



Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504

850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

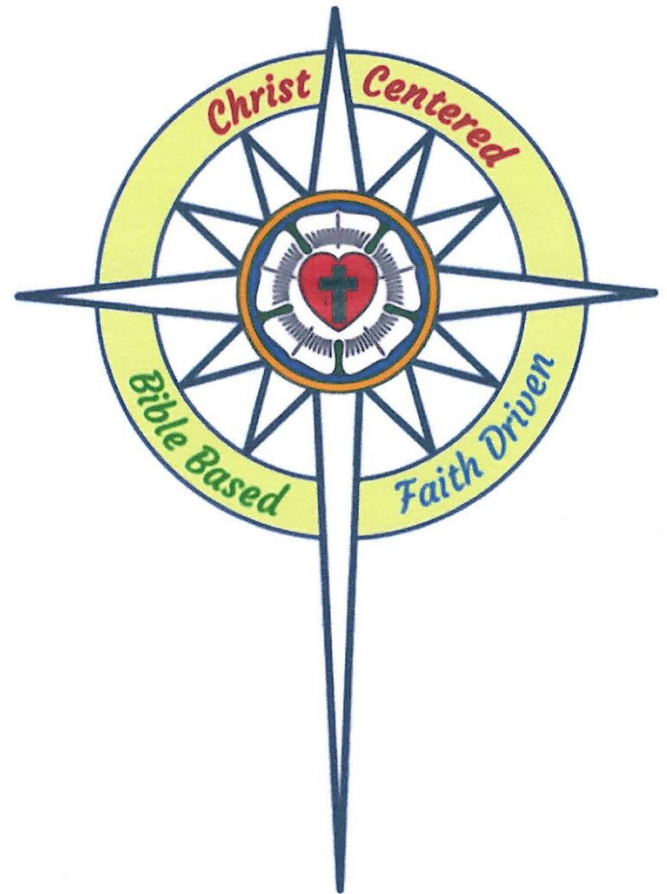
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.

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

June 2024 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



June 2024
Epiphany Pensacola

June 2024

Epiphany Lutheran Church

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:13-14



Image from: St. John's Lutheran Church

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Change in Practice & Policy

The Lutheran Book of Concord, small and large catechism gives us the reference for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. In Holy Baptism, the Triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children and makes us members of the body of Christ, the Church. “Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water enclosed in God’s command and connected with God’s Word. It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it.”¹

My goal in bringing forth this education material is to change the way we do Holy Baptism in our congregation. We are called and commissioned by Christ himself to go forth and baptize. Yet, our church practice and policy is making members instead of baptizing those who are in need of baptism. What do I mean by that statement? Currently, we baptize children only if we have a family member in the church where the child can be placed or the parents of the child become a member of the church prior to baptism. We can be Kingdom Builders through the joy of Baptism inviting people to have their child baptized without worrying about the parent’s membership.

The current practice and policies do not give the pastor the freedom to baptize a child without having the parent or grandparent in membership with the church. I’ve spoken to the General Secretary of the North American Lutheran Church and she stated, “The NALC will support a change in our baptismal practices”. The documented change will not be constitutional. It will be a change in policy that will be reviewed and discerned as a ministry of the church.

We have the opportunity to baptize children for our military families serving temporarily here in Pensacola. They may not want to join a church but still need their child or children baptized. We can put into place a practice of baptism without membership at Epiphany so that baptism is a welcoming, loving, rite into God’s family.

The change in policy will include a specific Sunday for baptism each month. This allows us to schedule baptisms instead of working it into a Sunday service as we currently do. It will still require the parents and sponsors to be baptized. They will also meet with the ordained minister of the church.

¹ *The Book of Concord* (Minneapolis MN: Fortress Press, 2000) p. 359

Baptism will take place in the community after worship creating a special worship event for the families bringing their children to be baptized. Baptism may take place during worship and will need to be scheduled with the ordained minister of the congregation.

Baptism was given to the Church by Jesus Christ in the “great commission” (Matt. 28:19) But also in his own baptism by John and in the baptism of the cross. Baptism is for the sake of life in Christ. In baptism, the individual becomes a member of the body of Christ, “the Church” not the denomination. Christians continue in the covenant God made with them in baptism by participation in the community of faith, by hearing the Word and receiving Christ’s Supper, by proclaiming the good news in word and deed, and by striving for justice and peace. Baptism is for children. It is for adults. It is done once, yet it is for life.

