Epiphany Lutheran Church

"Reflecting God's generosity by serving and caring."



THE EPIPHANY STAR

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 26 @ 6:30pm



While Thanksgiving is not a Christian holy day, it offers a meaningful opportunity for Christians to pause and give thanks to God for all we have. Scripture, especially in the book of Psalms, often calls us to "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good," (Psalm 136:1, Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1), and to remember his many blessings and daily provisions. Before the busyness of the holiday season gets into full swing, join us for a night of worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church-1735 E Main Street, Mankato MN-(where Pastor Sarah's husband, Aaron, serves as pastor) as we lift our hearts in gratitude.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 24 @ 4:00pm

On this holy night, we gather to hear the Good News that God has come to dwell among us. The promise of God coming to live among his people is spoken throughout Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments, and is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. Come and adore the one who was born to set us free, to shine as the light of the world, and who promises to return soon.





Holiday Potluck and Ornament Exchange

Saturday, December 6 from 9:30am-11:00am

All are invited to join us for this congregational tradition organized by our Fellowship Committee. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange and a dish to share. Sign-up will be available on the Green Bulletin Board soon!

Contact Info

While Pastor Sarah is on maternity leave, please contact the following people when you are in need of assistance.

Pastoral Emergencies: Rev. Aaron Deutsch (605-742-4469 or aaron.lee.deutsch@gmail.com) Building, Policy, and Congregational Concerns: Any member of church council (see page 5) Announcements and prayer requests: Church Secretary, Brie Severson (see page 8)

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 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





Winter Weather Notices

When winter weather comes, please use your best Each week in worship we explore a different story from judgement on what is safest for you and your family the Bible working our way through the entire narrative when it comes to traveling to Epiphany for programs and worship.

Should programs or worship be cancelled due to inclement weather, notices will be posted on the KEYC close line as well as the Epiphany Facebook Page.

Volunteers Needed!

It takes many volunteers to make a typical Sunday flow smoothly at Epiphany. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, usher, run the PowerPoint, serve communion, or read, please email Brie staff.elca@gmail.com.

If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild Team, which helps prepare communion elements and the worship space each week, please reach out to Becky (507- There will NOT be Friday Prayers on the following 327-9829).

Faith Formation

Faith Formation students are invited to sing in worship on Sunday, December 7.

There will **NOT** be Faith Formation on the following days:

- Sunday, November 30 (Thanksgiving Break)
- Sunday, December 28 (Christmas Break)
- Sunday, January 4 (Christmas Break)

Confirmation Class

There will NOT Confirmation Class on the following following week. days:

- Wednesday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Break)
- Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Break)
- Wednesday, December 31 (Christmas Break)

Epiphany Choir

Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Choir will not meet or sing in worship December 22-January 4.

Monday Evening Book Study

Our study of The Story of Christianity will conclude for this calendar year on December 15, 2025.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

of scripture! Join us at 10:15am in the conference room as we dig into the stories that take place between our Sunday morning readings.

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.

- Friday, November 28
- Friday, December 26
- Friday, January 2

Operation Christmas Child

Pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! Info on what to include in the box can be found under the green bulletin board. PLEASE pay close attention to the items that are not allowed. Boxes should be returned to Epiphany no later than Sunday, November 16, so they can be taken to an official drop off site during the

Advent/Christmas Decorating

Many hands make light work! Join the worship team Thursday, December 4th at 6:30pm as we prepare our sanctuary and narthex area for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study will continue its study of the Psalms. Join us the following dates at 11:30am!

