



ALL ARE WELCOME! 

March 2024 Newsletter

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Resurrection

When Christians talk about “the resurrection,” we’re referring to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Indeed, from the earliest times Christians have affirmed “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate on Easter, is absolutely foundational to Christian faith.

But resurrection isn’t relevant only to Jesus. From the earliest days of the church, Christians have affirmed the resurrection of all people. In the Apostles’ Creed, for example, we confess our belief in “the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” The Nicene Creed teaches us to “look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.”

Though the doctrine of the resurrection is both ancient and essential, it’s often neither understood nor emphasized among Christians today. We tend to think more in terms of “going to Heaven when we die” than “being raised from the dead in the age to come.” I’m not denying that there is truth in saying we go to Heaven when we die, mind you. But if we want our faith to be fully biblical, we need to affirm and understand the doctrine of the resurrection of all people, not just Jesus.

One of the places in Scripture that is the clearest about our resurrection is 1 Corinthians 15. This chapter begins with a rock-solid affirmation of the resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:3-9). Paul refers to this as something “of first importance” (15:3). But then he goes on to explain the “resurrection of the dead,” meaning all dead people, not just Jesus (15:12). In this explanation Paul writes, “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ” (15:20-21). Christ as the “first fruits” is the beginning of the resurrection of all who will be made alive in Christ. We are the rest of the harvest.

Continued on p. 2

The resurrection of Jesus supplies the foundation for Paul's confidence that the gospel is true. The resurrection of all believers gives him hope for the future. It reassures him that, even though we are "clay jars," we won't be cast aside in God's future. Rather, we will be raised. And when this happens, our clayness will be transformed: "When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory'" (1 Corinthians 15:54). Now, if this seems a bit hard to understand, don't worry. You're not alone. In fact, Paul refers to our resurrection as "a mystery" (1 Corinthians 15:51). We believe it as Christians even though we don't fully understand it.

We may wonder what difference it makes that we believe in our own future resurrection. I'd like to mention three implications of this belief. First, the resurrection reminds us that our bodies have value. They matter to God and should matter to us. We do not believe our bodies are mere vessels to be discarded when our souls go to be with God. Rather, our bodies will be raised and transformed. This truth suggests, among other things, that we ought to take good care of our bodies in this life.



Second, the resurrection gives us hope when life is hard. If we believed that the pains of this life were all there is, it would be easy and understandable if we fell into deep despair. Now, it's important to note that resurrection hope does not mean we ignore the suffering and injustice of this present age. We take seriously the brokenness of our world and long for the day when God will make all things new, including us.

Third, this longing actually empowers us to live for God's glory, purpose, and justice in this age. After a lengthy affirmation and explanation of the resurrection of the dead, Paul concludes 1 Corinthians 15 in this way: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (15:58). Our belief in the resurrection encourages us to join God in the work of the kingdom. It reassures us that, in the end, what we do for the Lord in this age matters. Because of the resurrection, our "labor is not in vain."

This means, my friend, that your labor is not in vain if you work for God's purposes and glory. The work you do, whether at your office, your studio, your store, your warehouse, or your kitchen is not meaningless if it's done for the Lord. Moreover, somehow, in the mystery of God's providence, what you're doing now will matter in God's future. Of this you can have confidence because of the resurrection—the resurrection of Jesus and your own resurrection.

Church Council MEETING

The next Church Council Meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom. Upload team reports or documents to the Council Google Drive (March 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 except for Sunday, March 10, which will be an afternoon service at 4pm at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

March 3, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Third Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Palm Sunday

March 31, 2024 Worship Service w/Holy Communion - Easter

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship

March 3 & March 17



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 17% below budget. Meanwhile, Expenses were 12% under budget which to a large extent offset the Tithing shortfall.

	Jan-24			2024 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 5,102	\$ 6,175	-\$ 1,073	\$ 5,102	\$ 6,175	-\$ 1,073
Expenses (incl. Loan)	\$ 6,992	\$ 7,918	-\$ 926	\$ 6,992	\$ 7,918	-\$ 926
Net	-\$ 1,890	-\$ 1,743	-\$ 147	-\$ 1,890	-\$ 1,743	-\$ 147

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Saturday, March 16

12pm

at the church

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.





SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Synod News

[Click here to view this Lenten video series](#) for individuals and congregations consists of six short videos that introduce people to the land, the theology of sumud and its significance through Scripture as the “way of Jesus.” Each video will be available in both English and Arabic.

Through Sumud, the ELCA supports a viable, contiguous Palestinian state; a secure Israeli state at peace with its Arab neighbors; and a shared Jerusalem with equal access and rights for Jews, Muslims and Christians. To achieve this justice, we need your support! Join us in this call to walk alongside our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land by raising awareness and advocating in your hometown, congregation, school or synod.



