Election of Council Members

During the December Council meeting the following were elected as follows:

Council President: Ellis Baggs
Council Vice President: Leigh Dunavant
Council Secretary: Allyson Waller
Treasurer: Georgianna Hahn
Financial Secretary: Ray Spletzer

We wish to thank those who have served on council who will finish their terms on January 31. Phil Card, Susan Freeze and Mark Umbach.

If you would like to see the Council Monthly Minutes they can be found on the bulletin board in the Commons.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is on February 22 - Services begin at Noon and 7 pm.

On Ash Wednesday and the five following Wednesdays of Lent, services will be held at 12 Noon (followed by a light lunch) and at 7 pm (preceded by a 5:30 pm supper).

UNITED LUTHERAN APPEAL

The United Lutheran Appeal is a way you can contribute to eight Virginia Synod agencies and institutions that educate and minister to the needs of more than 100,000 people across the synod.

It is a contribution that can change a life. Among those served by these ministries are the sick, the aged, prisoners, families in trouble, college students, inner-city youth, candidates for the ministry, people in need of counseling, and many others. This is not simply a way you can nurture our very exceptional agencies. This is a way you can become the hands of Christ through acts of generosity and compassion.

These agencies will be strengthened through your generosity:

• Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center
• Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia
• Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center
• Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
• Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
• The National Lutheran Home & Village
• Roanoke College
• Virginia Lutheran Homes

Making a difference today.

Together.

United Lutheran Appeal
Virginia Synod, ELCA
HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

**Take Them A Meal** is a service this ministry provides for church members. It is a wonderful service but only if used by the members and only if members donate their time and talents taking meals to those in need. Very favorable responses have been voiced by those who have received meals.

Reasons to request meals:
- Home maker is ill or had surgery.
- Birth of a baby and parents need help the first week or longer

How to arrange for meals:
- Call the church office and give information OR
- Call Peggy Roberts at 804-248-8291

Meal decisions:
- How long meals will be needed?
- How many times a week?
- Any food allergies/food dislikes?
- Number of persons to be fed, including age of children

After information is gathered, the church office then sends out the email to the congregation (with email addresses).

Any further questions get in touch with Peggy Roberts

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**Wednesday Evening Meals**

Continuing in February, all are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and faith each Wednesday beginning with dinner (February 1 - 15 at 5:45 pm & February 22 - March 28 at 5:30 pm). Choir rehearsals, Discipleship Groups, Bible Studies and Confirmation classes are offered, and Lenten worship services begin at 7 pm on February 22.

Suggested donations for the evening meal are $5/adult and $3/child.

For the latest menu, check the church’s website at [www.epiphanyelca.org](http://www.epiphanyelca.org)

Please sign up in the Commons on Sunday or email the church office by Monday night at churchoffice@epiphanyelca.org

Watch for sign up sheets in the Commons or contact Beth Barger at 746-5756 to lend a hand with serving or clean up.

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**TEAM EPIPHANY**

It is not too late to Join Team Epiphany. Team Epiphany is a group of runners and walkers who are training for the Monument Avenue 10K on March 31, 2011. The group meets every Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at the Star Lodge. Novice, Intermediate and Advanced walkers and runners are welcome. No experience is necessary.

Even though the group has already started, there is still time for you to join! Contact Mark Schuetze at runmarkrun@gmail.com for further information. It is a fun, healthy and rewarding opportunity!
CHILDREN’S CHOIR REMINDERS
There is no rehearsal for Singing Saints on February 1! Cherub Choir WILL meet on February 1. Both the Cherub Choir and the Singing Saints will meet February 8, 15, 22 and 29. Please note that beginning February 22, rehearsals will begin at 6:15 and run until 6:45 due to Lenten worship services at 7:00 p.m. The Cherubs will participate in worship on February 19 and The Singing Saints will participate in worship on February 26. Junior Handbells will meet February 1 and 8 at 7:00 p.m. The group will participate in worship on February 12. This group does not meet during Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY CHOIR
Ash Wednesday is February 22. We will be having worship at noon and 7:00 p.m. For our 7:00 p.m. service, we will have a choir to assist in our worship. If you would be interested in joining the choir for a short term commitment, contact Kevin Barger or join us for rehearsal February 8 and 15. We will be learning the two anthems that will be used that evening during regularly scheduled choir rehearsals on these evenings. We will rehearse the Ash Wednesday pieces first so those wishing to leave may do so.

