

Audition Information

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry
is pleased to present...



Directed by Jackie Darnell

Presented as part of worship on December 13, 2020



Dear Friend of Epiphany,

Thank you for your interest and for considering being involved with the Epiphany Players Drama Ministry! This group was formed, so that we can use the many talents and gifts that God has shared with us to help spread the Gospel. This year's production of *Window into Christmas: A Virtual Christmas Musical* will certainly provide a great Christmas message. In these unprecedented times of uncertainty, doubt, and separation we so desperately need to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth, and the promise to be a God who is intimately involved in our lives. Together, we will live out Epiphany's mission to "love Jesus by serving others," by casting aside the darkness and giving voice to the light of Christ!

We encourage an atmosphere of Christian love, respect, and caring to support each other so that the best possible results can be achieved. We strive for excellence by using the gifts that God has given us and allowing the directors to develop skills and talents.

Please read through the rest of this packet for additional information on this year's production of *Window into Christmas: A Virtual Christmas Musical*.

Peace,

Pastor Charlie Woodward

Pastor Jay Shailer

For Actors and Parents

This information is provided so that you are aware of the responsibilities and commitments for participation in **Window into Christmas: A Virtual Christmas Musical**. The Children's Christmas musical is a much-loved and anticipated event at Epiphany. We hope you will be excited to join us!

Please read this information to make sure that you understand our expectations. **If you don't think you can meet these expectations, please contact us.** We will be happy to work with you so that your child **can** successfully participate. Through advanced discussions, we will try to develop a plan that works for everyone.

Overview

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry announces this year's Children's Christmas Musical in an all-new virtual format! Participation is open for anyone in grades 2-8 and at least age 7 years old. *Window into Christmas: A Virtual Christmas Musical*, directed by Jackie Darnell, will be rehearsed virtually, pre-recorded and presented during online worship on Sunday, December 13th.

A window can be defined as an opening in a wall that lets light in, a part of a computer screen, and also a time period for starting or finishing something. Without a doubt, this year has been full of windows — looking out into the world as we stay socially distant, changing our lives to learn, work, and socialize digitally, and hoping and praying that this time will pass. But even in our darkest days, we have the light and love of God to cling to. This year's Christmas musical is about windows into Christmas: telling and celebrating the birth of Christ from within in our own homes. We may be apart, but we are all a part of God's family and through that love, we let our light shine!

The Children's Christmas musical is part of the drama ministry at Epiphany. The show, which lasts about 40 minutes, takes part during the (online) worship service. Children in grades 2-8 make up the primary cast. There is a chorus, requiring less rehearsal commitment, made up of kids in grades 1-8. Preschoolers and Kindergartners are also featured. Families do not have to be members of Epiphany to participate. The cost per cast member is \$10, which covers the cost of a show t-shirt.

Important Dates

Activity	Day	Date	Time
Pre Audition Cast Informational meeting via Zoom	Sunday	September 27th	2:00 - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Auditions submitted	Sunday	October 4th	submitted video auditions
Callbacks	Wednesday - Saturday	October 7th - 10th	times will vary and will be included in link
Rehearsals	Monday-Thursday and Sunday	October 18th - November 22nd	varies - we will be working with a more flexible rehearsal schedule this year
Performance	Sunday	December 13	10:30 am - available on YouTube

All activities will be done remotely via Zoom unless we feel it is safe to bring members of the cast together.

Contact Information

Director
Jackie Darnell
937.361.2427
jackid411@hotmail.com

Producer
Connie Risch
317-450-0337
elcchristmasshow@gmail.com

Stage Manager
Leighanna Hornick
937.286.2534
leighannajane@hotmail.com

Pre-Cast Meeting

Anyone interested in participating in this year's Christmas musical should plan to attend our pre-cast meeting on Sunday, September 27 from 2:00-3:00 pm. We ask that the child and a parent attend together to make sure you don't miss any necessary details! You will receive the Zoom link after you RSVP here <https://forms.gle/yh2gyfnVThq5XyqZ7>. At this meeting, we will discuss how the virtual rehearsal process and performance will work, and will share additional information about audition submissions and Zoom callbacks.

Auditions

When and Where are Auditions?

This year all auditions will be submitted digitally to elcchristmasshow@gmail.com. After you attend the pre-cast meeting, please submit a monologue, a song, audition form, and cast fee payment no later than Sunday, October 4th, 5:00 pm in order to be considered for the show. More detailed information will be given during the pre-cast meeting, so please do not submit anything until after the pre-cast meeting.

How Do I Sign Up?

There is no need to sign up for auditions, simply send in your digital submission to elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

Who Should Audition?

Children in grades 2-8, and at least age 7, who are interested in having a part in the show. You do NOT need to be a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church in order to participate. We are also looking for chorus members, grades 1-8, who would like to sing along with the cast during one or more songs.

How Do I Audition?