LGBTQIA+ EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

SPONSORED BY
DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE TEAM & SESLYO

"Welcoming All of God's Children: What does that look like?"
Part II of a Collaboration with Reconciling Works

Tuesday March 19th at 7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M. ET/6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. CT



elca-ses.org
to register

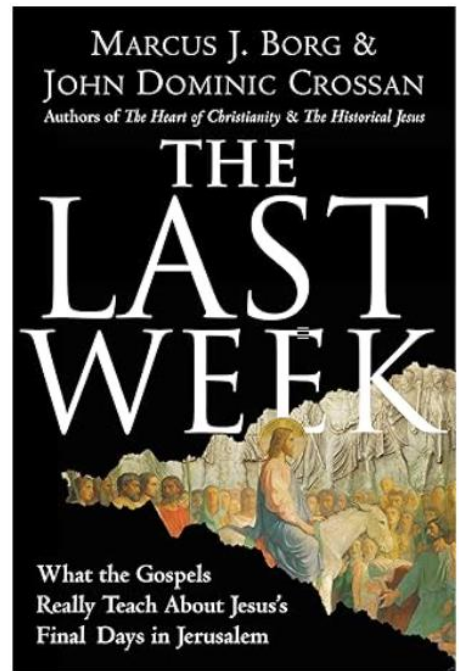
[Register](#)



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS WORKSHOP EVEN IF YOU COULD NOT JOIN US IN JANUARY FOR PART ONE

Join Epiphany Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 16, 2024, for our Lenten study, using Borg & Crossan's *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*.



Who: All are welcome

What: Faith study

When: March 16, 2024, 10-11:45 am

Where: Collierville Presbyterian Church,
202 West Poplar Avenue, Collierville, TN 38017

Cost: Free, coffee and donuts will be provided.

Where can I find the book: You can purchase the book online at [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Books-A-Million](#).

Registration & Questions: Email us at info@epiphanylu.org

See you there!



ALL ARE WELCOME!  Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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, March 3. Thanks for your support!**

We are collecting snack foods for Binghampton Christian Academy. They are running very short for their residential student and After School Tutoring Program that totals 47 students. They are a 'peanut free' school. However, there are still a wide variety of snacks that can be individually wrapped or in the large family sizes (Costco or Sam's Club). Things like Goldfish and fruit snacks for example. Small bottles of water are also welcomed (sometimes they forget their water bottles).



There is a tub outside of the Pastor's office for you to drop off items.

Thanks for your help!
Twila & Linda



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Epiphany Lutheran Church
www.epiphanylu.org

Social Ministries/Outreach is planning the 2024 year. They'd like your ideas for the God's Work Our Hands project. If you have a suggestion, email [Twila Hooverson](mailto:Twila.Hooverson).



Please note that our next meeting has been changed from March 28th to **March 21st at 7:00** via Zoom.



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

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!

Lori Goetz	Mar 9
Jill Bryson	Mar 11
Bill Sykes	Mar 16



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!

March 2024 Calendar of Events

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

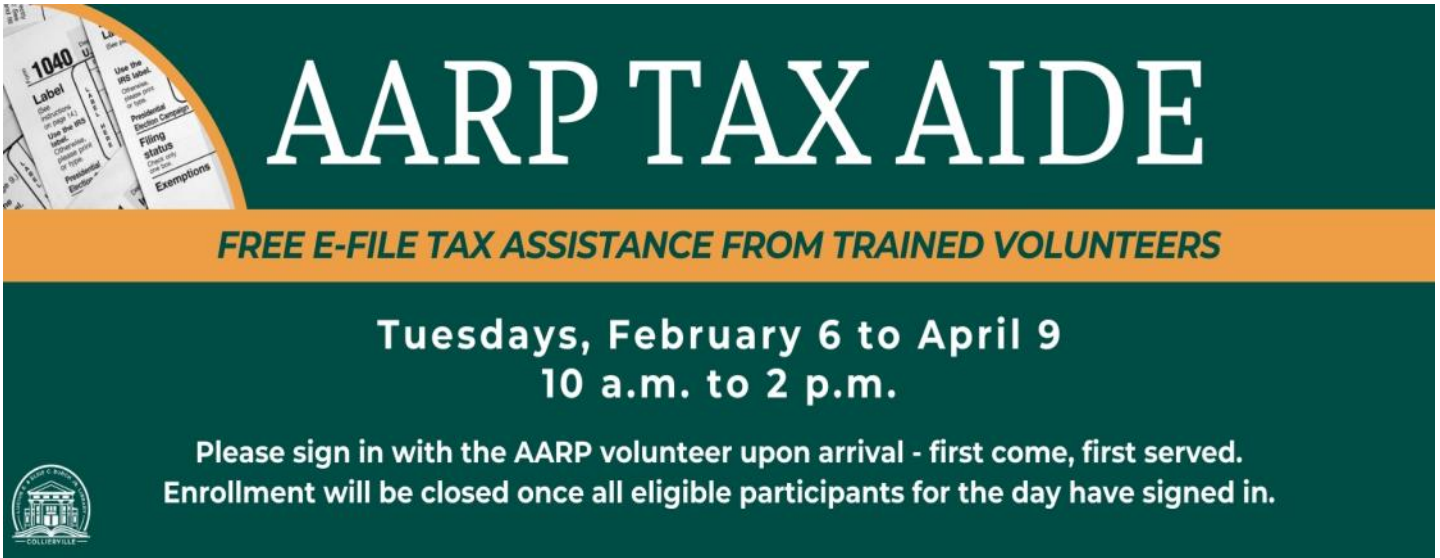
	Pastor LaVonne's Office Hours	Pastor LaVonne holds office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays - please e-mail her to make an appointment.
Sun 3/3	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 3/10	4pm - CPC and via Facebook Live	Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 3/17	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sat 3/16	10am - CPC	Lent Study
Sat 3/16	12pm - CPC	Congregational Meeting
Mon 3/18	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Thurs 3/21	7 pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting
Sun 3/24	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Fri 3/29	3pm - CPC and via Facebook Live	Good Friday Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Sun 3/31	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

March 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](#).





