



# EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Carbondale, Illinois  
May 2024



Pastor Brian Coffey

## Notes from the Pastor

Greetings in the name of our risen and ascended Lord, Jesus Christ! We begin May in the season of Easter and end with the festivals of Pentecost and Holy Trinity - all using the "Light of Christ" liturgy from *With One Voice*. You will have to wait until my June newsletter article to learn what's to come for worship this summer!

May is a month of transition for many people, particularly those who work in the field of education. **Campus Ministry** activities will be slowing down after a flurry of end-of-semester dorm collection and new student orientation events in preparation for next fall. **Affirmation of Baptism** on May 19<sup>th</sup> will mark the end of classes for our children and youth until next September, although the Sunday morning adult study will continue to meet by popular demand.

**Ascension Day** is always on Thursday, and on May 9<sup>th</sup>, we are invited to participate in an evening picnic and communion service at Ferne Clyffe State Park with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Details can be found on the next page of this newsletter.

Preparations are underway for the **Synod Assembly** in early June, with Festival Worship leadership being the responsibility of Epiphany. **Tim Fink and I** have been hard at work with other conference leaders to prepare for this significant event.

For the first time in Epiphany's history, we have a youth participating in the **National LYO Gathering!** **Olivia Terry, Anne Terry and I** are meeting to study the theme "Created to Be". Stay tuned to hear more about our preparations and calls for support.

I appreciate everyone who participated in the **Synod listening sessions** online and in person. Over 600 responses were received, which will go a long way towards helping **Bishop Greg** and his leadership team determine where to place their ministry emphasis in the short and long term.

Concerning feedback, I want to extend a sincere "thank you" to the 21 folks who provided comments to the **Mutual Ministry committee**, representing just under a third of our average Sunday worship attendance. I also thank the Church Council for collating and consolidating the responses into a meaningful written annual review. The information will continue to help me grow as a first-call pastor.

As I mentioned in last month's article, it's imperative that we have leaders serve on our Church Council. There are four vacancies that will need to be filled at our **Congregational Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please prayerfully consider serving. **Trish Welch** is the chair of the Nominating Committee and can answer your questions along with me.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

**Pastor Brian**

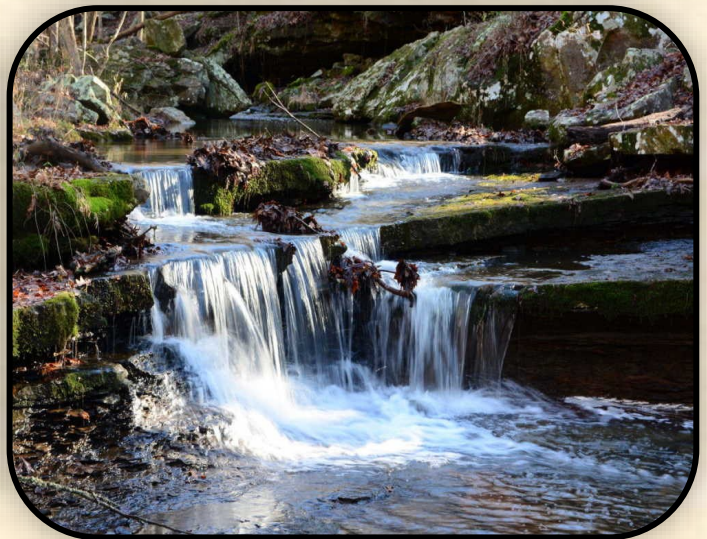
Editor's note: The photo of **Pastor Brian** (above) was taken by his daughter, **Sarah Coffey**, when **she was in town recently**. Looks like she had no trouble getting her father to smile.

## Ascension Day— Outdoor Worship — Thursday, May 9th

### We Are Invited!

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Marion) will celebrate Ascension Day on Thursday, May 9th in **Ferne Clyffe State Park**. Pack a picnic basket with tableware, drink, and a dish to pass and meet **at 5:30 p.m.** Once in the park take the road that leads to Ferne Clyffe Falls and look for the group to be at one of the picnic shelters along the road. The gathering concludes with a service of Holy Communion on an overlook that is a short walk from the campground.

