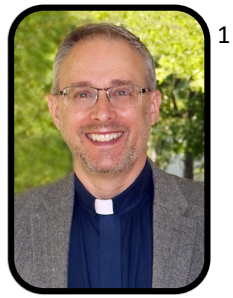




# EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Carbondale, Illinois  
November 2023



1

Pastor Brian Coffey

## Notes from the Pastor

November is conveniently bookended by All Saints Sunday (11/5) and Christ the King Sunday (11/26). In our worship, we will move from the pop-rock liturgy into the familiar ELW setting 3. It was certainly a joy to have our student singers from SIU support us during the last four weeks of October! Guest vocalists, **Angelique Jones** and her sister, **Xiana Jones**, filled the sanctuary with sound and helped us continue to optimize our new audio-visual equipment. The change in settings will shift our focus towards the end of the liturgical year, and prepare us for the season of Advent during which we will use the With One Voice (WOV) setting 5. Accompanying these changes will, of course, be different colors of paraments as well as outdoor banners to welcome neighbors to join us.

Our church council is shaping up as a team of leaders willing to get things done, including updating our congregation's constitution. We dedicate 20-30 minutes per month, to reviewing and fine-tuning the details to prepare the document for approval by the Synod. Once that is complete, it will be returned to the council for final review and submission to the congregation for a vote to adopt in 2024.

In addition to Campus Ministry with SIU Campus Ministries, LuMin, Air Force ROTC Valor and Wesley Foundation worship, we are experiencing consistent engagement with younger age groups. A youth ministry survey indicates that there is some interest in gathering together. One student, **Elena Newman**, is joining me to participate in the Synod's annual youth event in Carlinville, November 17-19! Teachers are faithfully leading a small group of Sunday School students including a basic faith formation class for students preparing for baptism. Confirmation class meets on Tuesday evenings with a team-teaching model. I have been facilitating adult education on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, which has been well-attended and fun, so I encourage you to join us!

Blessings to you as we experience the beauty of autumn and prepare for winter.

Yours in Christ,

**Pastor Brian**

## For Your Calendar: Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting November 12

CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

As a Mission Outpost for Jesus Christ, we have a Mission Plan that financially supports the ministry here. Please plan to attend our **semi-annual meeting following worship on November 12<sup>th</sup>** to review and vote on the Mission Plan (budget) to support the work that God is calling us to do in the year ahead.

## Christian Education Will Be Very Busy In November And December

The month of November will be busy for the young people of Epiphany. We are beginning to get ready for the Christmas Program! The program this year will happen on December 17<sup>th</sup> during the worship time. Our plan for this year is to do a program of songs and readings, which will feature all of the Sunday School-age kids. Some of our older kids are busy preparing special music for the service. **We really want to include everybody in the program — so we need your help to get the kids to Sunday School so they may learn the songs and feel more confident and comfortable on the day of the program.**

Sunday School starts at 8:30 a.m. and in November we will begin with a short lesson and then move to the sanctuary to work with **Tim Fink** on music. In December we plan to use our entire Sunday School time to get ready for the big day. Please make every effort to attend Sunday School in the coming weeks. Don't forget there is a class for the grown-ups too — grab a cup of coffee and join the group in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for sharing your young ones with us this year. It is a delight to spend time with them and see them grow in their faith.

Your sister in Christ,

**Anne Terry**



**Anne Terry**  
Christian  
Education  
Chair

## THE BLESSINGS OF BEING A PRAYER PARTNER



**Elaine Melby**  
Prayer Partners  
Chair

This will be the third year that I have served as the Chair of the Prayer Partner effort here at Epiphany Lutheran Church. In looking back at some of the newsletter articles that I have written to introduce the Prayer Partner Program to those in the congregation who may not be participating, and as a reminder to those who are aware of the program, but who have not chosen to participate yet, I see some familiar themes. **I guess the importance of prayer in my life was instilled from a very early age by my Mom and my Dad, and my Grandmother.**

