



ALL ARE WELCOME! 

April 2024 Newsletter

I SHALL RISE

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In John 11, Jesus got a notice that Lazarus in Bethany, the brother of Mary and Martha, was dead. So he went to their house. On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26) I am just awe-struck by this conversation between Jesus and Martha. Martha had zero understanding of what Jesus meant. She meant her brother’s resurrection in the future, but Jesus meant ‘raising Lazarus now’. I can picture Martha being astounded that Jesus resurrected her brother right there. He was no longer in the tomb. Does this surprise you?

“Do you believe this?”– this question of Jesus captivates me. Ask yourself, “Do I believe NOW that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do I believe NOW that I will live eternally even after I die?” I wonder what we would do differently if we really believed this. Philips Brooks said, “Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, “Christ is risen,” but, “I shall rise.” In this belief, we can turn our life around NOW. In this belief, we can find new life NOW when everything feels lifeless. In this belief, we see light shining in what feels like a dark tomb NOW. Because Christ lives in us and with us through the Holy Spirit, we are compelled to live the future in the present. In this belief we make a difference NOW.

HOW MUCH FOR A MIRACLE?

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. The Messenger No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door. She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!



'And what do you want?' the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. 'I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages,' he said without waiting for a reply to his question. 'Well, I want to talk to you about my brother,' Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. 'He's really, really sick....and I want to buy a miracle.' 'I beg your pardon?' said the pharmacist. 'His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?' 'We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you,' the pharmacist said, softening a little.

'Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs.' The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, 'What kind of a miracle does your brother need?' 'I don't know,' Tess replied with her eyes welling up, 'I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money.'

'How much do you have?' asked the man from Chicago. 'One dollar and eleven cents,' Tess answered barely audible. 'And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to.' 'Well, what a coincidence,' smiled the man. 'A dollar and eleven cents---the exact price of a miracle for little brothers.'

He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said 'Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need.'

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well.

Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. 'That surgery,' her Mom whispered. 'was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?'

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost....one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child.

In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law. In this time of Easter, let us remember that nothing is too big nor too small to warrant God's involvement. Go to him consistently and often as you walk the path put before you. Expect that his hand will be upon you at every turn and receive the wonderful blessings that he has in store for you.

Church Council MEETING

The next Church Council Meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom. Upload team reports or documents to the Council Google Drive ([April 2024 folder](#)) and send them to Martha Garner [via e-mail](#). You may also e-mail them to Linda Stamps at luthern.epiphany@gmail.com for her to upload.

March 2024 Worship Services

Worship time is 9 am Sunday morning - all in-person worship services continue to be offered online [via Facebook Live](#) for those who are unable or unwilling to attend worship in person. Holy Communion is offered at all in-person worship services unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

All Sunday worship services are held in person and online at 9 am at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

April 7, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Second Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Third Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fifth Sunday of Easter

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship

April 7 & April 21

Epiphany's Core Values — Faithfulness, Inclusion, Love

Our Guiding Principles

We accept and appreciate your presence.

We serve everyone.

We grow personally through the word of God.

We are God's hands, feet, and voice to serve our community.

We rejoice and share in the love of God.

Our Purpose — to welcome all, sharing God's promises and love through our actions.

Epiphany Financial Update

In February, Tithing was 1% below budget. Meanwhile, Expenses were 9% under budget. YTD, Tithing is 9% under budget and expenses are 10% under budget resulting in a small net gain.

	Feb-24			2024 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,056	\$ 6,100	-\$ 44	\$ 11,158	\$ 12,275	-\$ 1,117
Expenses (incl. Loan)	\$ 7,573	\$ 8,348	-\$ 775	\$ 14,565	\$ 16,266	-\$ 1,701
Net	-\$ 1,517	-\$ 2,248	\$ 731	-\$ 3,407	-\$ 3,991	\$ 584

Donate

As always, you may mail your check to Epiphany (see address below) or give via ACH bank draft ([click here for instructions](#)).



We also accept tithes and offerings as well as payments to special funds (Property Fund, Food Pantry Fund, Hispanic Food Pantry - El Redentor) through PayPal. [Please visit our website](#) and click on the PayPal button at the top of the home page to donate. (You may have to refresh your website or delete cookies to use the button more than once.) You may also click on the PayPal logo above.



You may also mail checks to: Epiphany Lutheran Church. P.O. Box 1805, Collierville, TN 38027

Kroger Community Rewards

[Click here to register](#) with Kroger's Community Rewards program. We are registered as Epiphany Lutheran Church, organization #39854.






Date/Time: April 9, 2024 at 6:30pm CST

[Click to register](#)

You are invited to join the Southeastern Synod and Deacon Ross Murray for an online discussion about his book *The Everyday Advocate* on April 9th at 7:30pm EST. In *The Everyday Advocate*, Deacon Ross encourages Christians – through stories and of his own experiences – to discern their call to advocate for justice and shows them how to respond faithfully by taking practical steps in everyday life. He also helps faith leaders guide people through their calling to advocacy and to connect with communities that can use their passions and talents.


