

Star Gazing



This is the first “Newsletter” article in an ongoing series. I got the idea from (1) the Magi following the Star to find the Baby in Bethlehem...seeing as how we are “Epiphany Lutheran Church and School” and (2) I was thinking of ways to better connect the congregation with some of the ideas and movements which God is bringing before and through the many meetings and discussions happening in our midst. Basically, I want you to feel more involved so that you can pray for some of the many ideas that are circulating through our boards, committees, ministries and the building itself...ideas that push us toward connecting people to God and one another in Christ. *Many of the topics I will bring forward are not yet “in place”—they are just some of the ideas that are being discussed...ideas that may come or may not come to resolutions.*

A metaphor that I have been working with to define the unique nature of this Pastoral article is that of people using their turn signals. Few things bring me more frustration than people failing to use turn signals. I have had far too many “near accidents” and days filled with frustration and anger due to the failure of people letting me know where they are going. I do not want this to be the way of the church. I believe, based on the many meetings and thoughts expressed through our lay leadership and staff, that we are journeying toward some pretty “cool” and wonderful happenings! I don’t want the shock of God’s leading and God’s destination (s) for us to be so abrupt or unseen that it causes fear, anger, or angst of any kind.

Now I know that such thinking may be a bit naïve. I know that change and the transition time toward any changes will always cause some friction. But, like you, I want to follow the calling of our Lord. I want us to both, individually and corporately, go where God wants us to go...do what God wants us to do...live as God wants us to live...think as God wants us to think...use our gifts in ways that portray our high calling and place in His Kingdom’s work...and witness as God wants us to witness regarding Jesus.

So, let’s enjoy the ride. Let’s do all, whether it be our thinking, living, or speaking to the Glory of God—even if it at times seems uncomfortable or a little scary. After all, we know that our God is faithful. We know our message concerning Jesus as Lord and Savior for all people is certain and true. We know also that He promises that we are not alone. He promises to bless us as we go about His task, assuring us that “our labors are not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Here’s a few things to pray for:

- Following the January 27th 10:45 AM worship service, our Director of Music Ministries, Pamela Tamburlo, has called a few of us together to address some possibilities/changes that might happen in the 10:45 AM Sunday worship services. *Please pray that we think not only about our wants and comfort levels but that we also address the many unbelievers whom God wants us to target, as well.*
- We have finished the four interviews for those seeking the role of being the new pre-school director. *Please pray that God quickly enlightens us and gives us wisdom going forward and filling this important ministry role.*
- On February 16th the Staff, Board of Elders, and Church Council will experience a full day (9 AM – 5 PM) retreat to bring stronger focus on the mission opportunities of Epiphany Lutheran Church and School. We will use the Strategic Planning Vision given at the last 2 congregational meetings to accomplish this goal. *Please pray that Kandice Herndon moderates and leads us (1) toward giving glory to God and His Mission to reach out with the love of Jesus and (2) to work together in joy as we intentionally do so.*