

May 2024 Newsletter

DAY OF PENTECOST

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This year Pentecost is on May 19.

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)



The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty ruach (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The

Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it ruach YHWH, “the wind, or breath, of God” (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.

According to Joel (2:28-29) the ruach is to open everybody to God’s future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.



The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost’s new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God’s mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. ...

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God’s gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God’s plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ’s church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God’s new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.

A blue graphic with a white border containing the text "Church Council MEETING". The background of the graphic is a dark blue with a subtle geometric pattern of triangles. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "MEETING" in a larger size than "Church Council".

Church Council MEETING

The next Church Council Meeting will be Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom. Upload team reports or documents to the Council Google Drive ([April 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.

May 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 at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

May 5, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 19, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Day of Pentecost

May 26, 2024 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Trinity Sunday

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship

May 5 & May 19

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 far below budget because an annual tithe did not come in as expected. Meanwhile, Expenses were 12% under budget. YTD, Tithing is 27% under budget (for the same reason) and expenses are 11% under budget. Overall, we are almost \$4000 below budget.

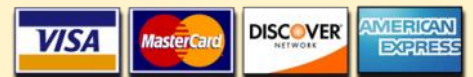
	Mar-24			2024 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,605	\$ 12,100	-\$ 5,495	\$ 17,763	\$ 24,375	-\$ 6,612
Expenses (incl. Loan)	\$ 7,661	\$ 8,718	-\$ 1,057	\$ 22,226	\$ 24,984	-\$ 2,758
Net	-\$ 1,056	\$ 3,382	-\$ 4,438	-\$ 4,463	-\$ 609	-\$ 3,854

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.





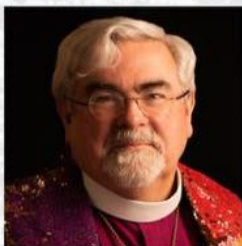
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Synod News

**Join us for a trip to
Luther's Saxony and Christmas Markets!**



**December 8-18,
2024**



President Guy Erwin

Bp Kevin Strickland



Join **Bishop Kevin Strickland** and former bishop and Luther scholar **Dr. Guy Erwin** for this wonderful taste of the Christmas season in the homeland of Martin Luther. You'll see many of the historic locations most significant in Luther's life, and the beautiful hills and forests of central Germany, as well as many of the German-style Christmas markets!

Sign up at elca-ses.org or uls.edu
Initial deposits due by August 1, 2024



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, May 5. Thanks for your support!**

We had a wonderful time serving at Calvary Rescue Mission in April. We got a tour of the facility, served dinner and were headed home by 6:30pm. Many thanks to all that served and cooked and those that gave generously to fund this project. Thanks to Twila Hooverson and the Social Ministries Committee for organizing everything. We had a blast!



Salad girls: Becca Schumacher and Vicki Scherf



Veggie guy: Ed Schumacher



Adding the dressing: Linda Fischer



Serving brownies: Jeanne Foreman



Pickles anyone? - Twila Hooverson



Our servers: Paul Foreman, Dan Scherf and Scott Fisher



Serving casseroles: Lois Ketcham



The gang at work



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!

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 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!

May 2024 Calendar of Events

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

Sun 5/5	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 5/12	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 5/19	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<i>Day of Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Mon 5/20	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 5/26	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship

May 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](#).



Why should we pray? One key reason to pray is because we are told in the Bible over and over to do this. If we are to be obedient to God’s will, then prayer must be part of our life in Him. Where does the Bible call us to prayer? Several passages are relevant:

- “Pray for those who persecute you” -Matthew 5:44
- “And when you pray ...” -Matthew 6:5
- “This, then, is how you should pray ...” -Matthew 6:9
- “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” -Romans 12:12
- “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” -Ephesians 6:18
- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” -Philippians 4:6
- “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” -Colossians 4:2
- “Pray continually” -1 Thessalonians 5:17
- “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ...” -1 Timothy 2:1

May 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>