

Audition Information

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry
is pleased to present...



A Children's musical by Kathie Hill

Directed by Kandis Gibson

Presented as part of worship on December 13-14, 2025

All audition/show information available online at <https://epiphanydayton.org/drama/>



Dear Friend of Epiphany,

Thank you for your interest and for considering being involved with the Epiphany Players Drama Ministry! This group was formed thirty years ago so that we can use the many talents and gifts that God has shared with us to help spread the Gospel. The drama ministry at Epiphany is special. Between our Children's Christmas show and our intergenerational summer show, where else will you see performers from ages 3 to 70 on stage together, sharing and growing their talents and faith? This is Epiphany's mission – to love Jesus by serving others – in action.

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry was created through the loving and selfless partnership of several very dedicated people, including Pastor Larry Hoffsis and Kay Frances Wean. Pastor Larry had the dream of a ministry that would "help people take that first step into a church." Kay supplied the vision and love to create and sustain such a ministry. Although Kay is no longer with us, her light continues to shine through this ministry, and the tradition of drama at Epiphany lives on through the next generation.

This year's production of *Wise Guys and Starry Skies* will certainly provide a great Christmas message to the many people who will see it. Our goal is to double-cast whenever possible in order to allow the greatest possible number of people to participate in this ministry. 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 among all who participate in our productions.

Whether you are a member of Epiphany or a friend from the community, we invite you to be involved with our drama ministry. We welcome those of all ages onto the stage, and we always need more help behind the scenes. How do you become involved? You can email drama@epiphanydayton.org and/or join our Facebook Group ("Epiphany Players Drama Ministry"). We would love to hear from you.

In Christ's Dramatic Love,

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry Steering Team

Chair Michele Borns, Lori Embry, Kandis Gibson, Jackie Randall, Megan Rehberg, Sarah Richter, Connie Risch, and Megan Sears

For Actors and Parents

This information is provided so that you are aware of the responsibilities and commitments for participation in **Wise Guys and Starry Skies**. 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 the level of commitment involved. **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.

All audition information and general show updates available at [Epiphany's Drama Webpage](#)

Overview

The story centers around Jesse, a boy who longs to be a wise man. He signs on as a camel boy with the three kings and other "wise guys," cooks and camel boys. As they travel to find the heavenly king, Jesse shares what he knows of the coming Messiah through Old Testament prophecy and songs. When they finally arrive in Bethlehem, everyone's heart is ready to receive and worship the newborn king.

The Children's Christmas musical is part of the drama ministry at Epiphany. The show, which lasts about 40 minutes, takes place during the worship service. Children in grades 1-8 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; anyone is welcome to participate in the drama ministry. The cost per cast member is \$45, which covers the cost of a show t-shirt (\$15) and the cast meal (\$10) on December 14th, as well as helping to offset the cost of putting on the production (\$20). Adults are required to participate in set build, set strike, and serve on a committee of your choosing.

Important Dates

Activity	Day	Date	Time
Auditions	Friday Saturday	September 19 September 20	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Callbacks	Monday	September 22	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Cast Meeting	Sunday	October 5	1:00 p.m. (Mandatory with parent)
Rehearsals	Sundays	Beginning 10/5	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
	Mondays		6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
	Thursdays		6:00 - 8:00 pm
Set Build	Sunday Saturday	November 16 November 22	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (or earlier)
Sensory Friendly Dress Rehearsal	Saturday	December 6	4:00. - 6:30 p.m. mandatory
Tech Week		December 7-12	Attendance is mandatory
Performances	Saturday Sunday	December 13 December 14	5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Cast and Family Meal Set Strike	Sunday	December 14	12:30 p.m. Attendance at strike is mandatory .

All activities are at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Far Hills Campus, 6430 Far Hills Avenue

Contact Information

Director: Kandis Gibson
elcchristmasshow@gmail.com

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

Auditions

When and Where are Auditions?

Auditions are Friday, September 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Epiphany's Far Hills Campus. **If you cannot attend either audition day, you may submit a video audition to elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.**

Please arrive early so that you can check-in and prepare for the individual audition. Audition paperwork should be submitted, online, prior to arriving at auditions. We require that a parent or responsible adult wait on the premises during your child's audition. The audition will take around 5 minutes.

How Do I Sign Up?

[Sign up for an audition time and complete the info form here](#). It is best if you sign up in advance for an audition spot to guarantee that space is available. You can certainly just drop in and audition, but you may have to wait as those with reservations get to go first.

Who Should Audition?

