

# MAY NEWSLETTER 2023

## *Epiphany Lutheran Church*

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

*Worshiping at:*  
6700 Spanish Trail  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
Ph. 850-287-5667



*Mailing Address*  
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.  
PO Box 999  
Gonzalez, FL 32560

*Worship Services*  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
(Nursery Available for children Preschool age and under)  
Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday

*Hospitality to follow*

*Email:* [nalcofpensacola@gmail.com](mailto:nalcofpensacola@gmail.com)

*Follow on Facebook:* Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL

*Church Connect page:* [epiphanypns.churchtrac.com](http://epiphanypns.churchtrac.com)

*Website:* [epiphanypensacola.org](http://epiphanypensacola.org)



## PASTOR'S CORNER

*May 2023*  
*Epiphany Pensacola*

### *“Dedication and Worship”*

*2 Corinthians 9:8-12 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.*



Greetings and “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts!” (2 Cor. 9:15)

As the church gathered for service this past month, we celebrated the Day of our Lord’s Resurrection in two different places. The sunrise service was a little chilly but it was a wonderful service. We left the property on Ashland and moved over to Brit Ahm for the traditional service. With the choir, special music, congregation, and Holy Communion we praised God for his love for all people.



The dedication and worship service on April 23, 2023, began a new era for Epiphany as we dedicated our new church property and held our 1<sup>st</sup> service with Holy Communion. The attendance was overflowing and many of you sat under the two beautiful Live Oaks in the back yard. After the dedication and worship service, we enjoyed a church picnic, games, and great fellowship.

I looked at the parking areas and saw that they were full. I’m not sure how everyone is feeling, but I think this is exciting. We have to remember that text from above as our human concerns try to take over our hearts and minds. We hear in God’s Word “Do Not Fear” and I encourage you to live with the excitement of God’s abundance.



At the top of this page is the Jerusalem Communion Ware we used for the dedication and worship service. It was a gift from a dear friend and mentor Rev. Steven Ritter.

It's the first time I've used this set and it was very meaningful for me to use it for this special occasion. Pr. Ritter was instrumental in my discernment to enter seminary and he has been a blessing for my pastoral development. Thank you, Pr. Ritter, for modeling what Paul writes in 2 Cor. 9:8 *And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

Let's reflect on our journey for a moment. Not looking back but seeing how God has supplied his church with an abundance. Epiphany Lutheran Church has come a long way since the end of 2021. Our attendance continues to grow with new faces visiting and staying. We continue to receive brothers and sisters in Christ that want to serve and worship the Lord. Just this past month we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for two more disciples in Christ. We're seeing more children and young adults in worship and with the increase in nursery needs, we've planned for another attendant to help each week.

We have been blessed as we've witnessed spiritual growth, joy, and generosity. Imagine how many people we have touched as we continue to support the poor and we continue to give to those who are hungry. Our church dedication in April is another testimony to the great generosity of God's people. Just standing in the front yard of the church property, you can see the developing mission field and the opportunity to sow the seed of faith to our new community.

***Please take the time now to re-read the scripture passage I have at the top of my first page.***

In November of 2022 we found out that we needed a lot more money to close on the property that God placed before us and we overcame this great need within 30 days raising \$48,000.00. On Easter morning 4/2023 we began a Capital Campaign to raise the money for the Transitional worship building. In the past three weeks we've raised \$30,000.00. I want you to know and remember that when I ask you to support the church through food pantry, general fund, building fund, Lent offerings, capital campaign and any other mission and ministry seeds needed; Wanda and I are also supporting them. We will never ask you to do something that we are not doing with you. That is the point of serving God faithfully as pastor and spouse. We risk in faith just as you do knowing and trusting in God's abundance for the faithful.

Hear one more time what Paul writes to the people of Corinth: ***<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.***

I encourage you to ask others who love the Lord to support the capital campaign. I have done so and it has provided gifts of love from our family and friends for the Saints here in Pensacola. On April 16<sup>th</sup> a visitor was so moved by our giving and generosity that she came up to me after church and gave a gift to the capital campaign because I presented the idea of asking others who love the Lord. That's how the Holy Spirit touches us. This month, I will reach out to the NALC to request funds for the ministry of Epiphany Lutheran Church. We will also be working on a grant through one of the churches in Ohio that may have grant funds available to help.