If you would like to join a group and car pool, call **Pastor Brian** on his cell phone 618-648-2994. The group will need to gather by 4:45 p.m. to allow plenty of time for the 25 mile drive.



### Evangelism Committee Report

- The new online directory – corrections continue. Let **Olise** know if you would like a printed copy and/or online access.
- Banners – with no major events to promote, we will let our banner fence take a rest until neighbors start returning in August, then we will welcome them back!
- Postcards – **Cory Newman, Pastor Brian, and Olise Mandat** have drafted a possibility. Same as for the banners, we will resume the promotion with a postcard mailing in mid or late August.
- Budget – The postcard campaign has caused Evangelism to exceed the set budget. **Kevin Bame** will address that, however, understand that while the campaigns are charged in full to Evangelism's budget, the campaigns are also a function of Communications (**Cory** has worked on design) and Worship Committees (promote services)
- **Pastor** and **Julie Bohnsack** continue to meet monthly with SIU Campus Ministries and sign-up to support various ministries. **Pastor** participates in Wednesday evening student worship at the Wesley Foundation with Wesley students worshipping at Epiphany several times through the Lenten season.

## Christian Education

The Sunday School year is coming to a close very soon! Our last day of Sunday School will be May 19. Thank you for sharing your children with us over the last year. It has been delightful to see them growing in their faith and sharing what they have learned.

May 19 will also mark the Affirmation of Baptism for two of our young people, **Corinne Cheatwood** and **Aiden Andert**. It has been a joy to get to know them over the last two years. I am so proud of their efforts and achievements. Please plan to attend church on this day as we will celebrate with them at a special fellowship time.



**Anne Terry**  
Christian  
Education

I will complete my time on your church council in June, and will step down as “chair” of the education committee. I will continue to help and support the efforts of the committee in the fall when we resume Sunday School time. I want to take this opportunity to especially thank **Jan Womack**, **Kate Renshaw**, and **Elaine Melby** for all their hard work this year. You are truly making an impact on our young people!

I would also like to encourage you to consider helping on a committee as we kick off another Council year. Many wonderful things are happening at our church and none of them can happen without help from our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you are not currently involved in activities at Epiphany, please reach out to me, **Pastor Brian**, or another council member to discover how you can make a difference.

Thank you!

In Christ,

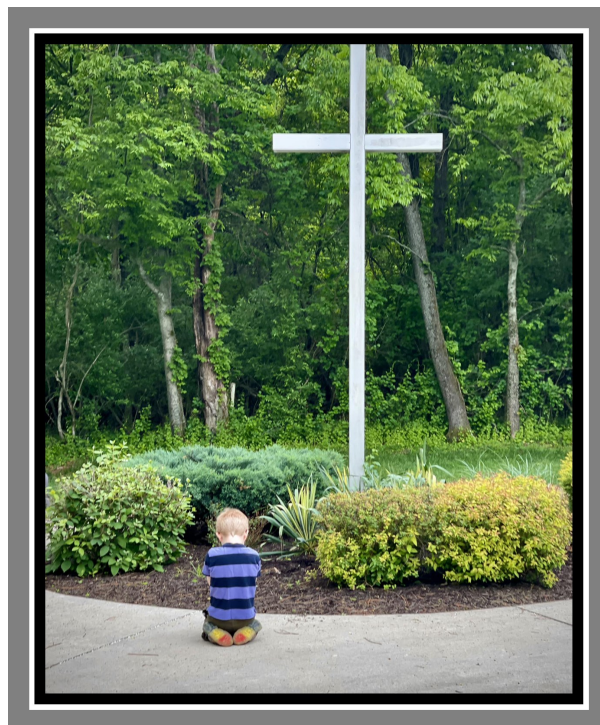
**Anne Terry**

**Devin Miller** sent the editor this email along with a wonderful photo that speaks volumes.

Last Sunday morning as our family was walking in for Sunday School, “**Budgie**” (our youngest) separated from us, and I told him, “Hey, we have to get inside!”

He ran to the cross, knelt and prayed. All spontaneous.

