



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

April 2022 Newsletter

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From the Pastor's Desk

1 Peter 1.1-9

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

It is always odd to write an Easter message while still in the middle of Lent. Currently we are engaged in a journey with emphasis on meeting, and being met by, Jesus. On repentance. On discipleship. All the while knowing that Jesus has set his face to Jerusalem and we know what happens there.

Those involved in putting together services are hard at work on Holy Week services, while at the same time planning the glorious services for Easter Sunday. Lilies are being ordered, music is being rehearsed, the Alleluia will be back in force.

As the old saying goes, "It's Friday. But Sunday's coming!"
(cont. next page)

Church life is in a space of both/and now; both the solemn season of Lent and Holy Week in particular, and the anticipated celebration of resurrection, new life, new perspectives.

That space is our home here in this life. We live our lives in the now-not yet of God's promises. Peter articulates it so well: by God's mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope. What a great gift that is!

We, like the early Christian communities Peter wrote this letter to, have suffered various things, and will continue to suffer in this earthly life, but suffering doesn't have the last word. Death doesn't have the last word.

God has the last word, and that word is LIFE! "Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Though it's a bit disconcerting to write of Easter during Lent, it's also a comforting reminder that we are an Easter people. Called to live in resurrection, not in death. To share that sure knowledge and certain hope with all the world.

To shout out, "It's Friday. But Sunday's coming!"

Blessings to you all,

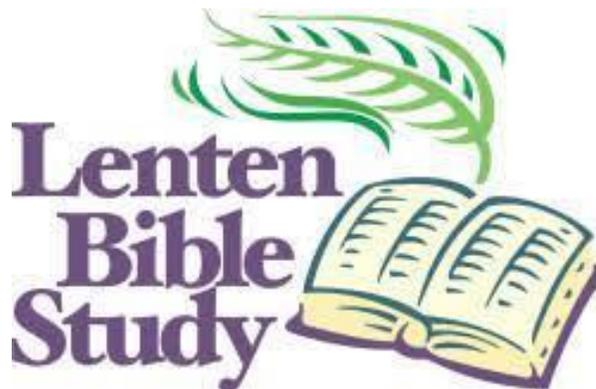
Pastor LaVonne

Lenten Bible Study - Encounters with Jesus

Our last Bible Study session on "Encounters with Jesus" will take place Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84210375307>



Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Candy Knight - April 7

Greg Parker - April 11

Have we missed **your** birthday?

Please send the month/day to Carol Webster
(carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com) so you
can be included!



By the grace of God and
the call of the church

Reverend LaVonne Johnson

will be installed
to serve Epiphany Lutheran Church of Collierville, TN
In the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

On the third day of April
Two thousand and twenty-two
At five o'clock in the afternoon

at Collierville Presbyterian Church
202 West Poplar Avenue
Collierville, Tennessee

The Reverend Patti Axel
Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presiding



There will be a meal following the installation service.
Please RSVP to info@epiphanylu.org
by March 28, 2022 if you plan to attend.

*Your prayers and presence are requested.
All ordained, consecrated and commissioned
ministers are invited to process.
The color of the day is purple.*

April 2022 Worship Services

Worship time is 9 am Sunday morning, both for in-person and Zoom worship services. We are worshipping in person! All in-person worship services continue to be offered via Zoom for those who are unable or unwilling to attend worship in person. Holy Communion is offered at all in-person worship services. **MASK GUIDELINES: Beginning Sunday, March 6, 2022, Epiphany and Collierville Presbyterian no longer require masks for in-person worship, but strongly encourage vaccines/boosters, and recommend masks for in-person worship. Thank you!**

Sunday Morning Worship Services

All Sunday worship services are held in person (and/or via Zoom) at 9 am (unless otherwise indicated) at Collierville Presbyterian Church

April 3, 2022 Worship Service - Fifth Sunday in Lent
(This service will take place at 5 pm; no 9 am service)

April 10, 2022 Worship Service - Palm Sunday

April 17, 2022 Worship Service - Resurrection of our Lord

April 24, 2022 Worship Service - Second Sunday of Easter

Zoom information for Sunday worship services in April

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095)

Meeting ID: 816 2793 2095

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799



April 2022 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 e-mail Carol Webster](#).

