



EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
APRIL 2023



Pastor Brian Coffey

A Note from the Pastor

April this year begins with the solemnity of Holy Week, a truly special time to focus our attention on the final days of the earthly mission of Jesus, the Christ, in whom God emptied God’s very self for the sake of the entire created order.

I encourage everyone to worship not only on the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), April 2nd, but also on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. either in the building or via Zoom. These liturgies will immerse us in the “Great Three Days” or Triduum, which we share with Christians around the world.

Creating space within our hearts and minds by setting aside time for sacred encounters with our living God is essential for drawing close to Jesus and being renewed in our discipleship through the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember what I’ve been preaching about from the Gospel of John this past month – belief in Jesus (whether we are in the “darkness” or in the “light”) depends on our relationship with Jesus, not on some consent to a particular set of doctrines. Holy Week is a time to nourish that relationship and strengthen our belief.

There are many important items in this month’s newsletter that I want you to take the time to read, so I won’t spend more time on this page. Please look them over, delight in the ways that God is doing ministry through us here at Epiphany, and prayerfully consider opportunities for giving and serving that are presented.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Pastor Brian



PALM SUNDAY

There are 8 speaking parts of varying lengths that will be read during the worship service. This is the familiar Passion story as recorded in the book of Luke. The cast includes:



- Narrator: **Pastor Brian**
- Jesus: **Jim Renshaw**
- Peter: **Devin Miller**
- Judas: **Roland Person**
- Pilate: **Eric Mandat**
- High Priest: **Ann De Horn**
- Maid #1: **Mari Schneider**
- Maid #2: **Lynn Smith**



For Your Calendars

Holy Week and Easter Services

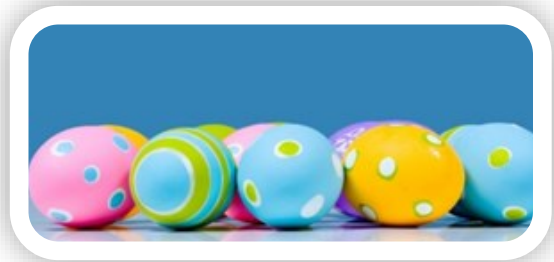


- **Sunday - April 2, 9:30 am - The Passion story from the book of Luke (in person and Zoom)**
- **Thursday - April 6, 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Worship (in person and Zoom)**
- **Friday - April 7, 7:00 pm - Good Friday Worship (in person and Zoom)**
- **Sunday - April 9, 9:30 am - Easter Sunday Worship with (in person and Zoom)**

Easter Egg Hunt - April 9

Plans have been completed for an egg hunt for the children after the Easter service on April 9. The Sunday school has plenty of small plastic eggs filled with candies that are individually wrapped.

The hunt will be outdoors (weather permitting) or there are great hiding places in the Sunday School areas (in case of rain ... as we learned last year).



Jan Womack -- Director of Christian Education

Easter Lilies — Order by this Sunday, April 2



We are looking forward to Easter lilies placed in the sanctuary on Easter morning. Each plant costs \$10 and you are invited to take it home with you after our Easter service. You may pay with cash or check, notate "Easter Lily" on the envelope or check. If you pay online with Vanco, use the Décor/Liturgy icon. Please indicate on the back of the worship bulletin insert or email Olise at business@elcarb.org and let her know who you would like to have your flowers dedicated "In memory of" or "In honor of."

THE LATEST CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (MARCH 28)

Received Devin Miller as a member by transfer.

Miranda Smith will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during the Easter service.

Miranda Smith, Simon Schurz, Isla Griffith, and Gwen Dwyer will receive First Communion during the Easter service.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 25-29, Sunday through Thursday, in the evening, in cooperation with Grace Methodist and our fellow churches in Murphysboro and DeSoto.

The first round of votes for Synod Bishop was conducted, resulting in three candidates. The final vote will occur at the Synod Assembly this June.

We talked about moving the bell that rings at the start of service, and building a new bell support.

