

Epiphany Lutheran Church

RENEW NEWS

June 2024

A PASSION IN GOD'S PEOPLE

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To honor God by caring for His House and making changes that will enhance the worship experience of those who meet there. This will include improving our worship space as well as audio and visual technology to better proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the major aspects of the Renew Initiative is Renewing a Passion in God's people to honor God by caring for His House and making changes that will enhance the worship experience of those who meet our Lord Jesus in His House. This will include improving the worship space so that it is warm and welcoming and also improving Audio and Visual Technology to better proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's House is central to our lives as His children, from the cradle to the grave! It is the place

where He meets us through His Word and Sacraments. The place where God invites us to receive His love, His forgiveness for our sins, and to experience the new life He gives us through His Son, Jesus Christ. In short, it is where our lives are Renewed by God's grace. For all these reasons, caring for God's House is important and reflects our attitude towards worship and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

For the past several months contractors have been working hard and we hope renovations will be finished sometime in August. These renovations couldn't happen without the generous support of God's people. Thank you for your passion for God, passion for worship, passion for God's House and for passionately supporting this Renew Initiative.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Jon

RENEW PRINCIPLES

- A Passion in God's People
- A Desire for Growth
- Our Commitment to Embrace the Future



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

-2 Corinthians 4:16

A DESIRE FOR GROWTH

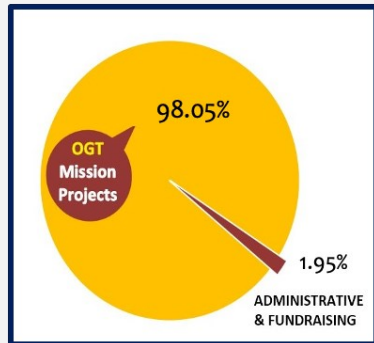
In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both near and far. It is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 71 different countries including the United States.

Orphan Grain Train Houston is open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - noon to receive donations of gently used or new, clothing, shoes and coats for adults and children. They are located at: 5040 E Sam Houston Parkway S in Pasadena.

Currently OGT Houston operates out of two sea van containers to receive and distribute items to missions, shelters for women, children, veterans and homeless ministries throughout Texas and the Gulf Coast region. International shipments will also be coordinated to support ministries abroad.

The new Servant Center/ Warehouse is under construction. Thanks to our Father for His faithfulness to the OGT ministry as they build on the foundation of Jesus.

Tentative plans are for the project to be completed in 2024. Watch for updates but



feel free to swing by the property to see the progress. The Center will be approximately 12,000 sq. ft. of which 7,000 sq. ft. will be warehouse. The building will also include a sorting and

packing area, 2 classrooms, a break room, restrooms and showers.

After the building is complete our doors will be open a few weekdays which will be manned by volunteers - plan to be a part of this flexible opportunity to serve. You will be blessed as you work to bless others!

Visit ogt.org to watch video clips; read about the 4-Star rating OGT receives from Charity Navigator or to make a donation to the Houston Branch. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

A Desire For Growth

God desires us to Grow Up in the faith and become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. God desires us to Grow Into a deeper love for Him and a deeper love for those around us. God's plan is that we Grow Out by expanding our ministry to reach the many people He is bringing to the Pearland area. Facilities are a tool to help people connect with God and one another.

Ways You Can Help

- ♦ Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help on "Sort and Pack" days which are scheduled as donations accumulate and storage space becomes depleted -about every 6 weeks.
- ♦ Individuals or small groups might consider undertaking special projects: hygiene kits, school kits, teacher kits or sewing pillowcase dresses. Instructions for these projects may be found at ogt.org.
- ♦ Donate gently used or new, clothing, shoes and coats for adults and children.
- ♦ Monetary donations can be made online at ogt.org, click on the "donate" button. Please mail checks to: Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702. You can designate where your gift goes by writing in the memo line or leave blank for it to be used where it is most needed.
- ♦ Pray!

Orphan Grain Train +

Contact Mike Rathje, Branch Manager at 281-723-4989 for information about how you can help make a difference in the lives of people in need. To volunteer, contact OGT Board Member, Holly Harris at 713-890-2633 or ogtvolunteer@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE

Epiphany hosted 168 kids for Vacation Bible School the week of June 3 - 7. There were 80+ volunteers who helped make this happen. And ... they raised \$2,770 for Isaiah 117 House!

Why do we do this? We do it because Jesus told us to. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, "go and make disciples of all nations,".

One of the ways Epiphany embraces children and young families is to disciple kids and their parents.

VBS is fun! Every song, Bible story, game, craft, science lesson points to Jesus and that he died on the cross to save us from our sins.

It's an opportunity to reach out to those who have no

church home and share the Gospel with kids who may only hear it one week a year.

Of the 168 kids who attended VBS, 19 put on their form that they had no church home. All of those families were called by a volunteer after VBS and Pastor Jon sent a follow-up letter. At least one of those families has subsequently attended worship.

VBS is an opportunity to create community in the church. Connections made during VBS can sometimes last a lifetime.

VBS gives volunteers a chance to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Volunteers get a lot out of it too!

Our Commitment To Embrace The Future

God has left us on this earth to "make disciples." We do not exist for ourselves; we exist to make an impact in our world by expanding the Kingdom of God. What we do for the Lord has eternal significance! The mission of Epiphany for the past 30 years has been to "Shine the Light of God's Love on All People." May our Lord Renew the fire He has placed in our hearts so that "Shining the Light of God's Love on All People" is what will shape our future and be the legacy we leave.