Baptism is for all ages: “*Principle: God, whose grace is for all, is the one who acts in Baptism. Therefore, candidates for Baptism are of all ages. Some are adults and older children who have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, declare their faith, and desire Holy Baptism. Others are young or infant children of active members of the congregation or those children for whom members of the congregation assume sponsorship.*”²

In addition to what I wrote last month, I want to inform the people of God that Baptism includes catechesis. When infants and young children are baptized the parents and sponsors will receive instruction. This will help the parents understand the responsibility of teaching and raising their child with Christian values and develop their relationship with Jesus. This instruction will be done before the baptism takes place.

Candidates for Holy Baptism, sponsors, and an ordained minister called by the Church gather together with members of the congregation for the celebration of Baptism. “Baptism may take place at varying points in the worship service. When the Baptism follows the Liturgy of the Word, it helps to emphasize Baptism’s connection to the promise of the Gospel and faith in the promise and leads the baptized to the altar.”³

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-

² *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*, (Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1997) p. 24

³ *The Use of the Means of Grace: pg.27*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2024						1
2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:30a Social Ministry meeting	3	4	5 11:00a Council reports due	6	7 Office closed	8
9 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Mission Sunday 8:30a Manna drop off 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality	10 6:30p Executive Committee meeting	11 11:00a Faith Circle @ Ashland	12	13	14 Serve lunch at Camp Happy Sands Office closed	15
16 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality	17 3:30p Praise group	18	19 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE!	20	21 Office closed	22
23 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality	24	25 TBD: SOLE Lunch	26	27	28 Office closed	29
30 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality						

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



DATES TO REMEMBER

Social Ministry meeting

Sunday, June 2 @ 11:30a

Council reports due

Wednesday, June 5 @ 11:00a

Mission Sunday

Sunday, June 9

Executive Committee meeting

Monday, June 10 @ 6:30p

Faith Circle

Tuesday, June 11 @ 11:00a

At Ashland

Serve lunch at Camp Happy Sands

Friday, June 14

Newsletter articles due

Wednesday, June 19

SOLE Lunch

Tuesday, June 25; Time TBD



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
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
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

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

***Update:** We've had several members come in and fill out their applications. Make your appointment with Brenda today! Also, Thrivent has sent T-shirts to be given away to anyone who wants one. There are several different sizes. You can pick one up during office hours.

A THANK YOU FROM MARY PAT



Thank you for the altar flowers from Youth Sunday/Mother's Day from my church family, Altar Guild, and Carleen Bragan. This is my first Mother's day without my daughter, Denise, and you all took Denise's place and gave me the beautiful carnation bouquet. Your love and bouquet is greatly appreciated.

MaryPat Forgie



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENTURE!

The month of May has been a great adventure for all of our children. They participated in a special youth lead service on Sunday, May 12, 2024, for Mother's Day. They sang songs, did readings, performed a skit about Jonah and the Whale, gave a sermon on "fishing for people" and joined Pastor in the liturgy of the service. It was a blessing and wonderful experience for all of us. The children now have a better understanding and appreciation of the worship service and have become "fishers of people" to the glory of God. Thank you, parents for allowing extra time for practice. We are so proud of our children. They were fantastic!



On May 19th, the children spent their "Luther Bucks" that they earned in Sunday School and Choir at the Epiphany Treasure Chest store in the hospitality area. We thank all those who contributed items and money to make this an exciting and rewarding event for the children. We especially thank Molly for her special help with this event. May 19 was the last day of Sunday School. We ended with a party to celebrate a great year of spiritual growth and fellowship.

We will begin Sunday School again on September 8, 2024.

We look forward to seeing more children in Sunday School and Choir. We thank you, parents, for giving us the opportunity to enjoy working with your children watching them learn and grow in spirit and truth. It is a blessing.

May your summer be filled with abundant blessings from above.

