

the STAR



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

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2019

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.

CONTENTS

Community Within.....	Cover
From The Pastor	2
The Foundations of Community.....	3
Community Partnership.....	4
Coming Events Calendar	5
Announcements	6
Birthdays.....	7
Anniversaries	7
Prayer Requests.....	7
Meet Alex Schrader	8

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Office: (314) 752-7065
Fax: (314) 752-7066
Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann
church@elcstl.org
elcstl.org

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Fellowship: 10:30 am
Growth in the Word: 11:00 am
Sunday School: 11:00 am



THE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Perhaps you're familiar with an old song – 50 years old already. 'Windmills of Your Mind'. The song is written by Alan and Marilyn Bergman with music by Michael Legrand, and was part of the score of the Thomas Crown Affair. The words are somewhat vague with almost a psychedelic feel, and since the song was created in the 60s, there is reason for that.

Part of the repeating lyric is the phrase 'wheel within a wheel'. And while we think of Ezekiel's flying wheel, the application to Epiphany and the community is obvious. We are a community within a community. Epiphany is a community of believers who live and move and serve and love within a specific geographic neighborhood and cultural community.

One of (but not the only) the primary reasons a community of believers invests in the community in which it is located is stewardship. Way back in the Garden, Adam and Eve were commissioned to have dominion over creation – meaning they were to steward it for good. They were to invest themselves in creation and ensure that it was healthy and thriving. That commission still exists. We as believers are to steward creation – investing ourselves in our community ensuring it is healthy and strong. We do that not only as a means to share the Gospel (although that is another primary reason for stewarding community), but because that's who we are and what we are to be about.

That's where the community within the community comes into play. We are, in the words of Hebrew 10, to spur one another to good works (the Greek has the sense of 'provoking' each other). We gather as a community of believers celebrating the cross, and as we gather, we encourage each other to be about the business of stewarding creation – investing in community.

Sometimes we get distracted by the bottom line – we want to know the return on our investment – how many people have been brought to Epiphany because of our community service?

It's the wrong focus. Of course, we want to share the Gospel. But as a community within a community we invest ourselves in our neighborhood because that's what we are called and commissioned to do, happily loving and serving with those around us to create a 'garden' of peace and love.

It's time for the church to be turned inside out – we don't escape from the community to be a community. We gather as a community redeemed by the cross to serve the community in which we find ourselves, 'provoking' each other to loving and serving in all we do.

A wheel within a wheel. A community within a community. For good.

FROM THE PASTOR

THANK YOU

What a joy to be part of the Epiphany community for these past 10 months!

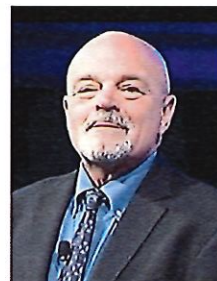
When I was approached to consider being Vacancy Pastor at Epiphany I imagined what I wanted to see happen. I wanted to 'close the circle'. It had been a long time since I had been in the grind of being a Pastor – week in, week out – meetings, preaching, planning, loving. And I wanted to be part of a 'community'. Now that it's time to 'hang up the alb' I would say my desires were met. The circle is closed, and we have found a community.

You are a warm, loving genuine group of people. I would say that Karen and I have felt more 'connected' here than anywhere we have been over the last years. Thank you for that.

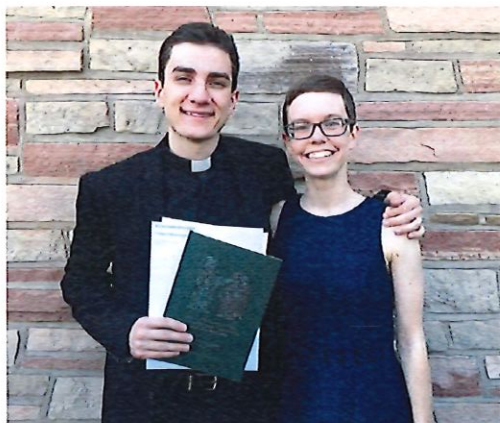
And now it's time for a new page to be turned within this chapter of 'vacancy'. You'll have the great pleasure of being served by Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann. Those who have had experience with him rave about him, particularly in regard to his understanding of the Scriptures and his ability to teach. You will be served well.

