



# EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Carbondale, Illinois  
February 2024



Pastor Brian Coffey

## Notes from the Pastor

The new calendar year is moving steadily along and with it the predictable flow of the liturgical cycle of the church year. We are in Year B (Gospel of Mark), and while I preached once per month on Sundays during Internship in Year B, preaching weekly provides many new discoveries along the way! This is especially true in the year of Mark because the brevity of Mark's text forces the lectionary to borrow almost equally as much text from the Gospel of John.

February wraps up the Time after Epiphany with the Transfiguration of Our Lord on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Three days later, Ash Wednesday kicks off the solemn and reflective season of Lent. **Please see more details at the bottom of this page and on page 3 concerning Ash Wednesday and Lenten evening services and meals.**

As we did with Advent and Christmas, the Evangelism Committee in cooperation with the Communications Committee and office staff, developed a colorful, oversized postcard which will be mailed to 2,500 households in 5 postal zones near Epiphany. The postcard lists all of our worship times and activities from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. As before, we will have a batch of postcards available at church for you to share with neighbors and businesses. A corresponding outdoor banner will also advertise our Wednesdays in Lent.

Please take time to read the newsletter and familiarize yourself with the many opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation to enrich yourself and others. **February offers a way for your voice to be heard as part of the ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. See pages 16 and 17.** Reflective conversation about applying scripture to daily life, particularly within the Lutheran theological tradition, will begin with a new series of adult education classes from The Crossings Community (**see page 15**) on Sunday mornings at 8:30.

Having been a resident of Carbondale for two years, I received my first jury summons this month. My period of potential service is from Feb. 13 – 27. If I should be called to serve, we will make the necessary adjustments in the office to provide adequate ministry coverage in my absence.

Blessings to you as we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the long season of Lent. I look forward to this shift in focus and sharing the journey with you as we await the joy of Easter.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ, **Pastor Brian**

## A Note from Pastor Brian About Lent

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>. **Before the service will be a meal prepared by the men of the church starting at 5:45 p.m. (coordinated by Tim Fink of the Worship Committee).** The purpose of the meal is not only for fellowship but also to raise funds for the two ELCA seminaries we support annually, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and the Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) in Dubuque, Iowa. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for each seminary.

Light meals will also be served on the five Wednesday evenings of Lent at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meals each week. Typically soup and bread are served, but any favorite dish that you would like to prepare and share would be welcome! Monetary donations may be made for the meals, which will contribute to our annual financial support of Good Samaritan Ministries. The Wednesday evening meals will be coordinated by **Peter Gimse** of the Social Ministry Committee.

To sign up and help with the meals, please contact **Peter Gimse at 618-303-9579**

## Thoughts From the President

Greetings, Epiphanites!

And just like that, it's Lent (well, almost!)

The Council sent our church constitution to the Synod, they made a couple of minor adjustments, and then asked us to present it to the congregation for approval before we return it to them. Soooo, you've seen E-happenings about it, and a copy on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, if you need your own hardcopy, just ask. Please review it because there will be a special meeting immediately following the Palm/Passion Sunday Service (March 24) to ratify the constitution!!!



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council President

The Auditing Committee has done its stuff and Epiphany has passed its audit. The Nominating Committee is working diligently to get a slate of new council members for the Annual (May/June) Meeting. Stewardship has collected faith pledges. Evangelism is preparing to send out another targeted mailing. The Finance Committee met to make recommendations for some of the Memorial Contributions. (Hopefully by Easter we will have a new processional cross!)

The Worship Committee is planning a "Fat Tuesday but it's on Ash Wednesday" meal beginning at 5:45 pm before the Ash Wednesday Service, with the men cooking (it IS Valentine's Day after all) and hopefully the women making donations toward our Seminaries. WELCA has begun having regular meetings again and they are open to anyone with a connection to Epiphany!

Have you noticed that the Fellowship Hall door is being locked when services begin? This is a safety precaution. Many other things are going on. Please read your E-happenings and monthly newsletters, and check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall! And I know you just love hearing me say this, but consider joining a committee! You might even enjoy it!!!

