



EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
MAY 2023



Pastor Brian Coffey

A Note from the Pastor

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Welcome to the 50 days of Easter. What a joy it has been to celebrate the new life we have in Christ in our Sunday worship services! Starting on April 30th, the Confession and Forgiveness have been replaced with the Thanksgiving for Baptism to recognize that through baptism we share in Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. Living in the freedom of this truth allows us to live boldly with courage and to serve others joyfully. Our congregation has such an enduring history of generosity towards the community and caring for one another in times of need that it's truly astounding to behold. It's a delight to hear about Epiphany from other people around town as I introduce myself as your Pastor!

May will be a month of newness as the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) kick off some events early in the month to celebrate their refreshed vision of the future. We will bid farewell and Godspeed to our dear servant in Christ, **Marcia Anderson**, as she relocates to North Carolina to live closer to family. On the same day (May 21st), we will welcome six 8th graders into greater participation in the life of the congregation through the rite of Affirmation of Baptism. The students are: **Ruby Benz, Tyler Karayiannis, Sara Schurz, Meade Smith, Olivia Terry, and Peyton Viernum.**

Please take time to read this newsletter that is so beautifully produced each month by Jim Womack. There are many opportunities to serve at Epiphany to help us be the people God is calling us to be in 2023. VBS is a big one (see page 2) as are ongoing needs for Ushers and Tellers to keep our Sunday services running smoothly. Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Pastor Brian

A Thank You from Brandon Wheeler

"I want to thank all the people who have donated to me this month! It is amazing to see how the Lord works through generous people like the people at Epiphany Lutheran Church to help send laborers to share the good news of the gospel. I am so thankful for all your support and am excited to see how God uses this project for His glory."

Brandon Wheeler

Brandon has secured \$2,509 in funding toward the \$5,500 required to serve as a leader of the CAMO Project 2023 in Orlando. He has served in this ministry for several summers, advancing in responsibility each year. This will be his last summer before entering service as a U.S. Air Force Lieutenant in September.



Donations may still be made online at this address:

[Brandon Wheeler - Orlando, FL, United States - Managed Missions](#)



Brandon will be commissioned as an officer at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12th in the basement of Grinnell Hall on SIU's East Campus. **Pastor Brian Coffey** has been invited to deliver the invocation. Members of Epiphany are welcome to attend as well to show their support for Brandon and the other student who is to be commissioned at the same time.

Vacation Bible School 2023

Join us for **VBS at Grace United Methodist Church** Sunday, June 25, through Thursday, June 29 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Come early for supper at 5:15! Be part of a Roman family - visit Paul under house arrest - go to the Roman marketplace with denarii to spend - find the secret underground church - sing new songs and have fun!



Epiphany Lutheran and three other congregations will be participating: Grace United Methodist, First Lutheran in Murphysboro, and Mt. Calvary, De Soto.

Have I mentioned that WE NEED YOU?

This is intergenerational VBS. Adults won't get a "Bible Class," but will learn how the first Christians lived in Apostle Paul's time under the Roman rule right along with the kids in Roman families.

There is so much to do and so much to learn and it's all done with everyone working together. Please come be a part in any way that you feel comfortable or challenge yourself to do something new!

We need Family Leaders/Assistants - Shop Keepers/Assistants - Actors for the daily dramas - Roman Soldiers - Game leaders/Assistants - Registration attendants - Supper Supervisors (2 nights) - Set up for two of the shops - Tear down help Friday evening.

There are forms in **Olise's Office** or see **Jan Womack** for more information!

Grace United Methodist Church
220 N. Tower Road, Carbondale



Some News From Your Council President

Happy Spring! This month will certainly be a busy one at Epiphany. On May 6 the ladies of Epiphany (WELCA) will meet in Murphysboro for lunch and a visit to the John A Logan Museum to view the work of local artists, including the work of two of our sisters! I will be unable to join you, as I will be out of town at a family wedding, so I expect lots of pictures!

