

“Reflecting God’s generosity by serving and caring.”



# THE EPIPHANY STAR

MAY & JUNE 2024

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us as we partner with other area ELCA congregations and Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp for a faith-filled week! Scan the QR code to register today! VBS is for students who have completed Kingergarten05th grade in the spring of 2024. Volunteers are needed! Speak with Pastor Sarah if you would like to help with this incredible mission opportunity.

**Vacation Bible School**

**CULTIVATE LIFE**  
JOHN 15:5

**DAY CAMP**

DATE: June 10-13, 2024  
LOCATION: Christ the King  
TIME: 12:30-5PM  
Cost: \$30 per kid

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## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

During worship on Sunday, May 26 we will recognize the high school class of 2024. If you have a high school graduate you would like included in the blessing, please contact Pastor Sarah no later than Wednesday, May 8.

If you have someone in your life graduating from another level of education (preschool, college, tech school, etc), please let us know so we can include them in our prayers on May 26.

Congratulations class of 2024!

May God bless you as you move into the next stage of life!



## SERVICE AND SUN: JUNE 24-26



Middle School and High School students are invited to join youth from the area for three days of service projects and sun. We will meet at Christ the King Lutheran Church each morning at 8am and return by 5pm. Cost is \$20 per day. Use the QR code to register for the days you can attend!

*Sunday Worship*  
9:00 a.m.

*View Online Worship on Facebook or the Epiphany webpage*



## Kicking off Summer

### **Last day of Faith Formation**

*Our last day of Faith Formation is Sunday, May 5.*

### **Confirmation end of year party**

*Our last day of Confirmation is Wednesday, May 8.*

### **SEMN Synod Assembly**

*Saturday, May 11 in Mankato, MN.*

### **Women's Bible Study**

*Bring a lunch and join us at 11:30am on May 6 and June 3 as we finish our study of "The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi."*

### **Monday Night Bible Study**

*We will continue working our way through the book of Acts on Monday nights at 6:30pm. If you would like to join us remotely, contact Pastor Sarah and she will share the zoom link with you.*

### **Prayer Group**

*Prayer group will continue meeting through the summer. Join us at 10am on Mondays to share prayer requests, learn what the Bible says about prayer, and spend time in quiet prayer.*

### **Star Light Early Learning Center Graduation**

*Thursday, May 16 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.*

### **Graduation Sunday at Epiphany**

*Sunday, May 26 during worship.*

### **Vacation Bible School**

*Students who recently completed grades K-5.  
June 10-13 | 12:30-5:00pm*

### **Service & Sun**

*Students who recently completed grades 6-12.  
June 24-26 | 8am-5pm*

## Pentecost Sunday

**Sunday, May 19**

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.



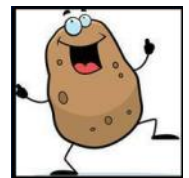
## Help Us Say "Thank You"

The Eagle Lake Fire Department is an essential piece of our community, and after a long spring with more fires than usual, we want to thank them! Join the Evangelism and Outreach team in the Community Room, following worship, on Sunday, June 2, as we prepare special *Thank You*s for our local heroes.

*thank you*

## Mark Your Calendars

The Tator Days Parade will take place in Eagle Lake on Saturday, July 15 at 1pm. Make plans to join Star Light Early Learning Center and the Evangelism and Outreach team as we walk in the parade!



## Collecting Candy

In June, we will begin collecting candy to hand out during the Tator Days parade. Bags of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate please) can be dropped off in the narthex.



In the hustle and bustle of life, it's easy to lose our way. We may find ourselves wandering down paths that lead to disappointment, confusion, or even despair. Yet, in the midst of our wandering, there is a constant presence, a guiding light that beckons us home, a concerned seeker coming after what is lost: Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

In John 10:1-10, Jesus paints a vivid picture of his role as the Good Shepherd. He describes himself as the one who enters the sheepfold by the gate, calling his sheep by name and leading them out to pasture. His sheep recognize his voice and follow him because they know that he cares for them deeply.

As we navigate the twists and turns of life, it's easy to stray from the path that Jesus has laid out for us. We may be enticed by the allure of worldly success, the pursuit of material possessions, or the approval of others. Yet, no matter how far we wander, Jesus remains ever faithful, watching over us with love and compassion.

Like lost sheep, we may find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, surrounded by dangers and uncertainties. But even in our darkest moments, Jesus is there, ready to rescue us from harm and lead us back to safety. He is the gate through which we enter into abundant life, offering us peace, security, and fulfillment that the world cannot provide.

