

Announcements for December 10, 2017

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- SUNDAY** **Adult Bible Class** — This class, taught by the pastors, meets at 9:15 a.m. in the AFLC gym. The current study is a five-week study on the prophet Zephaniah.
- The 101 Class: "Discovering the Lutheran Faith"** — This class, taught by the pastors, is for those who are interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church, Epiphany in particular. This class is required for those desiring membership at Epiphany. It is held on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in room 202 of the AFLC. **The next class begins in January!**
- The 201 Class: "Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control: Fruit of the Spirit"** — We look at how to understand deeply the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification, to recognize your personal strengths and weaknesses in view of God's calling, and to identify ways you can bear fruit in the Lord's service. This class meets at 9:15 a.m. in room 207 of the AFLC. Contact Kevin Ayres, Jeff West or Rick Wolff for more information.
- MONDAY** **Ladies' Bible Study** — This Bible Study is open to women of all ages; it's a chance to gather together in fellowship and friendship. This class meets every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in room 203 of the AFLC. The current study, is: "The Whiteboard Bible Volume 1: From Creation to Kings", by G. Allen Jackson.
- TUESDAY** **Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** — This class meets from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in room 202 of the AFLC. Contact Karen Daugherty for more information. **The next class begins in January!**
- THURSDAY** **LifeLight Bible Study** — This class meets every Thursday at 9:15 a.m. in room 203 of the AFLC. **The next study will be on James and Jude and will begin in January.**
- FRIDAY** **Men's Bible Study Group** — This class meets at 5:30 a.m. on various Friday mornings (check the weekly schedule) in the main building kitchen. The current study is "The Reason for God - Belief in an Age of Skepticism" by Tim Keller. Contact Jeff West for more information.
- SATURDAY** **Men's Bible Breakfast** — The men of Epiphany meet on the second Saturday of the month in room 203 of the AFLC at 7:30 a.m. for Bible Study, breakfast and fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MEAL HELP NEEDED FOR DECEMBER 13 — Our second Advent meal is right around the corner and the small groups at church are hosting! Our biggest needs are cooked taco meat (please drain the fat), 4 cans of beans (refried, pinto, or black), bags of lettuce, 2 bags of tortilla chips and bowls of cut up tomatoes. If you are not attending the meal, please bring your items to church on December 10 and label it "Advent Meal-December 13" and put it in the pantry in the AFLC or in the freezer (for the cooked meat). Thank you so much for your help! If you can donate your time or food, there are sign-up sheets in the narthex and the AFLC or you can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a45a8a62aa57-advent1>. If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact Celina Brunette.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE! — "Love Came Down" is the theme for this year's Advent devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Pick up a copy at either of the Welcome Centers or download it for your e-reader from our website or Facebook page.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS NOW! — Once again you will be given the chance to help adorn our altar with poinsettias this Christmas Season. Flowers will be placed on the altar on Christmas Eve and remain through Epiphany. The following will be available: 26 - 6 inch pots of red poinsettias for \$7.50 each, 14 - 6 inch pots of pure white poinsettias for \$7.50 each, 4 red hanging baskets for \$32.00 each, 6 red mini poinsettia topiary trees for \$24.00 each and 2-5 foot red poinsettia trees for \$50.00 each. The last day to sign up will be Sunday, December 17. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the “Schedules” bulletin board across from the main building kitchen. Checks should be made payable to Susan McGrath and placed in the adjacent envelope. No cash please!

HOMEMADE COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE — Homemade cookies are needed for the Christmas Eve services. Please label them for “Christmas Eve” and bring them to either kitchen. Cookies are needed by Friday, December 22 or before! Volunteers are also needed to serve cookies. If you can help, please contact Linda Easto at 281-485-7833. Thank you for your help!

NEW SMALL GROUP FORMING! — You are invited to come visit with Tammy and Dale Green to learn about a new small group forming in early 2018! Meet and Greet Dates: Sunday, December 10 @ noon (room 202), Wednesday, December 13 @ 6:30 p.m. (room 101) and Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30 p.m. (room 101). If you’ve been looking for a group to join, this may be right for you!

MEALS ON WHEELS THIS WEEK! – Epiphany members will be delivering meals **this week;** December 11-15. Please check the bulletin board for the schedule. If you would like to help in this important ministry, contact Lillian Barath.