In my newsletter article in 2022, I reported that as a child I became very familiar with the phrase, "My thoughts and prayers are with you," and the fact that I thought that possibly there was some kind of magical component to that phrase, which I heard so many times from the mouths of my Mom and Dad. **When my kitty had a run-in with a vehicle and my Dad prepared its body for burial in a shoebox lined with scraps from mother's sewing box, I pleaded in my 8-year-old voice before my Dad closed the lid, "MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU," hoping for a Lazarus-like moment for my cat.** Of course, my Mom took me aside when that phrase did not restore life to my poor kitten and explained more about the phrase and told me that while we would think about our cat for a long time, and pray to the Lord and thank Him for the happiness and joy that we had as a result of sharing this part of the Lord's creation with us, prayers would not reverse the death that our kitty had suffered.

In my newsletter article of November 2021, I reported on the great influence that my Grandmother had on how I feel about the importance of prayer. When I was a child, I stayed with my Grandmother a great deal while my Mom and Dad worked. I remember her as a very loving and physically demonstrative Grandma whose hugs were legendary. When she would pray with my brothers and me, she would physically wrap her arms around us, reminding us that our arms here on earth, were the arms that Jesus was figuratively wrapping around us when we talked with Him through prayer.

Continued

## THE BLESSINGS OF BEING A PRAYER PARTNER (Continued)

Possibly there are those of you who have similar memories of how you experienced the value of prayer in your life, possibly beginning as a child, as a more mature young adult, or maybe in later years as you have grown in your Christian walk. **Maybe, you have not had the experience of being committed to a regular, deliberate prayer communication with our Lord due to several reasons.** Is there a fear that you do not know the words to say, or that you really are pressed for time? I have to laugh when I reflect on the words that my Dad would use sometimes because, looking back on it, I don't think he was as secure in his prayer competency as was my Mom and Grandmother. So when it was his time to offer prayers in the evening, my Dad would say 7 WORDS: "Jesus, thank you and help us all."

Both my Mom and my Grandmother assured me that this covered the situation and that Jesus knows what we need before we even ask. If you are concerned about being a Prayer Partner taking up too much time, my Dad's method of prayer should encourage you in that regard, because I think it works as the Lord knows who is in your heart and what is on your mind. Perhaps a few more than 7 words are appropriate, but after all, Jesus does know what is on our hearts at all times.

In 2023, there are 18 members in our Prayer Partner Program. Last year, I asked some of the participating Prayer Partners to write a short statement expressing what the Prayer Partner Program had meant to them throughout the year. Maybe hearing the responses of those members who sit down the pew from you might encourage your participation in 2024. This is what three of them said:

One of the members has stated: "I think one of the benefits of the program, in addition to the praying, is the getting to know another person in a way that might not otherwise have happened. I have had several prayer partners over the years and continue to see those people in a different way than I might otherwise have done. There is unity in sharing."

Another prayer partner reports: "Initially, I thought it would be good to pray for another person directly, not just in general. I thought it would give comfort to another person to know their concerns were being kept in prayer regularly. I felt it was something I could do for someone in the congregation. While I still feel that way, I didn't consider how much I needed prayers and how I would feel knowing that someone was lifting my concerns in prayer! It's a blessing to be prayed for and also a blessing to pray for others. Prayer Partners allows me to be doubly blessed."

And then still another Prayer Partner shared this with me: "For several years, I had resisted having a prayer partner. Unsure of the strength of my faith and my self-discipline, could I support one more responsibility? Now that I have chosen to start each day with a simple plea for that one individual, I find that the rest of my prayers come more easily. I have relaxed and realized that I don't have the job of fixing anyone. I can leave that to God."

My prayer is that the words of these three individuals who participated in the Prayer Partner program in 2022 will resonate with you to a degree that you will want to sign up for the 2024 Prayer Partner Program and receive the blessing by your participation that so many have expressed. A "Question and Answer" format follows below that explains how this works. If you are interested in becoming a Prayer Partner and being assigned someone to pray for in a random draw process, please either sign up on the designated sheet in the Narthex or contact Elaine Melby at the email address and phone number listed at the end of the "Question and Answer" sheet.

