



Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504

850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

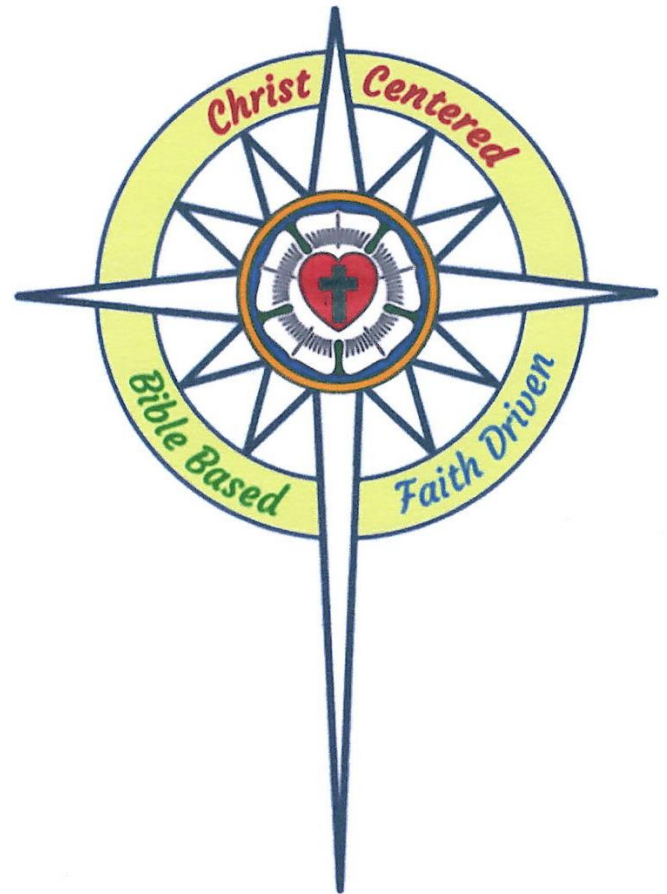
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.

P.O. Box 999, Gonzalez, Fl 32560

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, Fl

Church connect page:
epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



EPIPHANY PENSACOLA

January 2025 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



January 2025
Epiphany Pensacola

Table of Contents

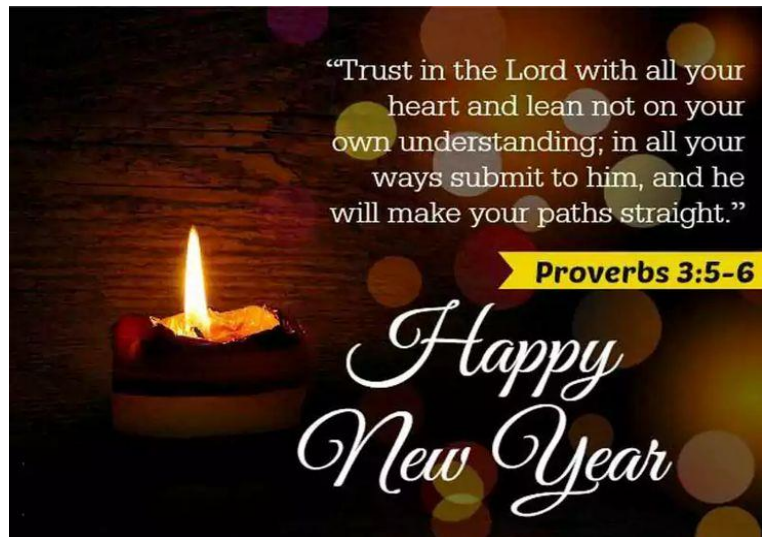
Pastor's Article.....	pg 2
Epiphany Service information.....	pg 3
Bible Study information.....	pg 3
Calendar.....	pg 4
Dates to Remember.....	pg 5
Committee News.....	pg 6-10
Christmas Program Pictures.....	pg 11
Mission Sunday December outcome.....	pg 12
Cartoon Corner.....	pg 13
November Worship Assistants.....	pg 14
Way to Give.....	pg 15
Prayer Request Procedures.....	pg 15
Offering Flow Chart.....	pg 16
Attention Thrivent Members.....	pg 16
Email Addresses.....	pg 17
Christmas Card from Bishop Selbo.....	pg 18

*January 2025
Epiphany Lutheran Church*

Proverbs 3:5-6 on the right has deep purpose in our future. We must trust in the Lord and know that what He has planned will be for our best interest.

