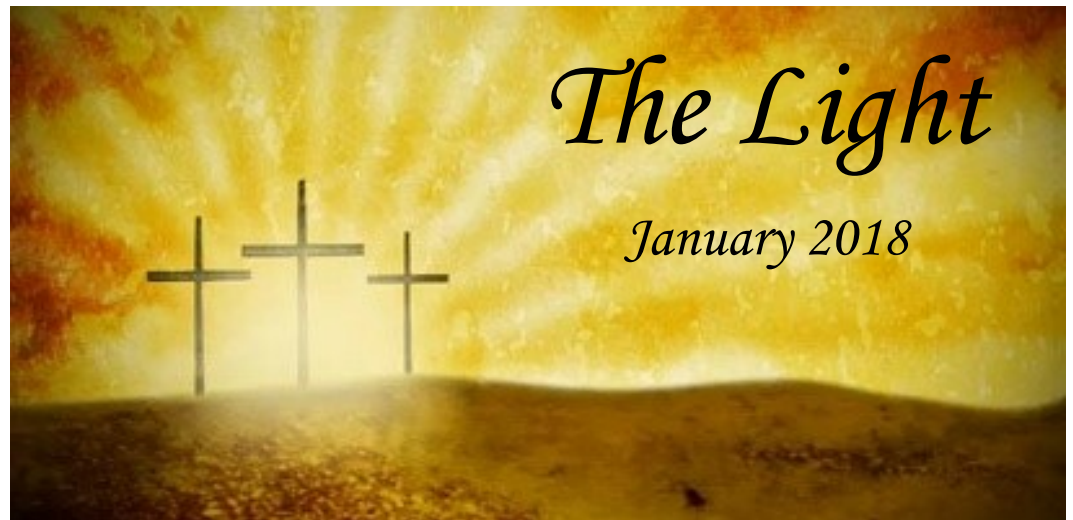


The Light

January 2018



SHARE THE WARMTH

The Connect Ministry is collecting new or gently-used blankets, towels and washcloths for the homeless beginning January 7 and ending January 28. The items will be delivered to the Star of Hope the week of January 29. The Star of Hope will then distribute the items to the homeless living under the bridges.

Please place your donations in the box in the narthex no later than Sunday, January 28! Thank you!

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

5515 WEST BROADWAY

PEARLAND, TX 77581

281-485-7833

281-485-5040 (FAX)

WWW.SHININGTHELIGHT.ORG

Pastor Jon Salminen

(Senior Pastor)

Pastor Nathan Misch

(Associate Pastor)

Pastor David Johnson

(Pastor of Music Ministries)

THE LATEST FROM EPIPHANY'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Epiphany's Leadership Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

The following topics were discussed:

- ◆ A report from Pastor Jon included Epiphany's year-end worship attendance averages:
2017 – 415, 2016 – 445, 2015 – 469, 2014 – 494, 2013 - 527
- ◆ Epiphany received over \$40,000 for Hurricane Harvey relief; \$31,000 was dispersed in October to thirty-one families. The remaining funds were dispersed by the end of 2017.
- ◆ On October 28, we celebrated the confirmation of 20 junior confirmands. In addition to this October celebration, Reformation Sunday on October 29 was a wonderful observance of 500 years of God's grace. Thank you to all the people who made this celebration so special.
- ◆ A committee of three Leadership Council members, three Elders and three called workers have met twice to discuss renovations in the sanctuary building. Jontè Greer reported that the Renovation Committee met to do preliminary planning for a high level overview of renovation needs. A Project Charter for the possible renovation was presented to the council and discussed.
- ◆ The budget for 2018 was approved by the Voters' Assembly at the November 12, 2017 meeting.

The next Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. in room 202 of the AFLC. Congregation members are invited to attend the regular monthly Leadership Council meetings at any time.

*Scott Stewart, President
Jontè Greer, Vice President
Kim Garza
Dale Green
Sue Ellyn Kunkel
Jo Lauppe
Ray Martinez
Wayne Roberson
Brent Snyder
Renee Van Bramer
Pam Van Maaren*

THANK YOU FROM LINC

Thank you very much for all that you did to collect toys for LINC this year! What a blessing all of your toys were to our LINC churches!