The deadline for signing up to be included in the random drawing that matches up the partners is **MONDAY, December 3rd**. The following week, the drawing for partners will take place and you will be notified of your partner. Each partner is then asked to fill out a short information sheet that tells a little about themselves personally and asks if there are any special prayer concerns. And then the prayers begin. If you have questions that are not answered on the sheet of "Questions and Answers," please call me directly to discuss your question. I hope that you will join us in 2024!

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About Prayer Partners

**Epiphany's Evangelism Committee** is again sponsoring a prayer partner opportunity for its members to pray for and be prayed for by a prayer partner for the coming year. Those participating make time to stay in touch with their prayer partners to share concerns and joys--an opportunity to expand their horizons and grow in personal prayer life. Frequently asked questions (and responses) about prayer partners follow:

**Q. What do Prayer Partners do?** Prayer Partners pray for one another on a regular basis!

**Q. How much time does it take?** You should set aside some time every day to pray for your partner, yourself and for other people. That is one way you will grow in faith, by using self-discipline. It can take as much or as little time as you decide. Prayer partners make a point of checking in with each other. Getting to know your prayer partner will help you pray for them in a more meaningful way. Some prayer partners even meet once a month for coffee or lunch.

**Q. Do I have to find my own Partner?** No. You will be matched with a partner by the Evangelism Committee. You will receive an information sheet to complete and which you may share with your Prayer Partner .

**Q. Can I request a specific person to be my Prayer Partner?** Part of the joy of Prayer Partners is getting to know someone new and growing in spirit by learning to love new people.

**Q. Do I have to buy my prayer partner gifts or take them places?** You are stepping forward in Christian love, and that is a wonderful gift for anyone who receives it. Just knowing someone prays for you is the greatest gift. This would be between you and your Prayer Partner.

**Q. Why should I be a Prayer Partner?** Being a Prayer Partner indicates you wish to grow in your personal prayer life and experience the blessing of intentional and regular prayers offered for you by a sister or brother in Christ. Being a Prayer Partner has helped those who participated in the past to become more intentional in their prayer life. It is a wonderful thing, to know someone is praying for you by name and has your prayer concerns on their mind. You also have the prospect of becoming friends with someone you might not otherwise have the opportunity to get to know better.

**If you would like to be a Prayer Partner for this coming year, please let your wish be known to Elaine Melby ([elainemelby49@gmail.com](mailto:elainemelby49@gmail.com)) or 618-525-3060, committee chair for Prayer Partners.**

## November Birthdays

Chuck Frank	November 12
Tina Logan	November 14
Kent Terry	November 15
Peter Gimse	November 18
Sarah Viernum	November 20
Trish Welch	November 20
Harlan Bohnsack	November 28
Corrie Cheatwood	November 28
Jan Womack	November 28



## Thoughts From the President

Happy November, Epiphany!

Boy, October just sort of flew by for me. Soon it will be Advent and the church will be a "hoppin"!

Church Council is still working on updating the constitution. Taking our time because we want to get it right! We've also authorized the Finance Committee to purchase our facility insurance after receiving several quotes. The Property Committee has had some cleaning and sprucing up done outside of our building. Social Ministry is working with Carbondale Interfaith Council for Spirit of Christmas and this year again collecting financial donations. Stewardship sponsored Good Shepherd Sunday with LSSI and is planning Faith Pledging timelines. WELCA is cleaning out some of the items from past bazaars, which are out in the Fellowship Hall. So much going on. Please consider participating in a committee! It feels good!

**REMEMBER:** The Semiannual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **November 12** after church. This is the one where we approve the budget for 2024. So please plan to be there. Council will be providing Fellowship, so there should be enough food to get you through it!!!

