

## September 2023 Newsletter

### From the Pastor's Desk

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*I will both lie down and sleep in peace,  
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. (Psalm 4:8)*

This verse, as well as other biblical verses about rest and sleep, are very appealing to me. Because I am not a good sleeper, and have never been consistent in my sleeping. The past few years have found me either sleeping too much or hardly at all. I especially find Saturday nights troublesome, as I know I have to get up early Sunday morning and that seems to lead to all kinds of insomniac behavior and a far from good Sunday morning.

So it is with joy that I found this writing by French poet and philosopher Charles Peguy (1873-1914), who went from being an agnostic to becoming a faithful Catholic in 1908. This free verse poem gives me joy and hope that maybe I can find a better way to spend my nights than tossing and turning! I pray you find value in it as well.



#### **God Speaks by Charles Peguy**

*I don't like the man who doesn't sleep, says God.  
Sleep is the friend of man.  
Sleep is the friend of God.  
Sleep is perhaps the most beautiful thing I have created.  
And I myself rested on the seventh day.  
He whose heart is pure, sleeps. And he who sleeps has a pure heart.  
That is the great secret of being as indefatigable as a child.  
Of having that strength in the legs that a child has.  
Those new legs, those new souls,  
And to begin afresh every morning, ever new,  
Like young hope, new hope ...  
He who doesn't sleep is unfaithful to Hope.  
And it is the great infidelity.*

Continued on p. 2

*Because it is infidelity to the greatest Faith.*

*Poor children, they conduct their business with wisdom during  
the day.*

*But when evening comes, they can't make up their minds,  
They can't be resigned to trust my wisdom for the space of one  
night*

*With the conduct and the governing of their business.*

*As if I wasn't capable, if you please, of looking after it a little.  
Of watching over it.*

*Of governing and conducting, and all that kind of stuff.*

*I have a great deal more business to look after, poor people  
I govern creation, maybe that is more difficult.*

*You might perhaps, and no harm done, leave your business in  
my hands, O wise men.*

*Maybe I am just as wise as you are.*

*You might perhaps leave it for me for the space of a night.*

*While you are asleep*

*At last*

*And the next morning; you might find it not too badly damaged  
perhaps ...*

*Put off until tomorrow those tears which fill your eyes and your  
head,*

*Flooding you, rolling down your cheeks, those tears which  
stream down your cheeks.*

*Because between now and tomorrow, maybe I, God, will have  
passed by your way.*

*Human wisdom says: Woe to the man who puts off what he has  
to do until tomorrow.*

*And I say Blessed, blessed is the man who puts off what he has to do until tomorrow.*

*Blessed is he who puts off. That is to say Blessed is he who  
hopes. And who sleeps.*

*In Peace  
I will both  
lie  
down & sleep;  
for you alone,  
O Lord,  
MAKE ME  
dwell  
in Safety*  
PSALM 4:8

If you have gotten through to this point, you have earned a nap!

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!

## June 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**

September 3, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**September 17, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion -  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost—EVENING SERVICE AT 5PM—NO MORNING SERVICE**

September 24, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Seventeenth Sunday after  
Pentecost

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

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship  
on June 4 and June 18!***



## 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 July, there was a surge in tithing and we are now 2% over budget YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 12% under budget for the month and 5% under budget YTD. Note: Pastor has not submitted expenses for her conference yet.

	Jul-23			2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 8,116	\$ 6,483	\$ 1,633	\$ 55,763	\$ 54,801	\$ 962
Expenses	\$ 7,254	\$ 8,251	-\$ 997	\$ 55,285	\$ 58,307	-\$ 3,022
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 862</b>	<b>-\$ 1,768</b>	<b>\$ 2,630</b>	<b>\$ 478</b>	<b>-\$ 3,506</b>	<b>\$ 3,984</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.





## **EVENING COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 5PM  
FELLOWSHIP GATHERING TO FOLLOW**

JOIN US FOR OUR EVENING SERVICE.  
WE'LL ENJOY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.



