

the STAR



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

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022

~~500.~~ HOW ABOUT 1,000?

That's right! In the month of November, Epiphany Lutheran surpassed their initial goal of passing out 500 prayer cards to homes in their neighborhood to hand out 1000! That means that 1000 homes were prayed over, left a card inviting for further time of prayer and contact info, and invited to worship on Sunday.

The main goal of this project was for the people of this congregation to be committed to prayer and for the needs of their neighbors, even if unknown, would be brought before God. Also, for people to know that there is a church that is praying for them, welcoming them to join Jesus, and committed to the well-being of their community. Twice during Education Hour teams were sent out.

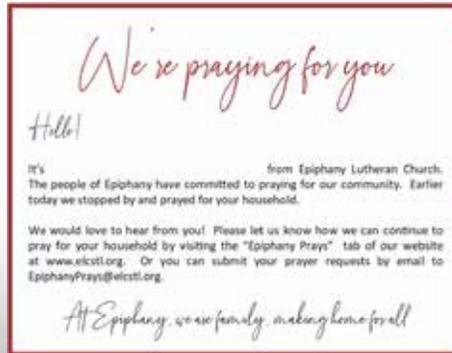
In November the church office received a call from a woman who received a prayer card. She said that it was nice to know a church cared about her. She said “It was a good reminder of God's love for me.” Another individual called in and said she had not been to a church in years, but was interested in returning and having a membership at this church. Wow! God uses a simple prayer, a simple card, and simple people to do not-so-simple things!

The idea of praying, sharing your faith, and loving your community is not confined to one month! I pray we continue to step out from our doorstep and extend the love of Jesus to others.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim Staffeld



Jackson and Harvey Staffeld accompanied their dad, Pastor Tim, for prayer walks. We prayed together and passed out cards on Millie Phillip's Street. It was great to stop in at Millie's house!



VISION At Epiphany, we are family making home for all.

 **Epiphany Lutheran Church**
4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

 **Pastor Tim Staffeld**
Office: (314) 752-7065
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 Email: church@elcstl.org
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 Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Fellowship: 10:30 am
Education Hour: 10:45 am



AT EPIPHANY, WE ARE FAMILY MAKING HOME FOR ALL

A broken and diverse family made whole and united under the cross, redeemed to partner with the community to make the neighborhood home.

Epiphany's strategic planning process continues to move forward. An exciting milestone was reached! The Visioning Team met multiple times and refined a "guiding statement," which is written above. This statement will be used to help establish an identity, for committees to implement in their work, and for members to communicate the spirit of their church. Thank you to everyone who served on the Visioning Team!

A condensed version of the statement will also be helpful going forward. **"At Epiphany, we are family making home for all."** I have heard countless times that God has brought together a family at Epiphany. It is an honor to be knit-together as close as a family that loves, supports, and cares for one another. But this family is not closed off. We are welcoming more into our family with open arms.

The goal then is for others to be included into the house of this family. We at Epiphany gather in the Lord's house to be fed, strengthened, and receive rest from our Heavenly Father. We pray that God's grace would be in all homes in our neighborhood, that they may know the great love of God. Epiphany Lutheran Church is committed to growing God's family and caring for those in the household of faith.

There will be more news upcoming from the strategic planning process!

Pastor Tim Staffeld

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF NEW AMERICANS RELIEF EFFORTS



Thank you for your generosity and support of our community!

With the crisis in Afghanistan earlier this year, Christian Friends of New Americans became aware that St. Louis could receive as many as 1,000 new Afghan refugees to call St. Louis home. As a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, the mission of CFNA is to be an outreach ministry to immigrants and refugees in the greater St. Louis area and to be involved in relationships with New Americans with whom they can share the Gospel through caring words and actions. In late August, Epiphany was informed of a one-time matching fund from the St. Louis Lutheran Foundation to help CFNA settle these families in our community. From September 1 – October 31, 2021, The Lutheran Foundation matched dollar-for-dollar all financial donations raised by Area Lutheran Congregations to support CFNA's Refugee Outreach and Response efforts. During that time, Epiphany collected \$2,310! In total, 23 area Lutheran Churches raised over \$301,000. This amount will be matched by The Lutheran Foundation for CFNA and their relief efforts.

For more information about CFNA and continued ways to help, donate, or volunteer can be found on CFNA's website, <https://www.cfna-stl.org/relief>.