Donna Busarow, Marlene Cooper, Karen McCabe

FAITH CIRCLE

On May 14th, Faith Circle began a new Bible study entitled "A Biblical Adventure in Womanhood". Our study is an adventure that takes us on a journey through the Bible discovering the ways the Bible describes women and highlights their significant contributions in family, social, and religious life. Together, we explore scripture that tells us about God's wonderful grace at work in the lives of women in the times of the Old Testament and New Testament and in our present time.



Please join us on this journey each month (May 13, June 11, July 16, August 13) at 11:00a at Ashland. It is a wonderful time of study and fellowship. **Please bring your Bible and a brown bag lunch.**

For more information, contact Marlene Cooper

SOCIAL MINISTRY

>>BREAKING NEWS<<

Summer is approaching fast, and June is just around the corner. Our lunch date with Camp Happy Sands is June 14, 2024. Regina obtained a Thrivent grant to go along with money collected from Quarters for Lent to provide Camp Happy Sands' request for the lunch meals. Anyone who wants to participate in this great cause is welcome. We are still collecting flip fops for the campers, so it's not too late to grab a few kids' size flip flops for these kiddos.

In Other News for the month of June.....

Don't forget Manna! The last few of months we have donated under 500 pounds of food. Manna Food Bank is able to provide many meals to families and individuals who have no way of making sure they have food to sustain them. A lot of children are included in this need. Please think about Manna when you are out buying groceries for your family and add just a few more items to your cart. It helps Manna and it gives you a wonderful feeling in your heart knowing someone will not go hungry for at least one day.

The lunch we supplied for the Ronald McDonald House was a great success. We will do it again in August.

Our focus for the month of June is Camp Happy Sands lunch on June 14, 2024, flip flops for the kiddos and Manna food collection.

Respectfully submitted by Chairperson

Dianne Ledkins

SOLE (SHARING OUR LIVES AT EPIPHANY)

In May, nineteen of us enjoyed another delightful time together having lunch at the Oar House. We were even treated to the Blue Angels practicing their skills overhead. WOW! They're so amazing! Our next lunch date will be Tuesday, June 25. Watch the web blasts for details. Please contact Alice for information and how to sign up. **All seniors are invited!**

MEMORIES



HOSPITALITY

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Proverbs 16:24

The above scripture reminds me of several songs; one being, “Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound” and “Honeycomb (1957)”, (yes I am that old). Can you just for a moment imagine “how sweet the sound of Jesus’s voice” will be when we meet and greet him. As we go through life today, his words are “sweet to the soul, and when we let him he brings us healing.

I trust that is how everyone sees our Hospitality Team; pleasant and cheerful words, the spirit of Christ within us and always healing (meeting) the needs of our congregation.

In May, we celebrated the “Epiphany Youth” with cake and punch for the outstanding job of leading us in worship. They were awesome! **BIG** thanks to Bill Baggett, Brad Fludgate, and John Ekstrom for serving refreshments and cleaning up. It was a nice treat for us ladies to get to sit and have cake and coffee. Keep watch, you may see more of our gentlemen serving and or baking soon! How exciting!



Our team has been in discussion about a picnic in July. However, due to vacations, and the heat (which is coming soon), it has been decided to host our “Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social” earlier in August. Maybe before school starts. Keep watch for the date and location in the next newsletter and announcements.

In closing, our team would like to say “CONGRATULATIONS” to Pastor and Wanda on the birth of their seventh (7th) grandchild. All of us are proud for you! As always, it is **still** a JOY and HONOR to serve in God’s House at Epiphany! God’s Peace,

FLOWER GUILD



On Mother’s Day, we honored everyone with carnations. Red for those who have their mothers and white for those whose mother is in heaven. This was started by Nancy Jarvis, in West Virginia in 1908. Her mother grew beautiful White carnations in her garden. To honor her mother she distributed white carnations at the first official Mother's Day service at her church. Over time the white carnations symbolized mothers who have passed away.

