



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

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News Deadline

Sunday Bulletin: **Noon on Wednesday**

Newsletter: **Tuesday, March 18**

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

Social Media

YouTube: @EpiphanyLutheranChurchMN

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Eagle Lake, MN

Schedule of Events

- March 3** Women’s Bible Study
- March 5** Ash Wednesday
- March 7** Friday Morning Prayer Services begin
- March 16** Youth Night
- March 28** Serve meal at Connections Shelter
- March 28 & 29** Scraftin’ Event



Epiphany Lutheran Church

“Reflecting God’s generosity by serving and caring.”



THE EPIPHANY STAR

MARCH 2025

Lent 2025



**everything
[in] between**

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

This year our Lenten series will envelop our time together in worship. We will be taking part in a series titled “Everything in Between”. On Sundays it will be reflected in our liturgy and on Wednesday evenings we will take time to reflect on artwork in the midst of Holden Evening Prayer. For more details on this series, see page 3.

See how Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Founder and Creative Director of *A Sanctified Art* introduces this series:

You may notice that this series includes many parables, one of Jesus’ favorite teaching tools. I have always loved parables because they root our faith in storytelling and metaphor. However, while working on this series, I have to admit that I sympathize with the frustration and confusion Jesus’ original listeners must have felt when they asked him a pointed question and he replied with a parable instead. We so deeply long for definition, right or wrong, this or that. We want straightforward answers, but that’s not exactly what Jesus gave us. Stories inherently hold nuance, complexity, and multiple layers of meaning—just like our lives do. And so, when I find myself grasping for clean-cut binaries and easy answers, I will look for the ways God might meet me in the spectrum in between. I will look for the promise that Jesus’ parables hold: there is good news that exists beyond my linear, one-track mind.

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Worship with us during Lent

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, in person or online.

Sundays at 9:00am

Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Beginning March 5

Fridays at 9:00am
Beginning March 7

You can find more information on Wednesday and Friday services on page 3.

Ash Wednesday is March 5

Community Meal: 5:30pm

Worship with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes: 6:30pm

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism.





Spring Scraftin' Fundraiser

Friday & Saturday March 28 & 29, 2025

Proceeds from this congregation fundraiser will be used in support of the General Fund. To make this event a success there are areas that we could use the help: serving meals to our attendees, set up before, clean up after the event, donating supplies or food. We are well known for our hospitality at this event. It's all because of you.

Cost to attend:

\$35 for Friday, (5 pm-11 pm)

\$45 for Saturday (8am -8pm)

\$60 for both Friday and Saturday.

Please contact Vickie Huebl at 380-8425 if you have any questions.



Youth Night

Sunday, March 16 from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Grades 6-12

Join us for a fun night of fellowship! Choose between a variety of card games, including Uno, SkipBo, Phase 10, or poker (just for fun, no money involved!). We will end the evening with a few rounds of *sardines*. An adult volunteer is needed!



Church Council Minutes

*Please note these minutes have not yet been approved by the church council

Members Present: Joel Nielsen, Amy Ely, Sue Edstrom, Becky Overholser, Bernita Geving, Dave Kerr, Ashtyn Sorensen, Marlyn Mosher
Members Absent: Laurie Gerdes, Korey Leiferman
Devotion – Pastor Sarah Deutsch
Prayerful Preparation – Joel Nielsen
Opening Question - Bernita Geving

Agenda review – additions/changes – Amy Ely made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Custodial position opening under Old Business
Second: Marlyn Mosher All in favor, motion carried

Pastor report: Written report from Pastor Sarah. Highlights: Councils as Leaders event 3/8 in Owatonna, so far, Pastor Sarah and Deb Lee will be attending. Being intentional during Lent. Firming up details on the upcoming plant sale. Endowment committee will meet when John returns. This years SE MN Synod will be electing a new Bishop at their annual conference.

Approval of minutes from January 21, 2025, Motion to approve: Bernita Geving
Second: Becky Overholser All in favor-motion carried

Treasurer's report - Financial Statement review. A motion was duly made, seconded, and approved that the ministry compensation paid to Rev, \$68,539 during the year 2025 includes a designated housing allowance in the amount of \$14,694.00. This amount shall remain in effect annually until amended or rescinded.

Base Pay = \$48,975

30% Housing = \$14,694

SS Allowance = \$4,870

Total Compensation = \$68,539

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 \$ 1,091 from General to Building Fund: Amy Ely Second: Marlyn Mosher All in favor, motion carried.

Pre-School Report: Marlyn is continuing to fix the walls. Building Opportunity Task force for exploring options for the Pre-School area members: Dave Kerr, Kari Severson, Kathy Gerdes, Ashtyn Sorensen, Jane Carter

OLD BUSINESS –
Custodial Position - Motion to approve offering the position to Ryan Jensen at the current rate of \$55/week:
Becky Overholser Second: Marlyn Mosher All in favor, motion carried.

