



THE EPIPHANY STAR

APRIL 2024

Caring for God’s Gifts

Stewardship is not just a drive or an attitude or a focus for Christians, it is a way of life. As followers of Jesus we believe that all we have comes from God, and therefore, all we have does not belong to us but is on loan from the one who created it. This means we have an obligation to care for the things God has given us, including our time, our talents, our money, our skills, and so much more. Join us this spring as we take time in worship and community to ponder what it means to be stewards of all God has given us.

April 14-Guest Speaker: Rev. Emily Carson

Conference room | 10:15am

April 21-Congregational Meeting

Fellowship Hall | following worship

April 28-Caring for Our Greatest Gifts

Lead by Pastor Sarah | Conference room | 10:15am



New Member Class

Sunday, April 28 | 1:00-2:30pm

“We are growing to serve, with Christ as our Cornerstone” are the words of a hymn penned for our congregation. If you would like to learn more about what it means to be a member or associate member of our congregation, or if you intend to become a member of our congregation please join us for this brief time of fellowship and conversation around what it means to be a part of Epiphany Lutheran Church. Please RSVP to Pastor Sarah at epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com if you plan on attending.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 21 | following worship

All confirmed members are asked to join us for a brief congregational meeting where we will discuss and potentially vote on updates to our congregations constitution and bylaws. If you would like to see a copy of the complete documents, please contact the office. A summary of the changes can be found in this year’s annual meeting book.

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Weekly at Epiphany

Sunday
9:00am-Worship with Holy Communion
Fellowship Following worship
10:15am-Faith Formation

Monday
10:00am-Prayer Group
6:30pm-Adult Bible Study

Tuesday
9:30-10:30am S.A.I.L. Exercise Class

Wednesday
9:00am-Quilting
9:00am & 9:30am-Star Light Chapel
6:30pm-Confirmation

Thursday
9:30-10:30am S.A.I.L. Exercise Class
6:30pm-Choir rehearsal

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

View Online Worship on
our Facebook page



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

100th ANNIVERSARY
 Ingham + Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

Vacation Bible School

For students that have completed kindergarten through 5th grade. We join with Lutheran Churches around the area for this great week! Scan the QR code to register.

Women's Bible Study Monday, April 8 at 11:30am

Bring a lunch and join us as we dig into the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi. Women of all ages are welcome to join us! Please note we are meeting the second Monday this month, due to Easter.

Monday Night Bible Study-Acts Mondays at 6:30pm

This is a great time to join as we continue our study of the book of Acts. A zoom link is available if you would like to join us remotely!

We will NOT meet on Monday, April 1 (Easter break) or 15 (due to committee/council meetings).



Prayer Group | Mondays @ 10:00am

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



Each week we gather to share prayer concerns, study what scripture says about prayer, pray for one another, and pray for our congregation. You are always welcome to join this encouraging group!

“As We Gather Together”

**Women of the ELCA
Minnesota River Conference
Saturday, April 20th, 2024
Zion Lutheran Church**

211 E Robinson St., Lake Crystal
8:00 am-Registration, displays/Vendors,
Coffee and Fellowship
9:00 am-Program
12:30 pm-Lunch

Presentation: Pastor Nancy Hansen
Registration Fee \$15.00 Checks payable to: SE MN
Synod women of the ELCA

Please send registration by April 6th to:
Karen Myers,
PO BOX 330
Lake Crystal, MN 56055
(507)720-1214
kmmyers73@gmail.com

UnFinished Object (UFO) Saturday April 13th

Do you have any unfinished objects or projects? Bring them to the church to get them done! Doors open at 8:00am and close at 9:00pm. Bring a lunch or grab a bite from a restaurant. Cost is \$20 per person for an 8 foot table.





He Is Risen Indeed!

Friends in Christ,

Most likely, you will be reading this after we have gathered to celebrate Easter. Easter brings to the forefront the profound truth that defines our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of rejoicing, of celebration, and of renewal. Just as Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave, we are called to live our lives in the light of His victory, experiencing the transformative power of His resurrection every day.

The hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (ELW 365) encapsulates the essence of this glorious truth. With joyful praise, it proclaims the triumph of our Savior over sin and death. Each verse resounding with the assurance of Christ's victory and the promise of new life:

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!*

These words remind us that Easter is not merely a historical event to be commemorated once a year, but a living reality that shapes our present and our future. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, the foundation upon which we build our lives as His followers.

So, what does it mean to live in light of the resurrection?

First, it means embracing the hope that springs eternal from the empty tomb. In a world that is so often clouded by despair and uncertainty, the resurrection reminds us that God's love is stronger than any darkness. No matter what challenges we face, we can trust in the promise of new beginnings and ultimate victory in Christ: victory over everything the world says defines us, including our death.

