



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

December 2022 Newsletter

Newsletter Index

From the Pastor's Desk	p. 1-2
December Sunday Worship Service Information	p. 3
Financials	p. 4
PayPal Instructions	p. 4
Upcoming Events - Christmas Party, Congregational Mtg.	p. 5
December Prayers	p. 5
Birthdays, Local Happenings, Google Reviews	p. 6
Social Ministries, Advent Devotional	p. 7
December Calendar	p. 8
SignUp Genius	p. 9
Prayer Requests	p. 9

From the Pastor's Desk

Do you find it curious that our new church year begins in darkness, and gets darker still here in the Northern Hemisphere, until we reach the shortest day of the year, just days before we rejoice at the birth of a baby, who brings light to all the world?

Brings light and IS light!

Advent is the season of preparing for that light to enter, seeking ways to find pinpricks of light shining in the darkness and trying to accustom our eyes to the slowly increasing brightness that is building so we aren't blinded when that light fully breaks and we gaze at the glory of God.

So prepare for the light. Don't engage in frantic activity for its own sake; rather thoughtfully, carefully, prayerfully prepare to greet the dawn of Emmanuel, God with us.

And keep your sunglasses handy!

This poem is a powerful invitation to the reality of God's inbreaking kingdom. Opening our eyes to that holy reality is the way to meet the Light honestly and gratefully, in ways that changes us and therefore the world.

All I Really Want by Quinn G. Caldwell

If you came to this place expecting a tame story,
you came to the wrong place.

If you came for a story that does not
threaten you,
you came for a different story than the one
we tell.

If you came to hear of the coming of a God
who only showed up so that you could have a
nice day
with your loved ones,
then you came for a God whom we do not
worship here.

(cont. next page)



For even a regular baby is not a tame thing.
And goodness that cannot threaten complacency
and evil
is not much good at all,
And a God who would choose to give up power
and invincibility
to become an infant for you,
certainly didn't do it just so you could have dinner.

But.

If you came because you think unwed teenage mothers
are some of the strongest people in the world.

If you came because you think that the kind of people who work third
shift doing stuff you'd rather not do might attract an angel's
attention before you, snoring comfortably in your bed, would.

If you came because you think there are wise men and women to be
found among undocumented travelers from far lands and
that they might be able to show you God.

If you came to hear a story of tyrants trembling
while heaven comes to peasants.

If you came because you believe that God loves the animals
as much as the people
and so made them the first witnesses to the saving of the world.

If you came for a story of reversals
that might end up reversing you.

If you came for a tale of adventure and bravery,
where strong and gentle people win,
and the powerful and violent go down to dust,
where the rich lose their money but find their lives
and the poor are raised up like kings.

If you came to be reminded that God loves you too much
to leave you unchanged.

If you came to follow the light
even if it blinds you.

If you came for salvation and not safety,
then, ah, my friends,
you are precisely in the right place.

Advent blessings to you all,
Pastor LaVonne



December 2022 Worship Services

Worship time is 9 am Sunday morning - 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 unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

**All Sunday worship services are held in person and via Zoom at 9 am
at Collierville Presbyterian Church**

December 4, 2022 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Second Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022 Worship Service of the Word - Third Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2022 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Christmas Eve @ 5 pm
(together w/ Collierville Presbyterian Church)

December 25, 2022 Worship Service w/ Holy Communion - Nativity of our Lord

Zoom information for Sunday worship services in December

[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

***Coffee Hour and Fellowship immediately following worship
on December 4th and 18th***



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 October, both tithing and expenses were pretty close to budget. For 2022 YTD, Revenue is above budget (by 4%) and Expenses are under budget by 10%. However, our bank account totals are down due to payments from designated funds.

