

**DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER
2022**

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

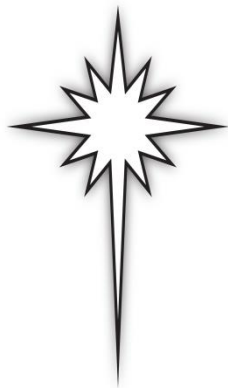
Worship Services
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for children Preschool age and under)
Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday

Hospitality to follow

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com
Follow on Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL
Church Connect page: epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



PASTOR'S CORNER



December 2022 *Epiphany Lutheran Church*

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

We are in the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's only Son. Scripture teaches us that God loves us so much that he gifted us a Savior. The passage above is a brief description of the Christmas Eve reading that many of you know by heart. It is the most joyful time of the year for many people who see Christmas with the true meaning. That doesn't mean that others are not enjoying Christmas. For the followers of Jesus take on a larger meaning of belief. It's a statement of faith in what we believe in. It's you and I celebrating the birth of Jesus and believing in the story of his conception through the Holy Spirit. Believing in God's Word and believing in Immanuel, "God with Us".

I hope that you and your family will come and celebrate the two services this year over Christmas. I know that both adults and children will want to open gifts and play with the toys. But imagine if you can have them in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We can open the gift of Christmas at the beginning of the service and celebrate a wonderfully new way.

We don't normally have services on Christmas day but this year, it falls on Sunday. I encourage you to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas day with your family at Epiphany. I hope to unwrap the Word of God as it is gifted to us and to those who came before us. My prayerful hope is that you will place worship at Epiphany as a priority to celebrate the wonderful season of Christmas.

Below are the upcoming worship opportunities in December and January:

December 14	Lessons and Carols	6:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day	9:30 a.m.
January 1	New Year's Day	9:30 a.m.
January 6	Epiphany Service	7:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Dr. Franklin Gore

&

Wanda 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

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	3
4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Budget and Elections Congregational Meeting Hospitality to follow No Sunday School	5 3:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee meeting at Brit Ahm 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 5:30 p.m. Praise group practice 5:30 p.m. Social Ministry meeting via zoom	6	7 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the Mid Rise building in the Azalea Room at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	8	9 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	10 1:00 p.m. Clothes Swap at Brit Ahm
11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 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. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. 5 th grade – High School Sunday School in Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. K-4 th grade Sunday School education trailer Last day to drop off Love in Action items	12 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	13 11:00 a.m. Faith/Eve Circle class and luncheon at Wanda's home 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	14 Newsletter Articles due 6:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols No Bible Study	15	16 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	17
18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School No Children's Sunday School Last day for Poinsettia orders 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Open House at Ashland Ave. property	19 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	20 No Council meeting this month	21 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the Mid Rise building in the Azalea Room at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	22	23 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality No Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Brit Ahm Hannukah party	26 Office Closed Pastor off	27 9 a.m.-Noon office hours 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	28 9 a.m.-Noon office hours No Bible Study	29 9 a.m.-Noon office hours	30 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	31

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

BUDGET AND ELECTIONS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 4th after Worship.

We will be voting on the 2023 Budget and the 2023 list of Council members scheduled to serve

OPEN HOUSE AT THE NEW PROPERTY

Are you ready to see Epiphany's new home?

There will be an open house of the new property at 9176 Ashland Ave., Pensacola-32534 on Sunday, December 18 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Plan to drop by to see and walk the property!

REFORMATION SUNDAY COSTUMES

On Reformation Sunday, which was also Halloween, members and children came to Worship dressed as someone in the Bible. Fun was had by all during the Children's sermon!



HOSPITALITY

Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means “God is with us.” Matthew 1:23

Happy Birthday Jesus!

What a time to celebrate! The birth of a child is always a time to celebrate, however, this is a birth that affects all of us! To all Christ is born! His name Immanuel says it all, “God is with us”. As we celebrate Christmas, exchange gifts, and be joyful, let us not forget the greatest gift of all! Jesus! As we sing “Happy Birthday” let the little children (and the big ones) rejoice in who they are singing to. Jesus!

It is always a joyful time for our Hospitality Team to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. To hear the children, sing, watch their eyes light up when they see the “big” cake, how excited they are when they come into hospitality and find their “special” piece. The chatter, laughter, love, and joy! “God is with us”. I believe with all my heart, he is pleased!

