#### Epiphany Lutheran Church





## THE EPIPHANY STAR

## Sunday, September 7, 2025



#### **BREAKFAST CHURCH**

If you are able, please bring a dish to share for this potluck and special worship service. Worship will take place at its regular time, but in the Community Room! We will celebrate, worship, and pray together as the Body of Christ.

#### SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS WILL BE PACKED AND PREPARED TO SHIP

In the month of August we have been collecting school supplies. These supplies will be

packaged into kits and shipped to one of many possible locations around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Each kit contains a drawstring backpack, 4 notebooks, 5 pencils, 5 pens, a ruler, scissors, crayons, an eraser, and a pencil sharpener. Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. These kits allow people (both children and adults) to continue learning in the face of serious obstacles.



#### **BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING**

During Breakfast Church we will take time to ask God's blessing on students, faculty, and staff who have recently started a new school year. Students of all ages, and anyone who works within an educational setting are invited to join us!

#### FIRST DAY OF FAITH FORMATION AND ADULT STUDY

Following Breakfast Church we will kick off our program year with the first day of Faith Formation (children age 3-grade 5) and Adult Study (see page 2 for more details).



## Fall Scraftin' Event September 19 & 20, 2025

There are lots of opportunities to help with this major fundraiser for our congregation, and we are well known for our hospitality at this event. Whether you participate in the event, provide snacks, or help serve a meal, you are serving and caring in a generous way that represents our congregation well.

Please sign-up on the green bulletin board to serve or provide items. If you have more questions, please contact Vickie Huebl at huebvick@outlook.com

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025

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#### Worship with us!

Worship is central to the life of the Christian and to our congregational life here at Epiphany. All are welcome to join us for worship each week.

#### Sundays at 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion

Worship is intended to be a shared community experience. However, if you are unable to be with us in person, a live stream of most services is available on our YouTube channel

@EpiphanyLutheranChurchMN

## Scan here for electronic giving options





Households that include children ages 3-18 are asked to fill out our annual information form to

help us keep our records up to date! You can pick up a bulletin board or scan the QR code here:



#### Faith Formation

Sunday, September 7 (a)10:15am. Students age 3-grade 5 are invited to join us for music, a story, and more as we get to know many of the same Biblical characters we are introduced to in worship.

Volunteers are still needed to teach! If you can help one time per month, please let Pastor Sarah know.

#### **Confirmation Class**

Begins Wednesday, September 10 For students entering grades 6-9. For the first night, students are asked to have a parent/guardian in attendance as we discuss what Confirmation is as well as get a full tutorial of the duties associated with being an acolyte and running the Power Point during worship.

## High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 21 from 5-7pm | Movie Night Sunday, October 19 from 5-7pm | Game Night

## **Sunday Morning Volunteer Training**

Sunday, September 14 immediately following worship.

This training is for all who currently usher, read, or serve communion and for anyone interested in trying any of these roles!

## **Sunday Morning Adult Study**

Each week in worship we explore a different story from the Bible, starting and Genesis and working our way the time of Constantine through Augustine. through, but this set of readings leaves large gaps! Join All are welcome—no prior knowledge required! Come stories in the gaps.

#### Women's Bible Study

Begins Monday, October 6 at 11:30am. This year we will explore a study titled Songs of the Faithful: Studies in Psalms. Books cost \$9. Sign up on the green bulletin board to get your copy!

## Monday Night Adult Study

Mondays @ 6:30pm

#### FACING DEATH WITH HOPE: A 3-WEEK STUDY

What happens after we die? Why do we hold funerals? What does our church believe about cremation and burial? These are questions many of us wonder about but often avoid talking about until we're forced to.

This fall, you are invited to join us for a three-week series that will gently and faithfully address the difficult topics of death and dying. Together, we will explore what Scripture and the church teach, why Christian funeral practices matter, and how we can look to the future with confidence and hope—because of the promise we have in Jesus Christ.

The series begins Monday, September 22 at 6:30pm and continues on September 29 and October 6. Whether you are making plans for yourself, walking with a loved one, or simply want to be strengthened in your faith, this will provide space for honest conversation, faithful teaching, and Christ-centered hope.

#### A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY (BOOK STUDY)

Join us as we journey through Justo L. González's The Story of Christianity, exploring the history and growth of the Christian church across two transformative eras.

