



Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504

850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

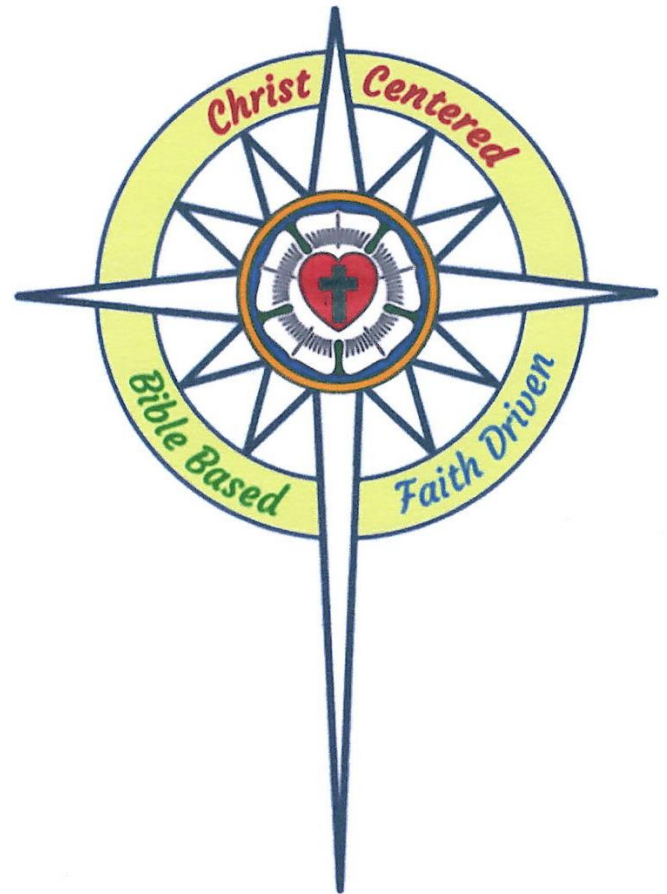
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.

P.O. Box 999, Gonzalex, Fl 32560

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-
Pensacola, Fl

Church connect page:
epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



EPIPHANY PENSACOLA

January 2024 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



January 2024
Epiphany Pensacola

January 2024
Epiphany Lutheran Church



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² 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.⁹ After 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

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's name came into the hearts and minds of several people from various places. Through the gift of the Spirit, our congregation's 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 namesake of this congregation.

December 25th we reflected on the birth narrative of Jesus. As the birth narrative continues in Matthew, it is now time for the magi to arrive to pay homage to Jesus. As we know, this was a couple years later. The magi arrive and worship the new born king bringing gifts and greetings to the Holy family. The star we see in most depictions of this event is one that we use to announce our place in Pensacola. We gather at Epiphany each week to celebrate God's love for us. I pray that our congregation will make worship a priority for 2024. Let's gather bringing our gifts and our love as we pay homage to the Savior of the world.

Looking at 2024:

This new year will bring many changes for the people of Epiphany. We are expecting to move from the synagogue sometime this year. We do not know the exact date and our brothers and sisters at Brit Ahm are in no hurry for us to leave. We've developed a wonderful partnership with them over the years. As we look to new things and new places in 2024, what do you have planned for your life with God? Where does the church fit into your life this new year? I am not asking you to make a New Years resolution. Resolutions come and go. Commitments to Christ are everlasting. Therefore, pray about your faithfulness and the love we share for each other at Epiphany Lutheran Church. 2024 will bring many Holy Spirit moments with all of God's people praying and serving faithfully.

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***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>January 2024</i>						
	1 Happy New Year Office closed	2	3 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	4	5 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	6 12th Night of Christmas-Day of Epiphany 5:30p Congregation Dinner 7p Epiphany Worship Service @Brit Ahm
7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	8 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	9 11:00a Faith Circle @ Ashland	10 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	11 11:00a Council reports due	12 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	13
14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY Mission Sunday 8:30a Manna drop off 9:30a Worship, Council install 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	15 3:30p Praise group 4:30p Choir practice	16 NALC Conference (Jan. 16-18)	17 Annual reports due 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr	18	19 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	20
21 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	22 3:30p Praise group 4:30p Choir practice Newsletter articles due!	23 12:00p SOLE luncheon @ Ashland	24 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr	25	26 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	27
28 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	29 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	30	31 6:30p 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.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Lessons and Carols Service