Here is a truth – the community of Epiphany continues. You have seen many pastors come and go. There have been those who have served long pastorates, and others lesser. And they have all left an imprint. But they're gone – and you continue, for you have been formed and shaped to be the people of God in this place, regardless of who might be the pastor.

So, thank you. And welcome Dr. Biermann. I know you will love him, as you have loved us. And don't be surprised to see us sitting in the pew behind you.



DEAR EPIPHANY FAMILY



Beth and I would like to offer you our heartfelt thanks for the extremely generous gift that you gave to us as we parted in June. We want to let you guys know that it was truly our privilege to be assigned to Epiphany, to learn under excellent supervisors and to serve with all of you in proclaiming Christ and helping our neighbors. I thank God for one of a kind opportunities that I had in serving in this church. As you know, Beth and I will be gone for the year. I am currently in my third week of vicarage and am loving every minute of it. I have already got to put some of the thing that I learned while being your fieldworker into practice! Thanks again everyone for receiving Beth and I so well, for your gift, and for giving us the opportunity to thrive with you.

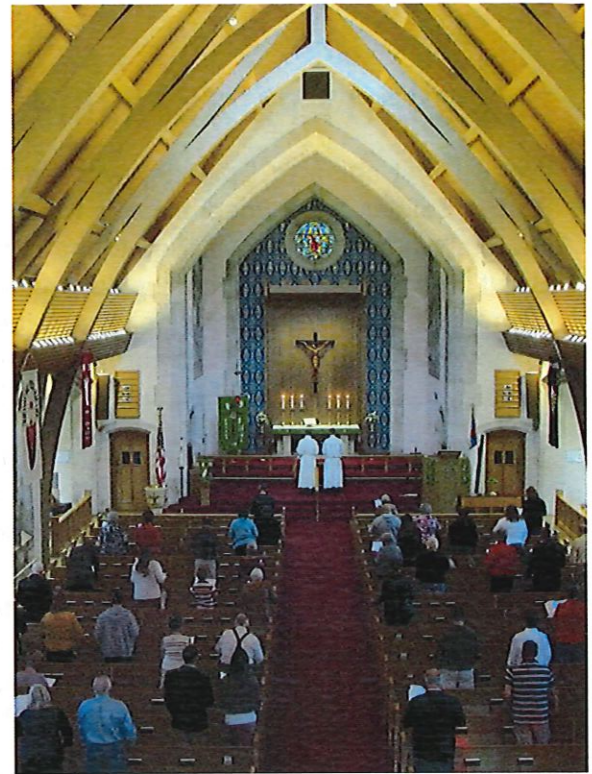
In Christ,
Benjamin and Elizabeth Hayter

THE FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY

Are you a human being? Great- that means this article is for you! For all of us, there are three core questions we seek to answer in life: "Who am I?", "How am I unique?", and "Where do I belong?". For Christians, we have the definitive answers to each of these fundamental questions; the first two are understood in light of our Baptismal Identity in Christ and our callings and gifts used for the sake of our neighbor.

The third question, the focus of this article, helps remind us of the priority and value of Christian Community. Within the context of the church, we provide people with a space to know and be known, to cultivate authentic relationships, and to experience belonging. And there has never been a time in living memory when such a community was more needed.

We live in an increasingly fractured society, and live more isolated lives. Maybe you've experienced this, I certainly know I have. Surrounded by people, "friends and followers" on social media, even interacting with different people every day. And yet deep connection and meaningful relationships are few and far between. Which is why it is increasingly important for us, as the church, to intentionally create space and opportunities to allow individuals and families to connect and grow, deeper in our relationships with God and one another.



