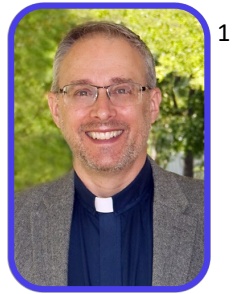




EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
November 2023



1

Pastor Brian Coffey

Notes from the Pastor

Happy New Year! Welcome to the new liturgical year, beginning with the season of Advent. We are embarking on this new year of ministry together following what I found to be a very stimulating and enriching time here at Epiphany. My second year with you was one of greater clarity compared with the blur of trying to keep pace during the first year of my pastoral vocation.

Last year was “Year A” in which our gospel lessons were taken from the book of Matthew. This year (B) will be taken from the gospel of Mark. Mark is uniquely challenging to preach due to the brevity of the author’s style, so I am preparing for the challenge by reading two books recommended by my New Testament professor, **Dr. Matt Skinner**.

Whether you worship with us in person in the building or remotely via Zoom, I think that you will find the blue paraments and decorations to be important reminders that we are in a season of preparation – awaiting anew the arrival of Jesus. Each week will feature something special and fresh during worship, including the presentation of the Christmas story by the children on Dec. 17th.

What will Jesus mean to us in this new year – individually, corporately, and as the body of Christ at work in the world? I encourage you to ponder these questions by making use of one (or more) of the five Advent devotionals that were provided as links in the special Advent edition of eHappenings. If you prefer a paper copy, please contact the church office and we will print one for you.

I also encourage you to participate in our Wednesday evening gatherings which include a light meal at 6:00 and an evening prayer service at 7:00. This year’s themes will be “Pause”, “Prepare”, “Ponder.”

Blessings to you this season. Be mindful of and prayerful about those for whom this season of preparation is fraught with the many anxieties and concerns of this life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian

Neighborhood Mailing for December

The Evangelism, Communication, and Worship Committees have collaborated on Epiphany’s first mass mailing initiative that will reach postal customers in neighborhoods near the church. The first mailing will invite people to join us for Sunday and Midweek worship in December. **Extra copies of the mailer will also be available to share with family, friends, and others around town. We encourage you to share the link below with anyone you wish. (It’s the front and back side of the large postcard we are mailing.)**

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFxxeSMEFw/NUcCuDFp8lZSR3q8me07pg/view?utm_content=DAFxxeSMEFw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

Epiphany Welcomes New Members!



On November 12 the worship service was filled with excitement and joy as **Sharrie Miller** was received as a member by Affirmation of Baptism. **Pastor Brian Coffey** and **Anne Terry** participated in the baptism of the children pictured at the left: (Front row) **Max, Matilda, Addie, Devin** and Mom, **Sharrie** (Back Row) **Pastor Coffey, Aiden Andert, and Dad, Devin Miller.**

Everyone managed a smile because now it was time for fellowship and cake!

Including all the names on just one cake might have worked, but it's more fun and a lot more cake to use two. If you look carefully, you will notice the sisters' names on one cake and the brothers' names on the other.



Christian Education: The Season of Advent is Upon Us

December will be a busy time for us in the Christian Education “department” as we prepare for the Children’s Christmas Program.

Please join us on December 17 at 9:30 for worship and the Children’s program!

The kids have been working very hard and I know you will enjoy their efforts. You will hear readings, singing, and some special music from the bell choir. I would like to thank **Tim Fink, Peter Gimse** and **Jan Womack** for all their work to make the program happen!

As we prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus, we will be talking about the meaning of the advent wreath and each candle during the children’s “sermons” on Sunday mornings. The children made a paper advent wreath on November 26 that they will bring home on December 3. Each week I will give each child a paper candle to place on the wreath (actually lighting the paper candle is discouraged ☐). Perhaps you might consider the following Advent Prayer from crosswalk.com. It is meant to be interactive and shared between a parent/grandparent (or perhaps an older child) and your child.

Parent: Lord, You are the light of the world

Child: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Parent: Heavenly Father, we long for your plan of rescue and redemption to be realized. Give us hearts that see Your beauty and wait in hope for You to make all things good and new again.

Child: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Parent: May Your light and love shine brightly in our hearts, spreading hope and peace to those around us.

Child: Amen.

Also please note that we will not meet for Sunday School on December 24 or on December 31.

Have a blessed Christmas Season!