December 24, 2023

Music begins @ 9:10a

Service begins @ 9:30a

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2023

Music begins @ 6:30p

Service begins @ 7:00p

Epiphany Worship Service

January 6, 2024

Dinner @ 5:30p

Service @ 7:00p

Faith Circle

January 9, 2024 @ 11a

Mission Sunday-Manna drop off

January 14, 2024

Council Installation

January 14, 2024-During Worship

Annual Reports Due

January 17, 2024

Newsletter Articles Due

January 22, 2024

SOLE Luncheon

January 23, 2024 @ noon



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	deacong@epiphanypensacola.org
Deacon	Deacon Carole	deaconc@epiphanypensacola.org
Traditional Worship	Kelly Koontz	traditionalworship@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
Co-Treasurer	Vanessa Pascoe	co-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
Property	Eddie Gibbons	property@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

COMMITTEE NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE:

Beginning in January, we will go back to the purchase requests forms for ordering. The committees will need to plan what is needed for an event, class, etc. ahead of time, fill out the purchase request form, have it signed by the committee chair or Council liaison for the committee, and turn it into the office. Once completed, signed forms are turned into the office, the staff will then place the order or work with you to shop for the items. Purchase request forms are available at the bulletin table each Sunday for people to pick up when needed. This process will help us better track expenses. It will also keep committee chairs and Council liaisons in the loop. Please keep this process in mind when planning so enough lead time is built in for the ordering and delivery of items. Also, if shopping is necessary with staff, appointments should be made so nothing is last minute.

We will also go back to the check reimbursement forms for purchases made using personal forms of payment. We prefer to have any items for church use purchased with the church credit card or the Lowe's account.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to grow at Epiphany.

God Bless,

Kim McCormick
Office Manager

Epiphany Seniors

SOLE, Sharing Our Lives at Epiphany

Seniors, the next lunch date is Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the church office on Ashland. Lunch will be catered from Sony's BBQ. Please RSVP to Alice Fludgate. All seniors are invited! For more information feel free to contact me. God Bless!

Alice Fludgate 

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENTURE!

Children's Sunday School in December was a very special time of learning about Jesus and the amazing characters of Christmas who were a part of God's plan for redemption.

We began by reading the beautifully illustrated book, "The Story of Christmas for Children". The children enjoyed reading about Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Angels and the Baby Jesus, the Son of God. Then we used our "NIV Adventure Bible" and read the stories of these amazing characters in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. We also read a scripture from the Old Testament, Micah 5:2, that foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Getting to know all the characters who welcomed Jesus into the world was special. We learned that they believed God and trusted Him. Their great faith enabled them to be a part of "the good news of great joy that will be for all people." Our memory verse for December "Rejoice in the Lord Always, I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4) reminds us of the true joy of having Christ in our hearts.

December was also a special time of fun in Sunday School. The "Epiphany Treasure Chest" was opened on December 10th. HOORAY! The children used their "Luther Bucks", earned by participating in specified Sunday School activities, to purchase various "treasures." There was a lot of excitement trying to decide what "treasures" to choose. There were so many wonderful things valued from \$1.00 to \$5.00.

Our related crafts for December were special expressions of the spirit of Christmas. The children made manger scenes, Advent wreaths, angels and other things to illustrate the story of Christmas. We really enjoyed having several parents helping the children with these crafts. Parents are always welcome to attend with their young children. We look forward to seeing more children enjoying this time of study, fun and fellowship. Children from age 3 through 5th grade meet each Sunday from 11:00 to 12:00 in the trailer. Sunday school is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about God and to experience God's love through His precious word, the Bible, and each other.



Start the New Year in Sunday School!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Marlene Cooper, Donna Busarow, Karen McCabe, Deacon Carole Dwyer

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will meet January 9th at 11:00a.m. at the Ashland property.
We will be watching episode 4 of The Chosen.
Please bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.
Don't forget to bring your Bibles. All are welcome.

