

MARCH 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
Follow on Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL
Church Connect page: epiphanypns.churchtrac.co



PASTOR'S CORNER

March 2023
Epiphany Lutheran Church

"Sanctification"

(From Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation)
In the Third Article of the Creed "Sanctification"
we read and hear: ***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of
sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.***

AMEN

Luther asks, "What does this mean?" I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The journey of Lent began on February 22nd as the church observed "Ash Wednesday". A lot of people live daily without any thought of how important faith in Jesus Christ is. But, as you read the 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed, we (believers) understand His importance in our life.

Are you willing to experience a Lenten discipline (a commitment) that will strengthen your faith? What commitment will you make?

We cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we gather together so that we can be strengthened and fed by the same Spirit. I pray that one of your Lenten Discipline's has been to attend all of the services provided by the church for Lent and Holy Week. Imagine how that would look if the whole church came together at Brit Ahm throughout these 40 days of Lent. Imagine!

This year, we're not following the normal lectionary for readings which means each worship service will be unique in itself. The services on Wednesday night and Holy Week are starting earlier so that everyone can attend without worry of driving or getting home late with children.

*God's Peace,
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

LENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



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Subject: A Call for Mission

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Brothers and Sisters,

This letter is to encourage you to participate in the missions announced for Lent 2023 and a goal for Manna Food Pantry.

Global Mission Participation: "Spiritual Orphans Network"

We first learned about the Lutheran global mission project when the Lutheran organization cried for the churches to help with the Ukraine orphanage and the invasion of Ukraine. Several people still continue to send support from our congregation to SON ministries. This year, our coin collection boxes will be donated as a gift from Epiphany Pensacola. 100% of the monies raised in the coin boxes will go to this important ministry. If you can fill more than one, I encourage you to do so. Teach your children about the orphanage and pray for the work of this global mission. We never know how much will be raised through the coin offering, but it can make a difference when we all participate. I am confident it will be blessed by our Lord.

Please see Kim or Carole to receive the coin boxes.

The Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore, Pastor
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Pensacola, FL. 32504

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Local Community Mission: “Manna Food Pantry Challenge”

We have a lot to be thankful for in our lives and at Epiphany Pensacola. Let's begin with the food pantry donations and talk about how we can be of help to the community. We all know that food prices have changed how we're shopping. Now imagine you have no resources and food is limited because of many reasons most people don't want to hear about. Imagine a child taking home lunch items to give to his little brother or sister. It's not easy to think about and being present to hear a child say that is heart breaking. Yet it is the truth.

We help every month and I have to say that Wanda and I spent a lot more on food pantry donations because of the increased cost of items and the limit of items on the shelf. But, we've been blessed. Therefore, we didn't cut back our gifts for the struggling families that visit the food pantry. We fully supported the pantry just as we have in the past.

The church delivered less than 300 lbs. of food in February. I know we can do better for the sake of the Gospel. Please consider how you can be a better part of this mission to our families in need. I challenge the church to donate 500 lbs. for the month of March. *Bring in your full load car of love on March 12th* to be delivered from the faithful followers of Jesus at Epiphany Pensacola.

Faithfully Serving,
Pastor Frank

The Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore, Pastor
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LENT SERIES 2023

Based on the book: “The Promise of Lent”

By Chris Tiegreen

<u>Date/ Day</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
2/22-Ash Wednesday	“People of Dust”
2/26-1 st Sunday of Lent	“A Choice of Realms”
3/1-Wednesday	“Death is....”
3/5-2 nd Sunday of Lent	“A Grateful Response”
3/8-Wednesday	“Faith Waits”
3/12-3 rd Sunday of Lent	“Life and Restoration”
3/15-Wednesday	“Clash of Kingdoms”
3/19-4 th Sunday of Lent	“Free at Last”
3/22-Wednesday	“A Revolution of Glory”
3/26-5 th Sunday of Lent	“Unshakable”
3/29-Wednesday	“Hope Behind the Clouds”

All Wednesday Lent services will be at 6 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 26th is a Special Congregation meeting where the Congregation will approve the Endowment Fund and vote on Constitutional changes that need to be updated. The meeting will take place once Worship has ended.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL SERVICE

On Sunday, February 19 we enjoyed southern, Christian gospel music. Many thanks to Chip and Jerry that blessed us with their talents on the fiddle and mandolin and joined Pastor, Brad, Suzanne, Donna, and Kelly in bringing joyous music to Worship.