One of the avenues for this community is our "Foundations" ministry, launching again this September. As we serve together, eat together, learn and grow and play together, we provide opportunities to slow down, connect, and share our lives with one another. Since becoming part of Epiphany, I have been so impressed with the vision for ministry - to create community, in our community. In research of the Holly Hills neighborhood, three of the highest reasons why people do not participate in a religious community are their beliefs that:

1. Religious people are too judgmental.
2. They don't trust religious leaders.
3. They don't trust organized religion.

On the other hand, the single most impactful way to build bridges with others living in our area is providing space for warm and friendly encounters. From my perspective, these realities display the courage and brilliance of Epiphany's way forward over the past few years (all cultivated before I ever set foot in St. Louis!). As we look forward to the new school year, "Foundations" will once again provide an opportunity for us to both grow deeper in our relationships with one another within our family of faith at Epiphany, and to begin to cultivate new relationships, and move forward closer with existing relationships, with our neighboring families at Woerner Elementary. Stay tuned for opportunities to register and to serve with "Foundations"!

Nathan Speerbrecker
Youth & Family Ministry Director

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

When I first came to Epiphany with my family as simply a visitor, Pastor Zeigler introduced himself to us as we were leaving the church. We had recently moved to the neighborhood, and Ana was about six months pregnant at the time. Our three main requirements for a church were, that they believe in the Bible, that they at least acknowledge the fact that they are next door to a public school, and that they have a heart for the immediate neighborhood around them.

As he talked to us, he let us know that membership was not the only way we could have a feeling of inclusion in the church (we eventually became members, and I now work for the church). He said it was important that we also know how we can simply be partners or neighbors. With Pastor Z acknowledging that it was important that we be partners, it shifted the focus away from solely being about his role as a Pastor, or how great Epiphany is, but to something even better, a relationship between people. If I was to define partnership, I would define it as "a relationship between two parties working together towards a common goal".

I believe that God calls us to partner with Him, and actively participate in His big Kingdom mission for the world. He also calls us to partner with others to work together as a community of believers. As a new-ish role as a Community Partnership Director, I would say my main objective, is to have people experience the same feeling I had walking out of Epiphany the first time I visited, recognizing that God was at work, and His love was being expressed through the mission of the church.

I'll be starting some brief workshops to help all our members in our journey to be "a community of partners." We'll simply take time to get to know each other better as church members, and then we will have some practical time to see how we can live that out in our lives, no matter where we are at in our journey. The first one will be September 21st! Hope to see you there!

Jarred Irby

Community Partnership Director



IN MEMORIAM



On May 13th at 6:05PM, Howard Blevins left this world to begin the next part of his journey with his Maker. Surrounded by the love of his wife, Julia, his three children and nine grandchildren, Howard spent 5 days on in-home Hospice. It was his dream to die at his home that he and Julia shared for the past 53 years down from beautiful Carondelet Park. Just before he left us, we opened up the glass door looking out at his gardens, the sun shone in upon him brightly, the birds sang, and he listened to the sounds of his babbling brook fountain. At six o'clock in the evening, the chimes of Epiphany Lutheran Church, one block away, rang out with their hourly musical celebration of our Lord and Savior, and Howard took his last breath. It was Howard's wish to hold a private celebration of his life at his family farm in Cuba, Missouri this summer. Your prayers have been felt and very much appreciated. If you would like to memorialize Howard, please choose a charity of your choice and give to them, as Howard was a man whose care and generosity abounded. If you have special memories that you would like to share, please send them to Julia, as the family would love to hear more about their loving husband, father and grandfather.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
August						
				1	2	3
4 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	5 Woerner Staff Professional Development Event 9:00 a.m.	6 Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	10 Holy Yoga Out-reach Project 8:00 a.m.
11 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	12 Church Council 7 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Ice Cream Social 5:00 p.m.	17
18 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	19	20	21 ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	22	23 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	24
25 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28 ESL Class 10:00 a.m.	29	30 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	31
1 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	2	3 Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m.	5	6 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	7
8 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	9 Church Council 7 p.m.	10	11 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m.	12	13 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	14
15 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	16	17	18 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m.	19	20 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	21 Community 101 Workshop 9:00 a.m.
22 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25 ESL Class 10:00 a.m. Foundations 5:15 p.m.	26	27 Al-Anon 10:00 a.m.	28 Private Event 8:00 a.m.
29 Choir – 8:45 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Growing in the Word 10:30 a.m.	30				September	

