



Pastor Brian Coffey

# EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Carbondale, Illinois  
January 2024



## Notes from the Pastor

Welcome to the new calendar year! Our first worship service in 2024 will be held on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. That day we will celebrate the feast of Epiphany instead of the Baptism of Our Lord because “Epiphany” is our congregation’s namesake.

The same day we will resume Christian Education for **children and adults at 8:30 a.m.** The children will continue where they left off in December. The adult class will be reviewing the **ELCA’s social message on gun-related violence and trauma\***. We will use this opportunity to read and listen to what theologians have prepared, discuss the material and, importantly, **provide feedback to the ELCA** that will be used to shape the next draft of the social message. Knowing that we have diverse opinions on this topic, I’m looking forward to our discussions.

Now that it’s 2024, I have been ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and have been serving as your Pastor for two years. This past year was certainly more comfortable than 2022, which felt like a whirlwind with me trying to keep up with all the vibrant ministries here at Epiphany! I look forward to building on what I’m learning and sharing my experiences with the other “first call” clergy in my final year of First Call Theological Education retreats this spring and fall.

Two important parts of our life together as a Mission Outpost for Jesus at 1501 W. Chautauqua are our financial resources and personal giftedness. Please prayerfully consider your **Faith Pledge for 2024** and bring it with you to worship **on January 14<sup>th</sup>** (or mail it to the church office). Please also prayerfully consider **serving on the Church Council** or as a **member of a committee**. The Nominating Committee is gathering names for Council positions that will become vacant in June. **Let me know** if there is a particular way in which you would like to serve at Epiphany in the year ahead. The Holy Spirit is at work here among us and through us in exciting ways!

May the peace of our Lord remain with us in 2024 as we seek to do His will in every aspect of our lives.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

**Pastor Brian**

In case you are wondering if I was able to get all three of my “children” together at the same time over the Christmas break, here is the evidence.

L to R: **Sarah** (28), **Matthew** (22), **Dad**, and **Emily** (24)

Photo taken in Peoria at the home that has been in the Coffey family for several generations.



\*More information about the ELCA’s social message and feedback process is located on the ELCA website: [Social Message on Gun-Related Violence and Trauma - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Gun-Trauma) (<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Gun-Trauma>)

## Thoughts From the President

### Happy New Year, Epiphany!

I hope everyone had a blessed Advent/Christmas. My daughter, **Kristin**, spent Christmas with me in Carbondale, and I also was able to spend some time with her fiancé, **Zak**. But I am also having an “extended” Christmas. Since my granddaughter, **Vivienne**, was at her other grandparents’ home in California with her mommy and daddy this Christmas, I am going to Oklahoma at the beginning of January. I’m even planning to leave my Christmas decorations up into January (very atypical for me!).

Church Council finalized the constitution updates which will be sent to the Synod for review. We also have a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee set up. If someone from the Nominating Committee approaches you about serving on Council, please consider it! It can be quite rewarding.

The Altar Guild did a great job decorating for Advent and Christmas, thanks to **Laurel Fleming** for organizing! The Sunday School kids did a lovely presentation of the Christmas Story based on Luke on December 17, thanks to the Christian Education Committee with **Anne Terry, Jan Womack, Tim Fink, Peter Gimse, Elaine Melby**, and I’m sure there were others!!!

The Evangelism Committee, with the help of other committees, sent out a targeted mailing to the surrounding community which brought in some attendees to our Advent and Christmas services. The Communication Committee continues to improve our streaming capabilities for those who cannot make it to Sunday services, and they’ve involved some of the youth in slide operations.

A few members of WELCA went to Peachbarn one December afternoon to hear **Dorothy McDaniel** and her husband, **Kent**, perform. WELCA is also planning a brown bag lunch in January. This is only a sampling of what has been happening at Epiphany.

Blessings to you all in 2024,

**Deb Sarvela**



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council President



**Dorothy and Kent McDaniel** provided the afternoon entertainment at the Peachbarn Winery and Café in Alto Pass.



WELCA members in attendance on December 7 included **Jane Terry, Anne Terry, Jan Womack**, and **Deb Sarvela**.

## “Thank You”

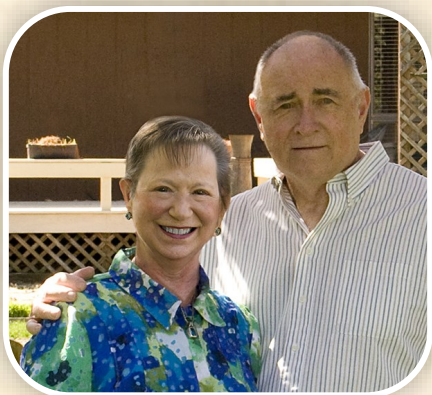
*Thanks to each and every one who gave me cards, baked goods, gifts and contributed to the cash gift which I received from the congregation after worship on Christmas Eve.*

*Your love and appreciation towards me has been extremely generous since before I arrived two years ago. I feel supported and encouraged by your thoughtfulness."*

*Pastor Brian*

## Pastor Brian: News From Skip Starkey

I recently texted **Skip Starkey** to let him know that I am praying for him and his family as they face their first Christmas without Marilyn. Skip responded, "We are doing well and appreciate [the congregation's] support this past year." Skip was planning to fly out to Idaho and spend Christmas with **Sarah** and her husband, **Kelly Ferguson**.