We enter into a new year with the Word of God asking us to trust and lean on Him.

(Image found on Wishing gift & Pinterest)



There were probably times in 2024 that you could look back and say that you were not fully leaning on or trusting in the Lord. Always trusting in the Lord each day and leaning on Him is not as easy as the writer of Proverbs makes it sound. That being said, I think everyone at some point takes time to reflect on the past year. I think it's healthy to have time for self-reflection. It's not healthy to get caught up in all the wrong things that happened in the past year. But, a little self-reflection can help you transform bad habits into good things. I think one of the bad habits for most Christians is not fully trusting in the Lord and leaning on Him.

Epiphany has been blessed with people willing to serve in multiple areas of ministry. There's always room for more volunteers to help strengthen the ministry and mission of God's church. I'd like to encourage all the people of the church to reflect on your spiritual life and your worship life. How are you expressing your trust in the Lord? How are you submitting to the one who called your name from conception?

2024 was a good year for Epiphany. I know we've all been waiting and waiting and yes, waiting some more for the construction to begin. I have felt the same as all of you over the past year. Now we are there! We know that we've placed our trust in the Lord and we've turned this over to Him. In doing so, we've found some very good contractors, we've found engineers for several areas of the project, and we've secured a loan from a bank for the completion of the worship center. It is in recognition of God's will that our path is now straight.

Looking back at 2024, I would say that we (most of us) tried to lean on our own understanding instead of His when it came to building the worship center. We wanted it so badly that we got in the way of God's plan and time. I encourage you as well as myself to let 2025 be the time for our Lord Jesus Christ. You can accomplish this commitment by spending time in the Lord. In your 2025 commitments make a few for Jesus. Worship... Prayer... Volunteer... and Trust.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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 God⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them

until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

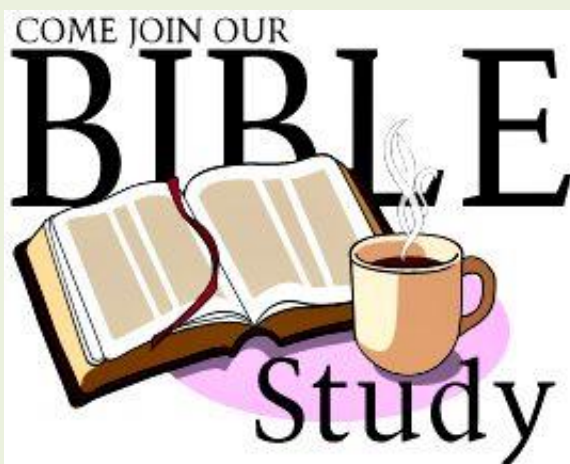
Matthew 2:1-3, 9-12

Come celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6, 2024

Worship Service starts at 5:30 with Dinner to follow

On the 12th night of Christmas, we celebrate the arrival of the magi and their recognition of Jesus' birth. This festive day in the church calendar represents our congregation as well. We celebrate the light of Christ as the church name is given by God to the people in Pensacola. The birth of our congregation name came into the hearts and minds of several people from various places.

From the gift of the Spirit, our congregation name was born. Not by vote, but by the Spirit. Therefore, the Feast of Epiphany will always be celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas as the name sake of this congregation.



January 2025

A new bible study "Learning in the Word" will begin this month. It will be led by Pastor Gore and Mr. Cooper.

Learning in the Word will held at the Ashland Complex.

January 14th at 6:30 PM

January 28th at 6:30 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>January 2025</i>						
29	30	31	1 Office closed	2 4:30p Ch. Ed planning	3 Office closed	4
5 2 nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	6 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 5:30p Worship at Brit-Ahm 6:30p Dinner	7 5:30p Bell practice	8 3:30p ByGrace practice 4:30p Choir practice 5:30p Confirmation class	9	10 Office closed	11
12 Mission Sunday BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:30a Manna drop off 9:30a Worship-Installation 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	13	14 11:00a Faith Circle 5:30p Bell practice 6:30p Bible study	15 3:30p ByGrace practice 4:30p Choir practice 5:30p Confirmation class Newsletter articles due!	16 11:00a Council reports due	17 Office closed	18
19 2 nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	20	21 5:30p Bell practice 6:00p Council meeting	22 3:30p ByGrace practice 4:30p Choir practice 5:30p Confirmation class	23	24 Office closed	25
26 3 rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	27	28 12:00p SOLE 5:30p Bell practice 6:30p Bible study	29 3:30p ByGrace practice 4:30p Choir practice 5:30p Confirmation class	30	31 Office closed	