Anne Terry



Anne Terry
Christian
Education
Chair

Global Missions During Advent



Olise Mandat
Business
Manager

Each year Epiphany supports global missions in two ways. The first \$1,200 is directed to ELCA’s Global Missions with the additional funds directed to support our Cental/Southern Illinois Synod’s Companion Synods in Madagascar.

Change for Change Jars

Sunday, December 3-- It has been our tradition to collect the saved coins from your Change-for-Change jars on the first Sunday in Advent.

Advent Light Meals

Beginning Wednesday, December 6 and for the next three weeks, we will host light meals prior to our Wednesday night Evening Advent Vespers at 7:00. A free-will offering will benefit our Global Missions activities. **If you would like to provide an element for the meal or help with the setup or clean-up, there is a signup sheet in the narthex.**

Other ways to support Global Missions:

Cash: use one of the pew envelopes and indicate “Global Missions” on the envelope.

Check: make payable to Epiphany Lutheran Church and put “Global Missions” in the memo line.

Online: use our [Vanco website](#).

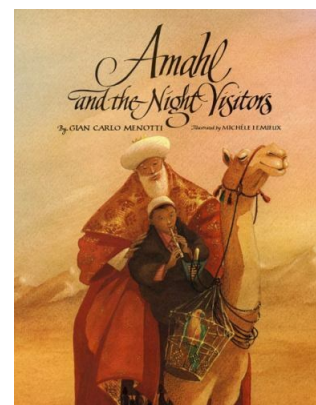
Here are four brief but important reminders!

This Sunday morning, December 3, we'll be collecting the "**Change For Change**" jars to help support our missionary efforts in Africa. If you forget your jar, you ~~may~~ will be "forgiven" and provided one more Sunday to bring it along.



THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3, is the Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair. Come to the Carbondale Civic Center between 2:00 – 5:00 to find gifts that matter and support the good work of our community. See their Facebook page for a list of two dozen agencies they support.

FREE SIU CHORAL UNION CONCERT, Tuesday evening, Dec. 5, 7:00 pm, Shryock Auditorium. "Amahl and the Night Visitors" will be presented by the SIU Opera Theater, SIU Choral Union, SIU Concert Choir and SIU Symphony Orchestra plus several area high school singers. It's an opera in one act, followed by other holiday highlights including the International Carol Suites - carols of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and the British Isles. **Please come and enjoy this evening of beautiful Christmas music in which a number of Epiphany members will be singing in the choir!**



Want To Be a Prayer Partner? This Sunday Is the Deadline



Elaine Melby
Prayer Partners
Chair

That's right! This **Sunday, December 3**, is the Prayer Partner sign-up deadline.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Trust me ... you won't regret it!

For more information, call or text

Elaine Melby at 618-525-3060.

God 
Answers
Prayers

Worship News: Liturgy Selection

The Lutheran Church is a Liturgical Church. Many of us have ideas about what that means because of our experience with it. But what does it really mean? A Google search gave a couple of interesting descriptions:

To call a service "liturgical" is to indicate that it was conceived so that all worshipers take an active part in offering their worship together. Liturgy is also often characterized by an order of service.

Frequently in Christianity, a distinction is made between "liturgical" and "non-liturgical" churches based on how elaborate or formal the worship is; in this usage, churches whose services are unscripted or improvised are called "non-liturgical".



Tim Fink
Worship
Committee Chair

My music training and career allowed me to study and experience the Catholic Mass. Music Survey class (at Pacific Lutheran University) began with learning the elements of the Catholic Mass; since then I've worked as a music director for a Catholic church, and a few Episcopal churches, and have sung a number of Masses with settings by some of the masters.

Our Lutheran Liturgy inherits much from the Catholic church! Hard to believe Protestants and Catholics came to war with one another at one time given how much they share, at least in worship. The Catholic Church breaks the musical portion of the mass into two groupings, the Ordinary and the Proper. The Ordinary musical pieces are the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. We know them in their English translation as the following: Lord Have Mercy, Glory to God, The Creed (which we don't sing), Holy, Holy, Holy, and Lamb of God. The Ordinary pieces do NOT change the text. The Proper, however, has text changes according to the season. These would be the Introit (entrance/opening), Gradual (response between Epistle and Gospel), Alleluia (not sung during Lent), Offertory, and Communion.

