



# EPIPHANY STAR

## Epiphany Lutheran Church

### Carbondale, Illinois

### August 2024



**Pastor Brian Coffey**

## Notes from the Pastor

Greetings in the name of Jesus who created us to be Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, ...Disciples! This was the theme of the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans from where **Olivia Terry, Anne Terry, Cory Newman and I** just returned. Anne has shared some highlights of our experience on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter. There are also many pictures and comments on our Epiphany Lutheran Church Facebook page, which I updated throughout the Gathering: <https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyCarbondale>

In the coming weeks you will hear more from us as we begin to prepare the next contingent of young people for the 2027 Gathering in Minneapolis!

For me, the experience was particularly rewarding and meaningful as a "first call pastor" because I saw so many colleagues from Luther Seminary leading groups and serving in other capacities. It connected me, not only to my previous ELCA Gathering in Atlanta (1993) when I was a lay youth director, but further back in time to my maternal grandparents who spoke with great fondness of the 1941 American Lutheran Church (ALC) Luther League rally in Greely, Colorado.



**Pastor Brian** with his first cousin (once removed), **Jake Borho**.

It also highlighted the significance of such an event for youth from other Christian traditions. The event is open to our ecumenical full-communion partner denominations. However, I learned quite unexpectedly that the son of one of my paternal cousins was participating! He attends a Catholic high school but has been going to youth group at an ELCA congregation in Villa Park, IL for a couple of years. **Jake** has epilepsy, and the youth director served as his medical person, otherwise he wouldn't have been able to attend. In his own words, he said, "It's so cool that we can connect, and that we both have faith in God." To me, this is such a beautiful expression of the body of Christ at work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Our faith in Jesus Christ is what we share with the world as a common witness to God's love for all people.

Early August will be a time for Epiphany to ramp up for the "program year" beginning with **Rally Day on September 8<sup>th</sup>**. In fact, in mid-August, campus ministry volunteers will be working hard to welcome SIU students through a variety of events. Some will be sponsored by the university and at least one, the "Taste of Carbondale," will be co-led between Epiphany and the Wesley

Foundation, building on last year's cooperative efforts as ELCA-UMC full-communion partners. To assist with campus ministry events, please speak with me for details.

August 20<sup>th</sup> will be the first meeting of our new Church Council under the leadership of President, **Cory Newman**. Cory has communicated a set of expectations for our new team that will allow us to tend to all matters thoroughly yet efficiently. I'm looking forward to continuing Epiphany's ministry in the community with our new council!

Please note the very special **need we have for a Financial Secretary** to replace **Lynn Smith**. This is a critical ministry position that Lynn has faithfully filled for many years supporting the "income" side of our ministry. Please speak with Lynn or me to express your interest or to nominate someone whom you feel would serve well in this capacity.

My prayers remain with you and your loved ones as you wrap up your summer schedules, continue to heal from illness and injury, and prepare to return to the more measured rhythm of the Fall.

Yours in Christ,  
**Pastor Brian**

## “Youth Gathering Recap” From New Orleans

Dear Epiphany Family,

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the generosity and prayers you have provided to **Pastor Brian, Olivia, and me** as we attended the Youth Gathering in July. It was an amazing experience and was life-changing for all our faith journeys.

New Orleans is about a 10-hour car ride from Carbondale, so **Monday** was mostly taken up with travel. We checked in to the Hilton on St. Charles Avenue, which was a beautiful hotel located right in the middle of everywhere we would visit in the coming week.

**On Tuesday**, we began by checking in to the gathering at the Convention Center and then spent some time at the Audubon Aquarium and Insectarium before heading to the Hard Rock Café for lunch. We even jumped on the streetcar for a while. Tuesday evening we walked with the 16,000 other participants to the Smoothie King Center for the opening Mass Gathering.

The nightly Mass Gatherings were filled with music, dancing, worship, and incredible speakers. We learned how the ELCA is welcoming to everyone. The overall message was that we are created by God to be just who we are: we are loved, we are cherished, we are wanted. What a message for all the young people but also for the adults.



On Wednesday we met our missionary from Africa, **Willie Langdi**, as well as our church council president, **Cory Newman**.

