



# THE EPIPHANY STAR

JULY & AUGUST 2024

## SPENDING TIME IN COMMUNITY!

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY    OUTDOOR WORSHIP SUNDAY, JULY 28    & PET BLESSING

### AUGUST 11

Join us for a fun gospel-filled worship service as we ponder the incarnation of our savior, Jesus Christ. Too often, the month of December is filled with hustle and bustle that drowns out the true meaning of the Christmas holiday. We will focus our worship for this day on the true meaning of Christmas, and what that means for you.

Worship outside and bring your furry, scaly, and feathered friends! God created all living creatures and said, “It is good” (Genesis 1). At this outdoor worship service we will give thanks for the companionship and love God shows us through our pets. All pets are to be leashed or in a kennel and should be comfortable around crowds and children.



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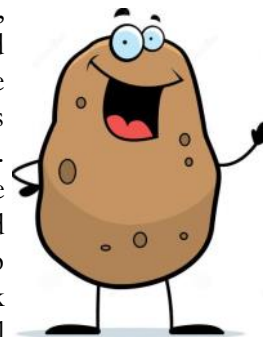
### VALLEY FAIR TRIP AUGUST 21

Youth entering grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a day of fun and sun as we travel to Valleyfair with other ELCA churches from the area. Registration will open in the middle of July.



### TATOR DAYS PARADE JULY 20

Join the education, evangelism, and outreach team as we walk in the Tator Days parade in Eagle Lake. We will meet at the church at noon and ride together to line up for the 1 o’clock parade start. We will continue collecting candy to pass out at the parade until the parade begins!



*Sunday Worship  
9:00 a.m.*

*View Online Worship on  
Facebook or the  
Epiphany webpage*



## Study Opportunities

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

*Bring a lunch and join us at 11:30am on July 8 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.*

## National Night Out

**Tuesday, August 6  
5:00-7:00pm  
Lake Eagle Park**

For many years, Epiphany Lutheran Church has teamed up with the Eagle Lake Lions Club and Star Light Early Learning Center to help host an event on the first Tuesday in August.

The goal of this gathering is to encourage neighbors to spend time together, and to facilitate positive relationships between law enforcement and communities.

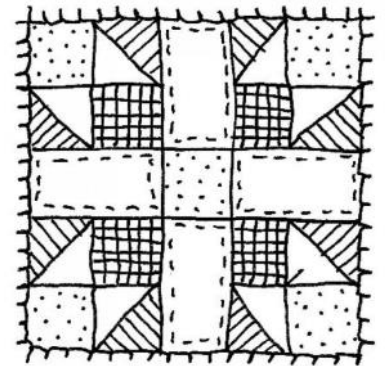
This year, we have moved the event to Lake Eagle Park and are striving to make the event something for everyone. Join us for live music, food, and community!

Volunteers will be needed to help prepare and serve food. Watch the announcements and Happenings Board for an opportunity to reach out to your neighbors!

A Thrivent Action Grant will help supply the food.

## Quilting Highlights

Insert information from Linda Arndt about quilt name and quilt auction



## Worship at "The Pillars"

**First Tuesday of the month**

In May, Pastor Sarah began going to The Pillars Senior Living in Mankato to lead worship, serve communion, and visit with residents.

Often, as a congregation, we focus on those who come to us, and on the youngest among us. While these things are important, we must not forget those who have come before us, and those unable to come to our building.

You are invited to join Pastor Sarah in this visiting and worshiping ministry. Please speak with Pastor Sarah if you would like more information.





As we quickly approach our nation's Independence Day, I find myself asking the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in America?" This is a question that people have been trying to answer since the beginning of our nation.

Being a Christian is about Jesus.

Being an American is about being a citizen of the United States of America.

Now, I know that most of us like to add other things to our definitions; both of what it means to be a Christian, and what it means to be an American. And it is right that our identity in Christ should influence how we view the role of being a citizen.

As we are quickly headed into an election year, and as we prepare for barbeques and fireworks, I want to remind you that you are a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven first, and of the United States second. Your citizenship in heaven was granted by God himself, and it will last forever, no matter what happens in this old world.

Martin Luther writes about this concept in what is known as his "two kingdom theology". There are two different kingdoms on earth—namely, the kingdom of this world and the peaceful kingdom of Christ. These two kingdoms are distinct. One is spiritual and eternal. One is physical and

temporal.

Understanding the distinction between these kingdoms and what it means to hold dual citizenship as both a Christian and an American is an important conversation that we must continue having. It is also a conversation in which we will likely find ourselves having a variety of opinions.

But having differences of opinion does not mean we shouldn't talk about it.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (the denomination of which we are a part) is working on a statement titled, "Civic Life and Faith", which in many ways addresses the issue of being a Christian in the United States of America.

I encourage you to go to the ELCA website and read through this statement and submit your feedback, and then come to our forums on the topic this fall, so that together we can learn and grow as people who follow Jesus while living in America.

