



EPIPHANY STAR

Epiphany Lutheran Church
Carbondale, Illinois
January 2025



Pastor Brian Coffey

Notes from the Pastor

Beloved in Christ,

I greet you this season of Christmas as we begin a new calendar year together in ministry at our mission outpost for Jesus at 1501 W. Chautauqua. Amazingly, we are embarking on our fourth year together as “pastor and people”, starting as we did near the end of the pandemic and steadily gaining our footing and growing in new and creative ways since then.

God has accomplished beautiful things through us in our first three years together. The year ahead continues to promise even more as we work intentionally with First Lutheran in Murphysboro and Mt. Calvary Lutheran in DeSoto as well as embracing our ELCA identity in Jackson County, which includes the congregations of St. Luke in Campbell Hill and St. John in Post Oak.



**Bishop
Greg Busboom**

Bishop Busboom has shared the results of our listening sessions held through-out 2024, and one thing that congregations in our Synod are seeking is a greater sense of connection and mutual support. Epiphany is well-positioned with experienced and enthusiastic volunteers and financial resources to be a leader in making this happen – just like we did with leading the worship service at the 2024 Synod Assembly using our own “This is the Day” liturgy and sponsoring musicians to bring it alive.

Please continue to uphold one another in prayer, especially those whose health prevents them from worshipping with us in person. We thank God for technology and faithful volunteers to make it possible for us to worship together over great distances. We welcome new faces from a variety of backgrounds who worship with us out of convenience, curiosity or perhaps seeking a community to call “home.” Whatever their motivation, we thank God for the nudge of the Holy Spirit that leads them here and we welcome them with warmth and the love of Christ.

Blessings to each of you in the year ahead!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Pastor Brian

Mark Your Calendars: January 6th – World Hunger Soup Supper

Congregations of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod are being challenged by **Bishop Greg Busboom** to raise \$10,000 in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger Program. Matching funds of \$5,000 will be applied if the goal is reached.

The event will be held **here at Epiphany on Monday evening, January 6th** at 6:00 p.m. This event will be held in cooperation with First Lutheran in Murphysboro and Mt. Calvary Lutheran in DeSoto. **Anne Terry and Paul Copeland are organizing the event. Stay tuned to eHappenings for more details.**

Where Are You On Your Climb?

At our December council meeting, we reflected on a powerful question from James Clear: "What project are you still working on that has already peaked? Is it time to let it go and begin climbing the next mountain?" This question invites us to examine our ministries and personal commitments with fresh eyes and open hearts.



Charlie Munger

The late **Charlie Munger**, renowned investor and businessman, once shared a profound observation about success and engagement: "In my whole life, I've never been good at something I wasn't very interested in. It just doesn't work. There's no substitute for strong interest."

These two insights weave together beautifully as we consider our spiritual journeys and collective life as a congregation. Just as the early disciples left their nets to follow Jesus, we, too, are called to evaluate our true interests and passions in our personal lives and church involvement.

Perhaps you've served faithfully on a committee or program that once energized you but now feels more like an obligation than a calling. Or you've noticed a new ministry opportunity that sparks your imagination and aligns with your God-given interests. As Isaiah reminds us, "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*"

This new year presents an opportunity to reflect: Where do your genuine interests intersect with our **congregation and community needs**? Are you serving in areas that truly engage your heart and mind? Remember, effective church governance and vibrant ministry programs depend not only on willing hands, but also on engaged hearts and minds.

Letting go of commitments that have peaked isn't failure – it's **faithful stewardship** that makes room for new growth. Similarly, stepping into new roles where our genuine interests lie isn't self-serving – it's good stewardship of our gifts and energy.

As we enter the New Year, I encourage you to prayerfully consider both questions: **What might you need to release? And where might your authentic interests guide you to serve in new ways?** Our congregation thrives when each person brings not just their time and talent but their genuine passion and interest to our shared ministry.

Happy New Year!

Cory Newman



Cory Newman

Church Council
President

"A Call To All" — Sunday, January 12



That's right! It's a call to all and Sunday, January 12, is the date for bringing your "Faith Pledge Envelope" for 2025 to church. The work of Epiphany as a mission outpost continues.

Put it on your calendar and "Thank you!"