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 2022 Financial Update

In February, tithing was significantly under budget for the second straight month. This may have been caused by our switch to remote only worship in mid-January due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Expenses were also under budget by a similar amount. For 2022 YTD, both Revenue and Expenses are under budget by a similar amount. However, our bank account totals are down due to payments from designated funds.

	Feb-22				2022 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net		Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,290	\$ 7,432	-\$ 1,142		\$ 12,250	\$ 14,864	-\$ 2,614
Expenses	\$ 6,516	\$ 8,059	-\$ 1,543		\$ 13,598	\$ 16,078	-\$ 2,480
Net	-\$ 226	-\$ 627	\$ 401		-\$ 1,348	-\$ 1,214	-\$ 134

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 Ministry, Easter Lilies) 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



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.





Holy Week

Good Friday Worship Service

Easter Worship Service

All are welcome to join us for Good Friday worship service with Holy Communion on Friday, April 15, 2022 at 3 pm at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

Hallelujah - He is Risen! All are welcome to join us for Easter worship service with Holy Communion on Sunday, April 17, 2022 at 9 am at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Luke 24:5

'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.'

Help Purchase Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary

This year, we are working together with Collierville Presbyterian Church (CPC) to decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies for Easter. Lilies can be purchased for \$10 each, and we must have a count to CPC by April 3rd. You may donate through [PayPal](#) (select the option Easter Lilies) or bring a check to church and mark "Easter Lilies" in the memo. Thank you!



Collierville Presbyterian Church Labyrinth

Thanks to the Collierville Presbyterian Church for once again offering our congregation the use of their labyrinth during Lent. Please see the information on p. 9; in addition, they have provided a finger labyrinth (p. 10) for those who would like to use this meditative practice at home.

Outreach News

We have several projects active in March! Linda Barnes has asked that we send cards of encouragement to the women currently in the [Chosen Vessel Ministry](#) program - please [e-mail Lois Ketcham](#) for more information.

Also, please join us as we “Feed Our Neighbors” - we are collecting donations for the Hispanic Food Pantry at [El Redentor](#) United Methodist Church **until April 10th**. A \$20 donation will help provide one box of food to an Hispanic family (beans, rice, tortilla flour, oil, coffee, etc.). You may donate through the [PayPal link on our website](#) - please choose the option “Hispanic Food Ministry.”



Synod News

As we embark on the 40 day journey of reflection, prayer, meditation, self-examination, and turning back to God, the En Conjunto Task Force invites you to reflect with us on the theme, ***"What does it mean to live en conjunto (together)?"*** How has, is, and will God call us and form us into the beloved community? What is God speaking into our shared spaces, our collective heart, as we journey with Jesus and the whole church to the cross? Welcome to this Lenten experience.” [Access the 2022 Lenten Devotional here](#) (bilingual - Spanish & English)



Bishop Strickland lifts up a prayer for Ukraine and all who are experiencing warfare and strife. Click the picture...



Unmute Yourself



Southeastern Synod Assembly
June 3-5, 2022

Southeastern Synod Assembly

The Southeastern Synod will gather in Assembly on June 3-5, 2022, at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Assembly will be focused on the theme: “Unmute Yourself: Proclaim the Love of God to all the World.”

[Find out more...](#)

It's Community Garden Time!

We've started work in the garden - it's been pretty wet but we've gotten a lot accomplished in March! Work has centered on preparation of 26 vegetable beds (we cleaned out the beds and brought in lots of compost!) and getting some spring veggies in the ground (seed potatoes and onion slips). All are welcome to join us every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 am (weather permitting!).



Town of
Collierville
TENNESSEE

[Click here](#) to find out what's happening in your town!



Professional
Network on Aging

PNA Senior Expo

The theme of this year's Senior Expo is Cinco de Mayo - it will be held on May 3 at the Agricenter from 8:30-12:30 am! This is a FREE EVENT with FREE parking which provides plenty of FREE information for Seniors on multiple services, from housing to Medicare to home services to estate planning to Veterans to entertainment! The Professional Network on Aging (PNA) is really looking forward to having the Senior Expo again this year after a year off because of Covid.