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.

WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT SERIES

MARCH

05	6 P.M.	MENOPAUSE: WEIGHT OR WELLBEING
08	10:30 A.M.	RESUME WRITING
15	10:30 A.M.	ONLINE JOB SEARCHING
21	11 A.M.	STRATEGIES FOR REGULATING STRESS
27	5:30 P.M.	NATURE AND MENTAL HEALTH
28	10:30 A.M.	INTERVIEW TIPS & TRICKS

Registration required

March Women's Enrichment Series

[Click here to learn more.](#)

This March, Collierville Burch Library is celebrating Women's History Month with a series of engaging events for women in all stages of life. Registration begins two weeks before each event.

- [Menopause: Weight or Wellbeing?](#) - Tuesday, March 5, 6 p.m.
- [Resume Writing](#) - Friday, March 8, 10:30 a.m.
- [Online Job Searching](#) - Friday, March 15, 10:30 a.m.
- [Nurturing Women's Resilience: Strategies for Regulating Stress](#) - Thursday, March 21, 11 a.m.
- [Nature and Mental Health](#) - Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.
- [Interview Tips & Tricks](#) - Thursday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.



WWII Codebreaking In-Person

Codes and ciphers have been around since the time of Caesar. Mary, Queen of Scots lost her head because Queen Elizabeth I's Spymaster broke her coded letters to her co-conspirators. In more modern times, the successful cracking of German and Japanese WWII codes contributed significantly to the Allies' victory. Many of us know the story of Mathematician Alan Turing and the breaking of the German Enigma cipher at Bletchley Park from the movie *The Imitation Game*. Less well known are the stories of Polish Codebreaker Marian Rejewski and early British codebreakers Dilly Knox and Mavis Beatty. In the US, the Army and Navy brought 10,000 "Code Girls" to Washington DC to help break Japanese, German, and international commercial codes, including Genevieve Grotjan, a young math major instrumental in breaking the Japanese "Purple" Diplomatic Code.

Join us at the Library at 10:30 on Saturday, March 16 to hear local amateur historian and Retired Army Colonel Mike Ellicott discuss codes and ciphers, the German Enigma and the Japanese "Purple" machines, and the fascinating people involved in the successful WWII codebreaking operations in Great Britain and the United States.

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024
Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm
Time Zone: Central Time - US & Canada ([change](#))
Location: Halle Meeting Room
Categories: Adult Program



Submit Your Poem for April's Poetry Show

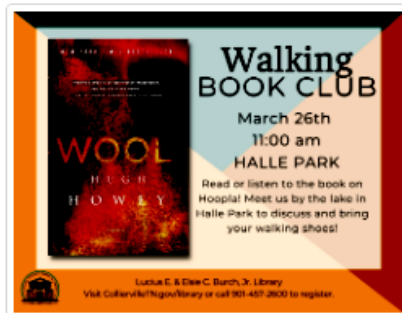
Did you know that April is Poetry Month? Help us celebrate by writing an original short poem, then submit your work to the Library for a chance to be featured in our April Poetry Month Display.

Library staff will select the top 20 submissions for a month-long display in the Library lobby gallery hall. During the month of April, visitors will be able to view the poems on display and vote on their favorite poem. The writer of the winning poem will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

All poems that meet submission guidelines, regardless of selection for the hallway display, will be featured in a digital album on the Library's Facebook page in April.

Participation Rules:

- For adults and teens ages 13 and up.
- One entry per person, please.
- Each poem should be 25 lines or less.
- Entries should be appropriate for all ages.
- Please submit your poem and contact information between Sunday, March 17 and Saturday, March 23, 2024 by filling in the form at this link: [Poetry Display Entry Form](#)
- Early and late entries will not be accepted.
- Submissions will be judged based on originality and imagery.



Walking Book Club Discussion

In-Person

Put on your walking shoes and head to Halle Park to discuss *Wool* by Hugh Howey. Check out and listen to *Wool* on [hoopladigital.com](https://www.hoopladigital.com) with your library card number.

Meet by the lake in Halle Park to walk and discuss.

*New to Hoopla? Go to [hoopladigital.com](https://www.hoopladigital.com). Click **Get Started Today** & create an account using your Collierville Library card number, email, and password. • Browse for a title to checkout. Click Borrow.

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm
Time Zone: Central Time - US & Canada ([change](#))
Location: Halle Park
Categories: ■ Adult Program

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>