



EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
JULY 2023



Pastor Brian Coffey

A Note from the Pastor



Pastor Greg Busboom

June was an exceptional month of ministry in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We began with Synod Assembly which elected **Rev. Greg Busboom** of St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield to become Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod for the next six years beginning September 1st. Information about Bishop-elect Busboom has been communicated through eHappenings and the Synod website. Once he takes office, I look forward to him introducing himself and his new staff to the congregations of our Synod.

The following week at our Epiphany semi-annual meeting, we elected new members to Church Council and bid farewell to those who have faithfully completed their terms. I look forward to working with existing Council members to successfully onboard the new members, most of whom will be serving for the first time.

Mid-month I spent a week with ELCA Campus Ministry (LuMin) colleagues from across the United States on the campus of Loyola University in Chicago. Not only did I meet a number of exceptional

leaders with a wide range of campus ministry experiences, but I also met several staff members from the ELCA Churchwide office, including **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**. I also had the distinct pleasure of speaking about **Pastor Jerry and Ruth Kissell** as they were memorialized by LuMin for their service in campus ministry (**Ruth – University of Illinois; Pastor Jerry – Illinois State University**). Our campus ministry efforts are on track here at Epiphany, and we will continue to serve the campus community in creative ways in the year ahead.



Pastor Jerry and Ruth Kissell

The month wrapped up on yet another high note with a fabulous Vacation Bible School experience led and coordinated by **Jan Womack** along with a team of leaders from our full-communion partner, Grace United Methodist Church of Carbondale. Also, **Paul Copeland** from Mt. Calvary in DeSoto opened and closed the program each night and their congregation provided one day's meal. Throughout the week, students, youth, and adult participants were immersed in Rome along with the apostle Paul (me) and the underground church. Epiphany members of all ages volunteered in many creative and engaging ways to bring the experience to life. It was a week filled with the power of the Holy Spirit at work amongst our two faith communities. We witnessed the children absorb the key points about God's love throughout the week. We also collected funds to provide six families with two beehives, three flocks of chicks and a goat through Heifer International. Laughter and joy punctuated our learning experience each night! To God be the glory!

July will be a month of re-grouping as the new committee chairs begin to learn their roles and we begin to prepare for programming in August. We open the month with an infant baptism on July 2nd (**Vivienne Sarvela**), which will be a delight for the family and the church as a whole. Mid-month I will spend a few days at my Benedictine Abbey for our annual Oblate Gathering. This year I return with a heavy heart following the accidental death of a dear Oblate friend, **Fred Hotz**. Last year when we had our picture taken, we had no idea that it would be our last moment together. Benedict of Nursia c. 540 is commemorated on the Lutheran church calendar each July 11th.

August will start picking up steam as students return to campus, and families with children return to their school routines. I will be attending the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago where it returns to its birthplace for its 130th anniversary! We will also be convening a **Solar Eclipse Task Force** which the Council authorized a few months ago so that we can plan a significant "Luther Fest" event using our building and grounds the weekend before and day of the full eclipse on Monday, April 8th. If you would like to participate in the Task Force, please tell **Deb Sarvela** (Council President) or me.

Thank you for making my first 18 months of Ordained ministry such a delight!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian

Presidential Reflections

Well, another year has come and gone and you have a new Congregation Council President. For the last two years, you've received beautiful and thoughtful missives from **Anne Terry**, and now you will be blessed with my off-the-cuff almost stream-of-consciousness meanderings. Hope you can follow them!

To begin, I wish to say I am looking forward to working with this new Council for the next year. If you haven't already seen the list, here it is. If you have already seen it, here it is again. And it likely appears in at least one other place in this newsletter. There will be a quiz next week.

President/Fellowship— **Deb Sarvela**

Vice President/Communications— **Cory Newman**

Secretary/Youth — **Patrick Dwyer**

Evangelism— **Beth Bivens**

Worship-**Tim Fink**

Christian Education— **Anne Terry**

Stewardship — **Trish Welch**

Property — **Patrick Seger**

Social Ministry — **Peter Gimse**



Deb Sarvela
Council
President

I'd also like to acknowledge the others who work with Council:

Pastor Brian (of course!)

Lynn Smith — Financial Secretary

Kevin Bame — Treasurer

Olise Mandat — Business Manager

I challenge the rest of the congregation to become involved with a committee. It doesn't take much time, and you will learn so much about the workings of Epiphany! The church doesn't run itself. It takes a Congregation!!!

Deb Sarvela

News From The Green Team

Excerpts from [High Country News](#), June 14, 2023

It was August 20th, 2022. There were 25 fires within 50 miles of her home that summer — 2,000 were recorded across Montana.

Spurred by the ever-increasing number of fires and other impacts of global warming on the state, **Rikki Held** and 15 other young people are suing the state of Montana for failing to protect them against climate change...