#### Part 1: The Early Church October 13 – December 15

Discover the roots of the early Christian church during its first three centuries, as it emerged, spread, and took shape amid persecution.

#### Part 2: The Imperial Church January 5 – March 16

Explore the significant developments in doctrine, structure, and influence as the Christian church evolved from

us at 10:15am in the conference room as we dig into the learn, grow, and connect as we explore the rich history of our shared faith.



## **Epiphany Choir**

Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. The Sunday, October 12 during worship at 9:00am. and sing with us! Reading music is not required!

## **Quilting and Sewing**

Quilters and sewers gather on Wednesday morning at 9:00am and take part in many different projects. If you would like more info on projects this group takes on, or ways you can participate even if you do not sew, please reach out to Linda Arndt at linda.arndt31@gmail.com.

## **Friday Prayers**

Friday mornings at 9am a quiet prayer service takes place in Epiphany's sanctuary. You are invited to join us as we take part in the responsive reading of the liturgy, and share prayer requests. You will not be asked to pray out loud! This 20-25 minute service is a great way to end your week and start your weekend.

#### Women's Day Retreat

Saturday, October 25. Save the date and watch for more information on the green bulletin board and in announcements!



## Octoberfest Fellowship

Join the fellowship committee for German themed goodies and maybe even a keg (of root beer) following worship on Sunday, October 5. Adult Study will not meet on this day. Faith Formation for ages 3-grade 5 will meet as regularly scheduled.

## Kwik Trip Fundraiser

You can order a car wash card for 5 ultimate car washes for just \$36! Or, you can order gift cards to use to purchase gas, groceries, or snacks at any Kwik Trip. All purchases benefit the Pastoral Discretion Fund, which allows Pastor Sarah to help people with things like diapers, gas cards, and groceries when they come to the board today!

## **Confirmation Sunday**

first rehearsal for this year will be September 3. Come Following worship, everyone is invited to join us for a reception in the Community Room.

## Little Eagles Preschool **Ribbon Cutting**

After the heart-breaking closure of Star Light Early Learning Center December, many individuals at Epiphany Lutheran got to work. A great deal of time



and energy was spent cleaning, organizing, filling holes, and painting the physical space that was Star Light. Others spent hours in meetings figuring out what it would look like to lease the space. A huge sale allowed for much of the equipment and many of the toys and books to find new homes where they can be loved and cherished. Now, we are excited to have Little Eagles Preschool leasing the largest of our classrooms. They are taking registrations for the 25-26 school year, and you can get more info by reaching out to leaglespreschool@gmail.com.

You are invited to join us for the official ribbon cutting of Little Eagles Preschool on Thursday, September 4 at 11:00am.

## Maternity Leave Update

Pastor Sarah is anticipating being on maternity leave beginning Wednesday, October 22. She will return to lead worship on Sunday, January 4 and will be back full time in the office beginning Monday, January 5. During this time she will rely on the many faithful leaders and members of Epiphany to keep programs, events, and worship running smoothly. Pulpit supply has been arranged for the entirety of her leave, and ordained pulpit supply will preside at the Lord's Supper every other week during her absence.

We are so grateful for the love and excitement Epiphany has already shown as we welcome our new baby into the world. church in need. Order your cards on the green bulletin We look forward to introducing our little one to the church family in time, but during maternity leave we kindly ask for space and privacy so we can adjust to life as a family of five and settle into this new season. Thank you for your understanding, prayers, and support. -Pastor Sarah.



#### Unbreakable Hope

Jeremiah and the visions of John in Revelation. Week after tempted to give in to fear. week, we have encountered passages that speak directly And what did John's vision show them? The Lamb at the into the realities of our lives—realities marked by change, center of the throne (Revelation 5), the One who is worthy uncertainty, and sometimes fear. And in every single text, a theme has echoed like a steady heartbeat: we have a God who is with us, who does not abandon us, and who promises ultimate victory over all that threatens us.

in the world around us, change often brings with it a sense (Revelation 21). of instability. We find ourselves wondering, "What will tomorrow look like?" "Will I have what I need?" "How will this affect the people I love?" The unknown can make us anxious. Fear can creep in.

And yet, in the midst of all this, God gives us his Word, and his Word gives us hope. Not a shallow, "Don't worry, everything will be fine" kind of hope. But a hope grounded in the faithfulness of God.

which was the visual sign of God's presence among them, you today. would soon be destroyed. If there was ever a time for despair, that was it. And yet, what did God say through

promise that I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. unbreakable promise of the Gospel. -Jeremiah 33:14.

hope."

