

# April 2023 Newsletter

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Newsletter Index

From the Pastor's Desk	p. 1-2
April Prayers, Birthdays, Alpha Omega Project	p. 2
April Sunday Worship Service Information	p. 3
Information for Holy Week	p. 4
Financials, PayPal Instructions	p. 5
Synod Information, Local Happenings	p. 6
April Calendar, Photos	p. 7
SignUp Genius, Prayer Requests	p. 8

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

**~Matthew 28:1-10**

As I write this, Easter is still over a week away. We are currently deep in Lent, not yet into Holy Week. But Easter is coming, and it is disconcerting to be in the place of experiencing what we know is our future; to imagine what the Gospel tells us, to really enter into the story of Christ's passion. To find ourselves there, waving palms, participating in the shouts of "Hosanna!" while Jesus enters the city and of "Crucify him!" a few short days later.

To imagine ourselves sharing a last meal with Jesus, to feel him tenderly wash our feet, to share a first holy meal of bread and wine that are his body and blood. To follow him into the garden and run away after the authorities come and arrest him. To follow the events of the trial. To see him carry his own cross. To witness him stumble.

To watch him put on the cross, hear him groan, hear him forgive.

To be powerless to do something—anything—that might make a difference. We cannot help this man who has helped others. *(cont. next page)*



To mourn. We are there, confused, broken, unmoored from all we knew and hoped for.

This is the story we enter every Lent and Holy Week. And on Easter morning, we enter the rest of the story; we go, carrying our sorrow and our spices to the tomb, to finish death's duty. We go and we find things so changed; life rises from where death fell.

Our fear doesn't end, but our joy begins. And now, at last, we are given something to do, a holy mission. Go and tell. Bring the message to others. Let the news ring out throughout all time and all places.

At this unsettling time between Lent, the Passion, and the Resurrection, we do well to enter the story as we are able, to imagine ourselves as being fully present in the fellowship, danger, betrayal, confusion, sorrow, and the new life. To be resurrected and given holy work to do.

To be changed.

*Pastor LaVonne*

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



### 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!



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, April 2nd!**

## April 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**

April 2, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Palm Sunday

April 9, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Easter Sunday

April 16, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Second Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourth Sunday of Easter

***(Please see page 4 for information about Holy Week services)***

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

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship  
on April 2nd and April 16th!***





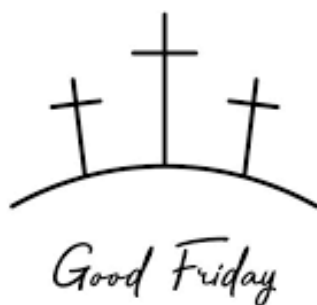
### Lenten Study and Lunch

[Living Word Lutheran Church](#) is hosting the last Lenten soup lunch and discussion on Tuesday, April 4th at 11:30 am. All from Epiphany Lutheran Church are welcome to attend - please [contact Pastor LaVonne](#) and let her know if you will be attending, so there is plenty of soup for everyone!



### Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

On Palm Sunday, we will hold our normal 9 am worship service, and the congregation will participate in a Reading of the Passion. Coffee fellowship immediately following worship.



### Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

All are invited to join Collierville Presbyterian Church for their Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 pm.

### Good Friday, April 7, 2023

We will hold a worship service on Good Friday at 3 pm.



### Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Sunday April 9, 2023

On Easter Sunday, we will hold our normal 9 am worship service.

## 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 February, Tithing was 15% below budget. This makes 14% below budget YTD. Meanwhile, Expenses were 5% under budget for the month and 7% under budget YTD. Hopefully, March will bring additional donations for quarterly catch-up.

	Feb-23				2023 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net		Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 6,180	\$ 7,268	-\$ 1,088		\$ 12,565	\$ 14,536	-\$ 1,971
Expenses	\$ 7,549	\$ 7,941	-\$ 392		\$ 14,732	\$ 15,842	-\$ 1,110
<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$ 1,370</b>	<b>-\$ 673</b>	<b>-\$ 697</b>		<b>-\$ 2,167</b>	<b>-\$ 1,306</b>	<b>-\$ 861</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) 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.



## Synod News



### Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Join the Southeastern Synod as we take a Civil Rights Pilgrimage, including stops in Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham.

We will begin our Pilgrimage at 9 am at St John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta and take a bus to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. We will hop back on the bus, stop briefly at the MLK National Historical Park, then eat lunch while driving to the

Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. After spending time at the Legacy Museum and Memorial, we will board the bus to Selma, AL, to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We will then head to Birmingham for a late dinner and an overnight stay. We will worship with and have lunch with Shades Valley Lutheran Church on Sunday. Before returning to Atlanta, we will stop at the 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park. We anticipate returning to St. John's in Atlanta around 4 pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

### "Start Over" Boxes Needed in Wake of Tornadoes in Selma, AL!

"Starting over" boxes are needed for families moving into housing after the tornadoes in Selma!

*For Kitchen box:* Pots and Pans, Dishes, Utensils, Glasses, Cups, Dish towels, Dish Soap, Small kitchen appliances, brooms, mops, and buckets.

*For bathroom box:* Shower Curtain, towels, washcloths, waste basket.

*For Bedroom box:* Inflatable mattress Queen-size, Pillows, Clothes hangers, Linen, and blanket.



We hope that many of our congregations will participate in putting together boxes so many families can start over after such a devastating storm. We hope to collect these boxes and deliver them to Selma monthly. For more information, contact; [Pastor Morgan Gordy](#) or [John Boettner](#).

[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!](#)

## April 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 4/2	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live 10 am	<b>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Thurs 4/6	7 pm	CPC Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Fri 4/7	3 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
Sun 4/9	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<b>Resurrection of our Lord/Easter Day</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 4/16	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live  10 am	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Coffee Hour & Fellowship
Mon 4/17	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437</a>
Sun 4/23	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Wed 4/26	7 pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754</a> Passcode: 596978
Sun 4/30	9 am - CPC and via Facebook Live	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

**Thanks to everyone who helped with our Spring Cleanup!**



## April 2023 Worship Servants

**Worship servants still needed for 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**

[2023 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](mailto:pastor@epiphanylu.org)

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[www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran)

[www.twitter.com/epiphanyville](https://www.twitter.com/epiphanyville)

<https://www.instagram.com/epiphanylutherancollierville>