



# RENEW

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



*“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



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## ***THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR***

**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.

**God's House is where children are brought into His Kingdom** through the waters of Baptism.

**God's House is where our souls are fed** with the very Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

**God's House is where couples are joined in marriage** and begin their journey through life as husband and wife.

**God's House is where people experience community** with God and one another, through Jesus Christ, and grow up and mature in the faith.

**God's House is where those who have died in the Faith are remembered and their lives are celebrated** in funeral and memorial services, and those who mourn receive comfort and consolation through Jesus who conquered death for us and for our salvation.

- Pastor Jon



# OUR HISTORY

**For almost 30 years here at Epiphany, in God's House, lives have been changed, renewed, and transformed. God's House is precious to God's children and the Renew initiative is about God, His House, and His people. It is celebrating where we've been and where we are going as God's forgiven, empowered, and victorious children. It is about our personal journeys of faith and our future as a church.**

## Early 1980s

Ascension Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas gave the Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) \$130,000 to start a mission congregation in Pearland, Texas.



## 1989

The Texas District of the LCMS called a seminary graduate (Jon Salminen from St. John's, Michigan) to be mission developer for the Pearland Mission. That same year, the Pearland mission began as a handful of people meeting for Bible Study in the club house of the Silver Maples Apartment complex.

## 1990

The Pearland Mission rented space for worship and ministry in a shopping center. On Palm Sunday 1990, the first Sunday morning worship service was held. Later that year, on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 1990, Epiphany Lutheran Church, with 113 baptized members, was officially chartered as a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

**1991**

Epiphany installed the Rev. Jon Salminen as its first pastor. A new sanctuary, classrooms and office space were dedicated on June 4, 1994 in what is now our current location.



**1995**

Installation of a second called staff member due to substantial growth.

**2000**

The Ascension Family Life Center, a 20,000 square foot facility with classrooms, a kitchen and a gymnasium was dedicated.

**2005**

Assisted Rev. Vijay Gurrula in planting Our Redeemer Church to serve the Indian community in southwest Houston.



**2007**

Installation of a third called staff member to meet the needs of our growing congregation.

**2015**

Epiphany celebrated 25 years as a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



**Today**

Epiphany is a congregation of 984 baptized members. We have two Sunday morning worship services. Both services are live streamed every week.



# *THE RENEW INITIATIVE SEEKS TO...*





# RENEW 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 there. This will include improving our worship space as well as audio and visual technology to better proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

