

# the STAR



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

MAY – JUNE 2022

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Welcome to Epiphany's newest additions to our family of faith: Victoria Blake, Jason, Alison, & Jase Hillman, Bill Jolly, Christina Moellenhoff, and Aaron Steffens.

On Palm Sunday, these members confessed their faith in the Triune God before friends, family, and the congregation. They recalled the promises given to them in their Baptism, pledged to follow Jesus and His ways, and to be involved in the life of the faith community brought together at Epiphany. The congregation was asked if they accepted these new members into their faith family and they readily agreed!

A cake reception was held in Epiphany's fellowship hall to celebrate the new members. During the reception, everyone had a card to complete "missions" with the new members. Depending on the new member, you had a mission to ask about something silly, give a high-five, or ask about a big upcoming life event. Those who completed the mission were given a prize!

Praise God for growing his family at Epiphany. We are family, making home for all. Welcome home new family members!

*Pastor Tim Staffeld*



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



**Epiphany Lutheran Church**  
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Email: [church@elcstl.org](mailto:church@elcstl.org)  
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Sunday Worship: 9:30 am  
Fellowship: 10:30 am  
Education Hour: 10:45 am



## CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA! 466

In Easter season the church is full of people saying to one another, “Christ has Arisen, Alleluia!” What a joyful proclamation those words are! In that small phrase the whole gospel is packed. Jesus is no longer dead, he is arisen. Hymn 466 unpacks this statement to its fullest, dwelling on the death of Jesus with unparalleled joy because of Easter. “The grave did its worst” but it was not match for the strength of Jesus (verse 2). Jesus has “burst from the tomb” and now all its gloom has been dispelled (verse 1). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the good news for all nations, and the fourth verse of this hymn reminds us of just that. The world needs to hear that death has been defeated by Jesus. “Go spread the news”, far and wide. “He is not in the grave” and will never return to it.

Even the history of this song embodies that joyous missionary task that we Christians have been given. It all started with German missionary, Gerhard Jasper, who went to Tanzania in 1954 to teach at the theology school there. In his teaching he stressed the importance of composing new hymns for Christian worship. One of his seminary students, Bernard Kyamanywa, composed hymn 466, which was called “Mfurhini, haleluya” in his own language, in 1966. From here the song has been sung in many languages and in many churches, by Protestants and Catholics alike. It is a favorite of children and has become one of the most popular hymns in Norway. The news of Jesus’ death and resurrection has spread far and wide. Still, we are called to stand together with the saints of ages past, telling the story of the faith that they held to that has at last been fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ.

In Christ,  
*Benjamin Hayter*



## SEW SOCIAL

Tuesday evenings in March, Epiphany tried on a new style of community engagement....Sew Social. Over 25 people donned the fellowship hall, carrying with them machines, scissors, material, patterns and ideas to share. Projects like dresses, skirts, pants, pillowcases, handbags, curtains, and needlework were stitched together as knowledge and stories were exchanged. The more experienced tutored the inquisitive. Mrs. Julia Blevins donated a Thrivent Grant towards the purchase of snacks, material, interfacing, sewing scissors, measuring tapes, and a bobbin case to repair a machine. While over the five weeks, not all projects were checked off as “complete” it was a completely fun event that will be repeated again this summer and fall. So, if you missed out this session, be watchful for the next time to join Sew Social.



## GET TO KNOW OUR LUTHERAN GRADE SCHOOL TUITION SUPPORT FAMILIES (PART 2)

- Nathan Kuzhilla – Green Park Lutheran School
- Youssef & Daniel Matta – Christ Community Lutheran School
- Christian & Stephanie Mitre – Green Park Lutheran School
- Riona & Alina Stanish – Green Park Lutheran School
- Jonah Wheeler – Green Park Lutheran School

### **Why is Lutheran education important to you?**

*Kuzhilla Family* – Lutheran school is Christ centered, which teach God's love, faith and grace. Helps the children to be a better person as they grow in Christ. Lutheran school also have loving, caring environment and excellent academically.

