



THE EPIPHANY STAR

DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023 | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00am-Traditional Worship

5:00pm-Candlelight Worship

In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



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HOLIDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 2nd
9:30am-11:00am



Bring a wrapped ornament to exchange and something for the brunch potluck.

Please RSVP on the Happenings Board.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday, December 21st
6:30pm

at Resurrection Lutheran

(1735 E. Main St, Mankato, MN)

Join us for a special service where we acknowledge how “blue” is the way many people feel during the Christmas season, for many different reasons. We will take the time and space to acknowledge the difficulties this season can bring, offer support those who feel this way, and cling to the hope found in Jesus Christ. All are welcome.

*Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.*

*View Online Worship on
Facebook or the
Epiphany webpage*



Mark Your Calendar!

Youth Group Sunday, December 3 from 6:30-8:00pm

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater or PJs and join us for an evening of hot cocoa, games, and the Christmas story as we kick off the Christmas season.

Women's Bible Study Monday, December 4 at 11:30am

Bring a lunch and join us as we discuss how God used Esther to help preserve his chosen people, and how this story connects to the story of Christ's birth!

Christmas Break Please note the following dates that regularly scheduled programs will NOT take place

Faith Formation & Adult Bible Study-December 24 & 31

Confirmation-December 27 & January 3

Prayer Group & Evening Bible Study-December 25 & January 1

Meat & Grill Raffle

Tickets will go on sale soon! \$5.00 gives the opportunity to win one of three meat bundles (and one bundle includes a grill!) Winners will be drawn at the winter carnival on January 20. Watch Epiphany's social media for more details in the coming weeks!

Epiphany Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 during worship

Join the Epiphany choir, Faith Formation Students, and Confirmation students for the telling of the Christmas narrative in story and in song.

Light the Advent Candles

Sign-up on the Happenings board (as an individual, family, or with friends!) to light the Advent candles and help lead the Advent litany during the month of December!



Weekly at Epiphany

Sunday

9:00am-Worship with Holy Communion
Fellowship Following worship
10:15am-Faith Formation
Adult Bible Study

Monday

10:00am-Prayer Group
6:30pm-Scouts Troop 24
6:30pm-Adult Bible Study

Tuesday

9:30-10:30am S.A.I.L. Exercise Class

Wednesday

9:00am & 9:30am-Star Light Chapel
6:30pm-Confirmation

Thursday

9:30-10:30am S.A.I.L. Exercise Class
6:30pm-Choir rehearsal

Prayer Group Mondays @ 10:00am



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



We are very grateful for the love and support that you all gave to our family during dad's illness and his passing. Pastor Sarah thank you so much for your visits and the beautiful service. To Sue Edstrom and all her helpers for serving the funeral lunch. We appreciated it very much. Family of Jim Enz



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

LET'S COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS BY GIVING BACK! PICK UP A BASKET, FILL IT UP, AND RETURN IT ON CHRISTMAS EVE. DONATIONS WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE EPIPHANY LITTLE PANTRY, THE ECHO FOOD SHELF, AND CONNECTIONS MINISTRY. EACH DAY WILL LIST AN IDEA, BUT YOU CAN ADD WHATEVER YOU THINK WOULD BE HELPFUL.

- December 1-Pasta Sauce
- December 2-Instant/bags of Coffee/Cocoa/Tea (not pods)
- December 3-Tuna
- December 4-Canned Carrots or Corn
- December 5-Dried Beans
- December 6-Cereal or Toaster Pastries
- December 7-Condiment such as: Ketchup, Mustard, BBQ, or Parmesan Cheese
- December 8-Roll of Toilet Paper
- December 9-Pancake Mix
- December 10-Jelly or Peanut Butter
- December 11-Canned Ham
- December 12-Pouch/Box Potatoes or Rice
- December 13-Syrup
- December 14-Baking Mix such as: Muffins, Brownies, Cookies
- December 15-Tuna Helper or Spaghetti Noodles
- December 16-Soup or Mac and Cheese
- December 17-Nuts or Jerky
- December 18-Dried Fruit
- December 19-Snack such as: Granola bars, Jello, Pudding
- December 20-Canned Chicken or Turkey
- December 21-Ramen Packet
- December 22-Tissues or Paper Towel Roll
- December 23-Hash or Chili
- December 24-Crackers or Cookies
- December 25-Financial Gift to Little Pantry