Secondly, living in light of the resurrection calls us to

embody the transformative power of God's grace in our daily lives. As people redeemed and transformed, we are called to reflect God's love and grace to the broken world around us. No matter your vocation, your relationship status, or your bank account balance, God has given you gifts to offer the world on his behalf, that

all may come to know the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Living in light of the resurrection ought to compel us to share the good news of Christ's victory with others. Just as the women at the tomb ran to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen, so too are we called to be witnesses of His resurrection power in our homes, our communities, and beyond. Our lives are to

bear witness to the reality of the gospel, drawing others into the live-giving embrace of God's love.

As we journey through this Easter season, may we be renewed in our commitment to live as Easter people, embracing the power of Christ's resurrection in every aspect of our lives. Let us sing with joy and conviction:

*Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

May the reality of Christ's resurrection inspire and empower us to live each day with faith, hope, and love.

-Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Pastor Sarah will be out of the office April 2-April 7.

Pastor Sarah may be available by phone. However, in the event of a pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Dan Kordahl at 1-785-764-9909.





HOLIDAY HOURS

Star Light Early Learning Center will be closed the following days:

Friday, March 29 (Good Friday)

Monday, April 1 (Easter Observation)

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH-KATELYN JENSEN

Katelyn is our lead teacher in the toddler room

Here is what Katelyn's co-workers and the Star Light Board had to say about her!



- She came in early when we were short staffed.
- She is organized and puts in a lot of effort into making her classroom run smoothly.
- Even in her first week, she was prepared, asking questions, and bonding with staff, students, and families.
- Her love for Jesus shows in her teaching.
- She is so patient with those little kids!
- She is good to work with.

APRIL Bloomin' Everywhere

Letter	Number	Shape	Color
Ww Uu	17 18	Rhombus 	purple

Summer/Fall 2024 Registration

We have begun receiving inquiries about our fall and summer availability. We are also in the process of figuring out what our availability will be for this summer and fall. To receive more information about enrolling a child at Star Light, contact our director, Kathy Goebner, at teachepiphanykids@gmail.com.



We are hiring!

Our are looking to add a full-time, experienced preschool teacher to our team! If you or someone you know is interested, please send your resume and cover letter to teachepiphanykids@gmail.com.

A Preschool Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Please show me how to spend this day
Sharing your LOVE in every way
Help me to be kind to everyone
To play and laugh and have lots of fun
Shining your light and giving your grace
Sharing your JOY with a smile on my face!
Amen.

**Next Star Light Board Meeting:
April 16, 2024 at 6:00pm**

Star Light Early Learning Center

507-257-3502
teachepiphanykids@gmail.com
starlightearlylearningcenter.com





VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

We are so thankful for the faithfulness of Areanna Arndt!

This young lady is involved in our Confirmation program, serves as an acolyte, sings in Epiphany's choir, and has shared her musical talents through special music. Areanna, along with her brother, Sheldon, attend worship most weeks and are great participants in Pastor Sarah's Children and Teen Messages. We are blessed to have this beautiful young lady and her family at Epiphany!

Nominate someone you see going above and beyond on behalf of our congregation! Email staff.elca@gmail.com.

A NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CONNECTIONS SHELTER

You are invited to join the Evangelism, Education, and Outreach committee in serving a meal at Connections Shelter on May 1. We need 4-6 volunteers to pick up the food, and then serve it to those staying at Connections Shelter. If you would like to financially support this meal, or provide a Thrivent Action Grant, please speak with Pastor Sarah. Learn more at connectionsshelter.org.

Connections Mission Statement: In response to Jesus' command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and to love your neighbors as yourself" (Matthew 22:27, 29) Connections Ministry is committed to walking with our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Connections Vision Statement: Walking with individuals and families experiencing homelessness by extending a radical welcome that provides dignity, shelter, and community.

Connections serves all genders and all family compositions. They have 22 beds for men and 18 beds for women/families. Connections partners with those staying in the shelter to help with job searches, connecting to housing resources, seeking treatment, and providing a safe space to debrief.



SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: MARCH

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Greeter	Carol Regnier	Keith & Sue Edstrom	Kari Severson	Colleen Hall
Reader	Duane Anderson	Tia Graton	Lisa Nagel	Katie Sieberg
Communion Servers	Lisa Nagel & Linda Arndt	Duane Anderson & Terry Johnson	Dave & Becky Overholser	Beth Rossow & Amy Ely
Ushers	Duane Anderson & Jane Carter	Winnis Buesing & Mary Garoutte	Joe Fisher & Dean Nagel	Tom Wellner & Bob Brunz
Acolyte/ Power Point	Harvey	Areanna	Jager	Eli
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	Tia Graton & Colleen Hall
Altar Guild	Patty Adams & Linda Arndt	Patty Adams & Linda Arndt	Becky Overholser & Colleen Hall	Becky Overholser & Colleen Hall
Fellowship	Colleen Hall, Kathy Gerdes, Dawn Braam & Deloris Mosher	Winnis Buesing, Dave & Becky Overholser, Joel & Donna Nielsen	Lisa Nagel, Bernadette Matthies, Sieberg Family	Patty Adams, Beth Rossow, Linda Arndt



March 18, 2024 Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Kari Severson

Devotion – Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Prayerful preparation – Joel Nielsen

Opening question – Korey Leiferman

Agenda review – Laurie Gerdes made a motion to approve the agenda with addition of Congressional meeting and Informational meeting time. Becky Overholser seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Pastor’s report – Boy Scouts no longer meeting here, found a different location closer to more members. Cub Scout Troop might be starting in Eagle Lake. If so, meetings would start in the fall. Pastor Sarah will be gone April 7, we have pulpit supplied lined up.