That's enough history for now, but you can see where so much of our Liturgy comes from. Between the sung portions of our Liturgy (as many as eight elements) and then the usual five hymns, there is a significant amount of music. We also speak prayers, creeds, Psalms, and other portions of the service. As described above by Google, a liturgical service was conceived such that "all worshipers take an active part..." We certainly do that. I was told by a music director of one of the bigger mainline churches in Carbondale they only sing two hymns and no liturgy. I also know some churches in town have 45-minute sermons!

The Worship Committee tries to take a full-year view for the choice of our Liturgies. We usually do about six different settings each year, each for 8-9 weeks. Some settings lend themselves to more or less exuberance (characterize it as you choose). So, during Lent, we tend to look for a setting with more restraint, and the Easter season more exuberance. We also try to meet the preferences of as many as possible: sometimes more traditional, other times more contemporary. Some churches have separated their services into traditional service at one time, and contemporary at another. We attempt to stay together so we can BE together, do a little of everything, and hopefully meet in the middle. **But if you really want to see an untraditional ELCA Church service, check out The Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines online. You'll see a rock band and a 2,500-seat auditorium, and a whole lot more!**

In addition to trying to explore a variety of musical styles, we are trying to experiment with the flexibility the ELCA allows, and in fact encourages, in elements and texts. Take a look at pages 92-93 in the red ELW, and you will see a lot of "may", "or", and **bold** and un-bold type indicating the elements that are **central** and those that are supportive. By not doing everything all the time, we can draw attention or emphasis to some areas, and create variety without undermining familiarity. We want enough continuity to facilitate participation, but enough contrast to keep us alert and engaged.

Tim Fink

A Word to Advent From Bishop Greg Busboom



Greg G. Busboom
Bishop
Central/Southern
Illinois Synod



Central/Southern Illinois Synod

“God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(1 Corinthians 1:9)

The world exists in Advent.

Despite the all-too-successful attempts to gloss over the reality of Advent by the various powers-that-be — powers that mercilessly try to seduce us straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas morning — the world exists in Advent. The world waits. The world longs. The world hurts. The world hopes.

The waiting of the world seems more poignant this year. Ukraine, Israel, Palestine all wait — waiting for freedom, waiting for justice, waiting for peace. The earth waits — waiting for healing, waiting for renewal, waiting for rest. Those living on the margins wait — waiting for welcome, waiting to be noticed, waiting for equity and inclusion. Our congregations wait — waiting for new life, waiting for a pastor, waiting for re-engagement. Even we who all-too-often give in to the temptation to ignore Advent wait — waiting for meaning, waiting for something more, waiting for life to somehow get easier than it is.

The world exists in Advent. Waiting.

Waiting with the world in Advent allows us to name what is not right with the world and, instead, to bear witness to the radically new world that, in Christ, already is, even though it is not yet. Waiting with the world in Advent encourages us to challenge the powers-that-be and the false narratives they seek to force upon us and, instead, to share with them the story of a migrant Jew born in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem who instead of taking life from his enemies gives his life for them. Waiting with the world in Advent frees us to neither give in nor give up and, instead, to live by hope, hope both in what is still coming and in what, through Christ, already is.

The world exists in Advent. Waiting.

As Christ’s community in the world, we wait with the world. Indeed, we are the community that has been gifted for the waiting. As St. Paul assures the conflicted Christian community in Corinth, in Christ, we have been gifted with every spiritual gift needed to wait for the One who strengthens us in our waiting (1 Corinthians 1:7). Such giftedness in the midst of the waiting does not free us for passive disengagement from the challenges of the world around us, but rather for active and courageous engagement with the world as we use the gifts we have been given to love and to serve and to build up.

The source of our giftedness for waiting, of course, is not us, but God. “God is faithful;” assures Paul, “by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). It is God’s faithfulness to us, not our faithfulness to God, that empowers us in our waiting. In the words of pastor and theologian Dirk Lange, “Any strengthening of Christ’s testimony, any deepening of the gospel among the Corinthians, is due to God’s faithfulness, to the fact that they have been called by God into this communion. God is at work in this community” (from workingpreacher.org, November 27, 2011). By God’s never-ending faithfulness to us, we are empowered in our waiting to be the God-created, God-gifted community, through whom God bears witness to the coming Advent of Christ into our waiting, longing, hurting, and hoping world. God is faithful, even when we are not.