**Definitely a time for photos!**



**Wednesday** we were back at the Convention Center for our Interactive Learning day. We saw our friend **Cory Newman** at the ELEA table and even got to meet our missionary from Africa, **Willie Langdi**. While **Olivia and I** took a pass on the more active games, we spent a lot of time in the creative areas, helping to paint a mural and making signs advocating for mental health awareness.

**Thursday** was our day for Accompaniment. Our assignment was to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Greater New Orleans. We took two busloads to this site—the first bus served meals and our group packed food boxes for senior citizens served by the facility. We were humbled to learn that our small box of food was supposed to last for a month. It was so satisfying to see our progress as we worked throughout the morning.

**Olivia and Anne Terry** look very busy packing food boxes for folks who really need and appreciate the provisions.

**Continued**





## “Youth Gathering Recap” From New Orleans (Continued)

**Friday** morning was spent in worship with our Synod and Region (all the synods in Illinois and Iowa). This was a youth-led service that included communion. The afternoon was spent trying to navigate the Goosechase app as it led us on a scavenger hunt. My personal favorite stops were **Café du Monde** and the **St Louis Cathedral**.



There are actually 10 Café du Monde locations in the New Orleans area, but **Olivia and Anne** only needed to find one to be impressed with their beignets. Be sure to ask them if they aren't "out of this world."

This background may remind you of Disney World but **Olivia, Anne and Pastor Brian** are posing in the rain in New Orleans in front of the famous St. Louis Cathedral. Need more info? Yep. Google it!



**Elizabeth Eaton**  
ELCA Bishop

Then it was **Saturday** and time to come home! I was most impressed with the closing worship service in which **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** presided. They managed to provide communion to 16,000 people without a hitch!

**Olivia** was off to Camp Ondessonk for her OWL (Ondessonk Wisdom Leader) experience almost as soon as we arrived home. The camp is only a 45 minute drive south and east of Carbondale and still in the Shawnee National Forest. We will be sure to bring some pictures at a later date to share with everyone.

**Again, thank you.** I will never forget the experience and am super excited to begin planning for our next adventure -- in Minneapolis in 2027!

In Christ,

**Anne Terry**

While this photo, provided by **Pastor Brian**, features our Central/Southern Illinois Synod participants including **Bishop Greg** and **Deacon Jason** lying on the floor, notice who is located directly under the yellow arrow:

A \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_








## Worship News — August 2024



**Tim Fink**  
Worship  
Committee  
Chair

The Worship Committee met in June. The meeting was primarily a lengthy discussion about the Sunday worship bulletin and whether there was a better way of doing it, or have we arrived at the one and only perfect bulletin.

- We looked at a 1995 Epiphany bulletin for comparison. Then the service fit on one page, the announcements on the next two. There was an insert for the readings and prayers—some of you may remember the old “Celebrate” insert. The bulletin was “typed”—remember that!
- We discussed how computer word processing and COVID contributed to bulletin expansion
- We discussed the needs of the Zoom members and the hard-of-hearing
- We discussed stewardship of time, labor, cost, and environment
- We discussed congregational participation and response
- We looked at bulletins and the use of screens at these ELCA congregations:

-  **Moriah, Anna**, very small bulletin, service on screen
-  **Salem, Jonesboro**, no bulletin, service on screen
-  **Our Redeemer, Marion**, very small bulletin, service on screen
-  **Faith, O'Fallon**, small bulletin, service on screen
-  **St. John's, Bloomington**, no bulletin, service on screen -even for the additional” service

It was clear that of those examined, Epiphany had the most extensive bulletin.

After about an hour-long discussion considering the aspects listed above, the committee decided to experiment with a less extensive bulletin for September and October when we are doing the “Fink” liturgy: Lyrics for hymns and the liturgy will be available on the screen or in hymnals (not in the bulletin). Readings will still be printed in the bulletin, but prayers will not be printed except for the responses. During these two months, we will get feedback, monitor, and adjust. After the two months, the Worship Committee, and perhaps Council, will come to some decision regarding what kind of bulletin to use going forward.

For our next Worship Committee meeting on August 15, **Pastor Brian** is going to work with **Mary Kelly** in the office to draft sample bulletin formats for consideration.