God's Peace,
Wanda

SOCIAL MINISTRY

WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

Christmas Blessings to everyone and thanks to everyone from Epiphany who served, donated, collected, purchased, delivered etc. for those in our community that we have been called to assist. It is a true blessing to be a part of this Social Ministry team and Epiphany Church that put our words into action in so many ways.

Manna was collected and delivered in December by Terry Bartlett. The total offered to Manna just from Epiphany for 2023 was 6638 lbs and \$60 monetary donations. Think of how many people were obedient in Christ's calling to feed the hungry we were blessed to help. I personally thank each one of you that make this a monthly offering and I believe Jesus is smiling.

Love In Action has also been an amazing ministry for Epiphany for the past five weeks. We offered 'wish lists' to our congregation from four local ministries and then collected, and delivered to Waterfront Mission, Favor House, Currie House and Global Learning. Each of these ministries were overwhelmed with your gifts for their clients. You made a lot of people know Christ works through other people to serve them. What a joy to be a part of the joy others will experience on Christmas Day. We will continue in 2024 serving where Christ leads us. Be prepared to come with us where we are called. I am humbled to serve with all of you as we serve others.

We are Serving HIM with you
Carole Dwyer chair



CHOIR

The choir has been very busy learning new pieces for the Christmas services! Handbells are rehearsing and added a new member or two to the group! Pat Brune has joined the group as a full-time member and Liz Richbourg has volunteered and stepped in as a substitute. Thank you to both new volunteers giving their time and talent to praise our Lord! I know you have heard the joyful sound of our Children's Choir! All our choirs will be singing the joy of the birth of our Lord at both the 4th Sunday of Advent Day service and Christmas Eve evening service! As Pastor mentioned, the prelude music for both services will begin 30 minutes prior to the 9:30 service and 30 minutes prior to the 7 pm Christmas Eve evening service. Solos, Praise Band and Chancel Choir will be singing the prelude music. Please come and prepare for service with the Christmas music by all of the ensembles.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Kelly Koontz

HOSPITALITY

For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you. Luke 6:38

Happy New Year!

How exciting it is to start a New Year! Starting with Epiphany, January 6, 2024, a new beginning, leaving the old behind and making way for new and exciting events to come.

On Saturday, January 6th, we will host a dinner in celebration of “The 12th night” or the coming of Epiphany. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. with worship beginning at 7. A sign-up sheet will be available in Hospitality on Sunday, Dec. 24th. If you intend to come to the dinner, please sign up so we can plan for enough food. The dinner and worship service are at Brit Ahm.

Our Team is looking forward to getting into our new worship place at Ashland, getting our “own” kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Inviting new members to serve with us. It is coming! God is good all the time!

Hospitality Team will continue to have Youth Sunday, “Men to serve” Sunday, and many events that we have done in the past and maybe a few new ones.

Our Hospitality Team wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year from our hearts to yours! As always, it is **still** a JOY and HONOR to serve in God's House at Epiphany!

God's Peace,
Brenda

CHRISMON MAKING

This year our office Christmas tree has counted cross stitch Chrismons adorning it. What a wonderful addition to the tree. These symbols of our Lord's life depict the significant events from his birth till his death. Each year we will add more symbols of his life until our tree is covered. A special thanks to all the ladies who contributed their talent to creating them. Betty and I especially, wanted to give special kudos to Pam Luques who searched to find the frames for the Chrismons. Not only did she use her time and talent to find frames, but she continued to finish all of the counted cross stitch Chrismons that were left from our class. It was her pleasure to gift them to our church. This is a perfect example of how to use your time and talent.

Submitted by
Carleen Bragan



OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

A great time was had by the Church staff at the office Christmas party in December! The party was held at the Ashland Ave property and Hospitality did not disappoint, from festive decorations to Christmas themed games (dirty Santa), the staff and council members had a night to remember.





LOOKING FORWARD...

Ken Busarow, Treasurer

I spent a lot of time looking at last month's financials and compare that with the last budget we had and compare that with last year's financials, you get the idea. But last month I got to do something different. Last month, instead of looking to the past, I turned my head around and was able to look forward. Instead of where we've been, I got a good look at where we're going, and I am excited!