JUBILATION - REORGANIZING
We hope to reorganize a bit and bring back our Jubilation Choir. If you play the flute, please consider being a part of this group. We invite players of all ability levels. If you are interested, please contact Kevin at 746-5756 or kevinbarger@epiphanyelca.org to indicate your interest. We will provide more information regarding an introductory, organizational meeting soon.

COUNCIL CORNER
It has been my privilege to serve as Congregation President this past year. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers. I know that Ellis Baggs will serve well in this position this coming year and trust that you all will keep him and the Council in your prayers as well. It is a joy to work with these dedicated servants of our Lord. We are blessed with wonderful pastors, Chris and Phillip, our diaconal minister Christy, and a fantastic non-called staff. It’s already time to think about Synod Assembly, which is scheduled for June 8-10. If you would like to consider serving as a representative this year, please contact Ellis Baggs, your new Congregation President or Pastor Chris.

Blessings,
Caroline Wake, retiring Congregation President
THE DEVOTED WORK OF OUR CHURCH QUILTERS FOR LWR

Beautiful Work: Christ In One Another

By Jessica Katzenstein

Mother Teresa once said, “Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.” Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, you can create something beautiful and life-affirming: a Quilt that shows people in need that they are neither unloved nor forgotten.

In early January, LWR Mission Quilts found their way to Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa to care for the world’s most impoverished people. Missionary Sisters distributed Quilts – over 700 of them – at Prem Dan, a shelter for homeless and destitute women and men in Kolkata, India.

“The smiles of recipients were deeply inspiring and encouraging,” says Rakhi Bhattacharya, Lutheran World Relief’s Country Director in India. “[This distribution brought me much] faith in our work and what we do.”

LWR works with Missionaries of Charity through our longstanding partner, Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action. CASA requests 65,000 Quilts from LWR in an average year for distribution at orphanages, HIV/AIDS hospices and homes for the elderly.

LWR Quilts, stitched in love, brought joy and warmth to the residents of Prem Dan. They also represent a powerful connection between U.S. Lutherans and Mother Teresa’s inspiring ministry.

At Prem Dan, residents were very happy to receive the beautiful, colorful LWR Quilts. Many of them said, “Thank you, this will save me from the cold.”

With the products of your needle and thread, you can reach out to those in the greatest need and wrap them in comfort. You can show them that they are not alone. In the simple act of stitching a Quilt, you can touch lives, inspire hope and create change.

As Mother Teresa said, “There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in — that we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we try to do it as beautifully as possible.”

Through the beautiful gifts of LWR Mission Quilts, Lutherans live out these words every single day. Thank you!
Christina Dhir is a gerontologist at Lutheran Family Services of Va, Inc. She works with persons across the commonwealth with Geriatric Care Assessment and Information & Referral. There will be some “surprise” giveaways, so don’t miss out on this exciting and informational program.

Meal ($5/person): Manicotti, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread
Dessert: Cake

**BOOK DISCUSSION**
Join us Monday, February 20 at 10:30 am as we discuss: *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah.
Terry Price will lead our discussion.
We meet in the parlor for great reflections, fellowship and friendship.

February Baptism Birthdays
Vacation Bible School

We hope you plan to join us for Vacation Bible School this summer. Children ages 3 through rising 5th grade can participate with us July 23-27, 2012 from 8:45 am – 12 Noon. We will have a great water adventure as we float during the Flood, journey on the Mediterranean with Jonah, witness baptism in the Jordan river, fish in the Sea of Galilee, and wash in the Pool of Siloam.

If you would like to volunteer as a group guide, an activity site leader or youth helper, volunteer forms are now on the church’s website under the “forms” category. Youth going into 6th grade or older can volunteer.

Godparents for Tanzania—Sunday School Lenten Service Project

How can you improve the lives of children throughout the poorer areas of the world? There is so much need and there are so many problems. It is hard to know where to start or how to make a difference. Over 10% of these children who live in poverty say they need more food. However, almost 50% say the focus should be on education. They realize this is the key to long term solutions. They are hungry for education.