On May 21 we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of 6 of our young people. I have been given the privilege of working with **Ruby, Tyler, Sara, Meade, Olivia, and Peyton** over the last year and have been delighted to be witness to their growth in faith. In fact, the experience over the last year has resulted in growth in my own faith journey. Please be sure to be present on this day to show your support and love to these young people.

May 21 will also be a day of goodbyes as we bid farewell and Godspeed to our sister in Christ, **Marcia Anderson**. Marcia will be moving to North Carolina at the end of the month. Her impact on Epiphany is present nearly everywhere you look. She has faithfully served on WELCA, many (many) committees, on our church council, and served our church family faithfully for many years. While our hearts hurt a little to say goodbye, we rejoice with her and her family as they will now be living so close.

Coming in June—we will have our semi-annual congregational meeting on June 11 right after church. Please attend as we will be electing our new council members. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your president over the last two years. I will have more reflection on that next month!

In Christ,

Anne Terry



Anne Terry
Council President

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>

Next Learning in Retirement Program — May 17

Stephen Bailey will deliver a presentation on “Bonsai Past and Present: A Look at the Living Art of Tiny Trees” at the May 17 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR). Steve and his wife Bonnie, owned and operated Family Tree Garden Center from 1983 to 2001, but his interest in Bonsai dates back to 1973 when he first started working in garden centers.

The presentation will take place at Grace United Methodist Church, 220 N. Tower Road starting at 10:30 am. A coffee hour will begin at 9:30 am. For more information about SILIR see the website at conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir or email silir@siu.edu.



Stephen Bailey

These Folks Have Birthdays This Month

May 8 Cory Newman
 May 9 Ari Williams
 May 11 Elena Newman
 May 13 Sarah Cook



May 14 Susan Bausch
 May 20 Joe Cheatwood
 May 30 Linda Grace
 May 31 Ella Hanson

Memorial Day Commemoration: Monday, May 29 at 10:00 a.m.

The Annual Memorial Day Service held in Carbondale will be commemorated at Woodlawn Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29. The service will honor those men and women who have died in defending our country. The cemetery is located along Main Street directly south of Memorial Hospital.

Chairs will be set up for the service, but you may want to bring your own lawn chairs if you wish to do so.

Pastor Brian Coffey of Epiphany Lutheran Church will offer the invocation.



Lt Col Jessica Dwyer

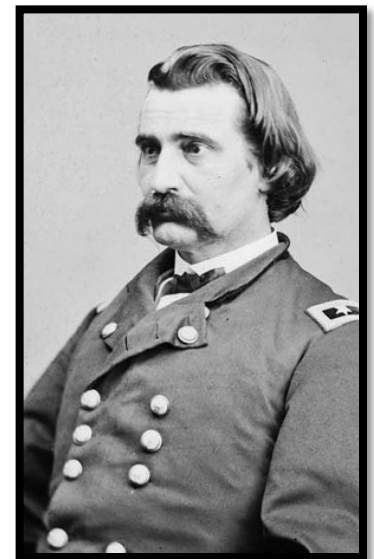
The main speaker will be **Lt Col Dwyer**, who holds a Master of Science Degree in Physics and Astronomy from Dartmouth College and a Doctorate from Kansas State University.

After the service, a self-guided tour through the cemetery will be available. Brief biographies of some of the notable veterans will be on display near their headstones.

Over the past two years, the annual ceremony was held with modifications because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2020, the service was held virtually and in 2021 there was a shortened service followed by a self-guided tour through Woodlawn Cemetery.

General John A. Logan, a Murphysboro native and prominent figure of the Civil War era, held what is considered one of the first Memorial Day ceremonies in the U.S. at Woodlawn Cemetery in 1866.



General John A. Logan

Remember “Meatless Mondays” During World War I ? They’re Back!