Jeremiah told the people about a new covenant, a new promise not on stone tablets, but on human hearts making all things new." (Revelation 21:5). you in despair. I am with you, and I will bring life out of today. And nothing can separate you from his love.

battles. But at its core, Revelation is a book of hope for "Thanks be to God!" people under pressure. It was written to Christians in the

This past summer, we have journeyed together with the first century who were facing persecution, who were Narrative Lectionary, hearing the words of the prophet wondering if following Jesus was worth it, who were

to open the scroll and unfold history. John revealed a countless multitude standing before the throne, clothed in white robes, waving palm branches, a picture of ultimate victory and joy (Revelation 7). John wrote of the new Let's be honest. Change is not easy. Whether it's change in heaven and new earth where God dwells with his people, our personal lives, changes in our community, or changes where every tear is wiped away and death is no more

> Over and over, Revelation whispers (and sometimes shouts), "The Lamb wins." No matter how strong evil seems, no matter how dark the night gets, Jesus is victorious. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and nothing can snatch us out of his hand.

So what does this all mean for us today? It means that in the midst of our changes and challenges, whether it's changes in our families, changes in the church, changes in This past summer, we heard those promises in Jeremiah, a our nation, or changes in the world, we do not face them prophet who spoke to God's people in one of the most alone. The God who made promises to Jeremiah's people unsettling times in their history. The people of Judah were is the same God who holds you now. The Christ who facing exile. Their way of life was crumbling. The temple, triumphed in Revelation is the same Christ who walks with

It also means that our hope is not fragile. Our hope is not based on everything going smoothly or turning out the way we want. Our hope is anchored in something deeper. Our The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the hope is in the unchanging character of God and the

This does not make the hard things easy. God's people still Even when everything familiar was being torn away, God went into the exile. The first Christians still faced spoke a word of promise. "There is a future. There is persecution. And we still face challenges in our own lives. But we face them differently because we know the end of the story. We know the God who promises, "See, I am

(Jeremiah 31:31-34). He spoke of a righteous Branch from As we look to this fall and beyond, may you always hear the line of David who would bring justice and that heartbeat of hope. The story is not over. The same righteousness. In other words, even in the midst of exile, God who promised a new covenant in Jeremiah, the same God was saying, "I am not done with you. I will not leave Christ who reigns as the Lamb in Revelation, is with you

So take heart, my siblings in Christ. Whatever you are That same heartbeat of hope pulses through our readings carrying, whatever unknowns you are facing, hear this in Revelation we have worked through in August. good news: You are not alone. You are held by the One Revelation is a book that can seem strange and even who is making all things new. And in him, and him alone, frightening at first glance, with its visions of beasts and your future is secure. And for that, we can exclaim,

-Pastor Sarah Deutsch

## September Sunday Volunteer Schedule

		<u> </u>		
	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Greeter	Jolene Damman & Howard Gibbons	Deb & Brian Fingerson	Dale & Colleen Hall	Dave & Becky Overholser
Reader	Marlyn Mosher	Joel Nielsen	Dave Overholser	Carol Regnier
Communion Servers	Donna Nielsen Linda Arndt	Amy Ely Winnis Buesing	Colleen Hall Carol Regnier	Dave & Becky Overholser
Ushers	Terry Johnson & Tom Wellner	Jane Carter Duane Anderson	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Joe Fisher Bob Brunz
Acolyte/Slides	NA	Harvey	Grace	Dean
Open/Close	Bernita Geving Ashtyn Sorensen	Open-TBD Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman Amy Ely	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser
Altar Guild	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Susan Brunz Carol Regnier	Susan Brunz Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Breakfast church	Winnis Buesing Bruce & Katie Sieberg	Ray & Sarah Weber Kari Severson	Mark & Beth Rossow Carol Krueger

