

**SEPTEMBER
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

September 2022
Epiphany Lutheran Church

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'
Luke 14:28-30



This photo is from istock church design.

Before you ask yourself, Is that what we are building for the church? The answer is no.

The property search committee is working hard to secure the property we spoke about last month. It's an exciting time for us as a church community as we take the first step to secure our place in Pensacola. I know that many of you have questions and want an update on where we are on contracts and we will present that to the congregation as soon as we have the deal completed. Nothing will be purchased or formally agreed upon without the backing of the congregation. We will move forward together or we will wait until God shows us another property that can produce the harvest we expect from this location.

The passage in Luke that I have on this page is actually dealing with individuals who want to be a disciple of Jesus but they want to do other things first. He uses this example to tell them if they are going to be his followers they must pick up their cross and follow him. Like everything else in our lives, we must plan for our ministry while we build and pay off the new mortgage. We will NOT over extend ourselves and fail in sharing the Gospel because we are mortgage poor. We will plan, we will give for the building, and we will give for mission without damaging our ability to serve our community.

These are exciting times for Epiphany Lutheran Church. With our budget being met and our attendance growing each month we meet the requirements for our church loan. There will be other items we need to discuss but the biggest item is that you have been diligent in your giving with the vision of a new location. We've been blessed with the gift of generosity! You said we'd meet the 400K budget that included a building fund account and we will. It is this type of commitment that is making the loan process possible. Once we have an agreement for the property, you will be presented all of the facts.

Our congregation council will provide full disclosure of the property before we vote on the contract. We will also make sure that we can build without worry of being the individual in Luke's Gospel. We will be the people of God who pick up our crosses and follow Jesus as we have been doing already. I hope that we can celebrate our new location very soon. Continue to pray for our congregation council and those working on this purchase as well as those discerning the mission and vision for Epiphany.

*In closing, I'll ask you to look up what Paul asks the believers in **Philippians 4:9***

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 God ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9***



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August 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you all know, I was admitted into the hospital for a few days this month. I am doing well but am still being monitored and continue to be on light duty as they say in the military. Wanda has been a trooper through all of this and you all have helped so much. Thank you!

Because of the move and then the hospital stay, I will not be ready to start Sunday school for the young adults until the end of September. I will also begin the Lutheran 101 course at the end of September. Both will be twice a month so that we all have time to participate in other studies.

Lutheran 101: This course isn't about introducing members to the Lutheran faith; it is a course that you can learn more about your faith. Even those who have been in the church 20 years can learn something about their faith through this course. It's a way for you to grow spiritually as well as a way to engage and understand faith values.

Why Zoom - I've had several questions about why we're doing this through Zoom. I wanted to use Zoom instead of in-person study to give people the opportunity to join in the course. First, we do not have our own space yet. Secondly, it will allow those working to get home from work, have dinner, and not have to leave their house. Zoom can be accessed by computer, phone, or tablets. You are not going to have to be on video or screen.

If you haven't notified Kim that you are interested in this course, please do so. I am going to have her order the **workbooks** for those who wish to engage in the course. I truly hope that with the course being later in the evening, we can have a large online class.

Lutheran 101 Course: Starting date will September 27th 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The course will be twice a month – 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month until we are through the book.

Sunday school for young adults: Wanda and I have talked about hosting Sunday school and confirmation courses at our home twice a month beginning in September. She will host 5th and 6th grade getting them prepared for Confirmation. I will work with the youth from 7th grade and up. Each of these courses will be geared to the age of the groups. I know that we are still missing Sunday school for the younger children and we will seek a volunteer or volunteers to host the young believers at the church in the classrooms.

There are a variety of books for the young adults to use and I will have Kim order them once I have a number of children. Kim will place a registration form in the bulletins for the next few weeks so that you can sign up your children for the classes at my house on Langley as well as the church classrooms.

Challenges with providing Sunday school: The biggest challenge we face as a congregation is the commitment to educate our children in God's Word.

Why is this a challenge?

- Because we don't have a permanent location
- We need individual commitments to help teach the children
- Parents will need to commit to bringing them to Sunday school wherever their classrooms are located
- Christian education for children has suffered since COVID and will be hard to re-establish without commitments from parents and congregation members.

Location and dates for Sunday school:

5th grade – high school:

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Classes will begin on:

September 25th at our home

4241 Langley Ave. Pensacola, FL. 32504

Sunday school for those below 5th grade: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Volunteer teachers will be needed based on ages of children registered

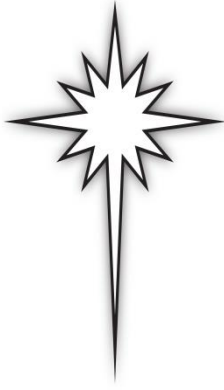
Classroom location: Epiphany Lutheran Church – Classroom trailer

Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that you will discern your education and engage in an opportunity to learn or teach others. I've heard requests for these opportunities from members and parents. I am committed to providing these opportunities and hope that you are committed to engaging in them.

