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Tell us a little about yourself and how you serve.

I was ordained in 1981 in the United Methodist Church (UMC) and have served in congregations since then, which is 30 years! In 2013, I heard of an ELCA call at Emmanuel in Rockford, IL. Since the ELCA is a full communion partner with the UMC, I was able to accept that call and was there for six years. For family reasons, I returned to Memphis in 2019 and started as an interim at Epiphany Lutheran. I've enjoyed working as an intentional interim with Epiphany to find a larger, more permanent place to worship so that they could be visible and grow, and assist in preparing them for their next called pastor.

Epiphany is a traditional Lutheran congregation that worships about 45. This congregation loves to garden and grows thousands of pounds of vegetables for the food pantry. They also collect for other local and church wide missions like Good Gifts.

Epiphany has also recently found a new worship location – a shared space with a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation right across from the community college. I'm excited about the possibilities for Epiphany to do shared and crossover ministries. We're already sharing communion and enjoying their portable labyrinth. It's a great partnership, but yet Epiphany will still have their own Lutheran autonomy.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* This doesn't mean that I can do all things, nor that all things are possible, but that I can do all of the things God is calling me to do *with Christ's help.* This verse reminds me not to look at something and say "that's not possible", but seek Christ's strength and the presence of the Holy Spirit before I step into anything.

Where have you seen God recently?

This week I presided at the funeral of a young man. He'd been an organist at Epiphany and the congregation had such love and concern for this young man. He had such great love for everyone – Godly love; love without distinction; love without judgment. Everyone was worthy of his love. God was so present at the funeral in his friends, his husband, and in everyone he touched.

When/how have you been blessed by God's abundance?

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve at Epiphany! I've been through an entire career in ministry and have had lots of experiences. It is a delight to end with Epiphany. They are an amazing group of loving people who take care of each other and the people in their neighborhoods and community. It's nice to be part of a church which is well run, well administrated, and practices the gospel of Christ.