

**ALL ARE WELCOME!** 

# May 2023 Newsletter

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## From the Pastor's Desk

*Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. ~Isaiah 43:18-19*

New things springing forth. Don't you feel it? God's own words, a divine promise.

We might take issue with the thought to forget past things, after all, the past is the foundation of the present and the future. In the context of the prophet Isaiah, writing to the people who are in Babylonian captivity, it is advice to not regard that captivity as a permanent status, but to inspire hope for a future of freedom and the ability to return to their homes in Israel.

But God always calls from the future. As we look to the way God is calling us, not in the wilderness but in western Tennessee, to do new things. To bring the message of God's love and comfort to people in our neighborhood.

John Garner and I have visited administration personnel at two area senior living facilities to talk about a team of folks from Epiphany coming to offer communion services on a monthly basis. Each facility has a memory care unit in addition to its regular unit, so we would do two services at each. The response we have gotten is very positive; there is a need and desire for services, open communion, and conversation.

Schilling Gardens told us that they have had no one offering spiritual care in their facility since before the pandemic began. The other facility is The Langford of Collierville and both are close to the church.

*(cont. next page)*





We plan to begin later this month, and ask that you prayerfully consider joining. The plan is to hold a training session for lay communion ministers and to go to the facilities to hold initial services later in May. Already there are a couple folks signed up and it would be wonderful to have more. It is a ministry to others and a great opportunity for us to share God's love. If you feel called to join in this new outreach opportunity, let me or John Garner know.

It is truly exciting to see the new things God is doing. Doing through our hands, our efforts, our willingness to serve!

Blessings,

*Pastor LaVonne*



### May 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](#).



### Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Wally Knight       | May 3  |
| Phil Goetz         | May 8  |
| Prannoy Lankapalli | May 15 |
| Jim Bryson         | May 26 |

Have we missed **your** birthday?  
[Please send the month/day to Carol Webster](#)  
 (carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com) so you can be included!



## May 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**

May 7, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 28, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Day of Pentecost

***Wear red for Pentecost Sunday!***

**[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)**

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship  
on May 7th and May 21st!***





## 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 March, tithing was 4% below budget. This makes 10% below budget YTD. Meanwhile, expenses were 6% under budget for the month and 7% under budget YTD. Hopefully, the quarterly statements will bring additional donations for catch-up.

|            | Mar-23         |                |               | 2023 YTD         |                  |                |
|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
|            | Actual         | Budget         | Net           | Actual           | Budget           | Net            |
| Revenue    | \$ 6,976       | \$ 7,268       | -\$ 292       | \$ 19,566        | \$ 21,804        | -\$ 2,238      |
| Expenses   | \$ 7,581       | \$ 8,061       | -\$ 480       | \$ 22,313        | \$ 23,903        | -\$ 1,590      |
| <b>Net</b> | <b>-\$ 605</b> | <b>-\$ 793</b> | <b>\$ 188</b> | <b>-\$ 2,747</b> | <b>-\$ 2,099</b> | <b>-\$ 648</b> |

### 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, May 7th!** *So far this year, the Alpha Omega change fund has brought in \$112.80! Thank you so much!*

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Good Gifts Barnyard Project!

We raised a total of \$1,497!!!



### New Outreach Project for May! Hispanic Food Pantry for El Redentor



We are 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 La-Vonne's office until June 4th.*

### She's here! Congrats to Kinsey and family on their new addition!

Elise Marie Healy was born Sunday April 23rd at 9:12pm weighing 6lb 15oz and is 21in long. Labor and delivery was peaceful and smooth. She has a head full of dark hair and mom and dad are enamored by her!



# Synod News

## Southeastern Synod Assembly 2023

We are excited to gather once again in assembly in Chattanooga, TN, on Friday, June 2, 2023, through Sunday, June 4, 2023, at the Chattanooga Convention Center, in Chattanooga, TN. We will be spending time throughout the 2023 Synod Assembly plenaries, workshops, keynotes, and more, on a "Journey with Jesus" in which we are "Formed in Faith."