As I kept receiving more requests for toys, I began to wonder if we would receive enough toys, but God is faithful and provides ... through churches such as yours! Please be sure to thank all who gave toys this year!

The toys we collected were disbursed to 13 of our LINC Mission churches of various ethnicities -Hispanic, Nigerian, Eritrean, Indian, Congolese, as well as to our house church, Adelphos, in the 3rd Ward which serves low income, single parent families.

Adelphos had an Open House for their community on December 23 and toys were made available to the parents to choose for their children. I know they felt very relieved to have toys to share with their children on Christmas!

I like redistributing the toys to our LINC Mission churches because I know that each child who receives these toys also gets to hear the true message and meaning of Christmas and learn of Jesus who came to be our Savior. Please pray that the seeds of truth that were planted in hearts this Christmas will grow in the coming year!

May God continue to bless your ministry in and through Epiphany in 2018!

Dorinda Werner, LINC Mission Service Coordinator



Helen Keller was once asked, **"Is there anything worse than blindness?"** She responded by saying, **"Oh, yes! A person with sight and no vision."** As we begin a brand new year, by the grace of God—how's your vision? What do you see in your future? What do you expect to accomplish for the Lord in 2018? Where is Jesus leading you in the coming year?



We don't have to merely speculate about it. The Prophet Isaiah writes these words for us to consider, **"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and the sound of singing."** (Isaiah 51:1-3)

The Lord, through Isaiah, is reminding us of an important truth. He is saying look to your past and you will see God's handiwork. You will see how God takes people who seem to be out of hope (like Abraham and Sarah) and changes their sadness into rejoicing. God reminds us that His love never changes and even as He was with us in the past, so He will go with us into the future.

How's your vision? Do you see God's faithfulness and gentle leading in your life? If so, you can face 2018 and, all the challenges it will bring, with confidence and enthusiasm. If you don't see the Lord, it is probably because you are looking at the wrong things. God encourages us to look to Him, to Abraham and Sarah, to Moses, to David, to Joseph and Mary. As we consider these saints we soon realize that nothing is too hard for God. No circumstance, no situation is too far gone that God can't transform it. Whether it is a marriage that is hanging by a thread, a job that is in a tenuous position, a family that is divided or a life that seems to be falling apart, there is a God who specializes in putting broken things back together again. He is the One who turns wastelands into beautiful gardens and deserts into paradise.

How's your vision? Unfortunately, there will be many who will have sight and no vision in 2018. The good news is it doesn't have to be us. For as we look to Jesus Christ He has promised us "Joy and Gladness, Thanksgiving and Singing."

May you have a great 2018 as the Lord helps us to fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jon

2018 FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Flowers are placed in the sanctuary to worship and glorify God. They are an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. They symbolize spiritual joy and devotion. Flowers are an expression of our high regard and reverence for God and His house. These flowers are provided by members. There is a new sign-up sheet located on the “schedules” bulletin board across from the main building kitchen. If you would like to sign up, please write your name in the appropriate place. **Only one family per Sunday please!** If this is for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, memorial etc.) please make a notation. Someone will contact you with regard to what flowers you prefer.



MUSIC NOTES

From Pastor David

WHO'S WHO IN MUSIC

Appreciating the God-given gifts of Frank Dittman

Frank Dittman is an extremely versatile musician whose presence is well known both at *The Light (AFLC)* and in the sanctuary. He is extremely agile in playing multiple instruments including acoustic and electric guitar, keyboard, drums, flute, banjo, mandolin, and soon, I hear, clarinet. There's no telling what instrument he will pick up next. Frank also sings with a variety of choral and vocal ensembles and impressively excels in music of all genres. What a gift for Epiphany's worship life!

Frank remains introspective on the value of music in the life of the Church. He recognizes that in song— he is immersed in the Word of God and seeks to serve alongside all musicians, pastors and Jesus' singing people. Frank recognizes the breadth of music possibilities as he plays and sings continuously—all to the glory of God! In reflection upon his service, Frank focuses upon Philippians 4:8— “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Frank strives to infuse these characteristics into the music he delivers as he relentlessly strives for excellence. To quote Frank's ultimate profession of faith—“Jesus is about the only subject worth singing about!”

We give thanks to God for Frank's depth and faithfulness.



