



Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504

850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

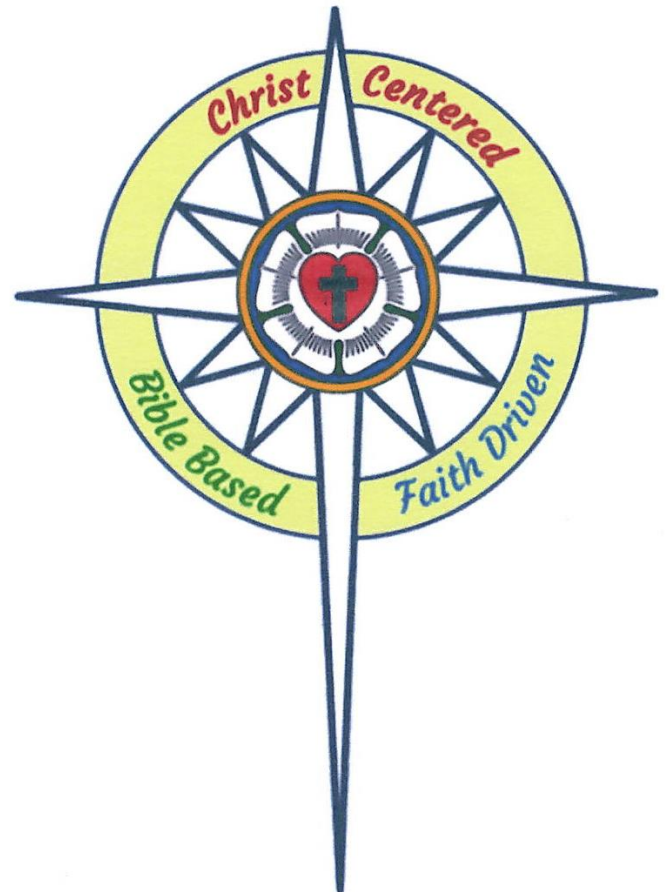
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.

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

December 2023 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



December 2023
Epiphany Pensacola

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An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in his dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

NRSV

Matthw 1:20b-21



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

In our noisy world, is there any room for quiet? In our practical, scientific world, is there any room for mystery and wonder? It is interesting that scientists, even in the top of their fields, seem to find plenty to wonder about both in the universe and in human behavior.

I think about Joseph and Mary and wonder how different our world would have been if they both decided not to follow the call to be the earthly parents of Jesus. We can speak about human behavior; we can rationalize what we would do or how we would respond but that is just speculation, and we will never be tested like Joseph and Mary.

It would be foolish to wonder what God had in mind for the people of creation. No one can fathom the depths of God's full intent for us. However, God saw that once we lost our way in the Garden of Eden, He needed to provide a way out of darkness and restore our relationship with Him. Today the people of God have a choice to live in the light of Christ or remain in darkness and chaos.

Joseph and Mary saw that they would have to make the choice early on. The shepherds had a choice to go and see what had been told to them. The Magi had a choice and came because they saw His star announcing the birth of the King. Now, we must separate light from darkness in the relationship and knowledge of being God's people. God provided a way to know the light and a way to live with him. Advent is a time for seeking God's guidance and responding to the love He showered upon His creation. I hope that you will engage with the church as we respond to God's call. We gather for the celebration of Jesus' birth by choice because of "Love".

Advent 1 "Accepting in Faith, Mary"	Dec. 3 rd	9:30 AM
Advent 2 "Accepting in Faith, Mary part 2"	Dec. 10 th	9:30 AM
Advent 3 "Accepting in Faith, Joseph"	Dec. 17 th	9:30 AM
Advent 4 "Lessons and Carols"	Dec. 24 th	9:30 AM
Christmas Eve (Prelude starting at 6:30)	Dec. 24 th	7:00 PM

