



INVITATION AND RESPONSE

Please pray for the appeal and about your offering for next year. Read carefully the letter you receive and respond generously. You will be able to return a printed intent card or complete an online form that indicates your intention for giving next year. We hope to have all intents received by **Where Ministry Happens** Sunday, November 15, or by no later than November 30, if possible. This is a goal that we can and will achieve as each of us is generous according to our means.

Funding for the Stewardship for All Seasons program was generously provided by Epiphany's Apple Tree Society, a fund that supports Epiphany's vision and mission with gifts from people who include Epiphany in their estate planning.



Where Ministry Happens

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2021



And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life...I will be their God and they will be my children." Revelation 21:5-7 (NRSV)



INTRODUCTION

Where Ministry Happens

Epiphany Lutheran Church is one congregation with two campuses. That is what we have said for years. But in these days of the pandemic, our buildings are closed.

And yet, Epiphany is still the place where ministry happens. When we closed our doors, we opened the world of online ministries to build a third, virtual campus.

Online ministries are happening at Epiphany's campuses and beyond. And when the day comes that our doors are fully opened once again, these online ministries will continue as a vital addition to our mission and ministry.

Our mission of Loving Jesus by Serving Others will continue to grow and thrive as we do God's work, proclaim God's word, and serve God's people. Be it at our facilities or online, Epiphany is **where ministry happens.**

NEEDS

The reason we exist as a church is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We gather around Word and Sacrament to be fed and nourished, empowered and equipped.

In response, we are sent out to be God's hands and feet in the world, proclaiming the message and caring for others.

What we proclaim is what the world so desperately needs to hear.

This is the foundation on which Epiphany is built.

How we share that message and carry forth the mission is our challenge in these new days. It is not just about coming to a building, as has been our custom. Now we know that ministry needs to reach out to people when we are not able to be in one place at one time.

Virtual worship and ministry will never replace in-person worship and that personal touch. But it will be a vital addition built on the foundations we have set. We will learn to engage and connect in new ways and reach people who may never set foot in one of our buildings. And still, ministry happens!



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MINISTRY INITIATIVES

To strengthen our ministry for the future and to seize the opportunities in front of us with a virtual campus, we seek to increase giving next year by \$3,000 per week. This investment is for the following initiatives:

Building on the Foundation.....increase of \$1,443/week or \$75,000/year

Over the last several years, separately from annual giving, we invested heavily through a special capital appeal to strengthen our foundation by expanding the worship space at our Austin Campus, renovating the outdoor chapel and establishing the memorial garden at our Far Hills Campus. As our three-year appeal concludes December 31, 2020, we will combine the accounts and begin paying both our principal and interest and our operating expenses through one comprehensive operating budget. Accordingly, please consider continuing the generosity that you shared through our capital appeal now with the operating budget to handle this obligation. Our facilities are a great blessing to us as a ministry, and we eagerly await the day we can be back in them to gather at full capacity for worship, fellowship, learning, program events and service.

Addressing Deferred Maintenance.....an increase of \$962/week or \$50,000/year

While we develop long-term plans to fund the care and maintenance of our facilities, we have pressing needs to address some previously deferred maintenance in the near-term. Projects include but are not limited to the necessary replacement of computers, flooring, and a fire system panel. Catching up on deferred maintenance reduces the risk of disruptions to worship and ministry, and by building this cost into our operations, we can reduce or possibly eliminate the need for special appeals for these items.

Strategy and Growth Alignment.....an increase of \$481/week or \$25,000/year

The pandemic has shown us how critically many need our strong and vibrant ministry. It has also helped us realize that we are not just bound by a physical place. Research has shown that building up our virtual campus not only extends our reach to more people but also increases in-person worship attendance and ministry involvement. To ensure we are intentional in our development, we need help with building a comprehensive strategic plan, aligning brand messaging and marketing plans, visitor hospitality and engagement. Finally, we plan for a proportionate increase in our gift to the Southern Ohio Synod, and ultimately the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which extends the reach and impact that our collective generosity makes possible.

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Your joyful and generous participation will help us fund these new ministry efforts.