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

2023 Southeastern Synod Assembly

**Journey with Jesus - Formed in Faith**

June 2-4, 2023

**Chattanooga Convention Center**



Formation

## Stories of Inspiration

The stories we hear of God's work in the Southeastern Synod and around the world are too good not to share. As human beings, we are created to tell, share, respond to, and learn from stories. Under our Stories of Faith tab, you'll find links to publications that are committed to telling the story of how Lutherans do God's work with their hands. Congregations have told us about so many wonderful things their congregations are involved in - [find out more about them here](#). [If you have a story to share, click here to submit!](#)

*Inspiration*




## Diversity and Justice

The Southeastern Synod remains committed to Diversity and Justice, with a vision to:

- EQUIP: making disciples of Christ who live out their baptismal callings.
- EMPOWER: living out and inspiring others with confidence in God's grace.
- ENGAGE: building intentional and inclusive communities of love and service.

Read some of the recent stories from around the synod on the Diversity & Justice blog by [clicking here](#).



Bishop Kevin Strickland

Bishop Strickland addresses Gun Violence

March 31, 2023

## SE Synod Statements on Gun Violence

Click the picture to the left to hear Bishop Strickland's statement following the mass shooting at Covenant School in Nashville.

[Click here](#) to view or download the Bishop's statement on gun violence. Links to additional resources can be found below.

[A 60 Day Journey Towards Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence](#)  
[ELCA Social Message on Community Violence](#)

## 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 Expo on May 9th!

The Professional Network on Aging (PNA) is having our Senior Expo at the Agricenter on Tuesday, May 9, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. This is a FREE event for Seniors, with free parking, free admission, and lots of information from over 100 Sponsors and Vendors.

Seniors and caregivers can pick up information about retirement homes, assisted living places, rehab facilities, hospitals, hospices, legal services such as eldercare law firms and estate planners, Aging Commission of the Mid-South, MLGW, mental health, community and senior centers, Medicare and insurance agents, people who build ramps and bathtubs for houses, Delta Fair, Silver Sneakers, home health and homecare agencies, and more. This event is handicapped accessible, and snacks and entertainment are provided as well. See the flyer on the next page for more information!

[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!***





# Cinco de Mayo SENIOR EXPO

**TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**  
**AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL**

**8:30 am–12:30 pm**

- Live Entertainment
- Information on Senior Living
- Giant Consumer Fair
- Lots of Fun for Seniors!

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Seniors, Social Workers, Case Managers, Administrators, Mental Health Professionals, Caregivers, everyone in the field of Aging.

## **BE A SPONSOR OR VENDOR**

For sponsor or vendor information, please call (901) 730-0528 or email [info@pnamidsouth.org](mailto:info@pnamidsouth.org).



Professional  
Network on Aging

[pnamidsouth.org](http://pnamidsouth.org)





## May 2023 Calendar of Events

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

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
|          | <b>Pastor LaVonne's Office Hours</b>      | Pastor LaVonne holds office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays - please <a href="#">e-mail her</a> to make an appointment.                                      |
| Sun 5/7  | 9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live<br>10 am | <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b><br>Worship Service w/ Holy Communion<br>Coffee Hour & Fellowship   |
| Sun 5/14 | 9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live          | <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b><br>Worship Service w/ Holy Communion   |
| Mon 5/15 | 7 pm - Via Zoom                           | Church Council Meeting<br>Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437</a>                                 |
| Sun 5/21 | 9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live<br>10 am | <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b><br>Worship Service w/ Holy Communion<br>Coffee Hour & Fellowship   |
| Wed 5/24 | 7 pm - Via Zoom                           | Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting<br>Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754</a><br>Passcode: 596978 |
| Sun 5/28 | 9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live          | <b>Day of Pentecost (WEAR RED!)</b><br>Worship Service w/ Holy Communion   |



## May 2023 Worship Servants

**Worship servants still needed for Sundays in May** - 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

[pastor@epiphanylu.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanylu.org)

[info@epiphanylu.org](mailto:info@epiphanylu.org)

[www.epiphanylu.org](http://www.epiphanylu.org)

[www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran)

[www.twitter.com/epiphanyville](https://www.twitter.com/epiphanyville)

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