

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

September 2020 Newsletter

Psalm 137:1-6 Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

¹ *By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.*

² *On the willows^[a] there we hung up our harps.*

³ *For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”*

⁴ *How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?*

⁵ *If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!*

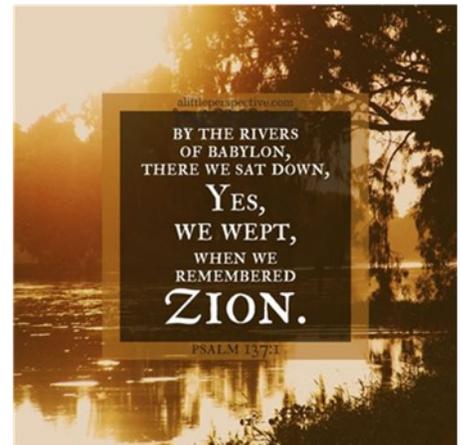
⁶ *Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.*

I know we voted 31-3 to sell all or part of the property. I am in prayer for the 3 who voted “no,” and are disappointed, and I am in prayer for those whose “yes” vote was a less than full-throated, hearty “yes.” This was not an easy decision for Epiphany to make and we need to be gentle and compassionate toward one another. I hope we can believe that God has something wonderful in store for Epiphany’s future even though we don’t yet know what that is. As I thought about the outcome and about the likely future loss of our land, I thought of Psalm 137.

In this passage from Psalms the people of Judah are lamenting that Jerusalem and King Solomon’s Temple have been destroyed and that they have been defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar II. The brightest and best of their society have been taken away from their land in Judah and carried off into captivity in Babylon. Some of the less noble, less wealthy, and less educated Jews have been left behind as undesirable by Babylon. How insulting that must that have been felt by that group. I hope and pray we have no one who feels left behind or outcast due to this vote.

I think in voting to sell all or part of the land some of you feel like sitting down and crying by the rivers of Babylon or maybe the Wolf River. You want to hang up your harps for the song in your heart has been lost. You wonder how you will ever sing the Lord’s song in a new and strange land. And yet, like the people of Judah you are still struggling to remember Jerusalem and your faith and how it is your highest joy.

Cont. p. 2...



The good news for this Psalm and in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, is that at the end of the story after 70 years in captivity the prophets convince the new Babylonian king, King Cyrus, to let 40,000 Jews return to Judah. In my cliff notes version of this story, Ezra and Nehemiah are provided with the materials to rebuild the Temple and the city walls by Babylon. While this happened the Jews faced many obstacles including warring enemies who stopped the work time and time again. Yet both the temple and the walls were soon finished.

Now the Jews had a city, a temple, and a home, but their spirits were feint and their faith practices had been lost over the 70 years in Babylon without a Temple or Torah. Consequently, Ezra has them all sit down. He reads the Jewish Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible, to them. They are thrilled to hear the stirring words of God and weep in joy as they reclaim their spiritual heritage, laws, and temple practices. The people celebrate both the Passover for the first time in 70 years and the Feast of Tabernacles.

I, too, feel that if we keep our faith practices, read our scripture, pray diligently, and hold together, God will bless us, and we like the people of Judah will have a settled worship home and a garden. I think that God is going to bless Epiphany again with some sort of Home Place. I think God has plans for us. You are a faithful group who God will bless. You too will again celebrate as the people of Judah did.

Peace to you all, *Pastor TroyAnn*

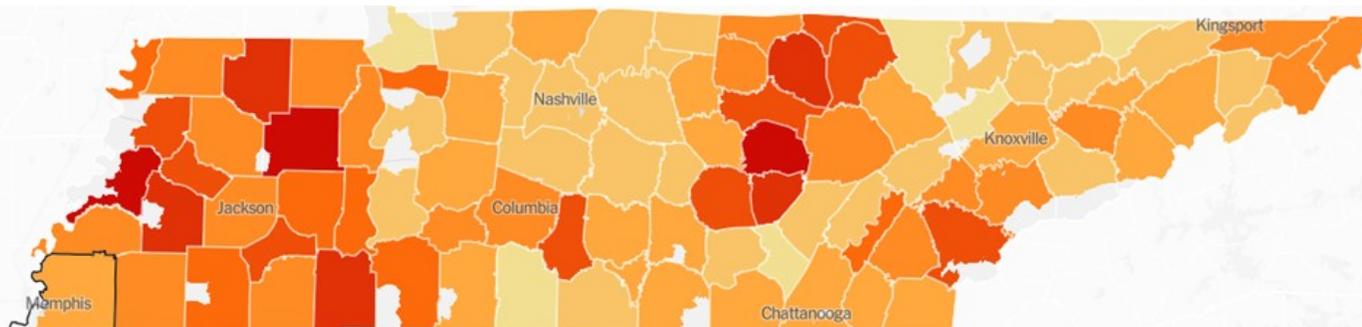


Reopening Committee Update

Service will continue to be only via Zoom until at least October. Good News: COVID-19 cases have declined by half over the last month in Shelby County. Bad News: This only gets us back to where we were at the end of June.