The world exists in Advent. Waiting. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set your people free.
From oppression, come, release us, grant us your true liberty.*

Continued 

A Word to Advent From Bishop Greg Busboom (Continued)

*Come, release from ev'ry prison those who suffer in our land.
In your love we find the reason still to live and understand.*

*Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood;
Give new life to ev'ry nation, changing evil into good.
Come and open our tomorrow for your joyful reign so near.
Take away all human sorrow; give us hope against our fear.*

(Jaci Maraschin, All Creation Sings, #904)

In Christ †

Greg A. Busboom

Council Highlights — November 14, 2023

Here are the highlights from the November 14, 2023 council meeting:

- Continued to edit and discuss the constitution. Discussions will continue at the December 2023 council meeting.
- A postcard proposal was approved to send large postcards quarterly to target residential areas surrounding Epiphany church with information on upcoming events at Epiphany.
- Council approved Pastor's compensation and benefits along with housing allowance for 2024.
- Nominating committee looking for replacements for council members leaving in May/June of 2024.
- The Finance Committee selected Church Mutual as the insurance provider for Epiphany.
- Increasing awareness of security concerns at Epiphany has prompted greeters to lock the door to the Fellowship Hall before the start of service as an additional duty.



Patrick Dwyer
Council Secretary

Respectfully submitted, **Patrick Dwyer**, Secretary.


Pastor Brian Presents 3rd Graders With Dictionaries



Pastor Brian was able to get acquainted with third grade students in 11 classrooms when he visited three elementary schools early in November and gave out dictionaries that were provided by the Rotary Club in Carbondale.


Veterans Day - We Remember and Honor Lt Col Harvey Welch

SIU Air Force ROTC




POW/MIA
THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

SIU Army ROTC



Annual Veterans Day POW/MIA Awareness Vigil

"YOU ARE
NOT
FORGOTTEN"



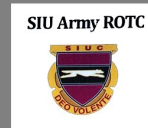
Location:
Woody Hall Flag Pole



Pastor Coffey provided the invocation at the 11:00 am Veterans' Recognition around the flagpole on the SIU campus. ROTC cadets conducted a vigil at the flagpole across from Woody Hall. The wreath laying and Veterans Day ceremony included recognition of former Epiphany member, **Lt Col Harvey Welch**. **Lt Col Jessica Dwyer**, Air Force ROTC Detachment 205 commander, provided keynote remarks. To see and hear the entire ceremony honoring Harvey, here is the link to that presentation: <https://fb.watch/ofAmkrneYA/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2023
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



HONORING LT COL HARVEY WELCH

December Birthdays

Cindy Gimse	December 5	Laurel Fleming	December 20
Cathy Lay	December 5	Kate Renshaw	December 21
Roland Person	December 7	Kaelyn Viernum	December 21
Jim Renshaw	December 7	Anne Terry	December 23
Kate Worzala	December 14	The Baby Jesus	December 25
Eric Mandat	December 16	David Melby	December 28
Lauren Gulbrandsen	December 17	Betty Person	December 29
Miranda Smith	December 19	Mari Schneider	December 30

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Thoughts From the President

Blessings to you, Epiphany Members, as you prepare for Advent!

I hope everyone had a special Thanksgiving. I was able to spend the week with my son and daughter-in-law, and my wonderful granddaughter, **Vivienne!** She's 8 months old now and changing by the day! Then I was stranded in Wichita until Monday morning since they had their largest snowstorm since 2014. Fortunately, I found a hotel room, and the next day, my dear family came up from Ponca City and we did some shopping after the roads were cleared.

- The council is finalizing the constitution updates so we can send it to the Synod for review. We are on track to approve the updated constitution at the May/June congregational meeting.
- The Altar Guild under the Worship Committee has begun decorating for Advent and Christmas! There will be things to do every week, so consider helping out!
- WELCA brought in \$297 in the Pay What You Wish sale of old bazaar items. They are also planning a gathering in January, so look at the article below.
- Christian Education has been practicing with the Sunday School Children for their annual performance. This year it will be during church on December 17. You don't want to miss it!

May Advent and Christmas touch your hearts,

Deb Sarvela



Deb Sarvela
Council
President

WELCA: Reserve the Date— January 11, 2024 at 11:45 a.m.