Holiday Hours

Closing at 3:00pm on Friday, December 22

Closed Monday, December 25

Closing at 3:00pm on Friday, December 29

Closed Monday, January 1

Please let us know if your child will be absent any days December 26-January 3 so we can staff and plan meals accordingly.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH-TABITHA BRYANT



Tabitha is a full time aide in the preschool classroom and joined our staff in September.

Here is what Tabitha's co-workers and the Star Light Board had to say about her!

- She has made great progress.
- She is hands on and the kids love her.
- She is always on time and super helpful.
- She has found her voice when it comes to helping the kids.
- She is kind and pleasant with the children and parents.

Star Light Christmas Program Learn with Us!

Friday, December 15 @ 6:30pm
Epiphany Lutheran Sanctuary

December theme:

Let's Celebrate

Color: Green

Shape: Square

Letters: Dd Gg

Numbers: 9 and 10 (preschool)
6 (toddlers)



We are hiring full-time, teacher certified staff!

Send your resume and cover letter to
teachepiphanykids@gmail.com

Star Light Early Learning Center

507-257-3502

teachepiphanykids@gmail.com

starlightearlylearningcenter.com





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The Epiphany Carnival is back, and this time it is all about winter fun! Save the date to volunteer to help with tickets, run games, and man the bounce house on Saturday, January 20.
- The nominating committee has been activated and will be seeking to fill open spots on committees and church council. Consider being a part of these great opportunities where you get to serve your faith community!
- We could use more ushers, readers, greeters, and people to provide fellowship after worship! Contact Tia at staff.elca@gmail.com to add your name to the volunteer schedule!
- Faith Formation is growing! Contact Pastor Sarah to assist with these incredible young people.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

We are so thankful for all of the work that Dave Overholser does for our congregation!

The person who nominated him said, “Dave is engaged in many different aspects of the congregation. He is always willing to lend a helping hand and does so much for us!” Dave is an offering counter, serves on the preschool board and the worship committee, and co-leads adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings. He regularly reads in worship, gives members rides to worship, and he is helping with the coordination of the meat raffle. Thank you Dave!

Nominate someone you see going above and beyond on behalf of our congregation! Email staff.elca@gmail.com.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: DECEMBER

We understand that many people travel and have visitors throughout the month of December, which can make Sunday morning volunteering difficult. Please contact the church office as soon as possible, if you cannot attend worship on the listed days, so we can find substitutes for you.

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 (9am service)	December 31
Greeter	Amy Ely & Winnis Buesing	Patty Adams & Audrey Rieck	Keith & Sue Edstrom	Kari Severson & Colleen Hall	Jane Carter & Duane Anderson
Reader	Katie Sieberg	Kathy Gerdes	Christmas Program	Amy Ely	Kari Severson
Communion Servers	Lisa Nagel & Terry Weber Johnson	Dave and Becky Overholser	Christmas Program	Amy Ely & Beth Rossow	Winnis Buesing & Linda Arndt
Ushers	Dean Nagel & Ray Weber	Tom Wellner & Joe Fisher	Korey Leiferman & Jan Lange	Winnis Buesing & Kathy Gerdes	Bob Brunz & Duane Anderson
Acolyte/ Power Point	Tony & Elena	Noah	Christmas Program	TBD	TBD
Open/Close	Bernita Geving & Katie Sieberg	Becky Overholser & Melissa Fisher	Korey Leiferman & Amy Ely	Kari Severson & Beck Severson	Becky Overholser & Joel Nielsen
Counters	Lisa Nagel & Sarah Weber	Dave Overholser & Tom Wellner	Tricia Purrier & Amy Ely	Tia Graton & Colleen Hall	Tia Graton & Colleen Hall
Altar Guild	Amy Ely & Donna Nielsen	Amy Ely & Donna Nielsen	Becky Overholser & Colleen Hall	Becky Overholser & Colleen Hall	Susan Brunz & Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Colleen Hall, Donna & Joel Nielsen, Audrey Rieck	Sieberg Family, David & Judy Kerr, Carol Regnier	Tom Wellner & Terry Weber Johnson, Fisher Family, Carol Krueger	Bring cookies to share!	Patty Adams, Dave & Becky Overholser



