



# EPIPHANY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

## January 2021 Newsletter

### The Season of Epiphany

Welcome to the season of Epiphany which goes from the beginning of January to Ash Wednesday. God has revealed the incarnation of His Son by the brilliant shining of a star and this season of Epiphany unfolds Jesus' identity and mission. We want that same star to shine the light of Divine justice, love, and service in our hearts in our hearts this year as well as it shining over all the lands. The call stories of the Disciples are featured in Epiphany. Think of Peter, James, John and Andrew being called to disciple and hold these stories up to the light of the gemstone of your own calling to follow Jesus. What unique facets make your vocations sparkle in Christ's light?

The second part of the stanza attributed to St. Patrick that was the inspiration for prayer in Christmas (see next page for a printable version) can inspire this time after Epiphany:

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*Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger"  
I bind unto myself today, ELW 450).*

In this season our prayers are inspired by all the ways "God-with-us" is revealed. We meet God incarnate in all kinds of people and in all kinds of situations; we are also deeply connected to people we will never meet through our shared participation in the body of Christ.

Getting behind the idea that God is revealed in surprising ways—as surprising as a baby in a manger—is our bread-and-butter idea this season. More of a challenge might be how God is revealed in the post-Christmas and COVID-19 slump. The task of undecorating a Christmas tree is never going to be as cheerful as decorating one. The guests have gone home if they were even able to come, and everyone is tired out and/or sick. As we craft prayers this season, we might ask: how is God revealed in the midst of January realness? What can we learn about God-with-us from cold, flu, and COVID-19 season and from the times when our bodies demand rest? The time after Epiphany can be a time to connect with neighbors even if only by phoner and to meet "Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." If you talk to people this season a be sure to collect prayer requests from everyone – family and friends alike. These prayer requests can form the basis for your prayer list and prayer life and if appropriate be added to the church intercessory prayers throughout the season.

Peace and prayers, *Pastor TroyAnn*

## *St. Patrick's Prayer*

*Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart  
of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth  
of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

## 12/20/20 Congregational Meeting Summary

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational meeting! Here are the results of our ballot measures - all measures passed.

- Electing Twila Hooverson to Council (33 approve; 0 oppose)
- Electing Becca Schumacher to Council (33 approve; 0 oppose)
- Moving Worship to [Collierville Presbyterian Church](#) effective Feb. 1, 2021 (33 approve; 0 oppose) - ***Please note that although February 1 is the agreement start date, we may not begin in-person worship then due to COVID restrictions/concerns.***
- Reducing Pastor's hours to 4 days/week (32 approve; 1 oppose)
- Overall Interim 2021 Budget (33 approve; 0 oppose)
- Constitution and By-Law changes (33 approve; 0 oppose)

Congratulations to Twila and Becca!

***Following are a few additional documents for your review.***

[Congregational Meeting Presentation](#)

[Congregational Meeting Minutes](#)

[Please contact Council President Phil Goetz](#) with any questions.

### Help with New Sign Design

Council has approved the formation of a Sign Design Team to help put together the design for our future sign at Collierville Presbyterian Church.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please contact Becca Schumacher [via e-mail](#) or by phone ((843) 422-4066 no later than January 10th!

Thank you!



### January 2021 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.](#) These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and

outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.

## Online Worship Services Continuing in January

At this time, we plan on continuing to conduct worship services via Zoom through January - please watch your e-mail for any changes in our schedule. Please join us for these "virtual" worship services and a time of fellowship with our Epiphany community on Sundays at 10 am. Check your weekly e-blast for the bulletin link and to download the prayers, readings and hymns for the week. [Download this document](#) for a complete set of Zoom instructions.



### Sunday Morning Worship Services

#### January 3, 2021 Worship Service

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88664115872](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88664115872)

Meeting ID: 886 6411 5872

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

#### January 10, 2021 Worship Service

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043746439](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043746439)

Meeting ID: 870 4374 6439

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

#### January 17, 2021 Worship Service

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88550293881](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88550293881)

Meeting ID: 885 5029 3881

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

#### January 24, 2021 Worship Service

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519774502](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519774502)

Meeting ID: 885 1977 4502

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

#### January 31, 2021 Worship Service

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610146011](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610146011)

Meeting ID: 826 1014 6011

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799



## 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

The Epiphany Council wants to keep everyone informed about our financial situation. This month we will take a look at the numbers from November 2020. Epiphany applied for and received a SBA PPP loan of \$12,500 at the end of May. This money will be used for salaries and rent during the pandemic. The PPP loan is included in our revenue.

	November				2020 - Year to Date (Jan-Nov)		
	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Budget	Difference
<b>Revenue</b>	11,542.49	10,985.84	556.65		130,936.02	120,844.24	10,091.78
<b>Expenses</b>	10,475.10	12,566.11	2,091.01		130,144.77	140,227.21	10,082.44
<b>Net</b>	1,067.39	-1,580.27	2,647.66		791.25	-19,382.97	20,174.22

The November numbers were better than the projected November budget deficit by \$2,647.66

The YTD numbers are less than the projected 2020 budget deficit by \$20,174.22. (This number includes the SBA PPP loan of \$12,500.)

Even though we are not meeting in person, our expenses continue. 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, Special Year-End Offering) 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.)



**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.



## Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Vicki Scherf - January 14  
Dick Wieland - January 19  
Beth Schnitkey - January 23  
Praharsh Lankapalli - January 30

Have we missed **your** birthday?

[Please send the month/day to  
Carol Webster](#)

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



## Epiphany Lutheran Church Holiday Appetizer & Sweets Cookbook



Thanks to all who joined us for the Zoom Christmas Fellowship following our last Advent midweek service!

And thank you to all who submitted their favorite holiday recipes.

