

SEPTEMBER 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.com
Website: epiphanypensacola.org



PASTOR'S CORNER

September 2023
Epiphany Pensacola



"¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1-2

"¹² When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth,

no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:1-17

Serving others is providing hospitality while learning to be a servant leader.

You can tell that people are fairly comfortable worshipping in this temporary location at Brit Ahm. The pews don't have your names on them, but most people end up in the same place. I'm not saying this to make you change seats or make anyone upset. It's easy to see that the Jewish congregation of Brit Ahm have become very set in where they are going to sit. The pillows, back rests, and other items in the pews show a designated spot for someone who is coming back into the Synagogue the next Saturday.

My goal is to remind you that providing hospitality isn't just doing so with coffee and cakes. Providing hospitality is meeting people in the parking lot and saying hello. Hospitality happens at the door with the greeter and usher. Hospitality takes place in the pew when you say good morning to the people in the pew (visiting believers and long-term believers).

How are you being a servant leader as Jesus taught his disciples?

Are you helping or providing a greeting in any of these places I mentioned? Perhaps you get out of your car, head for the church door and enter, and quickly sit in the pew that has become your Sunday spot?



Our congregation is filled with loving, kind, and gracious followers of Jesus. Can we do better?
Yes!

Please don't take this pastor's page as we are doing poorly. Because we're not! But there is always room for improvement, and we need to consider how well each of us is doing when providing hospitality. What I am pointing out is before worship and during worship. The hospitality we provide currently in the worship space is wonderful and yet, we can do better.

If you've been watching and listening each week before worship, you know that we will be breaking ground on the building soon. We're not that far away from moving to our church property on Ashland Ave. Your seats will change and the way we enter for worship will change. But most important of all the changes that will happen are the changes in our need for servants to provide hospitality.

Your church will need:

We'll need a welcome team ready to greet the people parking. Those outside of the building will help give directions on entering the church. We'll need greeters under the portico, and we'll need ushers to help people find seats like we used to do. There will be a great need for servant leaders to lead each of these stations and we'll need supportive stewards to fill the positions of hospitality in every aspect before the coffee and cake.

- Who will step forward to be the servant leaders for the good of Epiphany and those attending church?
- Who will help the visiting believers as they enter the church to worship?
- Will you sit beside them and help them navigate through the liturgy and the worship service?

These are all questions that only God's people can answer. "**Colossians 3:23** *Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as done for the Lord and not for human beings.*"

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



Bishop Selbo is reelected

The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo was reelected as bishop of the North American Lutheran Church by delegates to the 2023 NALC Mission Convocation Aug. 9-11 in Oklahoma City.

More than 600 delegates and visitors gathered for the convocation around the theme, “Missio Dei: The Work and Mission of God.” The convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC’s biennial Lutheran Week.

Bishop Selbo received 77 percent of the votes for bishop. The Rev. Dr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, was the other nominee for bishop.

Other Elections: Julia Hartfelder of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westerville, Ohio, and the Rev. Dr. Scott Ness, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Leslie Haines, executive director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Family Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the Rev. Ryan Henkel, pastor of Emmons Lutheran Church in Emmons, Minnesota, were elected to the Court of Adjudication.



“On Fire for Mission” sessions made the convocation a Mission-Driven gathering. Two-hour blocks of time each day focused on domestic missions, international mission and mission related to congregational life. Dr. David Luy of the North American Lutheran Seminary opened the sessions with a reflection on Scripture, and NALC staff members provided presentations on each day’s theme. Delegates then talked about the presentations and discussed ways to “take it home” to their congregations.

Six new NALC Global Workers were commissioned: Randy Stubbs in Tanzania; the Rev. Sam Chim in Cambodia; the Rev. Dr. Thomas Thorstad in Laos; the Rev. Dr. Slavomír Slávik in Slovakia; the Rev. Aleksandr Gröss in Ukraine; and Dagaga Gamechu in Kenya.

The ministry of the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, assistant to the bishop for international mission, was celebrated. He will now be serving the NALC part time from Ethiopia and will expand his teaching and leadership ministries around the world.

Randy Stubbs, a new NALC global worker in Tanzania, and his daughters delighted delegates with their music throughout the convocation. His ministry training church musicians and pastors in Tanzania was highlighted at the convocation banquet.

The Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, was the preacher for the closing service of Holy Communion.

A large increase in the number of candidates for ministry preparing to become NALC pastors was celebrated by the convocation.

A \$3.8 million budget was approved for the NALC for 2024. The budget anticipates spending some of the church’s reserve funds. Congregations are encouraged to support the NALC with at least 5-8 percent of their regular offerings.

Today, Tomorrow & Forever 2020 Vision appeal has received \$2 million in pledges toward its \$5 million goal.

The Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology preceded the convocation. The theme for this year’s lectures was “God the Father Creates ... in His Image (Genesis 1:27).”

Other Lutheran Week events included a Faith Formation Festival, the Women of the NALC Gathering, the Lutheran Theologians for the Church Conference, the Global Confessional and Missional Forum, and a gathering of Latino church leaders from across the NALC. A variety of workshops were also offered for delegates.

Documents and videos from the convocation and other events of Lutheran Week are available online at lutheranweek.com.

COUNCIL RETREAT

We held a very successful Council Retreat and were able to revise both our Vision Statement and Mission Statement to support our main mission (from the Great Commission from Jesus) to go out and make disciples. We also formed a Bylaws Committee to recommend changes to allow our church organization to support the completion of our mission.

Pete Morgan
Council President



Ken and Donna Busarow provided the Council with a delicious breakfast and lunch.

COUNCIL RETREAT (CONT.)

Why Are We Here?

John Kaiser, in his book, “Fish or Cut Bait”, makes a statement so profound, it stopped me in my tracks. This past weekend the Executive Committee and the Church Council held a Ministry Planning retreat at the Ashland property. There was time in the Word, time in prayer and a lot of informative discussions over the course of two days. The main focus was, our **Vision Statement**,

In the presence and with the power of the Holy Spirit, Epiphany Lutheran Church strives to bring the Word of God, the love of God, and the Salvation of God to all.



our **Mission Statement**,

Led by the Holy Spirit, Epiphany Lutheran Church aspires to nurture the body, mind and soul of all to the glory of God.

and our **Core Values**,

<i>Christ Centered</i>	<i>Biblically Grounded</i>	<i>Faith Driven</i>	
<i>Inspirational</i>	<i>Worship Connected</i>	<i>Mission Accountable</i>	
<i>Youth Development</i>	<i>Building Disciples</i>	<i>Prayerful</i>	<i>Generosity</i>

We looked at the early church as recorded in the book of Acts for essential elements of successful churches, churches growing God’s kingdom as he instructed in Matthew 28, “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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” There are three. Three essential elements all churches must possess in order to be successful at making disciples.

The Word of GOD. The good news, the gospel, the Word of God. Without it there is no success, no matter how big the crowds or how impassioned the spirituality. A church cannot win without biblical integrity because without this integrity it ceases to be an authentic church.

The Spirit of God. The reason the Word of God is special is because it is of God. The presence of God, the Spirit of God, alive and moving among his people is a sign of a victorious church. A church cannot win without spiritual vitality because without this vitality it ceases to be a living church.

The Mission of God. Without the urgent purpose of making disciples, introducing men and women to the Lord of Life, Christians might as well go straight to heaven upon conversion. What? Why? It’s my purpose, your purpose, the purpose of every man, woman and child of Epiphany Pensacola. It’s why we’re here, the only reason we’re here.

What did John Kaiser say that was so profound it stopped me in my tracks?

COUNCIL RETREAT (CONT)

*Everything that believers do on earth, they will do better in heaven.
with one exception.*

*In heaven we will never again have the privilege of helping someone else cross the line
from death to life in Jesus Christ.* (Kaiser, 2011, p. 10)

We were left here on earth for this reason. A church cannot win without mission because without it, it ceases to be an obedient church. If it's not fulfilling God's purpose, it has no purpose.

Our seal includes all of these elements; we are Bible Based, the **Word of God**, we are Faith Driven, the **Spirit of God**, and Christ Centered, accountable to the **Mission of God**. You'll be hearing more, much more, about how these elements will move us from ministry to mission, utilizing our Core Values to implement our Mission Statement to reach the objective of our Vision Statement. It's our purpose, it's why we're here on earth.