- Monday, November 3
- Monday, December 1
- Monday, January 5



Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

Advent calendars traditionally count down the days until Christmas Eve with doors that open to reveal a little gift each day. Often these calendars hold a piece of chocolate or a small toy. A reverse advent calendar counts down the days till Christmas by inviting us to give something away. This year we invite you to take a laundry basket home to fill it with food supplies for our Epiphany Little Pantry. Each day on the calendar will have an idea of what to put into the laundry basket, but you can add anything you think might be helpful. You can begin returning your baskets on Christmas Eve or any time you are ready.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Can of chicken	Roll of paper towels	Box of Mac n' Cheese	Box of Pancake mix	Pancake Syrup	Can of fruit
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Roll of toilet paper	Can of Vegetables	Peanut Butter	Ramen Noodles	Parmesan Cheese	Feminine Care Products	Jelly
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Granola bars	Packet of Tuna	Can of beans	Ketchup or Mustard	Dried soup packets	Canned Beef Stew	Can of SPAM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Baking mix	Hamburger Helper or Tuna Helper	Shelf-stable milk	A financial gift for the Epiphany Little Pantry			
28	29	30	31			

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' -Matthew 25:34-36, 40



Financial Report as of September 30, 2025

General Fund For the Month: Beginning Balance 9/1/25 \$30,952 Monthly Receipts \$15,104 Monthly Expenses (\$13,032)\$33,023 Ending Balance 9/30/25 Year to Date: Beg Balance 1/1/2025 \$24,054 \$127,956 Year-to-date Receipts Year-to-date Expenses (\$118,987)Ending Balance 9/30/25 \$33,023 **Mortgage Fund** Beginning Balance 9/1/25 \$3,784 \$3,286 Income Expenses <u>(\$3,286)</u> Ending Balance 9/30/25 \$3,784 \$19,178 Year-to-date Bldg Receipts Year-to-date Add'l Income \$17,815 Year-to-date Transfer from Gen \$12,065 Year-to-date Bldg Expenses (\$49,057)Ending Balance 9/30/25 \$0 Mortgage Balance as of 10/20/25 \$27,491.79 **Endowment Fund** Beginning Balance 1/1/2025 \$27,475.31 \$525.50 Ministry Growth Fund Additions Market Change \$2,086.80

Please join us in worship and a special adult forum on Sunday, November 16 as we hear from our synod's gifts officer and endowment specialist, Tharan Leopold, about the way endowment funds and planned giving can support ministry at Epiphany long into the future.

Ending Balance 8/31/2025

\$30,087.61

Council and Committees

It is the time of year to consider how you can be involved in the ministry of Epiphany. It takes all kinds of people, in all kinds of rolls to help our congregation carry out our mission to reflect God's generosity by serving and caring. If you are approached by a member of the nominating committee, please prayerfully consider how you might play a roll on Epiphany's Church Council or one of our committees.

Noisy Offerings

In honor of Veteran's Day, and all who have served in the United States Military, our November Noisy Offering has been designated for Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV). The goal of MACV is to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota. They do this in a variety of sustainable ways by providing housing services, employment services, and legal services.

Our December noisy offering has been designated for the LSS Youth Resource Center-Mankato. Formerly known as the REACH Outreach Center, this non-profit housed in Bethlehem Lutheran Church is operated by Lutheran Social Services and offers supportive services to youth ages 16 to 24 who are experiencing or facing the possibility of homelessness.

Noisy Offerings are intended to be given above and beyond regular offerings.

Collection Items

In November there are a variety of items you can donate to support local an international ministries:

- Diapers (size 4 and up) for Feeding Every Baby
- Body wash and soap for CADA House
- Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are due by November 16.

In December you are encouraged to take part in the reverse Advent Calendar project. See page 3 for more information.

December Blood Drive

Our next American Red Cross Blood Drive takes place Friday, December 19 from 12:00pm-5:00pm in the Community room. Register for your appointment online, or speak with Dave Kerr if you have questions!