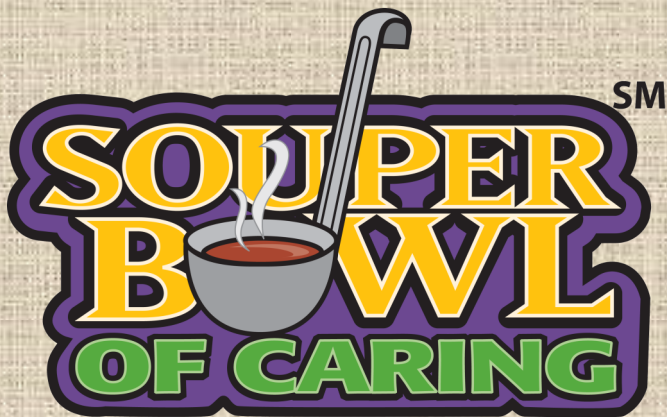
Serve Like Jesus

Some benefits of serving at Epiphany include life-long friendships, a feeling that your life matters and that you make a difference, an increase in your personal generosity and an ability to make better decisions, e.g., give up what's good for what's best. Other benefits of serving include stepping outside of your routine and learning to touch the lives of others and further development of your gifts and skills.

If you are feeling disconnected at Epiphany, you may want to ask yourself the following questions:

1. What are your gifts? How has the Lord gifted you?
2. If you could do anything for Epiphany, what would it be?
3. What do you enjoy doing?
4. What keeps you from using your gifts at Epiphany?
5. When it comes to volunteering at Epiphany, what comes to your mind?

If you are interested in getting involved at Epiphany but don't know where to start, contact me at dorian@epiphanypearland.org so we can talk about your interest in serving at Epiphany. - Dorian Cornelius



**Share the love
of Christ on
Super Bowl
Sunday!**

On Sunday, January 28, Epiphany's youth will be passing out bags after the services. Fill the bags with nonperishable food and bring them back on February 4.

All proceeds benefit Christian Helping Hands.



Bible Study

— DISCOVER GOD'S WORD —

101 CLASS: "DISCOVERING THE LUTHERAN FAITH"

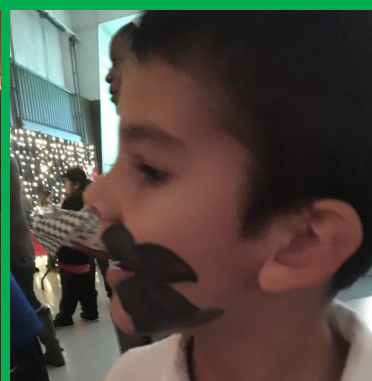
This class, taught by the pastors, is for those who are interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church, Epiphany in particular. This class is required for those desiring membership at Epiphany. It is held on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in room 202 of the AFLC. The next class begins January 14, 2018!

LIFELIGHT

Do you want to become more of a “doer” of the Word? What does Christian living look like? What does it mean to contend for the faith? Come join us for the next LifeLight Bible Study as we dig into the books of James and Jude to find the answers to these questions and more! This Thursday morning study combines daily individual study with weekly group discussion and overview, followed by a question and answer time and wrap up by Pastor Jon. A study guide workbook is available for \$10 and can be purchased from Marlene Heinrich on Sunday mornings or the first day of class. Our new study will begin Thursday, January 11 at 9:15 a.m. in room 203 of the AFLC.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study will begin a new study on January 9, 2018 entitled, *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer. This is a Bible Study that will bring to light the spiritual war around you and challenge you to suit up, stand firm and secure victory in your life. Workbooks are required for the first class. Please contact Karen Daugherty if you plan to attend so a study guide can be ordered for you prior to class. This class meets from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in room 202 of the AFLC.



The Light Fest AT EPIPHANY

Thank you to everyone who helped make The Light Fest a great success! We had 350 adults and children in our building to celebrate the Christmas season! The evening included: Christmas lights, food trucks, live music, a living nativity, a petting zoo, face painting, a fire pit and the love of Jesus! We ended the night with a carol sing led by Pastor David, the Epiphany Choir and singers from the Bay Area Chorus. Thank you to all of our volunteers including: the light team, costume/nativity team, music team, petting zoo team, station workers and all of the prayers and donations received. It wouldn't have been possible without you!