Blessings to you all, **Deb Sarvela**



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council  
President

## WELCA Bazaar Close Out

We are cleaning out the back storage area and have put out items from past bazaars for quick sale to benefit our charities this next year. These items are located on the table in the Fellowship Hall next to the Fair Trade coffee area. All of these items are Pay What You Wish! If you see a wreath and think, "I'll chip in \$1 for this!" go for it. If you see a painted rock and think, "This is for charity, I'll chip in \$50!" oh yeah!!! You can put your payment in the box on the table, put it in the offering plate, or I believe even use VANCO. Checks can be made to Epiphany with WELCA in the memo line. Among the items for sale there are many casserole cozies made by Nancy Youngblood, so you could have a little remembrance of her. Keep looking every week, there will likely be more items added. This display will be out until November 19, after which any remaining items will be packed up and donated somewhere. Thank you for your support of WELCA and our charities.

**Deb Sarvela**, Temporary Facilitator

## Change for Change Jars: Return On December 3

Epiphany's Evangelism Committee launched another year for the Change for Change Jars project at September's Global Mission Event. Epiphany members were encouraged to drop their spare change (with bills and checks) into their jars between now and the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2023.



Recognize these "ready for prime time players" from last year's Change for Change presentation? (L to R) **Olise Mandat, Linda Grace, and Trish Welch.**



How about these three "greeters" offering "free" Change For Change Jars? (L to R) **Jim (the Enforcer) Renshaw, Marcia (Need a Bigger Jar?) Anderson and Al (May I Borrow Your Credit Card?) Terry.**

As in past years, Epiphany has committed \$1,200 per year for three years for the covenant sponsorship of our ELCA missionaries serving in West Africa and Madagascar. The sponsorship level qualifies our congregation for the "Friends" giving level for Missionaries, a commitment of \$1,000 or more for two consecutive years. We then receive regular updates from the sponsored Missionaries and ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, including an annual directory. Supporting ELCA Missionaries through covenant sponsorship is one of the most powerful ways for congregations to engage in Global Missions.

**During worship on the first Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2023** children will be asked to bring the filled jars to the altar for a special blessing for Global Missions.

**Let's hear the church ring with a lot of jingles!**

## Interfaith Gathering For Peace On October 22, 2023



On Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock religious leaders from a variety of faiths met at the Carbondale Town Pavilion near the railroad tracks and Highway 51 north. The express purpose was to pray for peace in the dangerous area of the border between Israel and the Palestinian area known as Gaza. There were 14 presenters who shared prayers and led hymns and songs of peace. **Father Bob Flannery** of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church welcomed those in attendance and **Michael Langan** of Epiphany read the closing prayer that was provided by **Pastor Brian. Carolyn Langan** was one of the four designers of the afternoon programming.



## A Letter From Bishop Eaton Regarding the Middle East Situation

Dear church,

The ELCA's commitments call on us to denounce unequivocally any attacks — past, present or future — by any party that lead to civilians becoming victims. Our hearts are with all those who have been killed or injured, and with their families and friends.

With an anticipated ground invasion, the most urgent need is for an immediate cease-fire to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gazans. Our advocacy as a church continues, guided by our long accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our commitments as a church to peace, justice, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and collaboration.

In these days of continued grief and distress over the horrific attack by Hamas on Israelis and the largely indiscriminate Israeli military response affecting civilians in Gaza, we lament with all who mourn and live in fear. We believe that God is the one who makes "wars to cease to the end of the earth" (Psalm 46:9).

In Christ,

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



[Here](#) are worship resources and ways that you can be involved in advocacy. [Join](#) a prayer vigil hosted by Churches for Middle East Peace.

## Fellowship Updates

Our Fellowship hosts during the month of October included **Bonnie Wright** and **Jan Radtke, the Miller family**, the **Stewardship Committee for LSSI Good Shepherd Sunday**, **Jan Womack**, and the **Cookie Bank**. Thanks to all!

For the month of November, the only hosting commitment so far is Church Council on November 12 for the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting.