I wish you all a happy and safe 4th of July. I pray that God would bless the United States of America. And I give thanks that God is calling all people, including you, to know his love, his mercy, and his peace. Amen.

-Pastor Sarah Deutsch

## Feeding Every Baby, Inc.

### **Rummage Sale & Silent Auction**

Hosted by Epiphany Lutheran Church

July 12th 10am-4pm  
and  
July 13th 10am-4pm



Contact Feeding Every Baby, Inc on Facebook if you have any items you would like to donate. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to support Feeding Every Baby's overhead costs. Feeding Every Baby is a local nonprofit which provides diapers, wipes, formula, and other baby supplies to families in need.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

**August 5: noon-6pm**

Give the gift of life! It is estimated that just 3% of the population gives blood each year, and that is not nearly enough. Whether you are donating for the 100th time or the 1st time, you can help save a life.

Watch for posters and social media posts in July to sign up to give blood.

Volunteers are needed to check people in and oversee the canteen area, where donors have a snack after giving blood.

Speak with Pastor Sarah to volunteer!



**American  
Red Cross**



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

**Patty Adams is our Volunteer of the Month!**

Patty Adams can regularly be found quilting in the community room on Wednesday mornings. Patty's dedication is a big reason why our quilters are able to donate and auction off so many quilts each year. In addition to her skills in quilting, Patty serves on the altar guild, greets before worship, is an offering counter, helps with blood drives, and often serves during fellowship. However, even greater than all of the things Patty does around the church is her kindness and her smile. Thank you for using your gifts here at Epiphany, Patty!

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

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: JULY

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Greeter	Amy Ely	Patty Adams	Audrey Rieck	Kari Severson
Reader	Katie Seiberg	Amy Ely	Jane Carter	Deb Lee
Communion Servers	Lisa Nagel & Terry W. Johnson	Dave & Becky Overholser	Duane Anderson & Donna Nielson	Deb Lee & Beth Rossow
Ushers	Dean Nagel & Ray Weber	Tom Wellner & Joe Fisher	Jane Carter & Korey Leiferman	Winnis Buesing & Kathy Gerdes
Acolyte/ Power Point	Eli	Noah	Harvey	Areanna
Open/Close	Bernita Geving & Katie Sieberg	Laurie Gerdes & Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman & Amy Ely	Kari Severson & Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Lisa Nagel & Sarah Weber	Dave Overholser & Tom Wellner	Tricia Purrier & Patty Adams	TBA & Colleen Hall
Altar Guild	Becky Overholser & Colleen Hall	Donna Nielsen & Amy Ely	Donna Nielsen & Amy Ely	Susan Brunz & Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Colleen Hall, Fisher Family, Audrey Rieck	Carol Regnier, Carol Krueger, Sieberg Family	Duane Anderson & Jane Carter, Dave & Becky Overholser, Patty Adams	Tom Wellner & Terry W., Johnson Joel & Donna Nielsen, Bob & Sue Brunz

## VOLUNTEER DUTIES

### Greeters

- Arrive 15 minutes before worship
- Greet members and guests as they arrive

### Ushers

- Arrive 15 minutes before worship
- Hand out bulletins
- Collect the offering
- Dismiss people for communion

### Readers

- Read aloud the scripture readings during worship. These readings will be sent to you in advance.

### Communion Servers

- Stand to the sides of the pastor and serve the wine/grape juice.
- As people receive the blood of Christ, say the words, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

*August's volunteer schedule will be mailed out at the end of July.  
Contact the office if you would like to be added to the schedule!*





## Changes at Star Light Early Learning Center

The Star Light Early Learning Center board received a letter of resignation from our director, Kathy Groebner, in May. On May 30, 2024 Kathy completed her time as director of Star Light, and we are very grateful for the devotion she showed to the program in her three and a half years as director. Kathy is currently still working at Star Light as the lead teacher in the preschool classroom.

After receiving nine applications and doing two rounds of interviews, the board has offered the position to a well-qualified and experienced person. While we cannot yet share details of who our new director will be, we look forward to her starting with us this fall.

In the meantime, Pastor Sarah and board chair, Colleen Hall, will continue to handle the director duties for the center. Thank you to the Star Light board for your support and dedication during this transition!



### FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

The Star Light Early Learning Center facebook page was accidentally deleted and we are having to start over building a following! Please take a few moments to “like” the Star Light page so more people in our community can hear about the incredible things God is doing here.

### 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 June 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
Noah’s Ark	God gives us rainbows	Genesis 6-9
Joseph and His Brothers	Joseph’s coat had colors	Genesis 37
Joseph Helps His Brothers	Number review (counting brothers)	Genesis 50
Manna, Quail, and Water	Q is for Quail	Numbers 11
The Vineyard Workers	V is for Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16



Star Light Early Learning Center is seeking a full-time 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 Pastor Sarah at [teachepiphanykids@gmail.com](mailto:teachepiphanykids@gmail.com) or call 507-257-3502



### 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



## OUR ATTENTION: A GIFT TO BE STEWARDED

What do you spend your days thinking about? What are you focused on? How do you spend your free time? What details do you notice when you are around other people?

