

November 2023 Newsletter

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From the Pastor's Desk

The Thanksgiving holiday is fast approaching but the attitude of thankfulness fills our every moment when we are aware of the blessings we have. I've selected a prayer poem that reflects that awareness; your moments are not the same as the writer's, but this is a wonderful reminder of how to be aware of things small and large, and to be thankful for it all.

From Michel Quoist (1918-1997), French Catholic priest, theologian, writer:

Thank You Thank You

Thank you Lord, thank you.

Thank you for all the gifts that you have given me today,

Thank you for all I have seen, heard, received.

Thank you for the water that woke me up, the soap that smells good, the toothpaste that refreshes.

Thank you for the clothes that protect me, for their color and their cut.

Thank you for the newspaper so faithfully there, for the comics (my morning smile), for the report of useful meetings, for justice done and for big games won.

Thank you for the street-cleaning truck and the men who run it, for their morning shouts and all the early noises.

Thank you for my work, my tools, my efforts.

Thank you for the metal in my hands, for the whine of the steel biting into it, for the satisfied look of the supervisor and the load of finished pieces.

Thank you for Jim who lent me his file, for Danny who gave me a cigarette, for Charlie who held the door for me.

Thank you for the welcoming street that led me there, for the shop windows, for the cars, for the passers-by, for all the life that flowed swiftly between the windowed walls of the houses.



*Thank you for the food that sustained me, for the glass of beer that refreshed me.
Thank you for the car that meekly took me where I wanted to be, for the gas that made it go, for the wind
that caressed my face and for the trees that nodded to me on the way.*

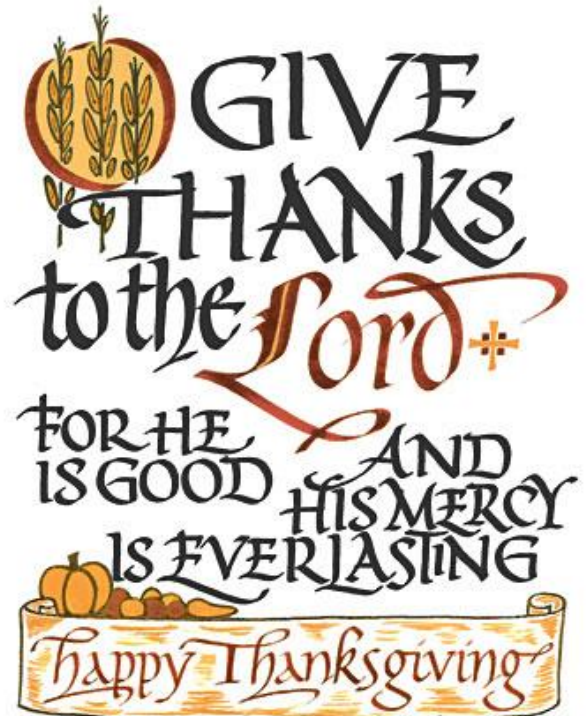
*Thank you for the boy I watched playing on the sidewalk opposite.
Thank you for his roller-skates and for his comical face when he fell.
Thank you for the morning greetings I received, and for all the smiles.
Thank you for the mother who welcomes me at home, for her tactful affection, for her silent presence.
Thank you for the roof that shelters me, for the lamp that lights me, for the radio that plays, for the news, for
music and singing.
Thank you for the bunch of flowers, so pretty on my table.*

*Thank you for the tranquil night.
Thank you for the stars.
Thank you for the silence.*

*Thank you for the time you have given me.
Thank you for life.
Thank you for grace.*

*Thank you for being there, Lord.
Thank you for listening to me, for taking me seriously, for
gathering my gifts in your hands to offer them to your
Father.
Thank you, Lord.
Thank you.*

*Blessings,
Pastor LaVonne*



Thanks to all who volunteered!

We still have a couple of days left but this year's pumpkin patch was a great success! Raising over \$16,000, CPC will collect 33% of which we will receive a portion based on the hours worked. If you unloaded pumpkins or worked the patch, thank you! ELC amount to be announced later.