Page 5 Volunteers





	Novemb	er Sunday	/ volulite	er scheau	16
	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Greeter	Jolene Damman & Howard Gibbons	Deb & Brian Fingerson	Dale & Colleen Hall	Joel & Donna Nielsen	Dave & Becky Overholser
Reader	Joel Nielsen	Dave Overholser	Amy Ely	Marlyn Mosher	Carol Regnier
Communion Servers	NO COMMUNION	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	NO COMMUNION	Aaron Deutsch Julie Smith	NO COMMUNION
Ushers	Terry Johnson Tom Wellner	Jane Carter Duane Anderson	Joe Fisher Bob Brunz	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Terry Johnson Tom Wellner
Acolyte/Slides	Grace	Gavin	Sheldon	Eli	Kari Severson
Open/Close	Bernita Gevin Joel Nielsen	Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman Amy Ely	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher	Becky Overholser Joel Nielsen
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber
Altar Guild	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Susan Brunz Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Carol Krueger Sieberg Family	Cheryl Wellner Ann Stensrud Larry & Bernita Geving	Bob & Susan Brunz Winnis Buesing	Deutsch/Peanasky Family	Mark & Beth Rossow's Kari Severson

Volunteers				Pa	age 5
	Novemb	er Sunday	Volunte	er Schedu	le
	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Greeter	Jolene Damman & Howard Gibbons	Deb & Brian Fingerson	Dale & Colleen Hall	Joel & Donna Nielsen	Dave & Becky Overholser
Reader	Joel Nielsen	Dave Overholser	Amy Ely	Marlyn Mosher	Carol Regnier
Communion Servers	NO COMMUNION	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	NO COMMUNION	Aaron Deutsch Julie Smith	NO COMMUNION
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Acolyte/Slides	Grace	Gavin	Sheldon	Eli	Kari Severson
Open/Close	Bernita Gevin Joel Nielsen	Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman Amy Ely	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher	Becky Overholser Joel Nielsen
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber
Altar Guild	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Susan Brunz Carol Regnier
Fellowship	Carol Krueger Sieberg Family	Cheryl Wellner Ann Stensrud Larry & Bernita Geving	Bob & Susan Brunz Winnis Buesing	Deutsch/Peanasky Family	Mark & Beth Rossow's Kari Severson
	Decemb	er Sunday	Voluntee	er Schedul	le
	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28	January 4
Greeter	Larry & Bernita Geving	Dale & Colleen Hall	Tracy Enz	Keith & Sue Edstrom	Joel & Donna Nielsen
Reader	Duane Anderson	Katie Sieberg	Kari Severson	Colleen Hall	Joel Nielsen
Communion Servers	Linda Arndt Beth Rossow	NO COMMUNION	Winnis Buesing Lisa Nagel	NO COMMUNION	Donna Nielsen Payton Hilleshiem
Ushers	Jane Carter Amy Ely	Joe Fisher Bob Brunz	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Terry Johnson Tom Wellner	Duane Anderson Jane Carter
Acolyte/Slides	Grace	Gavin	Sheldon	Eli	Grace
Open/Close	Bernita Geving Joel Nielsen	Dave Kerr	Korey Leiferman Amy Ely	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher	Bernita Gevin Joel Nielsen
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Linda Arndt Patty Adams	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber
Altar Guild	Susan Brunz Carol Regnier	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Patty Adams Linda Arndt	Patty Adams Linda Arndt
Fellowship	Dale & Colleen Hall Dave & Judy Kerr	Duane Anderson, Jane Carter Hillesheim Family	Korey Lieferman, Carol Krueger	Keith & Sue Edstrom, Linda Arndt	Marlyn & Theresa Mosher, Sis Mosher, Dawn Braam

CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

GITCHOIL GOTTING INTO				
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		
Laurie Gerdes	605-377-0353	klgerdes@charter.net		
Korey Leiferman	507-276-5972	leiferman17@gmail.com		
Marlyn Mosher	507-382-1890	mkmosher1@gmail.com		

Meeting Nights

November 17 December 15

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



Church Council Meeting 9/15/2025 Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Members Present: Joel Nielsen, Amy Ely, Sue Edstrom, Marlyn Mosher, Becky Overholser, Dave Kerr, Korey Leiferman, Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Members Absent: Laurie Gerdes. Bernita Geving, Ashtyn Sorensen

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

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

Approval of minutes from August 11, 2025. Motion to approve: Amy Ely. Second: Korey Leiferman All in favormotion carried.