That's right ... we are planning way ahead and we hope everyone has a 2024 calendar. We are planning to get our warm and caring women's group back together! We'll be meeting in the Epiphany Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. for a "brown bag WELCA luncheon." Start thinking of possible programs and activities as this will be a time for sharing ideas and suggestions. Drinks, utensils, and (very important) dessert will be furnished.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Questions? Call or email:

Olise Mandat	cell 618-303-0098	business@elcarb.org
Julie Bohnsack	cell 618 -534-4618	jaweilbrenner@gmail.com
Bonnie Wright	cell 618-967-1154	bonniwright288@gmail.com



From Epiphany's Stewardship Committee

As many of you have heard from us already this last month, the Faith Pledge tradition of considering and deciding how we will share our generosity through Epiphany's ministries is a tradition of more than fifty years! The Faith Pledge consists of an intention, formalized between the family or individual and the Lord. It is based on prayerful reflection, as to what amount of our financial resources, in gratitude for God's blessings, we will choose to contribute to God's work.

Please be thinking about how you can be a good steward of your time, talent, and treasure at Epiphany, for the wider church, and in our community and world in 2024. Watch for the envelope that you will receive in hand on December 10, or in the mail, that will guide you in making your Faith Pledge. We ask that your Faith Pledge be completed and ready to place on the altar on January 14, 2024, or return in the mail soon thereafter.

TIMELINE for FAITH PLEDGING: DECEMBER-JANUARY 2023-2024

- December 10, 2023:** **HEAR** Faith Pledge history at Epiphany.
RECEIVE previous (2023) Sealed Faith Pledge.
RECEIVE new, blank Faith Pledge card.
BEGIN Family/Individual discussion concerning your Faith Pledge.
- January 7, 2024:** **RECEIVE** Personal/Family Contribution Record for 2023.
CONTINUE family/individual discussion
with additional information from 2023 contribution record.
- January 14, 2024:** **PLACE** on the altar your 2024 Sealed Faith Pledge card.
CONTINUE TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY
through **TIME** and **TALENT**, as well as **TREASURE**,
throughout the new year!

JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

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

Jazz Vespers

an Advent 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—**December 10, 2023**

works by *Paul Ferguson, Keith Jarrett, Les McCann, Thelonious Monk, Gerry Niewood, and Johnny Walker*

Fellowship Updates

Our Fellowship hosts during the month of November included **Trish Welch** and **Rachel Price, Church Council** for the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting and Baptisms, **Betsy Geiselman**, and the **cookie bank**. You are all so appreciated!

For the month of December, the following have volunteered to host:

December 3- **Dwyer Family**

December 10- _____

December 17- **Christian Education Committee Christmas Cookies**

December 24- **Olise Mandat Christmas Cookies**

December 31- _____

Deb Sarvela

Fellowship Chair

618-303-7178

dsarvela@hotmail.com



Why Faith Pledge?



Chalmer Post

I started with Epiphany Lutheran Church in January 2023. I moved to Carbondale from Canton, Illinois, where I lived for fifty years. I attended an ELCA church in Canton for about twenty years and was involved in everything in the church except the pastor position. I quit going to the church when I went through a divorce.

I felt something missing in my life as far as the community of a congregation. I felt left out to fend for myself and my salvation.

After moving down here to Carbondale, I was at the grocery store and kidding the person ahead of me that her cart was full and that I was going to go to her house and eat. She said the groceries were for her church. We then had a short conversation about church and this got me thinking about going back to church. I stopped the

next day at Epiphany, and **Pastor Coffey** opened his arms wide and invited me into the church building. He then gave me a tour of the facility. We spoke for about an hour with me telling my life story, and he shared some of his life adventures. He was so down to earth, and I felt right at home.

I have noticed in my short time attending Epiphany that no matter from where you come or who you are does not make a difference in this church family. I am very impressed with the involvement of our members either financially or by deed with our community and the world.

I mention Epiphany Lutheran Church often to the many friends and acquaintances I have been blessed to have in this community, at the Senior Center, the SIH Hospital Group, Shawnee Health Care, and the stores and restaurants. I feel very comfortable, because of the Epiphany family, to share with almost anyone that I have a great time being involved with my church. I only guessed that the church's budget was controlled by a rigid commitment from the congregation and not a faith pledge. The Faith Pledge was a new concept for me, and I think it is great.

I look forward to a long relationship with the church and its expanding influence in our community and the world.

Chalmer Post

Question: What is a "Faith Pledge"?