Next time, Winning on Purpose. Leadership, Accountability Structure, and Alignment.

Footnote Citation:

Kaiser, J. E. (2011). Introduction. *Fish or Cut Bait* (pp 1-13). Abingdon Press.



Council members working hard on plans to grow Epiphany and make it as Mission focused as possible.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member of the Month: Pete Morgan, Council President



William “Pete” Morgan maintains a successful real estate business as a Broker-Owner, along with his wife Suzanne, of Service Matters Realty Inc., Service Matters Property Management, Inc. and newly established Service Matters Association Management, Inc. He is also managing member/owner of two real estate investment LLC’s (manages a total of 15 single family units and 390 acre family farm). He has been a licensed real estate agent since 2005 and has more than 25 years of defense management, business operations and training experience. He retired from the Navy after 24+ years of service following his second tour at the Pentagon as the first Navy Flying Hour Program Readiness Requirements Officer in the newly established CNO Readiness Requirements Division – CNO N43. Responsibility included defining and validating the use of \$4B in support of performance of FHP requirements. During his first tour at the Pentagon he was assigned to CNO – N4 as the Navy Logistics R&D Program Manager responsible for ensuring \$50M in program funding was properly aligned with Navy logistics Science & Technology requirements.

Pete entered the Navy as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1977 and was commissioned an Ensign upon graduation in 1981. He received his Naval Aviation Wings as an Operational Logistics/Search and Rescue helicopter pilot in 1982. He served in various Helicopter Combat Support (HC) squadrons including positions as detachment officer in charge, operations officer, quality assurance officer, operations officer and administrative officer. Additional tours included Air Boss aboard USS LaSalle (AGF -3) and Safety Department Head aboard USS Enterprise (CVN-65).

Following Hurricane Ike’s landfall in Texas in September 2008, he took a position as Project/Operations Manager with a disaster recovery company managing 1200 personnel in overseeing clean-up operations in the City of Houston. He served as Project/Operations Manager on two additional disaster recovery projects in Massachusetts and Arkansas. Following those projects, he took a position as Senior Associate for Business Development and later promoted to Managing Associate with The ASTA Group, LLC, a woman owned small business offering consulting services for domestic and international commercial and government clients to help improve their business positioning and operational capabilities. When the ASTA Group relocated their office, Pete returned to serve as a Senior Project/Operations Manager for Beck Disaster Recovery (Division of Leidos Corporation) on a consulting basis. He closed out a Super Storm Sandy disaster recovery project for New Jersey DEP and assisted with ice storm recovery in Augusta, GA and across central South Carolina.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONT)

In 2014, Pete accepted the Keller Williams Realty Gulf Coast Pace Office Manager position. In less than two years he grew the office from a Mega Agent Office to a KWR Gulf Coast Business Center. He formed Team Morgan in 2015 and received the Keller Williams Realty Regional Silver Award for sales over \$3M. Then in 2016 he formed Team Morgan-Byrd and received the Keller Williams Realty Regional Triple Gold Award for sales over \$10M. In 2017 Pete established Service Matters Property Management, Inc. and Service Matters Realty, Inc. in 2017 and Service Matters Association Management, Inc. in 2022 with offices in Pace, FL

Pete is a Rotary two-time Paul Harris Fellow. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. He is also active in the Blackwater Pyrates – Community Service Group. Pete is a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church and has served as President, Vice President, Secretary of the Church Council and is currently serving another term as Council President. He is past President of the Petersen Point Subdivision HOA and currently serves as the Vice President. Pete is also a member of the Daedalians – The premier fellowship for military aviators.

HOSPITALITY

“Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Recruit, Recruit, Recruit..... This is what our Lord has been calling on us to do. As we are planning our vision for “God’s Church” at the Ashland property, we are looking at two worship services. Therefore, we are going to need everyone to step up in their “time and talent”, whether it be Hospitality, Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, etc. Wherever you feel God is calling you to serve.

Our Hospitality Team is so blessed to have the love and support of our congregation and the willingness to help when needed. We are grateful and excited for the newest member of our team, Judy Rothdeutsch.