DATES TO REMEMBER

Christian Education planning

Thursday, January 2 @ 4:30p

Epiphany Service and Dinner

Monday, January 6

Service: 5:30p

Dinner: 6:30p

Mission Sunday- Manna drop off

Sunday, January 12 @ 8:30a

Faith Circle

Tuesday, January 14 @ 11:00a

Bible Study

Tuesday, January 14 @ 6:30p

Tuesday, January 28 @ 6:30p

Newsletter articles due

Wednesday, January 15

Council reports due

Thursday, January 16 @ 11:00a

Council meeting

Tuesday, January 21 @ 6:00p

SOLE

Tuesday, January 28 @ 12p



COMMITTEE NEWS

SOLE

SOLE (Sharing Our Lives at Epiphany)

Twenty-three of us had so much fun at the Christmas luncheon! Food was so yummy from Petrella's Italian Cafe and the Dirty Santa gift exchange was great fun! Now with Christmas celebrations behind but still a couple months of winter here in north Florida, we are aiming to keep warm with some homemade chili. All seniors are invited to the Chili Potluck. Join us at noon on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at the church office on Ashland. Please RSVP to Alice Fludgate (850-860-0368) to sign-up by Sunday, January 26.



FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will meet Tuesday January 14th at Ashland @ 11:00a.m.
We will begin studying The Holy Spirit as we delve into The Apostles Creed.
Please bring your bibles, a friend and a brown bag lunch.
ALL are welcome.

God's Peace,
Marlene and Wanda



Faith Circle had their Christmas lunch and gift swap in December. It was a great turn out!



Hospitality

*You who serve God, praise God! Just to speak his name is praise!
Just to remember God is a blessing now and tomorrow and always. From east to
west, from dawn to dusk, keep lifting all your praises to God! Psalm 113:1-3*

As the New Year begins let us *Rejoice* and *Lift* praises to God! He has been with each of us throughout 2024 and has brought us through the good and the bad times, the happy and sad times. The good news is the abounding *Love* God delivers everyday!

When singing "Happy Birthday Jesus" during the Christmas Eve Service, I remember the *Joy* in my spirit to celebrate with my brothers and sisters of Christ the birth of our *Savior*. May we all remember the excitement of Christ's birth as we go forward into 2025 with joy and love in our hearts and a pep in our step! Exciting times are coming!

In closing and as Ms. Faye Robinson and I start our 11th year as your Hospitality Chair and Co-Chair, I extend a Heartfelt "*THANK YOU*" to my team for their unending support and dedication to serving God's people at Epiphany. I could not do it without you. Thank you to our congregation for your support in providing supplies, baking and the joy you share each Sunday. May God bless and keep you all in his grace!

As always, it is **still** a JOY and HONOR to serve in God's House at Epiphany!
God's Peace and Love,
Brenda

SOCIAL MINISTRY

A New Year, a New Start!

2025 will be here soon and fresh new ideas for social ministry will begin to take shape! We had a good run at things in 2024, but exciting things are coming, some old and hopefully some new!

The folks at Favor House were very appreciative of the Love in Action gifts we collected.

Randy has graciously volunteered to coordinate the Manna Food collection every month.

Social Ministry is open for any ideas from the congregation to make Epiphany known in the neighborhood. Anyone who wants to become involved with the Social Ministry committee, we welcome you with open arms!

Respectfully submitted by Chairperson

Dianne Ledkins



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir will take a short break for the holiday season, with practices resuming on January 19th. We're thrilled to announce that the choir's first performance of the new year will be on February 16. Additionally, we're excited to share that we will be purchasing beautiful white choir robes for all participants.

ByGrace Needs You!

ByGrace is actively seeking talented musicians to join our team. Specifically, we're looking for a drummer, lead guitarist, and bass guitarist. If you have these musical gifts—or know someone who does—please reach out to Donna Busarow at your earliest convenience. Let's make joyful music together!

