	DECEMBER 1 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Fieldworker Family – along with our second-year fieldworker, Ben Hayter and his wife Beth, we are thrilled to welcome Nathan Speerbrecker, his wife Alison and children Owen, Will, Lucy, Molly, and Henry.

Nathan is beginning his first year of an intensive “alternate route” program at the Seminary leading to ordination in only two years. Nathan qualified for this program because of his extensive background in professional church work, with 15 years’ experience as a ministry director, commissioned lay minister, youth minister, teacher, and coach. To get to know him better, we asked Nathan a few

questions:

What have been some difficulties in adapting to life at seminary?

It’s been a great experience so far, but the challenges have been the adjustment from work to full-time student, thinking more theoretically and scholarly than practically, and the transitional nature of life right now—new relationships, new schedule, new rhythms to daily life. But at the same time, it’s great to learn from brilliant professors and leaders, and there is a unique community that exists for families at the seminary.

What have you and your family enjoyed about living in St. Louis?

We love how accessible St. Louis is- we are so close to so many great museums, the Zoo, Science Center, parks, in fact, our biggest problem is finding enough time for it all. We love living in a city, and it’s amazing how many free and family-friendly options there are in and around St. Louis. Also, we’ve discovered that we prefer being uncomfortably hot, rather than being uncomfortably cold!

Why were you interested in serving as a field worker at Epiphany?

Epiphany was exactly the type of church we were looking for in our time here: I wanted to be in a church that was a “family” environment, where there is a high value on relationships, community, and serving others. My ministry experience has been in more of business/large organizational structures, and I felt like I could learn and grow much more by being at Epiphany. At the same time, I was also excited about the vision of Epiphany to connect with the community, focus on intergenerational ministry, and help people grow as disciples. It was everything I wanted for my family to experience as our church during our time at Seminary, and we feel blessed to be here.

Third Place Youth – Wednesdays in Oct and Nov we will regularly gather together our church youth weekly to engage with the Word, experience discipleship, and try to have as much fun in a few hours as possible! We will kick off this new rhythm with an all-church mid-week fellowship on October 3rd at 6 pm. There will be a time of hearing more about our upcoming church fellowship opportunities as well as the new rhythms for youth and families!



SCHEDULES

DATE	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	ELDERS	FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	ALTAR GUILD
10/7	Brianna Meyer	Hawk Family	Rich Berg	Small Groups	Julia Blevins and Carol Niemeier
10/14	Dea Kuzhilla	Judy Roeder	Rod Horton	Small Groups	
10/21	Eli Hawk	Michele Edstrom	Chris Hartley	Small Groups	
10/28	Greyson Barnett	Lois Abernathy	Derek Perry	Fourth Sunday Potluck	
11/4	Hannah Hawk	Alketa Mara	Doug Jones	TBD	Andrea Barnett and Judy Marvin
11/11	Lucas Boeyink	Tom & Karen Slama	Jarred Irby	TBD	
11/18	Tori Thorne	Vanessa Riley	Rod Horton	TBDk	
11/25	Susie Boeyink	Ron Littrell	Rich Berg	Fourth Sunday Potluck	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

Algerta KuzhillaOctober 1
 Hannah HawkOctober 2
 Juniper PerryOctober 3
 Lynn DanchaOctober 4
 Vanessa RileyOctober 7
 Lynn BlattnerOctober 9
 Michael Williams October 19
 Anna Horton October 23
 Brunilda Lluka October 25
 Lucas Boeyink October 27
 Robert Dehn..... October 27
 Rasheedah Krus October 29
 Christopher Tongay October 29
 Joseph Kirkpatrick..... October 30

Addelynn Stout November 1
 Nicki Vitale..... November 1
 Michael Zeigler..... November 1
 Marlene Kleffner..... November 3
 Vickie Matta..... November 5
 Rod Horton..... November 13
 Joe Krick..... November 14
 Alketa Mara November 16
 Rhonda Jones..... November 18
 Sarah Seago November 24

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Offerings

Average weekly offerings
 Jan – August 2018: **\$1,821.63**

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

Attendance

Average weekly worship attendance
 Jan – August 2018: **89**



Richard & Lynn Blattner October 17
 Tony & Desiree Stout..... October 19
 Chris & Christine Tongay..... October 21
 Vince & Lisa Birkman October 26

Kirk & Tina Johnson November 17

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
 Bob Johnson
 Donna Reek
 Emilee Sutherlin
 Dorothy Zickler
 Kurt & Kathy Zickler

For God's Grace, Health & Healing

Vince Birkman
 Julia Blevins
 Ken Braniecki
 (Lisa Birkman's father)
 Susan Harris
 Kirk Johnson
 Jim & Bonny Lang
 Charles Marvin
 Vickie Matta
 Millie Phillips



**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

Serving in Military

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

Missionaries

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



DOING THE LORD'S WORK

For several years now, we have been working to bring the love of Jesus Christ to those who live, work and go to school in our neighborhood. These efforts have been funded through various means – mini grants from the Lutheran Foundation, Thrivent Action grants, other donations, and church funds.

To continue our outreach for another year, we sought a substantial grant from the Lutheran Foundation to cover our largest programs: English as a Second Language Classes, Foundations Community Nights, Holly Hills Summer Fest, and Identity Youth Week. I am grateful to announce that even with our church's current state of transition between pastors, the Lutheran Foundation has **awarded Epiphany a grant for \$21,000**, to support these programs through September 1, 2019.

Epiphany has gained a reputation as a church that is alive and seeking to be in the community. Please join us in giving thanks to God for His continued blessing on Epiphany, as He works through us to reach those who are lost.

- Britney Hawk, Chairperson for the Board of Discipleship

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."
(Ephesians 3:20)*

Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis is the grant-making ministry of 74 St. Louis area Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod congregations. The Foundation's vision is to see the Church brought into the lives of hurting people and people included in the healing life of the Church.



Epiphany volunteers work with children from the neighborhood during Foundations Community Night.



Epiphany's vision is to be a community that puts Jesus first, neighbors second, and ourselves third by gathering to be served by Him so we can grow to love as He loves.