Lenten blessings to you all,

**Deb Sarvela**

## February Birthdays

<b>Ian Langan</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Wayne Griffith</b>	<b>February 20</b>
<b>Devin Miller, Jr</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Marcia Anderson</b>	<b>February 22</b>
<b>Betty Dunbar</b>	<b>February 4</b>	<b>Kari (Mandat) Finck</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Abigail Lee-Person</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>Paul Harre</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Kathy Sime</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<b>Lynn Smith</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>Rob Gulbrandsen</b>	<b>February 13</b>		



## Worship News

We're coming up to another busy liturgical season: Lent-Holy Week-Easter. So get your new 2024 calendars out! Lots of dates and times to write down.

Like Advent, we will have Wednesday evening suppers and service, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Feb 14. Yes, Valentine's Day! **And the men of the church are cooking dinner and doing the dishes.** Ladies, you are bringing your checkbooks. This isn't just to say "I love you," but it's a fundraiser sponsored by the Worship Committee which is charged with raising money for two of our seminaries. This is a free-will offering, but because it is Lent, we will use a little guilt to increase the contributions. Think of it as resurrecting indulgences!

Speaking of resurrection, this meal is resurrecting something done at Epiphany for years. It was originally a "Fat Tuesday" meal, but one day before the Ash Wednesday service. The old tradition, particularly in the southern United States, was to consume a lot of calories and fat before going into the sparse Lenten season. So, **Walt Rehwaldt** would rally the men and make pancakes! Because we're trying to raise funds, we're upping the game: this year the menu is roast ham with pineapple sauce, potatoes au gratin, vegetables (TBD because guys have trouble thinking about this), dessert, and drinks. For vegetarians, we will have macaroni and cheese. The schedule for this and the remaining season of Lent-Easter is as follows:

- Feb 14, **"Fat Tuesday" Ham Dinner**, 5:45: Dinner prepared, served and cleaned up by the men. Free will offering to raise money for seminaries. Women bring your checkbooks.
- Feb 14, **Ash Wednesday Service**, 7:00 PM: Full service with the distribution of ashes, but no communion.
- Feb 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, 20 (Wednesdays) **Lenten Soup Supper and Service**: 6:00 supper, 7:00 short, reflective service.
- Mar 28, **Maundy Thursday Service**, 7:00 PM: Service with Communion
- Mar 29, **Good Friday Service**, 7:00 PM
- Mar 31, **Easter Service**, 9:30 PM: Service with Communion followed by Lite Easter brunch and egg hunt to follow service.

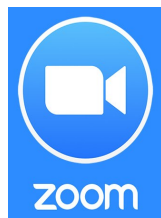
Thank you,

**Tim Fink**



**Tim Fink**  
Worship  
Committee  
Chair

## 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





## Christian Education

We are continuing to have fun and learn a lot in our Sunday School class! The children are enjoying reading from the Bible and are beginning to make connections to worship. Thank you, **Pastor Brian**, for helping the kids reflect on our time together and explain what we have learned. We also want to thank **Tim Fink** for continuing our music education. We are learning a new song that we hope to share in worship sometime soon.

The confirmation students are continuing their studies in the Bible. This spring we will focus mainly on the New Testament and the stories and teachings of Jesus. We are planning with families for the confirmation of two 8<sup>th</sup> graders, **Corrie Cheatwood** and **Aiden Andert**. More to come on this soon!

In February we will begin a new tradition at Epiphany by “burying the Alleluias” on Transfiguration Sunday (February 11). I hope all the children will plan to come to Sunday School and worship that day so they can participate in this activity. It will have a BIG tie-in to Easter morning so please plan to come!

Have a wonderful month!

In Christ,

**Anne Terry**



**Anne Terry**  
Christian  
Education Chair

## Youth Gathering — July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans

This year Epiphany Lutheran Church will be attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. We have not had a tradition of sending youth to this event, so we are very excited to begin a (hopefully) new tradition this year.