Anna Jarvis made Mother’s Day become a reality by campaigning for many years. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson recognized it as a national holiday. The white carnations symbolize love and admiration, purity, and good luck. The red carnations mean deep love and admiration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Carleen Bragan

JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	JUN 2	JUN 9	JUN 16	JUN 23	JUN 30
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Carlo Canapa	Karen McCabe	John Ekstrom	Carole Dwyer	Stephen Clements
LECTOR(S)	John Walker	Jim Cooper	Rob Krauss	Ron Davis	JR Lee
USHERS	Chuck Glassmire John Ekstrom	Art Kimmel Steve Meyer	Eddie Gibbons Rob Krauss	Harland Bross Randy St. Louis	Eric Johnson Chuck Glassmire
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judy Taylor Dianne Ledkins	Shelly Johnson Heidi Long	Audrey Tinsley Judith Lewing	The Cooper's	Alice Fludgate Kim McCormick
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Lousi Ron Davis	Randy St. Lousi Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Christine Davis	Randy St. Louis Marla Meyer
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Carleen Bragan	Etta McDonald	Audrey Tinsley	Marleene Cooper	Faye Robinson
HOSPITALITY HOST	Judy Rothdeutsch *Bonnie Baggett	Brad Fludgate *Ed Bohlman	Youth Sunday *Ron Davis	Jane Krauss *Kathie Shoff	Rob Krauss Etta McDonald
CUP BEARERS	Everlynn Harvey Brooklyn Gorday	Leighton Marchant Eli Baggett	Everlynn Harvey Brooklyn Gorday	Ethan Oomens Eli Baggett	Leighton Marchant Brooklyn Gorday

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

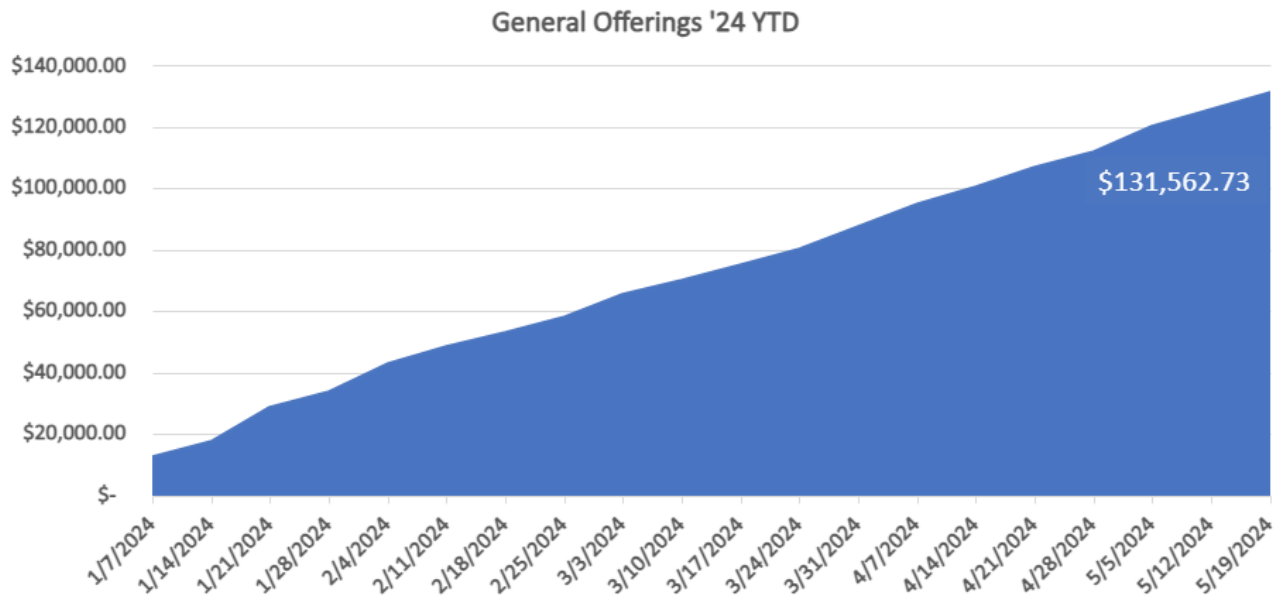
Ken Busarow – Treasurer

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)