We will continue to have Hospitality after each service. For those who have signed up to provide refreshments, Thank You! Please bring cookies, candy, or your special holiday bread/cake. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

God’s Peace! Merry Christmas!

Brenda

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

FAITH/EVE CIRCLE

The Ladies’ Bible Study groups will gather for a Christmas Luncheon at Wanda & Pastor’s home in December. All Epiphany ladies are invited, and you are welcome to bring a friend if you like. Food will be provided, so please RSVP at your earliest convenience.

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Time: 11:00 am

Place: Pastor and Wanda’s home

RSVP: Dawn Zeigler, dzeigler82@gmail.com

The group will study Session 8: What Do I Have to Offer? From the “My Faith” series. This has been an interesting series, and while each session builds from the last, they also work well as stand-alone pieces. If you would like a copy of the session in advance, please contact Dawn Zeigler. There will be extras available on the day.

Let’s gather to celebrate the Christmas Season and study God’s Word together.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Current News!



Manna Food Bank – Mission Sunday was November 13, 2022. Marsha Suarez delivered 260 lbs of food donations, and a \$10 bill. A new sign-up sheet for 2023 will be available by Sunday, November 20, 2022. Gerry will be calling the volunteers to remind them to have their cars parked by the entrance on the right side of the Synagogue, by 8:00am, on their volunteered day.

Waterfront Rescue Mission-We have placed a bin in the back of the fellowship hall by the window. We are collecting trial sizes of shampoo, crème rinse, lotion, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, sanitizer etc. We donate these to be handed out to the homeless.



Love in Action (formerly tree of warmth) – For those shopping for the RMH Santa’s workshop, the web address is correct on the snowflakes: www.rmhc-nwfl.org. Once on the page click>how can I help>wish list, then scroll down to Santa’s Workshop. A photo of the wish list is attached, to make it easier. Please do not wrap the presents and bring the snowflake back with the donation. We will continue to support our homeless shelters: Washburn Center, Waterfront Rescue Mission, Women of Clear Vision. and GC Kids House. **The banner will be up November 27 through December 11, 2022. Epiphany Lutheran Church thanks you for your generosity as we carry out our mission work for the Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Events Upcoming!

Brit Ahm Synagogue Clothing Drive – This will be a joint effort. Both congregations will donate. **The Synagogue members will be delivering the donations to the homeless. We are also invited to join them if we want to. Anyone interested in helping to deliver can contact Jerri Mobley.** Clothing items need to be clean with no stains. They are to be folded and placed on the back pews for collection. **The last donation delivery schedule is December 10, 2022. This is a Saturday, which is when the Synagogue has their service. Members of Epiphany Lutheran Church can bring their clothing donations the Sunday prior to the Saturday listed. This is December 4, 2022.**

Please Continue to Collect These Items to donate!

Remember to save **tab tops** for Ronald McDonald House. Save **eyeglasses** for Lion's Club. **Trial sized toiletries** for Waterfront Rescue Mission. Containers for these items are in the fellowship hall, by the windows in the back of the room. They are labeled Epiphany Lutheran Church.

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will take place on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 5:30 pm via zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Gibbons
Chair of Social Ministry Committee

OFFICE HOURS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Monday, December 26 - Office closed, Pastor's day off

