

Audition Information

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry
is pleased to present...



A Children's musical

Directed by Margo Russ McKenzie

Music Directed By Dean McKenzie

Presented as part of worship on December 12-13, 2026

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



Hello Friends of Epiphany,

Thank you for your interest in the Epiphany Players Drama Ministry and for considering becoming part of this special ministry! We are so excited to welcome new performers, volunteers, and supporters into a tradition that has been sharing faith, community and the joy of theatre for nearly 30 years. The Epiphany Players were created with a simple but powerful purpose: to use the many talents and gifts God has given us to help share the Gospel and connect people to the Church. There is truly something special about the drama ministry at Epiphany. From our Children's Christmas production to our intergenerational summer show, where else can you see performers ranging from 3 to 70 sharing the stage, growing their talents, building relationships, and strengthening their faith together? This is Epiphany's mission – to love Jesus by serving others – put into action.

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry was built through the loving and selfless partnership of several very dedicated people, including Pastor Larry Hoffsis and Kay Frances Wean. Pastor Larry dreamed of creating a ministry that would “help people take that first step into a church,” while Kay brought the vision, passion, and love necessary to build and sustain that ministry. Although Kay is no longer with us, her light continues to shine brightly through the Epiphany Players. Her legacy lives on in the people who continue to serve, perform, and share their gifts through this ministry, and the tradition of drama at Epiphany continues to grow with each new generation.

This year's production of *Check Out That Star* is sure to bring a meaningful and joyful Christmas message to everyone who experiences it. Whenever possible, our goal is to double-cast roles so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate. We believe that everyone has something valuable to contribute, both onstage and behind the scenes. At the heart of the Epiphany Players is an atmosphere of Christian love, respect, encouragement, and support. We strive for excellence while recognizing that our talents are gifts from God. Through each production, our directors and leadership team work to help participants discover, develop, and share those gifts while creating something meaningful together.

Whether you are a longtime member of Epiphany, a new face, or a friend from the surrounding community, we would love to have you be part of the Epiphany Players. We welcome performers of all ages and experience levels, and there are always opportunities to serve behind the scenes as well. Interested in getting involved? Email us at drama@epiphanydayton.org and/or join our Facebook Group (“Epiphany Players Drama Ministry”). We would love to hear from you, answer your questions, and help you find a place within this incredible ministry! We look forward to seeing where God leads us, and to sharing the joy, fellowship, and message of Christmas together through *Check Out That Star*!

In Christ's Dramatic Love,

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry

Chair: Megan Wean Sears

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

For Actors and Parents

This information is provided so that you are aware of the responsibilities and commitments for participation in **Check Out That Star**. 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

Happy Valley has fallen under a black cloud. O'Hare, the meanest woman in town, is taking down all the Christmas decorations. But in one funny, crazy dream, O'Hare discovers that Christmas is wonderful when we open our hearts to receive God's free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

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 \$55, which covers the cost of a show t-shirt (\$20) and the cast meal (\$10) on December 13th, as well as helping to offset the cost of putting on the production (\$25). 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	September 18	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Callbacks	Sunday	September 20	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Cast Meeting	Monday	September 28	6:15 p.m. (Mandatory with parent)
Rehearsals	Tuesdays	Beginning 09/29	6:15 - 8:15 p.m.
	Thursdays		6:15 - 8:15 p.m.
	Sundays		1:00 - 4:00 pm
Fundraising Opportunities: Face Painting at Stubbs Park Bingo	Saturday Saturday	October 3 November 14	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Set Build	Sunday Saturday	November 15 November 21	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (or earlier)
Sensory Friendly Dress Rehearsal	Thursday	December 10	4:00. - 6:30 p.m. (Mandatory)
Tech Week		December 6-11	Attendance is mandatory
Performances	Saturday Sunday	December 12 December 13	5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Cast and Family Meal Set Strike after 1 p.m. Show	Sunday	December 13	10:30 a.m. Attendance at strike is mandatory .

All activities are at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Far Hills Campus, 6430 Far Hills Avenue, unless otherwise specified.

Contact Information

Stage Manager: Sam Johnson
Phone: 937-956-4265
Email: elcchristmasshow@gmail.com

Producers: Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr
Phone: 214-728-6835 or 937-272-0900
Email: elcchristmasshow@gmail.com

Auditions

When and Where are Auditions?

Auditions are Friday, September 18, 5:30 - 8:30 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 2026-2027 Parental Consent, Liability and Media Release Form.

What to Prepare

You will need to sing 32 bars (approximately 1 minute) 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 recite a monologue ([for sample monologues click here](#)), tell a story, or a favorite joke.

Audition Callbacks and Casting

Callbacks are scheduled for Sunday, September 20th, 1:00 - 4:00 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 crucial to the organization of the production that you list ALL of your conflicts. 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 as a conflict. Please limit your conflicts to no more than six (excluding Trunk or Treat which is an understood conflict if you wish to participate on October 8th). 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 Sam Johnson at 937-956-4265. **There will be no conflicts accepted at all during Tech Week or the performances (December 6-13)*.** (*The ONLY exception is a graded school band/orchestra/choir concert - please let the production team know if this affects you ASAP). Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Full Cast Meeting

A mandatory cast meeting will be held on Monday, September 28th at 6:15 p.m. in the Unfinished Space. The meeting should last approximately one hour. Cast members and at least one parent or guardian 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 \$55 per cast member (cash or check to Epiphany Lutheran Church), which covers the cost of a show t-shirt (\$20) and the cast meal (\$10) on December 13, as well as help offset the cost of putting on this production (\$25). If the cost of participating is holding you back from being in the cast, please contact Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr at 214-728-6835 or 937-272-0900 or elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

