

June 2023 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

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The following is part of the Memorial Day service held at Living Word on Monday. I find this account from 1 Kings so powerful; Elijah is having a crises of faith. He bested the prophets of Ba'al in a sacrificial "cook off" and has been pursued by the army of Ahab and Jezebel. Jeremiah flees into the wilderness and seems to fall into a deep depression. Angels minister to him, encouraging him to eat and rest—good advice for all of us when things get difficult—and God tells the prophet to rest and get strong, as God is about to make Godself manifest to lead Elijah into new things.

Our congregation is being led into new things; is God speaking to us through Elijah's story to help show us the way?

1 Kings 19:11-13

He [God] said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

What are we doing here?
We've witnessed the winds, devastating destructive winds of war, winds of hatred, fierce winds of violence, winds where God is not found.

GOD IS FOUND
NOT IN THE **WIND**
NOR IN THE **EARTHQUAKE**
NOR IN THE **Fire**
...but in a still, small voice.

(KINGS 1:19:11-13)

What are we doing here?
We yearn for holy presence,
to make sense of life.
To give purpose.
Life is out of control, like
an earthquake, upsetting foundations
we hoped were sturdy and steady.
But God was not in the earthquake.

What are we doing in this place,
this broken, windswept, unsteady place?
We looked for God in the fire,
yearning to burn with holy passion and
holy purpose. But the fire only wrought
destruction and death, and God was not there.
What are we doing here?
We are faced with silence,
deep, penetrating, all encompassing
stillness. No words. Presence, holy presence
beyond words, beyond worlds.

God was there, in the silene.
Speaking soul to soul,
heart to heart.
Calling us by name.
Asking us what we are doing,
here, now. What are you doing here?
A conversation begins,
silent and holy. A conversation
that leads to the choices we make,
the road we walk, the service we
engage in. Service to the nation,
service to the planet, service to the those
caught by the wind, the earthquake, the fire.
Service to all whom we meet on the way.

What are you doing here? Let your answer be service. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor LaVonne



After almost seven years, my time working together with the good people of Epiphany is ending. I am looking forward to enjoying more time with my husband Tim and family, doing some traveling and volunteer work, and making a possible move closer to the beach!

It has been such a pleasure to work with everyone at Epiphany, and Tim and I loved meeting the congregation in person at worship services and special events! I have really enjoyed all the relationships I've formed and appreciate the trust you put in me to be a part of Epiphany's ministry. I want to thank each one of you for your kind words over the years, and for making my job a pleasant one!

And a heartfelt and sincere thank you for the beautiful friendship bowl and sweet card you sent me – it is gorgeous, and I will treasure it (and hopefully find a place of honor for it in a new home at the beach soon!).

I look forward to staying in touch and watching how Epiphany moves forward in the future. You are in excellent hands with Linda Stamps on board which makes me very happy! If we're ever in the area, don't be surprised to find us popping into a Sunday worship service. Wishing you all the best for the future!

Blessings,
Carol

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**

June 4, 2023 Service of the Word - The Holy Trinity

June 11, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourth 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 April, two families tithed their entire annual pledge resulting in a large surplus both monthly and YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 1% under budget for the month and 5% under budget YTD.

If you plan on giving your tithe in a lump sum instead of monthly, please let Phil Goetz know the expected month of the donation.

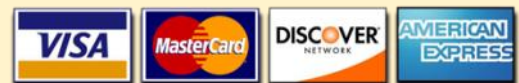
	Apr-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 16,685	\$ 7,268	\$ 9,417	\$ 36,250	\$ 29,072	\$ 7,178
Expenses	\$ 7,827	\$ 7,901	-\$ 74	\$ 30,139	\$ 31,804	-\$ 1,665
Net	\$ 8,858	-\$ 633	\$ 9,491	\$ 6,111	-\$ 2,732	\$ 8,843

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, June 4th!** *So far this year, the Alpha Omega change fund has brought in \$146.00! Thank you so much!*

You can still donate items for the Hispanic Food Pantry for El Redentor

There is still time! We are still holding a food drive for El Redentor, a United Methodist church and ministry which serves the Hispanic Community in the Memphis area. Here are a list of non-perishable foods we are collecting:

canned beans, tomatoes, jalapeños, and green chilies; rice; tortillas; canned meats including tuna; boxed meal starters; pancake mix; soda crackers; potatoes; peanut butter and jelly; dry soup mixes; coffee and other similar packaged foods.