Average March Attendance, including Zoom:

Sundays 76

Wednesdays 34

Jazz Vespers 19

Financials, January — February:

Total Income \$43,359.66

Total Expenses \$42,154.83

Net \$ 1,204.83

Peter Gimse, Epiphany Secretary

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship is at 9:30 AM (Face-to-Face and livestreamed on Zoom), with sung liturgy and hymnody. Here is the link for the Zoom services.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2101246575?pwd=MVhOR1FOb3BkWDJrQ09sMmR3ZTcyZz09>



Meeting ID: 210 124 6575
Password: 1501

An April Anniversary



Congratulations!

Joe and Lori Scimeca

April 7

Happy Birthday To These Folks!

April 2 Ruth Bernhardt

April 14 Olise Mandat

April 2 Bonnie Wright

April 14 Olivia Terry

April 8 Betsy Geiselman

April 20 Jan Radtke

April 10 Betty Howerton

April 21 Sidney Viernum

April 11 Lori Fink

April 23 Delores Brandt

April 12 Nellie Baril

April 26 Emily Fink

April 12 Ruth Person



Lutherans Restoring Creation Worship Service — April 23, 2023

Many of you have heard about the Epiphany Green Team, which is affiliated with a nationwide organization called Faith in Place (<https://www.faithinplace.org/>). The Green Team helps our congregation pay attention to our care of creation in our congregational life and provides suggestions for doing the same at home. For example, you may notice on Palm Sunday that we are using sustainable resources for our processional palms and also the dried palm crosses. We also recycle whatever items we can through the Carbondale waste management system.

Caring for our planet earth is a core responsibility given to humanity by God at the time of creation. Because of the increasing impact of human life on our natural environment, Christians have been turning to a renewed focus on Eco-Theology to re-introduce us to our role as environmental stewards.

One organization that supports efforts like this is called **Lutherans Restoring Creation** (LRC). The Green Team in cooperation with the Worship Committee will be using a special liturgy provided by LRC on **Sunday, April 23rd** (the day after Earth Day) as the focus of our worship service. Featured that day will be a (recorded) sermon by **The Rev. R. Guy Erwin**, president of United Lutheran Seminary.

The materials are scheduled to be released on April 9th, so we don't have further details to share at the moment. Simply come to worship on April 23rd with an open mind and heart to hear about our Christian responsibility for God's creation. If you have any questions about the service, please contact **Pastor Brian**.

Note: to see the service at its premiere on Earth Day, Saturday (April 22nd), you may subscribe to LRC's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@lutheransrestoringcreation5748>). The service will begin at 8:00 a.m. Central Time.

April Is "Earth Month"

Earth Month 2023 - Calendar of Events



Roland Person
Representing the
Green Team



Join us in celebrating Earth Month this April by participating in various events hosted by community organizations throughout Carbondale! From educational shows and parades to volunteer opportunities to fun outdoor activities for all ages, there's something for everyone to enjoy while also learning about ways to protect and preserve our planet.

Come together with fellow community members to make a positive impact on our environment and create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

[Click here to view the Earth Month 2023 Calendar of Events!](#)

Interested in Cars?

If you are looking for information about electric and hybrid cars, one of the featured activities for Earth Month will be a car show right in Carbondale on Saturday, April 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. Location and sponsors are listed in the flyer to the right.

Earth Day

Electric & Hybrid Car Show



Saturday, April 15, 2 to 4 PM
(Rain date: Saturday, April 22)
**Corner of S. University
At Monroe St.
across from City Hall**
Sponsored by the following



“Feed My Sheep” Needs More Help

If you enjoy cooking and socializing and want to serve the Lord through service to the less fortunate, a volunteer opportunity awaits you. The Community-Wide Feed My Sheep Ministry is looking for helpers.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays faith teams from these congregations ...

- First Presbyterian Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Bethel AME
- The First Church of Christ
- Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

cook and deliver 2 meals a day (one hot and one cold) to the Carbondale Warming Center.