Lynn Smith
Stewardship
Committee

The Stewardship Committee here at Epiphany Lutheran Church is happy to report that our FAITH PLEDGE tradition will continue this year into 2024. As many of you may know, Epiphany Lutheran Church has utilized this very unique giving structure for at least 60 years, wherein each member or family unit prayerfully considers how they will share their treasure, time, and talent to assist in the operation of this congregation and the wider church. This commitment is then formalized on Faith Pledge Sunday, which will be held this year on January 14, 2024, when the sealed pledge cards will be placed on the altar.

SOME BACKGROUND:

Many churches operate with a structured contribution system, where a member makes a yearly financial commitment monitored by a Finance committee.

Contrary to this methodology, Epiphany members and friends make a FAITH PLEDGE. This FAITH PLEDGE consists of an intention, formalized between the individual or family and the Lord, based on prayerful reflection as to what amount of their financial resources, in gratitude for God's blessings, they will choose to contribute to God's work through Epiphany's ministries. The amount of the financial pledge is then written on a card by the individual and sealed in an envelope; the individual's name is placed on the envelope's upper left corner and then laid on the altar on FAITH PLEDGE Sunday. These sealed envelopes containing the faith pledges are kept unopened in Epiphany's safe and then returned to the members and friends in the same unopened envelope in the next year. This way, members who will have received their 2023 CONTRIBUTION RECORD will be able to gauge if their contributions are on track with what was promised to the Lord for the Lord's work earlier in the previous year. For over 60 years this has been successfully practiced at Epiphany, and we remain in sound financial standing. We have also been able to make a substantial, continuing contribution (referred to as "benevolence") each year to the work of the wider church: Central/Southern Illinois Synod and the ELCA Churchwide.

TIME AND TALENT:

In addition to financial gifts (treasure), members are asked to reflect on how they can support the work of the church with gifts of their time and talents. There are many ways in which members can support Epiphany, from participation in fellowship activities, contemplative prayer, service on a committee, volunteering as a part of a Thrivent Action Team, helping the community, serving as an usher or teller on Sunday, teaching Sunday School children, and helping with youth, college student, or WELCA activities. The Health and Safety Committee and the Altar Guild provide specialized opportunities for volunteers. There are so many opportunities to serve! These donations of time and talent are just as important as financial support to Epiphany and are genuinely appreciated. Members will be asked to fill out a "TIME AND TALENT" survey to submit along with their financial pledge on FAITH PLEDGE SUNDAY. This will help **Pastor Brian** and Epiphany leadership identify ways in which the many talents and gifts of our congregation can be put to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

FINALLY:

Please be thinking about how you can be a good steward of your time, talents, and financial resources in assisting with God's work at Epiphany, for the wider church, and in our community and world in 2024. Watch for the mailing that you will receive next month, early December, that will guide you in making your FAITH PLEDGE and give you a copy of the TIME AND TALENT survey to consider for 2024. We ask that both the FAITH PLEDGE and the TIME AND TALENT survey be completed and ready to turn in on JANUARY 14, 2024.

Synod Annual Youth Event – Carlinville, Illinois

Elena Newman (7th grade) and **Pastor Brian** traveled to Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville with youth from the Anna-Jonesboro Lutheran Parish on November 17-19th to participate in the Synod's annual event for students in Middle School and Senior High School.

They gathered under the theme, "Children of Light" based on 1 Thess 5:5. They explored what it means to live as Children of Light through large and small group experiences, corporate singing and worship, recreation, and service projects. There were nearly 100 participants, including **Bishop Greg Busboom** who spent the day Saturday fully participating by teaching, helping with service projects, and playing sports with the youth.



Both **Elena** and **Pastor Brian** had an amazing time and are looking forward to having other youth join them for future Synod youth events.

A Thank You Note from Elena Newman

Thank you, Epiphany, for giving me a wonderful chance at Carlinville. The camp was very fun and educating. I made lots of friends that I made a deep connection with.

I helped people in need with a service project that everyone did in Carlinville. I made tie blankets with Pastor Brian that were then given to people in need.

We also made friendship bracelets that were put into a care package for kids who never had the material or knowledge to make these kinds of bracelets.

I am very glad that I took the chance to go to Carlinville.

Thank you again, Epiphany, for the chance.

- **Elena Newman**

This sampling of pictures only begins to show how much ministry was packed into a day and a half together!



There were plenty of "constructive projects," including 12 fleece tie blankets made for the Ronald McDonald House, as well as 150 "Buddy Bracelets" for the weekend snack packs for kids in the Peoria Public Schools, and finally enough quilt squares (47) to make almost 4 quilts worth. Everyone was busy!

