



August 2019 Newsletter

For everything there is a season....

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29.11

It is with a bittersweet spirit and a faithful heart that I bid farewell to the good people of Epiphany Lutheran Church. On Sunday, July 28, I informed the congregation Council that after a little over three years serving Epiphany as your pastor, God is calling me to share my gifts and talents with an ELCA congregation in Blacksburg, Virginia. I give thanks to you for your prayers, participation and leadership during our time together, and beyond.

My last Sunday at Epiphany will be August 18th; my last day 'in the office' will be August 22nd. I will then move out of my residence and make my way to where the Holy Spirit is leading me, to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, a congregation located on the campus of Virginia Tech University.

There is indeed a season and a time for all things under God in Christ Jesus, and our season of ministry together will soon end. God has heard and answered Epiphany's prayers, blessing this "small but mighty" congregation with new and younger members, financial stability, consistent community outreach, and meaningful worship.

Every member of this congregation has participated in ministry and for that I am grateful. I count on each of you to continue in your faith, confident that God will lead Epiphany to grow, thrive and serve the Memphis area by proclaiming the Gospel, feeding the hungry and accompanying those in need. God has worked through us to bring Epiphany 'to the right place' to now move forward, rejoicing in Christ Jesus and the promises of holy baptism. I encourage you to keep thinking outside the box, be open to new ideas and activities, and to love one another as you have first been loved by Jesus. Let Romans 12:12 be your guide, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Likewise Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

I intend to observe ELCA procedure for pastoral leave-taking, as a professional courtesy to your interim pastor, as well as for good boundaries and closure. After August 22nd, I will no longer be involved with Epiphany social media, the website or Facebook. My Pastor Monica Gmail account will be closed. I will not be available for weddings, confirmation, baptisms or funerals: God will provide you with pastoral leadership for these important events. Carol Webster will remain on staff at Council's direction to help facilitate a smooth transition with the interim pastor, and to provide Epiphany members with her administration expertise.

Thank you, everyone for the privilege and blessing of serving you as your pastor, and may God continue to bless and keep you. Trust in the Lord, always!

Peace. *Pastor Monica*

Epiphany State of the Congregation – Summer 2019

Presented on August 4, 2019 by Phil Goetz, Council President

Transformation Ministry

- Trained Council on T2 goals
- Assisted with the creation of goals for each committee

Social Ministries

- Combined Outreach and Evangelism committees
- Strong congregational support for community activities

Worship & Music:

- Continue Choir anthems for feast days (Reformation; Christmas; Easter etc.)
- Involve more Epiphany members in worship set-up as sacred service

Christian Ed:

- Initiate Children's Church twice per month when children are present
- GOE Women's Bible Study resumes in Sept
- Create study themes for Advent and Lent

Fellowship

- Reworking Coffee Hour to Coffee Fellowship
- Scheduling congregational activities on a regular basis

Stewardship

- Planning 2020 Stewardship campaign

Property

- Continue to grow the garden
- Completed improvements to protect the garden tools and lawn mowers
- Assisted with Little Food Pantry construction

Long Range Planning

- If we grow, research options for changing worship location
- If we continue to have budget shortfalls, consider options for Home Place

Epiphany State of the Congregation – Summer 2019

Presented on August 4, 2019 by Phil Goetz, Council President

Financial

- Expenses are in line with 2019 budget
- Giving is 10% above budget
- Still need to increase by 10% or \$1300/month to break even

Summary

- Religiously: Very Strong
- Community Involvement: Very Strong
- Congregational Fellowship: Very Strong
- Financially: Better than last year but still need to grow via new members and increased giving
 - Even as we move through our transition, find opportunities to talk up Epiphany to neighbors, social circle, and co-workers; invite anyone who shows interest
 - Consider increasing your giving to the congregation; having a balanced budget will be a great selling point when looking for a new pastor

Looking Forward

- Pastor Monica's acceptance of another call is not a problem – it is an opportunity for both her and us. Council hopes to make an announcement regarding the interim pastor very soon.
- Council will spend some time prayerfully considering what is in the best interests of the congregation; our meeting with Rev. Dr. Ben Moravitz is a first step.
- Be thinking about serving on the Call Committee; we need a diverse group to represent Epiphany.
- We will emerge stronger than before.