**Alleluia He Has Risen!**  
*Rev. Dr. Franklin Gore*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*



# APRIL 23 WORSHIP AND PICNIC AT ASHLAND

Property Dedication and Blessing with readings by Past and Present Council Presidents- Dan Zeigler, Marla Meyer, and Pete Morgan.



Left to right: Blessing of Back door, Meeting room, and Front door of office complex.



The Worship service



Picnic







Food, Fun, and Fellowship!



*Thank you to everyone who spent countless hours preparing the property inside and out so that we could celebrate The Lord and the many Blessings He has provided us.  
God Bless,  
the Epiphany staff*



# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Praise group practice <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Choir practice <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Hospitality <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Adult Sunday School <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Social Ministry meeting	<b>8</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Praise group practice <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	<b>9</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Faith/Eve Circle 9176 Ashland Ave. <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Lutheran 101 class via zoom	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>11</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Council reports due	<b>12</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>Mission Sunday</b> <b>8:00 a.m. -9:15 a.m.</b> Manna food drop off (trunk to trunk) <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Choir practice <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Hospitality <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Adult Sunday School <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>15</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Praise group practice <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Council meeting	<b>17</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>Eyeglass collection</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Choir practice <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship at 9176 Ashland Ave. <b>10:45 a.m.</b> Hospitality with lunch	<b>22</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Praise group practice <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Lutheran 101 class via zoom	<b>24</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28 PENTECOST SUNDAY</b> <b>New Member Sunday</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Choir practice <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Worship <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Hospitality <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Adult Sunday School <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.			

Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon unless otherwise noted.



## HOSPITALITY

*<sup>24</sup>Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and health to the body. Proverbs 16:24*

I personally want to thank everyone for their kind words of appreciation on behalf of my team and myself at the picnic. Like the verse above notes, “it is sweetness and health to the body.” It is joyful to serve the Lord and his disciples, we do so to glorify God, not ourselves, it is also joyful to hear the appreciation of our labors from our brothers and sisters. Brenda

Talk about March Winds blowing through, what happened to April? The Hospitality Team has been busy, and we are just getting started.

We celebrated Ethan and Eli in taking their first Holy Communion with a beautiful cake. Held our second annual Easter Brunch as Epiphany. Thank you all for the participation in joining us for this event, we served ninety (90) plates on Easter Sunday, the largest crowd yet. We must be doing something right!

In addition, we had the Dedication and Celebration of our new property, office center, and future church home. The Hospitality Team, with the help of many, served approximately one hundred-thirty (130) plates at the picnic! What a beautiful way to celebrate and glorify God!  
Special thanks to all who helped with making this event a success.



This month we will celebrate “Mother’s Day.” For the first time (since I have been here) we will have a few Gentlemen who have stepped up to host and serve on this day! How wonderful is that! Thanks to Brad, Art, and John for agreeing to serve on this special day for all. Do not worry guys, this will not be the last time you will have opportunities to serve in Hospitality!

Lastly, **BIG THANKS** to the Hospitality Team! You made a wonderful day **BETTER!**

*Until next time...God’s Peace!*

Brenda

***As always, it is a JOY and HONOR to serve in GOD’S House!***

## THANK YOU FROM A CHURCH MEMBER

Thanks to all those who worked very hard to prepare the church and the grounds for the picnic. It was a great event that we enjoyed very much. It’s good to see all that stayed and enjoyed the day. The kids had a great time too.

Thanks to all those that helped make it a great day for the church.



## SERMON TITLES FOR MAY

May 7	It's Not Hogwarts - based on the Gospel, John 14:1-14
May 14	Who Do You Serve? – based on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 17:16-31
May 21	The Promise – based on the Gospel, Luke 24:44-53
May 28	Limitless – based on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Numbers 11:24-30

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 28, Epiphany will be celebrating the joining of new members. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a part of the Epiphany family, please contact the church office.