The Rev. Dr. Franklin J. 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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1 11:30a Bell practice Office closed	2
3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	4 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	5	6 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	7	8 11:30a Bell practice Office closed	9
10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mission Sunday 8:30a Manna drop off 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	11 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	12 11:00a Faith Circle @ Ashland	13 Newsletter articles due 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	14 11:00 Council reports due	15 10:00a Bell practice 11:00a Set up Epiphany Sr. luncheon 12:00p Epiphany Sr. Christmas party Office closed	16
17 THRID SUNDAY OF ADVENT Last day for poinsettia orders 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School 11:30a Lector training	18 3:30p Praise group 4:30p Choir practice	19 6:00p Council meeting @ Ashland	20 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr	21	22 11:30a Bell practice Office closed	23
24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30a Worship-Lessons and Carols 10:30a Hospitality 7:00p Christmas Eve service	25 Office closed Christmas Day! 	26 Office closed	27 9:00a – Noon Office hours 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr	28 9:00a - Noon Office hours	29 11:30a Bell practice Office closed	30
31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon unless otherwise noted.					



DATES TO REMEMBER

Mission Sunday-Manna drop off

December 10, 2023

Newsletter Articles Due

December 13, 2023

Epiphany Seniors (SOLE) Christmas Luncheon @ Ashland

December 15, 2023 12:00p

Lector Training

December 17, 2023 11:30a

Last day for poinsettia orders

December 17, 2023

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2023 7:00p



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!

We are very excited that we now have two Sunday School classes: "first through fifth grade" and "three-year-olds through kindergarten" meeting each Sunday from 11:00 to 12:00 in the trailer.



Each week both classes go on an exciting adventure reading and discovering God's word about "People in Bible Times. The older children have been using their "NIV Adventure Bible" finding the chapters and verses in their Bibles about the amazing biblical characters we read about in our "Discover How to Pray" book. They have read about Abigail, Hannah, Bezalel, Abraham, Sarah and Solomon this past month and how these people lived out their lives with faith in God, with prayer and love for God and others accomplishing God's will for their lives. As children of God, we discussed how we can do the same.

Our scripture for memory this month is: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13) with the understanding that "all things" means God's will for us and loving God and each other. We enjoy our time together. Our related crafts and special activities are opportunities for the children to share experiences and enjoy Christian fellowship and companionship. One of our related crafts encouraged the children to pray and share their prayer with each other by painting a picture of their prayer on canvas. We can paint our prayers as well as say them!

All of us enjoyed sharing our crazy socks on "crazy sock day" and our school colors on "school spirit day". Even more exciting is getting Luther Bucks for participating in specified special activities which they will spend at the Epiphany Treasure Chest in December. Parents of the "three-year-olds through kindergarten" are encouraged to attend class with them to make the initial transition to a classroom easier for them. You will have fun along with them.

In December we will discover and read about "The Biblical Characters of Christmas". God prepared some very special characters to welcome His Son, Jesus, the Messiah. The children won't want to miss this special December Sunday School time. We look forward to seeing all the children in Sunday School. Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about God and to experience God's love through His word and each other.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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

Adult Sunday school: Jim Cooper will be leading the Adult Sunday school while Deacon Glenn is on vacation.

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will be meeting on December 12th at 11:00a.m. We will be watching episode three (3) of The Chosen. Please bring your bibles. We will review episode two (2).

At the October Bible study everyone voted on doing a potluck in December for our meeting. Also, we will be doing an ornament exchange. \$10 and under is the limit that was suggested. If you wish to participate, just bring an ornament.

We have a lively faith filled group of ladies. If you have not attended before, we would love to have you. Everyone is welcome.

Peace,
Wanda

SOCIAL MINISTRY

WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

Epiphany Social Ministry is humbled and ready to serve those in need and your team is available to be called on and distribute items on your behalf during each month of the year. It is our joy to collect each month and deliver your generous offerings of food to Manna Food Pantry. November Epiphany donated 609 pounds of food and Terry and Linda Bartlett delivered their ' full to the brim' vehicle full to Manna.

