



# EPIPHANY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

## October 2020 Newsletter

### Pray Without Ceasing

***Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~Philippians 4:6***

We are asked by God in Philippians not to worry, but rather to pray. Also in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to “Pray without ceasing.” The story that brought these two verses home to me was one told by Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Bishop Anthony Bloom in his classic book *Learning to Pray*. He tells the story of Father Siloan at Mount Athos. There was a time when young Russian peasants who had no land and no prospects for their future would come to Mount Athos to spend time in the workshops trying to earn enough money to go back home to buy a piece of farm land. Many would spend years there working very hard and trying to succeed at this task of saving enough money.



The Monastery at Mount Athos



Father Siloan (1866-1938)

The young men in Father Siloan’s workshop always seemed to spend the shortest time at the Monastery. They got more work done and earned their money more quickly than any of the other men in workshops overseen by other monks. This bothered the other monks who couldn’t figure out what Father Siloan did differently. They encouraged their young men. They cajoled them. They were sometimes stern with them. However, no matter what the other monks did, it made no difference. Father Siloan’s men would come and go faster than theirs.

Finally, one day the other monks went to Father Siloan and asked what it was that he did so that his men could accomplish so much more. Father Siloan replied, “I don’t know. I can only tell you what I do. Each morning as the young men arrive, I greet them one by one. I might say, ‘Alexi, how are you this morning? Have you heard any news from your family in Russia, how are they?’ After I listen to their answer, I’ll say, ‘May you have a good and productive day, I am praying for you to get home soon.’ *(continued on page2)*

(continued from page 1)

“The next young man may come in, and again I’ll say, ‘Good morning Nicoli. What do you hear about your young wife in Russia? Have you gotten a letter?’ Then I listen to what he says and respond by say, “May you have a good productive day. I am praying for you to get back to your wife soon.’ And so it goes one by one as they arrive. Then as the day goes on, I take each one in my mind’s eye and lift him up in my hands to the love of the Divine. I’ll pray about what I know of his situation and when I run out of words, I simply hold him up to the love of God. If I lose the image, I again take hold of him and lift him up to God. And so I spend my day.

One after the other I lift each man up time and time again until the day is over. When the day ends, I again greet each man as he is leaving and wish him good night and wish him a restful sleep and good dreams of his family. I tell him that I will be praying for him to return home soon. And that is what I do.”

Many of the other monks seemed dubious and skeptical, but the proof was in the happiness and joy on the men’s faces, and in the relatively short time they spent working at the monastery before going home with money in their pockets.

Father Siloan knew the power of prayer and knew how to pray without ceasing. As I said earlier, this story had a profound effect on my own prayer life. I’m not sure I had a handle on how to pray without ceasing, or how to make complicated prayer requests known to God, or how to pray for people in situations with details that I didn’t know, until I read this story. I pray it is as meaningful to you as it has been to me.

Peace to you all, *Pastor TroyAnn*



Ed Schumacher - October 5  
Christine Fox - October 10  
Carol Rife - October 14

Have we missed ***your*** birthday?  
[Please send the month/day to Carol Webster](mailto:carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com)  
(carolepiphanylutheran@gmail.com)  
so you can be included!

**Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!**

## Reopening Committee Update - Please Complete the Survey

The Reopening Task Force is anticipating that COVID-19 concerns will last well into 2021. Our primary concern remains to keep everyone healthy. We will continue to offer Zoom services regardless. To understand your opinions, we need the congregation's input on several options - use this link to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SC5MCXV>. Please provide one response per household, and answer yes/no for each of the questions. We request your reply by end of day Monday, October 12.



## STEWARDSHIP

Hello Epiphany Congregation,

This is Prannoy Lankapalli reaching out to you on behalf of the Epiphany Lutheran Church Council Stewardship Committee. It is the time of year for the Stewardship Campaign again. I know that this year has been a very tough time for everyone and the Epiphany Council thanks you for adapting so easily to this new form of worship.

I would also like to ask anyone if they are interested in volunteering this year for the Stewardship Campaign. Like last year, we are also going to conduct Temple Talks explaining the principles of a Steward this year. It also wouldn't take a lot of commitment. All that is required is some of your time to plan and present a small Temple Talk up to 5 minutes during the beginning of a church service.