## October Sunday Volunteer Schedule

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	October 5	October 12 (Confirmation)	October 19	October 26
Greeter	Larry & Bernita Geving	Joel & Donna Nielsen	Keith & Sue Edstrom	Tom Wellner & Terry Johnson
Reader	Duane Anderson	Katie Sieberg	Deb Lee	Kari Severson
Communion Servers	Lisa Nagel Beth Rossow	Areanna Harvey Eli	Deb Lee Payton Hillesheim	Terry Johnson Linda Arndt
Ushers	Jane Carter Amy Ely	Winnis Buesing Mary Garoutte	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Joe Fisher Bob Brunz
Acolyte/Slides	Areanna	Gavin	Eli	Sheldon
Open/Close	Bernita Geving Ashtyn Sorensen	Open-TBD Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman Amy Ely	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser
Altar Guild	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Patty Adams Linda Arndt	Patty Adams Linda Arndt
Fellowship	Octoberfest Fellowship	Confirmation Reception	Dale & Colleen Hall Dave & Judy Kerr	Dave & Becky Overholser Deb & Brian Fingerson

#### CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

Joel Nielsen (President)	507-351-4721	maverick30us@gmail.com
Amy Ely (Vice President)	507-381-5016	asvkely@gmail.com
Sue Edstrom (Secretary)	507-317-4672	skedstrom@gmail.com
Becky Overholser (Treasurer)	507-327-9829	boverhol@hotmail.com
Bernita Geving	507-257-2105	nitag7111@gmail.com
Dave Kerr	507-327-6167	dkerrk545@gmail.com
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Ashtyn Sorensen	507-327-7410	sorensenashtyn7@gmail.com

# Meeting Nights September 15 October 20

Committees meet at 6:30pm Church Council meets at 7:00pm



#### Financial Report as of July 31, 2025

#### **General Fund**

For the Month:	
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	\$27,775
Monthly Receipts	\$14,346
Monthly Expenses	<u>(\$12,094)</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/25	\$30,026
Year to Date:	
Beg Balance 1/1/2025	\$24,054
Year-to-date Receipts	\$98,947
Year-to-date Expenses	(\$92,974)
Ending Balance 5/31/25	\$30,026
Mortgage Fund	
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	\$3,784
Income	4,286
Expenses	<u>(\$4,286)</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/25	\$3,784
Year-to-date Bldg Receipts	\$14,855
Year-to-date Add'l Income	\$15,815
Year-to-date Transfer from Gen	\$9,815
Year-to-date Bldg Expenses	( <u>\$40,485)</u>
Ending Balance 7/31/25	\$0

## **Operation Christmas** Child



In the month of October, we want encourage members of Epiphany to pack a shoebox. These shoeboxes, which should be brought to the church by Sunday, November 9, are an important part

Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Labels and packing instructions will be available the first week in October.

## September Noisy Offering



The September Noisy Offering will be designated for Lutheran World Relief. These donations

will help to off-set the costs of shipping our school supply kits to places around the globe.

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. They provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. They partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. They break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

The goal of LWR is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem solving that will last long after LWR projects end.

## September Collection items & **October Noisy Offering**



In September we will collect items that will be packed into kits for newborns. These kits will be distributed by Global Health Ministries. Our quilters are busy

making receiving blankets, and some have already started knitting hats! The other items needed are: regular size bath towels (lightweight, approx. 50"x26"), washcloths (please no microfiber); bars of white Ivory soap; newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie", cloth pre-folded diapers. In October we will pack the kits together, and our noisy offering will assist with shipping costs.

Global Health Ministries is an independent Lutheran nonprofit established in 1987, and specializes capacity-building for Lutheran health systems in under-resourced countries, serving some of the most of the ministry work of Samaritan's Purse. Local vulnerable people in the world. They believe all people churches in more than 100 nations hand out these should have access to a healthy life, but they don't. Together we can make a difference.

August 11, 2025 Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Members Present: Joel Nielsen, Amy Ely, Sue Edstrom, Bernita Geving, Marlyn Mosher, Becky Overholser, Dave Kerr,

Korey Leiferman, Pastor Sarah Deutsch Members Absent: Laurie Gerdes. Ashtyn Sorensen

Devotion – Pastor Sarah Deutsch Prayerful Preparation – Joel Nielsen Opening Question - Becky Overholser

**Agenda review – additions/changes** Motion to approve: Becky Overholser. Second: Korey Leiferman. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of minutes** from July 21, 2025. Motion to approve: Bernita Geving. Second: Amy Ely. All in favor-motion carried

Pastor report: Written report from Pastor Sarah. Highlights: We will formally welcome 3 new members, Derik Miller, Roger and Wendy Severns, in August or September. Motion to approve and welcome two new members, Dustin & Samantha Beisch: Amy Ely. Second Marlyn Mosher. All in favor, motion carried.