	Oct-22			2022 YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Net	Actual	Budget	Net
Revenue	\$ 8,152	\$ 7,432	\$ 720	\$ 77,627	\$ 74,320	\$ 3,307
Expenses	\$ 7,259	\$ 8,019	-\$ 760	\$ 75,168	\$ 83,403	-\$ 8,235
Net	\$ 893	-\$ 587	\$ 1,480	\$ 2,459	-\$ 9,083	\$ 11,542

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



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.



Upcoming Events



Annual Epiphany Advent & Christmas Party

11 am - 1 pm on Saturday, December 3, 2022

Please join us for this get-together at the home of Lois Ketcham. This year's theme is "International Christmas Brunch!" Please bring a dish to share that perhaps your family grew up with and that is recognized as a food from that area. Lois promises NOT to serve Lutefisk, but Twila Hooverson and Lois Ketcham will be making their famous Swedish meatballs! Please [RSVP to Lois Ketcham via e-mail](#)

or text 901-482-2226 as soon as possible (the "official" deadline has passed!). We will also have games and a Dirty Santa gift exchange for all who want to participate!

13290 Lapstone Lane, Olive Branch, MS 38654 (sometimes shown on GPS as Lapstone Loop)



Congregational Meeting Following Worship on Sunday, December 11, 2022

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, immediately following our 9 am worship service, we will be holding an important congregational meeting. Please plan to attend. More information will be sent via e-mail soon.

December 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](#).



Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

No birthdays in December!

Have we missed *your* birthday?

Please send the month/day to Carol Webster

(carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com) so you can be included!



Please Review Epiphany on Google!

It's a proven fact that organizations with five or more reviews get seen much more frequently on Google! Reviews are a great way to build trust, show you're established, and stand out when people view your profile on Google.

Right now we only have two reviews (although they are both five stars!!!) Please consider leaving a review of Epiphany on Google by [using this link](#). This is a great (and inexpensive!) way to spread the word to prospective congregation members and visitors - thank you in advance!



Town of
Collierville
TENNESSEE

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

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



Collierville
BURCH
LIBRARY





Social Ministries/Outreach Update

A hearty thanks again to everyone who helped in the Collierville Presbyterian Church Pumpkin Patch - we received a check for over \$400!

We have 99% participation for our Angel Tree project with 37 angels sponsored! Meredee at Peace Lutheran is so happy! By now, you should have received the wish list for the angels. All gifts should be wrapped with the child's first and last name and brought to church no later than December 12th. If you have any questions, [please contact Lois Ketcham](#).



Thank you to everyone who helped restock the Blessing Box at Home Place in November!



Southeastern Synod Advent Devotional

Looking for an Advent / Christmas Devotional?

Check out the Southeastern Synod Advent/Christmas Devotional written by leaders from across our Synod, including leaders from our companion synods. You can download the pdf to your computer [here](#).

Thank you Bishop Strickland for visiting with our congregation last month!



December 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 12/3	11 am - 1 pm Home of Lois Ketcham	Annual Christmas Party/Christmas Around the World Brunch
Sun 12/4	9 am - CPC and via Zoom 10 am - Coffee Hour & Fellowship	Second Sunday in Advent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Thurs 12/8	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85341174437
Sun 12/11	9 am - CPC and via Zoom 10 am - Congregational Mtg.	Third Sunday in Advent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Sun 12/18	9 am - CPC and via Zoom 10 am - Coffee Hour & Fellowship	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Sat 12/24	5 pm - CPC	Christmas Eve Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
Sun 12/25	9 am - CPC and via Zoom	Nativity of our Lord Worship Service w/ Holy Communion Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627932095
Wed 12/28	7 pm - Via Zoom	Social Ministries/Outreach Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439156754 Passcode: 596978



MERRY
Christmas

December 2022 Worship Servants

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

The SignUp is LIVE for the first two months of 2023!

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



Worship Servant SignUp Genius

[2022 SignUp](#)

[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

info@epiphanylu.org

www.epiphanylu.org

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheran

www.twitter.com/epiphanyville

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