When she visited us this spring, Rev. Emily Carson, assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission in the South Eastern Minnesota Synod, mentioned being stewards of our attention.

To be a steward means to care for something that belongs to someone else. Everything we have belongs to God, and that includes our attention, the things we focus on.

Most people do not spend much time thinking about the topics of their inner dialogue, but we have a responsibility to care for and focus on the things God commands us to focus on.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” We hear these words in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Mark 12:30. We are commanded by God to focus on God, to love God even with our mind.

So how do we care for our attention? How do we steward the things we focus on?

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus tells us to, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” Perhaps, focusing more on God than the world is the true beginning of stewardship.

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.



Give NOW with



### Financial Report as of March 31, 2024

**General Fund**

**For the Month:**

Beginning Balance 3/1/2024	\$13,936
Monthly Receipts	16,172
Monthly Expenses	<u>(12,190)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/2024	17,919

**Year to Date:**

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

**Mortgage Fund**

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
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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



**June 17, 2024** Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: All  
 Members Absent: None

**Devotion** – Pastor Sarah Deutsch

**Prayerful preparation** – Joel Nielsen

**Opening question** – Katie Sieberg

**Agenda review** – Laurie Gerdes made a motion to approve the agenda. Becky Overholser seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

**Approval of minutes from May 20, 2024 Council Meeting** – Kari Severson made a motion to approve the Secretary’s report, Marlyn Mosher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

**Pastor’s report** – Written report from Pastor Sarah. Highlights: Deb Lee preaching and leading worship next Sunday. Spending a lot of time at Starlight with Director change. Many extra meetings and assistance with the board. Two new staff members to approve.

Katie Sieberg made a motion to approve Dani and Lee Hillsheim and two children to become members, Bernita Geving seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Becky Overholser made a motion to approve Faith Guentzel and Ashtyn Sorenson as aides for Preschool, Marlyn Mosher 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, Amy Ely 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 \$2,501.92 to cover May’s shortfall of \$833.50 and the street assessment of \$1,668.42, Corey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Preschool Report** – Written report from Corey Leiferman. Have been doing interviews for director position, will be giving an offer in the next few days. Next meeting July 16.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee Members update**

Worship – July 28 is “Christmas in July”. Will decorate after church on the 21<sup>st</sup>. August 11 will be a pet blessing with outdoor worship. September 15 is potluck breakfast church (organized by Fellowship team). Will prepare brunch for Scraftin’ Retreat on September 28.

Fellowship – Will host breakfast potluck on September 15.

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) – July – Tater Days Parade is Saturday, July 20 at 1:00 p.m., August 6 – National Night Out at the park. September 15 – Rally Sunday and breakfast church, will do school kits. October - Coffee with the Council. November – an outreach of some sort.

Property and Stewardship – West side ladies room had a puddle of water around the drain on Sunday, 6/16, and the men’s room appeared wet, but no water. Could not find a source, will keep an eye on this. Tree fell on the preschool shed a couple weeks ago, Dave Kerr and Dale Hall removed it. No damage to the roof. We have two bids for concrete mudjack and leveling for four concrete slabs at the front and two for the Fellowship door. Marlyn will do expansion joints. Also, Xcel Energy will replace our meter with a Smartmeter in the next few weeks.

Laurie Gerdes made a motion to work with Mankato Mudjacking (Chris Thompson) to do concrete repair for \$725. Corey Leiferman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Thank you cards to put in the Quarterly Giving Statements**

**July Stewardship Temple Talk** – Marlyn Mosher

**Next meeting date:** Next regular meeting is July 15, 2024, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (following Committee meetings at 6:00 p.m.)

**Question:** Becky Overholser

**Adjourn and close with the Lord’s Prayer**  
 Motion to adjourn by Corey Leiferman

Adjourned: 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Sieberg

**Check AED** – Pastor Sarah

**Action Items**

Dave Kerr will contact Mankato Mudjacking to schedule

Pastor Sarah and Katie publish minutes from 4/20/24 Special Congregational Meeting



Epiphany Lutheran Church, ELCA &  
Star Light Early Learning Center  
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Eagle Lake, MN 56024

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#### **NEWS DEADLINE**

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**

Newsletter: **The 15th of June**

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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www.epiphanyeaglelake.com  
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Eagle Lake, MN 56024  
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*Pastor Sarah Deutsch*  
605-951-3826 | epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com

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

#### **Schedule of Events**

*July 8-Women's Bible Study*  
*July 9-Star Light Board Meeting*  
*July 15-Committee Meetings & Council Meeting*  
*July 20-Tator Days Parade*  
*July 28-Christmas in July*  
*August 5-Red Cross blood drive*  
*August 11-Outdoor Worship & Pet Blessing*  
*August 21-Valleyfair Trip*

#### **Weekly Events**

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