December 10th we will be available from 8:30 to beginning of worship with trunk to trunk acceptance. Two vehicles are ready to receive your end of year and Christmas donations....let's fill both cars to help our brothers and sisters in need. All nonperishable food items are so appreciated.

Love In Action began November 12th and will continue to distribute the wish list at church for Waterfront Mission, Global Learning Academy, Favor House and Currie House. All your offerings of love can be brought into the church each week and we will organize and distribute them on December 10th. If you have any questions about this ministry please contact **Carole Dwyer** and I will be happy to answer your questions.

As you prepare for the holidays and are enjoying the cooler weather, remember we have a team member who will come to your house and remove items to be donated such as clothes, household furniture, garage tools etc. or if you can bring them to church any Sunday. He will distribute these items to families in need or take them to Teen Challenge. Contact Carole if you need a pickup. So many in Pensacola would love to have what you no longer want or need.

We are
Serving HIM a with you
Carole Dwyer chair

Epiphany Seniors

What's in the senior's new fellowship group name, SOLE?

At the October senior's lunch those who attended voted to name the new group SOLE - Sharing Our Lives at Epiphany. Some may say, "Why name yourself the bottom of the foot?" Well, looking deeper into the definition the word has more meanings. Sole not to be confused with soul, also means "being the one and only," "being one of a kind," "being unique like a precious gem." So while SOLE is the acronym for Sharing Our Lives at Epiphany it also means Jesus is our one and only Lord and Savior. Thank you, Wanda, for pointing this out.

SOLE Christmas Luncheon All Seniors are Invited

- When:** December 15, 2023 at noon
Where: 9176 Ashland Ave
Menu: Lasagna from Petrella's Italian Cafe, Salad, Bread Sticks
Dessert, Ice Tea & Coffee
Cost: \$10.00 each

After lunch we will play the Dirty Santa game. If you would like to participate, bring a wrapped gift. It can be funny or serious, ugly or pretty, old or new but the limit is \$10 or less. This is really a fun game!

If you plan to come please let Alice Fludgate know by December 11 so the catering can be finalized.

HOSPITALITY

But if.... you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 4:29 NIV
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Can you believe we are in Advent? Where has the year gone? I know for a fact that it has gone fast for the Hospitality Team. It has been fun, and exciting, blessed beyond measure. Looking back at the last 30-45 days is enough to shout about. God is so GOOD! We had a celebration for our Confirmands, honored our Veterans, held our first “Fall Fest” at Ashland, and met some new friends in the neighborhood that has been visiting with us at Epiphany. In addition, our team served lunch to everyone attending the Groundbreaking Ceremony to start the transition building.

So, here we are in December getting ready for a very special season, the Birth of Christ. May we all take a moment to thank God for what he has done and continues to do in our personal life and our spiritual life. How he blesses our families, church leaders, congregation and all that seek him.

We still have a lot to do before we journey into 2024. Let’s go forward with the love, joy, and peace that only God can give us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

As always, it is a JOY and HONOR to serve in God’s House at Epiphany!

God’s Peace,
Brenda

Treasurer’s Report: Ken Busarow

Epiphany Lutheran Church Treasurer
Period Ending 10/31/2023

Overall, we’re still experiencing losses in the general fund month over month. The losses are a product of giving under-running budget predictions. Expenditure continues to under-run as well which is helping to offset the losses. With two months remaining, it’s anticipated giving will increase, which is typical from Thanksgiving through the Christmas season curtailing any additional losses.

The 2024 General Budget is now in place. Weekly giving to meet the 2024 budget needs to average \$7,087.00, which is a 5 percent increase over the 2023 actual weekly giving average of \$6,750.00. Notable changes to the 2024 budget are the addition of a part time Youth Director, funding for the development of the Youth Mission Journey program, seed funding for community outreach with the Farmer’s Market at Ashland and two Summer Youth Camps, one for music/drama and one for math/science.

A LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...