*Faithfully Serving,
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



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August 2022

Members and Friends of Epiphany,

Wanda and I wish to thank you for the help over the past few weeks. Thank you for helping at the house when we called for help. Thank you for helping unload the Mobile Attic container and thank you for the prayers.

Being sent from my doctor's office to the emergency room and being admitted into the hospital made moving and construction even more complicated. Since I was discharged, I have had to learn to move slower and walk slower. It's a hard adjustment for someone who is not used to being slowed down.

I am getting better and I am being monitored to make sure my blood pressure stays at a normal range. I would have never thought that I would have low blood pressure but it happened and it's taking time to get use to the new norm. I am doing well and hope to be released to full duties within the next week or so.

Thank you all for the prayers and for the help around the house. Wanda and I feel blessed to have so many caring and loving people in our faith community. We appreciate all of you and love you too.

Lover,

Pastor and 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

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	3
4 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	5 Labor Day Office closed 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry meeting via zoom	6	7	8	9 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	10
11 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 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 -drop off items for clothes swap- place on back pew. 10:30 a.m. Hotdog and Ice Cream Social 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	12 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	13 Faith Circle Time and Location to be announced.	14 Newsletter Articles due	15 11 a.m. Council reports due	16 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	17 1:00 p.m. Clothes Swap at Brit Ahm
18 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	19 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	20 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	21	22	23 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	24
25 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 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 at Pastor's home	26 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	27 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	28	29	30 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Current News!



Manna Food Bank – Mission Sunday was August 14, 2022. Epiphany delivered less than 200 lbs of food and we can do better! Please consider donating the second Sunday of each month! No amount is too small! 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.

Ronald McDonald House Pull Tabs - Gerry delivered the pull tabs on August 2, 2022. We donated 2 lbs and 6oz. The Ronald McDonald House uses the money from recycling these pull tabs to pay their utility bills.

2 lbs & 6 oz
Pull tabs donated
Aug 2, 2022



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.

Social Ministry Committee-Would like to welcome our newest member. Thank you, **Marsha Suarez** for joining our mission. We are ecstatic to have you and look forward to working with you!



Upcoming Events!

Ride alongs with Dr. Reverend Frank Gore: Pastor wants to ride along and to be introduced to the communities in which we serve. He would like to go with someone to deliver Manna, meet the folks at Open Books, Lions Club, Ronald McDonald House, Waterfront Rescue Mission, The Washburn Center, Kids House, Favor House, Women of clear vision, Epp Center, Keep Pensacola Beautiful, Camp Happy Sands and Proud Moments, just to name a few. Looks like we gone keep him busy!

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 M. at the Synagogue.** Clothing items need to be clean with no stains. They are to be folded and placed on the back pews for collection. **The donation delivery schedule is as follows: September 17 and December 10, 2022.**

These are Saturdays, which is when the Synagogue has their service. Members of Epiphany Lutheran Church can bring their clothing donations the Sundays prior to the Saturdays listed. Those dates will be as follows: September 11, 2022 and December 4, 2022.

Please Continue to Collect These Items to donate!

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

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will take place on Monday, September 5, 2022, at 6 pm via zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Gibbons
Chair of Social Ministry Committee

HOSPITALITY

Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58

This verse really spoke to me. We all know how tiring it is sometimes to keep up with the pace and get it all done. I was encouraged and reminded that when we serve the Lord, it is never a waste of time and energy! Let us all do it joyfully!

Our “new” sign-up for baking refreshments has been a great success! Thanks to all the Ladies that participated, we are looking forward to those great treats! Thanks to Liz Richbourg for stepping up to get volunteers to sign up.

Don't forget to “save the date” for our “Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social” on September 11th after worship. Your Hospitality Team will be hosting, everyone is welcome, there is no cost, however donations are appreciated.

We look forward to celebrating this event with you all!

As always, it is a JOY and HONOR to serve in GOD'S House!
God's Peace,
Brenda

ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

The Online Giving within this tool (Churchtrac) is fully functional! You can use your bank account, a credit/debit card, or text message for your weekly/monthly offerings.

Some important items to know:

