

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

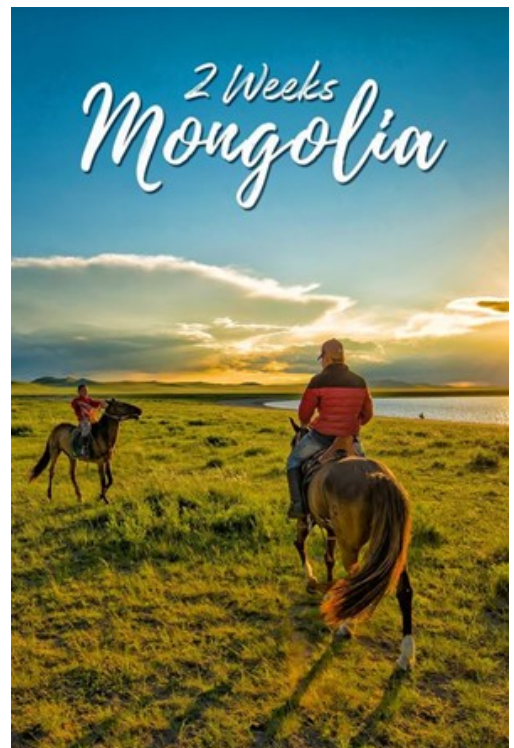
June 2020 Newsletter

Pentecost and Living with the Spirit

The season of Pentecost has dawned with light and power like a brilliant red, gold, and orange sunrise that warms our spirit and that changes the dark night into daylight. Each of us has been given power from God on high that allows us to succeed in the ministries that the Divine is calling us as individuals to do. I think sometimes the Holy Spirit is limited when we think that our natural talents are the Spirit's gift, but the gifts of the Spirit are those gifts that the Spirit pours out upon us only when needed that allow us to do far more than we ever imagined possible. Each of us simply must open ourselves to the Spirit by seeking the Spirit in prayer and by allowing ourselves to take on tasks that would be beyond us without the Spirit. When we take on those improbable tasks of mission and ministry the Spirit floods in to fill in the gaps of our human efforts and we find, much to our amazement that we can do far more than we ever imagined. We do more not because we have special talents or education, or a responsible job that has trained us well, but because the Spirit guides us, leads us, and empowers us. In fact, people who seem unlikely participants or leaders in a certain area may suddenly find themselves gifted by the Holy Spirit to be able to take on tasks they never thought possible.

I have a friend who once signed-up for a National Geographic adventure where she was to spend 2 weeks galloping over the Mongolian Steppes with Mongolian Nomads as her guide. The group of 4 travelers and 4 Nomads would arise at sunrise in the morning from their yurts, eat a breakfast of Mongolian fare, pack up and gallop at full speed all day until close to sunset across the steeps. She said the stamina of the horses to gallop without a break for hours was phenomenal.

She had no idea where she was going, but as the days wore on, she went from feeling the pain and challenge of learning to ride a galloping horse all day, to riding almost as comfortably as her guides. She went from struggling to just hang on to the horse, to being able to see and enjoy the beautiful landscape around her and became one with her horse. She went from being dead tired and sore in places she did not even know she had at night, to being able to enjoy the camaraderie of her all 7 of her other fellow travelers. It turned out to be the trip of a lifetime for her.