We have one student who has expressed interest in the event. **Olivia Terry** will be attending, along with **Anne Terry** and **Pastor Brian** as adult leaders. Olivia is excited about this opportunity and is thankful for the support of this congregation to help get her there.

The Church Council voted in January to provide financial support for both Olivia and Anne Terry to attend the event. To say thank you and to begin our exploration of our host city of New Orleans, Olivia and Anne will host Fellowship on February 11. The theme will be New Orleans’ most famous celebration—Mardi Gras! Information on the gathering will be provided as well as some fun New Orleans treats. Please join us in support of Olivia.

In the coming months, we will share a little more about Olivia and our preparations for the gathering.

In Christ,

**Anne Terry**



In 2012 New Orleans was the host city for the ELCA Youth Gathering that included 33,309 youth and chaperones. They spent some of their time that year helping residents recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

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



Judge Christy Solverson

Editor's note: If this information looks more than slightly familiar, it's all because **Judge Solverson** was visiting her folks in Florida last month and her flight north was canceled because her destination airport was snowed in. So ... she had to cancel her appearance with us, but she will be appearing (weather permitting) at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 21. Thank you, **Judge Solverson**!

**Judge Christy Solverson, Presiding Circuit Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, will speak at the February 21 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.**

Grace United Methodist Church  
220 North Tower Road, Carbondale



## Lenten Midweek Worship 2024

Ash Wednesday worship will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (following a meal at 5:45 p.m.). The service will use the ELW liturgy for the occasion and will feature the Imposition of Ashes (no Holy Communion).

For the next five Wednesday evenings (Feb. 21, 28; Mar. 6, 13, 20), worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. using the ELW Evening Prayer format (following a light meal at 6:00 p.m.).

Given the solemnity of the Lenten season, the services will be quiet with appropriate hymnody. The theme of the season will be "Lament", and there will be no homily or reflection to "interrupt" the flow. The intent is to provide a personal space for contemplation within the context of Christian community.

Here is the list of themes by week

- Week One: What is Lament?
- Week Two: "Little" Laments
- Week Three: Laments from the Depths
- Week Four: Individual Lament
- Week Five: Communal Lament



## Welcome, New Members — Candy and Miranda!

**Miranda Smith** became a new member when she was baptized by **Pastor Brian** on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. She also took her first communion that Sunday morning. Her grandmother, **Candy Smith**, was received as a new member on January 9, 2024, by official council action through Affirmation of Baptism. We welcome **Miranda and Candy** and pray the Lord will bless them as they discover through His Word God's infinite love and wonderful promises.



## 2023 Financial Results Update



**Kevin Bame**  
Treasurer

Epiphany Lutheran Church is blessed with stable finances thanks to the generous gifts of many members and friends. This enables us to accomplish much ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, which other congregations find hard to do.

At the end of 2023, several things made it possible for us to have money on hand that will give the church council and the congregation additional opportunities for various ministries. The total of these funds is \$44,812. They became available because of underspending in some budget areas in 2023, a significant individual donation specifically for grounds and landscaping, and investing in brokered CDs that delivered higher interest earnings.

\$23,519 of the \$44,812 was transferred per the congregation's constitution to the Capital Improvement / Maintenance Fund. The balance was invested and will be held in reserves for emerging ministry opportunities and needs.

Also of note, the Audit Committee completed their review of the 2023 financial statements and concluded that the financial statements were fairly presented, in all material respects. Copies of the audit opinion and financial statements are available in the business manager's office. On the next page you will find the 2023 income statement compared with the 2023 budget.