Furthermore, according to the Georgia Tech COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Tool, events in Shelby County with 25 people would have a 49% risk that someone would have the disease.

In lieu of in-person gatherings, we will have another Zoom Social Hour on Wednesday September 9th at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendars now (see link to join on the next page)! Also, Pastor TroyAnn is willing to come to anyone's home to provide counseling, prayer, or communion. A final reminder that if anyone is having trouble with Zoom, please [reach out to Phil Goetz](#) so that we can work to resolve the issues. We want everyone to be able to participate in service and our online events.



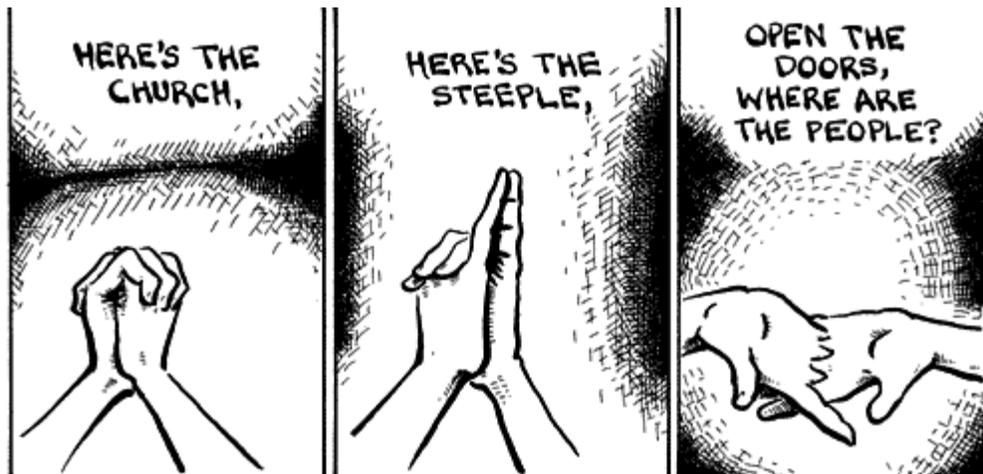
Shelby County, Tenn.

AVG. DAILY CASES PER 100,000

177 19

14-DAY TREND





Here is the church.
And here is the steeple.
Open the door
and where are the people?

They're watching on desktops,
On laptops and phones.
They're socially distanced,
But they're not alone!

They're part of a Body
That Facetimes and Zooms.
They're one in the Spirit
In various rooms.

The Church ain't a building.
It can't be shut down.
It's where you and I go
Both home or downtown.

NO! COVID can't kill us.
When push comes to shove,
We thrive in the hard times
Connected by love.

*by Greg Asimakopoulos
July 24, 2020*

Special thanks to Carol Rife for sharing this!

Online Worship Services Continuing in September

At this time, we plan on continuing to conduct worship services via Zoom through September - 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 ONLINE

Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662924009](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662924009)

Meeting ID: 816 6292 4009

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209546226](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209546226)

Meeting ID: 842 0954 6226

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, September 20, 2020 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85715749881](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85715749881)

Meeting ID: 857 1574 9881

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799

Sunday, September 27 2020 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

[Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81561752267](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81561752267)

Meeting ID: 815 6175 2267

Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799



Zoom Social Hour
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7 pm
Join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88647166111>

The graphic features a purple background with colorful confetti and streamers. In the center is a grid of six video call windows showing diverse people celebrating with their arms raised. A small number '4' is visible at the bottom center of the graphic.

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 July 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.

	July			2020 - Year to Date (Jan-July)		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	10,614.37	10,985.84	-371.47	88,732.60	76,900.88	11,831.72
Expenses	10,348.01	12,566.11	2,218.10	83,244.94	89,962.77	6,717.83
Net	266.36	-1,580.27	1,846.63	5,487.66	-13,061.89	18,549.55

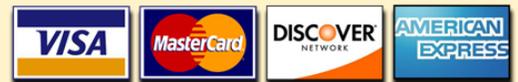
The July numbers beat the projected July budget deficit by \$1,846.63.

The YTD numbers are less than the projected 2020 budget deficit by \$18,549.55. (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) 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.)

