

## INVITATION AND RESPONSE

Join us in praying for our congregation to build up the body of Christ among us! Pray for generous hearts to bring a full-time associate pastor to Epiphany, an increase to the Children and Families position, and the ability to welcome the community onto our campuses and into the heart of Epiphany's ministry.

Sunday, November 12, is Commitment Sunday. During worship, you will be invited to offer your enclosed giving statement of intent card, as an act of spiritual commitment. You may also mail your giving statement of intent card or commit online at Epiphany's website. We will celebrate with a congregation-wide potluck meal at the Far Hills Campus at noon, so that worshippers from both campuses can join in the celebration.

On Sunday, November 19, we will announce the current results of our Building the Body of Christ appeal commitments, including the number of giving statements of intent received and the faithful response of the congregation.

We are excited about the shared future God has in store for us in 2024, and our opportunity to build the Body of Christ together.

*"Epiphany has always been a part of our faith journey. This congregation has been both our heritage and an expression of our faith. We are happy to support Epiphany."*



# BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST



STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2024

Ephesians 4:7, 12. "But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."



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## BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST THROUGH OUR MISSION

We embrace our mission of 'Loving Jesus by Serving Others,' and desire to grow our ability to live it out. We build the body of Christ with pastors and staff who nurture spiritual growth and equip others to use their God-given gifts for ministry. Calling a full-time associate pastor will provide consistent pastoral leadership at both campuses, strengthen our ministries, and deepen our connections to God and each other.

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST BY INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN

We raise up the next generation and nurture the body of Christ by investing in our children. We provide children and their parents and other adults in their lives with enriching educational and fellowship activities, fostering spiritual growth. Together, we equip our families to live into their faith, supported and emboldened by God's gift of grace.

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST AMONG OUR NEIGHBORS

We grow the body of Christ within our neighborhoods by actively seeking innovative ways to connect and serve, fostering community bonds, beyond our church walls. By hosting welcoming events both on and off-campus, we bring Christ into the World.



With the success of the special appeal earlier this summer, our congregation demonstrated its commitment to call a full-time associate pastor by seeding a pastoral salary for six months. It was a great sign of the faith our congregation has in Epiphany and its mission, and it was a significant step in building up the body of Christ among us. Now is the time to take the next step in that commitment as we fully fund the associate pastor position and secure Epiphany's future. Growing your giving will make this possible.



# MINISTRY INITIATIVES

## Goal #1: Building the body of Christ through our MISSION

Pastors and staff are ministry multipliers: they invite, train, and support members in using their God-given gifts to build up the body of Christ and bring Christ into the world. They also support the spiritual growth of members, which fuels our ministries of raising up the next generation of Christians and our care for the community both within and beyond our walls. Growing our giving will enable Epiphany to call a full time associate pastor, retain quality staff, implement initiatives that advance our strategic planning process, and continue to care for our facilities.

## Goal #2: Building the body of Christ by investing in our CHILDREN

Young people represent the church of today. As the body of Christ has many members, each with particular gifts, our children and youth share their perspectives, talents, and preferences, enriching our worship and community life.

Young people also represent the church of tomorrow. By investing in an expanded Children and Families staff position at Epiphany, we support the growth of young people through education, making future leaders and cultivating a thriving church relevant to the issues and culture of the next generation.



## Goal #3: Building the body of Christ among our NEIGHBORS

As the body of Christ, we are the eyes and ears that see and hear of God's abundance and the needs of those around us. We are the voices that witness to God's goodness and grace and advocate for those who are less fortunate. We are the hands and feet that reach out to welcome, embrace and serve others in the world around us. Expanded generosity will enable us to show Jesus' face of love through increased visibility and presence at community and service events supported by a full-time associate pastor.

*"I am thoroughly impressed by the active, dedicated, and loving ministries that are here at Epiphany. I'm thrilled to be involved with the diversity of worship that's here. I love to see the devotion of those who are serving as ministers of the Word."*

– Michele Uhl, Call Committee Chairperson

*"I know that when I come to Epiphany on Sundays, I can relax in the Lord with the people I love. I'm excited about the future of Epiphany Lutheran Church. I'm excited that I'm a part of the family here."*

– Billy Heaning, Council-at-Large

## EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



These charts point out where we are now and how we can reach our goal.

Study the chart. See where you are now on the current giving chart. Ask yourself these questions:

- » How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- » How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- » Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?
- » How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

*"We see the fruits of Christ's influence on our society through the helpful actions of its many members. We can't imagine what our life would be like without our church."*