Deacon Ross will be one of our keynote speakers and this year’s Synod Assembly. He serves as the vice president at the GLAAD Media Institute and is the founding director of the Naming Project, a faith-based youth ministry and summer camp for LGBTQ youth and their allies. Please read the book prior to the online discussion. You can read more about Deacon Murray, *The Everyday Advocate*, and purchase your copy at his website rossmurray.org

Book Discussion
with
Deacon Ross Murray




Tuesday, April 9
7:30-9:00 pm ET / 6:30-8:00 pm CT

Register via elca-ses.org



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

“Come to the Table”

Luke 14:15-23

African Descent Rostered Leaders Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 27, 2024

9:30am Eastern

**St. John’s Lutheran Church
1410 Ponce de Leon Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30307**

Register at elca-ses.org



GUEST SPEAKER
Pr. Nicolette Peñaranda
ELCA Program Director
African Descent Ministries



Pr. Jonathan Hemphill
Assistant to the Bishop
Congregational Life



Social Ministries/Outreach

We will continue collecting change on the first Sunday of every month in 2024 to benefit the Alpha Omega Veterans Association. Please help us support this worthy organization - **our next collection is Sunday, April 7. Thanks for your support!**

Twila Hooverson joyfully delivered the collection of snacks that were generously donated by our members to Binghampton Christian Academy for their after school and home program. Another drop off will be made this week.

Many thanks to all who donated!



Mark your calendars for April 23, 2024 at 4pm. We will be serving dinner at Calvary Mission.



Calvary Rescue Mission is a non-profit, independent, faith-based shelter for homeless men in Memphis, TN. They serve two full meals a day, offer clothing to the homeless, have a 2500 volume library, and provide nightly chapel services, counseling, a discipleship program, and lodging.

Stay tuned for our upcoming outreach projects:

- Collecting and distributing backpacks and school supplies
- ELCA Good Gifts, Barnyard Collection
- Peace Christmas Gifts



Investing in Epiphany Lutheran Church

If You Are Over 72

As many of you know, if you have an IRA investment account and you are over 72 you are required to take a minimum distribution from that account each year. What you might not be aware of is that you can make contributions to any charitable organization from this distribution and those contributions are tax exempt. It is excellent way to make a contribution to Epiphany. You should check with your investment advisor and find out how you can take advantage of this benefit.

At Any Age

If you have an investment portfolio with significant gains, ask your financial advisor about setting up a charitable donor-advised fund. You can transfer stock, mutual funds, etc. directly to it without paying capital gains and that transfer counts as a charitable contribution for your itemized deductions. Many investment companies sponsor donor-advised charitable funds (e.g., Fidelity, Schwab, Vanguard); some banks (such as Bank of America) offer them as well. You can then manage this donor-advised fund to donate to charities (including Epiphany) whenever you want.

Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Candy Knight
Greg Parker

Apr 7
Apr 11



Have we missed ***your*** birthday? [Please send the month/day to Linda Stamps \(lutheran.epiphany@gmail.com\)](mailto:lutheran.epiphany@gmail.com) so you can be included!

[Click here](#) to find out what's happening at your library!



Collierville
BURCH
LIBRARY



Town of
Collierville
TENNESSEE

[Click here](#) to find out what's happening in your town!

April 2024 Calendar of Events

(Please [check our calendar online](#) for the most up-to-date information)

Sun 4/7	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Second Sunday of Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 4/14	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Mon 4/15	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 4/21	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
4/23	4pm - Calvary Rescue Mission	Serving dinner at Calvary Mission
4/28	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

April 2024 Prayers

Every month, the ELCA provides its Prayer Ventures for member congregations. The link to the monthly prayers can always be found on our website on the [Christian Education page](#), along with an ELCA Daily Bible Reading and Luther Seminary's God Pause Daily Devotion. [Here is the link for this month's prayers.](#)

You may also access our Epiphany Lutheran Church prayer list [here](#). If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, [please email Linda Stamps](#).



Why should we pray? One key reason to pray is because we are told in the Bible over and over to do this. If we are to be obedient to God's will, then prayer must be part of our life in Him. Where does the Bible call us to prayer? Several passages are relevant:

- "Pray for those who persecute you" -Matthew 5:44
- "And when you pray ..." -Matthew 6:5
- "This, then, is how you should pray ..." -Matthew 6:9
- "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." -Romans 12:12
- "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." -Ephesians 6:18
- "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." -Philippians 4:6
- "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." -Colossians 4:2
- "Pray continually" -1 Thessalonians 5:17
- "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ..." -1 Timothy 2:1



AARP TAX AIDE

FREE E-FILE TAX ASSISTANCE FROM TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

**Tuesdays, February 6 to April 9
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Please sign in with the AARP volunteer upon arrival - first come, first served.
Enrollment will be closed once all eligible participants for the day have signed in.



Tax Season Just Got Easier

This Spring, volunteers from AARP will be at the Library to assist patrons with completing their taxes. Patrons will be helped on a first come, first served basis beginning at 10 a.m. There will be no appointments this year.

How to Participate

Please sign in with the AARP volunteer upon arrival. Sign in will close when capacity is reached. Please bring all important documentation with you to the Library. [Visit their website for details.](#)

Tax aide will take place this year on Tuesdays, February 6 to April 9, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Halle Room.

About Tax Aide

[AARP Foundation Tax-Aide](#) is the nation's largest free filing program, and it's aimed at taxpayers who are 50 or older. It's available across the country and staffed by volunteers who are trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

March 2024 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for Sundays - please consider volunteering!

Want to know more about being a worship servant? [You can review the duties and guidelines here.](#)



Worship Servant SignUp Genius

[2024 SignUp](#)

If you need assistance, [email Linda Stamps](#) - she will be happy to help you sign up if you have any issues!

[View current prayers](#)

Please send your [prayer requests to Linda Stamps](#). You may also [submit a prayer request online here](#).

Thank You!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Worship Location

Collierville Presbyterian Church (USA)

202 W. Poplar Avenue

Collierville, TN 38017

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1805

Collierville, TN 38027

Rev. LaVonne Johnson

Email

Website

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

YouTube

pastor@epiphanylu.org

info@epiphanylu.org

www.epiphanylu.org

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran

www.twitter.com/epiphanyville

<https://www.instagram.com/epiphanylutherancollierville>