*Mitre Family* – It is very important because through that our kids learn about God and Jesus.

*Stanish Family* – Both Riona and Alina are future torch bearers and participants for the Lutheran belief into which they were baptized and confirmed. Being a part of the Lutheran community in St. Louis it is edifying for them to learn in a Lutheran environment of fellow students who themselves attend Lutheran churches in the area. We hope that the Lutheran education received by Riona and Alina will prepare them to build their skills in such a way that they would serve larger society and be a blessing to their Lutheran church and community in the future.

*Wheeler Family* – I believe the education Jonah is receiving is much higher than what is taught at the public school. I also want him to have a good foundation of Christian values and biblical teachings to be his guide throughout his life.



## Upcoming Events

### *June Congregational Meeting*

Sunday, June 12, 2022

After Worship

Annual meeting and election of officers.

### *Save the Date – Identity & VBS*

Identity (Entering Grades 7th – 12th)

July 18 – 21

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

On Site at Epiphany

Vacation Bible School

(Entering Grades K – 6th)

July 19 – 21

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

On Site at Epiphany

### *Help Wanted!*

#### **Volunteer Gardeners Wanted!**

Do you love to garden and want to help make the grounds of Epiphany beautiful? Then we need you! Come on your own or invite a friend and give a few hours of your time to help plant and maintain the gardens around the church. If you can help, please contact Jack Hawk at (314) 302-9494 or [jack.hawk@gmail.com](mailto:jack.hawk@gmail.com) or the church office for more information.

#### **Become an Usher!**

With the return of Holy Communion at the Altar, we are in need of more ushers. Anyone that is confirmed or is high school age or older is welcome to help serve in this way. If you can help one or two Sunday's a month, please contact Jack Hawk, Property Committee Chair, Rod Horton, Interim Chair of the Board of Elders, or the church office for more information.

# EASTER AT EPIPHANY



*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

*John 11:25-26*



# ST. TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

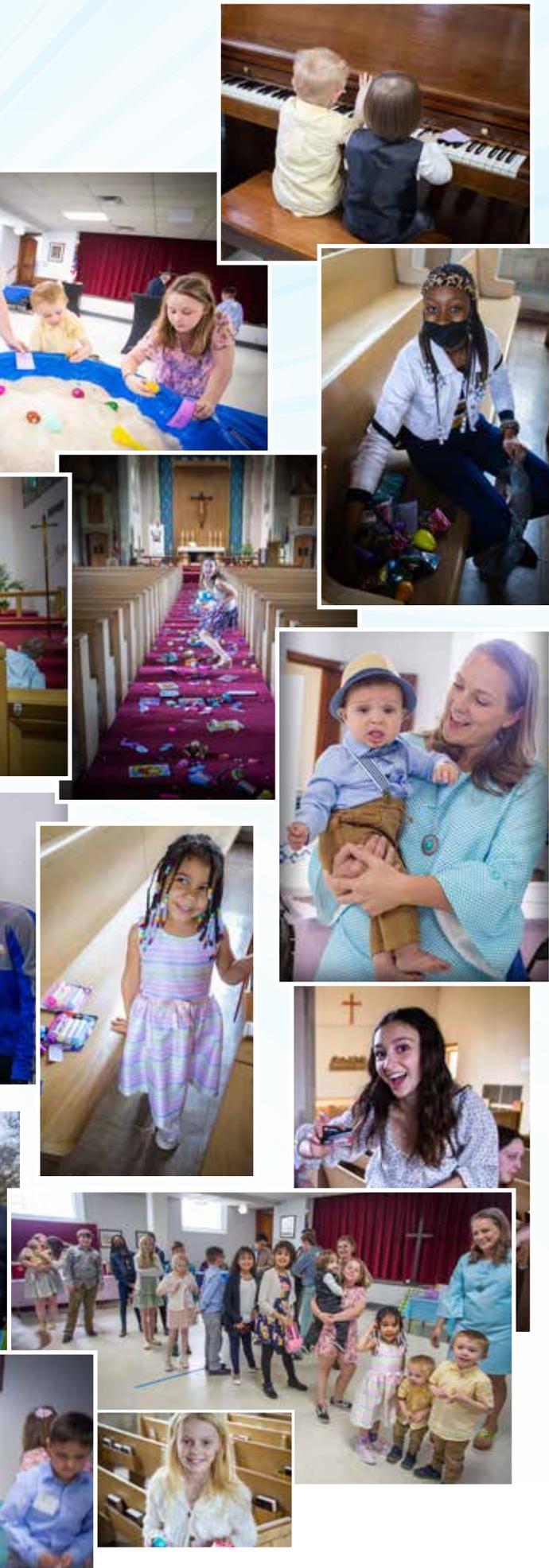
Epiphany supports 2 local food pantries in the area. We recently reached out to one of those food pantries, St. Trinity Food Pantry, to find out how their organization is run and how they help and support the people of the community.