Thanks be to God for these blessings!

continued 

# Income Statement With Budget Comparison for 2023

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

### Income Statement with Budget Comparison

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Actual	Annual Budget
<b>Income:</b>		
Contributions	\$267,257	\$275,000
Designated gifts	16,524	
Designated gifts to be remitted to external organizations	17,965	
Other income	943	300
Interest earnings	<u>5,808</u>	<u>5,200</u>
	<u>308,497</u>	<u>280,500</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
ELCA and Synod 20% commitment	53,451	55,000
Administrative expenses	10,328	14,500
Property expense	37,149	37,710
Committee expenses	11,283	13,000
Payroll and benefits	127,104	125,000
Other expenses		750
Nonbudget expenses funded by designated gifts	6,405	
Remittance of designated gifts to external organizations	<u>17,965</u>	
	<u>263,685</u>	<u>245,960</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u><u>\$44,812</u></u>	<u><u>\$34,540</u></u>

## A Letter From our Bishop, Greg Busboom

# C/SIS Welcomes New Director for Evangelical Mission



I am more than excited to announce that Deacon Jason Fisher has been called to serve as our new full-time Director for Evangelical Mission beginning March 4.

Deacon Fisher is well-known in our synod, having grown up at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Champaign where he has served as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry since 2007. In addition, over the years Deacon Fisher has been a key leader in our synod youth ministries, Leadership Lab, and Crossways Confirmation Camp.

Prior to returning to Good Shepherd in Champaign, Deacon Fisher served as the Youth and Education Director at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Rockford. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Youth Ministries from Greenville College and his Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Lenoir-Rhyne University. Deacon Fisher is a lover of board games and uses board games in his ministry to build and grow relationships with others. He shares that his personal ministry statement comes from Isaiah 50:4 — "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens — wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught."

Deacon Fisher is married to Samantha who works as the Education Assistant for Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. They have two teenage sons: Zechariah (a junior) and Silas (a sophomore).

We look forward to welcoming Deacon Fisher to his new role as he helps us all listen more closely to how God's Spirit is calling our synod to share the good news of Jesus with our neighbors both in our local communities and beyond!

Leading in HOPE †,  
Bishop Busboom



## Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA)



**Bonnie Wright**  
President  
WELCA

The WELCA sisters met in the fellowship Hall on January 11th and most were carrying a brown bag filled with a delicious lunch. **Julie Bohnsack** brought pink cookies from Larry's to share and drinks, ice, and paper supplies were also provided.

We discussed that a noon meeting was a good time to meet as working women could possibly come during lunch hour. We plan to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:45 am.

Our activities have not been officially planned for the year but we're hoping to make the meetings shorter and the hospitality longer. **Julie Bohnsack** suggested having games at the end of our next meeting. She's asking everyone to bring a Scrabble game or any other board game on February 22nd at 11:45.

Officers for the year are:

President: **Bonnie Wright**  
Vice President: **Julie Bohnsack**  
Treasurer: **Olise Mandat**  
Secretary: Open

**WELCA is open to all women in our congregation.** It's a way of gathering with other Christian women with interest in our community and church. We welcome all to attend and share our love. **Please feel free to contact Bonnie Wright at 618-967-1154 with any questions or concerns.**

**WELCA also has an active yarn group.** It meets on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10 am in the fellowship area. Anyone interested in learning to knit or crochet is welcome too. We are making prayer shawls and would appreciate any help.

## More news: From Madagascar

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

Now here is some more news from **Domoina**, who has returned to her home country and shared an email and some photos with **Pastor Brian**.

"Our new friend, **Domoina**, lives in the city of Antananarivo, which is further North than where our Companion Synods are located. However, she contacted a Lutheran pastor (not sure what "brand" of Lutheran) in a rural area 4 km from her parents' home. The pastor and his wife walked with their child from their rural home to Domoina's (Presbyterian) parents' home to visit with them – all because of Domoina meeting us and wanting to share greetings from one Lutheran congregation to another. Domoina's parents drove them back home and took the attached pictures. (On the next page)

"Since this isn't the actual geographic area or church we support in Madagascar, I don't want to confuse our folks. However, I think the personal touch of these pictures might resonate with people since they met Domoina. She says that the church pictured is typical of rural churches around Antananarivo."