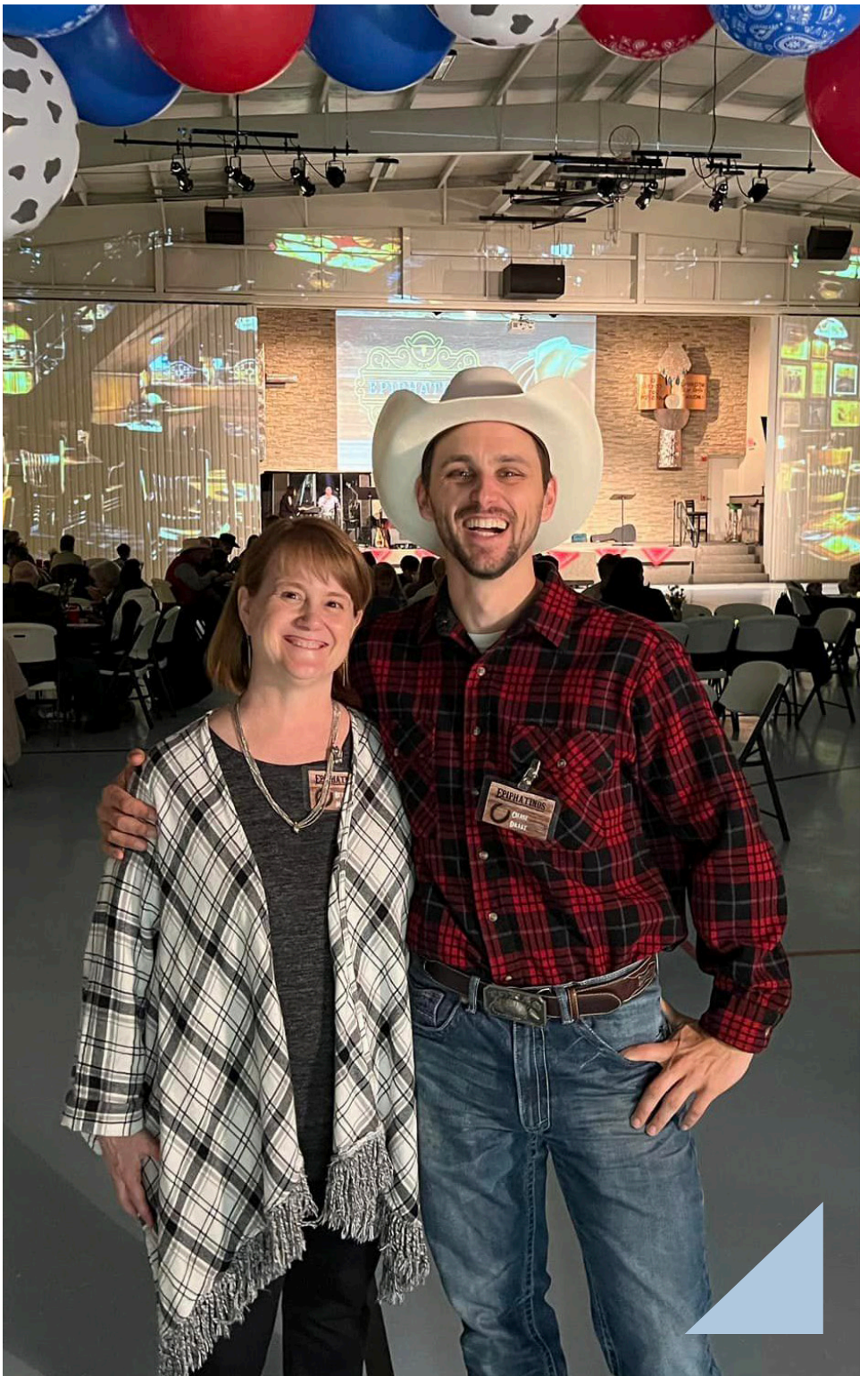




## **RENEW** **A DESIRE FOR GROWTH.**

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.









## **RENEW** **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.







# ***PRIMARY GOAL***

In order for this Renew Vision to become a reality, we will need 100% engagement of everyone who calls Epiphany their church home to go on a journey of discipleship as it relates to their stewardship and generosity. We want everyone to experience the joy of partnering with God in His mission for this world.

# ***SECONDARY GOAL***




Our financial goal of at least \$1.7 million over the next three years will enable us to renew God's House to provide for much needed repairs as well as create a welcoming space for those who worship our Lord, and for those who have yet to have a relationship with Jesus.





# ***OUR PLAN***

**The funds received through Renew Initiative will be used to (in order of importance).**

-  Renew the sanctuary to restore the beauty and reverence of God's dwelling place as well as improve lighting, audio and streaming capabilities to reach those who cannot attend in person or those who choose to visit us first online. Current estimated cost is \$2.3 – 2.4 million, including funds expended or committed to date of \$0.3 million.
-  Renew and expand the narthex and restroom facilities to provide a welcoming environment that minimizes distraction of members and visitors as they attend worship. Current estimated cost is \$0.65 – 0.75 million.
-  Enhance the Ascension Family Life Center (AFLC) downstairs restrooms with showers to add capabilities for serving our congregation and community in times of need. Current estimated cost is \$0.25 – 0.3 million.










# ***JOURNEY OF A GIVER***

The Journey of a Giver focuses on behaviors and attitudes of our hearts rather than on amounts or percentages, further transforming us into the likeness of Christ. Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.



## **INITIAL GIVER**

- Decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word. This is someone who wants to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

## **CONSISTENT GIVER**

- Commits to give something consistently to exercise the discipline of giving regularly. Often, someone who makes their gift an online recurring gift will learn the behavior of consistency.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER

- ▶ Determines their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. For example, this type of giver begins asking the question, “Why am I giving more to Verizon than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my mortgage each month?” This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize and spend their money.

## SURRENDERED GIVER

- ▶ Recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. They give in a way that changes them. Their giving determines their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving determining their giving. They are not concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they’re NOT giving and why.

## LIFETIME GIVER

- ▶ Thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. Their giving goal governs their short and long term purchasing decisions such as homes, cars, investments, vacations, etc, in order to allow for their generosity capacity to be realized.

# ***NEXT STEPS***

## **PRAY**

Pray boldly that God will multiply our efforts to awaken the Epiphany community to Jesus. Pray that He will make clear the next step He is asking each of us to take in our discipleship journey.

## **COMMIT**

Commit fully to reach our goal of 100% engagement. Stand firm with your church family at Epiphany, committing to do what God asks of you.

## **GIVE**

Give expectantly, in a way that stretches you to a deeper level of generosity. Give knowing that God will do a powerful work in you to further His kingdom here on earth.



# FAQS

## **How do I participate in the Renew Initiative?**

We want all members to prayerfully consider what God has done in their lives and the impact Epiphany has had in their discipleship journey. Then, on May 21st, we ask you to commit to giving over and above your current financial support for a three year period, from June 2023 to May 2026.

## **How can I give?**

There are many ways that you can fulfill your pledge beginning June 4, 2023. You can use the same method as your current support (check, ETF, etc.). You may also have non cash gifts (like stock) that you can give right away. More details about these and other options will be available on our website.

## **When is Commitment Sunday and what are we doing?**

May 21st, 2023 will be Commitment Sunday for the Renew Initiative. We are worshipping together in one service on that Sunday, followed by a lunch and fellowship event to celebrate our commitment to God and each other.  
[www.epiphanyreview.org](http://www.epiphanyreview.org)





# ***IMPORTANT DATES***

## **RENEW SERIES**

April 23, 2023 – May 21, 2023

## **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**


May 21, 2023

## **REVEAL AND FIRST GIFTS**

June 4, 2023

## **GIVING SEASON FOR RENEW**

June 1, 2023-May 31, 2026



# ***RENEW SERIES***



Readings and themes for the Renew Series:

## **WEEK 1**

Acts 1: 1-11 “Power and Purpose”

## **WEEK 2**

Acts 9: 1-16 “Break Through Miracle Power”

## **WEEK 3**

Acts 16: 16-28 “The God Above It All”

## **WEEK 4**

Acts 20: 17-24 “The Supreme Value of Mission”

## **WEEK 5**

Acts 27: 21-16 “Nothing Can Stop God’s Plan”



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[www.epiphanyrenew.org](http://www.epiphanyrenew.org)