**Deb Sarvela**  
Fellowship Chair  
618-303-7178  
[dsarvela@hotmail.com](mailto:dsarvela@hotmail.com)

November 5	_____
November 12	<u>Epiphany Church Council</u>
November 19	_____
November 26	_____

## L.S.S.I. Staff Comes to Epiphany

Three members of the staff of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois were the "main attraction" on Sunday morning, October 15. During the Children's "sermon" **Molly Arnoldt** told the kids about how all the ELCA churches in Illinois combine to help children and families who are struggling to pay bills, afford food and medicine, and get a few Christmas presents... these churches supply needed funds along with help from

the government. Volunteers from churches and staff members also help prisoners get jobs when they are released back to their communities. **Kevin Copeland** helps with many of the prison related programs. **Lindsey Yordy**, who is from Marion, Illinois works with individuals and families who are interested in being "foster parents."



Molly Arnoldt



Kevin Copeland



Lindsey Yordy

Our church helped by providing contributions to LSSI exceeding \$3,500 (so far).

## 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.



JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

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*—Mel Goot, vibraphone;

Tom Edgar, piano; Phil Brown, bass; Darlene DuFay, drums—**November 12, 2023**

works by *Joe Davidian, Vince Guaraldi, Brent Hoyte, Keith Jarrett, Hank Jones, and Les McCann*

## Pastor Brian Visits With Paul and Cathy Harre

On a return trip from Springfield, Illinois, **Pastor Brian** stopped by to see and visit with **Paul and Cathy Harre** in their new residence in Highland, Illinois.

Pastor also presented them with prayer shawls made by WELCA members **Deb Sarvela** (green shawl) and **Bonnie (Owen) Wright** (purple one). Even though **Paul and Cathy** have moved from the Carbondale

area, they prefer to remain members of Epiphany Lutheran. They share many decades of membership and friendship with our congregation, and **Pastor Brian** is always ready to provide them communion when he visits. Here is their address:



Paul and Cathy Harre    220 Field Crossing Drive, Apt 47    Highland IL 62249

## Giving Practical, Sustainable Gifts

From: United Methodist Creation Justice Tips (edited):

If it's your practice to take a hostess gift to a party or special dinner, choose earth-friendly gifts that keep giving, for example: a shampoo bar, a package of wooden clothes pins to use instead of plastic "chip clips," jams or other preserves from local farmers. Sustainable presents say thank you and spark good conversation.

Just after we have said thanks for all we have, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and the blitz of holiday media tell us to buy more! Be thoughtful about how much you really need. Before you shop, check out this website in your web browser:

Green America's Directory of Sustainable Gifts, Holidays, and Special Events

Fall and winter are the seasons for planting trees. Explore your options for your home, your community, for your "neighbors" around the world whose lands need reforestation. Consider planting trees as a gift option—a memorial or in honor of someone you love—and as a sign of hope. Read Job 14:7-9.

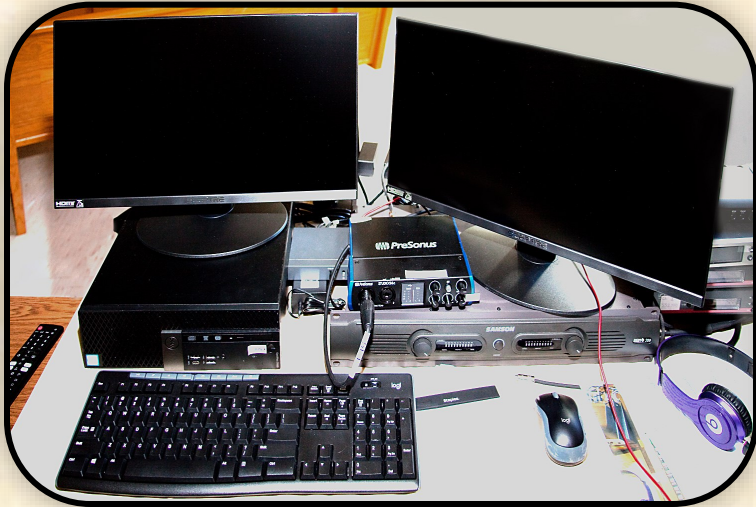
Type the word: Reforestation into your web browser. It will be quite an education.