This article is from *Real Simple Magazine*, March 2022



“Enjoying a [hearty pasta dish](#) or warming vegetarian soup on Mondays [or any other day] might not seem like a big deal, but adding [one meat-free meal](#) per week can [reduce your meat consumption by about 15 percent](#), helping to do your part in cutting down on the associated environmental impact of meat farming, production, and distribution. One [environmental impact analysis](#) from 2017 found that an omnivore’s diet had the greatest impact in terms of three different factors: carbon footprint (greenhouse gas emissions), the water footprint (consumption of water resources), and the ecological footprint (amount of biologically productive land/sea needed to produce a unit of food product). Raising livestock requires immense amounts of water and land consumption, and produces a large amount of greenhouse gases. [Going meat-free](#), even one night per week, can make a difference.”



Roland Person
Representing the
Green Team

Guess: What Is Coming To Illinois?

Generally, the largest solar arrays in the U.S. are located in sunny states: California, Texas, and Arizona. **Last month construction began in Illinois on a project that will be as large or larger than all of them.** The 593-megawatt Double Black Diamond Solar farm near Springfield will send much of its generation to Chicago to power O’Hare and Midway airports as well as some other facilities. This is part of a trend to build larger projects in less sunny places.

Solar Generation - **Roland Person**



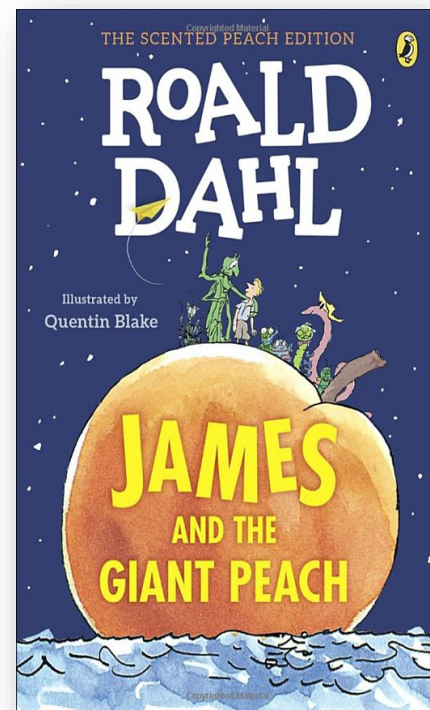
Connor Gulbrandsen in *James and the Giant Peach*



Connor Gulbrandsen, a freshman at Carbondale Community High School, was a cast member in the recent production of *James and the Giant Peach*.

Friends and family have known of Connor’s passion to entertain, and he was excited to play several roles in this well-known musical.

Congratulations, Connor!



Health and Safety Note

As you are likely aware, our nation and region are experiencing a crisis relating to Opioid pain medication abuse. While these medications are useful for managing pain when taken appropriately under a doctor's supervision, they have addictive properties that have resulted in loss of life. When individuals take too much of an Opioid medication, either intentionally or accidentally, they may exhibit the following symptoms:



- Shallow breathing
- Confusion
- Lessened alertness
- Loss of consciousness
- Small pupils
- Blue skin (from poor circulation)
- Respiratory failure

It is critical that patients who experience these symptoms receive medical attention right away. One of the most common ways to help is by administering Narcan, an opioid reverse agent.



Anne Terry
Faith Community
Nurse

Southern Illinois Healthcare has initiated a project to help our neighbors in our region. SIH is partnering with area churches and agencies to make Narcan readily available in case of emergency. Our church is participating in the project.

I wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the availability of Narcan in our church building. You will find it in Mary's office (the workroom) in the rack with the first aid kit. The Narcan we have is administered in a nasal spray. You will find directions along with the kit.

Narcan is intended to be administered immediately, while you are waiting for EMS to arrive. Please call 911 if you suspect someone is experiencing a medical emergency.

It is important to note that Narcan will help a person who is experiencing an opioid overdose. It will not hurt someone who may be experiencing another type of medical condition. Call 911 and do not be afraid to use it.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to ask. If I don't have the answers, I can find someone who does.