Kids will show humility that adults rarely will. Of course, that ... and it hurts to kneel on concrete and hard to get up from it, too.



JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 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; and Kyle McDonald, drums—**May 12, 2024**

works by **Barry Harris, Gail Jhonson, Tetsuro Kawashima, Ben Patterson, Pharaoh Sanders,** and **Jessica Williams**  
streaming at <https://www.facebook.com/JazzVespersatEpiphany>

Did You Know That You Can Follow Jazz Vespers at Epiphany on Facebook?  
Jazz Vespers Is Now Live-Streamed and Recorded at

<https://www.facebook.com/JazzVespersatEpiphany>

## Hunger Sale — “Thank You” — It’s a Record!



Nan Gher

On behalf of Church Women United, a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Sale to Fight Hunger. Whether it was through your prayers, donations, baked goods, plants, or the all-important sweat equity, it all added to a huge success.

The generous donations far outstripped our capacity, but all donations went to good homes! Merchandise just rolled on out, and **we set a new record—\$22,000!**

All this will go to agencies that assist those with food insecurity. Thanks be to God!

## Be Sure To Ask Jan Radtke If She Enjoyed Her Birthday



Jan's 90 and enjoying every minute of it!



Jan with her three "kids" at one of her birthday parties (this one at Giant City Lodge.) From L to R: **Jon**, **Tim** and daughter **Tam**. Each of the Radtke "children" had worked at the Lodge when they were in high school. Great memories!

## May Birthdays

Cory Newman	May 8
Ari Williams	May 9
Elena Newman	May 11
Sarah Cook	May 13
Susan Bausch	May 14
Simon Schurz	May 19
Joe Cheatwood	May 20

Gabriella Karayiannis	May 20
Haley Karayiannis	May 20
Margaret Putz	May 21
Sara Schurz	May 21
Linda Grace	May 30
Ella Hanson	May 31



# Bread For the World

**Bread for the World** is a Christian advocacy organization that works tirelessly to end hunger both in the United States and around the world. Their mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help eradicate hunger. Here are some key points about Bread for the World which is a program that we at Epiphany help support.

## 1. The Problem of Hunger:

- One in ten people worldwide goes to bed hungry every night.
- Shockingly, one in four children under the age of five suffers from severe malnutrition.
- However, Bread for the World firmly believes that hunger is solvable.

## 2. Collective Action:

- Bread for the World recognizes that churches, charities, food banks, and nonprofit organizations alone cannot solve hunger.
- Government programs and policies play a crucial role in addressing this issue.
- When enough people raise their voices, government leaders listen.

## 3. Impactful Advocacy:

- Bread for the World's legislative victories have positively impacted millions of people experiencing hunger.
- They have secured billions of dollars in humanitarian aid for countries like Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Palestine.
- Through nonpartisan political engagement, they've strengthened national nutrition programs.

## 3. How We Can Help:

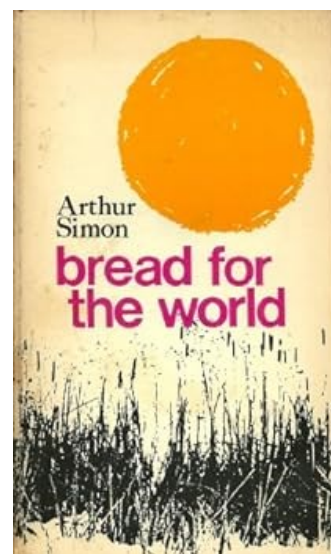
- By supporting Bread for the World's advocacy efforts, you contribute to winning federal government assistance for families in the United States and globally.
- Every dollar you give helps secure hundreds of dollars in assistance.

## 4. Disproportionate Impact:

- Hunger affects every community, but Bread for the World recognizes that certain groups face a disproportionate impact.
- Women, communities of color, and rural communities are particularly affected.
- Bread for the World advocates for equitable and effective programs to end hunger in these communities.

## 5. The Symbolic Table:

- The organization's bowl and table logo symbolize their mission.
- They gather people at various tables to provide sustenance and advocate for nutritious food access.
- Bread for the World engages with lawmakers to enact policies that benefit everyone.



