



## EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Reflecting God's generosity by serving and caring*

# THE EPIPHANY STAR

January/February 2026

### COME TO ME, AND REST

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28*

January is cold and dark. After the rush and brightness of Christmas, there is a quieting that settles in for many of us. And as I attempt to pay attention, to myself, to our congregation, and to the world around me, what I noticed was this: people are tired (and not just those of us caring for newborns!).

People are tired of being told they are not good enough. People are tired of being lonely. People are tired of thinking they can, and must, "do it all".

I see new parents feeling guilty for taking a nap. I see professionals feeling weak for taking a sick day. I hear the constant refrain that there just is not enough time to get everything done. I witness burnout all around me in colleagues, friends, and neighbors. We are tired of the never ending "breaking" news. We are tired of violence. Tired of the hate. Tired in ways that run deeper than even a good night's sleep can fix.

And to those of you who are weary. To those of you feeling let down or heartbroken. To those of you carrying exhaustion in your bones. To those of you carrying the weight of generations. To those of you who are tired. Jesus says, "Come to me and rest."

Jesus does not demand of us as the world does. He does not add more to-do lists or expect you to prove your worth through productivity. Instead, Jesus has already completed the most difficult work on the cross. He walks with you through valleys you cannot navigate alone and brings you to the Father when you have nothing left to give.

Jesus doesn't offer a prescription for becoming the perfect Christian. He gives gifts of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and community. And he gives these freely for the sake of the world he loves. Jesus does not overlook how tired you are. He sees you, *all* of you, and invites you to come and rest.

This January, the calendar at Epiphany is a little lighter as I ease back into ministry following my leave. But it is also intentionally lighter out of the deep desire that the people of Epiphany might rest. Even in the church, we too often believe that busy is better; that faith must always look like doing more.

This winter season, may you know that rest is not a failure of faith, it is an act of trust. May you find rest for your body and soul, the kind of rest that only Jesus can give.

In Christ,  
Pastor Sarah

**Save the Date: May 17, 2026**  
**Epiphany's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
*"Christ as our Cornerstone"*

# Serving and Caring

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Epiphany Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 25 following worship. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend as we consider this important work of our congregation.

## Ash Wednesday 2026

Ash Wednesday is February 18. Join us for worship at 6:30pm.

## Winter Weather Alerts

If winter weather is a concern as Sunday morning worship approaches, please tune in to the KEYC close line or watch the Epiphany Facebook page for updates.

## UFO Dates for 2026

For just \$20, you can have a table reserved in the fellowship hall to take care of your **UnFinished Objects**. Join us for community and crafting any time between 9am and 8pm on the following days.

- January 24
- February 28

Please contact Vickie Huebl (huebvick@outlook.com) with questions.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive at Epiphany is scheduled for Friday, February 13 from 11am-5pm. You can make your appointment online today! Please speak with Dave Kerr (dkerrk545@gmail.com) if you have questions about donating blood or if you would like to volunteer.

## Youth Night (grades 6-12)

February 22 from 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for food, fun, and faith conversations!

## January Outreach: Ronald McDonald House

- This month, consider bringing your pop tabs to worship and sending them to the front with the kiddos collecting the noisy offering! Recycling pop tabs is a simple way to help raise funds for Ronald McDonald House charities, our January noisy offering beneficiary!
- We are collecting new fleece that will be made into blankets for the Ronald McDonald house. Each blanket consists of 2 pieces of fleece that are approximately 50"x60". You are invited to help make these blankets on Sunday, February 1 during fellowship time. If you would like to contribute financially to the making of these blankets, donations can be placed in the offering with the designation "fleece".

## Conference Meeting

Our conference assembly is scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 15 at 1:30pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in North Mankato. Epiphany is allowed to have 3 men and 3 women attend alongside Pastor Sarah. It is through conference gatherings that issues are brought to the synod assembly. If you are interested in learning more about how congregations in our area are working to be Christ's church together, you are invited to attend this free event. Please speak with Pastor Sarah to sign up, or if you have any questions.

## Choir Rehearsals

In the months of January and February, choir will rehearse and sing in worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

## **Lent 2026**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and continues until Holy Week begins on March 29. During this Holy Season, you are invited to join us each Wednesday as we explore some deep questions of faith through a series titled, "I've been meaning to ask...". Each week, a different area pastor will lead us through Holden Evening Prayer and a reflection on these questions at 6:30pm. Watch for info on community meals too!

# Education

- Adult education will resume on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, February 1. All are encouraged to join us as we discuss important topics of faith and life. Monday evening studies will resume after Easter.
- Women's Bible Study will take place on Monday, February 2 at 11:30am.
- Faith Formation (age 3-grade 5) is offered every Sunday at 10:15am.
- Confirmation (grades 6-8) takes place Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm.

