



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

March 2023 Newsletter

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From the Pastor's Desk

Psalm 67 The Message

*God, mark us with grace
and blessing! Smile!*

*The whole country will see how you work,
all the godless nations see how you save.*

God! Let people thank and enjoy you.

Let all people thank and enjoy you.

*Let all far-flung people become happy
and shout their happiness because*

You judge them fair and square,

you tend the far-flung peoples.

God! Let people thank and enjoy you.

Let all people thank and enjoy you.

Earth, display your exuberance!

You mark us with blessing, O God, our God.

You mark us with blessing, O God.

Earth's four corners—honor him!

~Psalm 67:1-7

What a jubilant text! And how good to let it guide our days, to choose it as the place to ground our faith, to live our lives.

We might think of Lent as a time to put away such expressions of joy, to live our lives only acknowledging sorrow, to be long in face and mournful in manner. It is most appropriate to realize the lack in our lives if God wasn't here, to know deep within us that we would be cast adrift on turbulent seas without God to anchor and guide us.

So it is with great joy that we can join the psalmist in recognizing God's character, God's love, God's movement in our lives and in our world. To thank and enjoy God. *(cont. next page)*



Even in our most difficult times, our times of greatest need, our times when we find ourselves in the depths, the best way to pray is to start with thanks. Thanks for God's love and care, or for the life of the loved one we have lost, or for the good seasons of our lives that seem gone now, or for guidance in the past that we might not feel extends to the future, or whatever the circumstance we are facing is. By starting out with thanks and praise for who God is, we remind ourselves not to treat God as a celestial vending machine or genie in a bottle who will fulfill our every desire. We recognize the otherness of God, who loves us with a parent's deep love, who cares for us.

Praising and thanking God is a wonderful way to begin to pray. And to live.

Pastor LaVonne

March 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 e-mail Carol Webster](#).



Please Review Epiphany on Google!

It's a proven fact that organizations with five or more reviews get seen much more frequently on Google! Reviews are a great way to build trust, show you're established, and stand out when people view your profile on Google. **Right now we only have two reviews** (although they are both five stars!!!) Please consider leaving a review of Epiphany on Google by

[using this link](#). This is a great (and inexpensive!) way to spread the word to prospective congregation members and visitors - thank you in advance!

Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Lori Goetz - March 9

Jill Bryson - March 11

Bill Sykes - March 16

Have we missed **your** birthday?

[Please send the month/day to Carol Webster](#)

(carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com) so you can



March 2023 Worship Services

Worship time is 9 am Sunday morning - all in-person worship services continue to be offered online 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**

March 5, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - 4th Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - 5th Sunday in Lent

Zoom information for Sunday worship services in March

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095>

Meeting ID: 816 2793 2095

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

(Please see page 4 for information about Lent and Easter services)

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship
on March 5th and 19th!***





Lenten Study and Lunch

On Saturday, March 11, Epiphany will hold a Lenten Study led by Pastor LaVonne and lunch beginning at 10 am. The topic will be on experiencing spiritual practices, including walking a labyrinth, the practice of lectio divina, the meaning of mandalas, and a variety of other topics including prayer practice, tithing, fasting, pilgrimages and more. The purpose of spiritual practice is to allow “head” knowledge to become “heart” knowledge, and to thereby become ways of reaching back out into the world. It is designed to strengthen our knowledge of ourselves and of God, that we might become stronger in both our faith and our witness.

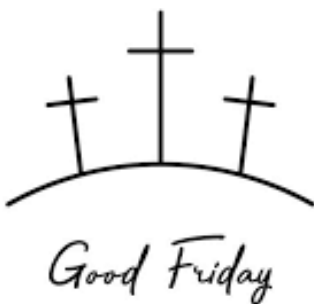
[Please RSVP no later than March 9, 2023](#) so we can plan for lunch!

Also, [Living Word Lutheran Church](#) is hosting a weekly simple Lenten soup lunch every Tuesday at 11:30 am during Lent, beginning February 28th, with a Lenten discussion to follow. All from Epiphany Lutheran Church are welcome to attend - please [contact Pastor LaVonne](#) and let her know if you will be attending, so there is plenty of soup for everyone!



Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

On Palm Sunday, we will hold our normal 9 am worship service, and the congregation will participate in a Reading of the Passion.



Good Friday, April 7, 2023

We will hold a worship service on Good Friday at 3 pm.



Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday April 9, 2023

On Easter Sunday, we will hold our normal 9 am worship service.

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 January, tithing was 12% below budget. We will need to watch this carefully over the first quarter. Meanwhile, expenses were 9% under budget which to a large extent offset the tithing shortfall. However, we cannot assume this will continue throughout the year.

	Jan-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,385	\$ 7,268	-\$ 883	\$ 6,385	\$ 7,268	-\$ 883
Expenses	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,901	-\$ 718	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,901	-\$ 718
Net	-\$ 798	-\$ 633	-\$ 165	-\$ 798	-\$ 633	-\$ 165

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, God's Barnyard) 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.

Delta Community Rewards 11/1/22 to 1/31/23 - 10 Households - \$43.28 Total Donations



Lenten Preaching Series - Calvary Episcopal

Calvary Episcopal Church celebrates its 100th annual Lenten Preaching Series and Waffle Shop during Lent. All are invited to attend in-person to hear this year's 18 dynamic speakers.

All of this year's preaching series also will be live-streamed at 12:05 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday on **Calvary's Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website**. [Click here for more information](#).

Social Ministries/Outreach

Alpha Omega Project

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, March 5th!**



God's Barnyard - Help Make a Difference

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

[ELCA Good Gifts](#) is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

[Using the gift catalog link provided here](#), browse and choose the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Once you have decided what gifts you want to purchase, please make a list of the gifts and submit the list along with a check made out to Epiphany Lutheran Church to Twila Hooverson - we will order all the gifts at one time and take care of the rest! **You may also designate (God's Barnyard) through the PayPal link on our website.**

Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact. The items in this catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they don't.

Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad. More than 85 percent of your gifts directly support our programs. Less than 15 percent is used for administration and fundraising.

Synod News



2023 Lenten World Hunger Appeal

Each year during Lent, the Southeastern Synod decides upon a ministry to support, as well as ask for folks to commit their own physical health. "Forty For Lent" invites you to commit to the following:

- Over the 40 days of Lent
- Commit to walking a total of 40 mile
- Make a donation (for Lent 2023) to ELCA World Hunger

[Click here](#) for more information or to make a donation.



Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Join the Southeastern Synod as we take a Civil Rights Pilgrimage, including stops in Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham.

We will begin our Pilgrimage at 9 am at St John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta and take a bus to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. We will hop back on the bus, stop briefly at the MLK National Historical Park, then eat lunch while driving to the Legacy

Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. After spending time at the Legacy Museum and Memorial, we will board the bus to Selma, AL, to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We will then head to Birmingham for a late dinner and an overnight stay. We will worship with and have lunch with Shades Valley Lutheran Church on Sunday. Before returning to Atlanta, we will stop at the 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park. We anticipate returning to St. John's in Atlanta around 4 pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

Baptismal Promises - Conversations in Lent

The call to discipleship begins in our baptism. As such, we are on a lifelong journey of hope, forgiveness, and focus. Our baptism sets us free to love and serve. We focus on loving and serving by reflecting on the baptismal promises made by sponsors or ourselves. In Lent of 2023, we will gather the synod together ONLINE to share in this re-discovering of the gift of BAPTISM. Each session will be held on a Monday evening (7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT) in Lent (except for the kick-off event) and will be recorded and shared (along with a handout for discussion/reflection) by the next Wednesday morning for personal or congregational use. [Click here for more information.](#)

[Germantown Community Theater Upcoming Events](#)

[Collierville Library Genealogy Programs 2023](#)

March 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 3/5	9 am - CPC and via Zoom 10 am	Second Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095 Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sat 3/11	11 am - CPC	Lenten Study and Lunch
Sun 3/12	9 am - CPC and via Zoom	Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Sun 3/19	9 am - CPC and via Zoom 10 am	Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095 Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 3/20	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Wed 3/22	7 pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754 Passcode: 596978
Sun 3/26	9 am - CPC and via Zoom	Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095



Town of
Collierville
TENNESSEE

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

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



Collierville
BURCH
LIBRARY

March 2023 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for Sundays in March - 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

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www.twitter.com/epiphanyville

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