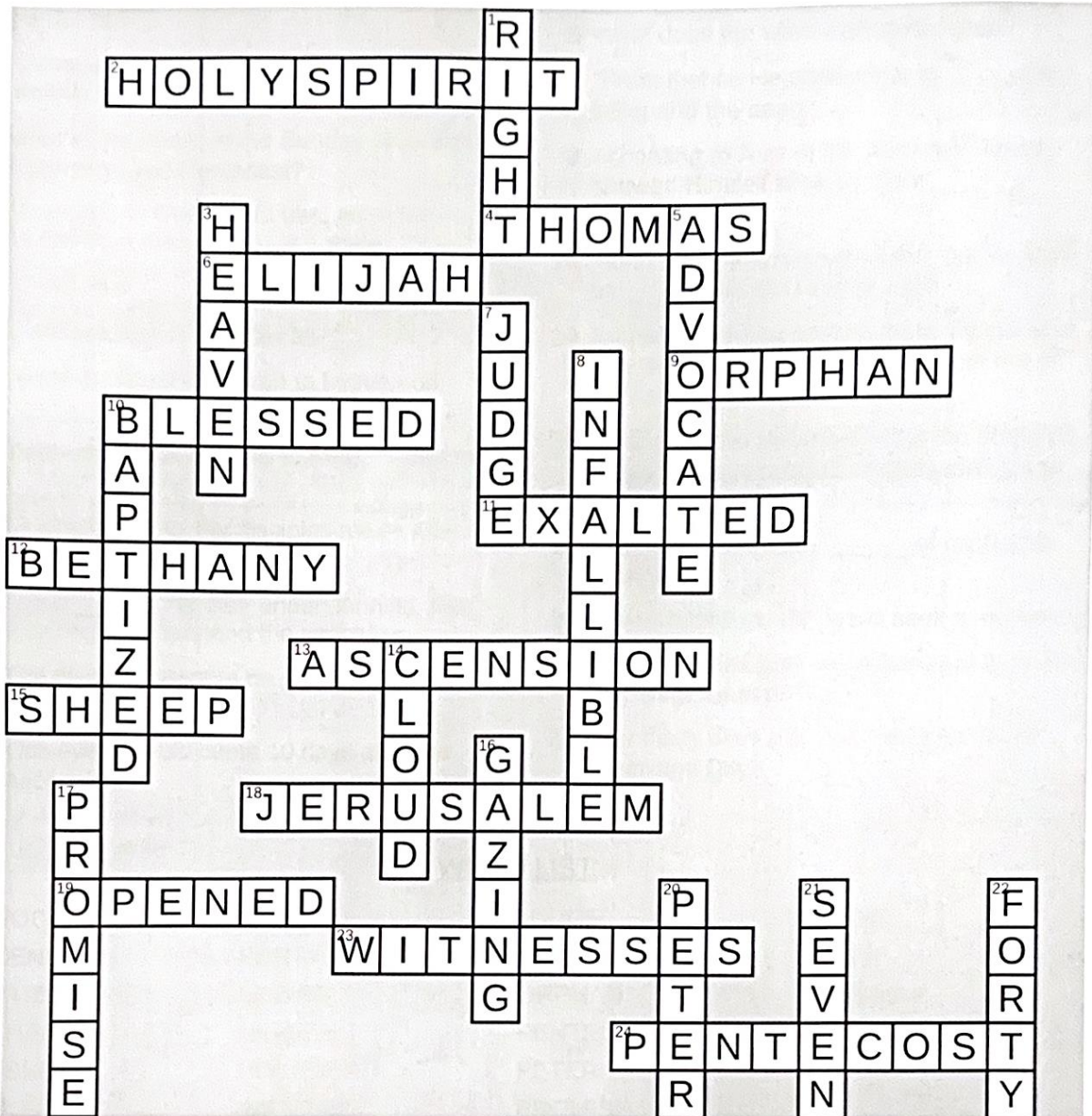


NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Sara Seevers will be compiling the newsletter. Newsletter articles for July are due June 19. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org by June 19. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

