



# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives

## January 2019 Newsletter

### How Will You Serve Christ in 2019?

Peace to you in Christ Jesus! We face this new year of life as an opportunity to serve God with joy, in gratitude for our holy baptism that embraces us in God's love and forgiveness forever. On January 6, we celebrate Epiphany, the revelation of Jesus to the world as witnessed and proclaimed by The Wise Men, those Gentile kings who followed the great star to worship a new king. It's a blessing when January 6 falls on a Sunday, and it's a special blessing for those of us who call Epiphany Lutheran Church our faith community. The word 'epiphany' means "to suddenly understand," or "to acknowledge the manifestation of a great power." The Gentile kings from the Eastern lands do not share in the Jewish anticipation of a Messiah, but simply wish to pay tribute to a new Jewish king; Herod, threatened by their proclamation of this "new king," refuses to recognize God's promised Messiah. God does work in mysterious ways: the very people Jesus comes to save reject him, even as the non-Jewish kings kneel before the infant Jesus, in awe of this baby's potential to heal a broken world. Their "epiphany" is also ours: we know who Jesus is, and whose we are, claimed by God in the waters of baptism, a promise that means we can never be separated from God or God's mercy. We don't need to understand God's mysteries to know and trust God's promises: it is clear that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, and our hope. Equipped with this 'epiphany,' how will you serve Christ in 2019? How will you proclaim God's love and mercy to a world that cries out in suffering? Follow the 'star' that is the Light of Christ, alive in your heart, to act with kindness in your little corner of the world. Happy New Year, and peace to all here. — *Pastor Monica*



PLEASE JOIN US

CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

### Congregational Meeting January 27th After Worship!

Please plan on attending our Congregational Meeting on January 27th immediately following the worship service. We will vote to approve the 2018 Epiphany annual report (you will receive copies two weeks prior to the meeting), install new council members, and approve the nominating committee chairperson. If you have any questions, please contact [Carol Rife](#).

## From Your Council President...

January – a new year and a new start! I am looking forward to quieter days after the hustle and bustle of Christmas. No matter how prepared I think I am it is always a scramble at the last minute!

In addition to the Christmas rush, the council was finishing up the MIF loan deal that the congregation voted on at our December annual meeting. We consulted an attorney who assured us that our loan papers were in order and that we were lucky to get such a low rate. Also, that while we were rushing to complete the process within 60 days, most loans only give 30 days for all the pieces to be assembled and finalized. At this moment, MIF has all the papers that they need and I expect that we will have our title by December 31st. This has been the culmination of many people working hard on Epiphany's behalf, both in our church and in our synod. We have sought this documentation for many years and I am so happy that it will finally be in our hands. It allows us more flexibility and control over the Home Place.

I am also looking forward to having more free Tuesday nights as I will be off council for the first time in many years. I want to thank all of those who have helped me (ever so patiently!) over the years from Pastor Linda's time through Pastor Funk's time and now to Pastor Monica's time. I have learned A LOT! And don't expect that I will be any less involved here at Epiphany. I am thinking of how best to use my talents and my time.

A new year is a clean slate, filled with hope. I look forward to all that God has in store for Epiphany next year!

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" Romans 15:13*



## December 2018 Council Summary Report

President Carol Rife called to order the December Council Meeting on December 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kingsway Board Room. All council members including our three new members Andria Prouty, Phil Goetz and Wally Knight were present with a quorum established. The three newly elected council members who will assume council responsibilities in February 2019 were warmly welcomed by its current members.

Prannoy Lankapalli is seeking financial support for his Eagle Scout project which is a Food Kiosk located on our church Homeplace property. Church members are encouraged to contribute to Prannoy's project which will help him to fulfill his Eagle Scout requirements, will help some in need and will give our church property added visibility. Prannoy plans on choosing the location at Home Place in February.

Wendell Kruse on behalf of Council is working with the MIF to complete all the paperwork for the mortgage for the Homeplace property prior to Christmas. No delays are anticipated in closing the deal.