Continued

## More News From the Green Team About “Bread For the World”

[Editors note: For many years Epiphany Lutheran has supported the **Bread For the World** organization which was started by a Lutheran pastor, **Rev. Art Simon**, who was the brother of the famous southern Illinois senator, **Paul Simon**. **Pastor Art Simon** died this past November and his work in establishing a program that has fed millions of people in the United States and around the world was recently honored. Here is an April news release.]

Earlier this month, Bread members and faithful supporters gathered for **Bread for the World’s 21st Annual Gala to End Hunger: Partners in Progress**. Over \$600,000 in funds were raised and will be used to continue to support our efforts to address hunger and poverty here in the United States and around the world.

**David Beckmann**<sup>1</sup>, Bread for the World’s President Emeritus, provided heartfelt remarks in tribute to Founder and 1st President, **Rev. Arthur (Art) Simon**, for the many years of service he dedicated to establishing Bread as a leader in the movement to end hunger and the legacy he left to carry it forward.

The evening also featured video remarks from **U.S. Representative Jahana Hayes (D-CT)** and **Senator Todd Young (R-IN)**, members of Congress who are also anti-hunger advocates, and supporters of many of the same programs and policies Bread cares about. Another key moment in the program was during the Impactful Partner Spotlight, when **Renee Albrecht**, senior policy associate with World Wildlife Fund, spoke on the importance of key partners in the work of ending hunger. The premiere of [\*Life is Fragile\*](#), José Soto Rivera’s journey from experiencing food insecurity to becoming an advocate was also featured.

<sup>1</sup> **Rev. David Beckmann**, also a Lutheran minister, has played a pivotal role in the fight against hunger and poverty. From **1991 to 2020**, he served as the president of **Bread for the World** and **Bread for the World Institute**. [During his tenure, he led large-scale and successful campaigns to strengthen U.S. political commitment in addressing hunger and poverty both domestically and globally](#)<sup>1</sup>. His efforts have been instrumental in advocating for the most vulnerable populations.

Beckmann’s commitment extends beyond organizational leadership. He also founded and presided over the **Alliance to End Hunger**. As a **World Food Prize laureate**, he has consistently used his platform to raise awareness and drive change. [His book, “Exodus from Hunger: We are Called to Change the Politics of Hunger”, further underscores his dedication to this critical cause](#)<sup>1</sup>.

With a background that includes a degree from the **London School of Economics** and **15 years of work at the World Bank**, **Rev. David Beckmann** has left an indelible mark on the fight against hunger and poverty.

## Learning in Retirement — Annual Luncheon on May 15

The annual luncheon of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at Giant City Lodge. The luncheon will follow a presentation on a new system of carbon capture by **Scott Hamilton-Brehm**, microbiology professor at SIUC. The presentation is scheduled for 10:30am to 11:30am, with the luncheon immediately following. The presentation is free and open to the public; the luncheon fee is \$23.00 and requires registration.

To register, call SIU Events and Outreach at (618-536-7751) or email [silir@siu.edu](mailto:silir@siu.edu).



## Have You Heard About the American Climate Corps?

From [Inside Climate News](#) (edited for length) 4/27/2024

This is for thousands of young people who might want a job protecting and improving our climate.

Interested? Read on

At an Earth Day event in Virginia just outside of Washington, D.C. this week, President Biden announced the official start of his new climate-focused jobs program.

“It’s patterned after the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. Like them, it brings out the best in young people to do what’s best for America,” Biden said at the event. “We will put tens of thousands of young people to work at the forefront of our climate resilience and energy future, clean energy future. Today, I’m proud to announce that Americans across the country can now apply to become the first members of the American Climate Corps.”

All kinds of skills and industries are needed to address the climate crisis, so the [jobs board](#) for the Corps lists everything from community outreach to biological surveys to invasive species removal.

Right now you can go on to [climatecorps.gov](#) and apply; we have about 2,000 positions listed with lots and lots more on the way. It’s really exciting.