**Marilyn and Skip Starkey** celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary April 2022.

## WELCA: Reserve the Date— Thursday, 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

**Julie Bohnsack** cell 618 -534-4618

**Bonnie Wright** cell 618-967-1154

[business@elcarb.org](mailto:business@elcarb.org)

[jaweilbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:jaweilbrenner@gmail.com)

[bonniewright288@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewright288@gmail.com)



Image by [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

## Judge Christy Solverson: January Speaker For Learning In Retirement



**Judge Christy Solverson**

**Judge Christy Solverson, Presiding Circuit Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, will speak at the January 17 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR).** She will discuss the new crime bill in Illinois which, among other things, eliminates cash bail. The presentation, held at **Grace United Methodist Church**, is free and open to the public. **A social hour with light refreshments starts at 9:30 am, with the presentation following at 10:30 am.**

Three new SILIR classes (Vocal Music, Mesopotamia, and Women In and Around Politics) will be offered starting January 8, 2024. Each of these classes will be held at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir>, or email [silir@siu.edu](mailto:silir@siu.edu), or call Events and Outreach at 618-536-7751.

Grace United Methodist Church  
220 North Tower Road, Carbondale



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

Meeting ID: 210 124 6575  
Password: 1501  
Phone: 312-626-6799



# “Oh What A Glorious Night!”



Front Row: **Max Miller, Gwen Dwyer, and Margaret Dwyer** Middle Row: **Simon Schurz, Matilda Miller, Addie Miller, Isla Griffith, Nora Geiselman, and Miranda Smith** Back Row: **Cooper Smith, Aiden Miller, Tim Fink (Director), and Blake Kocher**

This year's Christmas Program on December 17 was directed by **Tim Fink**.

## We Welcome a Visitor From Madagascar



For many years our congregation has helped support ELCA ministry programs in Madagascar. Recently **Pastor Coffey** invited **Domoina** to our church since she is originally from Madagascar and has just earned her doctoral degree in chemistry from SIU.

Congratulations, **Domoina**, and thank you for visiting Epiphany and sharing information about your home country.



## “Suggestions For Next Year’s Gift Giving” — From the Green Team

Here are a few suggestions provided by the New York Times

December 19, 2023 edition

“Household garbage tends to increase around 25 percent in the weeks between Christmas and New Year’s Day in the United States, [according to the Environmental Protection Agency](#). The same is true [in Canada](#) and other countries....

“While we often think of the world’s environmental problems as being primarily about the toll of fossil fuels on the climate, they are also about the burden created by the absolute tonnage of stuff we buy and consume — the packaging, the toys, the fast fashion, which are often made with petroleum byproducts, and moved around the world by burning fossil fuels. And that’s especially true of the holiday frenzy of presents and parties....

“We can, of course, do a lot better: Buying well-made, durable goods, [giving experiences instead of objects](#), minimizing food waste and [composting the leftovers](#).”

**May we, the Green Team, especially suggest the “experiences instead of objects” idea for the adults on your list next year. This could be concert tickets, a trip, a museum, an adventure of some kind that brings you and them together. It could work for younger folks as well.**

## Pastor Brian (and the Rotary Club) Help the Salvation Army



Each year the Salvation Army looks to the community service clubs to help raise funds for folks in need. Throughout the year the Salvation Army provides food, shelter, and financial help with utility assistance.

**Pastor Brian** responded to the call for volunteers from his Carbondale Rotary Club and got an assignment as a bell ringer at the Schnucks store.

Schnucks has been one of the busiest and best locations in the area for contributions to the Salvation Army. The volunteers also appreciate that the store management at Schnucks allows them to stay in the warm entry area. **Pastor Brian** seems to have good information and is making good friends in Carbondale!

Hymn Festival On Sunday, February 11, 2024

# Hymn FESTIVAL



Owen Tellinghuisen

Zion United Church of Christ  
930 West Cherry, Marion, IL  
2/11/24, 3 p.m.

The public is invited to a Hymn Festival to celebrate the church year. The Festival will feature an award-winning organist, **Owen Tellinghuisen**. Owen won the Regional AGO Quimby Award this year and will be leading the Festival. **The host church, Zion United Church of Christ welcomes all and will provide a light supper after the Festival**, which is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). The mission of the AGO is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Illinois-Chapter-of-The-American-Guild-of-Organists>.