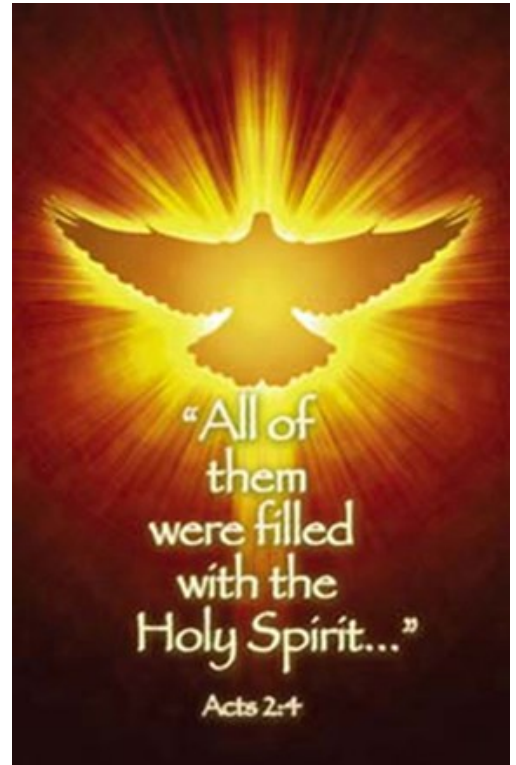
I feel living with the Holy Spirit has a lot in common with riding that galloping horse across Mongolia.

First, we must make the decision to go and few really do. It is a wild ride when the Spirit is truly leading us. When I think about it, this causes both fear and excitement for me. I am afraid of where the Spirit might lead me, but I am equally excited about it. To follow the Holy Spirit's leadings, I know I only must be open and willing and that is sometimes the hardest part. I spend more time worrying about all the details of going to "Mongolia (a church)" or "falling off a galloping ministry horse" than I do thinking about the exhilaration of the experience. Most of us including me are naturally cautious people.

I know I want to maintain control of my life instead of letting the power of the Holy Spirit take over. I can let my fears and concerns drive me more than the Holy Spirit. In other words, I want to remain in a comfortable state of the status quo instead of riding wildly with abandon at a gallop over the Mongolian Steppes following a guide who hasn't told me where I'm going to spend the night. A life with the Holy Spirit can be like that. It can be the most exhilarating thing you have ever done, but only if you are brave enough to trust that the Spirit's promise that she will always take care of you and will never abandon or leave you alone or let down.

I challenge myself and you during this Season of Pentecost to consider how you relate to the Holy Spirit. Are you letting the Spirit lead your life as though you are riding a galloping horse moving over the wild, wind, swept Mongolian steppes or even through the communities of Germantown and Collierville in Spirit-led ministry, or are you aware of the Spirit, but asking It to sit quietly beside you like a lap dog. The Holy Spirit is present within us, but it will only take over and empower as much of our lives as each of us allows.

Grace, peace and prayers, *Pastor TroyAnn*



Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Diane Kruse - June 3
Twila Hooverson - June 15
Anil Lankapalli - June 30



Have we missed **your** birthday?

[Please send the month/day to Carol Webster](#) so you can be included!

Important

Re-Opening Task Force

Our re-opening task force was formed to help Epiphany Lutheran Church determine when and how we can once again worship in person using the best recommended practices to keep all members and visitors safe. The task force members are: Phil Goetz, Wally Knight, Martha Garner, John Garner, Stu Polly, Anil Lankapalli, and Pastor TroyAnn.

We had 16 households fill out the survey which is an excellent response rate. The task force has reviewed the results and has decided to start working on two tracks.

1. What can be done at Home Place (social and/or service)?
2. What procedures would be necessary to return to Schaeffer Chapel?

In either case, Zoom would still be available for anyone who does not feel comfortable attending in person. If you have any ideas or would like to participate, please contact any of the members.

Transition Committee Update

The Committee (members are Phil Goetz, Wally Knight, Martha Garner, John Kelyman, Pastor TroyAnn, and Pastor Patti Axel from the Southeast Synod) have met several times. Initially, we discussed what the problems or opportunities are. The ones identified are: a perennial budget deficit, mortgage without a building, limited visibility to our current worship location, and a stable but not growing congregation. Before venturing into solutions, we talked about who we are as a congregation and what we want to retain. These include: Social (enjoy fellowship and welcoming to visitors), Ministries (garden, food pantry, events with Kingsway, etc.), Worshipful (high participation in services), and Giving (always willing to help those in need). Regarding finding solutions, we are following 2 tracks. 1) Find a better "anchor" location. This work has been put on hold due to COVID-19. 2) Develop an advertising strategy. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to submit a request for \$1950 for a matching grant from the synod. Even though we will not hear the final results of our request until early June, we will continue to develop this strategy. If anyone has thoughts they would like to share with the Committee, please reach out to any of us.