FEEDING THE NATIONS

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored donations and helped to pack up our boxes for Oasis International's Feeding the Nations collection this year! Thanks to your generosity and support from our Outreach Committee, we were able to meet our goal to provide 30 boxes of desperately needed food staples for immigrant families in our community! Each box included beans, pasta, flour, sugar, canned goods, rice, and cooking oil, providing the foundation for several weeks' worth of meals through the holiday season. These boxes were picked up on Saturday, November 20th and delivered by our friends at Faith Baptist in Festus.

The St. Louis area expects to receive around 1500 Afghan refugees in need of resettlement assistance as they begin their new lives here in America. They will join the more than 30,000 immigrants that currently call St. Louis home, many of whom have become faithful members of our church and other congregations in our area. The important work done by Oasis International and our other refugee- and immigrant-serving ministries in our city ensures that these new neighbors have safe places to live, access to furniture, clothes, and necessities, and support as they navigate our culture, language, and systems, while at the same time providing them with opportunities to learn about Christ and His salvation. Please keep these ministries and our new neighbors in your prayers this holiday season!

Jennifer Hartley



Mental Health First Aid Training by LFCS

Saturday, January 29, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Epiphany Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall; Cost – \$10/person

Through this Nationally accredited training, you will learn how to recognize the common signs and symptoms of prominent mental illnesses; how to understand the impact of traumatic experiences and the role of resilience in our mental health development; how to connect people to helpful resources; to have an action plan for treating non-crisis and crisis mental health emergencies until professional help can arrive; and, appropriate methods for self-care.

For more information and to register go to our website www.elcstl.org. You can also make an online payment on our website. Please make sure to indicate that your payment is for Mental Health First Aid Training.

A LIVING PROCESSION

Years ago, I was at an event in a school gym. We were all lined up to create a human passageway, like a set of train tracks meandering from one end of the gym to the other. I'm in line, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with about 80 people. Facing us, an arms-length away, there's a parallel line of people, forming the other sidewall of what is becoming a human tunnel. We reach out our hands and lean into one another, palm-to-palm. The music starts and young children proceed, one by one, to cross the threshold and run through the passageway that we have become for them.

It was the annual Sunday School Rally at my home church in Springfield, Missouri. I can close my eyes and still see those kids running through that living passage of arms, legs, and smiling faces. Such a simple activity, but if you had seen their faces, you'd have thought they were on the ride of their lives.

This last October, three young men of Epiphany—Donnie, Lucas, and Titus—were confirmed in the Faith and publicly confessed their love and loyalty to Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church. In November, we restarted Confirmation activities with 9 young disciples of Jesus: Adeleine, Eli, Evie, Janessa, Jude, Matilda, Nanette, Nathalie, and Yousef. We call Confirmation a “class,” but it's more than that. It is a living Procession into the human passageway that is the Body of Christ of Whom you and I are a small but important part.

Formally, Confirmation activities at Epiphany happen on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. Our nine young disciples devote about an hour individually outside of class time watching Bible videos and typing answers to questions about the content. This prepares them for the in-class



discussions, which currently focus on God's Story recorded in the Old Testament. During these Sunday evening meetings, they also participate in devotional, fellowship, and team-building activities led by a variety of adult volunteers. Another formal element of Confirmation is our new mentor program. This year, nine adults from Epiphany have volunteered to be mentors: Ana, Courtney, Diane, Jarred, Jen, Jim, Karen, Max, and Millie. Each is paired with a student and committed to walk with them through this living Procession.

If you're interested learning more about the mentor program and Confirmation at Epiphany, please talk to Pastor Tim, Sunita Manu, Amy or Michael Zeigler. And remember, Confirmation isn't limited to the formal class time on Sunday evenings. The Spirit of the Living God is inviting each of us to take our place in His Procession, standing shoulder-to-shoulder, palm-to-palm, cheering each other on in what is becoming the ride of our lives.

Michael Zeigler



EPIPHANY SENIOR YOUTH FALL LOCK-IN

This Fall, Epiphany Youths were so excited about the MO District Senior Youth Gathering, as they were looking forward to a weekend of Christ-centered relationship building with their peers. However, the event got cancelled and Epiphany decided to host a Fall lock-in for our youths. An event such as a lock-in was a great substitute in that it provides the opportunity for our youths to still have an evening of cultivating a deeper relationship with each other. The lock-in was hosted on November 5, and a total of 8 youths and two chaperones attended. The evening consisted of dinner, devotions and games. The evening started with excitement as the youth gathered to help fill up boxes of groceries for Oasis, 'Feed the Nations' food drive. Afterwards, the youth made dinner together. We had pizza and were loaded with snacks and sugar for the night! After dinner was served, devotions and games followed.