GOODTIMERS — The Goodtimers will meet on **Monday**, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship, fun and games. They meet in room 101 of the AFLC (downstairs) for fellowship and then begin at 10:00 a.m. with devotions followed by games. If anyone would like to join them for their annual luncheon catered by Central Texas BBQ, please put \$10.00 per person in an envelope and put it in Evelyn Rohne's church mailbox. Desserts will be provided. Anyone who is 50+ is welcome to join us. For more information, contact Evelyn Rohne.

5TH-12TH GRADE CHRISTMAS PARTY — The 5th - 12th grade Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 17 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the AFLC gym. There will be a movie, games, pizza, gingerbread houses and the 2nd Annual Sketchy Present Scramble. Bring a dessert or a snack to share. Register at ShiningTheLight.org by December 13. Vote for the movie you want to watch — The Santa Clause, Elf or The Grinch! Voting buckets are located on the food bar outside the senior high room.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS — Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2017 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2017. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2018 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2017, even if the check is backdated to 2017 or was actually written in 2017.

DEDUCTING CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS — To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2017 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES - THERE WILL BE CHANGES — We are going to be reassigning some envelope numbers in 2018 in order to fill in the gaps that have occurred from members transferring and those who are using bill pay. If you never used your 2017 envelopes, call Debbie in the church office at 281-485-7833 by Friday, December 15 so she can assign you a contribution record number that you can write on your loose check. This will help us assess how many envelope sets we will need for 2019 and reduce waste.



**Saturday
December 9
6 to 9 PM**

The Light Fest

**Shine Jesus, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, in our community this Christmas! The Light Fest is an evening of food, music, children's activities and a living nativity including animals!
Invite your friends and neighbors! It's an exciting time at Epiphany to shine and share Jesus' light!**



BE CHRISTMAS TO A CHILD

Share the joy of Christmas with a child! This year, we are partnering with LINC Houston to bring Christmas gifts to children in Houston and impact them with the love of Jesus. Beginning November 19, there will be Giving Trees set up in both buildings. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Gifts may be purchased for any age boy or girl. Here's how you can help:

- Pick up a tag from one of the Giving Trees OR print one from www.ShiningTheLight.org. Please see sample tag.
- Purchase a new toy or gift card (between \$15 and \$20). Mark the age and gender of the intended recipient on your tag.
- Wrap gift and attach the tag – no bows please!
- Return the wrapped gift to the Giving Tree by December 10. Gifts may also be dropped off at *The Light Fest* on December 9.
- Pray for the recipient of the gift that they may know JESUS, the greatest gift.

Epiphany's Giving Tree

Return your gift by December 10.

Please mark the age and gender of intended recipient.

Circle One: Boy Girl

Check Age Range:

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-18

JOIN US!

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays @ 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

December 13

December 20



ADVENT

◀ — **A SEASON OF** — ▶

PREPARATION

I S A I A H 7 : 1 4

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Family Life Center

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.



THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

...and that means it's time for baking and enjoying those wonderful Christmas cookies.

Epiphany's LWML will hold the annual cookie sale in the narthex beginning December 13 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. (after the 4:30 p.m. Advent Service) and again from 7:45 - 8:45 p.m. (after the 7:00 p.m. Advent Service). The sale will continue Thursday and Friday, December 14 and 15 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. during the Mother's Day Out hours.

Decorated cans and/or bags will be sold for \$5 and \$10 and filled with the cookies of your choice. Once again, we are asking for help with the baking and donation of cookies to help make our sale a success. All funds raised will be donated to a local mission project. Thank you again for your continued support. Questions should be directed to Linda Easto in the church office or LWML President, Tammy Earley at jdntammy@sbcglobal.net.

The background of the poster is a dark blue night sky filled with small, white, out-of-focus stars. A large, bright, multi-pointed star is centered in the upper half of the image. In the lower half, there are dark silhouettes of three figures on a hill. One figure is riding a donkey, and two other figures are walking alongside it. In the distance, there is a silhouette of a building with a tall, thin tower.

THE LIGHT HAS COME

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017
10:30 A.M.
AFLC

Journey to Bethlehem as Epiphany's children share the Good News of Christmas. All preschool through 6th graders will share the message through story and song. If your child can participate, please sign up at www.ShiningTheLight.org so we can plan for speaking parts and costumes.

The children will practice during Sunday School. There will be a final practice on December 16 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the gym. Preschoolers do not need to attend the Saturday practice.