December was a very busy month, albeit possibly less than in other years. Hopefully everyone had a blessed holiday! After the last Advent service, we had a virtual Christmas party via Zoom, and shared our favorite recipes with others.

We also played a Christmas Trivia game that was won by John Garner and Becca Schumacher. They are now sipping their favorite beverages out of hand painted goblets. The recipe compilation was given to members turning in their votes after the congregational meeting on December 20. For anyone who did not get a recipe book, [you may download it here](#) or contact Dianne Polly.

## Thank you!

I am so grateful to you all for the kind gesture shown me during the Christmas season. I pray that the Good Lord will continue to strengthen all members in the new year. Looking forward to a promising year in 2021!

~Hector Johnson

thank  
you!

## **A Thank You Note from Linda Barnes and Peace Lutheran Church**

December 16, 2020

Dear Pastor TroyAnn and Friends at Epiphany,

Happy Advent 2020!

What a year! Challenges. Opportunities. In and through it all ...a child is given... Emmanuel - God is with us! So, we always have HOPE!

The words "Thank You" seem too minimal for all you have done to support me through the years and all you are doing now:

I thank you for embracing me and my family during the hardest, yet most grace-filled, journey we will ever undertake – the death of our beloved Erin – my baby girl; Dana's only sister; Michael's baby sister; Brian's worrisome older sister. Auntie to Chris, Johnathon, Luna Jada, Zoey, and Kynnedi. Mom to her furries Teddy (aka 'The Tedster') and Smokey. The day will come when I will be able to properly send "Thank You" notes to all who joined us that day early December 2018 when we celebrated her life and then Pastor Monica commended Erin to God. That day, and frankly many others, is still a big blur. And, I have yet to open that lovely wicker basket containing cards and well-wishes from you and many other friends. Some day, I will.

I thank you for welcoming me back after literally disappearing for two years after Erin's death. I did not respond to your calls. I did not respond to your cards. I did not respond to Pastor Monica's attempts to comfort me. I needed to grieve as I needed to grieve. And, I thank you for allowing me to do that and then making me welcome when I was ready to come out of my cave.

I am truly grateful for your support of my ministry – beginning with support for my candidacy. I am truly humbled by the outpouring of your support for God's Work Our Hands at Peace when MANY of you showed up with rolled up sleeves and lots of supplies to pressure wash, dig flowerbeds, plant flowerbeds, fill empty planters – all the while wearing face coverings and social distancing. Thelma and Louise are phenomenal women!

I thank you for your financial support to help with the purchase of vestments. Your gift covered a substantial portion of the cost for 2 shirts and a robe. Frankly, I was a bit stressed when Pastor Jill informed me it was time to wear the collar. Long story.

I, and the people of Peace, thank you for the Christmas gifts allowing our congregation to provide toys and gifts to 83 children (the largest number, to date!). We thank you for your donation of food in support of the Monday-Wednesday lunch. Thanks for the donation of computers and printer - for the technical help to set the computers up! The computers allow us to gather virtually for worship and fellowship via Zoom.

I am grateful for your support of the ministry of Chosen Vessel Ministries. Thank you for sending cards and letters to the women incarcerated in Henning. Contact with the free world means a lot to the women. They really appreciate receiving mail – and, they are especially appreciative when that mail comes from a stranger. I am thrilled that three of the women in our re-entry planning group have been released on parole. Please keep them in your prayers.

Pastor TroyAnn and friends at Epiphany, this "Thank You" is minimal and long overdue. Please excuse me for that. I do want you to know I feel words are inadequate to express a gratitude that is coming from such a deep deep place. I have so much to be thankful for. In addition to all I write, I am most grateful for your prayers and love. And, yes, I have been crying since I started writing this note. Pastor TroyAnn, your kind note and spirit-filled suggestions to me during a really challenging time a few weeks ago are appreciated and very helpful. Thank you!

I end by asking you to continue praying for me, my family, Chosen Vessel Ministries, the community of faith known as Peace, and all God entrusts to our care and love. We will continue in prayer for you, Pastor TroyAnn, and the family of Epiphany Lutheran Church.

**Happy Advent Season! Merry Christmas!**

Grace and Peace! Linda

## January 2021 Calendar of Events

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

Sun 1/3	10 am - Via Zoom	2nd Sunday of Christmas - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88664115872">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88664115872</a>
Sun 1/10	10 am - Via Zoom	Baptism of our Lord - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043746439">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043746439</a>
Sun 1/17	10 am - Via Zoom	2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88550293881">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88550293881</a>
Wed 1/21	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86221810608">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86221810608</a>
Sun 1/24	10 am - Via Zoom	3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519774502">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519774502</a>
Sun 1/31	10 am - Via Zoom	First Sunday of Christmas - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84824143365">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84824143365</a>

### Gals of Epiphany

*Stay tuned to hear about our next study -  
more information coming soon!*



### MOE (Men of Epiphany) Study & Fellowship On Hiatus

The MOE meetings are currently on hiatus. We hope everyone is staying healthy and sheltering in place at home as much as possible.





## January 2021 Worship Servants

Each week while we are worshipping via Zoom, we need an assisting minister and lector to help out - please consider volunteering! If you have any questions about serving for Zoom worship, please contact [Vicki Scherf](#) or [Pastor TroyAnn](#).

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



### Worship Servant SignUp Genius



[2021 SignUp is live now!](#)

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

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*  
Schaeffer Memorial Chapel  
7887 Poplar Ave.  
Germantown, TN 38138  
*Mailing Address*  
P.O. Box 1805  
Collierville, TN 38027

Rev. TroyAnn Pouloupoulos  
Email  
Website  
Facebook  
Twitter  
Instagram  
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[pastor@epiphanylu.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanylu.org)  
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