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	2	3 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	4
5 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Social Ministry meeting 11:15 a.m. First Holy Comm. class	6	7	8 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	9	10 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	11 TIME CHANGE Move clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed.
12 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Mission Sunday 8:00 a.m. -9:15 a.m. Manna food drop off (trunk to trunk) 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Lector class 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Kid's Sunday School 11:15 a.m. First Holy Comm. class	13	14 11:00 a.m. Faith/Eve Circle Location at Brit Ahm 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	15 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	16 11:00 a.m. Council reports due	17 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	18
19 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:15 a.m. First Holy Comm. class	20	21 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	22 Newsletter Articles Due 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	23	24 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	25
26 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sp. Congregation mtg. Hospitality after meeting 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Kid's Sunday School 11:15 a.m. First Holy Comm. class Easter Flower order forms due	27	28 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	29 9:00 a.m.- Noon office Hours (Sherry cover) 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Worship Service	30 9:00 a.m.- Noon office Hours (Sherry cover)	31 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	

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



LECTOR TRAINING COURSE



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Subject: Reader (Lector) Training and Refresher (3-12-23 @ 11:00 AM)

Jeremiah 36:6 *so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns.*

Brothers and Sisters,

In the verse from Jeremiah, there is a command to go and read the words of the Lord that had been written to the house of the Lord and to all of the community. That is what our readers (Lector's) do each week. Everyone is invited to participate in reading the lessons during worship. If you've never done it before, here's your chance to learn the process and share your gifts with God's church.

I've asked Steve Meyer to lead a training class on reading the scriptures for the services.

1. Anyone who is **currently** reading the lessons on Sunday will need to attend this class as a refresher.
2. Anyone who would like to **begin** reading the lessons on Sunday will need to attend this class.

(We will not schedule readers (lectors) without the training/refresher training.)

This training course will be given on another date after Easter. Therefore, we'll need all the current readers to attend the class with Steve on March 12th. I know that this might be inconvenient for some, but we need to refresh and establish our guidelines as we bring God our very best. At the training you will receive a pronunciation booklet to keep at home as you prepare for the date you are reading the word of the Lord to His assembly.

We hope to have many of our brothers and sisters at this important training session.

*Faithfully Serving,
Pastor Frank*

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HOSPITALITY

AS THE WIND BLOWS.....

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God and he will give it to you. James 1:5

March as we know it brings strong winds, sometimes storms and on rare occasion ice and snow. Reminds us of what is coming; our risen Lord!

It also is a reminder that we as Christians must “March” on as Soldiers of the Cross. Let us remember to keep our eyes on the Cross, seek God for wisdom, help one another along the way and reflect as we await the Resurrection of our Lord!

Our Hospitality Team had a busy month in February. Thanks to all who served as host, provided refreshments, and assisted in clean up.

We had a wonderful luncheon in celebration of Valentine’s Day, translated in Christ love for one another. After having a successful Annual Congregation Meeting, we served approximately 75 for lunch. It was a great turnout and enjoyed by all. Sorry we didn’t get any pictures at this event, however we have ask Liz Richbourg to be our “camera” person in hopes that we capture all our events.

In addition, we were blessed to celebrate Ms. Millie Mitrovich’s 102nd birthday. We had a beautiful cake, punch, beautiful flowers (thank you Harland and Betty Bross), beautiful balloons (thank you John Ekstrom), lots of love and smiles! A joyous time for all!

March will be a bit slower month for Hospitality; however, I ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers, give us your support in any way you are called to do and always be thankful for the dedication and service of your Hospitality Team.