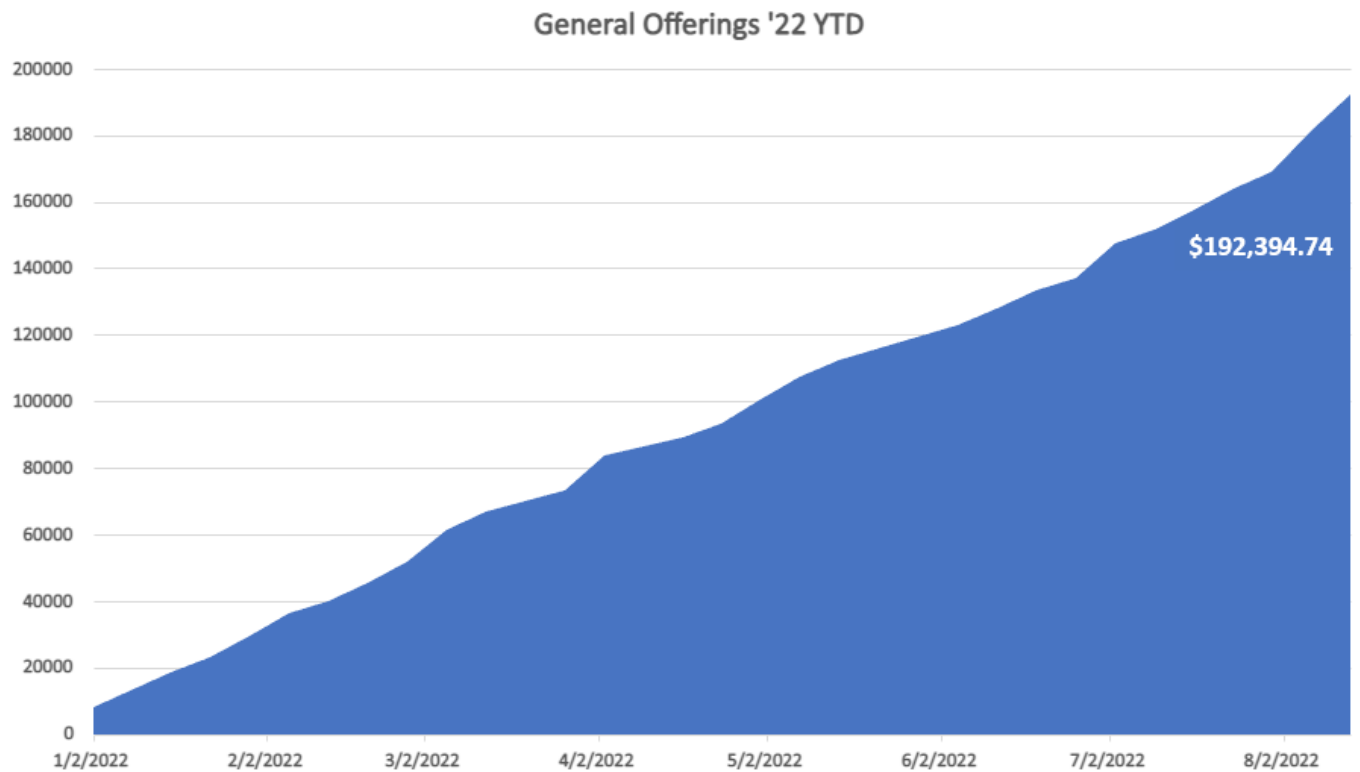
- You will need to create an account at : [Epiphany Lutheran Church \(churchtrac.com\)](https://epiphanylutheran.churchtrac.com) (<https://epiphanylutheran.churchtrac.com>). Creating an account is for your protection and helps prevent fraud should you choose to give online.
- If you use the email that we have on file for you, most of your information will be automatically added to your account. You can also take this opportunity to update any personal information for you and/or your immediate family members.
- Click on the large green box on the home page to set up online giving.
 - There are 3 headers across the top of the page – Credit/Debit, ACH/Checking and SMS/Text
 - You can schedule a one-time offering or set up a recurring offering. Be aware that automatic offerings begin on the date you enter the information and then at the frequency you set. So, if it is the 12th of the month and you set up a monthly offering, they will all be on the 12th. To change this, you'll need to delete and re-schedule your automatic giving.
 - If you use your bank account, you'll need to verify two small deposits that will appear in your account in about 2 days. As of Sept. 7, the small deposits will be identifiable by the descriptor "ACCTVERIFY" instead of "AMTS1:2." Once you have those deposits, log back in and go to online giving to enter the number of pennies that you received. After confirming the amounts you'll be able to set up your giving amount and frequency.
 - You have the option to add a memo to your gift – for instance if you are giving to the general fund but it is for your flower sponsorship you can add "Flower Sponsor" as a memo.
 - If you wish to also give to a restricted fund, you have the option to add another fund and then choose from the drop-down list for these funds: Building, Memorial, Pastor's Discretionary, or WNALC.

You have the option to cover the processing fee for your credit/debit card giving. If you choose yes, the software will automatically increase your offering to cover the cost.

You can have multiple offering frequencies and store more than one credit/debit card. You might want to give weekly to the General Fund and once a month to the Building Fund.

If you have any questions, please let Kim or Vanessa know.

YTD GENERAL OFFERINGS (Running total)



FAITH CIRCLE

We will hold Faith Circle on Tuesday, September 13. Time and Location to be announced soon!

Philippians 4:9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
ASSISTING MINISTERS	John Ekstrom	Paul Marchant	Daniel Turner	Dawn Zeigler
LECTOR(S)	Brenda Ekstrom	Pete Morgan	Molly Harvey	Art Kimmel
USHERS	Chuck Glassmire Harland Bross	Art Kimmel Eddie Gibbons	John Ekstrom Randy St. Louis	Eric Johnson Steve Meyer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Audrey Tinsley Karen McCabe	The Cooper's	Heidi Long Kim McCormick	The Morgan's
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St.Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Dan Zeigler	Randy St. Louis Brad Fludgate	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild

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!**