Sadly, for some children it is a luxury to be able to go to school. It seems like a farfetched dream to become a teacher or a doctor. You can help this dream come true, through a program called Godparents for Tanzania (G4TZ).

Pastor Dwayne Westermann started G4TZ program to help children receive the benefits of education. Over the years, it has helped pay for school buildings, educational equipment, and individual tuition scholarships. Epiphany’s Pastor Tom and Pamela Bosserman have made several trips to Tanzania. They have seen first hand the impact of the G4TZ dollars and transformation of people’s lives. Ask them about their experiences and they can tell you how the children don’t ask for food or money, they ask for paper and pencils. These children are hungry for education.

On Sunday, February 26, all Sunday School students will receive a Lenten coin bank. Lent is a good time for families to talk about the need of others and the ways each of us can make a difference. If each family fills those banks and makes a contribution, together we can send a Tanzanian student to school. G4TZ scholarship awards go to those who want to be teachers or doctors. We are able to make a farfetched dream become a reality.

This Sunday School project is being run by the Lil Youths, so during the season of Lent be on the lookout for signs, handouts and special collection jars. Check should be made payable to “Godparents for Tanzania.” For more information, please visit their website: http://www.Godparents4TZ.org.
Caring Conversations
The best way to be organized as a family is to hold weekly family discussions. By doing this, families enjoy a special closeness and stability. Choosing to spend time with your family sends a message more powerful than words. Memories made together during this time will bond and sustain your family through the years. Don't be discouraged if your discussions aren't perfect—no family's discussions are. Do your best and congratulate yourselves on participating in an activity that will bring your family closer together.
The family discussion should be an important part of every family's weekly schedule. Here are some suggestions for family discussions:
* Talk about upcoming events. Decide when family members can support one another by attending their activities.
* Plan one family activity. Remember to talk about all the details of the activity. This will include the date, time, meeting place, money and food needed, special clothes to be worn, etc. When conflicts arise, this family activity has highest priority.
* Discuss household chores, family problems, and anything a family member wants to talk about. This is a valuable opportunity each week to gather around and share feelings about the family. Anything that needs to be discussed can be shared at this time. It is very important that family members speak only positively, and allow the person talking to share her or his feelings in an atmosphere of empathy and caring. This is a time to voice concerns and suggestions for the good of the family.

Worship and Prayer
In honor of President’s Day (February 20), pray for President Obama, his advisors, and our nation.
Plan to attend worship on Ash Wednesday (February 22). Even children can understand the solemnity and power of the service and its symbolism.
When Lent begins, arrange six purple candles in the shape of a cross to observe the six weeks of Lent. Extinguish one candle a week to symbolize Good Friday’s approach; relight all of the candles on Easter.

Here are other community service project ideas with Valentine’s Day themes:
1. Create handmade cards and pass them out to the residents of a local nursing home on Valentine’s Day. Do a simple craft with the residents who are able to do them.
2. Make Valentines for a local homeless shelter that houses families. Include a small candy bag and a craft.
3. Make cookies, cupcakes, or a cake and decorate Valentines. Then take them to the local Fire Station or Police Station to thank them for their service.

Rituals and Traditions
1. New Life: As Lent begins, help your children plant crocus, daffodil, or hyacinth bulbs in a bowl of sand, covering halfway. Leave in a dark closet for two months, keeping soil moist (a process known as forcing bulbs). When shoots appear, let them bask in the sun. Don't forget to leave one bulb unplanted as a reminder of how they began.
2. Devotions: Lent can be a time of family focus on the meaning of the Christian life. You may want to commit to a regular pattern of family worship - daily, weekly, or whenever you can. Or you may post Bible verses, especially the words of Jesus, on the refrigerator, bathroom mirrors, wherever a busy family is sure to see them. Talk about them at dinner or on the way to school - especially how verses apply to events in our daily lives.
3. Giving up: Traditionally, especially in Europe, during Lent there were no weddings, no dancing, no singing. No flowers or alleluias in churches. Some families may find spiritual value in giving up something for Lent - television, sweets, video games - not as a penance, but as an outer symbol of dying to self during a season of spiritual reflection.
ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School Hour

The Church During the Week: Ministries of the Virginia Synod Ever wonder what role the church plays Monday through Saturday? In early February, we will continue to meet people who do the church’s work beyond the walls of Epiphany. We meet in the Fellowship Hall.
February 5—The Rev. Paul Hendrickson, Roanoke College
February 12—Caroline Furnace Camp & Retreat Center

Living the Christian Life: A Look at Christians throughout the Ages During February and March we will examine the lives of influential Christians from the beginning of the Church to the present age. From Paul and the first missionaries to Polycarp; the Desert Fathers & Mothers to St. Benedict; those of Assisi and Siena; John Hus, Luther & other Reformers; Bonheoffer to Mother Teresa, we will look at how these great Christians have loved as God wants us to love.