Children in grades 1-8 who are interested in having a role in the show.

How Do I Audition?

Audition Forms

Make sure that the audition forms are completed online prior to arriving at the church. The list of required forms is provided below.

[Complete online: Audition Registration Form and conflicts](#) and 2025-2026 Parental Consent, Liability and Media Release Form.

What to Prepare

You will need to sing 32 bars from a song that you like. Bring sheet music in the correct key, or a track without vocals. An accompanist will be provided. Please no acapella singing. If you cannot find sheet music, please come prepared to sing "Away in a Manger" or "Happy Birthday". Please also be prepared to tell a favorite joke or story.

Audition Callbacks and Casting

Callbacks are scheduled for Monday, September 22nd, 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Be prepared to stay the whole time. Callbacks will consist of reading a few scenes from the script, learning and singing a song from the show, and potentially learning a short dance routine. 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! **If you are not called back, that does not mean that you will not be cast.** We will follow our tradition of double-casting main parts when possible. This helps to provide more opportunity for everyone to perform. **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. Please limit your conflicts to no more than six. A **complete** submission of conflicts up front helps us to fairly cast the show. Your absence from rehearsal affects the entire cast. We need YOU! We understand that life happens, and illnesses, emergencies, and other things pop up -- when it comes up, please communicate with Connie Risch at 317-450-0337. **There will be no conflicts accepted at all during Tech Week (December 6-14)*.** (*The ONLY exception is a graded school band/orchestra/choir concert -- Please let the production team know if this affects you ASAP)

Full Cast Meeting

A mandatory cast meeting will be held on Sunday, October 5th at 1:00 p.m. in the Unfinished Space. The meeting should last approximately one hour. Cast members and at least one parent are expected to attend the cast meeting to get further information, such as an overview of the process, committee needs, the rehearsal schedule and paperwork with signature requirements. At this time, we will also collect \$45 per cast member (cash or check to Epiphany Lutheran Church), which covers the cost of a show t-shirt (\$15) and the cast meal (\$10) on December 14, as well as help offset the cost of putting on this production (\$20). If the cost of participating is holding you back from being in the cast, please contact Connie Risch directly at 317-450-0337 or elcchristmasshow@gmail.com. **Rehearsal will begin immediately after the cast meeting and will end at 4:00.**

Rehearsals and Other Important Dates

All rehearsals will take place at the Far Hills campus. You will receive a detailed calendar at the cast meeting. For now, you can plan on the following:

- Mandatory Cast Meeting: Sunday, October 5th, 1:00 p.m. with rehearsal immediately after
- Regular Rehearsals begin on Monday, October 6
- Mondays, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- Thursdays, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- Sunday afternoons. 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Mandatory Set Build: Sunday, November 16, beginning at noon and Saturday, November 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m. until done and cleaned up (The CC must be in Service ready condition). *There **will** be rehearsal during set build as well, so actors, please bring your scripts.*
- Sensory Friendly Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 6, 4:00-6:30 pm
- Tech Rehearsal: Sunday, December 7, 1-6 p.m. (more info to come on this, performers called at 3:00 pm)
- Mandatory Dress Rehearsals: December 8th-12th, 6:00-9:00

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 from November 17 - December 14.

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, so that we can get started promptly. If you are running late, please call or text Connie to let her know. You may 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.

Character Breakdown

The following list is provided to familiarize you with the characters and to help determine which parts might be of interest.

Cast of Characters:

Melchoir - the older, wisest wise guy
Gaspar - the friendly wise guy
Balthasar - a younger, slightly flaky wise guy
Cookie - a sarcastic cook
Jesse - a young, enthusiastic character
Mary - the mother of Jesus
Narrator
Wise Guys
Cooks
Camel Boys

Some revisions may be made to allow for more speaking & singing opportunities for other cast members. Certain roles may be cast either male or female.

Chorus Opportunities

If your 1st-8th grade child is interested in being a part of the production but does not want to be considered for a role, then the Chorus Ensemble is the place for them - no audition required! The Chorus Ensemble will have a limited rehearsal schedule, starting November 17. They will learn multiple songs from the show and perform them with the rest of the cast. There may be some movement/dance sections added for the Chorus Ensemble if needed. If your child has never been on stage before, this is a great way to get introduced!

If your preschool or kindergarten child wants to participate, we have a place for them too! The PreK chorus will only learn one song and will only rehearse during tech week, starting Monday, December 8th. They will learn their song, blocking, and choreography during this week and be released early. We understand these youngsters need to get home and get ready for bed so we will do our best to accommodate their schedules.