Audition Paperwork

Once you have attended the pre-cast meeting, you will receive detailed instructions to complete the following no later than Sunday, October 4th, 5:00 pm:

- submit audition video including 1 Christmas song (about 1 minute) and Christmas story or memory to elcchristmasshow@gmail.com
- submit online audition form including a complete list of conflicts - link will be shared after pre-cast meeting
- pay cast fee (which will cover the cost of 1 show T-shirt) - payment method to be discussed at pre-cast meeting
- sign up for individual Zoom callbacks with Jackie - link will be shared after pre-cast meeting

Audition Music

Please prepare a Christmas song that means something to you (about 1 minute, no more than 2 min) and submit a video of you singing it as your music audition.

Audition "Monologue"

Please prepare a brief Christmas story or memory. You will include this in your audition video. If your Christmas memory involves an instrument or dance, please include that with your audition submission.

Audition Callbacks and Casting

Callbacks will be scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 - Saturday, October 10th. Callbacks will be as needed, via Zoom. Jackie will determine who needs a callback, and only those cast members will receive the link. Callbacks are used to help us see where you fit best! Come prepared to show your stuff, make big choices and to have a good time! We want to provide an opportunity for everyone to perform, so **all children will be cast.**

Conflicts

It is so important that you list ALL your conflicts PLEASE – We understand that everyone is busy, especially this time of the year, but if you commit to this show, we need you at rehearsal. That being said, if you need to be somewhere else rather than at rehearsal, please list it. This year we will have a more flexible rehearsal schedule instead of set days and times so please be sure to list all conflicts for every day of the week. A **complete** submission of conflicts up front helps us to fairly cast the show and set rehearsal schedules. We understand that life happens, and illnesses, emergencies, and other things pop up -- when it comes up, please communicate with Connie Risch.

Rehearsals and Other Important Dates

All rehearsals will take place via Zoom. This will require each cast member to have access to a device with a webcam (computer, laptop, phone, tablet) and a reliable internet connection in order to participate. Our rehearsal process will be a little different this year and most rehearsals will be short and will be done one-on-one. Most actors will only need to be available 1 or 2 nights per week. Rehearsal schedule will be announced on Sunday for the upcoming week. Rehearsals could be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm, or Sunday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. **We will use the conflict list to determine the rehearsal schedule so please be sure to list all conflicts in the audition paperwork.**

If you find that the commitment as an actor is too much, then please consider participating as a chorus member, which only requires attendance and participation for a few rehearsals.

A note about rehearsals: We try very hard to respect your valuable time and we ask that you do the same for our rehearsal time. Please arrive ON TIME even in a virtual format, so that we can get started promptly. If you are running late, please call or text Leighanna or Connie to let us know. You will not be called to every rehearsal or you may only be called to part of rehearsal. Please show up at the time you are called, prepared, and ready to work.

Chorus Opportunities

Preschoolers, kindergarteners and first graders, along with non-auditioning second through eighth graders, will make up the chorus. If you are interested in having your child participate in the chorus – no auditions required - please contact Connie Risch at elchristmasshow@gmail.com.

Chorus members in grades 1-8 will learn all “full chorus” songs. Grades 1-8 will have a few virtual rehearsals with Jackie and will be given a track to listen to.

Preschool and kindergarten chorus members will only need to learn one song . More information about how this will be handled will be sent out at a later date.

High School Opportunities

This year is different, and while we'd like to give as many opportunities to as many people as possible, we just aren't sure where to best utilize your talents. If you are a high school student and you want to be involved, we want to help make that happen. Please contact Connie Risch at elcchristmasshow@gmail.com and let us know how you feel you can help make this production a success and we will do our best to make it work.

Youth Safety and Volunteer Protocols

It is the goal of Epiphany Lutheran Church to welcome children and youth into our church, provide opportunities for their faith development and Christian Education, and to keep them safe while they are here. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, volunteers, and staff who participate in ministries, activities, and events sponsored by our church.

- Parents/caregivers are responsible for providing supervision for their child throughout their participation in the virtual program.
- For the protection of all children and youth participants, ELC Drama Ministry does not allow isolated one-to-one interaction between an adult (non-family member) and child on any virtual platform, on a video call, in a breakout room, or private chat. When performers are rehearsing "one-on-one" with the director, there will be at least one other drama/production team member on the zoom call taking notes and monitoring the rehearsal.
- If you have a concern regarding any interaction or participant's behavior, please report to Connie or Leighanna at elcchristmasshow@gmail.com or by calling or texting.
- You may NOT share any of the provided Zoom links or passwords with anyone outside your household. Links and passwords are for participants ONLY.
- You are NOT allowed to take any photos and/or recordings of any portion of Drama Ministry rehearsals unless directed to do so by Jackie.
- By participating in this production, participants understand and agree that any photo, video, or audio taken by or submitted to ELC Drama Ministry may be used by Epiphany Lutheran Church and the drama ministry for publicity, promotion and online performances.
- Please ensure all personal attire, background environments, language, and conduct remain appropriate for children and family members of all ages.

Additional Contacts

If a parent/guardian has any general concerns or questions regarding the procedures and protocols of Epiphany Lutheran Church or the drama ministry, please feel free to contact the pastoral staff (937-433-1449, ext. 103 for Pastor Charlie Woodward and ext. 112 for Pastor Jay Shailer) or drama ministry chair, Adrienne Ausdenmoore (adrienne.niess@gmail.com or 304-280-5679).