Pastor report: No written report from Pastor Sarah. A full while on maternity leave. Openers and closers will need to with the tree limbs on the shed. also unlock/lock the doors leading to the education wing every Sunday. Amy Ely will be trained in checking the AED NEW BUSINESS in Pastor's absence.

Treasurer's report - Financial Statement review. See Treasurers report for additional details. Motion to approve: Amy Ely. Second: Marlyn Mosher. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills to be paid - Motion to approve with the transfer of \$1,211.00 from General to Building Fund: Korey Leiferman. Second: Amy Ely. All in favor, motion carried.

Pre-School Report: The Pre-School Committee is working on closing a few things out. They are recommending that the remaining checking account balance be dispersed to local

charities, city programs etc. Leave the CD as is until Next meeting date: October 20, 2025 such time it is needed. Remaining funds recommended to be distributed as follows: 10K to cover insurance deductibles, 10K to the endowment fund and to establish an early learning scholarship. Other funds to cover landlord expenses, property maintenance or active ministries.

OLD BUSINESS -

- The Abuse Prevention Plan has been reviewed and will be updated. Council members turned in or will turn in their signed agreement.
- The switch to Fidium is complete.

Committee Updates:

Worship- No meeting was held this month, but they are preparing for Confirmation on October 12th and All Saints Day on November 2nd.

Fellowship - Oktoberfest themed fellowship on October 5th . Annual Advent Holiday Potluck and Ornament exchange scheduled for Dec. 6th.

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) -September we will be collecting baby items for Global Health Ministries and on Oct. 5th will be packing these baby kits during fellowship.

We will also be collecting for Operation Christmas Child; boxes are due Nov. 16th . Reverse Advent Calendars will be distributed in December with food donations going to our Little Pantry. September noisy offering will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. October: Global Health, November: Military, December: Reach Center

Property and Stewardship - There are seal and masonry issues with the large stained-glass window in the Sanctuary, currently reaching out to St. Peter Glass who initially installed the window. They have a backload of projects so they are not sure when they can look into it. A Mason will be contacted to check out the missing brick. There is a plug in that needs to report will be submitted at next meeting detailing staffing etc., be addressed. Trees along the driveway will be trimmed along

- Looking for volunteers to shovel the main walk and the fellowship walk along with the emergency doors this winter. We need to confirm if Adam will handle the plowing
- Dave Kerr will be opening on the 2nd Sundays of the month. Joel Nielsen will be closing on the1st Sundays of the month.
- Nominating committee will be activated in October. There will be 4 openings for next year's council.

Temple Talks: To be determined. **Question & Treats:** Pastor Sarah Adjourn and Close with Lord's Prayer

Motion to Adjourn: Korey Leiferman.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Edstrom

Check AED - Pastor Sarah/ Amy Ely

Church Council Meeting 10/20/2025

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Members Present: Amy Ely, Sue Edstrom Bernita Geving, Dave eration Christmas Child; Kerr, Joel Nielsen, Becky

Overholser, Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Members Absent: Laurie Gerdes. Korey Leifermann, Marlyn Mosher, Ashtyn Sorensen

Devotion – Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Prayerful Preparation - Joel Nielsen

Opening Question - Pastor Sarah

Guest Speaker: Deb Lee. Deb attended a synod "Boundaries" zoom workshop on Sept. 18th.

She spoke of learning and identifying boundaries and highly recommended for anyone in a

leadership position to attend.

Agenda review - additions/changes Motion to approve with the addition of Ashtyn Sorenson

leaving council: Amy Ely. Second: Becky Overholser. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of minutes from September 15, 2025. Motion to approve: Amy Ely. Second: Bernita

Geving. All in favor-motion carried.

