

August 2023 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

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I spent last week in Phoenix at the Rostered Ministers Gathering, an ELCA event where pastors and deacons get together to share in worship, learning, and social opportunities. It was a meaningful experience, and I'd like to share some of what I learned with you.

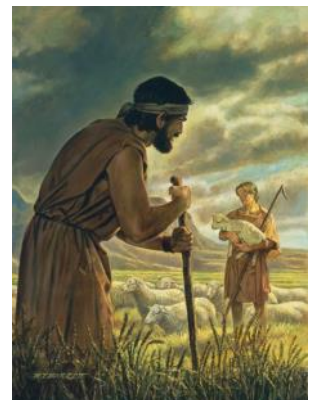
One of the classes I took, "Texts of Terror," was led by Dr. Crystal Hall, and dealt with a couple textual issues in the Bible. I learned a lot and would like to share some of the teaching with you. The first part of the 3-hour session dealt with the Fall, so we begin in Genesis.

We've long been taught that the Fall was totally Eve's fault, that she listened to the serpent and ate the apple. But is that what the Bible tells us? No, it is not; read the creation stories in Genesis 1-3 and you will find God's creation and terms for how humans are to live in it. After Adam and Eve's "eyes are opened" God spoke to the serpent, the woman, and the man. The words God spoke were descriptive of how their lives were, not prescriptive or punishing. God made clothes for the couple and sent them out of the Garden.

But note: God never punished them or broke off relationship with them. They, and their children Cain and Abel, continued to walk with God. Until, that is . . . Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions.

And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.



The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Continued on p. 2

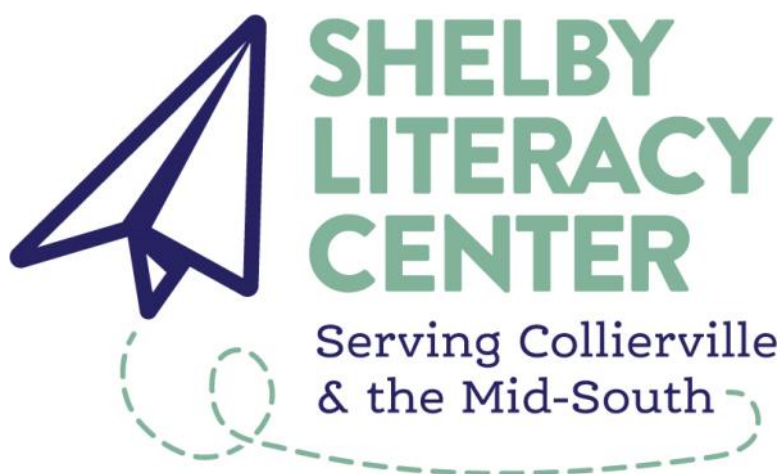
Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Genesis 4:1-12

And there it is; the first sin mentioned in the Bible is here in Genesis 4, where Cain, who as the older brother was dominant over his younger "nothing" brother. Cain's murder of Abel resulted in separation from God, from his family, from the Earth.

There is no mention of sin and broken relationships with Eve in chapter three. That comes in chapter four, with Cain's jealousy, fury, and murder of his brother. I found this to be an eye opening way of seeing what scripture really says, and hope it gives you new insights as well. There is more to share so keep an eye out for September's newsletter.

Blessings,
Pastor LaVonne



Shelby Literacy Center is looking for 5 board members with experience in finance/accounting, video production, marketing, fundraising/donor relations, or diversity/equity/inclusion work.

Meetings are monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6pm. If you

are interested, please email info@shelbyliteracy.com for an application.

Mission: We strive to create an environment that is welcoming, safe, and supportive of every individual's learning goals. We provide personalized support and small-group learning. Our mission is



June 2023 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 morning worship services
are held in person and online at 9 am
at Collierville Presbyterian Church**

August 6, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship
on June 4 and June 18!***



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 June, income was 20% under budget and is now 1% under budget YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 2% over budget for the month and 4% under budget YTD.

	Jun-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 5,193	\$ 6,483	-\$ 1,290	\$ 47,647	\$ 48,318	-\$ 671
Expenses	\$ 9,102	\$ 8,901	\$ 201	\$ 48,031	\$ 50,056	-\$ 2,025
Net	-\$ 3,910	-\$ 2,418	-\$ 1,492	-\$ 384	-\$ 1,738	\$ 1,354

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.



Social Ministries/Outreach



On the first Sunday of every month in 2023, we will be collecting change to benefit the Alpha Omega Veterans Association. Please help us support this worthy organization - **our next collection is Sunday, August 6th. Thanks for your support!**

Whether you cycle, run, walk, or simply donate and cheer us on, you are making a difference in the fight against cancer:

- 1 mile walk
- 5K run/walk
- 20 mile bike ride
- 40 mile bike ride
- 60 mile bike ride

Register at www.westfighton.org.