Transition Update

Collierville Food Pantry Update



Typically, Epiphany Lutheran Church members serve as volunteers at the food pantry during the month of June. However, because of the Covid-19 situation, they have canceled all outside volunteer programs for the month of June.

Our efforts to continue supplying fresh produce from the community garden are much appreciated - thanks to all the volunteers who make it happen!

Online Worship Services Continuing in June For Now

At this time, we plan on continuing to conduct worship services via Zoom - please watch your e-mail and 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 readings and prayers for the week. [Download this document](#) for a complete set of Zoom instructions.

Sunday ONLINE

Sunday, June 7, 2020 - Holy Trinity Sunday/1st Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89323150127](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89323150127)

Meeting ID: 893 2315 0127

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, June 14, 2020 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993614823](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993614823)

Meeting ID: 859 9361 4823

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, June 21, 2020 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869409683](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869409683)

Meeting ID: 838 6940 9683

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, June 28, 2020 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81903279605](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81903279605)

Meeting ID: 819 0327 9605

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 how we are doing financially. This month we will take a look back at April 2020.

| | April | | | 2020 - Year to Date | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Difference | Actual | Budget | Difference |
| Revenue | 15,140.13 | 10,985.84 | 4,154.29 | 46,767.93 | 43,943.36 | 2,824.57 |
| Expenses | 10,970.32 | 12,566.11 | 1,595.79 | 48,273.04 | 50,264.44 | 1,991.40 |
| Net | 4,169.81 | -1,580.27 | 5,750.08 | -1,505.11 | -6,321.08 | 4,815.97 |

The April numbers beat the projected April budget deficit by \$5,750.08

The YTD numbers are less than the projected 2020 budget deficit by \$4,815.97

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 are now accepting donations, offerings and payments to special funds (Easter lilies, Pastor Tonie's gift fund, and Outreach Mission Grant) 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 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.



Donations for Peace Lutheran Church

Ed and Becca Schumacher delivered a trunk full of food and water to Peace Lutheran Church on Friday, May 29, 2020. Epiphany also was able to donate money for bread, lunch meat and cheese for sandwiches. Peace is very appreciative of all that Epiphany continues to do for them. Thank you Epiphany for helping to feed the hungry - another successful mission. Great Job! You're the Best!



Make Someone's Day! Twelve Names Remain....

The women that Linda Barnes works with in a re-entry program at Henning State Penitentiary are on lockdown. No visitors or volunteers can visit the prison. During this time it would be a nice gesture for those of you who feel called to write a note or letter of encouragement to one or more of the women. Christ has called us to visit those in prison. Please [review the available slots and click this link to sign up!](#) Please follow the guidelines provided by Linda Barnes. Thank you! [Download Guidelines](#)



Feeding the Hungry - Can You Help?



Feeding the Community

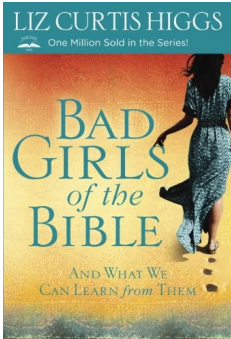
According to Feeding America, more than 934,000 people in Tennessee are struggling with hunger - and of them 285,770 are children. In Shelby County alone, more than 21% of the population is food insecure. Our community garden at Home Place will continue to donate fresh produce to the Collierville Food Pantry when crops start to come in, but you can also help now!

We are currently collecting donations for the Collierville Food Pantry as well as to purchase items for The Little Food Pantry located at Home Place. You may donate [via the PayPal button on the home page of our website](#) (please select "Food Pantry Fund" from the dropdown box when you make your donation). Thank you for making a difference!