# Volunteers

\*Please consider volunteering to assist with worship on Ash Wednesday Worship on February 18\*

|                          | January 18                             | January 25                                     | February 1                                      | February 8                             | February 15                        | February 22                                |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Greeter</b>           | Deb & Brian Fingerson                  | Mike & Linda Arndt                             | Larry & Bernita Geving                          | Dave & Becky Overholser                | Dale & Colleen Hall                | Keith & Sue Edstrom                        |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Katie Sieberg                          | Marlyn Mosher                                  | Joel Nielsen                                    | Carol Regnier                          | Colleen Hall                       | Amy Ely                                    |
| <b>Communion Servers</b> | Colleen Hall                           | Beth Rossow<br>Linda Arndt                     | Donna Nielsen<br>Amy Ely                        | Payton H.<br>Alexis D.                 | Lisa Nagel<br>Winnis Buesing       | Dave & Becky Overholser                    |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Dean Nagel<br>Ray Weber                | Terry Johnson<br>Tom Wellner                   | Joe Fisher<br>Bob Brunz                         | Dean Nagel<br>Ray Weber                | Duane Anderson<br>Jane Carter      | Terry Johnson<br>Tom Wellner               |
| <b>Acolyte/Slides</b>    | Sheldon                                | Kari Severson                                  | Harvey  | Grace                                  | Gavin                              | Sheldon                                    |
| <b>Open/Close</b>        | Korey Lieferman<br>Pastor Sarah        | Sue Edstrom<br>Marlyn Mosher                   | TBD   | TBD                                    | TBD                                | TBD  |
| <b>Counters</b>          | Linda Arndt<br>Patty Adams             | Tracy Enz<br>Dave Overholser                   | TBD   | TBD                                    | TBD                                | TBD  |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>       | Becky Overholser<br>Colleen Hall       | Donna Nielsen<br>Amy Ely                       | Donna Nielsen<br>Amy Ely                        | Sarah Weber<br>Lisa Nagel              | Sarah Weber<br>Lisa Nagel          | Susan Brunz<br>Cheryl Wellner              |
| <b>Fellowship</b>        | Deb & Brian Fingerson<br>Katie Sieberg | Tom Wellner<br>Terry Johnson<br>Winnis Buesing | Carol Krueger<br>Ann Stensrud<br>Cheryl Wellner | Dave & Judy Kerr;<br>Hillesheim Family | Linda Arndt<br>Keith & Sue Edstrom | Mark & Beth Rossow;<br>Dale & Colleen Hall |

# Generosity

Financial Information as of December 31, 2025

## General Fund

|                           |                    |  |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| For the Month of December |                    |  |
| Beg Balance 12/1/25       | \$31,933           |  |
| Receipts                  | \$14,178           |  |
| Expenses                  | <u>(\$14,965)</u>  |  |
| End Balance 12/31/25      | \$31,147           |  |
| Year-to-Date              |                    |  |
| Beg Balance 1/1/25        | \$24,054           |  |
| Receipts                  | \$168,447          |  |
| Expenses                  | <u>(\$161,354)</u> |  |
| End Balance 12/31/25      | \$31,147           |  |

## Building Mortgage Fund

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Beg Balance 12/1/25            | \$3,784           |
| Income                         | \$3,586           |
| Expenses                       | <u>(\$3,586)</u>  |
| End Balance 12/31/25           | \$3,784           |
| Year-to-date Building receipts | \$24,395          |
| Year-to-date add'l income      | \$29,215          |
| Year-to-date Transfer from Gen | \$18,374          |
| Year-to-date Building Expenses | <u>(\$71,983)</u> |
| Ending balance 12/31/25        | 0                 |

**Mortgage Remaining as of 12/10/25: \$10,100**

Once the mortgage is paid off, offerings designated for "Building" will go to the property fund. We have a variety of projects to address once the mortgage is behind us. If you would like to help determine which projects come first, please speak with Pastor Sarah.



Epiphany Lutheran Church, ELCA  
605 Parkway Ave | PO Box 188  
Eagle Lake, MN 56024

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#### **News Deadline**

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**  
Newsletter: **Tuesday, February 17**

#### **Contact Information**

*Epiphany Lutheran Church*

605 Parkway Avenue | PO Box 188  
Eagle Lake, MN 56024  
[www.epiphanyeaglelake.com](http://www.epiphanyeaglelake.com)

*Secretary Brie Severson*

507-257-3156 | [staff.elca@gmail.com](mailto:staff.elca@gmail.com)

*Pastor Sarah Deutsch*

605-951-3826 | [epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Social Media**

YouTube: @EpiphanyLutheranChurchMN

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Eagle Lake, MN

## **Schedule of Events**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 16  | Prayer Service Resumes                            |
| January 19  | Council (7:00pm) &<br>Committee (6:30pm) meetings |
| January 25  | Annual Meeting of the Congregation                |
| February 1  | Tie Blankets for RMHC during fellowship           |
| February 13 | American Red Cross Blood Drive                    |
| February 15 | Conference Assembly                               |
| February 16 | Council (7:00pm) &<br>Committee (6:30pm) meetings |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday                                     |
| February 22 | Youth Night                                       |