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Foundations – Coming Wednesdays in September: 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th | 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Volunteers for registration, class electives, kitchen, greeters, and youth workers will be needed. Look for more information coming soon or contact Nathan Speerbrecker at nathanspeerbrecker@gmail.com.

St. Trinity Food Pantry Collection – We will be collecting nonperishable food items and hygiene items during the month of August. The food pantry is used heavily during the summer months because children are out of school. Please help them to restock their shelves for the fall. If you have questions, or would like to assist with Epiphany's quarterly food pantry collection, please contact Britney Hawk, britneyhawk@yahoo.com.

ESL - English as a Second Language – Free English Classes & Fellowship!

Classes begin August 21st; 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Epiphany Lutheran Church

- Enjoy meeting new people during social hour!
- Teach us your traditions and culture while learning ours!
- Child care provided during classes
- Refreshments for children & adults
- Basic English and vocabulary building
- Conversation and life skills

Church Community Builder – As of July 1, 2019, Epiphany is no longer using Church Community Builder for our church data base. We are in the process of upgrading our former system, Shepherd's Staff (still being used for our accounting needs), to Church360 which is also part of the Concordia Technology family of products. We will be rolling out a new church directory app in the coming weeks and have started sending weekly e-letters on Wednesdays. Please feel free to contact Carrie Beary (cbeary@elcstl.org) in the church office if you have any questions.

Thank you! – Thank you to the volunteers that have offered to help with Fellowship Breakfast on Sundays. Thank you also to the members who assist in cleaning up by throwing away their trash, pushing chairs in, wiping tables and highchair trays, etc. Every little bit helps—more hands make for a quicker cleanup! However, we can still use more volunteers to help. If you can help in any way, we would love to have you. Please contact Carrie Beary in the church office at 314-752-7065 or cbeary@elcstl.org.

Altar Flowers – Please consider celebrating a birthday, anniversary, other special occasion, or remembering a loved one by signing up to sponsor our altar flowers for a weekly service. The cost is \$25.00 for two bouquets. You are welcome to take your flowers home with you after worship. There is a list of available dates on the poster in the Narthex. Also, if you currently have any cups from altar flowers you have taken home, please return them to the church office. Thank you!

Choir & Music Opportunities at Epiphany – Beginning August 4, choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings, at 8:45 AM. Our new Music Director, Alex Schrader, is looking forward to getting to know you, having fun, and praising the Lord through music. If you are interested in joining the choir or know someone who might be a good addition, please feel free to let him know. Also, if you play any musical instruments and would like to worship the Lord with instrument, please also let him know, as he would love to get to know you and include you when possible.

Rev. Schrader anticipates various occasions for special music opportunities throughout the year on more than just Sunday mornings. Please stay tuned for upcoming details. Please feel free to contact him with any questions you may have: home – (314) 802-8330; e-mail – schradera@csl.edu.

Attention Crafters, Vendors and Bakers – Do you knit? Sew? Bake? Paint? Make jewelry? Have an at home business like 31 or Pampered Chef? Anything in between? If so, you are invited to join the Concordia Turners' Fall Craft and Vendor Fair to support the Concordia Turners Gymnastics Program! Saturday, September 14th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Concessions will be available for purchase.) Concordia Turners Gymnastics Society, (6432 Gravois Ave, St. Louis, MO 63116) in the "Big Gym." Tables are limited. Sign up soon! Registration due by Saturday, August 31st. (Register by August 15th for the Early Bird Special! Contact Hannah Hawk (hawkmanor01@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.