Weekly Studies

Tuesday Morning Bible Study & Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Join us at 10:30 am on Tuesday mornings, in the Chapel, or 6:30 pm Wednesday evenings in the Parlor for the story of Jonah.

Call Him Savior—New Study Starts February 21 & 22 on Tuesdays at 10:30am and Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Call Him Savior examines the Revised Common Lectionary Bible readings for Lent. A key part of living and passing on the faith is to hear and remember the stories of the Lenten season. It is tempting to bypass the somber notes of Lent and rush straight from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning. “Alleluias” sing easier than “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Yet the impact of an empty tomb is most fully experienced when witnessed against the passion of Jesus. In this study, you are offered the opportunity to reflect on Jesus as Savior. You will remember the power and the sacrifice of God’s love through the Incarnation of Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross. Celebrate the gift of salvation and new life in the resurrection and remember these stories, while reclaiming what it means to call Jesus your Savior.

Thursday morning—Mom’s Bible Study—New Study Philippians
It's easy to be happy when things go well for you. But what would it be like to have a sense of joy that continued even in times of trouble? Such was the deep joy that the apostle Paul experienced—even in prison. His contentment was neither dependent on circumstances nor changed by difficulty. In his brief letter to the Philippians, Paul will show you too how to live joyfully in every situation. The nursery opens at 9:15 and the study begins promptly at 9:30.

Devotions for Lent

Ash Wednesday starts the season of Lent on February 22. Starting Sunday, February 19 devotions will be available in the Commons for you to pick up and use during this season.
Epiphany Youth Group News
+ February 2012 +
Epiphany Youth Group is a ministry for and of youth in grades 7-12.

Sunday Gathering
February 12: 12-2pm
Grades 7-12, in the Star Lodge
Lunch included. Bring a friend!

BIBLE STUDIES
7th and 8th grade: Feb 8 and 15
7:00-8:15pm in the Star Lodge
High School: Thurs, Feb 9 and
Tues, Feb 21
7:30 - 9:00pm in the Star Lodge

“The Hunger Rumble”
What is it? An overnight, lock-in event held by RALY (Richmond Area Lutheran Youth) that raises awareness of global and local hunger issues
When: from 7:00pm on Friday, Feb 24 to 1:00pm, Saturday, Feb 25
Where: Epiphany Lutheran Church
We will fast (refrain) from eating all through Friday night and Saturday morning as a way of experiencing together what many communities live with every day. At Saturday lunch we will “break the fast” with a simple meal after performing brief service projects. Drinks are allowed! Each youth participant is asked to bring one bottle of juice to share! Cost: $5.00

Timothy Ministry Meeting: Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00pm
in the Star Lodge

Photos from “Christ in Our City” on January 16. On Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, 15 Epiphany Youth and 2 adults divided into 2 groups to perform service projects—one at the North Richmond YMCA (above) and another at the CARITAS furniture bank on the South Side (left). Senior Ryan Schwertz describes his experience below.

“I have to say getting up early on my day off wasn’t the most exciting thing in the world. But as soon as we reached the CARITAS furniture bank, I knew that this was going to be fun. Ian and I split off to go build a table, and after many re-dos and effort we managed to finally complete it. It was gratifying to see that the work we put in would make a family's house a home with the new addition of a kitchen table. [Later,] while moving some headboards out of the truck, Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones appeared to say hello and thanks. Showing that he cared about what we were doing made all of us, especially me, feel proud of the fact that we were helping out people in need. All in all, I learned that a smile on someone's face is all the thanks that one needs.”
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### Notes:
- **EPIPHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**
- **Sunday**
- **Monday**
- **Tuesday**
- **Wednesday**
- **Thursday**
- **Friday**
- **Saturday**