In a world that is filled with sin, where violence reigns, where uncertainty, doubt, and despair abound, it is easy to lose sight of the face that Jesus is always with us. We may feel unworthy of His love or ashamed of our failures, we may feel we don't need a shepherd or that we are better on our own, but Jesus never gives up on us. He seeks us out, tirelessly searching until He finds us and brings us home.

May you take comfort in the knowledge that Jesus will always be your Good Shepherd, no matter where you wander. His voice cuts through the noise of the world, and he leads us to green pastures and still waters (Psalm 23). Rest assured that nothing can separate you from the love of God, which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-39).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who watches over his flock with unwavering care and devotion. He leads us through the valleys and over the mountains, never leaving nor forsaking us. May you find comfort in his presence and peace in his promises, knowing that with Jesus as your shepherd, you are not lost.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah Deutsch

## Support ministry where you already shop

**There are many different ways in which people support the ministry of Epiphany Lutheran with their time, talents, and financial giving. Here are two ways you can give financial gifts to Epiphany without spending any extra money!**



When you shop at either Mankato HyVee store, save your receipts. Bring them to the church building and place them in the blue box by the Happenings Board. These receipts are calculated by Winnis Buesing, and then Star Light Early Learning Center receives funds, just because your receipt was turned in!

You can purchase Kwik Trip car washes or gift cards by filling out the form on the Happenings Board. You get exactly what you pay for, and funds are donated to Epiphany. At this time, the funds will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. These funds are used to support members and community members in crisis situations.





## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

**Keith Edstrom is our Volunteer of the Month!**

We are so grateful that Keith shares his gift of music with the congregation. Keith sings in the choir, often leads the liturgy, and sings solos for special music. Keith lead the sung portion of Holden Evening Prayer all through Lent. Not only is Keith musical, he has worked to help keep our property in shape. From waxing the floor in the fellowship hall to cleaning the high windows, Keith does jobs that often go unnoticed unless they don't get done. Thank you, Keith, for all you bring to our congregation (and for always being willing to let us use your ladder!).

*Nominate someone you see giving back to Epiphany by emailing [staff.elca@gmail.com](mailto:staff.elca@gmail.com).*

## Volunteer during worship!

Even during the summer, worship continues to be the hour we build our week around here at Epiphany. Now is a great time to consider trying something new on Sunday mornings! Helping to serve communion, ushering, greeting, serving during, and reading are ways to participate in our community and they make the morning more enjoyable and meaningful for all who participate.

Email Tia at [staff.elca@gmail.com](mailto:staff.elca@gmail.com) and get on the volunteer schedule today!

**Vacation Bible School  
Helpers Needed**

DATE: June 10-13, 2024  
LOCATION: Christ the King  
TIME: 12:30-5PM  
Grades: 7th-12th and Adults



## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: MAY

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Greeter	Duane Anderson & Jane Carter	Kathy Gerdes	Mike & Linda Arndt	Deloris Mosher
Reader	Winnis Buesing	Katie Sieberg	Amy Ely	Jane Carter
Communion Servers	Lisa Nagel & Donna Nielsen	Winnis Buesing & Amy Ely	Linda Arndt & Carol Regnier	Tia Graton & Colleen Hall
Ushers	Dean Nagel & Ray Weber	Tom Wellner & Laurie Gerdes	Joe Fisher & Korey Leiferman	Duane Anderson & Jane Carter
Acolyte/ Power Point	Noah	Harvey	Areanna	Jager
Open/Close	Bernita Geving & Katie Sieberg	Laurie Gerdes & Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman & Amy Ely	Kari Severson & Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Lisa Nagel & Sarah Weber	TBA & Tom Wellner	Tricia Purrier & Patty Adams	Tia Graton & Colleen Hall
Altar Guild	Donna Nielsen & Amy Ely	Donna Nielsen & Amy Ely	Susan Brunz & Carol Regnier	Susan Brunz & Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Carol Regnier, Korey Leiferman, Cheryl Wellner	Tom Wellner & Terry Weber Johnson, Dave & Judy Kerr, Carol Krueger	Linda Arndt, Bob & Susan Brunz, Dawn Braam & Deloris Mosher	Colleen Hall, Duane Anderson & Jane Carter, Kari Severson

*June's volunteer schedule will be mailed out at the end of May.*



## Openings on the Star Light Early Learning Center Board

We have several openings on the Star Light Early Learning Center Board. Do your gifts fit the needs of this important group? The Star Light board oversees the operating procedures and policies of the board. They maintain financial oversight and help to navigate the ministry of working with a wide variety of families and staff.