Anne Terry, RN BSN OCN

Highlights from the April 25 Council Meeting

We welcome **Ann Mays** and **Paul Kissel**, who were unanimously accepted as members of Epiphany. It seems difficult to believe that they were not members already.

The semi-annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

The Council is drafting an updated Constitution and will schedule a special congregational meeting to consider its adoption.

All month in May we will gather hygiene items for Good Samaritan and the Warming Center.

ROTC Cadet **Brandon Wheeler** was awarded a stipend to support his ministry in the Florida area this summer. We welcome anyone who wants to support Brandon in his work.

The next Council meeting will be held on May 23, 2023, at 7 PM.

Peter Gimse, Council Secretary

Fellowship Information — May 2023

Our Fellowship Easter Brunch was amazing this year. So much food appeared on our tables, and it was all delicious! And we had special cupcakes in honor of our baptism and our four first-communion children.

Our other fellowship hosts during April included Swoosh for Seminaries, **Lynn Smith for WELCA, Jim Sylwester and Peter Gimse, and the Miller Family.**

The hosts for May are as follows:

- May 7 **Dwyer family**
- May 14 _____
- May 21 **Jane Terry for Confirmation**
- May 28 _____

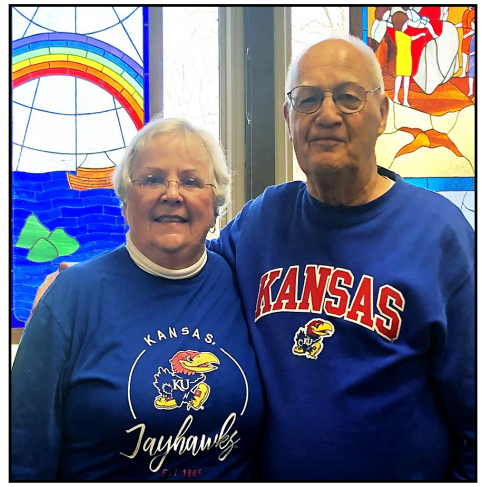


Deb Sarvela
Fellowship
Chair



March Madness-Swoosh for Seminaries 2023

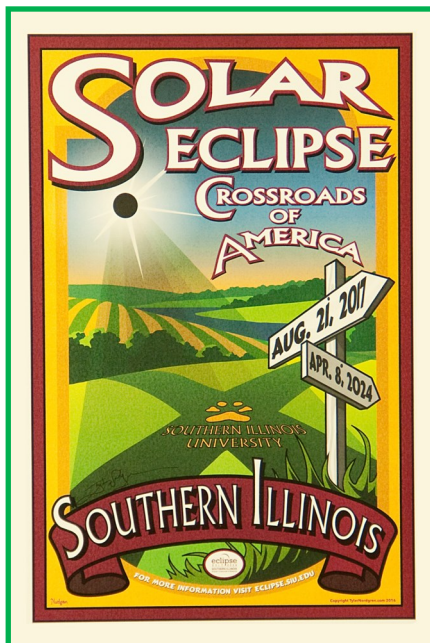
Well, the playoffs went in directions we never imagined. But we reached our goal for Seminary Support (barely)! Thanks to all who participated, and CONGRATULATIONS to **Anne Terry** who won the trophy (barely) .



Good thing Kansas basketball fans have friends to console each other, but **Jane Terry and Jim Sylwester** can adopt the Cubs motto:
Wait until next year!

Solar Eclipse — Looking Way Ahead

The famed Solar Eclipse returns to Southern Illinois at 1:59 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024! The Synod office has asked about our plans and our Church Council has responded by agreeing to form a Solar Eclipse Task Force to develop plans for an amazing weekend utilizing our building and property for ministry through community outreach.