KID'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 9

6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

\$10 per child

3yrs to 6th Grade

Parents - Enjoy the night out and send your kids to have some fun with Epiphany's 7th -12th grade youth! Drop off and pick up at Epiphany. Register at shiningthelight.org.



YOUTH NIGHT IN

**Friday, February 9-10
5:30p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
7th-12th Grade**

Come serve at the kid's night out to raise money for Heart for Texas, a Lutheran charity providing Harvey relief! After the kids go home, we will stay up late with food and games! Sign up at ShiningTheLight.org



BIRTHDAYS

01/02 Judy Klewer
 01/02 Brandon Gutierrez
 01/03 Amanda Ring
 01/03 Krystle Zapalac
 01/03 Ellen Justice
 01/04 Rebekah Cornelius
 01/04 Susan Kirk
 01/05 Katie Savage
 01/05 Max Daugherty
 01/05 Dorothy Driessner
 01/06 Mary Erickson
 01/06 Saul Pontifes
 01/06 Michael Kaspar
 01/06 Kaitlynn Weiss
 01/07 Scott Sanford
 01/07 Fred Heer
 01/08 Abby Smaistrila
 01/08 Grace Tews
 01/08 George Hernandez
 01/08 Luke Cmaidalka
 01/09 Candyce Birkelbach
 01/09 Nick Vollman
 01/09 Joyce Carpenter
 01/09 Jack Fowler
 01/09 Jan Pierce
 01/11 Frances Meyer
 01/11 Kevin Bigon
 01/12 Trey Loftin
 01/12 Amanda Hayes
 01/12 Kathleen Kaspar
 01/13 Rachael Ballard
 01/13 Ethan Chauvot
 01/14 Kathryn Davies
 01/14 Lucas Turner
 01/14 Jennifer Chauvot
 01/14 Rob Chauvot
 01/15 Mary Smith
 01/16 Laila Murillo
 01/17 Logan Kunkel
 01/17 Vicente DiLuca
 01/18 David Green
 01/18 Ellie Telschow
 01/18 Larry Williams
 01/18 Gene Allbee
 01/19 Mike Harris
 01/21 Lynn Meyers
 01/21 Stacy Keys
 01/21 Joe Barath
 01/22 Phyllis Carothers
 01/23 Merlin Mohr
 01/23 Anna Sites
 01/24 Diana Tunstall
 01/25 Irene Bertram
 01/25 Jim Schlachter

01/26 Madelynn Mills
 01/26 Matthew Karloski
 01/26 Andrew Van Maaren
 01/26 Brian Hay
 01/26 Peter Cheung
 01/27 Esther Martin
 01/28 Carolyn Melton
 01/28 Nancy Runge
 01/29 Juliana Karloski
 01/29 Sonny Metz
 01/31 Carter St. Romain
 01/31 Jonathan Raess



ANNIVERSARIES

01/01 Larry & Linda Baker
 01/06 Stan & Amy Whalen
 01/09 Mike & Melissa McDonald
 01/10 Rob & Robin Murphey
 01/11 Brandon & Stephanie Wilkes
 01/15 Bob & Ruth Berdine
 01/17 Jeff & Julie Hartwig
 01/28 Tim & Dorian Cornelius
 01/29 Dave & Barbara Schlothauer
 01/31 Merle & Jean Toomes



BAPTISMS

Owen Reid Snyder
 December 10, 2017



THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who dedicated their time and donations towards our Advent meals. We couldn't have done it without you. Hope you have a blessed 2018.



2018 SAVE THE DATE

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 24 | Epiphatio's |
| March 31 | Eggstravaganza |
| April 27-29 | Senior High Spring Retreat |
| June 11-15 | VBS |
| July 15-21 | Road Trip Mission Trip (7-12 grades) |
| August 4-6 | Kid's Serve Camp (3-6 grades) |
| October 27 | Confirmation Service |



Like us on Facebook

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:00 am - Traditional Worship Service-sanctuary
9:15 am - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:30 am - Blended Worship Service-sanctuary
10:30 am - *The Light* Worship Service-AFLC

*WOR: Worship
COM: Worship with Communion
SS: Sunday School
ABC: Adult Bible Class