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.

Updated Epiphany Lutheran Church Directory

The directory has several new updates - be sure to [view and download a copy](#) so you have the most up-to-date contact information for everyone. (Password: Luther2019)



ELCA Southeast Synod News

[Bishop-Elect Kevin Strickland Announces New Synod Staff](#)

[New hymn selected for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday](#)

The Reverend Kevin Strickland will be installed as the Fourth Bishop of the ELCA Southeast Synod on Sunday, October 5, 2019 at 2 pm Cathedral of St. Philip - Atlanta, GA

Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Rick Barnard - August 5
Ray Heilener - August 6
Chris Kelyman - August 8
Olivet Lankapalli - August 10
Andrew Prouty - August 11
Matt Prouty - August 12
Jennifer Sykes - August 21
Pastor Monica Weber - August 25
Dan Scherf - August 27
Joann Wieland - August 27
Linda Barnes - August 29

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

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY



We are a Healthy Tennessee Place of Worship!

For the second year in a row, Epiphany Lutheran Church has been designated a Healthier Tennessee Place of Worship! We hope you will work to adapt a healthier lifestyle over the next 12 months. Here are a few things you can do!

- Walk and Talk - get a little exercise by walking around while you talk on the phone
- Make a Swap - Replace sugary drinks with healthier options
- Pop Some Grains - substitute popcorn for your usual snacks!
- Hit The Bottle - drink more water during the day

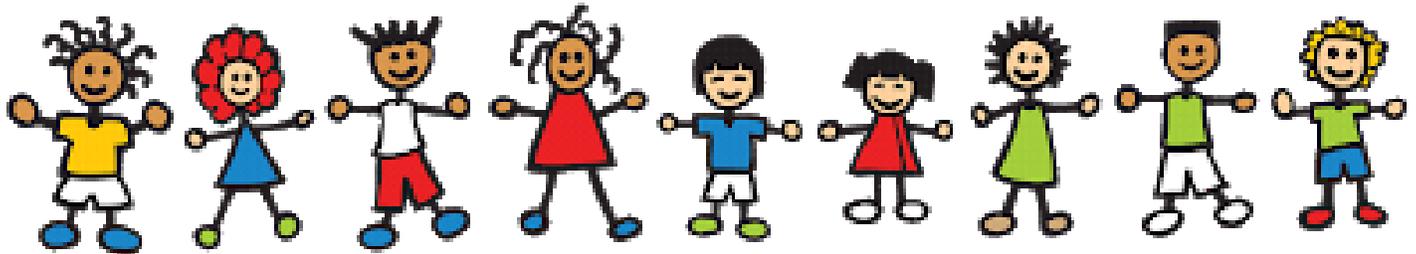


What are some other habits you can pick up to help you stay healthy?



New Social Ministry Team

As part of our Transformational Ministry activities to keep our focus on "Mission and Invitation," we are merging the Evangelism and Outreach teams into one: the Social Ministry Team. Jennifer Parker and Andria Prouty will act as co-chairs, and will work closely together going forward. Look for more information soon!



Children's Church

Answered prayers! God has blessed our congregation with young members and we are ready to begin serving them through Children's Church. Classes will take place during service for twenty minutes, twice each month. The first session will begin in September and end in December. We are in need of two (2) volunteers per class. Volunteers will be supplied with the morning's activities - ready to go. Please [contact Andria Prouty](#) if you are interested in signing up once a month or once a session... your help is appreciated and needed to get this program started! This is a great way to support Epiphany and its members!

Kingsway Wednesday Night Fellowships

Kingsway is holding its last Wednesday Night Fellowship on August 21. Instead of potlucks, they will have cooks for the meal; if you would like to attend, please [e-mail Nicole Moore](#) or call her at 901-683-3505.