*thank
you*

November 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**

November 5, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship

November 5th and 19th!



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 September, tithing was slightly below budget (2% below). We are now even with the budget YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 5% under budget for the month and 5% under budget YTD.

	Sep-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,348	\$ 6,483	-\$ 135	\$ 67,473	\$ 67,767	-\$ 294
Expenses (incl. Loan)	\$ 7,469	\$ 7,901	-\$ 432	\$ 70,121	\$ 74,109	-\$ 3,988
Net	-\$ 1,121	-\$ 1,418	\$ 297	-\$ 2,648	-\$ 6,342	\$ 3,694

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.



Stewardship Moment

As treasurer, I wanted to give an update on how things stand. Tithing is exactly on budget. Thank you for keeping up. Expenses are below budget. We are treading water as we have done the last couple of years. We are not cash strapped. If you have heard that, it isn't true. In fact, the council gave permission to invest in CDs with higher interest rate than our current account. Overall, we are doing fine but we do have some concerns going forward.



First of all, the mortgage on the land is an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) and is due to change in January. Obviously, the rate will go up from when we got it 5 or so years ago. We are very close to signing an agreement to sell the land. There is a 6-month due diligence period so we will have to pay the higher interest rate for a number of months assuming it takes the whole duration. If you want to hear more about that we can talk during Fellowship time.

Another item is that Candy and Wally will be leaving us in the next couple of months. They have been significant contributors both financially and as volunteers. The rest of us need to pick up their slack. Next week Dan will be talking about ways you can give in a tax advantage sort of way so maybe you can give a little more. Social Security, which a number of you are receiving, will go up 3.2% next year. Over the last 3 years, Social Security has gone up about 18%. If you have been giving a flat amount over the last couple of years, prayerfully consider increasing that because our expenses have gone up with inflation.

Then around volunteering. Wally is part of council so that will leave an open position. Prayerfully consider being part of council. He's part of the tech team. It's not that difficult. There are easy instructions to follow. If you'd like to take this spot starting next year, we'd greatly appreciate it. If you have any follow up questions, I'll be happy to share additional details.

Peace,
Phil Goetz



Shrimp Boil

Provided by The Schumachers

Saturday, Nov. 4 | 3-7pm

*Back parking lot at CPC

Roger Pace providing music

Food | Fellowship | Fun

Culmination of Stewardship Campaign

**In case of inclement weather, event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.*

Social Ministries/Outreach



On the first Sunday of every month in 2023, we will be collecting change to benefit the Alpha Omega Veterans Association. To date we have collected \$300.96! Please help us support this worthy organization - **our next collection is Sunday, November 5. Thanks for your support!**



November 13, 2023 is the start of the Martin Luther Exhibition at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center, 2887 Ebenezer Rd, Rincon, GA 31326.

Make plans to visit the center where you can find all sorts of museum exhibits telling the story of Martin Luther, his family, and those who worked with Luther on the Reformation of the Church.



Formation is foundational to the walk of every disciple.

Join us for a ONE DAY, IN PERSON formation event in Hendersonville, TN, on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at St. Timothy, Hendersonville, TN

Accommodations: being arranged for special rate

What does FORMATION look like these days? For most, this means that FORMATION is being *RE-formed*. We will gather in person to discuss the meaning of FORMATION and what it looks like now in congregations, and we will help you plan out what formation might look like in your congregation in the months and years to come.

We are excited to have Daniel Kirschbaum (ELCA Young Adult Program Director) and Rebecca Payne

(ELCA Innovation Hub) as our guest speakers for this event to inspire us to REform our Formation in creative ways as we all learn how to be the Church once again, coming out of this pandemic. [Click here](#) to learn more about Daniel's and Rebecca's backgrounds.