Gals of Epiphany Bible Study Continues June 23rd (possibly via Zoom!)

Please join us (and invite a friend!) for our continuing Bible Study on Tuesday evening, June 23rd at 7 pm. We will be meeting via Zoom (locations and details for later dates TBD). This study will meet the 4th Tuesday of every month through September 22, 2020.



Our chosen book for this study is [Bad Girls of the Bible \(and What We Can Learn from Them\)](#) by Liz Curtis Higgs. of the Gals of Epiphany (GOE) Spring Bible Study on Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9 - 11 am. Click the link or the picture of the book to order from Amazon. Please read the first two chapters prior to our meeting on May 26th.

Click this link to join the Zoom session: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88951981909>
Meeting ID: 889 5198 1909 (Call-in number: 312 626 6799)



Which ones are the bad girls??

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.



Special Request for Help for the Epiphany Community Garden



Want to help with the Epiphany Community Garden but unable to join us on our work days? We have a task for you! With the critical need for fresh food in our area, we're planning for a great production this year! Since greens are the most favored produce by the clients at the Collierville Food Pantry, we are planning on planting a heavy fall crop starting just after Labor Day.

If you can help put together seed tapes, please [contact Wendell Kruse](#) - all supplies and instructions will be provided!

Epiphany Community Garden Update

The garden team continues to work regular workdays on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The team is practicing good social distancing procedures, and workdays may be canceled as necessary due to weather issues. [Please contact Wendell Kruse](#) with any questions!

As Wendell says, "We have tremendous need for fresh food in our community....we have a wonderful piece of land (our little piece of God's creation), and a great group of volunteers, both from our congregation and from the community. Our vision is to make this a record production year!"

So much accomplished in May! We did lots of weeding (the straw/leaf cover is definitely helping with weed elimination!); installed steel posts and mesh for the cucumber vines to climb; planted hot peppers; fertilized the onions and other beds; planted cucumbers, zucchini, okra, and beans (thanks to Jones Nursery for contributing plants!); planted several different ornamental flowers, including lilies and lantana; tilled and reworked existing beds; installed cages on tomato plants; installed shingles on the storage boxes; erected our 3rd purple martin house (thank you Dr. Vlascik!); watered as necessary, and SO MUCH MORE!

As always, a special thanks to our Garden Angels and Work Crew - we couldn't do this without you!



Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

~ Ephesians 3:20-21

June 2020 Calendar of Events

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

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| Wed 6/3 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sat 6/6 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sun 6/7 | 10 am - Via Zoom | Holy Trinity Sunday/1st Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89323150127 |
| Wed 6/10 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sat 6/13 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sun 6/14 | 10 am - Via Zoom | Second Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993614823 |
| Wed 6/17 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Thurs 6/18 | 7 pm - Via Zoom | Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83700735346 |
| Sat 6/20 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sun 6/21 | 10 am - Via Zoom | Third Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869409683 |
| Tues 6/23 | 7 pm - Via Zoom | Gals of Epiphany (GOE) Women's Bible Study Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88951981909 |
| Wed 6/24 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sat 6/27 | 8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place | Community Garden Workday |
| Sun 6/28 | 10 am - Via Zoom | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81903279605 |



June 2020 Worship Servants



Since we are meeting online for the month of June, we have limited spots available for our congregation members to serve as worship servants. We need a lector and an assisting minister each week for our Zoom online virtual worship services. [Please sign up here.](#) If you have any questions about serving for Zoom worship, please contact [Vicki Scherf](#) or [Pastor TroyAnn.](#)

IIH 2020 Worship Servant SignUp Genius

We have a new SignUp Genius sign-up for the 2nd half of 2020 - [sign up here!](#) For now, we have a full slate of worship servants available starting in July; available slots will be adjusted as necessary depending on the status of worship services. If you need assistance, [e-mail Carol Webster](#) - she will be happy to help you sign up if you have any issues! Want to know more about being a worship servant? [You can review the duties and guidelines here.](#)



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
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Website
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