- **Transfiguration of our Lord**
- **8:30 am Worship**
- **9:30 Epiphany Ringers**
- **9:30 Blood Pressure Readings, Parlor**
- **9:45 Sunday School**
- **11:00 am Holy Communion**
  - Noon — Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **February 2012**

- **Hunger Rumble Rally Event, Fellowship Hall, Star Lodge—Weekend**
- **9am-noon Quilters, Fellowship Hall**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **6pm Heidi Michelsen Circle**
- **7:30pm High School Bible Study**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **11:30 am Men’s Luncheon**
- **10:00am Margaret Miller Circle**
- **10:30am Bible Study, Chapel**
- **11:00 Healing/Holy Communion Service, Chapel**
- **5:45pm Evening Meal**
- **6:30pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:30pm Cherub Choir**
- **7:00pm Confirmation**
- **7:00pm Jr. Handbells**
- **7:00pm Timothy Ministry Mtg**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **6:00pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:30 pm Sing Saints/Cherub Choir**
- **7:00 pm Jr. Handbells**
- **7:15 pm Chancel Choir**
- **7:00pm 7/8 graders Bible Study**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **6:00pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:30 pm Sing Saints/Cherub Choir**
- **7:00 pm Jr. Handbells**
- **7:15 pm Chancel Choir**
- **7:00pm 7/8 graders Bible Study**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **5:30pm Lenten Evening Meal**
- **6:00pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:15 pm Sing Saints/Cherub Choir**
- **8:00 pm Chancel Choir**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **5:45pm Evening Meal**
- **6:30pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **7:00pm Confirmation**
- **7:15 pm Chancel Choir**
- **7:00pm 7/8 graders Bible Study**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **5:30pm Lenten Evening Meal**
- **6:00pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:15 pm Sing Saints/Cherub Choir**
- **8:00 pm Chancel Choir**
- **9:15am Mom’s Bible Study, Chapel**
- **5:30pm Lenten Evening Meal**
- **6:00pm Bible Study, Parlor**
- **6:15 pm Sing Saints/Cherub Choir**
- **7:40 pm Chancel Choir**

**Legend:**
- **5:** 8:30 am Worship
- **9:** 9:30 Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:30 Blood Pressure Readings, Parlor
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **12:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
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- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
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- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
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- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
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- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **19:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **20:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **21:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **22:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **23:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **24:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **25:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **26:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **27:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **28:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **29:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **30:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
- **31:** 8:30 am Holy Communion
- **9:** 9:30 am Epiphany Ringers
- **9:** 9:45 Sunday School
- **11:** 11:00 am Holy Communion
- **Noon:** Youth Gathering, Lodge
Students and staff really enjoy this month of school. We begin making Valentines on Feb. 1 in our art centers with various materials and a lot of paste. We play “post-office” in the imagination stations, we deliver mail, we sing and dance to Valentine music and read Valentine stories until Feb. 14 when our classes celebrate the holiday by making a very special treat/snack with their teachers and contributing to a special valentine art project. Our staff makes homemade valentines for all of our students at ELNS and we look forward to the Valentine exchange of cards not only with our classes but the entire student body.

February is a busy month with registration starting for the 2012-13 year. We are already receiving calls from the community asking if we have space for their children next year. Information regarding dates and fees will be posted on the web site. Registration opens to church members first, then to our families currently registered here at ELNS. The last week of February we will open registration up to the community. Fees for next year will be available soon.

March 4-10, 2012, is Lutheran Schools Week. More than 1,700 early childhood centers, elementary and high schools operated by churches in the ELCA will observe that week with activities and programs celebrating their service to children, the community, and the church. Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School also will celebrate that week with staff, students and their parents, the community, and our pastors and members of Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church. Lutheran Schools Week is one way to announce we are here and ready to work with our neighbors for quality education and safe environments for every child. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is made up of 4.3 million members in over 10,000 congregations in the United States and the Caribbean. The ELCA is the sixth largest protestant denomination in the United States. Lutheran congregations were among the first faith based groups to develop child care, daycare and preschool programs. Our Nursery School is currently working towards receiving accreditation through the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA).