Christian Education

As we celebrate the holidays, please note that Christian Education classes for Pre-K through 12th grade will be on pause. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Children's Christmas Program



“The ‘Just a Little Christmas’ program was a tremendous success! A heartfelt thank you to the children, parents, and staff who came together as the amazing family we are to bring this event to life. Your dedication and teamwork made it truly special.”

~Donna Busarow



MISSION SUNDAY

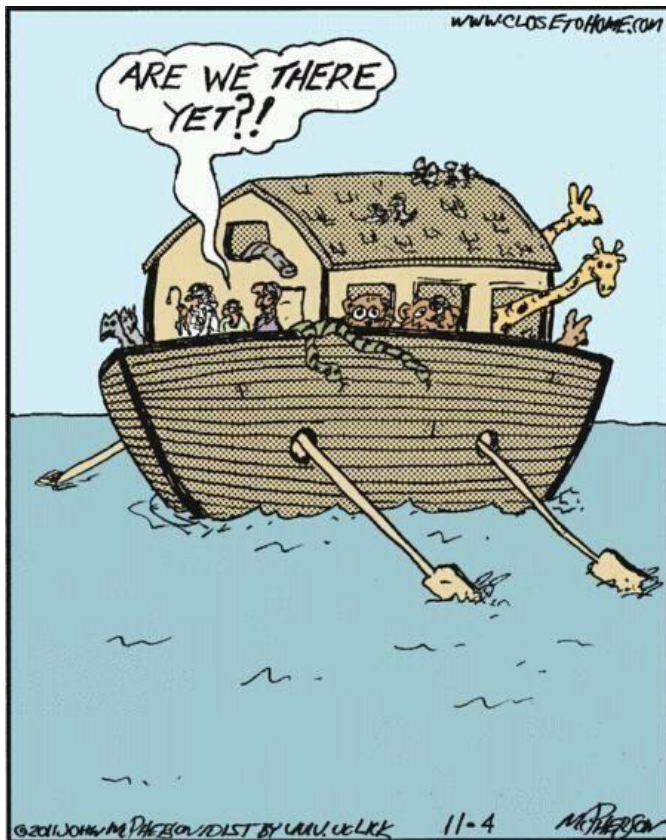


We reached our goal of collecting 800 pounds of food for Manna in December with a whopping 809 pounds! Great job everyone!

~CARTOON CORNER~



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."



The famous question is asked for the first time.



JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	JAN 5	JAN 6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	JAN 12	JAN 19	JAN 26
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Ken Busarow	Stephen Clements	Carole Dwyer	Dianne Ledkins	Art Kimmel
LECTOR(S)	Pete Morgan	Wanda Gore	Regina Gibbons Leighton Marchant	Randy St. Louis Grace Busarow	Steve Meyer
USHERS	Steve Meyer Art Kimmel	Harland Bross Eddie Gibbons	Chuck Glassmire John Ekstrom	Randy St. Louis Eddie Gibbons	Harland Bross John Longhouser John Ekstrom
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judy Taylor Dianne Ledkins	Karen McCabe Wanda Gore	Shelly Johnson Heidi Long	Betty Bross Bonnie Baggett	Alice Fludgate Kim McCormick
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Marsha Suarez	Randy St. Louis Chris Davis	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Brad Fludgate	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Regina Gibbons	Regina Gibbons	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWERS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
REFRESH- MENTS	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality
CUP BEARERS	Everlynn Harvey John Reitmire	Volunteer	Leighton Marchant Ethan Oomens	Eli Baggett Brooklyn Gorday	Everlynn Harvey John Reitmire
CLEAN-UP	Eddie Gibbons	Volunteer	Art Kimmel	Ken Busarow	Pete Morgan

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!