Offered by the Green Team of Epiphany



**Roland Person**  
for the Epiphany  
Green Team

## Epiphany Has New Equipment for Zoom Productions



Have you wondered what all is located in the southeast corner in the back of the sanctuary? Well, here is an up-close view of some of the new equipment used to produce the "Zoom" worship services. It's obvious we have graduated to two video monitors and enough additional equipment that could keep our kids and grandkids busy for hours, if not days.

The Communications and IT committee is chaired by **Cory Newman**, and she would be interested in talking with anyone who might like to learn more about the operation of the equipment. (The miniature "post it notes" provide valuable information, and there are some printed instructions.) Most of the current "operators" also suggest prayer is a valuable component.

## Worship News: Hymn Selection (It's "not as easy as it might seem!")

The Hymn Selection Committee is a subcommittee of the Worship Committee, and presently membership consists of **Tim Fink, Pastor Brian, Jane Terry, and Betty Person**. We meet every 6-8 weeks or so. **I've learned that picking hymns is not as easy as it might seem!** Excluding the Psalms, the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) has 654 hymns, and the new purple supplement, All Creation Sings (ACS) another 200.

One of the helpful resources we use is Sundays and Seasons, published each year by the ELCA which, among many other things, offers hymn suggestions for Gathering (opening), Hymn of the Day (following sermon), Offering, Communion, and Sending (closing). The Hymn of the Day we try to most closely mirror the Gospel lesson or theme for that Sunday. Communion hymns generally reflect the theme and reflective mood of communion, although not exclusively. Offering is a time to introduce the congregation to something new, often contemporary. The opening and closing hymns might follow the theme of the day, but generally try to energize or focus us in the Gathering, establish the new season, or send us out into the world with inspiration.



**Tim Fink**  
Worship Committee  
Chair



For the last six months or so, members of the committee have divided the job. **Jane Terry** has selected Gathering hymns, **Betty Person** the Hymn of the Day, and I (**Tim Fink**) have chosen Sending hymns. We each come to the meeting with two choices for each of our categories, then run them by one another for thoughts and come to a consensus. Communion hymns are selected by all of us contributing ideas. **Pastor Brian** offers his thoughts and suggestions throughout.

Something we've been doing this last year is building a big spreadsheet tracking all the hymns we sing each Sunday. It makes it easy to do a search and see when the last time we sang a hymn was and, over time, how often. In the summer we request favorite hymn suggestions and we do our best to include all of them. Because the summer is the "Ordinary" season, we have a little more latitude than seasons like Advent, Lent, Easter, Christmas, etc.

Perhaps more than any denomination, the Lutheran church has a long history of hymns: German, Scandinavian, English, French, and the rest of Europe. Then there are traditional American hymns from multiple denominations, African American spirituals, and folk songs. There are contemporary worship songs as well, which have a different musical and language style than hymns. All Creation Sings (ACS) attempts to include more of these. Perhaps you've noticed how ACS uses new language--sometimes old melodies but with new lyrics.

Speaking of lyrics, we sometimes have requests to sing fewer verses. But some want all the verses, explaining that it is a disservice to not tell the complete story embedded in the lyrics. So, we attempt to split the difference with an eye on the big picture, the full service itself, its pacing, and its length. Generally, we sing three hymns, two communion hymns, and a full liturgy. That is a lot of singing, especially in comparison to other denominations. Of course, we want to honor our singing heritage, and maintain familiarity with the "old chestnuts" that tie us to our church memories, our ancestors, and our denominational history. But at the same time, it is our responsibility to add repertoire from this generation, contemporary songs that reflect our life and culture, and a worship experience that works for our congregation today.

Thank you.