I know that this congregation is full of people who have many things they can teach our children. I invite quilters, knitters, local fire fighters, police officers, nurses, doctors, dentists, dance instructors, art instructors, the list can go on and on of talents and hobbies that you can share with our children during Lutheran Schools Week. “Fixer-Uppers” like Jim A. and Richard A. know many of our curious ELNS students and the genuine interest shown and numerous questions that are asked when plumbers, electricians, painters, or locksmiths are in the Education Wing (M-F). I would also like to invite church members to sign up to be “Mystery Readers” in our classes that week. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Nursery School Bulletin Board on February 15 for church members to sign up as a “Mystery Reader”. Please call me at (804) 282-7506 or email me at elns_73@yahoo.com if you would like to share your hobby, career, or talents with our students that week. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Feb. 9 and 10 from 8:30am to 12:30 pm. The Nursery School and the Nursery School Office will be closed on Feb. 20 for President’s Day.

Submitted by
Kathryn Sowers
Director of ELNS
COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY

**February Food Drive:** Epiphany will be collecting food, non-food and monetary donations for the LAMB’s Basket pantry in February. Empty grocery bags will be handed-out with an attached list of suggested donation items after each service on Sunday, February 12th. A display providing more details will be in the Commons.

**HHOPE (Helping Hands Outreach Pantry of Epiphany)**

This ministry was established to provide assistance to individuals in need within the church congregation and staff as well as those in need in the neighborhoods around the church property. Local families served by Lutheran Family Services are also given aid through the pantry. In addition, residents in need within the Richmond metro area who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or use a mobility aid are helped.

Recently, there has been a change in the leadership of Epiphany’s pantry and it is in the process of reorganizing. Anyone who would like to help in some way with this ministry is welcome. If you are interested or would like more details, please contact the church office and/or go to the church web site.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**Easter Baskets:** Epiphany will be coordinating the collection of filled Easter Baskets for needy families in our community. In mid-March, a display with more details will be available in the Commons.

**CARITAS:** The week of April 21st – 29th Epiphany will be hosting a group of approximately forty homeless single women with CARITAS. A large number of volunteers are needed for a wide variety of different tasks during this week. Details and sign-up sheets will be at a CARITAS display located in the Commons in March.

**CIRCLES MEET**

The three Women’s Circles are: Margaret Miller Circle, Clara Sullivan Circle and Heidi Michelsen Circle. These three circles of women are part of the WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church) and participate in various missions such as stewardship, growth, community, and action.

**The Margaret Miller Circle** will meet Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Ann Decker, 3400 Manor Grove Circle. Margaret Seim will give the devotion and the program, "Chrismons", will be presented by Kim Yucha. We will plan on a carpool from Epiphany and directions to Ann's home will be forthcoming. We extend a welcome to visitors. Questions? Please call Carol McKean (804) 562-8475

**The Clara Sullivan Circle** will be meeting on Wednesday, February 15th at 10 AM at the home of Sarah Robbins. Sophie Wilson is co-hostess and Sarah and Sophie will present a very special program for us.

**Heidi Michelsen Circle** will meet on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6:00pm, in the Star Lodge, hosted by Maria Prince.

If you would like more information on what the Women’s Circles are all about, call

Leanne Spletzer, 254-2849 Leader for the Clara Sullivan Circle;
Carol McKean, 562-8475 Leader for the Margaret Miller Circle;
Tatter Hartmann, 741-0276 Leader for the Heidi Michelsen Circle.
A Note from Your Financial Secretary

We thank you for your pledges and offerings, and would like to offer these suggestions, so that our volunteer tellers and Financial Secretary can make sure that your account is properly credited:

Numbered offering envelopes are provided to members for their contribution. Your offering is recorded, using your envelope and your number. It would be helpful if everyone would use his/her envelope, or, if for some reason, you don’t have yours, put your envelope number on your check. This can then be put in a pew envelope, along with your number on the outside.

It would be helpful if you would enter the amount enclosed, on the outside of your envelope, to enable a smoother posting to your account.

When enclosing money for more than one account (regular offering, initial envelope, flowers, Lamb’s Basket, etc.) please write a separate check for each, as each account is counted and recorded individually.

If you make your contributions directly from your bank account or by other electronic means, please include your name, envelope number, and the account to which it is to be credited.

If you have questions or comments, please call Ray Spletzer at 254-2849.