“Thank You” from Pastor Brian



I certainly thank the members and friends of our congregation for the generous and thoughtful cash gift that I received on Christmas Eve. It is a blessing and a joy to serve our Lord together here at Epiphany with such faithful, generous and dedicated people who love God and one another. Thank you! Pastor Brian

Oh What a Glorious Night – Christmas Program *Sunday, December 15, 2024*



This little lamb may be the youngest to play this part since her mother, Kelsey, had the same role several years ago. Margaret Putz kept the congregation entertained throughout the Christmas program. Thank you, Margaret!

Oh What a Glorious Night - Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15, 2024



Photos by **Devin Miller**

Oh What a Glorious Night – Christmas Program



Cast: (L to R) Back Row — **Sara Schurz, Ruby Benz, Tillie Miller, Addie Miller, Miranda Smith, Blake Kocher, and Nora Geisman**

Front Row — **Simon Schurz, Payne Smith, Max Miller, Cooper Smith, and Isla Griffith.**

Sunday School — Youth (Adults) Project



Craft supplies, puzzles, notebooks, gift certificates, squishy toys, sugar free coffee syrups and tea were some of the gifts packed into two Christmas boxes for the residents of the LSSI Washington Place, Beardstown, Illinois Home.

These boxes were delivered by **Pr. Brian's** friend, **Lexi Briggs**. Lexi and her ukulele had the new friends there clapping their hands and tapping their feet!



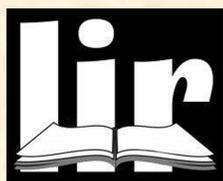
January Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Evelyn Anderson | January 1 |
| Tim Fink | January 2 |
| Connie Pavlovich | January 2 |
| Cathy Harre | January 4 |
| Addie Terry | January 5 |
| Beth Bivens | January 8 |
| David Melby | January 12 |
| Jim Benz | January 26 |
| Regan Eigenrauch | January 29 |
| Monica Hanson | January 30 |
| Connor Gulbrandsen | January 31 |



“Navigating Pronouns With Openness and Compassion”

Our speaker for January 15 will be **Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** (she/her/hers) who is an Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the School of Communication Studies at SIUC. She began



**S.I. Learning
in Retirement**

volunteer work with Rainbow Cafe in 2004, and except for a move out of the area and various breaks from participation, she has been a volunteer and board member for over 10 years. She has conducted workshops and trainings for various offices on the SIU campus, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Illinois, and is very glad for the opportunity to speak with the Learning in Retirement participants.



**Sandy Pensoneau-
Conway**

Sandy lives in De Soto with her spouse **Chad**, teenager **Grayson**, and cat **Bobo**.

The presentation on Wednesday, January 15, is free and open to the public, and will begin at 10:30 am at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1501 West Chautauqua, Carbondale. A coffee hour begins at 9:30 am. For more information about SILIR contact: Diane McIntyre at 618-536-7751 or email silir@siu.edu, or check the website:

conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir.

JAZZ VESPERS: 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

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, vibraphone;
Tom Edgar, piano; Phil Brown, bass; and Jimmy Beers, drums—**January 12, 2025**

works by **Les Baxter, Jerry Bock, Oscar Castro-Neves, Harmon/Lloyd/Phillinganes, Biff Smith, and McCoy Tyner**
streaming at <https://www.facebook.com/NewArtsJazztet>



Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2024



Photos by **Devin Miller**

The “Agreement” Sure Seems To Be Working!



As **Pastor Brian** mentioned last month, the Synod has asked him to supervise **Paul Copeland** (a Synod Authorized Minister) and work more closely with First Lutheran Church in Murphysboro and Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in DeSoto. To kick-off this agreement, we had a party and Christmas sing-along on Sunday afternoon, December 15th from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at Small Town Scoop in Murphysboro. The community was invited to attend as well, and you can tell by the turnout in the photo above, Lutherans seem to enjoy their ice cream and their Christmas carols.

We look forward to enjoying more fun, food, and fellowship with our Lutheran friends.



Small Town Scoops is located at 1400 W. Walnut on the corner of Walnut and 14th Street in Murphysboro.



Global Mission – “Change for A Change” Jars - Results

Thanks to all who donated to the “Change for A Change” global mission fundraising campaign and Advent meals to support our ELCA Missionary and Companion Synods in Madagascar.

Approximately **\$2,400** was raised!!



Your editor knows only a few activities that will be happening in January at Epiphany, but I am hoping that Olise Mandat will keep all of us informed in the days and weeks ahead. If you still haven't purchased your 2025 calendar yet, enjoy this one for a while. It sure looks like a cold month ahead.

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Mary Kelly, Church Secretary

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2024-2025 Epiphany Church Officers:

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|--------------|---------------------|
| 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 |