Council unanimously approved setting up a Continuing Education Fund which would cover travel, lodging, etc. which would be funded with donations. Next year's First Call expenses will not be covered. Also, Pastor Monica Weber will enroll in a two year course to become a Certified Spiritual Director at a cost of \$3,000.00 for the course to be paid in increments with the first payment of \$750.00 due in January 2019. Pastor has requested that 2018 Christmas gifts to her be placed in the newly created Continuing Ed Fund. At some point this could become a line item in the Church budget.

Council unanimously approved Pastor's \$250.00 deductible for damage done to her car while traveling to Columbus, Mississippi on church business. A deer struck Pastor's car while returning home in the evening after attending Rick Barnard's opening photography show to show support for Rick's achievement. No one was hurt other than the car which incurred costly damages.

With the Crone and Waddell families joining Epiphany Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 16, a total of 13 new members will have been added to the church roles.

Undie Sunday on November 25 was a huge success with over 70 packages of underwear collected and blessed for visitors at RITI.

Respectfully Submitted, *Chris Kelyman, Council Secretary*

# Service Opportunities



***But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ~James 1:22***

**Worship Servants** - a variety of ways to participate in Sunday morning worship. [Sign up here](#), add our name to the clipboard available on Sunday mornings, or [contact Carol Webster](#) to sign up.

**Epiphany Community Garden** - **Please stay tuned for information on when garden work will resume (and we may have some special work days for maintenance, garden prep, etc.) Thank you to ALL who have been such a big part of making our garden grow last year! [Donate here](#)** to help the garden grow - we need funding to get started on a bumper crop for 2019!

## **Room In The Inn (RITI)**

**Our next Room in the Inn in conjunction with Kingsway Christian Church will be on Monday, February 25th.** Volunteers will be needed to help serve and cleanup, and help make the sack lunches the guests will take with them Tuesday morning, as well as to pick up sheets and towels on Tuesday to launder and return to Kingsway within the week. If you have never participated in RITI, you will find it to be a most meaningful experience as a volunteer. There will be other ways to help as well in November!

**Collierville Connected Resource Center (CCRC)** - Epiphany is a coalition partner church with the Collierville Connected Resource Center which provides job skills training such as basic computer operation, resume assistance, help with job applications and interview skills, and offers job search tips for unemployed persons. Without at least two volunteers present, the Center cannot open due to Safe Church practices. If you have an hour to spare, CCRC could use your help. Hours are Tuesdays, 9 - 11:30 am and 4 - 7 pm; Thursdays 9 - 11:30am; Saturdays 9 -11:30 am. A one-hour light training session is provided. The CCRC is located in the basement of Sanctuary on the Square, 104 N. Rowlett St., Collierville. See Pastor Monica to volunteer or for more information.

**Amazon Smile** - Don't forget! Sign up for [Amazon Smile](#) - 0.5% of the price of all your eligible Amazon purchases go directly to Epiphany!

**Kroger Community Rewards** - [Click here to register](#) with Kroger's Community Rewards program. We are registered as Epiphany Lutheran Church, organization #39854.



## Home Place Update

Wet ground conditions prohibited much work in the garden in December, but the garden volunteers still accomplished quite a bit. A load of horse manure was brought to the garden to spread 2-3" deep on 14 beds after the remainder of the greens were harvested.

There are also some new inhabitants of the garden - worms were introduced to a number of beds. They will be fed and nurtured, and their nests covered with matted straw to promote just the environment they like - dark and damp! Hopefully they will bring lots of nutrients to the garden! Stay tuned for information on garden work days in spring!



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## Welcome to the Crone and Waddell Families!

On December 16, 2018, we welcomed Meagan Crone and Adam Waddell and their families as the newest members of our Epiphany congregation.

Meagan is self-employed as an artist, a childcare professional, and also a lifestyle manager. She enjoys creative outlets, time with friends, reading, good food, and Star Trek. Joining Epiphany with her are her two children, Elijah and Emmy. Adam works at the University of Memphis, and is also a freelance writer. He enjoys reading, writing, good food, and (of course) Star Trek. Joining Epiphany with him are his three children, Apple, Gideon, and June.



Both Meagan and Adam were raised Baptist and later worshiped in various different traditions. They are now excited to make Epiphany and its Lutheran tradition their home.