ELCA.ORG WEBSITE: CHECK IT OUT!

History of the ELCA
A Union of Common Beliefs
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed over 20 years ago. This new church was formed from three separate and well-established North American church bodies:
  - The American Lutheran Church
  - The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and
  - The Lutheran Church in America.

Beginning January 1, 1988, these churches, with shared beliefs and missions, officially formed the ELCA. Two decades later, this energized church is composed of 4.8 million members and nearly 10,500 congregations across the U.S. and Caribbean. Today, the ELCA reflects the rich and diverse heritage of the people it serves.

But to understand our heritage fully, one must trace our roots back through the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to America from Europe, settling in the Virgin Islands and the area that is now known as New York. Even before that, Martin Luther sought reform for the church in the 16th century, laying the framework for our beliefs.

Go Back in Time!
To learn more about how our church developed in this country, visit Lutheran Roots in America.
To understand our milestones in the context of world history, visit Our History in Context.
To get a broad understanding of Martin Luther, his mission and historical significance, visit Opening the Door to Luther. Find the above information on elca.org/Who-We-Are/History.
MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS

During illness or recuperation ~

For those serving in the Armed Forces ~
Please continue to keep all those serving our country to keep us safe and free, in your prayers.

For the families and friends of those who died ~

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them ~

ADDRESS CHANGES

CHURCH STAFF
Diaconal Minister – Christine V. Huffman
Visitation Pastor – The Rev. Tom Bosserman
Director of Music Ministry – Kevin Barger
Administrative Assistant – Hanne Hamlin
Coordinator of Volunteers – Beth Barger
To Our Epiphany Family,

We would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers upon the death of my Mother. All of your cards and words of care and sympathy gave us great comfort. God's peace and love to all of you now and forever.

Peace,
John and Tatter Hartmann

January 4
Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your charitable contribution for the families at Ridge Elementary. Without your kindness and generosity many of our children would go without during this holiday season. You have gone above and beyond to support a needy family and your acts of kindness are truly appreciated by all of the families and the staff at Ridge. Thank you so much for thinking of others in need. Happy New Year!
With much appreciation,
Erin Rettig,
School Counselor

Dear Friends at Epiphany,
You must forgive me for not writing sooner. I do so appreciate your visits, the flowers, cards, etc. They all made a dreary day much more pleasant. I do so appreciate all of it. I’ve been trying to keep up with what’s going on at Epiphany. I can tell by the bulletin and the Examiner you all are busy people. Please do know that I enjoy all your efforts. Thank you so very much. I include all the pastors in this note too. Take care and come again.
Love, Eleanor Gibbs

Dear Epiphany Staff, Council, WELCA Circles, Bible Study, and Congregation,
My family and I deeply appreciate the outpouring of love, prayers, and concern that was expressed with Get Well cards during Ethel’s illness. The many Sympathy cards you sent upon her death were uplifting and comforting to all of us. Those cards have made the rounds to each of my children who requested to read them privately in their effort to overcome their grief over their mother’s unexpected death. It is a time like this when the Epiphany family becomes more than just a group of people who worship together. They become a support group when it is so sorely needed.
Thank you! The Lord be with each of you!
The Family of Ethel Zellmer—Dean, Steven, Cynthia, and Gretchen
MINISTERS WANTED

Contact Beth Barger at 746-5756 or thebargers@comcast.net for any of the ministries listed below or for information about additional areas in the life of Epiphany Church.

LAMB's Basket -- Epiphany sends volunteers each month to the Community Food Pantry at 5612 Greendale Road, near Staples Mill and Hilliard Roads. Directions are listed below. Contact Beth to volunteer or sign up in the Commons, and call the pantry at 565-8007 for additional information. Inclement weather? Check channel 8 for closings or if Henrico schools are closed, then the LAMB's Basket is closed.

Epiphany’s dates in February
Wednesday, February 15: 10 am—1pm
Friday, February 24: 9:30 am—1pm

Directions From Epiphany
Go North on Glenside Drive
After crossing Staples Mill Road, it becomes Hilliard Road
At next light, turn RIGHT onto Impala Drive
Then turn RIGHT onto Irisdale Ave.
At stop sign, turn LEFT onto Greendale Road
Building on RIGHT
Enter through rear door
Please park on the street