This is a great event for not only seniors, but also for families that have parents in care facilities or may soon need care. There will be a wide array of vendors in attendance to answer questions. [Click here for more info.](#)



Collierville
BURCH
LIBRARY

[Click here](#) to find out what's happening at your local library!

April 2022



LENT

| A journey that moves us toward the cross.

The prayer labyrinth is open to all and will remain in the Fellowship Hall through our Lenten Journey. Lent is a time for reflection, for the letting go of regrets and stepping into renewal. Walking a labyrinth can facilitate this journey by providing a spiritual path for prayer, reflection and meditation. Whoever you are and wherever you are you are welcome to walk the labyrinth. Set aside time to visit. Embrace the labyrinth path. There is no right or wrong way to walk. You only have to enter and follow the path. Play music or sing. Pray out loud. Walk alone and with a crowd. Listen to the sounds. Most of all pay attention to your experience.

In this newsletter you will find an insert with a **finger labyrinth**. Finger labyrinths are “walked” by tracing the path with a finger of the non-dominant hand. Print this out. Keep it with you. Use it often. Here are some general guidelines for walking a labyrinth:

1. Before you start any finger labyrinth “walk,” take time to breathe and relax. If you keep a journal, have it ready for recording any insights after your walk.
2. Set an intention or question for the walk. Without an intention a finger labyrinth walk can become an exercise in hastily and mindlessly moving your finger along the circuits and wondering why at the end of the walk you even bothered. Say a prayer for guidance.
3. Place a finger from your non-dominant hand at the entrance to the labyrinth. As you trace the circuit, stay open to whatever presents itself: feelings, sensations, memories, images, or just “knowings.” Pause at any time to breathe, be with a memory, work with an image, or simply relax into the labyrinth.
4. Remain a while in the center continuing your prayer or silent contemplation. Be open to God's influence and be willing to receive. The center is a wonderful place to relax, pray, or sing.
5. When you are ready, trace your way out continuing on the pathway.
6. As your finger leaves the labyrinth, give thanks and close with a prayer.



Experiment and play with your labyrinth. Try using a word, phrase, or scripture. Repeat it slowly in your heart as you “walk.” You may also walk with questions such as, “In what way do I most need to grow spiritually right now?” or “What most blocks me from fully receiving and living God’s love?” You can also walk the labyrinth in intercessory prayer for someone else, sending them the fruits of your walk.

If you are experiencing a difficult feeling such as anger, grief, or bitterness, walk with the intention for healing and release.

If you are struggling with a problem or illness, ask for insight and guidance: What must I release in order to allow healing? What am I not feeling or acknowledging to allow healing? Whom do I most need to forgive, and for what? What part of my life (or me) am I neglecting that needs attention?

"Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way. You are on the path...exactly where you are meant to be right now...and from here, you can only go forward, shaping your life story into a magnificent tale of triumph, of healing of courage, of beauty, of wisdom, of power, of dignity, and of love."

FINGER LABYRINTH

We're all on a path...precisely where we need to be.



April 2022 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.
Sat 4/2	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 4/3	5 pm - CPC and Via Zoom	Fifth Sunday in Lent and Pastor LaVonne Installation Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Mon 4/4	7 pm - Via Zoom	Lenten Bible Study Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84210375307
Wed 4/6	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 4/9	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 4/10	9 am - CPC and Via Zoom	Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Wed 4/13	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Fri 4/15	3 pm - CPC and Via Zoom	Good Friday - Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sat 4/16	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 4/17	9 am - CPC and via Zoom	Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Day Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Wed 4/20	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Thurs 4/21	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sat 4/23	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 4/24	9 am - CPC and via Zoom	Second Sunday in Easter Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Wed 4/27	:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 7 pm - Via Zoom	Community Garden Workday Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754
Sat 4/30	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday



April 2022 Worship Servants

Worship servants still needed for all Sundays in April - please consider volunteering!

Want to know more about being a worship servant? [You can review the duties and guidelines here.](#)



Worship Servant SignUp Genius

[2022 SignUp](#)

If you need assistance, [e-mail Carol Webster](#) - she will be happy to help you sign up if you have any issues!

[View current prayers](#)

Please [send your prayer requests to Carol Webster](#). 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>