



Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

September 2019 Newsletter

New beginnings....

Dear Friends In Christ,

I am excited to begin to be your new Interim Pastor and to walk along side you as you determine your future vision, direction, and call a new pastor. I'm looking forward to the process and can already see the many of the gifts, skills, talents and love of God thru Christ that you have. I promise to be in prayer for you as members and for Epiphany every day and hope that you will pray for me regularly.

Our Gospel reading this week speaks of going to a banquet and taking a seat humbly at the foot of the table instead of at the head. It also speaks of inviting those outside of our regular group of friends to the banquet. I pray I can serve at Epiphany with this sort humility and zeal for those whom we have not yet met.

May God be with you and me as we begin this journey.

Peace and prayers, *Pastor TroyAnn*



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.

Updated Epiphany Lutheran Church Directory

The directory has several new updates - [please take a moment to review your information](#) and make sure it is accurate. We will be providing printed copies (one per family) to the congregation during September. [Please contact Carol Webster](#) with any changes. Thank you!



Welcome Pastor TroyAnn Poulopoulos!

We are delighted to welcome Epiphany's new interim pastor, Reverend TroyAnn Poulopoulos! Many of you know Pastor TroyAnn - she has conducted services at our church before several times, and comes to us with many years of pastoral experience. She is a native Memphian, and has served both ELCA congregations and United Methodist Churches in the past 27 years. Most recently, she served Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL for 5 years and then GPS (God's People Serving, ELCA) as their short-term interim minister.

She strives to prayerfully work along side the church's members, and the members of the surrounding community to determine which ministries might be most appropriate to help grow the church and serve both the spiritual and practical needs of the members and community.

Pastor TroyAnn is a widow with an adult daughter, Mary Clare Earle, who is a social worker serving the mentally ill homeless population in Rockford, IL. Pastor enjoys movies, her dachshund, Herr Nicholas Von Klaus (Nickey for short!), as well as many styles of live music, theatre, walking, and reading spiritual classics, spy novels and mystery books. [Click here to read more...](#)

Pastor TroyAnn will begin her service with Epiphany on Sunday, September 1st - please extend her a hearty welcome!

ELCA Southeast Synod News

Gathering under the theme "We are church," voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly, the chief legislative authority of the church, met Aug. 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the actions taken during assembly.

Please follow the links below for more information on the declarations and statements issued and approved at the assembly.

[Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)

[Approval of the social statement "Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action"](#)

Links on Sanctuary Declaration

[ELCA Churchwide Assembly declares ELCA sanctuary church](#)

[Bishop Eaton's message on the sanctuary declaration](#)

[Bishop Gordy and Bishop-elect Strickland message on the sanctuary declaration](#)

For more information, please visit the [ELCA website](#) or the [ELCA SE Synod website](#).



Service Opportunities



But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ~James 1:22

Upcoming Outreach/Evangelism Opportunities

Date	Activity	Contact
September 14	Rise Against Hunger/God's Work Our Hands	Jennifer Parker

Worship Servants - a variety of ways to participate in Sunday morning worship. [Sign up here](#), add our name to the clipboard available on Sunday mornings, or [contact Carol Webster](#) to sign up.

Epiphany Community Garden - **We are working regular garden hours throughout the fall - please come help us grow by volunteering your time on Wednesday and Saturday morning from 8:30 - 11:30 am!** [Donate here](#) to help the garden grow - help us fund our efforts for 2019 and beyond!

Room In The Inn (RITI)

Volunteers will be needed to help serve and cleanup, and help make the sack lunches the guests will take with them Tuesday morning, as well as to pick up sheets and towels on Tuesday to launder and return to Kingsway within the week. If you have never participated in RITI, you will find it to be a most meaningful experience as a volunteer. ***The RITI program will resume again in November.***

Collierville Connected Resource Center (CCRC) - Epiphany is a coalition partner church with the Collierville Connected Resource Center which provides job skills training such as basic computer operation, resume assistance, help with job applications and interview skills, and offers job search tips for unemployed persons. Without at least two volunteers present, the Center cannot open due to Safe Church practices. If you have an hour to spare, CCRC could use your help. Hours are Tuesdays, 9 - 11:30 am and 4 - 7 pm; Thursdays 9 - 11:30am; Saturdays 9 -11:30 am. A one-hour light training session is provided. The CCRC is located in the basement of Sanctuary on the Square, 104 N. Rowlett St., Collierville. See Pastor Monica to volunteer or for more information.

