

# the STAR



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

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 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.*

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### Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann  
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Sunday Worship: 9:30 am  
Fellowship: 10:30 am  
Growth in the Word: 11:00 am  
Sunday School: 11:00 am



## FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME...AND THE CHURCH

I'm an adult convert—not to the church, but to baseball. Growing up in a place where the only spectator sport in the entire state was collegiate football, I grew up without baseball. Indeed, for the first half of my life, I harbored a degree of animus toward the utterly “boring” sport. Then I moved to St. Louis, and oddly found myself keeping Jack Buck turned on when driving around town. From there it was only a matter of time as I was gradually but inevitably transformed into a legitimate citizen of Cardinal Nation. Of course, the conversion did not happen overnight. Not only did it take time, it took a good deal of learning and doing.

The parallels between cultivating an appreciation for baseball (complete with a renunciation of both the designated hitter and the Cubs) and learning to be a part of the church are actually quite striking. There is an entire community and culture of baseball that one must grow to understand and value for its own sake. People who grasp it call it a “respect for the game” or “honoring the tradition”. It's quite telling, by the way, that one rarely hears such phrases when other sports are discussed. Far older, more refined, and sacred are the gifts, narratives, and practices that have been granted to the church and that have been carefully cultivated and cherished by generation after generation of believers. Yet, how strange that some people seem more concerned about maintaining the integrity and honor of baseball than they are about preserving the church's distinctive teachings and heritage.

The lessons to be learned using baseball as a living illustration are many. Together, we have been tasked with the work of sharing God's truth with one another and with the world around us. This should be the focus of all that we do in our daily lives. Being shaped and formed into one of God's people is a life-long process—both for ourselves and for those we are working to shape. Be deliberate about the work; there is a genuine joy and delight in doing it, and much more is at stake than merely keeping the designated hitter out of National League ballparks.

Pastor Joel Bierman

## ARMISTICE DAY



The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—and so, after four years of horrific suffering and bloodshed, it ended: the “war to end all wars.” The armistice that ended World War I was 101 years ago and has been widely celebrated ever since...even if the optimism that came with the end of that world war was soon snuffed out by another world-engulfing war, and then countless successive wars that have been less sweeping, but no less devastating to those caught up in the conflict. In our own country, the annual observance of November 11th has shifted from a focus on the Great War to include all who have served in the US armed forces living or dead. It’s good to remember, honor, and appreciate those veterans who have sacrificed in ways small and great for the sake of their fellow citizens. We should all be grateful for what they have done for us. But, it’s also good to remember the first sentiments of Armistice Day—a celebration of peace attained, and a recommitment to work for and extend peace in the world.

As Christians, we know that even as peace among peoples and nations is pursued, it will never be achieved, not fully. Human sin and evil will always thrust people and nations into conflict that will too easily and often erupt into violence on a large scale. While we rightly pray and work for an end to violence and war, we who follow Christ know very well that the only source of true and enduring peace in this world must come from outside the world. It can only be received as a gift through faith in Christ. The wonderful reality for Christians is that we know and share with others real peace right now. This is no small thing, of course. In a world torn by strife, self-assertion, insistence on personal rights, and disputes about what is or is not just, conflict is inevitable. So, when God speaks His peace into a life, this is an extraordinary gift. Christians know that gift, and Christians then bring that gift into the lives of those they meet.

The giving of God’s peace in Christ takes on many forms in words and in actions, and is always transformative for both the giver and the receiver. And whatever shape it takes, at its core God’s peace is the same, simple thing: the message of forgiveness and newness in Christ. That’s the peace we have and share each week in worship. And, that’s the peace that we deliberately and tirelessly take out into the streets and homes and lives of those around Epiphany, in our neighborhoods, and in our friendships. The peace we have in Christ deserves to be celebrated and shared because it never fails. Share it on Sunday. Share it all week long in your daily life.

Pastor Joel Biermann

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN TAMPA THIS SUMMER

In July, I attended the LCMS National Convention in Tampa, FL. Most of the convention involves parliamentary procedures, so essentially a lot of debating and a whole lot of voting. There were actually so many things to vote on, that we did not even get to finish up the business! (And I was there for five days working from 8am-6pm!) All the outcomes of voting and resolutions are available online, and if you are really interested, you can watch the convention on a website such as YouTube. It's basically like watching Lutheran C-Span but with some good music and liturgy here and there.



Most of the convention is set up to be rather straightforward as the Floor Committees generally work to have the resolutions be easily voted on and established without too much debate, with only minor changes to the resolution. Sometimes, a few resolutions lead to lengthy debate and rather high emotions. Some things would be debated on for so long, that they would have to be postponed to another day! After five days of this, I will admit, it is more of a marathon rather than a sprint, and I found myself pretty drained!