**Some of the members of the American Climate Corps.**

AmeriCorps is a key partner in the American Climate Corps. They are actually the lead agency; we are establishing an ACC hub at AmeriCorps. And, you know, there are a lot of benefits that come from being in an AmeriCorps position as well, one of which is a [Segal Education Award](#), which means that if you complete your term of service, you can get a little over \$7,000 that can be used for student debt or for future education. So there are certainly a lot of benefits that come from AmericaCorps-specific positions.

Want more information? Go to [climatecorps.gov](#) and you’re welcome to call with questions or to apply.

Your Epiphany “Green Team”



## Rotary Club of Carbondale — Breakfast — Helps Keep Carbondale Clean!



Looking very happy to be cleaning up their part of the Carbondale community are members of the Rotary Club of Carbondale — the Breakfast group. (L to R) **Will Becque, Fran Becque, Brandon McElmurry, Pastor Brian Coffey, Pastor Sterrett Collins, Dan Becque, and Gregory Kupiec.**

This duty is part of their monthly assignment and it just happened to fall on Friday the 13th, and no one appears to be very superstitious.

## Rotary Club of Carbondale — Breakfast Presents a Check to the Carbondale Warming Center

The day after **Carmalita Cahill**, the Director of the Carbondale Warming Center, made a presentation at Epiphany Lutheran Church to the members of the Learning in Retirement group, she was presented a check from the Carbondale Breakfast Rotary Club for \$1,500 to help folks who find themselves in a housing crisis and need a place to stay that is safe, warm in the winter, and offers the basic necessities for staying healthy and alive.



Rotary members (L to R) **Jolene Falat, Marcia Sinnott, Liz Stevenson, Carmalita Cahill** (Director of the Carbondale Warming Center) and Rotary member **Pastor Brian Coffey.**

## Thoughts from the President

Another month has gone by, and spring has finally broken through! The church property looks lovely, doesn't it?

During the month of April, the council scheduled the Annual Congregational Meeting (for June 9 after service), finalized **Pastor Brian's** evaluation based on the 21 survey results received by the Mutual Ministry (Staff Support) Committee, and approved the liquidation of some donated common stock to go to the general fund at the recommendation of the Treasurer. The Evangelism Committee is updating the directory and considering additional postcard mailings and banners. The Communications/IT Committee is constantly working to improve the sound and video quality of our services, both in-person and online. The A/V desk is a work of art! Fellowship has been struggling, living mostly off of the cookie bank during April.



**Deb Sarvela**  
Council President

The Nominating Committee is seeking congregation members to join the Council beginning in June (to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting). Being on the Council can be quite a rewarding experience and is a great way to take ownership of the operation of Epiphany and its many outreach activities, as well as the day-to-day operations.

**Pastor Brian, Tim Fink, Anne Terry, and Deb Sarvela** attended a synod Listening Session in Steeleville at Peace Lutheran Church. We were served dinner by the ladies of the congregation, and I must say, they set the bar pretty darn high!

Epiphany was well-represented in the Church Women United Hunger Sale. There were plenty of donations, as well as members who purchased items and lots of members and friends of Epiphany who served as volunteers. But "our rocks" are **Nan Gher, Jan Womack, Lori Fink and Beth Arthur**. These ladies worked countless hours to make the sale a success! On the previous page I hope you noticed in Nan Gher's "Thank You" the amount of dollars that were collected to help feed folks who otherwise might go hungry.

Blessings to you all and enjoy the flowers and trees (I know, the pollen is a challenge, but I think it's worth the suffering!!)

**Deb Sarvela**  
Council President

## Fellowship Updates

It's still me, **Deb Sarvela**, with a report on April and a very brief forecast on May and June.

Our Fellowship hosts during April included **Peter Gimse** and **Jim Sylwester** and then it was mainly the Cookie Bank (with the assistance of **Olise Mandat** and **Beth Bivens** when I was out of town).