## PRAYER REQUEST PROCEDURES

Beginning in May, all listed on the prayer request will be lifted up in prayer for a period of three weeks at which time the request will be removed unless indicated otherwise. If you wish your request to remain on the prayer list for a longer period of time, please notify the office with that information.

## FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am, Faith Circle will again meet at the new property site located at 9176 Ashland Avenue in Pensacola. We'll pick up where we left off in the Meaning of Service study guide Session 3, Noticing and Reaching Out. There was such great conversation during this study in April we didn't quite finish it, so we'll pick up at the top of page 14 looking at Luke 19:1-10. It is wonderful when we spend time looking deep into God's Word and what it means for our life.

We were 20 strong at the April meeting, a new record! It was nice to get a look at how things are going at the new property along with a good bible study. I hope you'll join us in May as we continue to seek God's truth.

Dawn Zeigler



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

### **WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST**

Epiphany Social Ministry had a busy and blessed month of April. YOU are very much a part of this ministry and actively being obedient to Gods call to serve. We on the committee might plan, collect and deliver but we can't do it without your generosity and dedication.

Harland and Betty Bross delivered 735 lbs of food to Manna Food Bank. Thank you on behalf of those that receive your generous contributions. Many will sleep with their satisfied hunger needs fulfilled because of you.

May's collection for Manna is on Sunday May 14th. **MOTHERS DAY**

As we honor our mothers let's help other parents feed their families with gifts of food. They will never know our names, but God does....and that's who we serve.

Gerry Selland will be collecting trunk to trunk on this special day....let's fill her car to the brim!

Judith Lewing and Christine Davis collected personal care items that were delivered to Favor House. This is a safe place for abused women that often have to leave their homes in a hurry and therefore don't have these essential items for personal care. They are so appreciative of your generosity and caring hearts. We do collect these items in the fellowship hall in a box marked Favor House/ Waterfront Mission year round then we collect and deliver.

On to May. Besides Manna we will be collecting eye glasses for the Lions Club on May 21st. Marsha Suarez will have her trunk available from 8am to 9:15am. If you've ever had to hunt for your glasses this is how many poor brothers and sisters feel all the time. PLEASE offer 'Readers' of any strength and prescription glasses for men and women. An Ophthalmologist member of the Lions Club determines the prescription and labels the glasses to be distributed to those in need.

Your love for others shines bright every month and with a full stomach and clear vision just think of the joy you're offering to others.

We are truly a Blessed congregation, and we share with others.

Serving HIM with you,

Carole Dwyer Serving HIM with you

## **WORSHIP AND LUNCH AT ASHLAND PROPERTY**

Sunday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your lawn chairs

Light lunch during Hospitality

\*There will not be worship at Brit Ahm on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