If you had asked me how I felt about things that week, I would have probably given a rather bleak report. I would have probably mentioned all the moments of concern about our denomination moving forward, such as the growing need for Pastors in the future, the tricky path for the Concordia University System in an academic climate that is increasingly hostile to a bold witness of a Lutheran identity, or what is the proper church response to a migrant and refugee crisis that is becoming polarizing in our civic sphere. Now that I am a few months removed from the week, I find myself realizing that all this debate is because people care deeply about their local church, and the synod at large.

It's fascinating to think that a few centuries ago, a few people from multiple local churches could form a synod that would grow to include tens of thousands of churches, with millions of people, numerous schools, and plenty of affiliated organizations. While I cannot say that all these schools and organizations and even some churches will survive, it's encouraging to think about how far we have gotten, and remember that in the midst of many changes over time, we still have the freedom to worship and proclaim the gospel of Jesus in our different contexts and communities around the world.

I love how much the story of Epiphany mirrors the story of so many churches in our Synod! So many churches started in small gathering places, then over time, created the larger spaces for worship and gathering and community events. Now, many churches including Epiphany have to deal with new issues that are unfamiliar and concerning, and honestly, not many people have answers on how things will go in the future. However, I think it's important to remember how much God has worked through our church in the past, and how we can pray that we are able to boldly follow his call as a congregation and community in the future. I'm thankful that I could go to a convention and be around many LCMS churches and organizations that are working through these issues together. I believe that our Church and our Synod must continue to embrace the messiness of working through tough issues so we can maintain our identity as a body of believers representing Christ to the world in the future.

Jarred Irby  
Community Partnership Director

## KINDERGARDEN - 3RD GRADE BIBLE BASH/MILESTONE

We want to partner with, and support, families at various stages of life. If you have a student ages Kindergarten through 3rd grade, you are invited to join us Sunday, October 20, from 6:15-7:45pm for "Bible Bash", an opportunity for students to learn more about the Bible, how to read it, and why it matters. Then, on Sunday, October 27, during worship, we will give these students their own Bible and a special blessing during Worship. It will be a special opportunity to celebrate the age and stage of life for these students. Please RSVP by October 16 to ensure that we will have enough Bibles and supplies.

## FOUNDATIONS 2019 RECAP

What a blessing it is to see God's people come together in community, outreach, and nurturing the development of our young people. That is an important takeaway from "Foundations" in 2019. Throughout the month of September, over 50 people took part in our 4-week event- student and adult volunteers worked together, and students and parents from our church and community gathered to make new friends, learn new skills, and witness what life together looks like in the church.



Our parent classes focused on helping parents navigate the challenges of raising kids in the 21st Century, with a variety of educators bringing years of experience to the table. It also created space for parents to ask tough questions and find support from one another. Our kids classes provided 4 exciting opportunities for kids: "Geoplunge", where students learned about U.S. geography in a fun, competitive game; "Chess", where new and experienced players had an opportunity to play and meet new friends; "Be Your Own Superhero", an opportunity for students to create their own Super Hero from scratch, using their imagination, and actually making comic books with their friends; and "Doing Good Together", where students provided care and support for others in need, making cards for children with long-term illness, cat toys for pets in shelters, and Forever Flowers for nursing home residents.



Perhaps the best moment at Foundations is our meal time, when kids, parents, and caring teens and adults sit down to eat together. In our fast-paced world, these meals become a blessing for families and a significant space for our relationship-building. We are grateful to all of our volunteers who made Foundations possible this year, cooking and serving meals, administration and registration, working with kids and parents, we could not have done this without you all. Thank you for your support!