Changes to internet provider are in the process. Will update on progress.

Feeding Every Baby is interested in leasing the space. They are in the process of trying to secure funding for rent and liability insurance prior to signing anything.

Council is requested to attend worship assistant training on Sept. 14th and to attend the first meeting of confirmation students on Wed. Sept. 10th to train on setting up the computer and live stream for services.

Fall Programming start dates:

favor, motion carried.

Faith Formation: (age 3-grade 5) Sunday Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study: Sunday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Confirmation: Wednesday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

Adult Study: Monday Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Book Study: Monday October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's report -** Financial Statement review. See Treasurers report for additional details. Motion to approve: Amy Ely. Second: Sue Edstrom. All in

**Bills to be paid** – Motion to approve with the transfer of \$1,616.00 from General to Building Fund: Korey Leiferman. Second: Amy Ely. All in favor, motion carried.

**Pre-School Report**: The Little Eagles Pre School lease has been signed and will start in September. The Surplus sale was held, and final numbers will be known once all marketplace sales are completed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS -**

Review of the Emergency Action Plan is complete. Motion to approve final draft: Becky Overholser. Second: Bernita Geving. All in favor, motion carried. Hard copy will be kept in the Policy Binder located in the secretary's office. Copies will be kept electronically and posted near phones.

Christmas outdoor promotional banners have been ordered. \$69 each

Custodian wage adjustment has been tabled until additional work is gauged. It will be added to next year's budget proposal.

#### Committee Updates:

**Worship**- Outdoor worship service will be set up prior to service on Oct. 24th. Breakfast worship Sept. 7th. Will be serving brunch for scrapbooking Sept. 20th. Deb Lee is researching a new laptop for the projectors. Confirmation service is scheduled for October 12th. Cake and corsages will be provided.

**Fellowship** –We will have an Oktoberfest themed fellowship on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Assisting with the breakfast worship on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Annual Advent Holiday Potluck and Ornament exchange scheduled for Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) – August will continue collecting school supply items and on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> will be filling backpacks during fellowship. September we will be collecting baby items for Global Health Ministries and on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> will be packing these baby kits during fellowship. We will also be collecting for Operation Christmas Child; boxes are due Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. September noisy offering will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

Property and Stewardship – Punch list of items to be completed in Preschool wing: another coat of paint where shelves were, baseboards, handles on doors, hang bulleting board. Parking lot has been sprayed for weeds and will be restriped. The seal around the round stained-glass window will be checked.

#### NEW BUSINESS

We will be reviewing the Abuse Prevention Plan at the next council meeting and feedback on any changes, modifications etc. will be requested. Council members will be asked to read and sign acknowledgement and turn in at next meeting.

**Temple Talks:** August – John Hobbs. September to be determined,

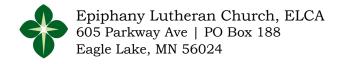
Next meeting date: September15, 2025

Question & Treats: Joel Nieslesn.

#### Adjourn and Close with Lord's Prayer

Motion to Adjourn: Korey Leiferman. Respectfully submitted, Sue Edstrom

 $\boldsymbol{Check\ AED}-Pastor\ Sarah$ 



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#### News Deadline

Sunday Bulletin: Noon on Wednesday

Newsletter: October 20 **Contact Information** 

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Eagle Lake, MN 56024 www.epiphanyeaglelake.com

Secretary Brie Severson 507-257-3156 | staff.elca@gmail.com

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

Social Media

YouTube: @EpiphanyLutheranChurchMN

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Eagle Lake, MN October 25-Women's Day Retreat

## Schedule of Events

September 3-Choir Rehearsals begin

September 4-Little Eagles Preschool Ribbon Cutting

September 7-Breakfast Church with Back-to-School Blessing

September 7-First day of Faith Formation & Adult Study

September 10-First day of Confirmation

September 14-Worship Volunteer Training

September 19 & 20-Fall Scraftin' Event

September 21-High School Youth Group

September 22-Monday Night Adult Study begins

October 5-Octoberfest Fellowship

October 6-Women's Bible Study

October 12-Confirmation Sunday

October 13-Monday Night Book Study begins

October 19-High School Youth Group

October 22-Pastor Sarah begins maternity leave