There is not just ONE particular reason for this experiment: some of them include bulletin “length creep”, especially from the pandemic, stewardship of time (labor) and resources (paper/ink), and a desire for the congregation “to be present” and participate in the service more actively with less reading. Although this is new for us, this is not novel. In fact, Epiphany is a bit of an outlier compared to those congregations we explored in our Synod noted above. This is not to say, “They’re right and we’re wrong.” This decision was not made lightly. We recognize that any change gets negative (and positive) responses. However, we don’t want to fear experimentation, especially when the intention is to improve worship engagement and overall satisfaction. That’s the Worship Committee’s job. So, we’ll explore and see what we learn.

It might be said we are “going back to the future”. In Luther’s day, it is estimated that only about 11% of the people could read. There was NO bulletin, hymnals were limited to text only (if they existed), and hymns were limited to the very familiar, many memorized. Of course, the sermons were over an hour long—we’re not going THAT far back.

Continued



## Worship News — August 2024 (Continued)

We might ask that you enter this experiment and, like getting in a swimming pool, adjust to the different temperature for a bit. Then we will be happy to hear your thoughts. Thank you!

**One more thing:** This is my final year of two consecutive terms (6 years total) of being on council. I served 6 years, probably 20 years ago, as well. Back then I was the youngest on the Worship Committee. Well, I'm still the youngest on the Worship Committee and am going on Medicare in January. I am looking for new members. Please consider participating. It is not a huge commitment of time, but it is a big contribution to the church.

### Molly McCormack - Speaker and Performer Wednesday, August 21

Kentucky musician, **Molly McCormack**, will perform songs on the mountain dulcimer as part of the monthly **Learning In Retirement** meeting on August 21 at Epiphany Lutheran Church. This program will include an entertaining mixture of traditional and original folk tunes as well as a brief history of the mountain dulcimer. Members of the Makanda Dulcimer Friends will join Molly to play some tunes and share information about their group.

Coffee, tea, and refreshments are available beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the program will start at 10:30.

**Molly McCormack** began her dulcimer journey over 30 years ago. After hearing the mountain dulcimer at an arts and crafts fair in Louisville, Kentucky. Soon after, she found a dulcimer to play and a wider community of dulcimer players. Since that time, Molly has taught and performed at festivals and music events around the country. Molly's repertoire spans the range from traditional folk music, jazz, and blues, to original tunes. Her performances include both instrumental and vocal selections. Molly believes that playing music is for everyone, and her gentle teaching style makes her a favorite of students of all levels. Molly performs solo and teaches at festivals around the country. In Louisville she performs with The Blind Dog String Band and The Upbeats Jazz Combo.



### The WELCA Knit and Crochet Group Meets Each Month

The WELCA knit and crochet group which makes prayer shawls for members and others has decided to open our membership to boys and girls starting at 5 years of age who want to learn or know how to knit or crochet.

Parents can stay or leave their children for our 1-2 hour meetings. We would also appreciate help in finishing the shawls.

Our meetings are the 4th Saturday of each month and we start at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Direct any questions to **Bonnie Wright** 618-967-1154 text or [bonniewright288@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewright288@gmail.com).



**Bonnie Wright** works with **Addie and Tillie Miller** while Mom (**Sharrie Miller**) observes. Photo and information provided by **Deb Sarvela**

Visitors are always welcome!!!

# LSSI School Supplies For July

Greetings, Epiphany Family!

Great news ... over \$2,000 raised as well as items donated!

## Thank You!

This is the last Sunday to bring in supplies. Next week we will take it all to LSSI in Marion. All year we accept monetary contributions to LSSI and use the funds for various projects such as Book in a Basket for Easter as well as the Back-to- School Supplies.

Monetary donations may be left in the offering plate. Please indicate it is for LSSI. For credit card transactions, go directly to our portal at Vanco GivePlus+.

Many thanks to all the contributors and to our volunteers. Olise has had the pleasure of spending the donated funds on pencils, headphones, shoes, calculators, notebooks, paper, crayons, markers, and lots of other items! The fellowship hall table is stacked pretty high!