Both the Pre K and Chorus Ensemble will be costumed for all performances. Specific info to come.

If you are interested in having your child participate in the chorus – no auditions required - please [complete the interest form here](#).

Production Team Participation

Every year, we ask that you, the adult family member, help out on a committee to help make our show a success. Please make sure you have signed up for a committee that is listed on the audition form, and you will be contacted by the committee chair to learn how you can be of assistance. Any questions, please email Connie Risch at elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

High School Opportunities

We LOVE having High school students be a part of the production! We are looking for a few good people to learn while lending a hand. If you would like more information, please contact Connie Risch at elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

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.

Because the safety of our children and youth is of the utmost importance to us, an application and criminal background check is required of all volunteers over the age of 18, who work directly with children or youth (e.g.: backstage dressers). For those volunteer roles, a donation is requested to cover the cost of the background check. If you have completed a background check since July 1, 2022 you will not need to submit another one. In addition, all adult volunteers and production staff are required to review and adhere to church policies, including a brief training video on mandatory reporting.

Audition Form Information

You will be asked to fill out the following information when [signing up for auditions online here](#):

Name	Address
Home Phone	Parent Phone
Grade	Age
School	Audition Date/Time
T-shirt size (order additional t-shirts there too - \$15 each)	
Parent(s) Name(s)	Parent email address
Roles Interested In	Are you willing to accept any role?
Do you play an instrument? Which one(s)?	What are you singing today?

List any experience you have with theater, dance or special skills. You may submit a resume, as well.

Each parent of a cast member must sign up for at least one production team to assist with the show. It will take *ALL* of us to make this year another success! Please check your team preference(s):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Backstage Dressing | <input type="checkbox"/> Backstage Crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Cast/Family Meal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rehearsal Assistant | | |

Conflicts - **No conflicts on or after December 6 (Tech Week).**

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry Youth Theater Agreement for "Wise Guys and Starry Skies"

****This agreement will be provided for cast members and parents to sign at the cast meeting.****

It is so easy to want the best of everything for our children. Too often it is possible to involve our children in more activities than they can adequately commit to. Please take a serious look at the level of commitment required by participation in an Epiphany Players Drama Ministry production and weigh it against the demands of school work, extracurricular activities, and family activities.

It is very difficult to produce a quality show with just weeks until opening night. Part of ELC's commitment to you is to provide a professional learning experience, and this is difficult if attendance is inconsistent. Every cast member and every part is important, and absences create a gap that affects the learning experience of fellow cast members. Please check your dates before signing this agreement.

I/We _____ enter into the following agreement with Epiphany Players Drama Ministry on this date **Sunday, October 5, 2025** and understand the following terms:

☐ **Rehearsal times will be strictly followed.** Attendance will be taken at the start of all rehearsals. You must be present and, if required, be in costume. It is suggested you always schedule to arrive 10 minutes early. If you are not present for attendance you will be marked **late**. If you are not present twenty minutes after attendance you will be marked **absent**. Repeated absences may result in casting changes or dismissal from the production.

☐ **All rehearsals must be attended** unless otherwise stated by the Director, e.g. your character is not scheduled on stage for that rehearsal and the Director has not called for your attendance. You are expected to inform the Producer if you anticipate being late or absent for a rehearsal.

☐ **Tech Week (the week before the show opens) and Performances – Everyone must be on time for Call.** The only exceptions are severe illness, an accident or a death in the family or a graded school event. **Call** is usually one hour before show time.

☐ **Inappropriate Behavior:-** All participants of Epiphany ministries are expected to respect each other, respect property (of the church and of others), stay in designated supervised areas of the church, and to abide by the rules set by production staff and church staff. Behavioral concerns will be addressed with both the child and parent, and any dangerous or severe behavior that is counter to the mission of this ministry will result in dismissal from the production.

☐ **Refunds:** once a participant is cast in the show and the fee for participation is paid, there will be **no refunds given** to anyone who leaves the show through their own volition or by request of the Director and Producer. Unavoidable circumstances may be an exception to be determined by the Producer and Epiphany Players Drama Ministry.

☐ **Each child must be signed out after each and every rehearsal.** If your child is being picked up by someone other than yourself, you must give the Producer a written note with the following information: the child's name, your name, the date(s) for the change, and the name of the person given permission by you to sign your child out.

I/We, the undersigned, agree to all the terms stated above. We understand that this agreement is for the duration of this show.

Cast/Crew Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date