## Happiest of Birthdays and God's Blessings!

Vicki Scherf - January 14  
Dick Wieland - January 19  
Praharsh Lankapalli - January 30

Have we missed **your** birthday?  
Please send the month/day  
to Pastor Monica so you can be included!

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### ***From Pastor Monica...***

Dear Epiphany Friends,  
I'm deeply moved by your generous contributions toward the Pastor Continuing Education fund, and I give thanks for those donations as well as your friendship. I look forward to beginning a 2-year Spiritual Direction certification course at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in January, thanks to your assistance. Together we continue to discern where God is leading Epiphany as a faith community, and how we are to serve Christ. 2018 was a year full of challenges but the Spirit has led us to meet them with hope and joy. I rejoice in the many new members we received in 2018, and look forward to continuing to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our little corner of the world. I pray for each of you, for good health, a strong faith in God, and for your active participation in Epiphany's mission and fellowship life. Peace to all here, Pastor Monica



### ***From Hector Johnson...***

Hello Epiphany Leadership & Congregation,  
I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Pastor Monica, the church leadership and the entire congregation for the wonderful Christmas gift. I'm very grateful and touched by the generous gesture and pray that God will bless and restore everyone. I also pray that God will continue to give all of us the strength to continue to serve him.  
Thanks and Merry Christmas - Hector

### ***From Carol Webster...***

Many, many thanks to everyone in the Epiphany congregation for your generous Christmas gift! I greatly appreciate your kindness. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with all of you during the past year, and I know that great things are ahead for Epiphany as you continue to show God's love for each other as well as to others in the community through your outreach activities. I look forward to serving you in 2019, and to helping grow Epiphany's mission and ministry. Wishing you health, happiness, abundance, joy and love in the New Year!

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## **Prime Timers Fellowship**

During the last half of January, the Prime Timers will hold a Game Night in the Holy Apostles Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The exact day has not been determined - watch your weekly e-newsletter for more information!



## Upcoming Events

### MOE (Men of Epiphany) Saturday, January 12th



The Men of Epiphany (MOE) will meet at 8:30 am at Perkins Family Restaurant in Collierville for breakfast, fellowship and devotion. Please join us!



### GOE (Gals of Epiphany) New Study Starts February 9th!

All women of Epiphany and Kingsway Christian are invited to join us as we examine recent scholarship surrounding Mary Magdalene's life and her important participation in Jesus' ministry. Mary Magdalene was among the first witnesses to the Resurrection, but in the Medieval Era was suddenly viewed as a threat to male power in the Church. Study materials will include a series of articles and The Gospel of Mary Magdalene. Pastor Monica will distribute links to the articles in mid-January. GOE meeting dates for this study are on the following Saturdays: February 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11, at 9 am in the Kingsway Christian Library. For more information, [email Pastor Monica](#).

### PLEASE VOTE - Lenten Fellowship Series

As part of Epiphany's Transformation Ministry 2.0 discernment process, for our Wednesday evening Midweek Lenten worship in 2019 Pastor Monica will lead us in a study of the new book "Together by Grace," from Augsburg Fortress. This study brings the latest scholarship on Luther's Small Catechism into conversation with contemporary life and Lutheranism; it's a good refresher for 'lifelong' Lutherans as well as those who are curious to dig deeper into the Lutheran faith, revealing "why" Lutherans do what we do, and emphasize God's grace above all things. Evening Lenten worship will take place from 6-7 pm on 3/6; 3/13; 3/20; 3/27; 4/3; 4/10 and 4/17. A light soup supper will be served.

Pastor would like to repeat the study sessions on Thursdays over lunch for those who cannot attend Wednesday evening worship. Dates of the luncheon study would be 3/7; 3/14; 3/21; 3/28; 4/4, 4/11 and 4/18, from 11 am-12:15 pm at Panera Bread, across Poplar from Kingsway. Participants could purchase their own lunch or beverage.