**Pastor Brian**



**Domoina and Pastor Brian**

continued

## More news: From Madagascar (Continued)



When Domoina returned home to Madagascar, she searched out a Lutheran pastor who lived just 4 kilometers from her parents. He and his family walked over to meet Domoina and her folks. Later they were given a ride back to their community and photos were taken and exchanged including images of their Lutheran church.



## Some Green Team Suggestions

Selected from United Methodist Creation Justice Tips:

“Jesus said the first of the Greatest Commandments (Luke 10:25-28) is to **love God**. How? We love the Creator by loving Creation, by caring for what God has blessed us with as stewards. Look at nature, all that surrounds us, as a gift to be cherished. **Give thanks and follow through with actions** that show your love of God.

“Jesus said the Second of the Greatest Commandments is to **love our neighbor**. He then told the story of the Good Samaritan, who cared for an injured traveler (Luke 10:25-37). Our neighbors near and far suffer from environmental injustice. Work to fix the “road”—the systems that perpetuate harm to those with few resources. **Join or support organizations that love your neighbor** by working for creation justice.

“Jesus said as part of the Greatest Commandment that we are to love our neighbor as we **love ourselves** (Luke 10:25-28). We love ourselves by taking care of ourselves for the long haul. **Live a sustainable lifestyle**. Living sustainably makes the world better for ourselves and everyone else.

Jesus said we are to **love our enemies** (Matthew 5:43-45). He followed that statement with “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Luke 6:27-37). Recognize the differences in tactics of hate versus strategies of accountability and reconciliation. **Speak up for change. Show a better way.**”

**One example, from several:**

“**Love the earth**. Stop using Styrofoam. This single-use “convenience” has its raw materials extracted from the earth, leaches harmful chemicals into hot food or drink, adds to the volume of methane from landfills, and exposes production workers to permanent nervous system damage. **Switch to reusable containers** for food and drink.”

Epiphany is committed to using paper rather than Styrofoam and plastic in our fellowship activities. Might you do the same at home and places where you have influence?

**From the Green Team folks**



## It's February, But Are You Ready For Easter Baskets?

### “BOOK IN A BASKET” PROJECT

With Lent just “around the corner” and Easter not much farther “down the road,” the thoughts of some of us jump to our long-running Easter basket project for the children who are involved in LSSI’s Children’s Community Services, especially their Foster Care Services and Intact Family Services through the Marion office. For many years now, Epiphany, sometimes together with other congregations in our Southern Conference, has put together as many as a hundred Easter baskets which include a book, an Easter-themed bookmark, a small stuffed animal, a “toy” (often bubbles, crayons, or sidewalk chalk), and a reasonable amount of candy!

The books are designated for pre-school, primary, intermediate, middle school, and high school readers. **Mike and Carolyn Langan** have already written a Thrivent Action Team grant, which is generally used for the pricier books, but Walmart and other stores often have books on sale before Easter. Rural King used to have small stuffed bunnies, “dollar stores” often have the suggested toys, as well as candies. Baskets and the plastic wraps for the finished baskets can also be found reasonably in some grocery and dollar stores.

The Stewardship Committee will be collecting baskets and the items for the baskets from now until two weeks before Easter. In this early stage, one of the tables under the Fellowship Hall windows will be the gathering place! On the Sunday before Palm Sunday, we will have a congregation-wide Easter basket assembly during our Fellowship time after worship.

Please be on the lookout for baskets, books, and items to fill and secure these Easter baskets for the children in LSSI’s programs.

Gratefully, **Lynn Smith and Pam Umlauf-Brown**, for the Stewardship Committee



This photo from our Epiphany “archives” is from last year when folks (young and a little bit older) assembled Easter baskets during the social hour on March 26, 2023— two weeks before Easter. **Addie Miller** and **Jim Benz** were among the first to go through the assembly line and demonstrate how a completed basket should look.

This is just a few of the baskets assembled for the children who are involved in LSSI’s Children’s Community Services, especially their Foster Care Services and Intact Family Services through the Marion office.