Additionally, resuming on Fridays, in-person meals will be offered at Bethel AME from 12:00-1:00. **Help is especially needed on Fridays**, but is also very welcome on any other scheduled days of the week. If you would like to volunteer, simply go to Bethel AME on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between 9-12:00 or on Friday from 9-1:30.

If you are unable or would rather not work an entire shift, an hour or two of service is welcome. If you want more information, there is a Facebook Group page: **FM Sheep Cooking Team**. For those who are not on Facebook, information is also available at JustServ.org.

Carolyn Langan



Your Contributions Help

Wondering how some of your contributions to local agencies as well as LSSI are doing? Well, **Olise Mandat**, our Business Manager, has sent a check for \$1,452 to Good Samaritan's food pantry. These funds were all collected just these past three months even though we did not hold an official "Souper Bowl" Sunday event. At the same time we were busy providing several car loads full of food items for the pantry.

This past Friday Olise also issued a check to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for \$1,400 ... and it seems the needs and the disasters have no end. Some communities have lost everything — for some it has been twice!

We intend to provide you with more frequent and exact information about our local contributions as well as our offerings to synodical appeals.

The apostle Paul spoke directly to the Colossians about giving generously, *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7 Thank you for your generosity and you are making a difference!

Campus Ministry Support Opportunity: Valor Bible Study Lead, Brandon Wheeler

Friends in Christ,

Throughout the '22-'23 academic year, Epiphany Lutheran Church has been the host location for the Valor Bible Study Group for college students pursuing military leadership careers at both SIUC and SEMO. I have had the privilege of meeting weekly with the students during their Bible study to provide theological insight and information that they request. In their Air Force ROTC capacity, these students also happen to fall under the command of our own Epiphany member, **Lt Col Jessica Dwyer**.

The student who has organized and led the Valor group is named **Brandon Wheeler**. Brandon is significantly involved in discipleship ministry to fellow students on the SEMO campus. Not only does he mentor several groups on campus, but he has also spent his summers doing street ministry with a para-church organization in Orlando, Florida. Students participating in this ministry program must raise a portion of their own living expenses for the summer. The remaining portion is earned by part-time jobs in the tourism sector in Orlando. However, this year Brandon will be serving in a top leadership position which requires him to raise all expenses because the position does not allow enough time for outside employment. The total amount that Brandon needs to raise is \$5,500. At present (March 29th), he has raised \$2,132. **If you would like to help Brandon reach his required goal, you may donate online using the secure internet link below:**

<https://app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/brandonwheeler1>

Upon completing this summer's ministry program, Brandon will report to his first duty station as a newly commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

I have come to know Brandon as a young adult leader with a passion for the ministry of Jesus Christ that he lives out each day on campus. The discipleship ministry in which he participates includes approximately 250 students on the SEMO campus! I have been impressed enough with his work and his witness that when he asked whether or not the Epiphany congregation would be able to support him this summer, I immediately made a personal donation of \$100.

Please consider supporting Brandon. While active in his local congregation on Sundays, he hopes to visit us on a Sunday morning at Epiphany later this month.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian



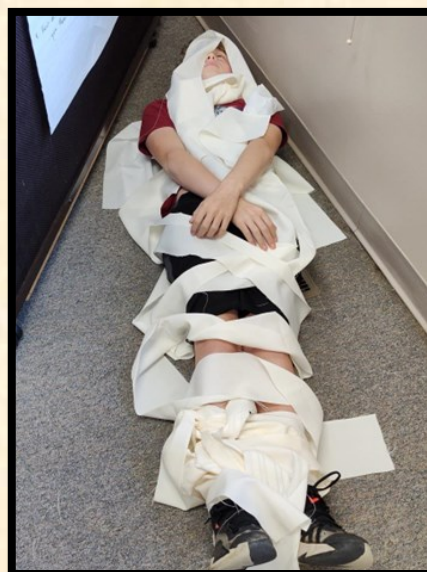
Cadet Brandon Wheeler (far right) in a previous year of street ministry in Orlando, Florida

Sunday School and VBS Information

After their lesson on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, our SS kids got a chance to act it out. Even our 'dead man' seemed to enjoy the experience.