**When is it open?** During current COVID restrictions the food pantry is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from approximately 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. People may pick up food by appointment only for the safety of the volunteers.

**How does it work?** People in the areas they serve, zip codes 63111 and 63116, call the number and listen to the instructions. The telephone number is available on websites and on the door at 517 Koeln Ave. They leave basic information such as their name, address and phone number and are instructed to leave the number of people in their family so the volunteers know how much food to pack up for them. If they have any special needs such as gluten free, disabilities, etc., those should also be noted at this time. Also, they need to call in at least the day before they wish to pick up food. If they have pets and let them know, they might be able to help if they have pet food donations available.

**What do the volunteers do?** They have wonderful volunteers that help with this ministry. They do everything from dropping off food deliveries, picking up donations from bread companies and pizza companies, sorting the donations by type, and even making sandwiches for the homeless people or for those that do not have facilities to cook or bake. They try to accommodate those with special needs and as a general rule do not do deliveries but will try to help as they can.

**St. Trinity serves many families.** Families in need can come twice a month for assistance. They really try to help people in the 63111 or 63116 zip codes and refer people who aren't in those zip codes to pantries in their areas but will also look at each situation independently if the pantry in their area cannot help. In the past, they regularly helped a family of 15 and are currently helping a family of 10. They have their first 100 year-old client and also help homeless people and those who may travel from home to home to stay. Unfortunately, Covid has changed the way they operate but they have found ways to help those in need. Their biggest needs for donations are jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned meats, and ready to eat foods that can be opened easily and eaten with little or no cooking or added water or ingredients required.





*Rebuilding  
and the return  
to an intimate  
relationship with  
God and through  
our family.*

## HARVEST FOR THE KINGDOM

Dear our beloved brothers, sisters, partners, and supporters by the Holy Spirit,

We thank our Lord Jesus for your generosity. It has overwhelmed us, as it is a huge blessing to our ministry and our family.

We are praying for every one of you individually that God bless, protect, and reward you abundantly more than you imagine and for you to use your gifts to glorify His name.

From the beginning of September 2021, God opened the door to serve the Afghani refugees families. St. Louis received a big number of them, more than any other state. Oasis helped to fulfill all their needs from furniture, food, clothes, some amount of rent, and Oasis gave them over 16 vans. We served them, prayed with them, and talked with them about Jesus.

Finally, after 9 years, we booked our trip to Egypt for our family. This will be our two sons first time to Egypt. When Vickie's mom was sick and died, Vickie couldn't go because she was battling cancer and was undergoing treatment. Last year, we planned for the entire family to go but could not because Vickie fell on her knee and couldn't walk. So just Farah and I went last year for 16 days to attend father-daughter camp which changed and affected our relationship greatly. Farah and I thanked God by the Holy Spirit for the opportunity to go to Egypt and attend father-daughter camp.