Epiphany Youth in the News



If you think that might be **Ruby Benz** in the center with her **Dad, Brian**, and her **Grandpa Jim Benz**, you would be correct. She was in the Herrin High School production of "The Sound of Music" which featured three performances (October 27-29). We aren't sure if Ruby is considering a career in theatre or possibly the church, but we hope she enjoys all of her high school years.

If we remove the make-over on his face, you might recognize Connor Gulbrandsen as one of the "deceased" performers in the Carbondale Community High school play "The Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery," which was performed on October 27 and 28.



To everyone's relief, Connor was alive and well after the play was over and managed to pose for several friends and relatives who just happened to have their cameras and phones ready.



If you are a sports fan, you probably already know about the young lady who has earned a scholarship at SIU to play softball next year for the Salukis. **Sarah Cook** will be attending the same school where her mom, **Kim**, played softball. If her Dad, **Loren**, looks extremely happy, he works at SIU and is probably aware of the value of a scholarship. Sarah was selected First Team All State, All Conference, and All South.

Congratulations, **Sarah!**

How Does Our “Faith Pledge” Translate Into God’s Hands Here On Earth?

The theme for 2024, Epiphany as a Mission Outpost providing:

- ◆ Worship Services with Word and Sacrament
- ◆ Worship and work space with grounds for all to enjoy: picnics, Easter egg hunts, reflection at the cross
- ◆ Christian education for youth and adults
- ◆ Christian music: musicians, jazz vespers, music director
- ◆ Pastoral ministry to the church and greater community
- ◆ Campus Ministry: SIUC
- ◆ Christian hospitality: Sunday fellowship, Evangelism care/shepherding teams, prayer partners
- ◆ Functioning communication system: office staff, technology
- ◆ Space for community Christian witness: Learning in Retirement, polling place
- ◆ A place for special family events: baptisms, marriages, birthdays, retirements, funerals
- ◆ Greater Community Outreach: LSSI school supplies, LSSI Easter book in a basket, Spirit of Christmas, food bank, global mission Sunday, church representative to community and synod committees and boards
- ◆ Benevolence funds to synod and church-wide ministries
- ◆ Family of believers



Trish Welch
Stewardship
Committee

Help us continue God’s mission through Epiphany with your “Faith Pledge” on **January 14, 2024**

Thank you, **Trish Welch**

Altar Guild Activities

Many thanks to all those who helped decorate the Sanctuary last Sunday. It looks beautiful and ready to celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd.

- ◆ We will also need help setting up the Christmas tree after the service next Sunday, December 10th. We will need to move the large cartons that contain the tree and set it up in the Sanctuary. The lights will also need to be added. We will need lots of help with this!!
- ◆ After the service on December 17th, we will change the banners, bows, etc. from blue to gold.
- ◆ On Sunday, December 24, we will distribute the ornaments before the service so that the tree can be decorated.
- ◆ Then in January, we will again need assistance in dismantling the tree and putting away all the Christmas decorations.



As you can see, there are many opportunities to help out in the next few weeks. Please join us in completing these activities. Thank you so much for your assistance!

Laurel Fleming

Worship: The Link for the Zoom Service



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

Phone: 312-626-6799

Bread For the World: A \$500,000 Offer by Rick Steves

Double Your Impact to Help End Hunger.

Thanks to a generous offer from **Rick Steves** to match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000, your gift today will go twice as far to support our advocacy to end hunger

Hunger and malnutrition have been on the rise in recent years because of conflict, climate change, and rising food prices. But every dollar you give to support our advocacy helps Bread for the World secure hundreds of dollars in lifesaving assistance for families in the United States and around the world. Just think what we could do with \$1,000,000.



Enter **Bread For the World** into your computer search engine and look for Rick Steves' offer.

Some "Tips" From the Green Team

Here are several helpful suggestions from our Methodist Friends at Creation Justice Tips.

Christmas shop without plastic bags. We've been learning to take our own reusable bags to the grocery store. The same principle works in retail stores. Carry in your own bags, politely decline the store's plastic ones, and tell the clerks you are cutting down on single-use plastic. It's your gift to the planet.