Nathan Speerbrecker  
Youth & Family Ministry Director

## WARM UP WOERNER!



Winter will soon be upon us, and with it, cold temperatures, snow and ice. Many of the children at Woerner Elementary School come from families who are unable to provide appropriate winter attire or come from immigrant and refugee families who are unaware of how brutal a St. Louis winter can get. Please help us Warm Up Woerner, by donating hats, mittens and new or gently used coats (child size 5-10). Principle Meyer and Amanda Mueller, the Family Resource Coordinator, keep these items in their offices and hand them out to students who come to school inadequately dressed for the weather. Collection will begin Sunday, October 13th and run through Sunday, December 1st. Items can be placed in the marked container, in the narthex, during that time. If you have questions, or would like to make a monetary donation and have someone else do the shopping for you, please contact Britney Hawk or the church office.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT									
<h1 style="text-align: center;">October</h1>		1	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m.	2		3		4	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	5					
		6	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. 1st Communion Class 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Youth & Family Night 6:15 p.m.	7		8	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Silver Saints</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	9		10		11	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	12	
		13	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship-Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Girl Scout Yoga Class 6:15 p.m. 1st Communion Class 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	14	<b>Church Council</b> 7 p.m.	15		16	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	17		18	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	19	
		20	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Congregational Mtg 10:30 a.m. Potluck Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1st Communion Class 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Bible Bash 6:15-7:45 p.m.	21		22		23	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	24		25	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Missouri District Jr. High Youth Retreat</b> 7:00 p.m.	26	<b>Missouri District Jr. High Youth Retreat Continues</b>
		27	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship-Communion 9:30 a.m. Child Bible Distribution 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. 1st Communion Class 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. MO District Jr High Youth Retreat Ends	28		29		30	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	31	<b>Halloween Hut</b> 4:30 p.m.				
<h1 style="text-align: center;">November</h1>										1		2	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.		
		3	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	4		5	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m.	6		7		8	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	9	
		10	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship with 1st Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	11	<b>Church Council</b> 7 p.m.	12		13	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Silver Saints</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	14		15	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	16	
		17	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	18		19		20	<b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>ESL Class</b> 10:00 a.m.	21		22	<b>Epiphany Stars</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>AI-Anon</b> 10:00 a.m.	23	
		24	Choir 8:45 a.m. Worship-Communion 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Potluck Sunday 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	25		26		27		28	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	29	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	30	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Youth & Family Night** – Sunday, October 6, all families- parents and kids, age 5 – 18 years old, are invited to join us for a special Youth & Family night at Epiphany. We'll meet from 6:15-7:45pm for games, teaching and age-specific small groups. This will be a great opportunity to connect relationally and grow spiritually. Come and join us for the first Fall Y&F night, October 6, 6:15-7:45pm.

**EpiphanyKids Sunday School: Christian Character Formation** – How do you help kids grow up to be young adults who live with integrity, self-sacrifice, courage, and responsibility? You instill this kind character in them ask kids, and reinforce it as they grow. This fall, we are exploring the Book of Genesis, learning more about who God is, and understanding how we live with character in response to him. Join us on Sunday mornings, from 10:45-11:35am for EpiphanyKids Sunday School.

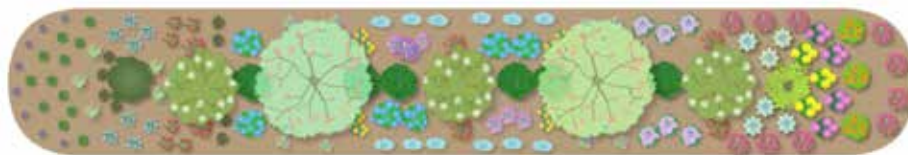
**Epiphany Youth Bible Study: OVER TIME** – Fast. It's how our culture likes to do things. Because we lead such busy lives, we have become masters at finding the quickest way to accomplish nearly everything. This need for speed has led us to some of the best inventions ever—things like the drive thru, the microwave, and movies on-demand. Unfortunately, it's that same desire for instant results that gave us some not-so-awesome inventions. Have you ever tried instant coffee or instant mashed potatoes? Not nearly as good as the real thing. The truth is, while fast is awesome, there are some things in life that just take time. Maybe that's why the Bible keeps mentioning this idea of sowing and reaping, or planting and waiting for something to grow. Because while our temptation will always be to look for a shortcut or to focus our attention somewhere that will give us faster results, we run the risk of missing out on some of the best things in life when we don't work on them over time. Our Epiphany Youth Bible Study will meet on the Second and Third Sundays of the month this Fall, from 10:45-11:35am. Join us on Sunday, October 13 and October 20, as we launch this new series.

**Online Giving** – It's that time of year again. The busy summer months are slowing down, the weather is getting colder and Epiphany Lutheran Church is gearing up for the busy months ahead. During this time of the year, many of our members make increased contributions, and we appreciate your gifts. This year there's an easier way to give – electronic giving. eGiving through Vanco is a fast, secure way to make donations. With eGiving, you can give in the moment without writing a check or preparing an envelope. Make a one-time stewardship pledge or set up recurring payments using your bank account, debit or credit card. In just a few seconds, you can make a pledge that helps keep our doors open and fund important projects. To learn more, visit [elcstl.org](http://elcstl.org) or call the church office. We thank you for your continued support of our mission and appreciate your generosity!