LOCATED AT:  
202 W. POPLAR AVENUE  
IN HISTORIC COLLIERVILLE.

*\*THERE WILL NOT BE A MORNING SERVICE ON THIS SUNDAY.*



### **Sharing Social Media**

Are you on social media? Epiphany Lutheran Church makes daily posts to Facebook and Instagram. Help spread the word by simply sharing our posts. Sometimes they are simply graphics or quotes, other times they are prayers, and other times they are posts about what is happening at the church. Your help gets us out there for friends and family to see. Encourage them to share these posts as well. Invite them to follow us. The more we have looking and sharing, the more people we can impact.



## 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, August 6th.** *Thanks for your support!*



# COLLIERVILLE BURCH LIBRARY

*A Loyal Friend. Your Library.*

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

# BOOK SALE

PREVIEW SALE FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS:  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 4 TO 7 P.M.

GENERAL SALE:  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.



# India Fest

Family Cultural Adventure

Saturday, September 16, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Explore the rich and diverse culture of India through dances, costumes, history, & more

For all age groups | No registration necessary

Presented by the India Association of Memphis



# SYNOD NEWS

## LUTHERANISM 101: a 4-part series

[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**

**September 5:** "What Do We Believe?" with Rev. Dr. William R. Russell, Coordinator for The Lutheran Confessions' Project, LWF

**September 19:** Adult Catechism, with Bishop Emeritus Julian Gordy

**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.

## Lutheranism 101 - a 4-Part Series



Tuesdays - Sept. 5 & 19, Oct. 3 & 17

7:00-8:30pm ET / 6-7:30pm CT

Register at [elca-ses.org](http://elca-ses.org)



## "Equipping the Saints for Ministry"

### Southeastern Synod Lay Academy

October 13-15, 2023  
Lutheridge - Arden, NC

Register at [elca-ses.org](http://elca-ses.org)

\$150 - single occupancy

\$100 - double occupancy

Come deepen your faith over a 3-day weekend in the beautiful mountains as we **equip, empower, and engage** our laity for gospel ministry, including workshops on Lutheranism, worship leadership, preaching, and more...



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

*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 →](#)

## Civic Life and Faith Study

*September 7 - October 5, 2023*

*Thursdays, 7-8pm ET / 6-7pm CT*

[Register Now →](#)

***The ELCA is developing a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship of church and state and related matters.***

***Join us - via Zoom - to discuss!***

Register at [elca-ses.org](http://elca-ses.org)



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Sessions will be on 5 consecutive Thursdays, 7-8pm ET / 6-7pm CT - September 7, 14, 21, 28, and October 5. Sessions will be held via Zoom.



## 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.

**it's always FUN at the** **SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 10**  
**Delta Fair**

**Senior American Day** **AGRICENTER WING A**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 6th** **Memphis, TN**  
**DELTA FEST.COM**

**SCHEDULE**

**9:30 AM** - Marines Present Colors in Wing A  
**10:00 AM** - Delta Fair Senior American Spelling Bee  
**10:45 AM** - The Memphis Police Department Peacemakers  
**11:30 AM** - Senior Talent Contest  
**1-3 PM** - Annual Delta Fair Tea Dance with Jim Mahannah, Jr., Band  
**ALL DAY** - Senior Vendors

**FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING SEPT 6th 9AM - NOON FOR AGES 60 AND UP!**



[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)

	<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 9/3	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Sun 9/10	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 9/17	<b>5pm</b> - CPC and via Facebook Live	<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Fellowship Gathering to follow worship
Mon 9/18	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437</a>
Wed 9/20	7pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries Committee Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754?</a>
Sun 9/24	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10am	<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

### September 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!

John Kelyman     9/7  
Linda Fisher     9/25



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

## September 2023 Worship Servants

**Worship servants still needed for Sundays in September** - 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](mailto:pastor@epiphanylu.org)

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[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>