We want to dream big! With the eclipse being on Monday, we have an entire weekend to utilize. Think camping on the property, outdoor worship with other ELCA or full-communion partner churches, etc. What if we could get the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA to lead a festival worship on Sunday alongside our own newly elected Synodical Bishop?

We could invite Lutherans from across the state and region to join us and *The Lutheran* magazine could cover the weekend. It's a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our care of creation, share our beautiful building and grounds and let the Holy Spirit move in unexpected ways at 1501 W. Chautauqua!

If you're interested in participating on the Solar Eclipse Task Force, please let **Pastor Brian** or **Anne Terry** know. For related local events, Southern Illinois University has a dedicated website for your reference: [2024 Solar Eclipse - Southern Illinois University Carbondale \(siu.edu\)](https://www.siu.edu/2024-solar-eclipse)

Jazz Vespers: Sunday, May 14 5:00 pm

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

Jazz Vespers

an Evening Prayer Service led by **Pastor Brian Coffey**
with members and guests of the **New Arts Jazztet**—Bob Allison, trumpet;

Isaac Lausell, guitar; Mel Goot, piano; Phil Brown, bass; Kyle McDonald, drums—**Sunday, May 14, 2023**

works by **Donald Byrd, Joe Davidian, Conrad Herwig, John Moulder, Takeshi Ohbayashi,** and **Oscar Peterson**

First Communion



On Easter Sunday (April 9) our congregation celebrated with these four youths as they participated in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Front Row: **Simon Schurz**, **Miranda Smith**, **Gwen Dwyer** and **Isla Griffith**. Back row: **Anne Terry** (Teacher) and **Pastor Brian Coffey**.

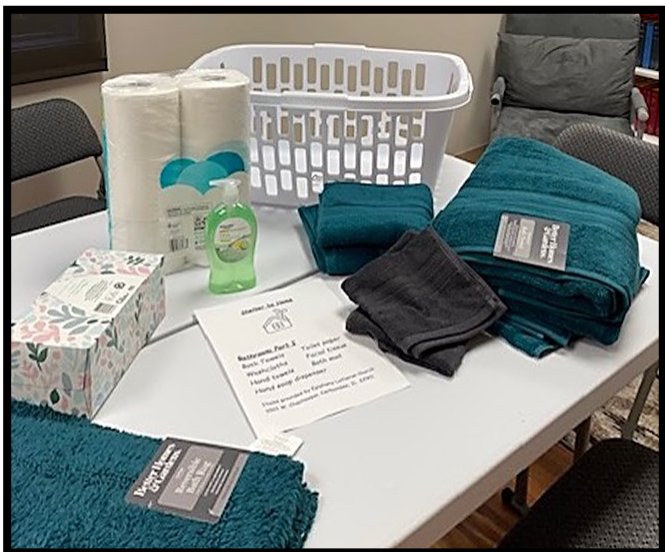
Baptism — Miranda Smith



Easter was a very busy morning for **Miranda Smith** as well as her mother and her grandmother.

After Miranda was baptized, she watched very carefully as **Eric Mandat** lit a candle for her from the Paschal candle. Her candle is to be lit each year on the date of her baptism as a reminder that she is a child of God and loved by Him.

Social Ministry: We Are Concentrating On Our *Shelter To Home Project*



During the month of May Epiphany's Social Ministry team would like to highlight our commitment to the Sparrow Coalition's ***Shelter to Home project***. We have committed to providing particular bathroom materials for persons (individuals and families) who are setting up home, as they transition from emergency shelter to more permanent housing.



Cory Newman
Social Ministry
Committee Chair

These are people transitioning from local area emergency shelters such as the Carbondale Warming Center, the Good Samaritan

House Emergency Shelter, the Survivor Empowerment Center [Women's Shelter], and Centerstone.

WELCA Has Planned An Outing For May 6

Women of the **ELCA** 



That's right! WELCA HAS INDEED PLANNED AN OUTING!!! On May 6 at 11:30 we will meet at Faye Café in Murphysboro for lunch (1616 Walnut Street) and then at 1:00 head to the General John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro (1613 Edith Street) to attend the Women's Voices Make/Believe reception and art exhibit (which includes pieces by **Julie Bohnsak** and **Deb Sarvela**).