**Trish Welch**



**Cathy Lay**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayola Markers                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gym shoes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayola Crayons 24 pack                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calculators: Regular/ Scientific / Graphing<br>(Texas Instruments preferred) | <input type="checkbox"/> Water color paints                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry sets (ruler, compass, protractor)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors- pointed                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headphones (not earbuds, no wireless)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Erase markers – black – chisel and fine pt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebooks – wide ruled   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil top erasers                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avery clear view 1 inch, 3 ring binder                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pink erasers                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 ring zipper pouches for binder   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticonderoga pencils                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 ring plastic pocket folders  | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue sticks                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic pencil boxes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Highlighters                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post it notes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby wipes                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3x5 index cards  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clorox wipes                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ink pens – blue or black   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kleenex   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels                                    |



JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 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 and guests of the *New Arts Jazztet*—

Bob Allison, trumpet; Mel Goot, piano; and Phil Brown, bass—**August 11, 2024**

works by *Chet Baker, Roger Davidson, Hank Jones, Harold Ousley, Charlie Parker*, and *Joshua Redman*  
streaming at <https://www.facebook.com/JazzVespersatEpiphany>

Did You Know That You Can Follow Jazz Vespers at Epiphany on Facebook?  
Jazz Vespers Is Live-Streamed and Recorded (later) at  
<https://www.facebook.com/JazzVespersatEpiphany>

**Your Help Is Needed ... Really Needed!**

Are you a “Facebook Follower” of Jazz Vespers? We could use your help. We cannot actually live stream on that Facebook page until we have at least 100 followers. So until Jazz Vespers at Epiphany reaches 100 followers, real live streams of the service will be on the [New Arts Jazztet](#) page, then posted to Facebook as a recording after the fact. So ... if you haven’t already pressed “LIKE” at the top of the Facebook Page, please consider helping us reach the threshold by doing so ... like soon! Thank you!

## August Birthdays

BETH SCALLY	August 8
JOHN SCHNEIDER	August 10
PEYTON VIERNUM	August 12
BRODY EIGENRAUCH	August 13
ELAINE MELBY	August 16
PAM UMLAUF-BROWN	August 17
DOROTHY McDANIEL	August 17



KYLE LOGAN	August 19
MAX MILLER	August 19
TILLIE MILLER	August 19
TONY GEISELMAN	August 22
BRIAN BENZ	August 23
LEO GHER	August 23
GINNY SOLVERSON	August 31

## August Anniversaries

**JULIE & HARLAN BOHNSACK**  
AUGUST 9



**BETTY & ROLAND PERSON**  
AUGUST 21

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

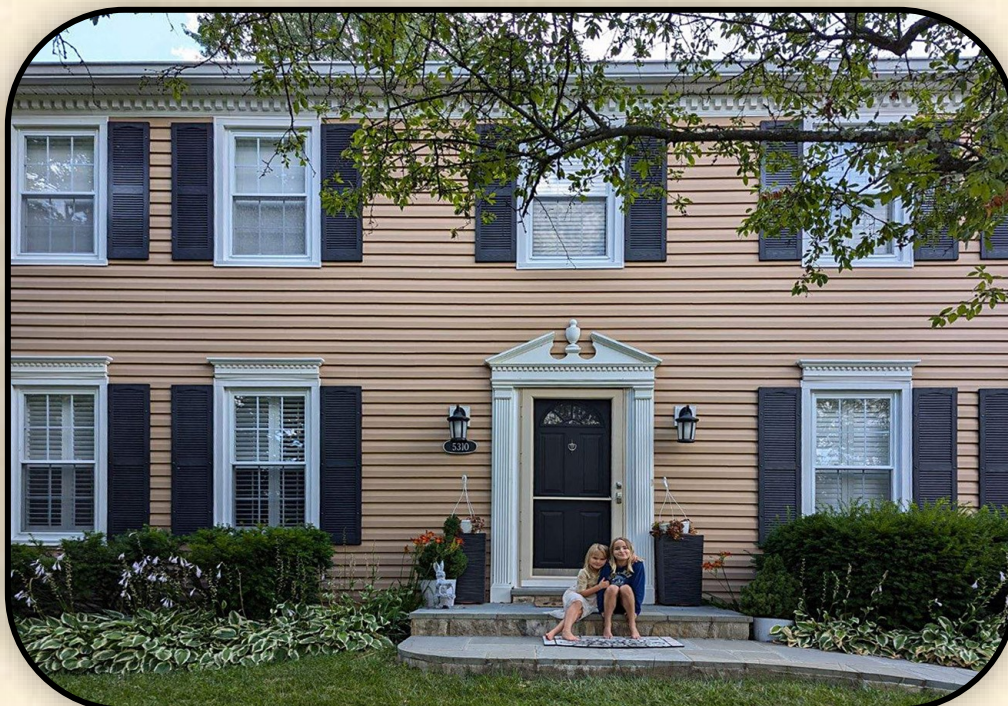
## News From the Dwyers

From **Jessica Dwyer**: by way of **Pastor Brian** on the 4th of July

**Happy 4th!** We all arrived in VA, and I survived my first day at the Pentagon yesterday (3<sup>rd</sup>)! I even took the Metro home. Headed to my parent's house in the Jerz for the weekend.