Ways to Give

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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

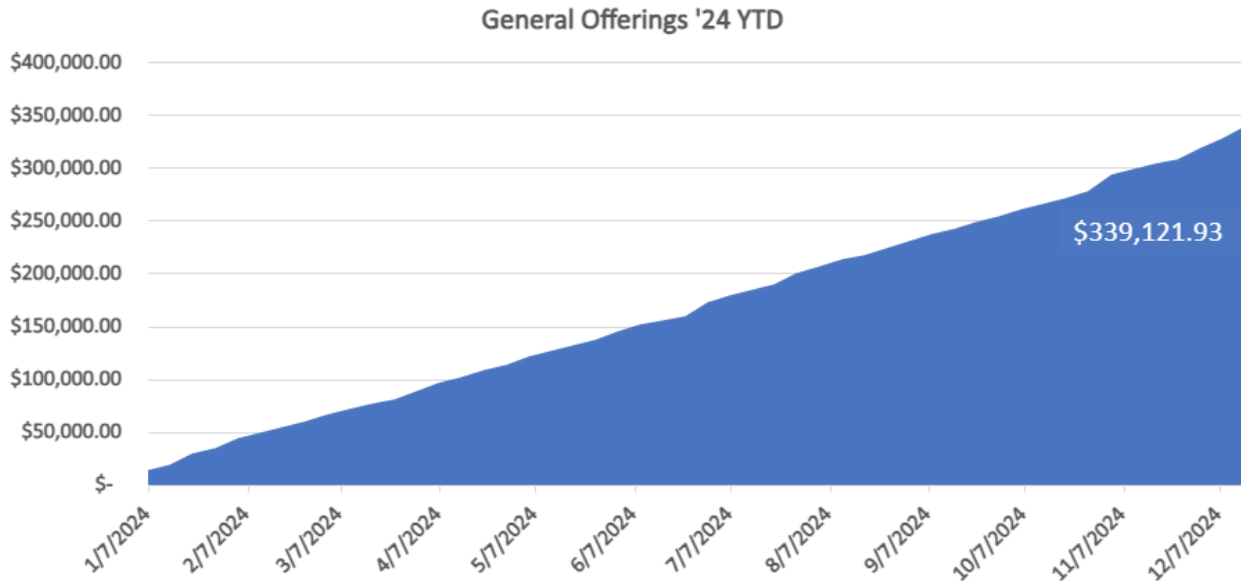
Ken Busarow – Treasurer

treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org

PRAYER REQUEST PROCEDURES

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.

OFFERING TOTAL (YTD)



ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Did you know you have FREE MONEY for projects at Epiphany? If you have a policy, no matter the size, with Thrivent you are eligible to do two Action Team projects per year. These projects can be used to increase the ministry of our church. Each project can have \$250.00 used toward the proposed project. All you have to do is go online to Thrivent and fill out the application.

If you need help Brenda Ekstrom, in the church office, can set up an appointment for you to come to the office and help you fill out the application or Deacon Glenn will come to your home and assist you in filling out the grant application

Once again it costs you nothing but a few minutes of your time. And with two annual projects, a total of up to \$500.00 could be used to increase the outreach of Epiphany Church.

Please contact the office and find out how you can expand the mission of Epiphany.

In His Service

Deacon Glenn

If you have any Choice Dollars to spend, PLEASE DONATE them to the church

E-MAIL UPDATE**



As part of our Social Media upgrades coming in 2024, we're upgrading our e-mail services for the staff and Church Council at Epiphany. Here are the new e-mail addresses effective January 1, 2024.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore	pastor@epiphanypensacola.org
Office Manager	Kim McCormick	officemgr@epiphanypensacola.org
Parish Deacon	Deacon Glenn	deaconglenn@epiphanypensacola.org
Traditional Worship	Ken Busarow	choirdirector@epiphanypensacola.org
Bell Choir	Ken Busarow	belldirector@epiphanypensacola.org
Contemporary Worship	Donna Busarow	contemporaryworship@epiphanypensacola.org
Office Asst.	Brenda Ekstrom	officeasst@epiphanypensacola.org
Off. Asst./Bookkeeper	Sara-Margaret Seevers	bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