Pastor report: Pastor went over a packet of information for when she is on leave. We were

given pulpit supply and emergency contact information, nominating committee needs, budget

and dedicated fund considerations, and mission and ministry. Pastor has done preliminary

checking into background check services. We will try to identify other companies/services.

Motion to approve a holiday fundraiser with proceeds going to the 40 th Anniversary celebration:

Amy Ely, Second: Becky Overholser. All in favor, motion carried. Treasurer's report - Financial Statement review.

See Treasurers report for additional details.

Motion to approve: Amy Ely. Second: Bernita Geving. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills to be paid – Motion to approve with the transfer of \$1,038.50 from General to Building

Fund: Amy Ely. Second: Sue Edstrom. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS -

Dave Overholser and Keith Edstrom volunteered to shovel the main walk, fellowship walk and

the emergency doors this winter.

Adam Johnson volunteered to plow the parking lot again this year.

Committee Updates:

Worship- Preparing for a Baptism on Sunday and All Saints Day on November 2 nd.

Fellowship - Annual Advent Holiday Potluck and Ornament exchange scheduled for Dec. 6 th.

Planning a themed potluck fellowship for "National Minnesota Day" March 1st

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) - Collections for Op-

boxes are due Nov. 11 th . Reverse Advent Calendars will be distributed in December with food

donations going to our Little Pantry. October noisy offering will be going to Global Health,

November: MN Veterans Action Council, December: LSS Youth Services Mankato (formerly

Reach Center)

Property and Stewardship St. Peter Glass came and looked at the seal issue with the large

stained-glass window in the Sanctuary. We will be getting another opinion/quote from Hamel

Glass Madison Lake. The mason contacted for that issue was unavailable so Marlyn and Cole Mosher will fill with foam for the winter until the bricks can be

replaced. Toilets in the women's bathroom will be addressed and either replaced or repaired. Outside

faucets and hoses will be

winterized. Signs for Christmas have been marked and ready to go

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to activate Nominating committee of Kari Severson and Katie Sieberg: Amy Ely.

Second: Sue Edstrom. All in favor, motion carried. There will be 4 openings for next year's

council, 4 openings for counters, 1 more for audit team, and 2 Synod Assembly voting

members.

Each committee will need to submit a written report for the annual meeting before the

December Council meeting,

An individual has expressed interest in using one of our rooms for summer student tutoring.

More details will be obtained before making any final decisions.

Motion to declare Ashtyn Sorensen's council seat vacant: Sue Edstrom. Second: Amy Ely. All in favor motion carried.

Temple Talks: November: Tharan Leopold will be speaking on the Endowment Fund

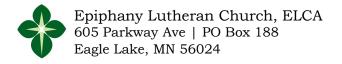
Next meeting date: November 17, 2025 Question & Treats: Dave Kerr

Adjourn and Close with Lord's Prayer

Motion to Adjourn: Becky Overholser. Second: Amy Ely.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Edstrom

Check AED - Pastor Sarah



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News Deadline

Sunday Bulletin: Noon on Wednesday

Newsletter: **December 16**

Contact Information

Epiphany Lutheran Church 605 Parkway Avenue | PO Box 188

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 Jan 4-Pastor Sarah returns from maternity leave

Schedule of Events

November 2-All Saints Sunday

November 3-Women's Bible Study

November 16-Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due

November 17-Committee & Council Meetings

November 23-Christ the King Sunday

Nov 24-Nov 30: No programs due to Thanksgiving

November 26-Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Resurrection Lutheran

November 30-Advent Begins

December 1-Women's Bible Study

December 4-Decorate for Advent and Christmas

December 15-Committee & Council Meetings

December 15-Committee & Council Meetings

December 19-Red Cross Blood Drive

Dec 22-Jan 4: No programs due to Christmas

December 24 @ 4:00pm-Christmas Eve Worship

Ian 4-Pastor Sarah returns from maternity leave