WEST FIGHT ON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Times subject to change. We will post final times prior to the event.

5:30 a.m. Packet Pick Up

6:45 a.m. Cycle Opening Ceremony

6:55 a.m. 60 Mile Ride Start

7:00 a.m. 40 Mile Ride Start

7:05 a.m. 20 Mile Ride Start

7:45 a.m. Run & Walk Opening Ceremony

8:15 a.m. Warm Up

8:40 a.m. 5K Run/Walk Start

8:45 a.m. One Mile Walk Start

9:30 a.m. Survivor & Caregiver Ceremony

10:00 a.m. 5K Awards & Top Fundraisers Awards Ceremony

Music, food, vendors, kids' activities, and more will be available throughout the day!



ONE LOVE. ONE HEART. ONE FIGHT.

Let's Get Together

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

*Shop Fresh
Shop Local*



Thursdays
8am-12noon

454 West Poplar Ave



Collierville FM Vendors

A New Life Herbs	2023	Paradise Seafood
Bills Gardening		Rhodes Farm
Blue Glass Jar Farmacy		Ripley Produce
Brazilian Bake Shop		Samya's Kitchen
Breena's Gourmet Kitchen		Studio 55
Chequy Bull Dairy		The Farmstand at La Grange
Dabbling Dough & Books		The Sift Bakery
Deer Creek Farms		Vu's Family Farm
Faith Farms		Your Personal Chef
Falcon Ridge Farm		317 Clay Company
Fresh From the Farm		Aaccezzories
Garden Fresh		The Artful Granny
Gardens of Greenleaf		Barefoot Bouquets
H&H Farms		Boo and Finni
La Belle Bakery		Fletchy's Freeze Dried
Las Delicias		Flipside Asia
Marla's Garden		Hampton Oaks Farm
More Than Bread		Honey Phase Jewelry
New Way Aquaponic Farms		

Check it out! Fresh local produce including a few early tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, strawberries, flowers, sweet and savory croissants, macarons, art, pottery, raw milk, casseroles, bread, meat, honey, soap, sensory kits & kids books, jewelry, Thai cuisine, Brazilian desserts, tea, real fruit lemonade, Guacamole +pico+chips, homemade candy, freeze dried candy, herbs, tinctures, kombucha, eggs, and so much more!

SYNOD NEWS

LUTHERANISM 101: a 4-part series

[Click here to register.](#)

In the Southeastern Synod, we are engaging our laity in Fall 2023 to enter into a series called "LUTHERANISM 101, a 4-part series." These will be 4, 1.5 hour online classes to help our laity (and perhaps rostered ministers) to engage in learning about the basics of the Lutheran faith and tradition. Register just ONCE for all 4 sessions. Attend as many as you can. The series is free. Held via Zoom - link and reminder emails will be sent upon registration



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dates & Times: Tuesdays - 7-8:30pm ET / 6-7:30pm CT

September 5: "What Do We Believe?" with Rev. Dr. William R. Russell, Coordinator for The Lutheran Confessions' Project, LWF

September 19: Adult Catechism, with Bishop Emeritus Julian Gordy

October 3: "Who is Luther?" with Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel, Lenoir Rhyne - LTSS

October 17: Lutheranism in North America, with Rev. Dr. Susan McArver, Lenoir Rhyne - LTSS

All sessions will be recorded and posted to the Southeastern Synod Formation landing page on the synod website, and a digest of videos and resources will be emailed to all at the end of the series.

Lutheranism 101 - a 4-Part Series



Tuesdays - Sept. 5 & 19, Oct. 3 & 17

7:00-8:30pm ET / 6-7:30pm CT



Register at elca-ses.org



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.

it's always FUN at the **SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 10**
Delta Fair

Senior American Day **AGRICENTER WING A**
Wednesday, Sept. 6th **Memphis, TN**
DELTA FEST.COM

SCHEDULE

9:30 AM - Marines Present Colors in Wing A
10:00 AM - Delta Fair Senior American Spelling Bee
10:45 AM - The Memphis Police Department Peacemakers
11:30 AM - Senior Talent Contest
1-3 PM - Annual Delta Fair Tea Dance with Jim Mahannah, Jr., Band
ALL DAY - Senior Vendors

FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING SEPT 6th 9AM - NOON FOR AGES 60 AND UP!



[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!](#)

June 2023 Calendar of Events

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

	Pastor LaVonne's Office Hours	Pastor LaVonne holds office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays - please e-mail her to make an appointment.
Sun 8/6	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 8/13	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 8/20	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 8/21	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Wed 8/23	7pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries Committee Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754?
Sun 8/27	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

August 2023 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](#).



Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Ray Heilener	8/6	Chris Kelyman	8/8
Olivet Lankapalli	8/10	Jennifer Sykes	8/21
Dan Scherf and Joann Wieland			8/27



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

August 2023 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for Sundays in August - please consider volunteering!

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



Worship Servant SignUp Genius

[2023 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>