[Register Now →](#)



"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Collierville Christmas Tree Lighting

Tuesday, November 21st, 5:30-8pm

Officially "kick-off" Christmas in Collierville at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Collierville Town Square. Hot Chocolate will be served by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen beginning at 5:30pm. Kevin and Bethany Paige will perform a one-hour holiday concert with all the Christmas classics to keep the festive mood going until the countdown to lighting the tree and nearly a quarter of a million lights on Town Square at 7pm. Following the Tree Lighting, Santa will be in the Gazebo for pictures until approximately 8pm.



Rain date is Tuesday, November 28.

Christmas in Collierville Saturdays

Saturdays, November 25th—December 16th, 10am-2pm

On Saturdays, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, families can visit Santa in the Gazebo (10am-2pm) and enjoy special music performances designed to get you in the holiday spirit. In addition to photo opportunities with Santa, special features include:

November 25:

- ☼ Opera Memphis Strolling Carolers, 11:30-2pm

December 2:

- ☼ Opera Memphis Strolling Carolers, 11:30-2pm

December 9:

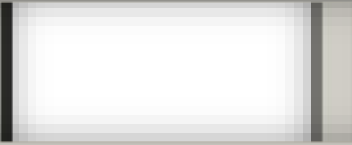
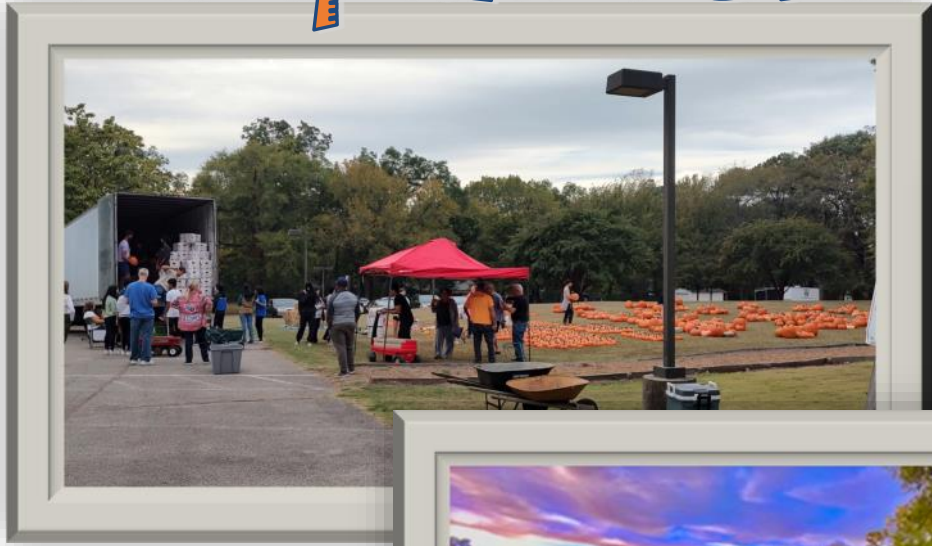
- ☼ Model Train Displays, 10-2pm
- ☼ Choir performances by Tara Oaks Elem. School and Sycamore Elem.

December 16:

- ☼ Model Train Displays, 10-2pm
- ☼ Free hot chocolate by the Depot Visitors Center, 10-2pm
- ☼ Performance by Visions Academy of Performing Arts



Pumpkin Patch fun!





★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

Sunday | Nov. 5, 2023 | 2:00pm

Collierville Town Square

Join us for an old-fashioned, Historic Town Square celebration as we honor military veterans from the Mid-South. This celebration features singers, patriotic reflections, music and so much more.

For More Info: (901) 406-4220

Seating Provided by Army Surplus Collierville



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.



[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!

November 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 11/4	3pm - Shrimp Boil begins 4pm - Dinner served	Culmination of the Stewardship Campaign. Meeting at the back parking lot at CPC, inside if inclement weather.
Sun 11/5	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 11/12	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 11/14	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 11/19	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Wed 11/22	7pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries Committee Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754?
Sun 11/26	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	Christ the King Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

November 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!

Wendell Kruse	19-Nov
Lois Ketcham	24-Nov
Scott Fisher	27-Nov



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

November 2023 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for Sundays in October - 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, [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>