

October 2023 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

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God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Psalm 46

October begins; I am looking forward to the cooler weather, apple and pumpkin treats, walks through crispy leaves that will start turning color late in the month. And the start of commemorations and holidays, both secular and sacred. A strange mash up of those is on the 31st, which is both Halloween and Reformation Day. I enjoy both of those events, but I must say that the Reformation is something I reflect on often. Martin Luther and his comrades in that world-changing event have had deep impacts on theology, philosophy, education and literacy, the arts and music, the structure of society, the role of women—nearly every aspect of life was somehow influenced by the Protestant Reformation through the five centuries since Martin Luther hammered the 95 Theses to the Wittenburg church door.



Continued on p. 2

There are so many things to consider about Martin Luther, both his strengths and his failures, but I'm considering his music just now. He wrote some 36 hymns, with the most well known being A Mighty Fortress is Our God, which has been translated into more than 200 languages. The hymn was inspired by Psalm 46. I cannot read the lyrics without hearing the tune, Ein Feste Burg, also written by Luther; do you hear it as well?

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal. | 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him. |
| 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious. | 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever! |

- Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Blessings,
Pastor LaVonne



The Pumpkin Patch is Coming! October 11—October 31 10:30am-6:30pm daily

This year Epiphany Lutheran Church will partner with Collierville Presbyterian Church to hold the annual Pumpkin Patch. We will need volunteers to take 2 hour shifts. [Click here to sign up.](#) Funds raised will support our ministries. Watch for more details!

The more we work, the more we make!

October 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**

October 1, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Twenty-second Sunday after
Pentecost

October 29, 2023 Worship Service w/Holy Communion - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

[Instructions for watching via Facebook Live](#)

Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship

October 1st and 15th!



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 August, tithing was again significantly below budget (17% below). We are now even with the budget YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 7% under budget for the month and 5% under budget YTD. Note: Pastor has not submitted expenses for her conference yet.

	Aug-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 5,362	\$ 6,483	-\$ 1,121	\$ 61,125	\$ 61,284	-\$ 159
Expenses	\$ 7,367	\$ 7,901	-\$ 534	\$ 62,652	\$ 66,208	-\$ 3,556
Net	-\$ 2,005	-\$ 1,418	-\$ 587	-\$ 1,527	-\$ 4,924	\$ 3,397

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.

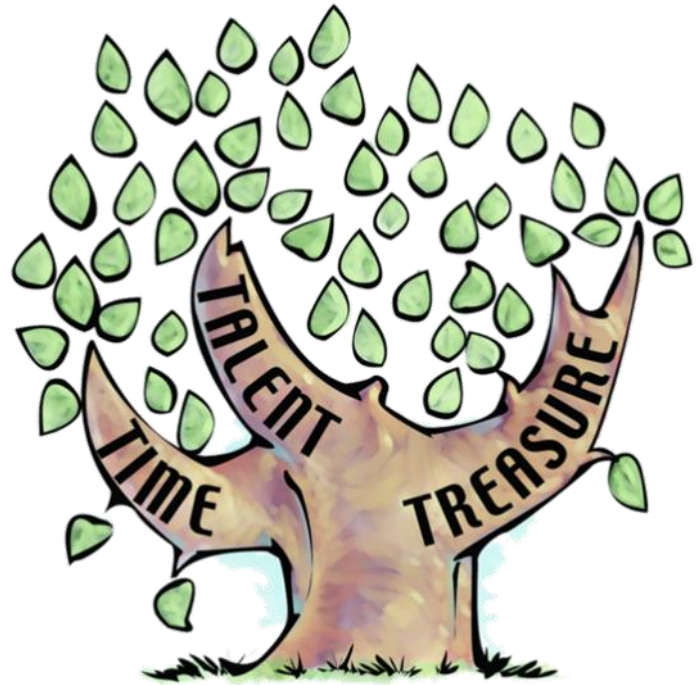
We are registered as Epiphany Lutheran Church, organization #39854.



October Stewardship Month

October is Stewardship month at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

This year we will focus on the financial health of our church. During the month instead of the regular Temple Talks the Stewardship Committee will give information to the congregation about our finances and budget processes. You will hear from the Stewardship Chairperson, Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Our annual Stewardship Fellowship will be November 4th at CPC in the parking lot. The Schumachers will do their famous shrimp boil. Roger Pace will be providing us with live music for the 4th year. Your pledge card will be available during the fellowship to be filled out and turned in. Also, we will asking you to fill out your time and talent sheets. Looking forward to a great Stewardship Month!