Approval of minutes from February 19, 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.

Amy Ely made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Korey Leiferman 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 \$1,113.50 to cover February’s shortfall, Katie Sieberg seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Preschool Report – No report this month. Meeting 3/19/24.

OLD BUSINESS

Congregational meeting on 4/21/2024 to vote for Constitution and Bylaws. Need to remember to announcement for 2 weeks in the bulletin.

Committee Members update

Worship – Talked about what they are serving for Scraftin’ Brunch on Saturday. Also talked about decorating for Easter services.

Fellowship – Easter continental breakfast.

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) – Serve meal for Connections Ministry on Wednesday, May 1. Brainstorm ideas for Memorial Day. Had an idea to have “Coffee with the Council”. Time for new members to meet and talk with council members, also talked about a council outreach. Promote at parade and hold in the fall sometime.

Property and Stewardship – Looked at concrete crack on the sidewalk in front of the main entry. Dave and Marlyn will get a couple of bids for mud jacking and crack filling. Dave Kerr fixed the Women’s room stall divider in the West wing, and will fix the ladies room divider and tile in the Pre-school wing.

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you cards

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

Question: Marlyn Mosher

Adjourn and close with the Lord’s Prayer

Motion to adjourn by Korey Leiferman

Adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Sieberg

Check AED – Pastor Sarah



2023 Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 11 | 9:00am-5:30pm
 Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
 Mankato, MN

Epiphany Lutheran Church is a part of the ELCA, and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. The annual gathering for our synod is coming up, and we are allowed to take two voting members plus 1 additional youth or young adult. In order to get the early bird registration rate, **we must register by April 19**. If you are interested in attending this event with Pastor Sarah, please email her at epiphanygrowingfaith@gmail.com.

Stewardship Devotion

Read: Luke 24:13-35

Stewardship, in its simplest form, is the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. As followers of Christ, personal and household stewardship is crucial in responding to God's abundant grace.

Each of us has a unique story, and we are a part of a larger story that makes up our congregation, the ELCA, and the church that Jesus has established across the globe. In the Road to Emmaus story, it is at the household table where Christ is revealed and recognized, where hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. Recognizing God's story in our own story shapes our lives, identity, and choices. When we join with other individuals and households in making daily decisions rooted in the stories of our loving and benevolent God, the result is our increased capacity to give generously and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

The practice of generosity takes the support of an entire faith community. Living generously begins with the involvement of children and continues through every age and state of life.

Prayer: Generous God, you have given me all that I have, including salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ. Lead me, that I may share what you have given me with the world. Amen.

This devotion is adapted from an article at elca.org.

Financial Report from February 29, 2024

General Fund

For the Month:

Beginning Balance 2/1/2024	\$14,277
Monthly Receipts	12,594
Monthly Expenses	<u>(12,935)</u>
Ending Balance 2/29/2024	13,936

Year to Date:

Beg Balance 1/1/2024	14,087
Year-to-date Receipts	\$25,782
Year-to-date Expenses	<u>(\$25,934)</u>
Ending Balance 2/29/2024	\$13,936

Mortgage Fund

Beginning Balance 2/1/2024	\$3,784
Income	3,386
Expenses	<u>(\$3,386)</u>
Ending Balance 2/29/2024	\$3,784

Year-to-date Bldg Receipts	\$4,470
Year-to-date Add'l Income	\$200
Year-to-date Transfer from Gen	\$2,102
Year-to-date Bldg Expenses	<u>(\$6,772)</u>
Ending Balance 2/29/24	\$0

A new way to give!

It is now possible to give to Epiphany using PayPal. We encourage regular giving through our website, as the transaction fees are a bit lower. However, PayPal is a great option if you have not given in a while or for when you want to give to a special project but seldom carry cash.





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

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Schedule of Events

Women's Bible Study-April 8th

U.F.O. Saturday-April 13th

Committee Meetings & Council Meeting-April 15th

Conference WELCA Event-April 20th

Congregational Meeting-April 21st

New Member Class-April 28th

NEWS DEADLINE

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**

Newsletter: **March 15**

Secretary hours: **Tuesdays and
Wednesdays noon to 3:00pm**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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