In particular, we are seeking individuals with experience using Quickbooks, or who have financial acumen to take on the role of treasurer. We are also seeking an individual to help lead fundraising efforts. If you are looking for a fun, worthy ministry to invest in, this may be the opportunity you have been looking for!

Please speak with Colleen Hall (board chair), Kathy Groebner (Center Director), or Pastor Sarah if you would like more information.



### Congratulations Graduates!

Graduation for the Star Light Early Learning Center class of 2024 will take place on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30pm.



Star Light Early Learning Center is seeking a full-time assistant teacher in the preschool room.

Hours, Pay, and Benefits

9am-6pm (with a 1 hour lunch break).  
\$14-\$16/hour depending on experience.

Paid holidays, a fun work environment, paid trainings, and opportunities for advancement.

To apply, contact our director, Kathy Groebner, at [teachepiphanykids@gmail.com](mailto:teachepiphanykids@gmail.com) or call 507-257-3502



**We are closed on Memorial Day:  
Monday, May 27, 2024**

### LEARN WITH US!

Each week Pastor Sarah leads both classrooms in chapel. We sing songs, pray, and learn stories from the Bible. In the month of May, our letter is “J” and we will be learning lots of fun stories. You are invited to learn them along with us. If you cannot join us for chapel on Wednesday mornings, check out these incredible Bible stories during your devotion time.

Story or Topic	Curriculum Connection	Bible Verses
Joshua at Jericho	J is for Joshua and Jericho	Joshua 6:1-20
Jonah and the Whale	J is for Jonah	Jonah 1-4
Jesus Welcomes Children	J is for Jesus!	Matthew 19:13-15
Jesus Heals	J is for Jesus!	Luke 5:17-26
Jesus the Good Shepherd	J is for Jesus!	John 10:11-18

### Star Light Early Learning Center Contact Info

Phone: 507-257-3502  
 Email: [teachepiphanykids@gmail.com](mailto:teachepiphanykids@gmail.com)  
 Website: [starlightearlylearningcenter.com](http://starlightearlylearningcenter.com)  
 Address: 605 Parkway Ave | PO Box 188 | Eagle Lake, MN 56024



## TIME: A GIFT TO BE STEWARDED

In our fast-paced world, time seems to slip through our fingers like grains of sand. Yet, in the midst of this whirlwind, we are called to be stewards of this precious gifts bestowed upon us by our Father in heaven.

Time, the currency of life, is a limited resource that all must account for. Each passing moment is a gift, an opportunity to make a difference, to grow, to love, and to serve. As stewards of time, we are entrusted with the responsibility to use it wisely, to invest in pursuits that align with our God-given vocations and callings. Time spent in meaningful endeavors enriches not only our lives but also the lives of those around us. Whether it's in worship, nurturing relationships, pursuing our passions, serving our neighbor, spending time in the Word, or contributing to the betterment of society, every moment counts.

As we reflect on stewardship (really, the whole life of the Christian is a life of stewardship), let us consider how we manage our time. Are we investing in pursuits that align with God's Word? Are we mindful of the impact our choices have on ourselves and others? Let us strive to be intentional in our use of time, making each moment count, remembering that each moment is a gift from God that we are called to steward for the sake of the Gospel.

"Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." -Psalm 90:12

Your financial gifts make a difference . Thank you for your continued support of ministry at Epiphany, as we seek to share God's generosity by serving and caring. If you have not signed up for automated giving, head to Epiphany's website. Having your giving come automatically each week is a blessing to our community.

<b>Financial Report as of March 31, 2024</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	
<b>For the Month:</b>	
Beginning Balance 3/1/2024	\$13,936
Monthly Receipts	16,172
Monthly Expenses	<u>(12,190)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	17,919
<b>Year to Date:</b>	
Beg Balance 1/1/2023	\$14,087
Year-to-date Receipts	\$41,955
Year-to-date Expenses	<u>(\$38,124)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	\$17,919
<b>Mortgage Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance 3/31/2024	\$3,784
Income	\$4,386
Expenses	<u>(\$4,386)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	\$3,784
Year-to-date Bldg Receipts	\$6,938
Year-to-date Add'l Income	\$1,300
Year-to-date Transfer from Gen	\$2,921
Year-to-date Bldg Expenses	<u>(\$11,158)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/24	\$0