Our new address:

**The Dwyers**  
**5310 Greenough Place**  
**Burke, VA 22015**





## Solving the Mystery of the Parables of Jesus

Christian Education hosted an Escape Room/ Solve the Mysteries of Jesus' Parables on Monday, July 22.

Three teams worked their way through four mysteries before being eligible for the final challenge of deciphering a four digit code and answering six additional questions to win their "golden escape key." The teams were led by **Elaine Melby, Kate Renshaw, and Peter Gimse.**

It was a fun evening with a delicious spaghetti supper beforehand prepared by **Lynn Bame, Kate Renshaw, Deb Sarvela, Jim Sylwester, and Jane Terry.**



Before the start of the mystery contest **Jan Womack** holds the "KEY" that will be awarded to the winner or winners.



L to R: **Jim Renshaw, Deb Sarvela, Elaine Melby (Team Leader), and John Schneider**

Hard at work are **Jim Sylwester, Kate Renshaw (Team Leader), Jim Womack, and Blake Kocher.**



**Ann Gimse, Peter Gimse (Team Leader), Jane Terry and Ann DeHorn**



The first Escape Key winners were **Blake Kocher and his mom, Ann Gimse.**

## August Calendar Items - Provided by Olise Mandat

Sunday, August 4 - Pentecost 11

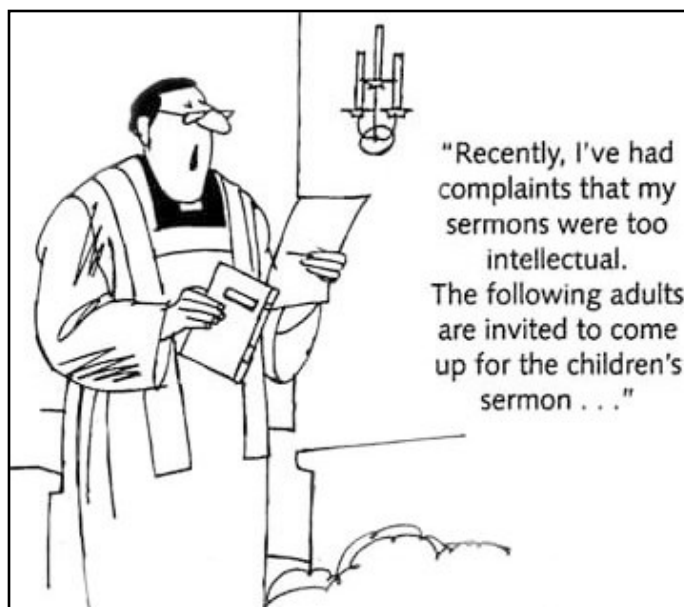
- 8:30 am -- Adult Christian Education
- 9:30 am -- Worship

Sunday, August 11 - Pentecost 12

- 8:30 am -- Adult Christian Education
- 9:30 am -- Worship
- 5:00 pm -- Jazz Vespers

Sunday, August 18

- 8:30 am -- Adult Christian Education
- 9:30 am -- Worship



Tuesday, August 20

- **6:00** pm - Epiphany Council meeting, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 25

- 8:30 am -- Adult Christian Education
- 9:30 am -- Worship

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**Sunday, September 8 - Rally Day: Council member installation and potluck meal after worship!**

## 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





# Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

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## 2023-2024 Epiphany Church Officers:

Cory Newman	Council President
Tim Fink	Vice-President
Chalmer Post	Secretary
Kevin Bame	Treasurer
Lynn Smith	Financial Secretary
Olise Mandat	Business Manager

## Epiphany Church Council Members:

Jan Womack	Christian Education Committee
Cory Newman	Communications/ IT Committee
Beth Bivens	Evangelism Committee
Ann Mays	Fellowship Committee
Patrick Seger	Property Committee
Chalmer Post	Social Ministry Committee
Trish Welch	Stewardship Committee
Tim Fink	Worship Committee
Devin Miller	Youth Committee