The first of the lawsuits brought by young people in the United States to go to court, their lawsuit hinges on Montana's Constitution, which guarantees its citizens the right to a clean and healthful environment. Rikki and the other plaintiffs claim that Montana's state energy policy (which was recently repealed, likely due to the lawsuit) and the state's methods of environmental review are unconstitutional. The state, they claim, by prioritizing the extraction and use of fossil fuels despite the warnings of decades of science, is breaking its own laws. And to many observers, the Montana legislature's actions in the lead-up to the trial show that the state is taking the plaintiffs' suit seriously....

These Folks Have Birthdays This Month

July 4	Eric Hanson
July 7	Stephen Price
July 13	John Sarvela
July 14	Michael Langan
July 18	Calla Cheatwood
July 27	Lyn Bame
July 28	Jane Rose



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>

Highlights from the June Council Meeting

Church



Council

Pastor Greg Busboom of Springfield was elected as Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, succeeding Bishop Roth's twelve years in that Office.

Pastor Coffey recently attended a conference at Loyola University in Chicago for training on Campus Ministry.

New Council members and their committees were selected.

Communications: **Cory Newman**
 Fellowship: **Deb Sarvela**
 Social Ministry: **Peter Gimse**
 Worship: **Tim Fink**
 Christian Education: **Anne Terry**

Evangelism: **Beth Bivens**
 Property: **Patrick Seger**
 Stewardship: **Trish Welch**
 Youth: **Patrick Dwyer**

Welcome aboard and thanks for your willingness to serve the congregation.

Best Regards, **Peter Gimse** (Council Secretary)

School Supplies For LSSI

Hello, everyone

It's time for the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois school supply drive! Supplies will be collected now through Sunday, July 23rd. Please leave your goodies under the table in the Fellowship Hall. I have included a list of needed supplies. Monetary donations are also welcome and may be left in the offering. Please indicate it is for LSSI school supplies. Thank you so much!!!

Cathy Lay



Cathy Lay

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> | Crayola Markers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gym shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Crayola Crayons 24 pack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Calculators: Regular/ Scientific / Graphing
(Texas Instruments preferred) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water color paints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Geometry sets (ruler, compass, protractor) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Scissors- pointed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Headphones (not earbuds, no wireless) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dry Erase markers – black – chisel and fine point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Flash Drives | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pencil top erasers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notebooks – wide ruled | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pink erasers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Avery clear view 1 inch, 3 ring binder | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ticonderoga pencils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 ring zipper pouches for binder | <input type="checkbox"/> | Glue sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 ring plastic pocket folders | <input type="checkbox"/> | Highlighters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plastic pencil boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Baby wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Post it notes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clorox wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3x5 index cards | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kleenex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ink pens – blue or black | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paper towels |



Vacation Bible School 2023

VBS 2023

Our joint effort with Grace United Methodist, First Lutheran in Murphysboro, and Mt. Calvary Lutheran in DeSoto was a success! These are just a few of the many photos taken by Jim Womack to whet your appetite to see more after church on Sunday, July 9.



Olivia Terry doing the signing we learned with each of our songs!



Peter Gimse (Festus) demonstrating how to throw a shot put ball



Peyton Viernum with Ella Gulbrandsen (in yellow) and Isla Griffith holding on tightly.



Kristen Sarvela, Peter Gimse, and Connor Gulbrandsen (soldiers) and **Deb Sarvela (shopkeeper)**



Anna Schurz (soldier), Connor Gulbrandsen (thief who stole a loaf of bread) and **Elaine Melby (shopkeeper)**

More VBS Photos Through the Lens of Deb Sarvela



Nan Gher and Deb Sarvela had a very busy 5 evenings at Grace Methodist Church. Nan was in charge of "Drama" and she utilized the talents of many members of the unofficial Epiphany "drama club" including Deb.



Here's one of those soldiers who managed to intimidate almost no one with his two-edged plastic sword. He answered quickly to, "Hey, you!" and his "initials" are P- - - - G- - - -.



This self portrait may (or may not) become Deb's first choice for future press releases for SIU functions. We'll wait to see.



Epiphany volunteered to provide two meals for all those who were involved in the VBS production, and did a great job serving on Sunday and Monday evenings. Here is **Olise Mandat** (with a big heart) with her helpers from Epiphany: **Lynn Smith, Laurel Fleming, and Peter Gimse**.



We're not sure who was photographing Deb at her market location, but that person was knowledgeable about proper lighting, composition, exposure, and sharp focus. This was Deb's location each evening as she taught the skills of making beautiful bracelets and other jewelry items.

Jazz Vespers: Sunday, July 9, 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;

Mel Goot, vibraphone; Tom Edgar, piano; Phil Brown, bass; Jimmy Beers, drums—**July 9, 2023**

works by **Paul Brewer, Kenny Davis, Eric Reed, Wayne Shorter, Steve Turre, and McCoy Tyner**

Another Item From the Green Team

Edited from Scientific American 6/12/23

Wind and solar generated more electricity than coal through May, an E&E News review of federal data shows, marking the first time that renewables have outpaced the former king of American power over a five-month period....