Service Opportunities



But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ~James 1:22

Upcoming Outreach/Evangelism Opportunities

Date	Activity	Contact
	<i>No Service Activities in August Please volunteer in Epiphany's Community Garden!</i>	Wendell Kruse
September 14	Rise Against Hunger/God's Work Our Hands	TBD
September 15	Collect Canned Holiday Hams for Collierville Food Pantry	Lori Goetz
October 20	Thanksgiving Food Drive for Needy	Lori Goetz

Worship Servants - a variety of ways to participate in Sunday morning worship. [Sign up here](#), add our name to the clipboard available on Sunday mornings, or [contact Carol Webster](#) to sign up.

Epiphany Community Garden - **We are working regular garden hours throughout the summer - please come help us grow by volunteering your time on Wednesday and Saturday morning from 8:30 - 11:30 am!** [Donate here](#) to help the garden grow - help us fund our efforts for 2019 and beyond!

Room In The Inn (RITI)

Volunteers will be needed to help serve and cleanup, and help make the sack lunches the guests will take with them Tuesday morning, as well as to pick up sheets and towels on Tuesday to launder and return to Kingsway within the week. If you have never participated in RITI, you will find it to be a most meaningful experience as a volunteer. ***The RITI program will resume again in November.***

Collierville Connected Resource Center (CCRC) - Epiphany is a coalition partner church with the Collierville Connected Resource Center which provides job skills training such as basic computer operation, resume assistance, help with job applications and interview skills, and offers job search tips for unemployed persons. Without at least two volunteers present, the Center cannot open due to Safe Church practices. If you have an hour to spare, CCRC could use your help. Hours are Tuesdays, 9 - 11:30 am and 4 - 7 pm; Thursdays 9 - 11:30am; Saturdays 9 -11:30 am. A one-hour light training session is provided. The CCRC is located in the basement of Sanctuary on the Square, 104 N. Rowlett St., Collierville. See Pastor Monica to volunteer or for more information.

Amazon Smile - Don't forget! Sign up for [Amazon Smile](#) - 0.5% of the price of all your eligible Amazon purchases go directly to Epiphany!

Kroger Community Rewards - [Click here to register](#) with Kroger's Community Rewards program. We are registered as Epiphany Lutheran Church, organization #39854.

What's Happening at Home Place?

We had a very busy July at the garden! On July 10, we harvested 39 pounds of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, potatoes and eggplant, which were delivered to the Collierville Food Pantry (thanks to Pat & Dan Marzahl!)

On July 25, despite the grass being a bit wet, the gang mowed everywhere except Section D, and also clipped the grass and weed whacked inside and around the garden. Elizabeth Olsen attended the last two work sessions and completed her required 5 service hours. We also weeded; spread glass clippings; fed the worms; fed, pruned and staked the tomato plants; and harvested 140 pounds of vegetables which were delivered to the Collierville Food Pantry (thanks to Lori Goetz!)

Last but not least, on July 27th Dick and Wally fixed the cedar slats on our wonderful toolshed - it looks great! We mounted an iron tool rack and hung up our tools - it's wonderful to have a proper tool storage system. Other maintenance work included oiling the John Deere and removing the deck on it to clean up muck buildup and replace the blade serpentine belt. To date, more than 500 pounds of vegetables have been harvested and provided to the Collierville Food Pantry for our neighbors in need.

The Collierville Middle School and Varsity Pompon squads joined us at two different times this month - we are so grateful for their help!



Collierville Varsity Pompon Squad



Collierville Middle School Pompon Squad



New Altar Candles Dedicated August 4th

This past Sunday, we dedicated and blessed our beautiful new oil-refillable altar candles. The candles were purchased with funds from the Ken Ketcham memorial fund - Ken was a long-time active member and supporter of Epiphany, and served the church in many capacities, including time on the council and as an active member of the Altar Guild.