On a personal note, I ask for prayers as I will be having surgery on my left shoulder on March 1. I am trusting in the Lord for a speedy recovery and successful surgery, to have no more pain and get the use of my arm back. I hope I am only out a few Sunday’s, please continue to support Ms. Faye, Marsha, Wanda and all others who will be hosting and baking in my absence.

Until next time...
God’s Peace!

Brenda

I love you all.....

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





FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES

What does it mean to “Serve Others”? (I have a preconceived notion.)

What does the bible say about serving others? (Again, I have a preconceived notion.)

Sometimes when I think I already know all the answers, God has a delightful way of showing me otherwise. Those lessons are the *best*.

Tuesday, March 14th at 11am, Faith & Eve Circle women’s bible study group will continue in the study series entitled “Meaning of Service, Living in Love” by looking at Session 2: Love the Lord Your God. We plan to meet in the classroom trailer at Brit Ahm.

Let’s discover what serving means to us as individuals and also as a group of believers. There are great lessons found in looking at what Jesus taught through the disciples. Come and see where this journey leads you in your walk with Christ.

Perhaps God has a plan to delight you, as well.

Dawn Zeigler

FLOWER GUILD

Song of Solomon 2:12 The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

Our traditional Easter service will be held at Brit Ahm with lilies and hydrangeas gloriously surrounding the altar. After the Easter service you can take them home to plant in your yard. Flowers must be picked up after service.

The cost will be \$20 for lilies and \$30 for hydrangeas. Order forms will in the bulletins starting March 5.

God's peace,
Carleen Bragan

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Many kind Thank You notes were sent to Epiphany from ministries we assisted with our Love In Action in December. Gulf Coast Kids House, Favor House, Waterfront Mission and Ronald McDonald House were blessed and pleased with your outpouring of wants and needs for their ministries.

January began with the entire delivery list for Mana Food Bank filled with volunteers willing to collect food on the 2nd Sunday of each month and then they will deliver your donations on Monday or Tuesday of the next week. Thank you to all who give of their time.

We began with a strong delivery in January by Paul and Marliese Herrick of 359 lbs and February's delivery by Ron Davis was 279 lbs. PLEASE consider offering more to those less fortunate than you. Prices have increased which makes it more difficult for those who have less. Let's make a difference in their lives. Our next collection will be the 2nd Sunday in March.

We continue to collect weekly for Lions Club (eyeglasses), Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House, travel size toiletries for Waterfront Mission. All containers are in the Fellowship Hall or give to Carole Dwyer or any member on Social Ministry.

We will now have a monthly focus for a specific ministry. For March we will focus on supporting the Prison Books collection. Look for more information soon!

Our next meeting will be March 5th at Epiphany after Fellowship. YOU are always welcome to join us at the meeting and especially as we Serve God by serving others.

Serving HIM with you
Carole



MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Dawn Zeigler	John Ekstrom	Suzanne Morgan	Carole Dwyer
LECTOR(S)	Brad Dye	Steve Meyer	TBA	TBA
USHERS	Art Kimmel Randy St. Louis	Chuck Glassmire Eric Johnson	Harland Bross Eddie Gibbons	Dan Zeigler Steve Meyer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	The Cooper's	Betty Bross Dawn Zeigler	The Kimmel's	Audrey Tinsley Heidi Long
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Carleen Bragan	Randy St. Louis McCormicks	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Karen McCabe
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Carleen Bragan Nevaeh, Crystal	Marliese Herrick Sharon Livingston	Youth Sunday Kelly Koontz, Praise Group	Faye Kellas Theresa McDonald
CUP BEARERS	Grace and John	Grace and Everlynn	Lilly and Connor	Grace and John

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

Time Change

Saturday night, March 11, 2023
Set clocks ahead 1 hour before bed

Mission Sunday-Bring food for Manna

March 12, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. drop off

Lector training class

March 12, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Newsletter Articles Due

March 22, 2023

Special Congregation Meeting **Approve Endowment and Update Constitution**

March 26, 2023 after Worship