# FROM THE TREASURER

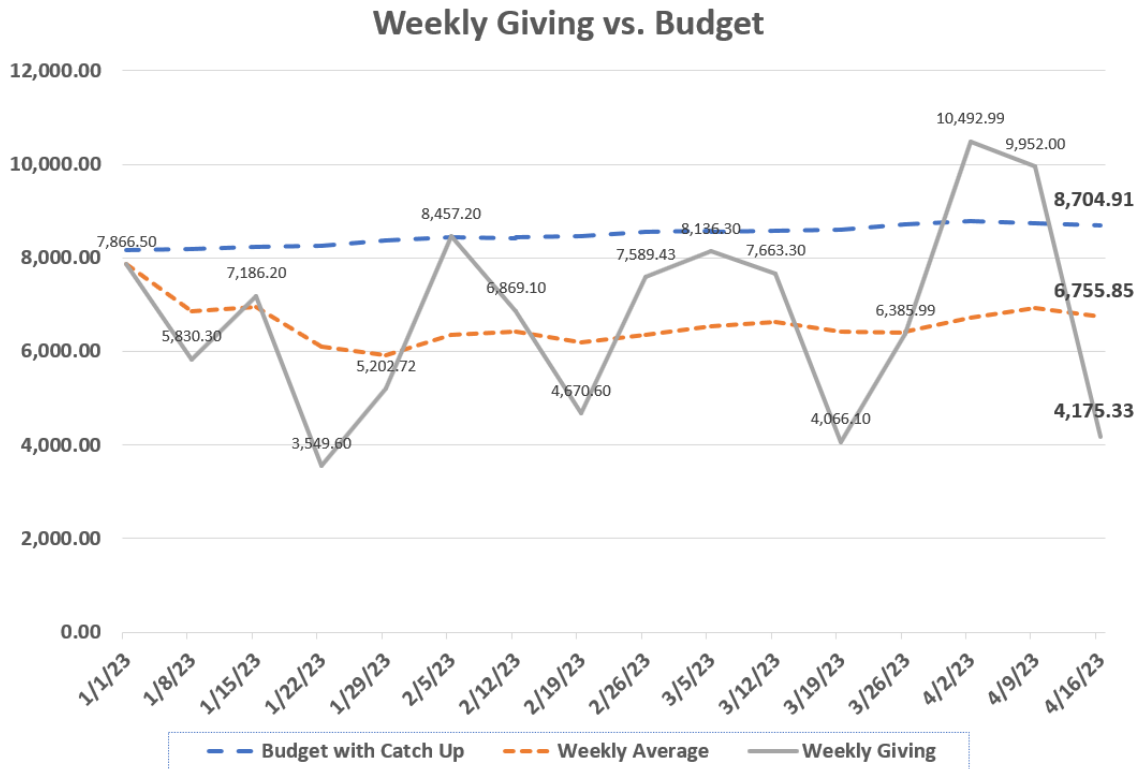
He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

What a wonderful time of year. Spring has sprung. New beginnings. And so, it is for us too. We held our first service at the Ashland campus (I like the sound of that), a new beginning for Epiphany Pensacola. It's been quite a journey in a very short time. We are blessed to be sure.

It's inspirational to see how you return God's blessings back to His work. Your faith and commitment to God and His plan for each of us and for His work here in Pensacola and beyond is so evident and obvious in your generosity with what He first gave us.

I told you last month that we'd be offering more information in an effort to be very transparent into the financial health of Epiphany today and forecasting that through the weeks and months ahead to ensure our ability to be missional to each other and our Pensacola community is not compromised.

To that end, the first chart included is a weekly giving line chart which shows our giving as it relates to the approved budgeted giving. The solid line is the actual giving, the short dash line is our weekly average and the long dash line is our needed budgeted giving. With our first quarter behind us, we can see that we're behind our budgeted need. Based on recommendations from the financial team, the council is making adjustments to our expense budget to help close the gap. Much like most of our personal home finances, things are tighter than we had hoped or planned, so we make adjustments. These adjustments to expenses help, but do not make up for the entire shortfall. It's going to take help from each of you too in the form of maybe an extra \$10 a week, \$2 a week, or whatever God puts on your heart to give.



I know it's a lot. We've just kicked off our Building Fund Capital Campaign for the transitional building and you're very generously giving to that and now we're asking that we dig a little deeper to meet the budgeted needs for the General Fund too.

Pray about it, talk with your family about it and consider whether or not you're in a position to do more. God will provide. We're confident in that because he says so. I keep coming back to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians because it speaks to me. I don't want, the council does not want and most importantly, God doesn't want anyone to feel pressured or guilted into doing more.

*"<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves **a cheerful giver.**"*

Be happy and joyful in your giving to His plan and purpose. He will always provide!

One more reminder on the Capital Campaign. We don't have to do it all ourselves. We sent letters to sister congregations asking for their help and we can and should be asking family and friends to help too. It'll take more than just us and you never know who might be looking for an opportunity to be a part of something greater...until you ask.

We've set up several very simple ways for anyone to give.

<https://epiphanydns.churchtrac.com/> - click on the Building Fund Donate button

<https://donorbox.org/building-fund-capital-campaign>

Scan the QR code below.