These candles will be more efficient and less costly versus the wax candles we have traditionally used.

Upcoming Events & Activities

MOE MOE (Men of Epiphany)
men of epiphany **Saturday, August 10**

The Men of Epiphany (MOE) will meet at 8:30 am at IHOP in Collierville for breakfast, fellowship and devotion. Please join us!

Confirmation

**Confirmation Classes
Resume August 11th**

Confirmation Classes will resume on Sunday, August 11 at 9 am - please meet in the Bride's Room of the Chapel. Pastor Monica will distribute workbooks that day. We will begin our study of the Lutheran Church, the Reformation and how we live out our Lutheran faith.

[Please sign up with SignUp Genius](#) to serve as Confirmation chaperones for the classes this Fall!



A big thank you to all who contributed to our drive to provide supplies to the Memphis Oral School for the Deaf!



Epiphany Cookout and Splash Party/ Pastor Monica Farewell

Join us at the home of Ed & Becca Schumacher on August 17th at 4:30 pm for brats and hotdogs!

Please bring a picnic food to share (to feed 12) and have it prepared and ready to serve - see Martha Garner for the sign-up sheet! Event is BYOB; bring your suit and towel if you care to swim - the pool will be open!

RSVP to Becca Schumacher by August 10 [by email](#) or telephone (843-422-4066)!

Blessing of the Backpacks August 11th!

Bring your backpacks and briefcases

All ages welcome!



August 2019 Calendar of Events

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

Thurs 8/1	10 am	Deanery Meeting
Sat 8/3	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 8/4	10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:30 am - Kingsway Boardroom	SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY! Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship Council Meeting
Wed 8/7	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 8/10	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 8:30 am - IHOP Collierville	Community Garden Workday Men of Epiphany Study & Fellowship (MOE)
Sun 8/11	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Wed 8/14	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 8/17	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 4:30 pm - Schaeffer Home	Community Garden Workday Epiphany Cookout and Splash Party/Pastor Monica Farewell
Sun 8/18	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Tues 8/20	7 pm - Kingsway Boardroom	Council Meeting
Wed 8/21	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 8/24	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 8/25	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class 11th Sunday after Pentecost - Service of the Word Coffee Fellowship
Wed 8/28	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 8/31	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday



August 2019 Worship Servants

	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
Altar Setup	Carol Rife	Becca Schumacher	Lori Goetz	Carol Rife
Altar Cleanup	Carol Rife	Becca Schumacher	Lori Goetz	Carol Rife
Assisting Minister	Wendell Kruse		Carol Rife	
Lector	Diane Kruse	Adam Waddell	Adam Waddell	
Greeter/Usher	John & Martha Garner			
Communion Assistant	Twila Hooverson		Twila Hooverson	
Communion Linens	Carol Rife		Twila Hooverson	Carol Rife
Coffee & Cookies	Vicki Scherf			Carol Rife
Council Offering #1	Jennifer Parker	Wally Knight	Dan Scherf	Lori Crossmock
Council Offering #2	Ed Schumacher	Chris Kelyman	Phil Goetz	Andria Prouty
Confirmation Chaperone	N/A	Marjorie Barnard		Lori Goetz

Worship Servants Needed!

Please [sign up](#) at least four weeks in advance if possible in order to assist in planning. You may also [contact Carol Webster](#) for assistance in signing up.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Worship Location
 Schaeffer Memorial Chapel
 7887 Poplar Ave.
 Germantown, TN 38138

Mailing Address
 PO Box 1805
 Collierville, TN 38027

Rev. Monica Weber
 Phone
 Email
 Website
 Facebook
 Twitter

Instagram
[YouTube](#)

pastormonicaepiphanylutheran@gmail.com
 901-861-6227
info@epiphanylu.org
www.epiphanylu.org
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran
www.twitter.com/epiphanyville
www.twitter.com/pastormonicaweb
<https://www.instagram.com/epiphanylutherancollierville>