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.

CONFIRMANDS...Your Baptism Project Ideas are Due in Class on 9/8!

All Epiphany confirmation students work closely with their mentors to present a Baptism project. This project is intended to explain what Baptism means to the student, and the student is encouraged to get creative: write a poem; record a song or write new lyrics to a song; make a sculpture or piece of art; make a video; the sky is the limit! Confirmands will present their completed projects to the Epiphany Council after Sunday worship on October 20th. Mentors are encouraged to attend. All Confirmands are to bring a 1-paragraph summary of their idea for the Baptism Project to class at 9 am on Sunday, 9/8. If you have questions, [contact Pastor TroyAnn](#). Thanks!



Choir Practice Resumes September 8th!

Hector invites everyone to join the Epiphany choir - rehearsals begin September 8 at 9:15 am, and will continue every Sunday until Reformation Sunday, October 27th.

Come Make A Joyful Noise!



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Join us for this year's event on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 9 - 11 am at Kingsway Christian Church, and be part of the movement to end world hunger by 2030. We will be packaging meals of rice and soy to lend a hand to people in critical need of food and aid across the globe. Bring the whole family! Please wear your yellow God's Work, Our Hands shirts! [Please click here to find out more information and register](#).



Rise Against Hunger meal assistance programs feed hundreds of thousands of students all over the world with a daily lunch, but many of their needs extend beyond that. We're raising funds to send students to school with new backpacks full of supplies, and we need your help! Your donation of just \$25 will not only provide a child with a backpack, but will also ensure that they receive ongoing support for the road ahead.

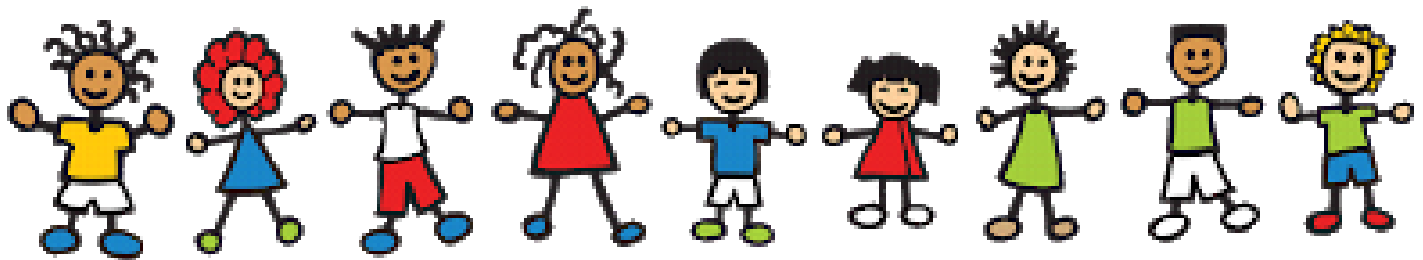
[Donate here](#)

Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Rob Rife - September 2
John Kelyman - September 7
Apple Waddell - September 23
Linda Fisher - September 25

Have we missed **your** birthday?

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



Children's Church

Answered prayers! God has blessed our congregation with young members and we are ready to begin serving them through Children's Church. Classes will take place during service for twenty minutes, twice each month. The first session will begin in September and end in December. We are in need of two (2) volunteers per class. Volunteers will be supplied with the morning's activities - ready to go. Please [contact Andria Prouty](#) if you are interested in signing up once a month or once a session (or sign up on SignUp Genius). Your help is appreciated and needed to get this program started! This is a great way to support Epiphany and its members!



ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant

A huge thank you to Wendell Kruse for putting together and submitting an application for an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Grant! This year, ELCA World Hunger is partnering through Domestic Hunger Grants with 77 ministries spread out across 63 synods and 33 states (plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.). [Click here to find out more about the grants.](#)

Final award decisions will be announced in November 2019 with payments distributed in February 2020. Domestic Hunger Grants are competitive -- only around 10% of applications will be awarded.