When buying clothes for Christmas gifts, **read the labels.** Avoid fossil-fuel-based synthetics (such as polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, and lycra). When washed, the synthetics release microplastics that enter the water systems and then the food chain, harming marine life and ultimately humans. Choose items made of natural fibers (organic cotton, linen, wool, silk, hemp, bamboo), recycled fibers, or sustainable plant-based [Tencel](#).

Create less waste by how you wrap your gifts. One of the savviest zero-waste decisions is to save wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows, and ribbons to reuse each year. Or adorn your gift with fabric like a scarf (new or vintage) that can be worn. Look also for old maps, sheet music, newspaper funnies, or plain paper painted with your children's handprints and art.

While it might be fun to rip and tear into a wrapped present, the fancy paper itself is most likely to be laminated with plastic, foil, glitter, or other non-paper materials that contaminate a recycle bin. The short fibers in tissue paper make it unrecyclable too. Rather than wrapping paper, **go for reusable gift bags.**

Be mindful of water. Too many places are experiencing drought, which endangers food crops, wildlife, and people whose livelihood suffers. Don't run the faucet while cleaning vegetables. Rinse them instead in a bowl full of clean water. Then use the water on your indoor or outdoor plants. Likewise, when filling your dishwasher, don't "pre-wash" with running water. A good scraping—preferably into a compost bucket—or just a splash of water is plenty.

Epiphany Receives Another \$500 Grant



Mike Langan

Here is a portion of the report that the Langans filed with Central and Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

C/SIS Social Ministry, Justice & Advocacy Grant Report
November 27, 2023

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Carbondale, IL, received a \$500.00, Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy grant from the Central and Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA for 2023.



Carolyn Langan

This was the second consecutive year for which Epiphany applied and was subsequently awarded a grant of this kind. The following report details how grant funds are being utilized to accomplish the outlined mission of the C/SIS Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Committee: *"in serving, educating, and advocating in our society."*

Figures obtained from our business manager indicate that since May of this year, when the new grant funds were received, we have spent \$327.04 to purchase materials, and we have made eight deliveries to sites including the Carbondale Warming Center, the Good Samaritan House homeless shelter, and the Sparrow Coalition's *Shelter to Home* storage locker. These deliveries have included 20 "baskets" of **Bathroom Part I** supply baskets, as well as supplies of individual personal hygiene items and disposable plates, cups, and cutlery for meal service.

As of today, a balance of \$172.96 in grant funds remains to be spent during the next six months. Epiphany volunteers, **Mike and Carolyn Langan** work to maintain a supply of **Bathroom Part I** baskets in the church storage room, both complete and ready for delivery, as well as some "loose materials" not constituting 'complete' baskets.

They also check with the Warming Center and Good Samaritan House periodically about needs for personal hygiene and meal service supplies. Although **Mike and Carolyn** generally do Epiphany's shopping when additional supplies are needed, over the past six months or so there has been a notable uptick in supply product donations coming from the [Epiphany] congregation, as well as some monetary contributions to the project.

Editor's Note: **Mike and Carolyn Langan** have maintained the needed supplies for this project for these past two years and have done a great job not only shopping with the grant monies, but also quietly reminding us to help provide needed supplies when we do our shopping.

Thank you both ... and keep reminding us to do our share!

December Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

Sunday, December 3 – Advent 1

8:30 am – Sunday School and Adult Class

9:30 am - Worship — **Collect Global Missions Change-for-Change jars**

2:00 - 5:00 pm - **Alternative Gift Fair, Carbondale Civic Center**

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 pm - Confirmation Class

7:00 pm - SIU Choral Union Concert, Shryock Auditorium

Wednesday, December 6 - Advent Midweek

6:00 pm - Light Meal for Global Missions

7:00 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 10 – Advent 2

8:30 am – Sunday School and Adult Class (Civic Life - final session)

9:30 am - Worship

5:00 pm – Jazz Vespers

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm - **Council Meeting**

December 11-15 – SIU Final Exams

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 pm - Light Meal for Global Missions

7:00 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 16 – SIUC Commencement

Sunday, December 17 – Advent 3

8:30 am – Sunday School and Adult Class

9:30 am - Worship

Children’s Christmas Program during worship – interactive music / spoken format

Wednesday, December 20 – Evening Vespers

6:00 pm - Light Meal for Global Missions

7:00 pm - Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 24 – Advent 4

9:30 am - Worship

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Dec 25 – Jan 1 – SIUC Holiday closure

Sunday, December 31 – Christmas 1 – Pastor Brian

9:30 am - Worship

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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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