Committee Updates:

Worship- Will be providing meals March 5th Ash Wednesday and March 29th for Scrapbooking event. Will be ordering palms and working on Easter flowers. Will be making lectionary change to the narrative 4-year cycle.

Fellowship – Preparing for potluck on 2/22, having a potluck on Palm Sunday instead of an Easter breakfast and will be signing up for a Lent dinner.

Evangelism, Education and Outreach (EEO) –Preparing for Potluck/bingo/raffle on 2/22. Their March event will be serving a meal at the Connections Center. Once a date is secured, they will be asking for volunteers. April will be stuffing Easter eggs. Noisy offering will continue for the Lutheran Disaster Relief. I item for the month of February for the Compassion corner is Gentlease formula for Feeding Every Baby

Property and Stewardship – Checking light in kitchen, getting bids for rekeying of building. They received 2 bids for the repair of the soffits and ceiling in the sanctuary.

Motion to accept bid from Mosher construction: Becky Overholser
Second: Ashtyn Sorensen All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - none

Next meeting date: March 17, 2025

Question: Becky Overholser

Thank-you cards

Adjourn and Close with Lord's Prayer
Motion to Adjourn – Ashtyn Sorensen Second –Marlyn Mosher

Respectfully submitted, Sue Edstrom

Check AED – Pastor Sarah
Action Items: Minutes from council meeting January 26, 2025

Sunday Mornings at 10:15am

Adult Study

Beginning March 9, Sunday morning adult study will dig into Martin Luther's Easter book, which are excerpts from Martin Luther's Easter sermons.

Grab your coffee and treats, and join us, each week, in the conference room!

Faith Formation

Students age 3-Grade 5

Join us as we sing, play, and learn together about how "every story whispers His name". During the season of Lent, Faith Formation students will dig into the same stories we heard during worship!

Monday Night

Adult Study

Want to deepen your understanding of key aspects of our Christian faith but not ready to commit to the full Adult Confirmation series (running now through June)? You're welcome to join us for any of the following units—or even just one night! Come as you're able and explore Scripture with us as we discuss our Christian (and Lutheran) faith together.

- The Apostles' Creed March 3,& 10
- The Lord's Prayer March 24, 31, April 7, 14
- Bible Basics April 28
- Christian Worship May 5, 12
- Sacraments June 2, 9

Women's Bible Study

Galatians: Accepted & Free

March 3 @ 11:30am

Bring your lunch, Bible, and workbook as we continue in our study of Galatians.

Epiphany Choir

Thursdays Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

All are invited to come sing with us! Reading music is not a requirement. During the season of Lent, we will rehearse on Wednesday evening following worship.

Quilters & Sewers

Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Would you like to learn more about how to share God's love and warmth by creating beautiful blankets and quilts? Come join us and be a bag lady (or guy)!



Financial Report as of January 31, 2025

General Fund	
For the Month:	
Beginning Balance 1/1/25	\$24,054
Monthly Receipts	\$11,380
Monthly Expenses	<u>(\$12,960)</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/25	\$22,474
Year to Date:	
Beg Balance 1/1/25	\$24,054
Year-to-date Receipts	\$11,380
Year-to-date Expenses	<u>(\$12,960)</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/25	\$22,474
Mortgage Fund	
Beginning Balance 1/1/25	\$3,784
Income	\$4,386
Expenses	<u>(\$4,386)</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/25	\$3,784
Year-to-date Bldg Receipts	\$2,195
Year-to-date Add'l Income	\$1,100
Year-to-date Transfer from Gen	\$1,091
Year-to-date Bldg Expenses	<u>(\$4,386)</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/25	\$0

Compassion Corner item of the month: Cleaning Supplies

These items will be donated to the REACH Resource Center. Please consider donating any of the following items. Items can be placed in the designated bin in the narthex.

- 13 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Disinfecting wipes
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Dish washer detergent
- Laundry detergent pods



The REACH Resource Center supports youth who are at risk, experiencing homelessness, or have run away. Since opening its doors in 2011, The REACH has served nearly 5,000 youth in the Mankato area.

Their mission is to create a safe, nonjudgmental place for young people that will empower and enhance their sense of self-reliance and community connection.

The REACH is a place where youth ages 16-24 can acquire the knowledge they need to be healthy, independent, and successful adults. Here, young people can look beyond their past and begin to plan for hopeful futures.

The REACH provides youth with a variety of services which center on each individual's needs. The REACH is operated by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

Electronic Giving Options



Epiphany Little Pantry

Each month, the funds collected during the noisy offering will support a different organization. In March, all noisy offering donations will go to the Epiphany Little Pantry.