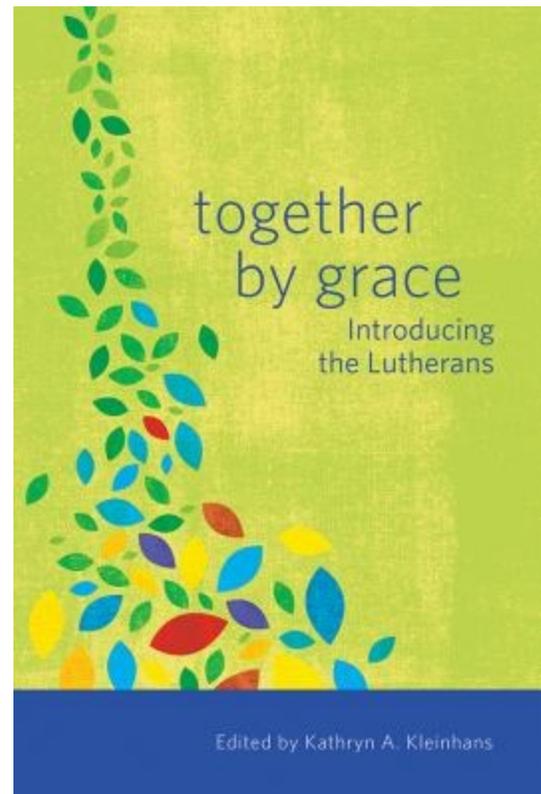
**In order to purchase enough books for this study and plan which days will be offered, please respond to this poll online by January 27th - [CLICK HERE](#).**

### Little Free Pantry Eagle Scout Project at Home Place

Our very own Prannoy Lankapalli has elected to build a "Little Free Pantry" to be located at Home Place by the Community Garden as his Eagle Scout project. He already has the plans for it, and is now in the process of raising funds - the goal is \$750.00 to cover the materials for the project. Please consider a donation to his project - building will begin in February 2019 and we are excited about helping him make this pantry available to those in need in our area!

To find out more about Little Free Pantries, [visit the website](#).

***Feeding Neighbors.  
Nourishing Neighborhoods.***



## January 2019 Calendar of Events

(Please [check our calendar online](#) for the most up-to-date information)

1/1 - 1/3		Church Offices Closed
Sun 1/6	9 am - Bride's Room/Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Epiphany of our Lord - Worship & Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
Sat 1/12	8:30 am - Perkins Restaurant	Men of Epiphany (MOE)
Sun 1/13	9 am - Bride's Room/Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Baptism of our Lord - Worship & Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship
1/14 - 1/20		Pastor Monica attends Spiritual Direction Seminar
Sun 1/20	10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Second Sunday after Epiphany - Service of the Word Coffee Fellowship
Sun 1/27	9 am - Bride's Room/Schaeffer Chapel 10 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel 11:15 am - Schaeffer Memorial Chapel	Confirmation Class Third Sunday after Epiphany - Worship & Holy Communion <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PLEASE ATTEND</b>
1/31 - 2/2		Pastor Monica attends ELCA Region 9 Preaching Retreat



## January 2019 Worship Servants

	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27
<b>Altar Setup</b>		Ed & Becca Schumacher	Phil & Lori Goetz	
<b>Altar Cleanup</b>		Ed & Becca Schumacher	Phil & Lori Goetz	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>		John Garner		
<b>Lector</b>				John Garner
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>				Ed & Becca Schumacher
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		Martha Garner	N/A	
<b>Communion Linens</b>			N/A	
<b>Coffee</b>				Martha Garner
<b>Council Host</b>	Lori Crossmock	Martha Garner	Jennifer Parker	Chris Kelyman
<b>Council Money</b>	Carol Rife	Carol Rife	Dan Scherf	Carol Rife
<b>Confirmation Chaperone</b>	John Garner	Marjorie Barnard	N/A	

The 2019 Worship Servant SignUp process will remain on SignUp Genius. [Please sign up](#) at least four weeks in advance if possible in order to assist in planning. You may also [contact Carol Webster](#) for assistance in signing up. Thank you!



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***Partnering with Christ to Renew Lives***



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**Epiphany Lutheran Church**  
*Worship Location*  
Schaeffer Memorial Chapel  
7887 Poplar Ave.  
Germantown, TN 38138

*Mailing Address*  
PO Box 1805  
Collierville, TN 38027

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