Share the link on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranPensacola/> or by mail:

Payment should be made to:

Epiphany Lutheran Church (Note: Capital Campaign)

PO Box 999

1450 Old Chemstrand Rd

Gonzalez, FL 32560

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

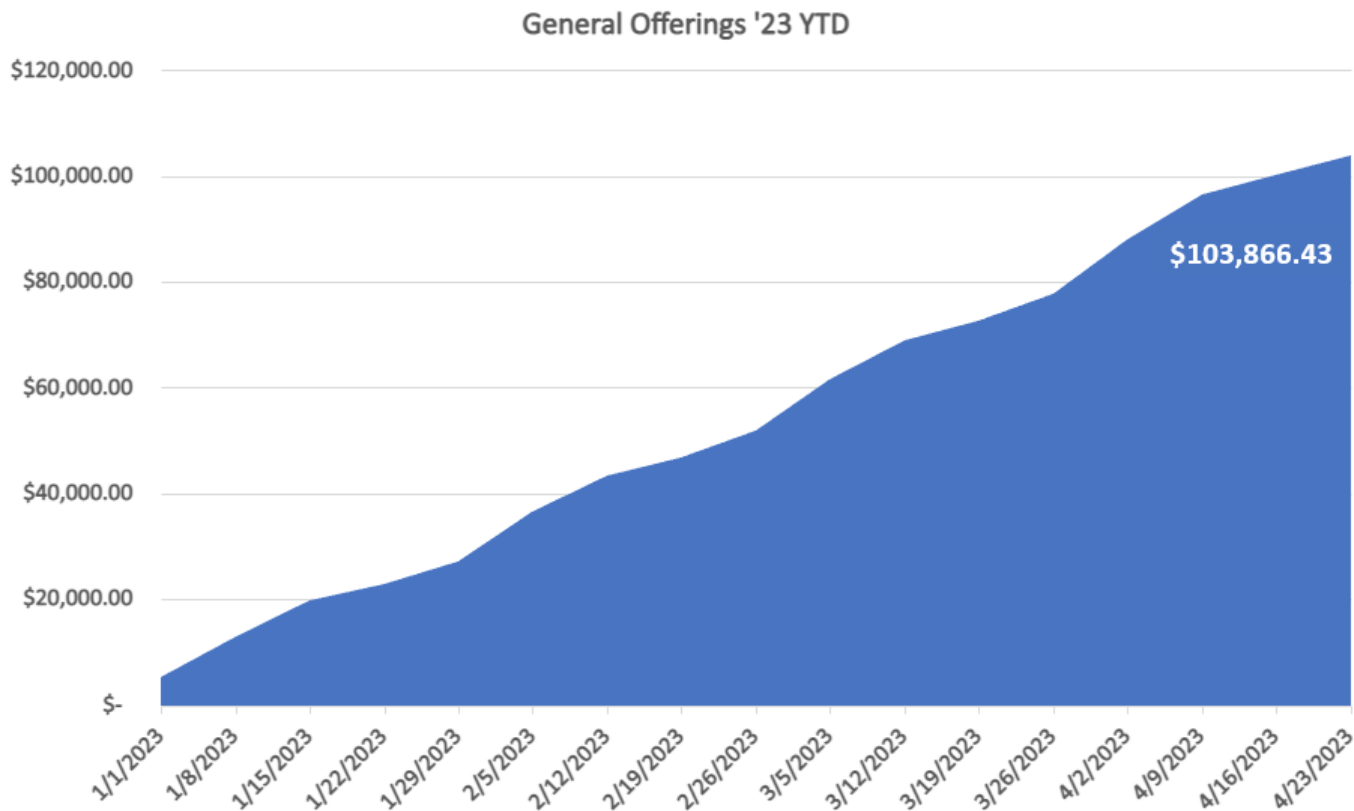
Ken Busarow – Treasurer

Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

[treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org](mailto:treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org)



## OFFERING TOTAL (YTD)



## Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA

Have you recently finished filing your income taxes? Were you able to claim Itemized Deductions or did you Claim the Standard Deduction? When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was implemented a few years back, it greatly increased the Standard Deduction, meaning that most people will no longer benefit from itemized deductions. Itemized deductions include medical expenses (over a certain threshold), real estate taxes paid (up to a limit), mortgage interest paid, and charitable contributions. If you are now claiming a Standard Deduction, you are no longer benefiting (for income tax purposes only) from your charitable contributions... but what if there was a way that you could?