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: Monday, September 28th at 6:15 p.m.
- Regular Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:15 p.m.
- Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
- Thursdays, 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
- Sundays, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 3rd, 12:00-8:00, Face Painting at Stubbs Park - this is a fundraising opportunity to help cover the cost of our production. Adult and youth volunteers needed. Simple designs and short shifts available. [Use this link to sign up for this fun event.](#)
- Saturday, November 14th, 5:00-9:00, Bingo - this is another fundraising opportunity to help cover the cost of our production. Adult volunteers can help sell bingo cards, raffle tickets and work in the kitchen. Youth volunteers can help in the kitchen only. We will also need volunteers to make homemade goodies to sell at concessions. Lastly, we are seeking donations for raffle baskets. [Use this link to sign up for this fun event.](#)
- Mandatory Set Builds: Sunday, November 15, beginning at noon and Saturday, November 21, beginning at 10:00 a.m. until done and cleaned up (The Celebration Center must be clean and service-ready). *There **will be** rehearsal during set build on Sunday, November 15th as well, so actors, please bring your scripts.*
- Sensory-Friendly Dress Rehearsal: Thursday December 10, 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m
- Tech Rehearsal: Sunday, December 6, 1-6 p.m. (more info to come on this, cast called at 3:00 pm)
- Mandatory Dress Rehearsals: December 7th-11th, 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

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 beginning in mid to late November.

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

Sam Johnson at 937-956-4265 to let him 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 with your script.

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:

O'Hare: A Cruella DeVil type of character at the start, but by the end softens up and has a change of heart to the point of sharing Jesus' love with all.

Norma Gene: Heaven's cutest, smallest, and feistiest angel ever! Stands up to O'Hare but gets real worried when things aren't going as planned.

Jordan: Heaven's nicest angel. Never fear when Jordan's here. Always has his head together.

Herod: The Whiner of Whiners. Strong character with the ability to change emotions at will.

Innkeeper: Has to deal with all the nuts who come to the Inn. Must be sensitive and sometimes frustrated.

Herder #1 and Herder #2: excitable shepherds who are visited by the angel of the Lord

Three Kings: Though the Kings have no names, each must have a definite personality. They must have good comedic timing and be able to play off of each other well

Mary: The mother of Jesus. She wears the pants in the family, even though she's large with child

Joseph: The father of Jesus. A desperate dude who is anxious to find a place for Mary to have Jesus

Maggie: A giving girl with a big heart.

Beverly: A poor girl with a bright personality.

Jason: Maggie's brother. Although small, he stands up to O'Hare, both in a confronting and loving manner.

NON-SPEAKING PARTS: Scribes, Angels, Cool Cat, Helpers, and Carolers

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. We will follow our tradition of double-casting main parts when possible.

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 sometime in mid to late November (exact date to be determined and will be communicated later). 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! The cost per chorus member is \$30, which includes a show t-shirt if paid prior to November 23rd. If the cost of participating is holding you back from being in the cast, please contact Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr at 214-728-6835 or 937-272-0900 or elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

If your preschool or kindergarten child wants to participate, we have a place for them too! The Pre-K Chorus will only learn one song and will only rehearse during tech week, starting Monday, December 7th. 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. The cost per preschool chorus member is \$20, which includes a show t-shirt if paid prior to November 23rd. If the cost of participating is holding you back from being in the cast, please contact Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr at 214-728-6835 or 937-272-0900 or elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

Both the Pre-K and Chorus Ensembles 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 Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr at elcchristmasshow@gmail.com.

Fundraising Opportunities

The cost of this production continues to rise every year. We don't want to put all of the financial burden on the families of the cast members so we do our best to raise funds in other ways. We will have restaurant takeovers throughout the production. The first restaurant takeover will be Huey Magoos, Monday, September 28th, 5:00-9:00 pm. A flyer will be shared soon. Other restaurant takeovers will be shared as they are scheduled.

We have been asked again to do face painting at Fall Fest at Stubbs Park this year. The designs are simple and can be done by youth and adults. Fall Fest will be held on Saturday, October 3rd, 12:00-8:00 pm. [Please click here to sign up for a 2 hour or a 3 hour shift.](#)

Every year the church donates the proceeds from one Bingo night back to the Children's Christmas Musical. All we have to do to receive the proceeds is provide volunteers for the evening. Volunteers will be responsible for selling bingo cards, raffle tickets and concessions. We will also need donations of baked goods to sell at concessions. [Please click here to volunteer for Bingo.](#)

If you have any questions about any of these fundraising opportunities please feel free to reach out to Connie Risch directly at candcrisch@gmail.com or 317-450-0337 or 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 Tracy Williams-Dennis and Christine Orr 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 December 1, 2023 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 auditionsj online here:](#)

Name	Address
Home Phone	Parent Phone
Grade	Age
School	Audition Date/Time
T-shirt size (order additional t-shirts there too - \$20 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):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Costumes | ☐ Backstage Dressing | ☐ Backstage Crew |
| ☐ Set Construction | ☐ Set Painting | ☐ Cast/Family Meal |
| ☐ Rehearsal Assistant | | |

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

Epiphany Players Drama Ministry Youth Theater Agreement for “Check Out That Star”

****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 **Monday, September 28, 2026** 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 Stage Manager 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 Stage Manager 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