Some of the helpers who arranged and then loaded up Easter baskets are (L to R) **John Schneider, Mike Langan, Lynn Smith, Oluwaseun Ola, and Jim Benz.**





## Worship News: Technology



**Tim Fink**  
Worship  
Committee  
Chair

It was said more than once by the pundits on TV, “COVID won’t change anything, it will just make everything go faster where it is already going.” It certainly launched Epiphany’s live-streaming of services. It wasn’t even mentioned before COVID.

We’ve gone through quite a bit of technology with the church since I joined in the mid-1990s. At each addition there has been resistance, then adaptation and appreciation. I imagine that was the case when they went from candles to electric lights in the great cathedrals.

The first technical addition I recall was the use of individual audio transmitters for the hearing impaired-- it worked on a radio frequency. We used that because many didn’t want microphones or amplification in the church. Eventually, there was enough frustration with the transmitters that we went to PCC “floor” mics. At that time, some didn’t want to see the mics or hear speakers, or for it to sound “amplified.” They wanted to preserve the natural acoustic sound of the church. So, white, flat mics were hidden on the altar and lectern, and the speakers were hidden behind a cloth screen within the altar. We struggled with making it loud enough to assist the hearing impaired, but not so much that others noticed the amplification. The congregation adapted to that, but eventually wanted more amplification with less feedback, and mobility for the pastor and lay assistant. So, we went to an inexpensive 4-channel analog system with wireless mics (first over the ear then lapel mics) and the speakers mounted on the walls—small, white domestic speakers because some didn’t want to see or be aware of them. Then COVID hit, and this system wasn’t enough because we needed more inputs and mics to fix the sound for the Zoom streaming. Today we have a 16-channel digital system with pre-sets and too many features to mention.

We’ve also gone through a few camera systems (and camera mics). The first was the in-house system that went to the nursery, which didn’t last long. Then with streaming, we kept trying to improve the video quality and went through a couple of cameras. Presently we have a wonderful camera that moves remotely to multiple pre-sets, has a 30X zooming strength, and excellent clarity and resolution.

Finally, when a member of the congregation offered to pay for a big screen, we added it. Some regretted to see this addition, but most have appreciated it.

So, thanks to COVID, we went in the same direction we were already going but faster. Not faster than other ELCA congregations in southern Illinois or nationally, but fast for us. At every addition, there has been resistance AND appreciation.

One more thing. All this equipment has now been moved to the back of the sanctuary, and a table is being built to accommodate it. But this equipment takes 3 operators: someone to run sound, someone to run Zoom, and another to run the slides for the screen. Along with the Lay Assistant, Greeters, Ushers, Acolyte, and pianist, there is a small army at work every Sunday. We need help! It is not difficult to learn, especially the slides. Please consider signing up.

**Tim Fink**

## A Quick Look At Church Attendance (It’s Going Up)

Average Worship Attendance for the **Year 2022:**

**Sundays:** In building (56) + Zoom (13) = **69**

**Jazz Vespers = 20**

Average Worship Attendance for the **Year 2023:**

**Sundays:** In building (63) + Zoom (11) = **73**

**Jazz Vespers = 23**

## Council Highlights — January 9, 2024

Here are the highlights from January 9, 2024 council meeting:

- Deb Sarvela communicated minor edits from Synod to finalize the constitution. Congregation will be given at least 30 days to review. The vote on the constitution will occur on Palm Sunday, March 24.
- The Eclipse Task Force is disbanded unless new opportunities are presented to the congregation.
- **Candy Smith** was received as a member through Affirmation of Baptism.
- Financial resources will be provided for one youth and one chaperone to attend the National Youth Gathering in 2024.
- Discussion on ensuring proper removal of ice and snow on facility grounds during the winter season.



**Patrick Dwyer**  
Council Secretary

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

## Global Missions Support — 2023 Results

The Evangelism Committee and Global Missions subcommittee thank you for your generous support to Global Missions during 2023. As the result of several activities such as the Advent meals, we were able to send **\$1,200** to the ELCA to support our missionaries, **Willie and Anne Langdji**, as well as **\$1,067** to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod for ongoing relief to our Companion Synods in Madagascar.