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Announcements Due! Holiday- Church Office Closed! | No MDO! <div>Reset @ Camp High School—College</div> | No MDO! <div>Lone Star College</div> | No MDO! 7:00pm-Bell Choir-sanctuary | 9-2 MDO 5:30am-Men’s Bible Study Group –MB kitchen | 6 |
| 7 COM/SS & ABC/COM/WOR* Epiphany (observed) LWML Mite Box Sunday 9:00-10:15am-Blood Pressure Screening-106 9:15am-201 Class-203 11:45am-Orchestra Practice-sanctuary 11:45am-Kid’s Choir-101 2:00-4:00pm-Basketball-gym No Confirmation! No Youth Nights! | 9 9-2 MDO 4:00pm-Bible Study-202 7:00pm-Board of Elders-202 | 10 9-2 MDO 6:30pm-PT-sanctuary 7:30pm-Choir-sanctuary | 11 9-2 MDO 9:15am-LifeLight-203 7:00-8:15pm-Midweek Meet Up (high school Juniors –young adults) 7:00pm-Bell Choir-sanctuary | 12 9-2 MDO | 13 7:30am-Men’s Bible Breakfast–gym 9:15am-Elders’ Meeting-202 <div>Midnight Mania 5:00 pm – 8:00 am 5th-8th grades</div> |
| 14 WOR/SS & ABC/COM/COM* 9:15am-201 Class-203 9:15am-New Member Class-202 11:45am-Orchestra Practice-sanctuary 11:45am-Kid’s Choir-101 2:00-4:00pm-Basketball-gym No Confirmation! 6:00-8:00pm- Youth Nights-gym/204 (9th-12th grades only!) | 16 9-2 MDO 4:00pm-Bible Study-202 | 17 9-2 MDO 6:30pm-PT-sanctuary 7:30pm-Choir-sanctuary | 18 9-2 MDO 9:15am-LifeLight-203 7:00-8:15pm-Midweek Meet Up (high school Juniors –young adults) 7:00pm-Bell Choir -sanctuary | 19 9-2 MDO 5:30am-Men’s Bible Study Group –MB kitchen | 20 |
| 21 COM/SS & ABC/COM/WOR* 9:15am-201 Class-203 9:15am-New Member Class-202 11:45am-Orchestra Practice-sanctuary 11:45am-Puppets-101 11:45am-Junior Bell Choir-104 2:00-4:00pm-Basketball-gym 6:00pm-Leadership Council Meeting-202 6:00-8:00pm-Confirmation 6:00-8:00pm- Youth Nights-gym/204 | 23 9-2 MDO 4:00pm-Bible Study-202 | 24 9-2 MDO 9:00am-Quilting-202 6:30pm-PT-sanctuary 7:30pm-Choir-sanctuary | 25 9-2 MDO 9:15am-LifeLight-203 7:00-8:15pm-Midweek Meet Up (high school Juniors –young adults) 7:00pm-Bell Choir -sanctuary | 26 9-2 MDO | 27 9:30am-LWML Meeting -203 |
| 28 WOR/SS & ABC/COM/COM* 9:15am-Appreciation Breakfast for Youth Volunteer -203 9:15am-201 Class-207 9:15am-New Member Class-202 11:45am-Orchestra Practice-sanctuary 11:45am-Kid’s Choir-101 2:00-4:00pm-Basketball-gym 6:00-8:00pm-Confirmation 6:00-8:00pm- Youth Nights-gym/204 | 30 9-2 MDO 4:00pm-Bible Study-202 | 31 9-2 MDO 6:30pm-PT-sanctuary 7:30pm-Choir-sanctuary | | | FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE JANUARY 10! |

FEBRUARY 24

EPIPHATINOS AN EVENING OF JAZZ

GRAB YOUR DANCING SHOES AND JOIN US
FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER PLUS LIVE MUSIC AND
DANCING! TWO GREAT TIMES!

EARLY SEATING: 5:00 P.M.

LATE SEATING WITH EXTENDED MUSIC AND DANCING: 7:00 P.M.

WHAT IS EPIPHATINOS?

Epiphantino's is the major fundraiser for Epiphany's youth.

Epiphatinos is supported by free will offerings. Without
your generosity, youth ministry and missions at Epiphany
would not be possible!

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?

Reservations begin Sunday, January 28, 2018; in person
(Narthex or AFLC), by phone (281-458-7833) or online at
www.ShiningTheLight.org.