Martha Garner
Stewardship Chairperson



Shrimp Boil

Saturday, November 4, 2023

4-7pm

Provided by The Schumachers

Roger Pace providing music

Food | Fellowship | Fun

Culmination of Stewardship Campaign



COLLIERVILLE BURCH LIBRARY

A Loyal Friend. Your Library.

Tennessee STEAM Festival Programs

The Tennessee STEAM Festival, held October 13 to 22, 2023, brings science, technology, engineering, art, and math to life at events across the state! Our lineup of special activities features programs for both kids and adults.

Hands-On AI: Creativity with Artificial Intelligence for adults

Two times are available; please sign up for only one: **Wednesday, October 18, 5:30 p.m.** or **Friday, October 20, 3 p.m.**

Hands-On AI: Creativity with Artificial Intelligence In-Person

Bring your own laptop or use one of ours: library laptops are available on a first-come, first served basis. Call the Information Desk at 901-457-2601 after registering to reserve a library laptop for this session.

You've probably heard of the possibilities of artificial intelligence - AI for short. AI can be a fantastic tool to indulge your creative side or even boost your productivity at work. During this two hour session for adults, we'll get hands-on with AI text and image generation, explore examples of real-world AI uses, and discuss the ethics and implications of AI-generated content. This session is intended for beginners who haven't previously tried AI tools. Attendees should have experience browsing the internet and must have their own email address. (Be sure you know your email password!) Session content will be the same on both dates. Please sign up for only one session.



Class meets in the Halle Room. Don't forget to sign up! Registration begins two weeks before each program date.

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 \$235.20! Please help us support this worthy organization - **our next collection is Sunday, November 5. Thanks for your support!**

LUTHERANISM 101: remainder of a 4-part series: October 3 and 17

[Click here to register.](#)

In the Southeastern Synod, we are engaging our laity in Fall 2023 to enter into a series called "LUTHERANISM 101, a 4-part series." These will be 4, 1.5 hour online classes to help our laity (and perhaps rostered ministers) to engage in learning about the basics of the Lutheran faith and tradition. Register just ONCE for all 4 sessions. Attend as many as you can. The series is free. Held via Zoom - link and reminder emails will be sent upon registration



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dates & Times: Tuesdays - 7-8:30pm ET / 6-7:30pm CT

October 3: "Who is Luther?" with Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel, Lenoir Rhyne - LTSS

October 17: Lutheranism in North America, with Rev. Dr. Susan McArver, Lenoir Rhyne - LTSS

All sessions will be recorded and posted to the Southeastern Synod Formation landing page on the synod website, and a digest of videos and resources will be emailed to all at the end of the series.

Lunch and Learn

with Jordan River Health Campus

How to Choose In-Home Care
October 25, 2023 | 11:30am

Lunch will be provided.
Registration required.



Whether you are considering in-home care for yourself or a loved one, this session will provide valuable insights into making informed decisions regarding your healthcare options. Learn with us on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Presenters from Jordan River Health Campus will discuss how to choose in-home care, insurance options, costs, and other issues to consider. Lunch will be provided. Registration beginning October 11 on the [Events Calendar](#).

About Jordan River Health Campus

Serving both Farms residents and the general public, the Jordan River Health Campus offers a comprehensive suite of healthcare and rehabilitation services guided by our overall commitment to helping seniors get the most out of life each and every day. Visit their website [here](#).

*Imagine being called to lead and serve.
Imagine (if you are already a church leader) expanding that list of those who are called and led to serve your congregation.*

Our 2023 Lay Formation Academy is the perfect place to help congregation members learn the basics of **Lutheran Worship, How to Read the Gospels** (with a Lutheran Lens), **Lutheran Preaching**, and more!
Sign up today!!!

[Register Now →](#)

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 →](#)

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.

*Lord, help me to face
today living in hope.*

***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!***

September 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 10/1	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	<i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 10/8	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	<i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 10/15	9am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 10/16	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 10/22	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	<i>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Wed 10/25	7pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries Committee Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754?
Sun 10/29	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	<i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

October 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!

Ed Schumacher 10/5



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

October 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>