## Congregational Meeting on March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Congregational vote to immediately follow the Palm Sunday service.

The Epiphany Constitution, presented to you by your Congregation Council, has been aligned with the ELCA Model Constitution and updated to reflect our current practices.

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on March 24, 2024, immediately following the Palm Sunday service, for the Congregation to approve this document. Please review the document that **Olise Mandat** attached to the eHappenings this past week ([hardcopies upon request](#)) and be ready to vote at the Special Meeting.

Address any comments, clarifications or questions to [Deb Sarvela](#). (For your information, sections with an asterisk (\*) are required.)

**Deb Sarvela**, Council President

## After 85 Years “Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service” Has Changed Its Name

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** is now **Global Refuge**, a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. “For 85 years, we have welcomed more than 750,000 of those seeking refuge from around the globe, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis. We walk alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services for asylum seekers, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children.”

If you want more information, go to their new website: [www.globalrefuge.org](http://www.globalrefuge.org)

“New name, same mission! LIRS is becoming Global Refuge.”

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).



## Sunday Morning Adult Education – February / March

The adult class that meets at 8:30 on Sunday mornings before worship covered several topics last “semester” including a study of the book of Acts, studying the preliminary ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith, and reviewing the ELCA Draft Social Message on Gun-Related Violence and Trauma.

**In February and March, we will use the “Faith Seeking Understanding” series from The Crossings Community.** This is a series of brief 4 to 5-minute videos with “before and after” questions on topics designed to help us reflect on our daily lives from a Biblical perspective. There are 10 brief videos, which are independent of one another, so you may drop in on any session. We have a stable mix of 10-12 people week-to-week and we would welcome you joining us to share your perspectives as well as some coffee!.

**Pastor Brian**



## JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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

# Jazz Vespers

an Evening Prayer Service led by **Pastor Brian Coffey**

with members of the **New Arts Jazztet**—Bob Allison, trumpet;

Isaac Lausell, guitar; Phil Brown, bass; Jimmy Beers, drums—**February 11, 2024**

works by **Victor Feldman, Pat Metheny (2), John Moulder, Prince, and Lauren Sevian**

## Your Invitation To Join the Process

Here is the listening session information for the **Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church** on **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can use the link in the communication on the next page or come to the Fellowship Hall where I will have a Zoom session set up for us to use as a group. Below is a letter from our new Bishop, **Greg Busboom**, and **your invitation to participate or just listen is on the next page from Kristin Largen, President of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.**

Thank you,  
**Pastor Brian**



2

Dear Siblings in Christ in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod,

At the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA in 2022, the Assembly passed a resolution directing the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC). The CRLC has been formed with representatives from across the ELCA. As part of their discernment process, the Commission is hosting a number of listening sessions across the church. I have invited Kristin Largen, President of Wartburg Seminary and a member of the Commission, to host two such listening sessions for our synod — one specifically for lay members/leaders across our synod and one specifically for rostered leaders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service). Dr. Largen's invitation to these two listening sessions is below. Each session will be held online via Zoom. I invite and encourage your participation in these listening sessions. If the specific date and time in our synod does not work for you, please reach out to me and I would be happy to share with you dates and times of other sessions happening across our region in which you are also welcome to participate.

Leading in HOPE †,

Bishop Busboom



## An Invitation From Kristin Largen, President of Wartburg Seminary

Dear Members and Friends of Epiphany Lutheran,  
My name is Kristin Largen, I am a member of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. This Commission was constituted in response to the action that took place at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

*"...To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly." [CA22.01.06]*

You can find out more about the Commission, as well as a list of members and a timeline of our work at [ELCA.org/crlc](https://www.elca.org/crlc).

The Commission is currently in the process of hosting listening sessions for a wide variety of constituents around the church, and I am happy to be able to host several for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod as well.