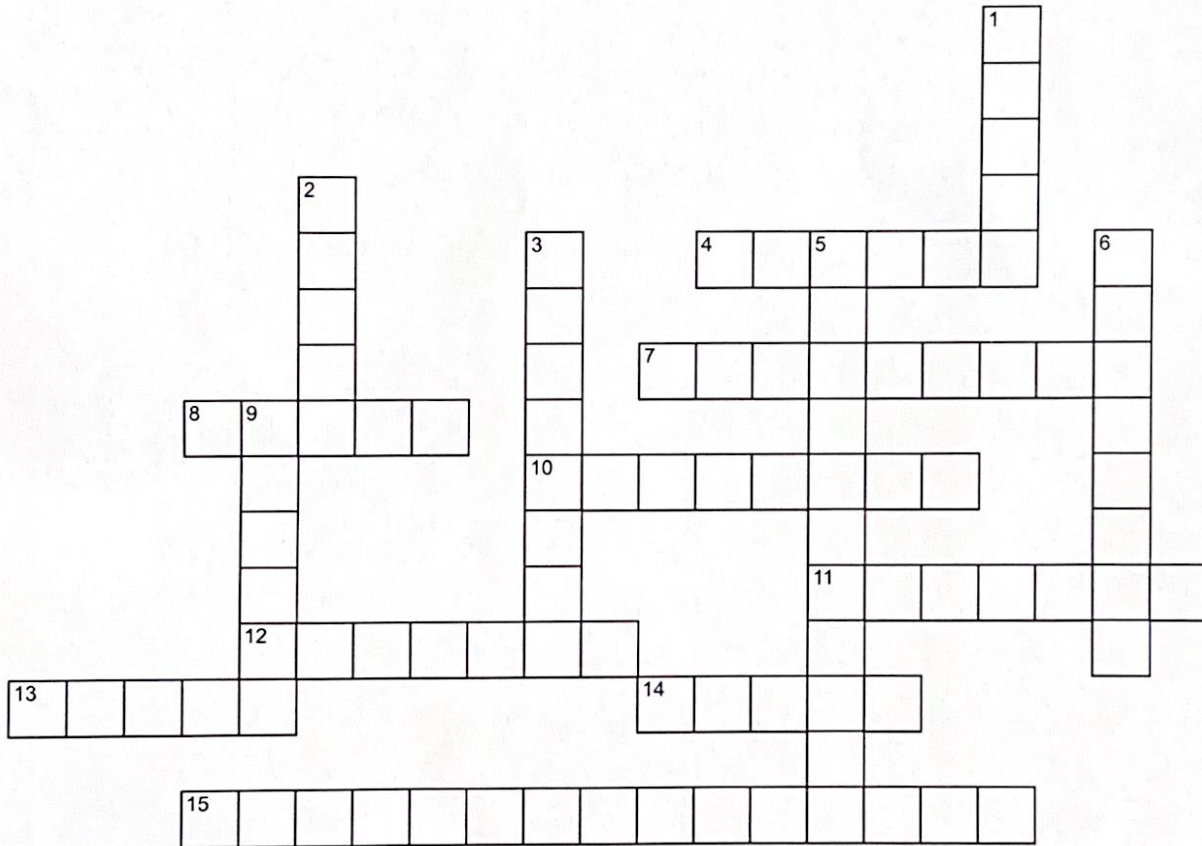
Below are the answers to May's crossword puzzle.

Jesus Christ's Ascension



The June Newsletter Crossword Puzzle

This month we will be doing something a little differently. June's crossword puzzle will be based on the newsletter itself. You must **READ** the newsletter to find the answers. Bring your completed crossword puzzle to church and hand it in to one of the office staff for a chance to win a **PRIZE!** The winner will be announced in July's newsletter.



Across

- 4 Which U.S. president made Mother's Day a national holiday? (last name)
- 7 What month does Children's Sunday school start back?
- 8 Camp Happy _____
- 10 Who is giving away free money for projects at Epiphany?
- 11 Pastor's article is on what subject?
- 12 SOLE stands for "_____ Our Lives at Epiphany"
- 13 Jesus' words are "_____ to the soul"
- 14 _____ Jarvis
- 15 Baptism was given to the Church in The _____ (2 wds)

Down

- 1 Faith Circle is studying these people from the Bible
- 2 How many grandkids does Pastor and Wanda have?
- 3 How many attendees did SOLE have at their May luncheon?
- 5 "money" earned in Children's Sunday school and choir (2 wds)
- 6 Where did SOLE meet for their May lunch? (2 wds)
- 9 What month will the "Hotdog and Ice Cream Social" be held?