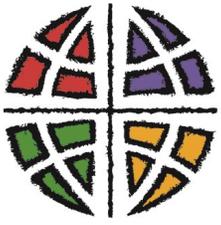


You may also mail checks to: Epiphany Lutheran Church. P.O. Box 1805, Collierville, TN 38027

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. **2nd QTR donations from 10 households - \$41.94!**





Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 1 to 4 pm
Exterior Beautification Project at Peace Lutheran

Join us on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 13, 2020 from 1 pm to 4 pm for an exterior beautification project at Peace Lutheran Church, located at 1548 Jackson Avenue in Memphis! We will observe social distancing. Please feel free to bring drinks, snacks, and a folding chair for break time.

Here are some of the projects we hope to complete during our work day:

- Work on the flower beds
- Rake leaves and clean out the beds by the church
- Trim bushes by front sign
- Plant flowers around front sign, in planters, and around the area by the front steps, (approximately 6 concrete planters - 4 larger ones and 2 smaller ones)
- Remove weeds growing in the asphalt parking lot
- Power wash to remove moss from north side of church
- Figure out ideas help the "door to nowhere" be less obtrusive

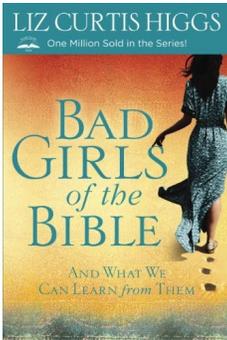
We do need volunteers to bring equipment (please let Lois Ketcham know what you can bring):

- Rakes
- Shovels/hoes
- Clippers/trimmers
- Power washer
- Garden Hose
- Weed whackers
- Small step stools/small ladder
- Drill and masonry drill bit to install hose holder

[Please RSVP to indicate whether you can come.](#) If you are unable to participate physically that day, but would like to help, please consider donating some of the needed supplies. Once you RSVP (Yes, No, Maybe), you will have an opportunity to sign up to donate some of the needed supplies for the beautification project. Thank you! If you have any questions, [please contact Lois Ketcham.](#)



Gals of Epiphany Bible Study Continues September 22nd via Zoom



Please join us (and invite a friend!) for our continuing Bible Study on Tuesday evening, September 22, 2020 at 7 pm. We will be meeting via Zoom. The final date for this study will be Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

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 7 and 8 prior to our meeting on September 22nd. Click this link to join the Zoom session: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86403200532>. Meeting 864 0320 0532 (Call-in number: 312 626 6799)



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.

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](#). Contact Carol Rife with questions at 901-752-3957.

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!



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!

It was a busy month for the garden - we enjoyed lots of rain, had many volunteers (including youth working for service hours) and harvested many different crops to take to the Collierville Food Pantry and Page Robins - potatoes, okra, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers and tomatoes. Our flower giveaway to the community was very well received!

Thank you to all our volunteers!

So far this year we have donated more than 1,250 pounds!!



A lovely note on our front gate - we are making an impact in our community!

Thank you, you dear people, for allowing me to rest under your arbor on my bike ride today from my home in Collierville to Shelby Farms. By the time I reached your beautiful spot with shade, flowers, & peace, it helped me on this Sunday after noon. My late Mother, a Swede & Lutheran, would have thanked you, too. Thank you. Your kindness wasn't overlooked. 😊

September 2020 Calendar of Events

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

Wed 9/2	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sat 9/5	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/6	10 am - Via Zoom	14th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662924009
Mon 9/7	7 pm - Via Zoom	Worship Committee Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83622251483
Wed 9/9	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 7 pm - Via Zoom	Community Garden Workday Zoom Social Hour Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88647166111
Sat 9/12	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/13	10 am - Via Zoom 1 - 4 pm Peace Lutheran Church	15th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209546226 God's Work, Our Hands Workday!
Wed 9/16	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Thurs 9/17	7 pm - Via Zoom	Church Council Meeting Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89235894508
Sat 9/19	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/20	10 am - Via Zoom	16th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85715749881
Tues 9/22	7 pm - Via Zoom	Gals of Epiphany (GOE) Women's Bible Study Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86403200532
Wed 9/23	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place 7 pm - Via Zoom	Community Garden Workday Social Ministries Committee Mtg. Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89471582878
Sat 9/26	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday
Sun 9/27	10 am - Via Zoom	17th Sunday after Pentecost - Online Worship Service Join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81561752267
Wed 9/30	8:30 - 11:30 am - Home Place	Community Garden Workday



September 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
Twitter
Instagram
YouTube

pastor@epiphanylu.org
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<https://www.instagram.com/epiphanylutherancollierville>