*Please note these minutes for the Nov. 20 meeting have not yet been approved by the council

November 1, 2023 Special Meeting Call to Order: 6:38 pm

Members Present: Katie Sieberg, Joel Nielsen, Melissa Fisher, Becky Overholser, Bernita Geving

Members Absent: Beck Severson, Korey Leiferman, Amy Ely, Pastor Sarah Deutsch, Kari Severson

Insurance – Reviewed from Insurance Proposal from American

Church Group. No decisions were made, waiting on a quote with a higher deductible.

Pastor’s Salary – Reviewed 2024 salary guidelines. Both topics tabled until 11/20/23 Council Meeting.

Adjourn and close -Motion to adjourn by Katie Sieberg Respectfully submitted, Katie Sieberg

November 20, 2023 Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Members Present: Amy Ely, Katie Sieberg, Pastor Sarah Deutsch, Joel Nielsen, Melissa Fisher, Becky Overholser, Kari Severson, Korey Leiferman, Bernita Geving
Members Absent: Beck Severson

Devotion – Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Prayerful preparation – Joel Nielsen

Opening question – Kari Severson

Agenda review – Becky Overholser made a motion to approve the agenda. Bernita Geving seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Approval of minutes from November 1, 2023 Special Council Meeting – Becky Overholser made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Kari Severson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Approval of minutes from October 16, 2023 Council Meeting – Kari Severson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the name correction, Amy Ely seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Pastor’s report – Written report from Pastor Sarah Deutsch. Becky Overholser made a motion to approve new flooring and refrigerators in the preschool using grant money, Amy Ely seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer’s report - Financial Statement review. See Treasurer’s report for details. Kari Severson made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Korey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills to be paid – Amy Ely made a motion to approve the Bills to be paid with the transfer of \$862.85 to cover October’s shortfall, Melissa Fisher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Preschool Report – Written report by Pastor Sarah for Korey Leiferman.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Members update

Worship – Decorating December 2 for Christmas, and printed envelopes for “Hanging of the Greens”. Put up a sign-up for lighting the Advent candles each week of Advent. Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day.

Fellowship – Did not meet. Ornament exchange is December 2. Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) – Worked on Winter Carnival planning and ornament project. Raffle tickets are being reprinted because of missing info and will be packaged for handout soon.

Property and Stewardship – The list from last month is complete! In addition, the garbage disposal was not working and is now repaired. New items are the sanctuary emergency exit door is

very difficult to open with the new seal, the weather stripping on the bottom of the front doors is damaged or needs replacing, the sink in the single bathroom in the hallway is coming away from the wall and needs to be removed and looked at – this is a big project! The bracket and tile it was attached to on the stall in the girl’s bathroom in the preschool is heavily damaged will require repair.

Becky Overholser made a motion to accept the bid of \$250 to replace the damage fascia, Bernita Geving seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Insurance for building and Worker’s Compensation – Discussed the quotes for new insurance and if we should or should not include an optional Wind/Hail Deductible Buy Back Policy that would significantly lower a deductible if we had wind and/or hail damage, but comes with a significant cost. We will be losing our current insurance and Worker’s Compensation at the end of December.

Kari Severson made a motion to accept to quote of \$9,983 per year for both Property and Liability and Worker’s Compensation coverage and without the Wind Deductible Buy Back, Korey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Formally activate the Nominating Committee – Amy Ely made a motion to activate the nominating committee of Duane Anderson, Terry Weber Johnson and Winnis Buesing, Becky Overholser seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carries.

Budget – Becky Overholser prepared a couple of preliminary budget options for review and we will finalize next month.

Thank you cards

Next meeting date: Next regular meeting is December 11, 2023 (this is one week earlier than usual) 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (following Committee meetings at 6:00 p.m.)