**Tim Fink,**

## Pastor Brian Introduces More of the Coffey Family



**Pastor Brian** was all smiles as he introduced his mother, **Mary**, and his brother, **Eric**, to all those in attendance at the 9:30 service at Epiphany. Ever since Pastor had arrived in Carbondale, the "Coffey crew" had been trying to find a weekend that they could gather together without Pastor having a myriad of responsibilities or assignments. The third weekend in October proved to be just perfect.

They celebrated Pastor's 55th birthday a week early, and you can tell from the photo, the weather was impressive. We hope they return again ... soon!

**On October 22 Pastor Brian** welcomed two "visitors" to Epiphany, his brother, **Eric**, and his mother, **Mary**.

## Church Council Highlights

Here are the highlights from the October 10, 2023 council meeting:

- Continued to edit and discuss the constitution. Discussions will continue at the November 2023 council meeting.
- New audio/visual system for Zoom presentations has shown improvement in overall quality. Communications group continues to explore capabilities.
- Youth Ministry has outreached to families about assessing needs and interests and continues to develop a questionnaire.
- Communication committee has developed a Google document to maintain control and ease of access to council communications.
- Finance Committee is selecting insurance provider for church facility and associated assets and liabilities due to expiration of current plan.



**Patrick  
Dwyer**  
Council  
Secretary

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

## Epiphany Receives a “Thank You” From SIU



**Pam Umlauf-  
Brown**

**Pam Umlauf-Brown** recently received the following “Thank You” from **Dr. Elaine Conrad**, Coordinator for Community and Educational Programs at Southern Illinois University.

Good afternoon, **Pam**,

Thank you for the towels, sheets, and blankets that you brought by the Center For International Education office this morning for our Loan Closet. As it gets colder, we are receiving more and more requests for all! So very thoughtful of both you and the church members!

**Elaine**

**ELAINE CONRAD, Ph.D.**  
Community and Educational Programs Coordinator  
**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

## All Saints Sunday - November 5

Each year we remember those who have died within the past year. If you would like the name of a loved-one included in the prayers on November 5, send an email to [office@elcarb.org](mailto:office@elcarb.org). Please try to let the office know by this Wednesday, November 1.

**Marilyn Starkey** was our one member who died this past year (on February 13) and whose funeral was held at Epiphany on February 18<sup>th</sup>. “Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.” [ELW p. 284]

So far we have information on the following relatives of members or loved ones who died since All Saints’ Day 2022:

- Mopelola Ola** (mother of Oluwaseun Ola)
- Dorothy Wade** (godmother of Devin Miller)
- Paula Smith** (mother of Bryce Viernum)
- Everet “Gump” Goddard** (father of Lyn Bame)
- Tom Grace** (husband of Linda Grace)
- Don Benz** (brother of Jim Benz)



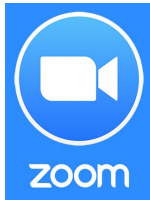
**Marilyn Starkey**

## 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2101246575?pwd=MVhOR1FOb3BkWDJrQ09sMmR3ZTcyZz09)

[pwd=MVhOR1FOb3BkWDJrQ09sMmR3ZTcyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2101246575?pwd=MVhOR1FOb3BkWDJrQ09sMmR3ZTcyZz09)



Meeting ID: 210 124 6575

Password: 1501

Phone: 312-626-6799

## Bread For the World: November 5



We are thrilled to invite you to our annual fall letter-writing campaign, where we share our passion for ending world hunger with our congressional representatives. We would love for you to join us next Sunday, November 5, in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.



We'll provide you with all the information you need, including sample letters and pre-printed copies, to help you educate and take action. Our focus areas include domestic and global nutrition, SNAP benefits, school and summer meals, Child Tax Credit, the Farm Bill, and food systems. Let's make a positive impact!

## Imagining The Church's Future in Light of Its New Testament Origins

**Zoom class in Fellowship Hall - 6:30-8:00 pm  
Thursdays, November 2 and 9**

Nearly everyone everywhere who loves the church is wondering how it can grow in vitality and mission in today's realities. Dozens of reasons have been pitched attempting to explain why so many churches are struggling to be the vibrant communities we hope for them to be.