Do you have an IRA that you are taking “Required Minimum Distributions” from? If yes, you could receive a tax benefit for making “Qualified Charitable Distributions”, or QCDs. A QCD is where you tell the custodian of your IRA to send a portion of your RMD to a qualified public charity. The custodian sends this amount directly to the charity and you can exclude that amount from your taxable IRA distributions on your tax return for the year. This only works for IRA distributions – not pensions, not 401(k) plans. Your IRA custodian should have paperwork for you to complete should you choose to make QCDs. If you have general questions, Vanessa is happy to talk to you (after tax filing season is over).

## Giving Shares of Stock or Mutual Funds to Epiphany

Did you know that Epiphany has an investment account so that we can receive shares of stocks and/or mutual funds?

Why transfer shares?

Transferring shares is a great way to give and save on your taxes when you give shares that have appreciated from your purchase cost. When you transfer shares, your basis (purchase cost) transfers to the recipient and you don't recognize any gain on those shares. Instead, the recipient will recognize the gain when the shares are sold. As a church, we don't pay income taxes, so that gain is not taxed. Additionally, you have transferred the fair market value of the shares to the church.

For example: You bought 10 shares of ABC when they were trading at \$25 per share. Today they are trading at ~\$135. If you sold the 10 shares, you'd have a taxable gain of \$1,100. But if you give the shares to church you receive a charitable deduction of \$1,350 and the church has ~\$1,350 in assets (which will be sold and converted to cash).

The shares need to be in a taxable account (not in an IRA or 401(k) or any other retirement account) for this to work. Additionally, you should never transfer shares that have a loss – sell them and take the loss, then give the cash.

Of course you should consider whether you need the income or future value of those shares for living expenses before transferring. Please also consult with your own investment advisor and/or tax preparer.

If you'd like to transfer shares, please contact the office for our account information to provide to your investment advisor

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*God has given us two hands, one to receive with, and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding, we are channels made for sharing (Billy Graham).*



## MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	May 7	May 14	May 21 Ashland property	May 28
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Betty Bross	Wanda Gore	Carole Dwyer	Ken Busarow
LECTOR(S)	Jim Cooper	Karen McCabe	Steve Meyer	Rod Dwyer
USHERS	Eric Johnson Harland Bross	John Ekstrom Steve Meyer	Art Kimmel Eddie Gibbons	Harland Bross John Ekstrom
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Karen McCabe Heidi Long	Jim Cooper Art Kimmel	Alice Fludgate Audrey Tinsley	Wanda Gore Judith Lewing
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Marsha Suarez	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Alice Fludgate
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Suzanne Morgan	Art Kimmel John Ekstrom Randy St. Louis Brad Fludgate	Youth Sunday Grace, Everlynn, Brooklyn	Audrey Tinsley
CUP BEARERS	John & Everlynn	Connor & Lily	Brooklyn & Grace	John & Ethan

### Worship Assistant Scheduling

Brenda Ekstrom is scheduling assistance for Worship each Sunday as she works on the bulletins. The Assisting Ministers will continue to be scheduled by Pastor. Brenda will be in contact with members for availability to serve. **If you are willing to serve and/or have scheduling conflicts, please contact Brenda. Also, as Sunday approaches and you discover you cannot serve and cannot switch with someone, please contact Brenda or the office. Thank you!**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Mission Sunday-Bring food for Manna**

May 14, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. drop off

### **Worship at 9176 Ashland Ave.**

May 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.  
(Bring your lawn chairs)  
Light lunch during Hospitality

### **Eye Glass collection**

May 21, 2023  
(trunk to trunk drop off available at the Ashland property or a box will be provided)

### **Newsletter Articles Due**

May 17, 2023

### **New Member Sunday (Pentecost)**

May 28, 2023