I will be conducting a Zoom meeting for anyone who is interested and will explain the details of the Temple Talks further. If you would like to help out in any way, please reach out to me at [lprannoydeep@gmail.com](mailto:lprannoydeep@gmail.com). Any and all help is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Prannoy Lankapalli - (Stewardship Committee)

## Online Worship Services Continuing in October

At this time, we plan on continuing to conduct worship services via Zoom through October - 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, October 4, 2020 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost**

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618309421](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618309421)

Meeting ID: 816 1830 9421

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

### **Sunday, October 11, 2020 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost**

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89814067985](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89814067985)

Meeting ID: 898 1406 7985

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

### **Sunday, October 18, 2020 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost**

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386812795](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386812795)

Meeting ID: 823 8681 2795

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

### **Sunday, October 25, 2020 - Reformation Sunday/21st Sunday after Pentecost**

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89366547088](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89366547088)

Meeting ID: 893 6654 7088

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 August 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.

	August			2020 - Year to Date (Jan-Aug)		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
<b>Revenue</b>	15,437.65	10,985.84	4,451.81	103,891.80	87,886.72	16,005.08
<b>Expenses</b>	16,944.91	12,566.11	-4,378.80	100,089.11	102,528.88	2,439.77
<b>Net</b>	-1,507.26	-1,580.27	73.01	3,802.69	-14,642.16	18,444.85

The August numbers beat the projected August budget deficit by \$73.01

The YTD numbers are less than the projected 2020 budget deficit by \$18,444.85. (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, Wildfire Disaster 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 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.





Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

# God's work. Our hands.

A HUGE thank you to all who worked on the Beautification Project at Peace Lutheran!



## October Outreach Project - Sock It To Me!

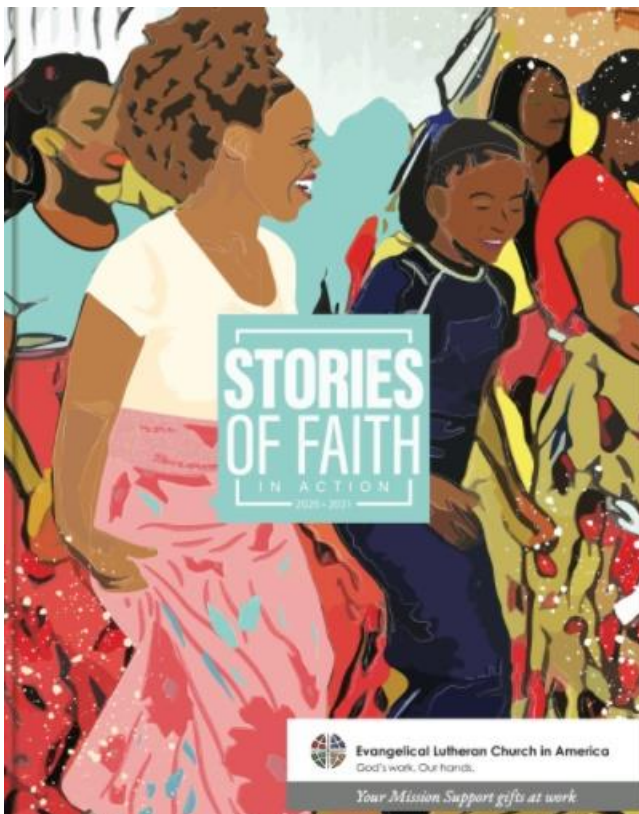


[Memphis Union Mission](#) is the oldest and largest rescue mission in Memphis. They minister to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of men, women, and families who are homeless, addicted, and in crisis.

Their ultimate goals for their clients are to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ, achieve freedom from substance abuse, reunite with family and loved ones, and finally, to re-emerge as self-sufficient members of the community. As you can see, it is a very worthy organization that needs our help.

We will be collecting new white tube socks (any size) for the Memphis Union Mission downtown for the month of October. Please drop off your socks at Carol Rife's home in the big green and gray bin outside of her garage. She will deliver them to the Union Mission at the end of the month.