For more information about this event, contact **Jane Otte** at [ottejane@gmail.com](mailto:ottejane@gmail.com).

## Countdown To Faith Pledge Sunday

Many thanks to those of you who have received your Faith Pledge envelopes from this past year and are now considering your faith pledge for the upcoming year, 2024.

In this coming week, your contribution to Epiphany and its ministries will be finalized, and you will receive a copy of what is known about your offerings either in church on January 7 or in the mail in the days following.

That information will let you know how your offering to the Lord through Epiphany in 2023 matched your earlier faith pledge for this past year and may guide your decision for 2024.

**Our Faith Pledge Sunday will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.** Please bring your sealed Faith Pledge card for 2024 to the worship service that morning. There will be a special time to bring your sealed card to the chancel and dedicate your intention to the Lord.

If you cannot worship with us on January 14<sup>th</sup>, please bring your sealed pledge card with you when you return and place it in the offering plate at that time or mail it to the church office.

All sealed Faith Pledge cards will be kept secure until the Faith Pledge effort for 2025.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates your consideration of “your treasure, your time, and your talent.”

In Christ –

**Epiphany’s Stewardship Committee**

**JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024**

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

# Jazz Vespers

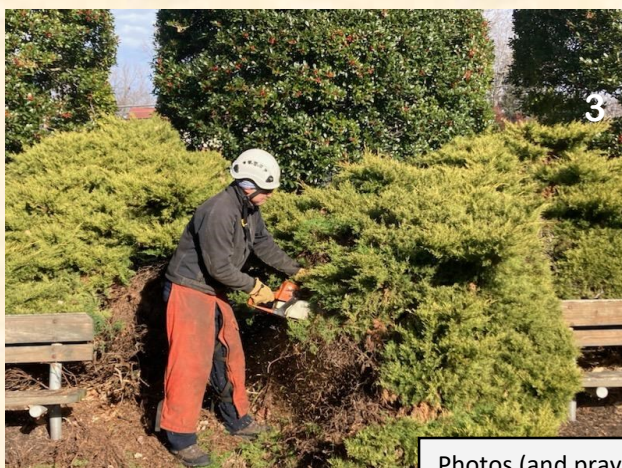
an Evening Prayer Service led by **Pastor Brian Coffey**  
with members and guests of the **New Arts Jazztet**—Bob Allison, trumpet; Mel Goot, piano;  
Phil Brown, bass; Jimmy Beers, drums; Carlyn Zimmermann, voice—**January 14, 2024**

works by **Victor Feldman, Russ Ferrante, Tom Harrell, Harold Land, Dennis Luxion, and Cedar Walton**



## Property Committee Chair Hard At Work

The Northwest Memorial Garden in memory of Trish Welch's sister, Sheila Hamman (1939-1998) received a needed clean-up with the removal of an overgrown juniper bush that was taking over both of the benches. Thank you to Property Committee Chair, **Patrick Seger** for removing it using professional equipment and safety gear. Don't worry. We think the juniper bush will make a comeback



Photos (and prayers) supplied by Pastor Brian.

## Fellowship Updates

Our Fellowship hosts during the month of December included the **Dwyer Family, Christian Education, Beth Bivens, Olise Mandat**, and other congregation members for Christmas Eve, and the **Cookie Bank**.

As of the writing of this update, there are no hosts for the month of January. HELP!!!

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



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council  
President

# Carbondale Warming Center — A Thank You

These photos are from a FaceBook post thanking the Spirit of Christmas project for helping to provide some Christmas to people served by the Carbondale Warming Center. We thought seeing them might bring some further holiday cheer to those who generously donated money, but still may miss the shopping and watching all the gift donations collecting at church before transfer to the distribution center.



Mike Langan

And remember, too, that the Warming Center is just one of fourteen local area agencies that received funds from Spirit of Christmas, so imagine these pictures x 14!

So ... thank you, members and friends of Epiphany! Your gifts and contributions have made it a much warmer Christmas for many folks.



Carolyn Langan

Mike & Carolyn



## (A Few) January Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

**Sunday, December 31** – Christmas 1 – Pastor Brian  
9:30 am - Worship (in person and Zoom)

**Monday, January 1** – New Year's Day Church office closed.

**Sunday, January 7** —8:30 – Christian Education – Children and Adults  
9:30 – Worship (in person and Zoom)



## January Birthdays

Evelyn Anderson	January 1
Tim Fink	January 2
Connie Pavlovich	January 2
Cathy Harre	January 4
Addie Terry	January 5
Patrick Dwyer	January 6
Beth Bivens	January 8



David Melby	January 12
Gwen Dwyer	January 20
Jim Benz	January 26
Regan Eigenrauch	January 29
Monica Hanson	January 30
Connor Gulbrandsen	January 31

# 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