The milestone illustrates the ongoing transformation of the U.S. power sector as the nation races to install cleaner forms of energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. Power markets have witnessed a precipitous drop in coal-fired generation this year, driven by low natural gas prices, a mild winter, and a wave of coal plant retirements....

Coal generated almost half of the country's electricity as recently as 2008. It has been in steady decline ever since, as a wave of older coal facilities retired and were replaced by a combination of natural gas and renewables....



Roland Person
Representing the
Green Team

"Here Are Two Ways You Can Help"



Pam
Umlauf- Brown

1. SHEBA'S SEWING

As you may recall, we have been collecting fabric for the Afghan refugees in Carbondale. After being gifted a sewing machine and fabric and given help from local community members, **Sheeba Sewing** is now up and running! The display basket is located near the Fair Trade products.

Please consider a purchase of napkins or bags as she gets her business off the ground. Special orders with a fabric of your choice can be arranged. If you have any other ideas for items for her to sell, please let me (Pam) know.

2. International Student Collection

As you know, there is a big red collection bin at the back of the Fellowship Hall for our international students. Donations to our international students on campus have been much appreciated this past year.

Brand new students will be arriving again, many carrying just small suitcases and will be ill-prepared for winter. Please remember them as you clean out your closets this summer or hit the yard sales. **Hats, gloves, and scarves are always appreciated, as well as like-new towels and washable comforters.** Let's do what we can for our global friends as we welcome them to campus again this year



Fellowship Information — July 2023

Our fellowship hosts during June included the **Melbys, Church Council for the Semiannual Congregational Meeting, Jim Womack for Father's Day and Beth Bivens.**

July opens up more opportunities to host fellowship! If you host with a friend, it makes the work lighter! And it's more fun. The hosts so far for July are as follows:

July 2— **The Sarvela Family in honor of Vivienne's Baptism**

July 9— **Lyn and Kevin Bame**

July 16— _____

July 23— _____

July 30— _____

Deb Sarvela



Deb Sarvela
Fellowship
Chair

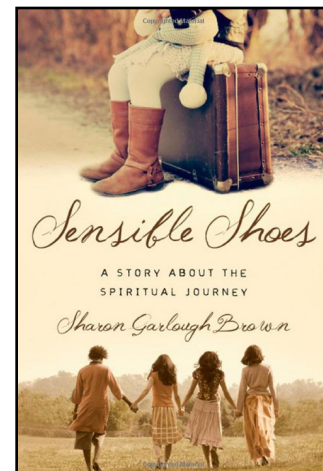
WELCA News From Deb Sarvela and Cathy Wood

Greetings, WELCA Sisters of Epiphany! This is **Deb Sarvela**.

Well, I've been reading, have you? Many of our sisters have finished *Sensible Shoes* already! Please be thinking about the characters, and which, if any, you relate to! We will gather on August 5 at 10:30 at Cathy Wood's home for some discussion, and visiting, and having fun! Here is your official invitation from Cathy:

All WELCA who are reading "*Sensible Shoes*" are invited to a brunch at my home on Saturday, August 5 at 10:30 AM. We will discuss the book while enjoying Mimosas or Pimms with a light brunch. Please let me know by August 2nd if you plan to attend.

Call me at 618-528-1888 or email woodcat0214@gmail.com. My address is 9565 US Highway 51 North, Cobden, IL 62920. I am 1.1 mile past the smiley face water tower on Route 51. **Cathy Wood**



More WELCA News

Happy July, WELCA Sisters of Epiphany, et al! This is **Deb Sarvela**, (again) your "Temporary Facilitator."

We've had a busy month (see pictures AND check out the WELCA board in the Fellowship Hall).

Several sisters gathered on June 10 to work on the Camp Noah project, tying fleece blankets for children who will attend the camp in July. Seventeen blankets were completed, exceeding the commitment of 12 blankets! It was fun to work on a project side by side with other women making the time go quickly!



Jan Womack and Beth Arthur work together to finish another colorful blanket.



Dorothy McDaniel, Cathy Wood, Nan Gher, and Lynn Smith are getting started on another blanket. They were hoping to finish 12 and were able to end up with 17 to send off for the Camp Noah project.

Photos by **Deb Sarvela**



CAMP NOAH
Building Resiliency. Restoring Hope. Changing Lives.

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Olise Mandat, Business Manager

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2023-2024 Epiphany Church Officers:

Deb Sarvela	Council President
Cory Newman	Vice-President
Patrick Dwyer	Secretary
Kevin Bame	Treasurer
Lynn Smith	Financial Secretary
Olise Mandat	Business Manager

Epiphany Church Council Members:

Anne Terry	Christian Education Committee
Cory Newman	Communications/ IT Committee
Beth Bivens	Evangelism Committee
Deb Sarvela	Fellowship Committee
Patrick Seger	Property Committee
Tim Fink	Worship Committee
Peter Gimse	Social Ministry Committee
Trish Welch	Stewardship Committee
Patrick Dwyer	Youth Committee