Other Upcoming Events & Activities



Gals of Epiphany Study 9/8

Please join us for the Gals of Epiphany (GOE) Fall Bible Study! We will be meeting the first Saturday of the next three months (September 7, October 5 and November 2) from 9 - 11 am in the Kingsway Library. Please bring a friend! For this study, we will be using the book "What Do Our Neighbors Believe?" by Greenstein, Hotz, and Kaltner. This paperback is a review of Judaism, Christianity and Islam; it is written by scholars from each faith and is easy to read and understand. The Jewish scholar is Rabbi Micah Greenstein from Memphis Temple Israel. The book is available through [Barnes and Noble](#) and [Amazon](#). Please read the first three chapters prior to our first meeting on September 7th. [Find out more and review discussion questions.](#)

MOE (Men of Epiphany) Study & Fellowship 9/10



Please join us for the monthly MOE (Men of Epiphany) meeting at 8:30 am on the 2nd Saturday of every month for breakfast, fellowship and devotion. Meetings are held at the home of retired Pastor Ray Heilener. Please contact [Wendell Kruse](#) or [Carol Webster](#) if you are interested and need the address!

See page 4 for information on our Rise Against Hunger event on September 14th!

Thanks to Lois and Andria for the wonderful backpack tags for our backpack blessing on 8/11!



Home Place Happenings

It was a busy August at the garden!

- Complete re-do of the fence
- Construction of the Machine shed and the Garden tool storage area
- Mowing
- Weed-whacking
- Planted tomatoes
- Planted monarch butterfly seedlings
- Shed painting
- Worked against infestation of butternut squash bugs
- Removed cucumber vines (Lemon) and planted (reworked) 3 rows of Turnip Seed tapes
- Fertilized (light) new cucumber plants
- Fashioned chicken wire around cages

Almost 700 pounds of vegetables donated to the Collierville Food Pantry this year already!



Thanks to all our garden angels for the help!

September 2019 Calendar of Events

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

Sun 9/1	10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	<i>SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY!</i> 12th Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Wed 9/4	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 9/7	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 9 am - Kingsway Library	Community Garden Workday Gals of Epiphany Study & Fellowship (GOE)
Sun 9/8	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 9:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	<i>"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday</i> Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal 13th Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Wed 9/11	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 9/14	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 8:30 am - Pastor Ray's Home 9 am - Kingsway Fellowship Hall	Community Garden Workday Men of Epiphany Study & Fellowship (MOE) Rise Against Hunger/God's Work, Our Hands
Sun 9/15	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 9:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal 14th Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Tues 9/17	7 pm - Kingsway Boardroom	Council Meeting
Wed 9/18	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
9/19-21		Pastor TroyAnn attends Synod Council meeting
Sat 9/21	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/22	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 9:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Wed 9/25	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 9/28	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/29	9 am - Bride's Room, Schaeffer Chapel 9:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal 16th Sunday after Pentecost - Worship w/ Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship



September 2019 Worship Servants

	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
Altar Setup	Jennifer Sykes	Lori Goetz			
Altar Cleanup	Jennifer Sykes	Lori Goetz			
Assisting Minister	Wendell Kruse	John Garner	Adam Waddell		John Crossmock
Lector	Diane Kruse	Adam Waddell			
Greeter/Usher	John & Lori Crossmock				
Communion Assistant	John Garner	Martha Garner			Lori Crossmock
Communion Linens	Jennifer Sykes				
Coffee & Cookies	The Garners	The Lankapallis	The Crossmocks	Lois Ketcham	Carol Rife
Council Offering #1	Martha Garner	Phil Goetz	Ed Schumacher	Chris Kelyman	Andria Prouty
Council Offering #2	Jennifer Parker	Wally Knight	Lori Crossmock	Dan Scherf	Chris Kelyman
Confirmation Chaperone			Marjorie Barnard		
Children's Church	N/A	Andria Prouty/Carol Rife	N/A	Carol Rife/Jill Bryson	N/A

Worship Servants Needed!

Please [sign up](#) at least four weeks in advance if possible in order to assist in planning. You may also [contact Carol Webster](#) for assistance in signing up.

Want to know more about being a worship servant?

[You can review the duties and guidelines here.](#)



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

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