If you have any additional donations that you were not able to bring to the garden on the last day of collection on October 3, you may bring those as well. (see bottom of p. 9 of this newsletter for more information.)



### Stories of Faith in Action

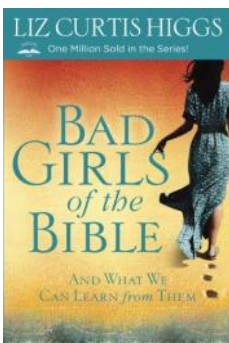
Every year, the [ELCA](#) compiles the publication *Stories of Faith in Action* to illustrate how God is at work across the ELCA through your generosity. It highlights how a portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church — particularly the ways the ELCA nurtures vital congregations, raises up leaders and grows the global church.

The ELCA thanks you for your faithful generosity to your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — by showing your offering at work.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/StoriesofFaith/>

**(Every week this fall in our weekly e-blast, we will highlight a video illustrating one of these stories)**

## Gals of Epiphany Bible Study Concludes October 27th via Zoom



Please join us (and invite a friend!) for the concluding session of this Bible Study on Tuesday evening, October 27, 2020 at 7 pm. We will be meeting via Zoom.

Our chosen book for this study is [Bad Girls of the Bible \(and What We Can Learn from Them\)](#) by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please read Chapters 9 and 10 prior to our meeting on October 27th. Use this link to join the Zoom session: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83948914112>. Meeting 839 4891 4112 (Call-in number: 312 626 6799)



***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.



## From the Fellowship Committee

Thanks to everyone who has participated in one of our Zoom socials. We have told jokes, learned funny tidbits about our fellow parishioners, shared tales about our youthful days and modes of transportation and even favorite beverages - to name just a few of the fun revelations we have uncovered. Hopefully you will join us next time. If anyone is interested in possibly attending one of the socially distanced Germantown concerts in the grove this fall, [please let Dianne Polly know](#) ([diannepolly@gmail.com](mailto:diannepolly@gmail.com)) and she will look into securing reservations.

## Volunteer to Deliver Produce to the Collierville Food Pantry



Our garden is growing great and we have lots of produce that needs to be delivered to the Collierville Food Pantry each week on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. The Collierville Food Pantry is located just off the square, behind the old gas station on the corner of Main and Washington. Look for their colorful awning. You can also look up their website online for more information. Please choose a week you can help and [sign up on SignupGenius](#) - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4aacad2dabf49-collierville1>. Contact Carol Rife with questions at 901-752-3957.



## 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!

We accomplished SO much in the month of September! We planted turnip seed and radish seed tapes; harvested okra, peppers, tomatoes; mowed; worked compost into the beds; weeded; fertilized the sweet corn; and watered a LOT! Our tomatoes, okra and pepper plants continued to flower and produce.

Thank you to all our volunteers, including our “Judge’s Club” youth!  
*So far this year we have donated more than 1,400 pounds!!*



### Last day to donate is Saturday October 3rd!

The last day to donate items for the Memphis Union Mission is this coming Saturday, October 3rd.

The following items are most needed: Pants (denim, khaki, corduroy), Cutoff shorts, Belts (any type), Shirts (tees, polo, sport w/ collars), Socks, Underwear (new only), Shoes (work, casual, no dress shoes), and Caps/Hats. All used items should be laundered before donating.

***Thanks to all who have donated already!  
Look for the big blue truck at Epiphany Home Place on Saturday!***

*(This prayer is written by Linda Barnes, currently serving as the Rostered Lay Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Memphis, for a recent deanery meeting. She is sponsored by Epiphany Lutheran Church).*

## God Is ...!

(Based on Psalm 46 – called by some a song of holy confidence; also known as “Luther’s Psalm” as Martin Luther wrote his hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* as a paraphrase of Psalm 46)

God is - our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble!

There are record-setting wildfires and hurricanes. A worldwide pandemic. Widespread social unrest and protests. Institutionalized racism. Violence in the streets – so many guns! A looming election. Voter suppression. Still, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble!

God, wildfires are ravaging many states on the West Coast. Nearly 700,000 acres in 14 states have been burned and fires are still spreading. Are they due to climate change or poor forest management? Or a combination of both? Lighting strikes, gender-reveal party, arson? God, you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble.