Martha (**Matilda Miller**) telling Jesus (**Simon Schurz**) "If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died."



Lazarus
(**Blake Kocher**)

Unbinding Lazarus !



In other news:

Vacation Bible School has been scheduled to be held this year with Grace Methodist, our own First Lutheran in Murphysboro, Mt. Calvary Lutheran in DeSoto and friends of friends! **The dates will be Sunday evening, June 25 through Thursday evening June 29 at Grace Methodist** (they have a much larger space). We are finally going to do the Rome experience with **Pastor Brian** serving as Apostle Paul, who will be under house arrest, chained and guarded by a cranky Roman guard.

Registration forms will appear soon. Please talk to **Jan Womack** if you would like to help or have questions.

Second Sundays at 5:00P
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois



Jazz Vespers

an Easter Evening Prayer Service led by *Pastor Brian Coffey*
with members and guests of the *New Arts Jazztet*—Bob Allison, trumpet;
Mel Goot, piano; Phil Brown, bass; Kyle McDonald, drums—**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

works by *Mike Garson, Ashley Henry, Ahmad Jamal, Edu Lobo/Ruy Guerra, Junior Mance, and Pat Metheny*

Fellowship Information — April 2023

Fellowship has been well attended the last couple of months. Our fellowship hosts for the month of March have included **Rachel Price and Trish Welch, Jane Terry, Jim Sylwester and Peter Gimse and the Cookie Bank.**

Fellowship is planning an Easter Brunch after our church service this year. A food signup sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall. We will be looking for sliders, pastries, bagels, fruit, etc. Brunchy sorts of foods! We will also have a cake for the four youth members taking first communion and the one who is also being baptized! It will be a day of celebration for sure.

- The hosts for April are as follows:
- April 2 **Swoosh for Seminaries**
 - April 9 **Easter Brunch-Fellowship**
 - April 16 **Lynn Smith for WELCA**
 - April 23 _____
 - April 30 _____

Deb Sarvela, Fellowship Chair



Deb Sarvela
Fellowship
Chair

C/SIS Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Grant

A Year-End Report March 25, 2023



Mike Langan
Social Ministry
Volunteer

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Carbondale, IL, was the recipient of an \$800.00, Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy grant from the Central and Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA for 2022. The following report details how these funds have been utilized to accomplish the outlined mission of the C/SIS Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Committee: "in serving, educating, and advocating in our society." As may be recalled, this grant was sought to aid Epiphany in meeting our commitment to help supply Bathroom Part I materials to the Shelter to Home Program. Shelter to Home provides household supplies for homeless persons as they are making the transition to more permanent housing. These people may be transitioning from an emergency shelter to local organizations including the Carbondale Warming Center, Good Samaritan Ministries, the Survivor Empowerment Center [Women's Shelter], and Centerstone. In addition, Shelter to Home supplies are available for people coming from other localities throughout the southern Illinois area, as they present the need.



Cory Newman
Social Ministry
Committee,
Chair

Since grant funds were first received in early September 2022, volunteers **Mike and Carolyn Langan** have maintained a supply of baskets in the church's storage room, both complete and ready for delivery, as well as some "loose materials" not yet constituting 'complete' baskets. These supplies include contributions donated by members of our congregation, as well as items purchased using grant funds. Since members may make donations of whatever kind and at any time of their choosing, we have no structured formalized procedure for tracking or recording donations to the program. All grant monies that have been spent were for the purchase of baskets and materials needed to fill them. A Receiving/Delivery Ledger has been employed to track basket deliveries as they are made to various sites.

Our initial objective for Epiphany's Shelter to Home obligation was to provide 2 baskets per delivery, on an average of once every 2 to 3 weeks (equating to roughly 22 deliveries or 44 baskets per year). However, our ultimate objective is that these supplies always be ready, available, and easily accessible to people making the transition. In addition, at the outset, it was anticipated that all deliveries would be made to a dedicated storage area located at the Carbondale Warming Center. As some time passed, though, we learned that some persons making the transition to housing would be able to access supplies more easily if we delivered supplies directly to storage sites including the Good Samaritan Emergency Shelter and the Sparrow Coalition storage locker, in addition to the Warming Center. With this in mind, for the past couple of months, we have made deliveries of 3 baskets each to those two additional sites.