A big part of and the main purpose for the Church Council retreat this past August was to develop a Ministry Plan for Mission and Ministry at Epiphany for 2024. The Ministry Plan is our roadmap for the work we've all agreed to take on in 2024. It's where we're going to put our time, talent and treasure in 2024. It's our sole focus for ministry and mission next year.

What does that include? Well, everything that was spelled out and presented at the congregational meeting last month. Here are some of the plan's goals.

- Begin development of Epiphany's Youth Mission Journey. A program that offers a series of mission moments, mission opportunities and ministries for all youth from pre-K through college. Our budget includes funding for a part time Youth Director as well as funds for research, education and training to move this new program from an idea to reality.
- Development and implementation of Connect Groups for all of our members and guests. The groups provide a place to connect, develop friendships and lasting relationships, offering encouragement, support and accountability.
- A Community Farmers Market on our property at Ashland Avenue. The market will provide an opportunity to establish a connection with people and families in our new local community.
- Establish an intentional social media program on Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and new website to further connect members, guests, and community to opportunities at Epiphany. We'll also integrate new media tools such as Text-In-Church to further enhance our guest follow-up program.
- Host Youth Summer Camps at Ashland. Open to children of all ages, these week-long camps will help connect Epiphany to the local community children and their families. The Christian Theater Camp will culminate in a performance of the Christian musical learned during the week and the Science/Math Camp will provide an opportunity for the campers to show off all they've learned to their parents and guests.

There's more too, a lot more. These really are very exciting times for us all at Epiphany. Please remember though, that when we agreed to this plan, we also agreed to support it with the resources God has provided each of us. Our time, talent, and treasure. If you see a place that you might be a good fit, reach out and volunteer. If you get a tap on the shoulder from someone looking for some help, prayerfully consider it. If you have an idea for a new ministry or mission, talk to a member of the church council so it can be considered for next year's Ministry Plan.

Blessings to you as we look ahead and prepare ourselves for all He would have us do in 2024.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Treasurer: Ken Busarow



Ken literally grew up in Lutheran churches. His father, Dr. Donald Busarow, was the Music Director at several churches in Detroit, Cleveland, Milwaukee and Huber Heights, Ohio. To say the family moved a lot was an understatement. Every year or two, the family was packing up for another move. Ken was living in Springfield, Ohio when he graduated high school and decided to join the Air Force. He was the first in his family to join the military. After a year of technical training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Ken was sent to Yokota Air Base in Japan as a Secure Communications Specialist. Ken spent three years in Japan and while there, he climbed to the peak of Mt. Fuji, twice. In 1981, at the end of his tour in Japan, he received orders to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, assigned to the 89th Special Air Missions Group. For the next five years he

traveled the world with the Secretary of State, George Shultz, Secretary of Defense, Casper Wienberger and Vice President George H. W. Bush ensuring and maintaining reliable and secure communications between the aircraft and ground command centers. It was during these five years that he circumnavigated the world, crossing the international date line heading west and not returning making him 3 days younger than he really is. His next assignment was just down the street to Air Force One. Ken spent nearly two years overseeing the design, integration and testing of the communications equipment being installed into the two new Boeing 747 Air Force One aircraft in Wichita, KS. After the Air Force took delivery of the aircraft, he spent the next seven years flying as a communication specialist for President's Bush and Clinton. In 1995 he retired from the Air Force and took a job with E-Systems as a Field Service Engineer responsible for the communications systems on the Special Air Mission fleet of aircraft to include Air Force One. In 2003 he moved to Rockwall, TX where he was promoted to Program Manager responsible for all of the communication systems installed on all Special Air Mission aircraft managing in excess of \$100M in government and subcontractor contracts. In 2007 he took a job with a small defense contractor designing ruggedized communication components to meet the stringent safety and reliability requirements of the FAA for installation into military and civilian aircraft. In 2010 he was downsized and turned his attention to another one of his loves, food. More specifically spicy food. He started his own company, designed and patented a jalapeno grill rack and Jalapeno Heaven (heaven with a J) was born. In 2017, Ken, his wife Donna and their daughter Grace moved to Pensacola from Austin Texas to be near the water. In 2020, the water got a little too close and hurricane Sally flooded their home. After a really shady contractor walked off with most of the insurance money, Ken and Donna worked together for the next three years as their own general contractor rebuilding their home which was completed this past August.