The Epiphany Little Pantry stands in the parking lot of Epiphany Lutheran Church and is available 24/7/365 to anyone who needs it, no questions asked. We strive to provide a variety of foods including cereal, canned and prepackaged meats, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, fruits, vegetables, and even some hygiene items such as toilet paper and toothpaste. Volunteers stop nearly every day to assure that the pantry is stocked for those who need it. This ministry is supported by the generosity of our congregation and community.



What is "Lent"?

As we enter the season of Lent, it is good to take time to reflect on its meaning and significance in the life of the Church. Lent is a 40-day season (excluding Sundays) of repentance, prayer, and preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and leads us to the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

humility before God while also pointing to Jesus as our King, the one who would wear a crown of thorns on His way to the cross. Just as purple has historically been a color of nobility, in Lent, it calls us to honor Christ as the suffering yet victorious King.

During Lent, we remember Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). It is a time for self-examination, turning away from sin, and drawing closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of love and service. While some choose to give up certain comforts as a form of discipline, the heart of Lent is not about our sacrifice—it is about Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.

Lent culminates in Holy Week, the most solemn and significant time in the Church year. Beginning with Palm Sunday, we follow Jesus' journey to the cross—from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His Last Supper with His disciples, His agony in Gethsemane, and His suffering and death on Good Friday. But Lent does not end in sorrow. Rather, it leads us to the joy of Easter morning, when the tomb is empty, and Christ is risen!

In worship, you may notice the color purple adorning the altar and vestments. Purple is the traditional liturgical color for Lent because it symbolizes both repentance and royalty. It reminds us of our need for

The journey of Lent prepares our hearts to fully embrace the hope and victory we have in our risen Savior.

Peace be with you during this sacred time.

Scriptures & Themes for our Lenten Series

everything [in] between: meeting God in the midst of extremes

Ash Wednesday March 5	Week of March 9	Week of March 16	Week of March 23	Week of March 30	Week of April 6
Luke 9:51-62	Luke 10:25-37	Luke 10:28-43	Luke 13:6-9	Luke 15:1-7	Luke 19:1-10
Jesus sets out for Jerusalem	Parable of the Good Samaritan	Mary & Martha host Jesus	Parable of the fig tree	Parable of the lost sheep	Zacchaeus greets Jesus
intention & action	stranger & neighbor	faith & works	rest & growth	lost & found	righteousness & mercy

Worship with us during Lent!

Wednesdays at 6:30pm: Mid-week Worship (begins Wednesday, March 5)

Each Wednesday evening we will sing Holden Evening Prayer and dive deeper into our "in between" themes first introduced on Sunday mornings. Worship is preceded by a meal that begins at 5:30pm in the Community Room and is followed by choir rehearsal and confirmation.

Fridays at 9am: Morning Prayer with Holy Communion (begins Friday, March 7)

Join us on Friday morning during lent for a 25-minute contemplative prayer service—a peaceful time of reflection, Scripture, and quiet prayer. In the midst of a busy season, set aside this moment to draw near to God, center your heart, and journey toward the cross with Christ. All are welcome to this time of stillness and renewal.

Sundays at 9am: Worship with Holy Communion

Our theme, "Everything In Between," invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed as we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross.



Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Greeter	Terry Johnson & Tom Wellner	Colleen & Dale Hall	Joel & Donna Nielsen	Linda Arndt	Keith & Sue Edstrom
Reader	Kari Severson	Deb Lee	Kathy Gerdes	Dave Overholser	Duane Anderson
Communion Servers	Duane Anderson, Becky Overholser	Donna Nielsen Amy Ely	Lisa Nagel Colleen Hall	Deb Lee Linda Arndt	Beth Rossow Winnis Buesing
Ushers	Amy Ely, Jane Carter	Laurie & Kathy Gerdes	Dean Nagel Ray Weber	Winnis Buesing Mary Garoutte	Joe Fisher Bob Brunz
Acolyte/Slides	Gavin	Harvey	Grace	Areanna	Gavin
Open/Close	Bernita Geving & Ashtyn Sorenson	Laurie Gerdes 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	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner
Altar Guild	Susan Brunz & Carol Regnier	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Kathy Gerdes Cheryl Wellner	Patty Adams Linda Arndt	Patty Adams Linda Arndt
Fellowship	Kari Severson, Linda Arndt, Mark & Beth Rossow	Deb & Brian Fingerson, Marlyn & Teresa Mosher, Bob & Susan Brunz	Ray & Sarah Weber, Carol Krueger	Patty Adams, Keith & Sue Edstrom,	Bruce & Katie Sieberg, Deloris Mosher, Dawn Braam

March Volunteer of the Month

This month we want to thank Deb Lee for all of the ways she uses her gifts at Epiphany. Though new to the congregation, Deb has used her knowledge of technology to help us make major upgrades to the technology used in our worship space. Deb also shares her love for Jesus and knowledge of scripture by teaching Sunday morning adult study and occasionally leading and preaching in worship. Deb serves on the worship committee and is a wonderful scripture reader and helps serve communion. Thank you for the ways you share Christ's love at Epiphany, Deb!