At this juncture, it has been about 28 weeks since grant funds first became available, and 12 deliveries have been made since that time, totaling 28 baskets. Although deliveries have not followed the initially projected rough schedule of 2 baskets once every 2 to 3 weeks, 28 baskets translates to a figure of about one basket delivered per week. Compared to a starting projection of roughly 22 deliveries over the course of a year, those 28 baskets delivered over a period of six months would seem to meet our hoped-for target.

Following this report are photos which include Epiphany's Delivery/Receiving Ledger and basket deliveries being made to the Warming Center and the Sparrow Coalition's storage locker.

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.

Continued

C/SIS Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Grant (Continued)

Cory greatly appreciates all the volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes to support the many social ministry projects of Epiphany".

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Newman, Social Ministry Committee Chair,
Mike Langan, Volunteer,
 Epiphany Lutheran Church, Carbondale, Illinois



Carolyn Langan making a delivery to the Carbondale Warming Center.



Mike Langan (L) making a delivery to the Sparrow Coalition's storage locker.

Easter "Book in a Basket" Project — Mission Accomplished



Among the many helpers who assembled this year's Easter baskets for LSSI were **Addie Miller** and **Jim Benz**.



Pictured with about 1/2 the baskets are **John Schneider, Mike Langan, Lynn Smith, Oluwaseun Ola** and **Jim Benz**.

A Thank You For Help With the SIU “Loan Closet”

Editor’s Note: **Pam Umlauf-Brown** recently received a letter of thanks for our congregation’s contributions to the Southern Illinois University’s Loan Closet for International students. Students from foreign countries often arrive with just one or two suitcases and you can imagine all the things they DON’T have to start life in the USA. Our members and friends at Epiphany have donated blankets, towels, toiletries ... (look for the red plastic basket under the table in the Fellowship Hall). Even though spring is here, don’t forget to look for items on sale... and hats, scarves, and gloves will be needed again before we know it! Here’s that letter.

Subject: RE: Epiphany Lutheran donations

Hello Pamela,

I do not believe that I ever thanked you for the items that you brought in for the Loan Closet! Please thank all who donated. Our students have been thoroughly enjoying the items and are so very excited. I have three families that have appointments for the Loan Closet today and one that came by yesterday — yesterday’s student just kept saying how very thoughtful it was that people have donated.

Please pass along our thanks to the congregation!

Elaine

--

Elaine Conrad, Ph.D.
Community and Educational Programs Coordinator
Center for International Education
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-4333
econrad@siu.edu
618-453-5774 - Office
618-453-7660 - Fax

Congratulations, John Schneider!



On Thursday, March 30, **John Schneider** participated in the 2023 Bocce Special Olympics held in Marion, Illinois.

The competition was strictly for individuals and no teams were involved. John returned to Carbondale later that day with plenty of smiles to go along with 2 gold medals and 2 silver. For his “victory photo” he thought displaying just one gold medal would be sufficient to make the point: John is very good at bocce ball.



John Schneider

Calendar items—(Thanks to Olise Mandat)

April 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday / beginning of Holy Week

- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)
- 11:00 am - Confirmation Class

Tuesday, April 4 - Election Day

- Polling Place for elections

Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm - Service with Holy Communion

Friday, April 7 - Good Friday

- 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday

- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)
- Following service - Easter Egg Hunt (outdoors if weather permits)
- 11:00 - Easter Brunch
- No confirmation class
- 5:00 pm - Jazz Vespers for Easter

Monday, April 10 - Sunday, April 16 - Pastor on vacation

- Pastor Mark Hasty of the Anna-Jonesboro Lutheran Parish will provide emergency pastoral care: 618-833-0704

Sunday, April 16 - Pastor Marlin Otte

- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)
- 11:00 am - Confirmation Class