I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream! – Our annual Ice Cream Social to welcome the incoming Woerner Kindergartners and their families, to our neighborhood and a relationship with Epiphany, is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend on **Friday, August 16th, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**.

Also, please consider donating school uniform shirts (color – white, navy or light blue; sizes 5-8). Each Kindergartner, in attendance at the Ice Cream Social, will receive a free uniform shirt to help them start the year off right. As you know, many of the Woerner families struggle financially and we would like to share the love of Jesus with them by helping to ease this burden. Shirts can be brought to the church office, by August 11th, during office hours or on Sunday mornings. If you have questions, or desire to help with the Ice Cream Social, please contact Britney Hawk, britneyhawk@yahoo.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to you

Lois Abernathy.....August 3
 Doug Jones.....August 3
 Christine Tongay.....August 3
 Austin Aycock.....August 3
 Tyler Slama.....August 9
 Jarred Irby.....August 10
 Britney Hawk.....August 10
 Johanna Armstrong.....August 11
 Alex Marcee.....August 15
 Bob Johnson.....August 15
 Rich Kasznel.....August 18
 Jill Pfeuffer.....August 19
 Carol Niemeier.....August 19
 Michael Lawrence Jr.....August 20
 Jill Perry.....August 20
 Pam Reilly.....August 23
 Brianna Meyer.....August 25
 AJ Bernal.....August 27
 Alicia Marcee.....August 30
 Becky Hagen.....August 31

Emilee Sutherlin.....September 1
 Dominic Welch.....September 3
 Victoria Cuka.....September 10
 Bonnie Crites.....September 10
 Elise Zeigler.....September 10
 George Lluka.....September 11
 Marilyn Brenk.....September 11
 Ana Irby.....September 24
 Sydney Krus.....September 25
 Richard Blattner.....September 28



Rod & Anna Horton.....August 1
 Jim & Bonny Lang.....August 2
 George & Brunilda Lluka.....August 21
 Thomas & Karen Slama.....August 23

Fred & Pat Wachter.....September 27
 Mark & Becky Hagen.....September 27
 Michael & Linda Meyer.....September 23
 Michael & Chelsea Lawrence Jr.....September 15

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Homebound

Johanna Armstrong
 Ron Armstrong
 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
 Billie Black
 (Friend of Vince Birkman)
 Julia Blevins
 Ken Braniecki
 (Lisa Birkman's father)
 Essie Campbell & Family
 (Friend of Ruth Schury)
 Susan Harris
 Kirk Johnson
 Jim & Bonny Lang
 Charles Marvin
 Vickie Matta
 Alice Mertens
 (Patti Krick's Mother)
 Millie Phillips
 Riley Voss



**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



Return Service Requested

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2019 NEWSLETTER

MEET ALEX SCHRADER, OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alex Schrader is a 2019 Master of Divinity (MDiv) graduate of Concordia Seminary, delaying his call to a congregation in order to complete a graduate degree in Biblical Studies. Before beginning at Concordia Seminary, he spent over 18 years in the information technology field. Prior roles have included Webmaster for The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as well as consulting work for a variety of companies including American Express Incentive Services, AT&T, Nestle Purina, MasterCard, Centene, among others. Schrader has a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from Concordia University Ann Arbor. Schrader was involved with the starting of Christ in the City Grave Coffee House, an LCMS plant church on the campus of St. Louis University. He serves on the music team of his home church, Concordia Lutheran Church Kirkwood and also participates in a variety of music ensembles in the St. Louis area, providing support on lead guitar, bass guitar, euphonium, trombone, and vocals. As an audio technician, he has completed more than 250 studio recording and live audio production projects for a variety of musical groups across the Midwest. He serves on the Board of Directors for Family Shield Ministries. Schrader lives in Clayton, MO, on the campus of Concordia Seminary with his wife, Vicki, who works for Lutheran Hour Ministries. They have three children, Sophia, 16 years old; Erik, 14 years old; and Leo, 13 years old.