On All Saints/New member Sunday, we welcomed Randy St. Louis and Rob and Jane Krauss to the Epiphany family. Since it was also Fall Fest, a cake was donated in their honor to the cake walk.



Reformation/Confirmation Sunday was a wonderful success! Norm Beal built and dedicated the Baptismal Font. The Font was then used during the Confirmation of Stella McAllister and Madilyn Marchant.



Dianne Williams poses with her trunk of treats.



Liz Richbourg with her "Fruit of the Spirit" trunk

TRUNK OR TREAT!



Deacon Glenn and his festive trunk



Brad and Alice Fludgate having fun with their trunk or treat duties

EPIPHANY PENSACOLA'S FIRST ANNUAL FALL FEST 2023

Our first annual Fall Fest 2023 was fun and fabulous! It was a beautiful day at our Ashland property as we all enjoyed the festivities. We had an abundance of participation from the congregation, which was a major contribution to our success. Epiphany members really stepped up this year! We had a good turnout of volunteers to work in all areas and an influx of those willing to help prepare and serve food. Thank you all for everything. This would not be possible without the congregation coming together and working as a team.

We owe a special thank you to all those that contributed to the baskets and donation! Numerous members participated in playing their raffles, and many walked away with some excellent prizes.

Thank you to Pete for an impressive job as our Fall Fest MC. You made the cake walks and raffle announcements interesting and exciting. Thank you to Suzanne for being our 50/50 collector, and Paul Herrick for donating his half of the winnings back to the Church.

Rachel "Goldie" Lahr played beautiful music for us. Rachel worked well with Pete during the cake walks and announcements. Rachel enjoyed a delicious meal and even won a raffle. She had a fun time and hopes she will be invited to come back and play for us again.

The kids enjoyed the scavenger hunt, face painting, jewelry making, cake walks, games, and the train rides. The adults enjoyed the raffles, food, beer, wine, and comradery. Fall Fest 2023 was entertaining and enjoyable! We are looking forward to doing it again next year! Thank you for supporting Epiphany Lutheran Church and our annual Fall Fest.
Submitted by Regina Gibbons





VETERANS DAY



UNDER



CONSTRUCTION



Carlo Canapa (above) working hard on the bathrooms

Construction on the transitional building has officially begun!



MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Property Liaison: Rod Dwyer



Dr. Rod Dwyer has the privilege of serving the Council as liaison to the social ministries committee, which is chaired by his wife, Deacon Carole.

He received his medical training at the University of Michigan and his postgraduate studies at Mid-Michigan Medical Center, Midland Michigan, and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. During his surgery residency he was drafted and served in the United States Army Medical Corps serving as surgical staff at 18th Surgical Hospital in Vietnam.

He completed his formal training and became co-founder of the Southern Colorado Clinic, a multi-specialty medical clinic in Pueblo, Colorado. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and elected as a Fellow, American College of Surgeons. He served as President, Pueblo County Medical Society, and a term as President of the Colorado Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. In 1984 he left his private practice for active service in the United States Navy, serving over 22 years. He was Department Chair and Director, Surgical Services for two Naval Hospitals, Pensacola and Okinawa, Japan, Officer in Charge for two Surgical Teams deployed at sea and ashore in the Middle East, numerous assignments as Ship's Surgeon in Aircraft Carriers and Amphibious Assault ships. He participated as Officer in charge, Medical Detachment USS IWO Jima, in US Marine Corps combat operations for *Desert Shield / Desert Storm*, and as Senior Medical staff for Fleet Hospital Three for *Operation Iraqi Freedom* in the Iraqi Desert., caring for US military, POWs, and injured and sick Iraqi civilians and children.