Monday, April 17

6:30 pm - WELCA meeting, fellowship hall

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1501 W. Chautauqua, Carbondale, IL 62901



Brian Coffey, Pastor
Mary Kelly, Church Secretary
Olise Mandat, Business Manager

Church Phone (618) 457-2065

Church Office E-mail: office@elcarb.org

Church Website: <http://elcarb.org>

Facebook: *Epiphany Lutheran Church*

Newsletter Editor: Jim Womack

JWomack473@aol.com

2022-2023 Epiphany Church Officers:

Anne Terry	Council President
Deb Sarvela	Vice-President
Peter Gimse	Secretary
Kevin Bame	Treasurer
Lynn Smith	Financial Secretary
Olise Mandat	Business Manager

Epiphany Church Council Members:

Jan Womack	Christian Education Committee
Loren Cook	Communications/ IT Committee
Marcia Anderson	Evangelism Committee
Deb Sarvela	Fellowship Committee
Anne Terry	Property Committee
Tim Fink	Worship Committee
Cory Newman	Social Ministry Committee
Lynn Smith	Stewardship Committee
Peter Gimse	Youth Committee

Continued 

Church Women United Hunger Sale Update



Nan Gher

Many of you have been asking if we will have a sale this year. **The good news is, YES! The bad news is that the site of the big sale is still to be determined.**

Meanwhile, we will be holding one small sale this spring. Please consider donating, assisting with the sale and set-up, and of course, SHOPPING. You will find wonderful bargains. All profits go to benefit local agencies dealing with hunger.

Mini Sale Is Set for April 29

Donations will be accepted on the previous day, Friday, April 28

First Christian Church 306 West Monroe, Carbondale

- plants and bulbs
- jewelry
- children's clothes and toys
- books, records, tapes
- household goods
- some furniture
- baked goods (small items like cookies)

The Big Sale Will Be On August 18, 19

Our traditional site of Hopewell Baptist Church is not available this year. Other places are being considered, so stay tuned!

Questions or suggestions: **Nan Gher** nangher43@gmail.com



Happy Birthday: Learning in Retirement is 25 Years Old!

There will be a celebration on Wednesday, April 19, to commemorate the 25 years that Learning in Retirement has served the southern Illinois area with entertaining and educational programs for those in the 50+ category who still look forward to learning. Of course, there will be an educational component that day as those who are members and anyone who is just interested in learning about the history of the Giant City Park, the Lodge, and the Civilian Conservation Corps which helped create the park and built the beautiful lodge.



Kay Rippelmeyer –Tippy

Here are the highlights:

Coffee and conversation starting at 9:30, program by noted local author and historian, Kay Rippelmeyer –Tippy. Lunch with chicken and all the “fixens” served family style at noon. The program is free. If you want to stay for the lunch, you do need to register. Cost is \$20.00 and the deadline for registration is April 14.

On the next page is the registration form. It can be printed out and sent by mail or you can call this number 618-536-7751 and register with a credit card.

REGISTRATION FORM

•Please fill out and send entire form with payment•

SILIR REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

*E-mail Address _____

NEW MEMBERS: How did you hear about us? Friend Newspaper Social Media/Online Radio/TV

If you are registering more than yourself for a class/trip, please list the name(s) of the SILIR member you are registering.

Name: _____ (23W09019SP1) *FY23 Membership Dues\$13 x _____ = _____

Addtl. Name: _____ (23W09019SP1) (January 1 — June 30, 2023)

*NOT applicable if you previously paid the annual dues of \$25 between July 1—December 31, 2022

Name: _____ (23W09019SP1)

Name: _____ (23W09019SP1)

Name: _____ (23W09019SP1)

Name: _____ (23W0901919) April Luncheon\$20 x _____ = _____

Dietary needs: _____

I would like the Vegetarian option.

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please submit a check payable to "SIU Carbondale" or credit card information below.

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____ CVC _____

Email (for receipt): _____

**Mail to: Conference & Scheduling Services
Student Center - Mail Code 6705
Carbondale, IL 62901**

**or call Registration at 618-536-7751 to
register with your credit card.**