Tuesday, Dec. 27-Thursday, Dec. 29 - 9 a.m.-Noon

Friday, December 30 – Office closed, Pastor's day off

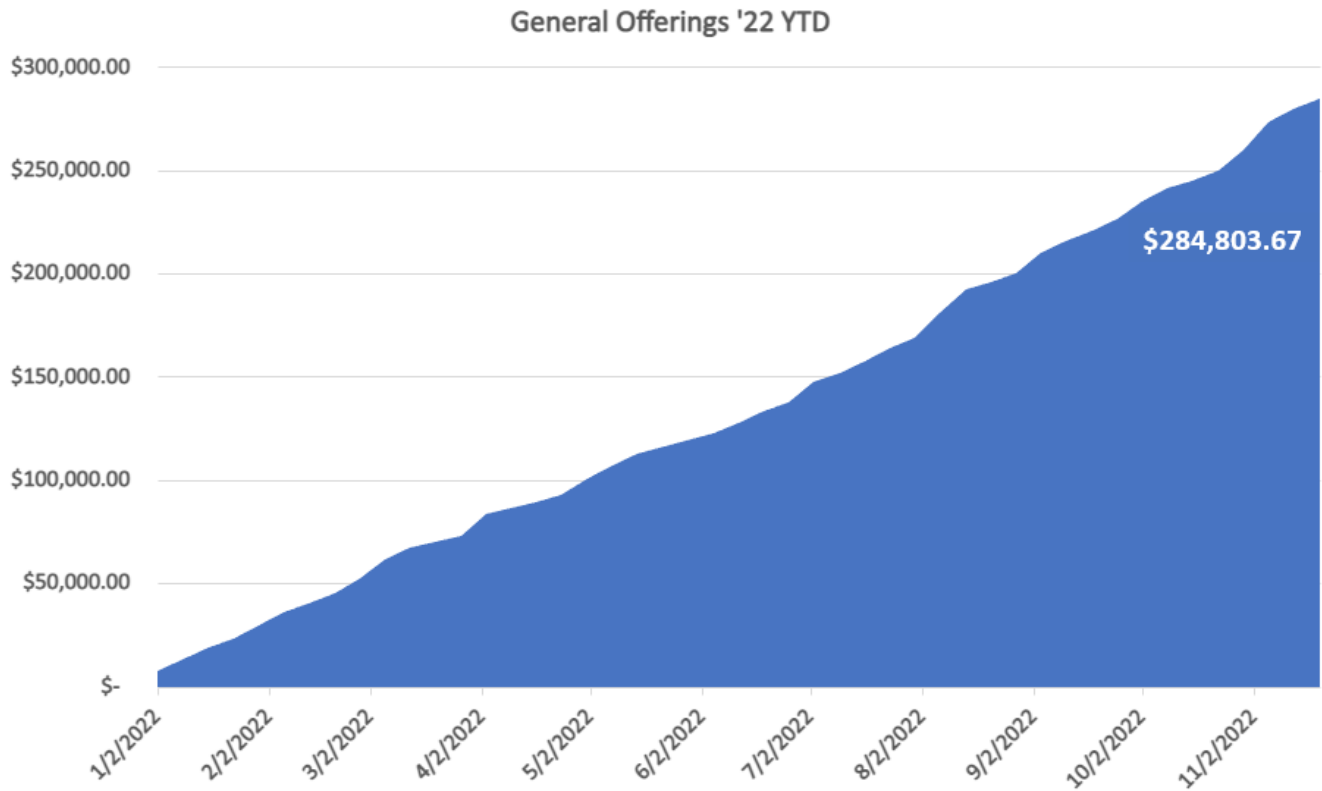
Monday, January 2 – Office closed, Pastor's day off

If there is a pastoral emergency outside of office hours, please contact Deacon Glenn or Carole Dwyer. In a non-emergency case, you may email the office at nalcofpensacola@gmail.com or leave a voice mail at 850-287-5667. Emails and voice mails will be monitored but may not be answered until the following day.

NOW HIRING

An Assistant Nursery Attendant position is currently available. If you are interested in applying please contact the office to fill out an application and schedule an interview with Pastor. A background check is required. Hours and pay will be discussed during the interview with the Pastor.

YTD GENERAL OFFERINGS (Running total through 11/20)



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE REMINDER

December 14	Lessons and Carols	6:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day	9:30 a.m.
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DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Lessons & Carols					
	December 4	December 11	December 14	December 18	December 24	December 25
ASSISTING MINISTERS	John Ekstrom	Betty Bross	N/A	Ken Busarow	TBA	TBA
LECTOR(S)	Dan Zeigler	Steve Meyer	N/A	Brenda Ekstrom	Pete Morgan	Brad Dye
USHERS	Art Kimmel Eric Johnson	Steve Meyer Dan Zeigler	Harland Bross Chuck Glassmire	Eddie Gibbons Harland Bross	John Esktrom Harland Bross	John Ekstrom Randy St.Louis
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dawn Zeigler Karen McCabe	Shelly Johnson Eric Johnson	N/A	Alice Fludgate Wanda Gore	Kim McCormick	Brenda Ekstrom
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis The Fludgates	Randy St. Louis	Randy St.Louis The Kaminska's	Randy St.Louis	Randy St. Louis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Shelly Johnson	Marla Meyer	Volunteer	Betty Bross	Hospitality team	Volunteer

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 can not switch with someone, please contact Brenda or the office. Thank you!**