## 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
Dave Kerr	507-327-6167	dkerrk525@gmail.com
Laurie Gerdes	605-377-0353	klgerdes@charter.net
Korey Leiferman	507-276-5972	leiferman17@gmail.com
Kari Severson	507-402-0802	karilseverson@gmail.com
Marlyn Mosher	507-382-1890	Mkmosher1@gmail.com



Give NOW with





**April 15, 2024** Call to Order: 6:58 p.m.

**Members Present:** Amy Ely, Katie Sieberg, Pastor Sarah Deutsch, Joel Nielsen, Becky Overholser, Korey Leiferman, Bernita Geving, Laurie Gerdes, Marlyn Mosher

**Members Absent:** Kari Severson, Dave Kerr

**Devotion** – Pastor Sarah Deutsch

**Prayerful preparation** – Joel Nielsen

**Opening question** – Marlyn Mosher

**Agenda review** – Amy Ely made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional item under New Business. Korey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

**Pastor’s report** – Written report. Highlights: New member meeting 4/18; Discussion of Stewardship Conversations – request volunteers for temple talks, work it into everyday.

**Preschool Report** – Written report from Pastor Sarah from March 19. April meeting tomorrow.

Becky Overholser made a motion to approve Debra Lee to become a member, Bernita Geving seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

**Approval of minutes from March 18, 2024 Council Meeting** – Amy Ely made a motion to approve the Secretary’s report, Bernita Geving seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

**Treasurer’s report** - Financial Statement review. See Treasurer’s report for details.

Laurie Gerdes made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Marlyn Mosher 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 \$818.50 to cover March’s shortfall, Korey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Congregational meeting on 4/21/2024 to vote for Constitution and Bylaws** – Will be held in the Fellowship hall

**Committee Members update**

Worship – Talked about preparing the alter for Pentacost, un-decorated the alter from Easter Sunday, talked about graduation recognition

Fellowship – Easter continental breakfast.

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) – May – Connections Shelter evening meal on May 1st, June – Gifts for first responders, July – Tater Days Parade, August – Na-

tional Night Out, September – Coffee with the Council.

Property and Stewardship – Waiting on a couple of concrete bids and meetings. Should have by 4/30? Gutters are clean. Suggestion to pull what’s left of the landscape edging on the north side of the building and leave it out for now, there is a natural dirt edging. Dave fixed the girls room bathroom partition in the learning center wing. Will fix the tile that is cracked. Duane will change the furnace filters in the next month before the AC is turned on.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Worship Service suggestions** – Can we stand less? Will review and see if there is anything we can cut out. Also, can we move the livestream to show more of the front of the church? Probably not because we have people watching who want to view the screen (when available), and also, we don’t want to show the kids more since it is better to not have them all. Can the microphone volume be turned up for readers? We’d have to adjust for every reader. We will send out a “best practice” for readers and remind them to talk into the mic as best as they can.

**Thank you cards**

**Next meeting date:** Next regular meeting is May 20, 2024, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (following Committee meetings at 6:00 p.m.)

**Question:** Laurie Gerdes

**Adjourn and close with the Lord’s Prayer**

Motion to adjourn by Katie Sieberg

Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Sieberg

**Check AED** – Pastor Sarah

**Action Items**

Pastor Sarah to research the liturgy for sit/stand options  
Pastor Sarah to create and have Tia send best practices for readers

Pastor Sarah to talk to Donna about a list of givers for quarterly giving statements

Dave and Marlyn to finish getting bids for concrete



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

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Return Service Requested

#### **NEWS DEADLINE**

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**

Newsletter: **The 15th of June**

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Epiphany Lutheran Church*  
www.epiphanyeaglelake.com  
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**

*May 5– Last Day of Faith Formation*  
*May 6– Women’s Bible Study*  
*May 8– Last Day of Confirmation*  
*May 11– Synod Assembly*  
*May 16– Star Light Early Learning Center Graduation*  
*May 19– Pentecost Sunday*  
*May 26– Graduation Sunday*  
*June 10-13– Vacation Bible School*  
*June 24-26– Service & Sun*

#### **Weekly Events**

*Sundays @ 9:00am–Worship with Holy Communion*  
*Mondays @ 10am–Prayer Group*  
*Mondays @ 6:30pm–Bible Study*