This trip is almost the first family vacation for all of us since July 2018. We have registered for a father-son camp with Youssef (11y) and Daniel(10y), a parents' camp, and also a wadi sports camp for the boys and for Farah related to kasr el Dobara our home church. Our trip will be for 70 days so we can see our brothers and sisters and for our kids to get to know their relatives as they have never met them before. Please pray for us that God recharges us spiritually amidst our home church and breakthrough our lonely feelings for all of us.

During our gathering on New Year's Eve, we celebrated Youssef's 11th birthday. Farah asked us to pray to just thank God for what happened in our relationship through Father and Daughter camp and blessed her brother on his birthday. Farah recently turned 16 and was accepted into an early college program. Farah is also working part-time while going to school.

Thank you for your prayers.

God bless you and your family.

*The Matta Family*



# Happy Birthday

## MAY

Bill Dorsam.....	May 1
Chris Hartley.....	May 1
Mildred Phillips.....	May 3
Zack Boeyink.....	May 4
Marsel Cuka.....	May 4
Janet Smart.....	May 4
Janet Wheeler.....	May 6
Fred Wachter.....	May 7
Eli Hawk.....	May 9
Zara Lawrence.....	May 10
Evie Hawk.....	May 19
Alex Pfeuffer.....	May 21
Greyson Barnett.....	May 24
Sam Hawk.....	May 25
Riley Voss.....	May 25
Roman Bernal.....	May 27
Paula Gaertner.....	May 27
Tripp Kasznel.....	May 28
Ronald Littrell.....	May 30
Lisa Birkman.....	May 31

## JUNE

Emily Driscoll.....	June 2
Hailey Krus.....	June 2
Zakary Littrell.....	June 4
Alexander Mitre.....	June 7
Lazarus Hayter.....	June 18
Judy Roeder.....	June 22
Aaron Steffens.....	June 22
Sophia Lamb.....	June 23
Cain Brenk.....	June 26
Dembe Irby.....	June 26
Diane Berg.....	June 29
Lucy Staffeld.....	June 30
Desiree Stout.....	June 30

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## MAY

Derek & Jill Perry.....	May 15
Donald & Andrea Reynolds.....	May 21
Billy & Andrea Barnett.....	May 25

## JUNE

Chris & Jennifer Hartley.....	Jun 8
George & Lynn Goetz.....	Jun 11
Chris & Jill Pfeuffer.....	Jun 21



## ATTENDANCE

# 60

Average Sunday Worship  
Attendance for 2022  
Through March 31, 2022

*153 different people  
attended worship from  
January – March*

## STEWARDSHIP

**2022 Offering Budget – \$114,500**

Budget through March 31, 2022 – \$28,626

Actual through March 31, 2022 – \$24,776

Difference through March 31, 2022 – \$3,850

Average Weekly Offerings through March 31, 2022 – \$1,906



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Return Service Requested

*MAY – JUNE 2022*

## INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT (BOB) JOHNSON

### ***Tell us about your history as a member of Epiphany.***

My wife Joan (Benz) and I were married at Epiphany on September 8, 1956. We were the first couple to be married in the church chancel.

Bob became a Lutheran under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Eickhoff in 1956.

### ***What is your fondest memory at Epiphany?***

Going to church with my father and mother-in-law, Elvin & Dorothy Benz and my children, Julie Johnson Feldman (daughter), Tom Feldman (Julie's husband), Hank Feldman (grandson), Mandi Miller Robben (granddaughter) & Pat Robben (Mandi's husband) & Addylin Robben (great-granddaughter), Kirk (son) & Tina Johnson, Mike (son) & Maggie Johnson & their son Max Johnson (grandson).

### ***What is your prayer for the future of Epiphany?***

I pray the church continues to stay Lutheran and have their future continue to be passed on to future generations.

### ***What would you tell your family at Epiphany if you were in church regularly?***

I pray that the members continue to keep the church a place to share God's love in the neighborhood.

### ***What do you enjoy doing for fun?***

Talking to friends and family and making them smile.

### ***How can your church family pray for you?***

To continue to have good health and a strong relationship with Jesus.