Please RSVP to **Deb Sarvela** (618-303-7178) or sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall by noon on May 5 if you plan to attend lunch. ***This outing is for all the Sisters of Epiphany, and any of our sister congregations!***

A Message From Our Bishop



I am very excited to announce the launch of the ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement, an opportunity for this church to increase our understanding of our colonizing impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present.

VIEW VIDEO

DOWNLOAD VIDEO

Please join me in this movement, which is not so new to our Indigenous relatives, but is a new opportunity for our church!

More information will be shared online. Stay tuned to our ELCA and Living Lutheran social media channels and [ELCA.org/indigenous](https://www.elca.org/indigenous) for upcoming opportunities to get involved.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Opportunities To Provide Service For Epiphany On Sunday Mornings

The Sunday morning worship service provides several opportunities to assist the Epiphany congregation: greeting members and visitors, ushering during the service, serving as a lector/reader or as an assisting minister, and helping to count/teller the offering after the service. Providing refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service is also an ongoing need.

Many of these roles are filled on a per-Sunday basis; others ask that you commit to a month or several weeks at a time. If you would like more information about what is involved in any role, previous participants or member leaders will help. Once you are ready to make a commitment for a particular Sunday or month, add your name to the volunteer book in **Olise Mandat's office**.

If any of these roles spark an interest in you, please contact:

Greeters: Beth Bivens

Ushers: Beth Bivens or Lynn Smith

Lector/Reader: Pastor Brian

Assisting Minister: Roland Person

Offering Teller: Lynn Smith

Fellowship Refreshments: Debra Sarvela

Here's One More Opportunity To Serve



Summer Flowers

Look at the beauty of the flowers you grow and consider providing a bouquet of flowers for a Sunday service. Sign up in the book in the office of the business manager, **Olise Mandat**.

Congratulations, John Schneider, Again!



John Schneider

On Thursday, April 30, **John Schneider** participated in the 2023 100 meter walk in the Illinois Special Olympics Spring Games at Herrin High School. Once again John returned to Carbondale with another gold medal. This time for his "victory photo" John posed by the bell that he rings each Sunday morning. From the medals that John won last month we learned that he is very good at bocce ball, and it's apparent that he's also fast enough on his feet to win gold on the track!

Congratulations, John!

May Friendship Day

Church Women United
Friday, May 5

Labor with Love: "A Heart to Care"

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 306 West Monroe St, Carbondale

- 10:30 am - Celebration in Sanctuary
- 12:00 - Activity in Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 - Luncheon (RSVP by May 1st to Martha Ellert msellert@aol.com))

The 12:00 activity is to assemble "Period Packs." These are to supply Church World Service (CWS), a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations that provides sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. CWS has long provided kits, assembled by donors and volunteers, to persons in need, including hygiene kits, school kits, and emergency cleanup buckets. A new initiative is the distribution of menstrual hygiene kits (called Period Packs) to women and girls.

If you are planning to attend the May Friendship Day, please consider bringing a couple of the following items. The 1-gallon bags will be packed with several of each item on the list.

If you are not able to attend the May Friendship Day activities but would like to help supply the hygiene packs, a collection box will be provided at Epiphany. Contents will be delivered to the May Friendship Day activities on May 5th. Thank you for your help.

Bags, 1-gallon re-sealable
Bags, 4-gallon bathroom trash
Hand sanitizer, 2oz bottles
Wet Ones, travel packs

Tampons, regular
Tampons, super absorbency
Menstrual pads, unscented,
long, super ultra-thin

Wipes, flushable, unscented, 42
count in each package
Laundry sheets, fragrance-free

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1501 W. Chautauqua, Carbondale, IL 62901



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

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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