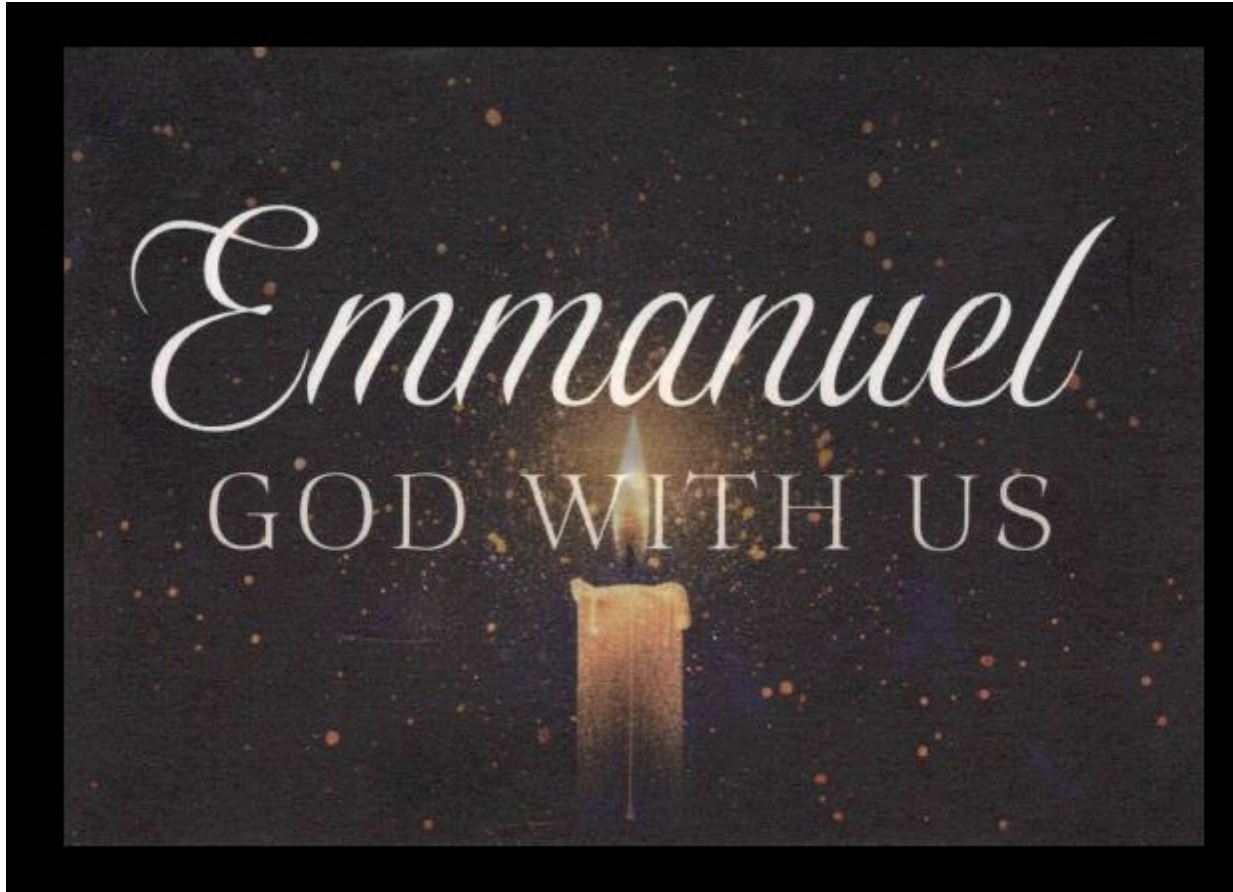
President	Pete Morgan	president@epiphanypensacola.org
Vice President	Paul Herrick	vicepresident@epiphanypensacola.org
Secretary	Regina Gibbons	secretary@epiphanypensacola.org
Treasurer	Ken Busarow	treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org
Fin. Secretary	Judie Cox	finsec@epiphanypensacola.org
Co-Fin. Secretary	Valerie Creedon	co-finsec@epiphanypensacola.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship & Music	Kathie Shoff-Norem	worship@epiphanypensacola.org
Social Ministry	Rod Dwyer	socialministry@epiphanypensacola.org
Hospitality	Suzanne Morgan	hospitality@epiphanypensacola.org
Mutual Ministry	Harland Bross	mutualministry@epiphanypensacola.org

Prayer Requests	prayerrequest@epiphanypensacola.org
Tech Support	support@epiphanypensacola.org
Facebook Support	facebook@epiphanypensacola.org

Christmas Card from Bishop Selbo



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Shout and be glad, O Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

– Zechariah 2:10–11. 13 NIV84

Dear Friends,

In this holy season, we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is God with us. May His presence fill you with peace, joy, and hope that endures forever. Rejoice! To us a Savior has been born!

*Bishop Dan Selbo & Staff
North American Lutheran Church*