After consultation with Bishop Busboom, the dates/times we have chosen for this session are:

- **Monday, February 5th at 6:00pm for laity**
- **Thursday, February 8th at 2:00pm for rostered leaders**

The zoom link is <https://wartburgseminary.zoom.us/j/7221406601?pwd=b0JtkH8pbsbDW04JHqSncvkSNk7AWp.1>

These sessions will give you an opportunity share your experiences with the Church in all three expressions (congregations, synods, churchwide) — both your struggles and your joys, as well as the places you have experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit, and your hopes for the church in the future.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

**Kristin Largen**



## Social Ministry News



**Peter Gimse**  
Social  
Ministry  
Chair

### Food Pantry

February is our month to supply the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is staffed largely by volunteers. They provide canned goods and perishables to people in need. The Food Pantry is open for distribution two days each week. You can place items for the Food Pantry on the table by the door in the Social Hall. Monetary donations are also accepted. You can write a check to Epiphany Lutheran Church and write "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to the church or placed in the offering on Sunday mornings.

### Warming Center

The Warming Center opened in 2018. They provide a safe and warm place for the homeless population. The average nightly crowd is 9 people, but sometimes up to 24. The Warming Center serves Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until they close on April 1. The Warming Center is located at 608 E College Street, and February is the time they hold their fundraiser. You can also write a check to Epiphany with "Warming Center" in the memo line, or donate online at [cwcentered.org](http://cwcentered.org)

### Lenten Simple Supper

On Wednesdays during Lent Epiphany holds midweek services with a supper before the service. In the past, the supper consisted of soup and sandwiches. This year the menu is more wide open. You can sign up to provide any dish your little heart desires to bring, not just soup and sandwiches. The offering collected goes to support Good Samaritan Ministries. On behalf of the Social Ministry Team, thank you for your support to other folks in need.

**Peter Gimse**

## Fellowship Updates

Our Fellowship hosts during January included the **Miller Family, Stewardship Committee, Peter Gimse and Jim Sylwester**, and the **Griffith Family**. All were wonderful, and I am very thankful for every one of their efforts!

Hosts for the month of February are:

February 4 - \_\_\_\_\_

February 11- **Anne Terry**

February 18 - \_\_\_\_\_

February 25 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Come on, folks! Let's fill in the rest of February!!! Thanks in advance!!!**

**Deb Sarvela**  
Council President and Fellowship Chair



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council  
President

## February Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

Sunday, February 4

8:30 am - Christian Education  
9:30 am - Worship (in person and Zoom)

Monday, February 5

6:00 pm - ELCA Listening Session - all members encouraged to participate. Fellowship Hall (Synod Zoom) and from home. [Link for Zoom session for lay leaders](#) Meeting ID: 722 140 6601 Passcode: 633069

Tuesday, February 6

7:00 pm - Confirmation Class

Sunday, February 11

8:30 am - Christian Education  
9:30 am - Worship (in person and Zoom) **Transfiguration of our Lord**  
3:00 pm - **American Guild of Organists Hymn Festival, Zion United Church of Christ, Marion**  
5:00 pm - **Jazz Vespers**

Tuesday, February 13

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

Wednesday, February 14- **Ash Wednesday**

**5:45 pm – Meal (Ham Dinner)**  
7:00 pm – Worship - Imposition of Ashes / no communion

Thursday, February 15

10:00 am - Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 18 - **Lent 1**

8:30 am - Christian Education  
9:30 am - Worship (in person and Zoom)

Monday, February 19

3:30 pm - Evangelism Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 pm - Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 21 - Lenten Mid-week

6:00 pm - Meal  
7:00 pm - Worship

Sunday, February 25

8:30 am - Christian Education  
9:30 am - Worship (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday, February 27

7:00 pm - Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 28 - Lenten Mid-week

6:00 pm - Meal  
7:00 pm - Worship

Saturday, March 2

9:15 am - 3:00 pm -- [Women in the Word](#), First United Methodist Church, 214 W Main St, Carbondale  
(more information sent in separate eHappenings)

**Special Note:**

April 26 and 27 - Church Women United 2024 Hunger Sale Volunteers and donations welcome! Questions?  
Call Nan Gher!

# 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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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