God, Sally is moving sooo slowly and dumping sooo much rain in the Gulf Coast. There is flooding from Alabama to the Carolinas. Teddy might strike Bermuda just one week after Paulette. So many named storms this hurricane season, the Greek alphabet will be used to name future storms. God, you are Alpha to Omega the beginning and the end. God you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble.

God, this world-wide pandemic! The invisible enemy. Nearly 30 million infected worldwide. Nearly 950 thousand have died worldwide. God, who do we believe – medical experts or politicians? Medical experts and scientists advise a safe and effective vaccine will likely not be available until mid-2021. In the meantime, wear face-coverings! Some politicians say the medical experts are confused – a vaccine will be available very very soon and, no need to wear face coverings unless we want to. Such conflicting messages! Still, God you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble.

God, there is violence in the streets. Police brutality with knees on necks. Spit bags on faces. No-knock warrants. Black Lives Matter! God, peaceful protests are being co-opted to push violent agendas. Extremist groups of all kinds – Alt-right. Antifa. White nationalists, anti-gay zealots, racist skin heads, neo-Confederates, United Constitutional Patriots, Proud Boys, Ku Klux Klan - We can't breathe! Protestors, police, federal forces, extremists and provocateurs clashing in the streets. Peaceful protest being co-opted! Vigilante mob mentality – so many guns – on all sides! But, God, you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble!

God, there are top-down disinformation campaigns beginning in offices including the Oval Office - sitting behind that desk is the most powerful man in the 'free' world!? A master showman and manipulator with great fondness for strongmen. A reality star. God, has he created an alternative reality? He tweets often! Has millions of followers. And, a critical election fast approaches! Mailboxes removed from communities at a time when record numbers of voters may cast their ballot via mail, as is their right. God, is it reform of the postal system, or is this another example, amongst many, of voter suppression?! Allegations being made there will be violence in the streets if the election is stolen – from the strongman. What is Russia up to, this time? Or China? Or Iran? God, still, you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these times of trouble!

Therefore we will not fear, though the wildfires rage and the hurricanes come. Though we can't gather as we would like because of the invisible enemy. In spite of the divisiveness in the land, and social unrest, and injustice, and structural racism, and violence in the streets, and an upcoming election that is fraught with uncertainty in this time of pandemic and there is great potential for more violence in the streets – still: The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress! God says, “Be still and know that I am God!” God say, “I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in all times of trouble. The Lord Almighty is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

Amen. ~Linda Barnes (September 17, 2020 – Devotion for Deanery Meeting)

## October 2020 Calendar of Events

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

Sat 10/3	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 10/4	10 am - Via Zoom	18th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618309421">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618309421</a>
Mon 10/5	7 pm - Via Zoom	Worship Committee Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87812307095">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87812307095</a>
Wed 10/7	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 10/10	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 10/11	10 am - Via Zoom	19th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89814067985">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89814067985</a>
Wed 10/14	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Thurs 10/15	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576960453">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576960453</a>
Sat 10/17	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 10/18	10 am - Via Zoom	20th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386812795">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386812795</a>
Wed 10/21	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 10/24	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 10/25	10 am - Via Zoom	21st Sunday after Pentecost /Reformation Sunday Online Worship Service Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89366547088">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89366547088</a>
Tues 10/27	7 pm - Via Zoom	Gals of Epiphany (GOE) Women's Bible Study Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83948914112">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83948914112</a>
Wed 10/28	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 7 pm - Via Zoom	Community Garden Workday Social Ministries Committee Mtg. Join here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89471582878">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89471582878</a>
Sat 10/31	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday



## October 2020 Worship Servants



Each week while we are worshipping via Zoom, we need an assisting minister and lector to help out. We also need someone to assist with running the PowerPoint presentation, and one or two choir members to meet with Hector on Saturday at Schaeffer Chapel to record hymns from time to time - please consider volunteering! If you have any questions about serving for Zoom worship, please contact [Vicki Scherf](#) or [Pastor TroyAnn](#).

### Worship Servant SignUp Genius

[Sign up here](#) to volunteer for upcoming 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  
Email  
Website  
Facebook  
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Instagram  
YouTube

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