Question: Korey Leiferman
Adjourn and close with the Lord’s Prayer
Motion to adjourn by Korey Leiferman

Respectfully submitted, Katie Sieberg

Check AED – Pastor Sarah



Save the Date for the Winter Carnival!

Saturday, January 20

Plan on joining us for the return of Epiphany’s Carnival, this time, a winter edition! Volunteers and donations will be needed to make this fundraiser a success, so start considering how you can help now!

Donations Needed

- Squishmallows (Stuffed Animals)
- A BINGO set
- Items for bake sale
- Thrivent Grants (speak to Pastor Sarah if you have one available!)



2024 Offering Envelopes

Do you use offering envelopes? Pick up your envelopes for 2024 in the Narthex! If you do not currently have offering envelopes, but would like to have them, please contact our financial secretary, Donna, at donna.nielsen@hotmail.com.

Mortgage Reduction Update

THANK YOU! Many members and friends of Epiphany have given additional funds as we attempt to pay down our mortgage. We have also looked into refinancing our current loan in an attempt to get a lower rate on our mortgage, and have found that our rate, though high, is better than any rate we would be able to get refinancing at this time. We continue to seek these funds, so that we can soon experience the freedom of doing ministry without a mortgage payment over our heads!

Property Fund Appeal

In addition to reducing our mortgage, our appeal this fall included the desire to replenish the property fund after using the majority of that money to sealcoat the parking lot this past summer. The property fund is what we use for everyday maintenance, as well as larger projects like sealcoating the parking lot. Consider giving a gift to the property fund this holiday season!

Financial Report from October 31, 2023

General Fund

For the Month:

Beginning Balance 10/1/2023	\$12,410
Monthly Receipts	14,290
Monthly Expenses	<u>(13,198)</u>
Ending Balance 10/30/2023	13,502

Year to Date:

Beg Balance 1/1/2022	\$24,799
Year-to-date Receipts	\$138,300
Year-to-date Expenses	<u>(\$149,577)</u>
Ending Balance 10/31/2023	\$13,502

Mortgage Fund

Beginning Balance 10/1/2023	\$3,784
Income	5,054
Expenses	<u>(\$5,054)</u>
Ending Balance 10/31/2023	\$3,784

Year-to-date Bldg Receipts	\$23,209
Year-to-date Transfer from Gen	\$29,416
Year-to-date Bldg Expenses	<u>(\$63,960)</u>
Ending Balance 10/31/23	\$381

CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

Joel Nielsen (President)	507-351-4721	maverick30us@gmail.com
Amy Ely (Vice President)	507-381-5016	asvkely@gmail.com
Katie Sieberg (Secretary)	507-327-8540	katscurls@yahoo.com
Becky Overholser (Treasurer)	507-327-9829	boverhol@hotmail.com
Bernita Geving	507-257-2105	nitag7111@gmail.com
Melissa Fisher	507-420-7496	mafisher1013@gmail.com
Korey Leiferman	507-276-5972	leiferman17@gmail.com
Kari Severson	507-402-0802	karilseverson@gmail.com
Beck Severson	507-740-0963	



Epiphany Lutheran Church, ELCA &
Star Light Early Learning Center
605 Parkway Ave | PO Box 188
Eagle Lake, MN 56024

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U.S. Postage
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Eagle Lake, MN
Permit #8

Return Service Requested

NEWS DEADLINE

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**
Newsletter: **December 15**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Epiphany Lutheran Church
605 Parkway Avenue | PO Box 188
Eagle Lake, MN 56024
507-257-3156 | staff.elca@gmail.com

Pastor Sarah Deutsch
605-951-3826 | epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com

Star Light Early Learning Center
507-257-3502 | teachepiphanykids@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

Holiday Brunch & Ornament Exchange-December 2
Youth Group-December 3
Women's Bible Study-December 4
UFO Saturday-December 9
Starlight Christmas Program-December 15
Epiphany Christmas Program-December 17
Starlight PJ Party-December 21
Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship-December 24
Women's Bible Study-January 8
Winter Carnival-January 20