Rod and Carole are blessed with 8 children, 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	DEC 3	DEC 10	DEC 17	DEC 24	DEC 31
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Ken Busarow	Regina Gibbons	Stephen Clements	See next page	Betty Bross
LECTOR(S)	Jim Cooper	Karen McCabe	Pete Morgan	See next page	Randy St. Louis
USHERS	Harland Bross John Ekstrom	Steve Meyer Eric Johnson	Chuck Glassmire Eddie Gibbons	See next page	Randy St. Louis Paul Herrick
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Shelly Johnson Betty Bross	Jim and Marlene Cooper	Kim McCormick Casey McAllister	See next page	John and Brenda Ekstrom
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis The Kaminskas	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	See next page	Randy St. Louis The Davis's
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	See next page	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	See next page	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Casey McAllister	Marliese Herrick	Youth Sunday	See next page	Hospitality
CUP BEARERS	Ethan Oomens John Reitmire	Grace Busarow John Reitmire	Everlyn Harvey Ethan Oomens	See next page	Brooklyn Gorday Leighton Marchant

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!

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DEC 24 MORNING

DEC 24 EVENING

ASSISTING MINISTERS	N/A Lessons and Carols	Wanda Gore
LECTOR(S)	Art Kimmel John Ekstrom Karen McCabe Brenda Ekstrom Stephen Clements Rev. Dr. Gore Pete Morgan	Stephen Clements
USHERS	Chuck Glassmire Art Kimmel	Harland Bross John Ekstrom
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	The Morgans	Kim McCormick Karen McCabe
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis The Morgans
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	N/A	Suzanne Morgan
CUP BEARERS	Leighton Marchant Everylyn Harvey	Grace Busarow Brooklyn Gorday

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://epiphanypens.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

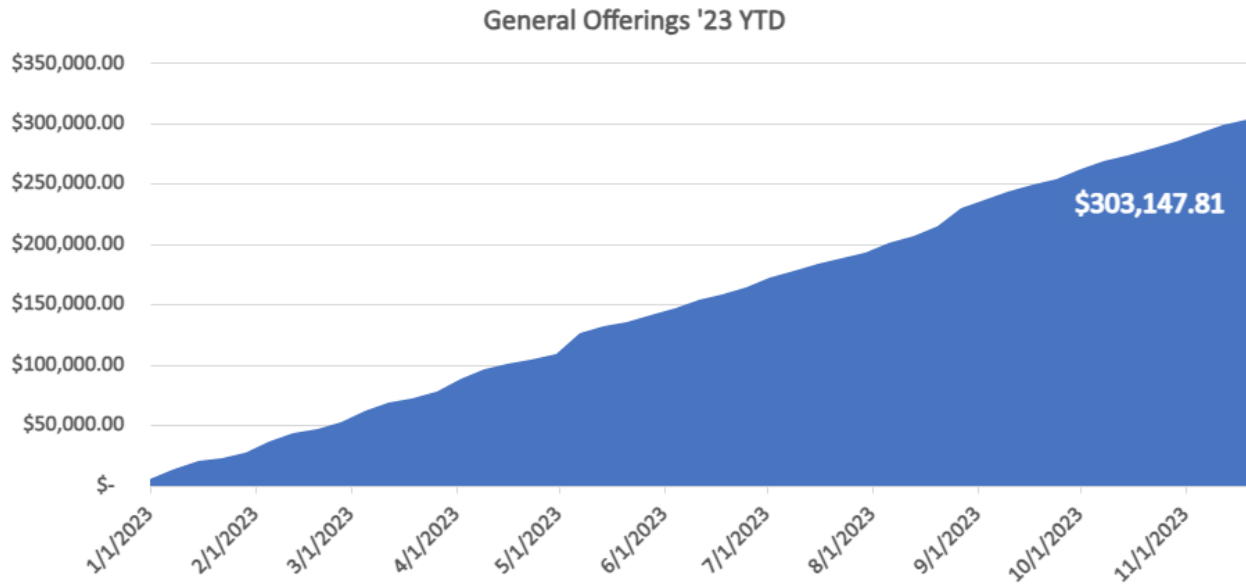
Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

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 Seever will be compiling the newsletter. Newsletter articles for January are due December 13th. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org by December 13th. If you have any questions, please contact the office.