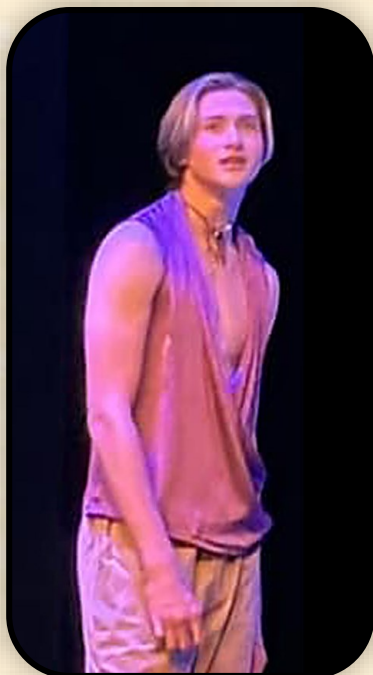
For awhile it looked like the month of May would be COMPLETELY OPEN providing folks so many opportunities to excel! However, since May 19 will be Confirmation Sunday, the Fellowship Committee will be providing CAKE! .

May 5	OPEN	_____
May 12	OPEN	_____
May 19	Confirmation Sunday	— Fellowship Committee will be providing a cake!
May 26	OPEN	_____

So, it's obvious we need your help in May ... and June looks about the same. It's also wide open except for June 9 which has been spoken for. So many opportunities!

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

## Connor Gulbrandsen in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream



Connor performed one of the lead roles in Midsummer Night's Dream at Carbondale Community High School on April 19 and 20.

He played the role of Demetrius who is in love with someone who no longer loves him. If this sounds like a Hallmark love story, you might be on the right track, but it gets more complicated with each scene.



The good news is that everybody finally ends up with the right partner, but it takes some dream sequences and some very funny magical potions. And, yes, there are some very happy kisses at the end.

This group is just part of Connor's fan club from Epiphany, and they were all impressed with Connor's confident delivery of some very difficult Shakespearean dialogue.

Let's just say none of the actors were given a watered down version of Shakespeare's original play. They were all well-prepared and well-rehearsed.

Congratulations!



## 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>

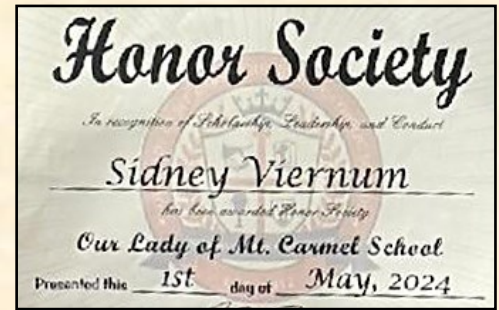
Meeting ID: 210 124 6575  
 Password: 1501  
 Phone: 312-626-6799



## Congratulations to Sidney Viernum



On May 1 Sidney was recognized for high honors (straight A's all year) and was inducted into Our Lady of Mount Carmel School's Honor Society. Her selection was based on several factors including scholarship, teacher recommendations, leadership, and conduct.



## May Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

Sunday, May 5 – Easter 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

- 7:00 pm -- Confirmation class

Thursday, May 9 - Ascension Day - No services at Epiphany

- 5:30 pm -- **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church invites us to a picnic and Communion Service at Ferne Clyffe State Park (see announcement on page 2 for details).**

Sunday, May 12 – Easter 7 (final)

- 8:30 am – Christian Education – Children and Adults
- 9:30 am – Worship (in person and Zoom)
- 5:00 pm -- Jazz Vespers

Monday, May 13

- 3:30 pm -- Evangelism meeting

Tuesday, May 14

- 7:00 pm -- Council meeting
- 7:00 pm -- Confirmation class (final)

Sunday, May 19 – Day of Pentecost -- Affirmation of Baptism

- 8:30 am – Christian Education -- Children (final for summer) and Adults (ongoing through summer)
- 9:30 am – Worship (in person and Zoom)
- Affirmation of Baptism - **Aiden Andert and Corrie Cheatwood**

Sunday, May 26 – The Holy Trinity

- 9:30 am – Worship (in person and Zoom)

# Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1501 W. Chautauqua, Carbondale, IL 62901



Brian Coffey, Pastor  
Mary Kelly, Church Secretary  
Olise Mandat, Business Manager

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## 2023-2024 Epiphany Church Officers:

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

## Epiphany Church Council Members:

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