Ken, Donna and Grace have been members of Epiphany since early 2022. Ken has served as President, Vice President, Worship Chair and Elder at his former churches and is currently the Treasurer at Epiphany. Additionally, Ken also serves as the audio/visual tech, recording services, building the powerpoint slides for worship and running the sound board for service.

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	JAN 6 (SAT NIGHT)	JAN 7	JAN 14	JAN 21	JAN 28
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Pete Morgan	Art Kimmel	Karen McCabe	Deacon Carole Dwyer	Regina Gibbons
LECTOR(S)	Wanda Gore	Steve Meyer	Suzanne Morgan	Ron Davis	Rod Dwyer
USHERS	Harland Bross John Ekstrom	Steve Meyer Eric Johnson	Chuck Glassmire Eddie Gibbons	Randy St. Louis Paul Herrick	Art Kimmel Chuck Glassmire
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judith Lewing Kim McCormick	Eddie and Regina Gibbons	Betty Bross Shelly Johnson	Karen McCabe Alice Fludgate	Dianne Ledkins Judy Taylor
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis Casey McAllister	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Marsha Suarez
NURSERY ATTENDANT	N/A	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	N/A	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Hospitality (Dinner @ 5:30)	Linda Bartlett *Dianne Williams	Audrey Tinsley *Bonnie Baggett	Youth Sunday *Sharon Livingston	Jane Krauss *Melanie Gorday
CUP BEARERS	Volunteers needed	Ethan Oomens John Reitmire	Grace Busarow Everlynn Harvey	Leighton Marchant Brooklyn Gorday	Ethan Oomens John Reitmire

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

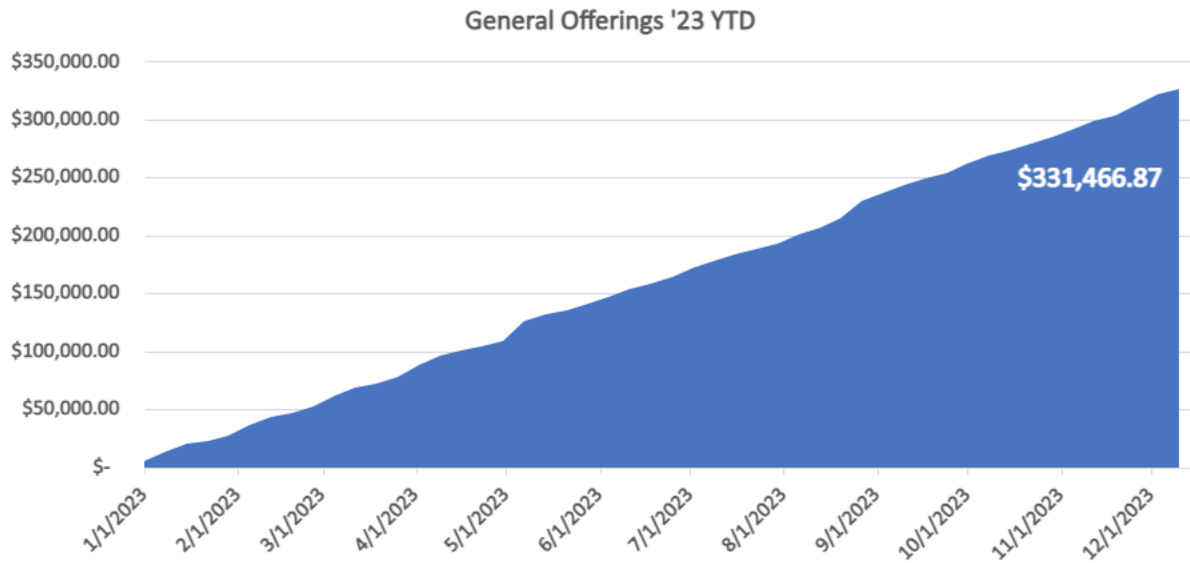
Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

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)



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Sara SeEVERS is compiling the newsletter. Newsletter articles for February are due January 22. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org by January 22. If you have any questions, please contact the office.