For devotions, the movie "Yes Day" was used to help illustrate the Father's love and plan for us. One good take away as we related the movie to scripture, was how we go about making choices/decisions that are a representation of who we are as God's beloved, and trusting that the Father's "no" is just as good as His "yes".

We played several games throughout the night, and by game number #2 it was realized that Epiphany youths are pretty competitive (Sunita included). In all, the youth had fun and the games kept us awake as the sugar was wearing off.

We had a great turn-out for the lock-in even though it was impromptu. It was definitely a night of friendship, fun, and heartfelt discussions.





Thank you Sweetwine and CFNA for a joyous night, dancing and singing praises to our loving God!

SINGING PRAISES TO OUR LOVING GOD

Epiphany partnered with CFNA (Christian Friends of New Americans) to host the Valparaiso University choir Sweetwine. Sweetwine is a 12-member choir that practices while courses are in session and takes two tours a year. For their Fall tour in St. Louis they sung at Concordia Kirkwood's Turkey giveaway, Salem Lutheran Afton school, and a few other places. The concert at Epiphany with CFNA was their final night of the tour.

The night began with a delicious meal provided by CFNA families. The menu was saffron rice, red lentils, and chicken with a cookie to top it off! The group began with a couple standard songs. Next, they sang songs that included dance moves and required volunteers. Little did they know there would be overwhelming crowd participation! The kids were so excited to be involved and on stage they outnumbered the audience. Sweetwine gladly gave them the stage. They taught them hand movements, dance moves, and lyrics.

Behind every one of their songs was the promise of the love of God for all people. Through song, they taught the certainty that God will never leave or abandon us. Their final song was 'My Lighthouse' by Rend Collective.

Pastor Tim Staffeld

My lighthouse, my lighthouse

*Shining in the darkness.
I will follow You*

My lighthouse, my lighthouse

I will trust the promise

You will carry me safe to shore





Happy Birthday

JANUARY

- Youssef Matta..... Jan 1
- Charles Marvin Jan 7
- Judy Eickhoff..... Jan 15
- George Goetz..... Jan 17
- Lynn Goetz Jan 17
- Christine Laughlin Jan 19
- Andrea Barnett Jan 22
- Thomas Slama Jan 23
- Tony Stout..... Jan 27
- Stephanie Kasznel Jan 28

FEBRUARY

- Patrick Flynn.....Feb 1
- Judy Marvin.....Feb 3
- Amy Allen.....Feb 4
- Andrea YoungFeb 4
- Cole Aycock.....Feb 6
- Chris PfeufferFeb 7
- Tori ThorneFeb 7
- Susan Driscoll Feb 13
- Henry Kleffner..... Feb 16
- Mark Hagen Feb 18
- Michael Mara Feb 18
- Trevon Allen..... Feb 21
- Matilda Perry..... Feb 23
- Ron Armstrong Feb 25
- Lacie Irby Feb 26
- Andrea Reynolds..... Feb 26
- Don Fassold..... Feb 28
- Ruth Schury Feb 29

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY

- Marsel & Emanuela Cuka..January 25
- Charles & Judy Marvin..... January 14

FEBRUARY

- Dave & Judy Roeder February 15



ATTENDANCE

65 Average Sunday Worship
Attendance for 2021
Through November 28, 2021

STEWARDSHIP

2021 Offering Budget – \$150,000 or \$2,885/week
Budget through November 30, 2021 – \$138,480
Actual through November 30, 2021 – \$94,202
Difference through November 30, 2021 – \$44,278
Average Weekly Offerings through November 30, 2021 – \$1,963



4045 Holly Hills Blvd.
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Return Service Requested

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AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE.

1 PETER 4:10

Over 1,000 hours of youth service were recorded this year through Epiphany! This is a remarkable number considering that much of the year was held under the cautions of Covid 19... and yet we served. 39 youth volunteered these hours in a variety of ways. Special music during worship, gardening in the median, collecting and distributing hygiene items for New Americans, leading VBS, cleaning yards for church members who appreciated the assistance, and teaching pickleball to the summer school children at Woerner were a few of their highlights. More commonly, you will see our youth setting up tables and putting away chairs, cleaning the kitchen and dishes after potluck, and assisting in the more mundane work of the church - because they are an active part of the family of faith at Epiphany.

The talents and skills of this youth group are diverse, yet each one has chosen to serve both within the church walls and in an extension to the neighbors of Epiphany. Each has received in full the joy of the Lord. They are quick to serve, being good stewards of the riches with which God has graced them. As we enter into this new calendar year, let's all be encouraged to join in service to church and neighbor, thanking the Lord for his varied grace.