Donations can be dropped off at Collierville Presbyterian Church and placed in the bin outside of Pastor LaVonne's office until June 4th.



Tuesday, June 13th | 11am
[Backermann's Country Store](#)
260 U.S Hwy 64, Whiteville, TN

Join us! We'll be meeting the Living Word Ladies for a fun Ladies Day Outing! We'll enjoy lunch and little shopping. Please contact [Twila Hooverson](#) to let her know if you will be coming and if you would like to car pool, or if you have any questions.



Synod News



Southeastern Synod Assembly 2023
Please keep our participants in your prayers as they engage in the ministry of this synod.

[Click here for more information about the 2023 Southeastern Synod Assembly.](#)



Thursdays in Black

Our voices matter. We each can speak up against violence against women and girls. Thursdays in Black is a global campaign launched by the World Council of Churches. It encourages people around the globe to wear Black on Thursdays to show solidarity against gender-based violence. The campaign selected the color black to represent resistance and resilience.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is an ambassador for the campaign and you can learn more about it by [watching her video here.](#)

Join the AntiRacist Table

30 Day Challenge – A Long-Form AntiRacism Program!

Take a stand for humanity! Do you want to be part of the solution? Learn how to be AntiRacist and how to incorporate AntiRacism into your life with our FREE Self-Paced, 30 Lesson Program. The journey to cultivating a life committed to being AntiRacist is a lifelong pursuit that starts and ends with you. AntiRacism is an intentional daily practice that requires willpower, truth, love, and patience.

During the Challenge you will have opportunities to cultivate mindfulness and daily practices centered around equality, justice, and humanity as you integrate The AntiRacist Table Core Principles into your life. Our self-paced Challenge is composed of 30 lessons that lay the foundation for active AntiRacism.

The Challenge will push you to unlearn, reflect, self-educate, and develop awareness of existing oppression, racial beliefs, biases, and privileges. Still have questions? [Read the FAQs by clicking here.](#)



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.

Senior Adult Programs at the Linda Kerley Center

The Linda Kerley Center (LKC) opened in 2017 providing services and activities specifically designed for those who are 50 years of age and older. The facility consists of two open areas, gym, kitchen, and billiard room. Programs at the Center include: exercise classes, line dancing, chair yoga, pickleball (even lessons!), bingo, arts and crafts classes, movies and so much more! There is something for everyone. Some classes have a small fee for which you can purchase a punch card.



Please call the Linda Kerley Center at (901) 457-2769 to learn about current program offerings or visit their website at <https://bit.ly/kerleycenter>. The Center is located at 175 W Poplar Avenue with the main entrance accessible on Poplar Avenue.

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!



*Our precious
Elise
Marie*



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 6/4	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	The Holy Trinity Service of the Word Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 6/11	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Second Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Tues 6/13	11 am - Ladies Day Out	Meet at Backermann's Country Market in Whiteville for lunch and shopping.
Sun 6/18	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 6/19	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 6/25	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Wed 6/28	7 pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754 Passcode: 596978

June 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!

Diane Kruse	June 3
Twila Hooverson	June 15
Anil Lankapalli	June 30



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

June 2023 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for Sundays in June - 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, [e-mail Carol Webster](#) - she will be happy to help you sign up if you have any issues!

[View current prayers](#)

Please [send your prayer requests to Carol Webster](#). 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](#)

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www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran

www.twitter.com/epiphanyville

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