*Wartburg Theological Seminary Associate Professor of New Testament Dr. Troy Troftgruben, will lead two more sessions with issues vital to the church's health.*

What does it mean to be the church today? In an age of transition and adaptation, we wonder about the future. To do so faithfully, we revisit our roots — we start with where we've come from.

Using insights from Dr. Troftgruben's book, *Rooted and Renewing: Imagining the Church's Future in Light of its New Testament Origins* (2019), together we will engage questions about how we have been: a church on the move, a church of true community, a church united in a divided world, a church practicing the things that matter, and a community that bears constructive witness.

We will explore New Testament texts and early traditions, putting them in dialogue with modern realities and challenges. Together, we will ask: "What does it mean to be a church that is rooted and yet renewing?"

## Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023

**Pastor Coffey** will be presenting the invocation at the 11:00 am Veterans' Recognition around the flagpole on the SIU campus. ROTC cadets will conduct a vigil at the flagpole across from Woody Hall. The wreath laying and Veterans Day ceremony will include recognition of former Epiphany member, **Lt Col Harvey Welch**.

## Spirit of Christmas Project



**Mike Langan**

This year's Spirit of Christmas fundraising drive continues in full swing, having thus far brought in a total of \$ 1,320.

Epiphany's target goal for this year is \$2,500, although in past years we have consistently surpassed our goal, which allows your generosity to be passed on to the over 800 individuals and families in the Carbondale area who benefit from the program.

Recipients include 14 different local area agencies, serving persons ranging in age from newborns to nonagenarians. Check out the poster in the Fellowship Hall to track the progress toward our goal, and we hope you've seen the expressions of impact and gratitude that have been included in recent weekly eHappenings emails.

Please write checks to Epiphany and indicate "Spirit of Christmas" on the memo line or outside the envelope. If you wish to send your support using a credit or debit card, you can use Epiphany's **GivePlus+ portal from Vanco**.

**This year's Spirit of Christmas collection runs through Sunday, November 12. Thank you!**

**Mike and Carolyn Langan**



**Carolyn Langan**



## Another Gold Medal For John!



**John Schneider** with another gold medal he can add to his collection.



In case you haven't heard, on October 19 John Schneider won a gold medal in bocce ball competition in the 2023 Illinois Special Olympics tournament held in Marion, Illinois.

For John that makes a total of 6 medals he has earned in various sporting events, four gold and two silver. Congratulations, John!

## Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

Tuesday, October 31 - Halloween - No Confirmation Class

Thursday, November 2

- 6:30 - 8:00 pm -- Adult Class in Fellowship Hall, "Rooted and Renewing" (#4 of 5)

Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday

- 8:30 am - Sunday School and Adult Class
- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)
- 10:45 am - Bread for the World - Letter Campaign

Tuesday, November 7 - Election Day - Fellowship Hall in use

- 7:00 pm - Confirmation

Thursday, November 9

- 6:30 - 8:00 pm -- Adult Class in Fellowship Hall, "Rooted and Renewing" (#5 of 5)

Saturday - November 11 Veterans' Day

11:00 am — Flag ceremony on the SIU campus at the flagpole—Pastor Coffey will offer the invocation — part of the program will be a remembrance of Lt Col Harvey Welch

Sunday, November 12

- 8:30 am - Sunday School and Adult Class
- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)
- Following Worship Service - **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**
- **5:00 Jazz Vespers**

Monday, November 13

- 3:30 pm - Evangelism Meeting

Tuesday, November 14

- 7:00 pm - Confirmation
- 7:00 pm - Council Meeting

Sunday, November 19

- 8:30 am - Sunday School and Adult Class
- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday, November 21

- 7:00 pm - Confirmation

Thursday/Friday, November 23/24 - Thanksgiving - Office closed

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King

- 8:30 am - Sunday School and Adult Class
- 9:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday, November 28

- 7:00 pm - Confirmation

# 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](mailto:JWomack473@aol.com)

## 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