**New Sanctuary Cross** – Next time you are in church, please draw your attention to a beautiful new cross hanging in our Sanctuary. It's located in the South Transept (toward the church office) above the Last Supper wall hanging. This hand-made cross was specially designed for Epiphany as a posthumous gift from long-time Epiphany member and organist, John Bernthal. Made from a combination of alder, cherry and maple woods, this one-of-a-kind piece of art is a visual reminder that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity. Special thanks to Mr. Bernthal's daughters and the Epiphany Altar Guild for fulfilling John's wishes.

### Save the Date!

**Congregational Meeting - Sunday, October 20, 2019** – This will also be a Potluck Sunday replacing the 4th Sunday Potluck on Oct. 27.



**Planting the Leona Median** – Epiphany, in conjunction with the City of St. Louis and the Holly Hills Neighborhood Association, is helping plant the median in front of our church on Leona Ave. The city of St. Louis will be planting trees and the Holly Hills Neighborhood association has donated money to help with the cost of the flowers. Our confirmation students and their families, and anyone else that wanted to join, helped with the planting at the end of September and the beginning of October. Thank you to Chris & Jennifer Hartley, Amy Zeigler and all involved with the planning of the flowers for the median.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*to you*

- Algerta Kuzhilla.....October 1
- Hannah Hawk .....October 2
- Juniper Perry.....October 3
- Lynn Dancha .....October 4
- Trinity Langdon .....October 7
- Vanessa Riley.....October 7
- Jim Womack.....October 8
- Lynn Blattner .....October 9
- Avery Lawrence ..... October 15
- Nicholas Lee ..... October 18
- Angela Lluka ..... October 18
- Alexander Hodge ..... October 20
- Kierra Murray ..... October 22
- Anna Horton..... October 23
- Max Biesenthal ..... October 24
- Brunilda Lluka..... October 25
- Lucas Boeyink ..... October 27
- Robert Dehn..... October 27
- Kevin Driskell ..... October 27
- Douglas Rapley ..... October 28
- Rasheedah Krus..... October 29
- Carlin Langdon..... October 29
- Chris Tongay..... October 29
- Joey Kirkpatrick ..... October 30
- Castle Langdon..... October 30
  
- Addelynn Stout ..... November 1
- Nicki Vitale..... November 1
- Michael Zeigler..... November 1
- Marlene Kleffner..... November 3
- Vickie Matta..... November 5
- Sabrina Benson..... November 8
- Robert Reynolds..... November 11
- Emera Mueller ..... November 12
- Rod Horton III ..... November 13
- Joe Krick..... November 14
- Alketa Mara ..... November 16
- Jo-Ann Orr ..... November 17
- Rhonda Jones..... November 18
- Charleigh Williams..... November 26
- Bill Yaeger ..... November 26
- Tiffany Gallo ..... November 27
- Keith Lund ..... November 27



## CONGRATULATIONS

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 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
- 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)
- Susan Harris and family
- Kirk Johnson
- Jim & Bonny Lang
- Charles Marvin
- Vickie Matta
- 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 Frederich  
 (Shirley Frederich'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



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63116

## RECAP OF THE NEW COMMITTEES BEING FORMED

Committees are forming now. If you have any questions or would like to join a committee, please contact a member of the Constitution Committee, Jill Perry, Mike Meyer, Chris Pfeuffer, Mariella Mara, Judy Eickhoff or Carrie Beary in the Church Office at 314-752-7065 or [cbeary@elcstl.org](mailto:cbeary@elcstl.org).

### **Join the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is entrusted with aligning financial resources with the vision and mission of Epiphany Lutheran Church; serving as CFO to manage financial resources and hold the council accountable to approved budgets in order to serve the people of Epiphany, neighbors around us and the next generation.

### **Join the Property Committee**

The Property Committee is entrusted with managing and maintaining God's house to aid in the facilitation of Epiphany's mission and ensure the longevity of the Church.

### **Join the Congregational Life Committee**

The Congregation Life committee is in charge of leading educational programs and creating fellowship opportunities for church members, with the goal of promoting a Christ-centered environment.

### **Join the Ministry Committee**

The Ministry Team is charged with supporting the overall Epiphany vision and mission by equipping congregational members to be disciples of Christ; teaching, supporting and encouraging community outreach to all generations within the surrounding community.

### **Join a Governance Role**

The Governance Roles within Epiphany's Church council will be responsible for continually moving our church body forward – through strategic assessments and forward thinking. These roles will work closely with committees and clearly communicate with congregants to ensure Epiphany's Vision and Mission are achieved both inside and outside the church doors.