Help serve a meal at Connections Shelter

Friday, March 28 from 5:45-7:30pm

Connections shelter is a low barrier emergency shelter in Mankato. They house men, women, and families. They have a 45 bed capacity. Every night, a meal is provided by members of the community for all guests and staff. Sign up on the Happenings Board to serve this amazing ministry!

Connections also operates a Drop-in Center Monday through Friday from 10am to 3pm. The drop-in center helps those in need by providing CE assessments, referrals, computer access and WiFi, a phone line, snacks and frozen meals, toiletries, and a resource board.

Connections Ministry began as a coalition of downtown churches in Mankato, coming together to best serve those in the community seeking assistance and resources.

Connections Ministry 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 neighbor as yourself," (Matthew 22:27, 29) Connections Ministry is committed to walking with our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

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



The Many Opposites of Grief

Grief is one of the most universal human experiences, and yet it remains one of the hardest to put into words. It comes in many forms—mourning the death of a loved one, lamenting broken dreams, or aching for something that can never be again. Grief is not just an emotion; it's a weight that presses on the soul, sometimes so heavy that it's hard to breathe.

If grief is so powerful, what is its opposite? That is the question I find myself asking in a season where I know so many people who are in the throws of grief. Unlike other emotions that have a clear counterpart—happiness to sadness, fear to courage—grief is more complicated. In fact, when I try to define its opposite, at least six different things come to mind. And in His great love for us, Jesus brings each of these things into the midst of our grief.

1. Joy

One might say the opposite of grief is joy, a deep and abiding happiness that seems to stand in contrast to sorrow. While grief can make joy seem far away, Jesus promises that joy will return. Psalm 30:5 reminds us, "Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes with the morning." The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate proof of this—what seemed to be the darkest grief on Good Friday became the greatest joy on Easter morning. Jesus does not erase grief, but He assures us that joy is never lost forever.

2. Peace

For many, grief is marked by turmoil, a sense that nothing is right anymore. In that case, perhaps the opposite of grief is peace. Jesus offers this peace in a way that the world cannot: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27). This peace does not necessarily take away grief, but it allows us to rest in God's presence even when sorrow lingers.

3. Comfort

Grief often leaves us feeling alone, as if no one can truly understand our pain. That's why another opposite of grief could be comfort. Isaiah 61:1-2 foretells that the Messiah will "bind up the broken-hearted" and "comfort all who mourn." Jesus fulfills this promise in His ministry, drawing near to the grieving, from the widow of Nain to Mary and Martha at Lazarus's tomb. He is our comforter, not by

taking away grief, but by being with us in it.

4. Hope

Perhaps the opposite of grief is hope—the belief that things will not always be as they are now. Grief can feel like a final chapter, but Jesus assures us that it is not. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 tells us that we do "not grieve as others do who have no hope." Because of Jesus' resurrection, we know that life and love are not truly lost, but will be restored in Him.

5. Celebration

Grief often leads us into remembrance, and sometimes the opposite of grief is not forgetting but celebrating. This is why we gather at funerals—not just to mourn, but to give thanks for the life that was lived. Jesus shows us how to celebrate even in the face of loss. At the Wedding at Cana Jesus extended the celebration when others thought it was over. He invites us to do the same, finding reason to celebrate even when our hearts are heavy.

6. Love

At its core, grief is a reflection of love. We grieve deeply because we have loved deeply. If that is true, then perhaps the opposite of grief is not the absence of sorrow but the presence of love. And in Jesus, we find the perfect love that never ends. Romans 8:38-39 assures us that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Love remains, even when loss seems unbearable.

Jesus Brings Them All

The beauty of Jesus' presence in our grief is that He does not bring just one of these things—He brings them all. He does not demand that we stop grieving, but He meets us in our sorrow and gently leads us toward each of these gifts in His time.

If you are grieving today, know that Jesus is with you. He does not rush you through grief, nor does He expect you to find just one way to heal. Instead, He walks beside you, offering joy, peace, comfort, hope, celebration, and love, in the exact way you need it. And in Him, we find not just one opposite of grief, but a full and abundant life beyond it.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Sarah

CHURCH COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

Joel Nielsen (President)	507-351-4721	maverick30us@gmail.com	Meeting Night Monday, March 17 Committees meet at 6:00pm Church Council meets at 7:00pm Meal provided by the Property & Stewardship committee
Amy Ely (Vice President)	507-381-5016	asvkely@gmail.com	
Sue Edstrom (Secretary)	507-317-4672	skedstrom@gmail.com	
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