Thanks to all who have been so faithful in signing up to provide refreshments. This has been very enjoyable and helpful. To say it is greatly appreciated may not be enough, but it truly comes from the heart!

The Hospitality Team will continue with some of our traditional events as we look to the future. We will be having our traditional “Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social” September 17 after worship. All are welcome! There is no charge. Donations are appreciated.

We will be meeting soon to plan out the remainder of this year and look forward to 2024. Everyone is welcome to attend our meeting (date to be announced), bring your ideas and share. Come, let us know how we are doing, how we can improve serving this ministry better.

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

God’s Peace, Brenda

STORM PREPAREDNESS

September and October are coming fast. Are you ready in case a storm hits our area? Now is the time to prepare! In Florida, the week of August 26 through September 8 is a tax-free week where you can purchase the approved storm supplies tax free. It's time to check your flashlights and other emergency lights to make sure they are operating correctly and if not, replace them along with making sure you have a supply of batteries.

All households would be wise to prepare a "Flood Bucket" that includes the same items the NALC Disaster Relief team provides when assisting people in storm areas. It consists of:

- 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- 1 half gallon bleach
- 2 large trash bags (contractor size)
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 2 rags
- Comet or another scouring cleaner
- Scrub brush
- Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- Gloves 1 pair each (reusable i.e., Platex, dishwashing type) and leather or cotton gloves

In addition to the above you will need:

- Drinking water - 1 gallon per day per person in your home
- If you have a generator, make sure it is in working order and have the recommended fuel to run it.

If your home or property receives damage, please call the church office so we can get assistance to you as soon as possible.

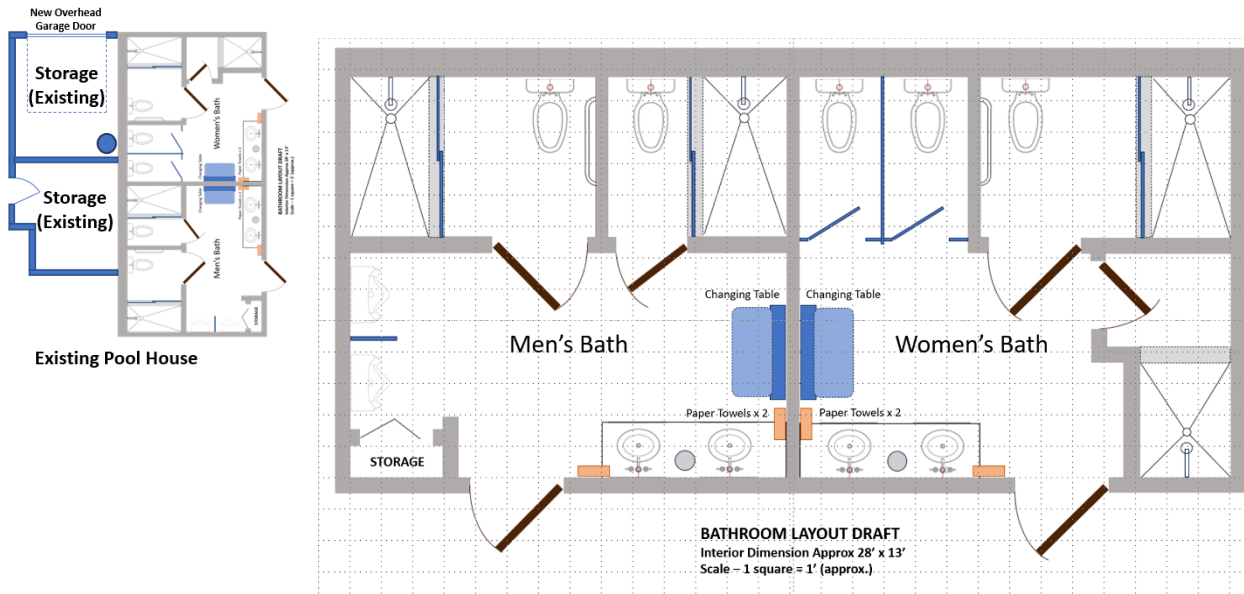
We pray that God will protect us and our neighbors, but we need to be ready to act and aid those we can when a storm strikes our area.

Submitted by,
Deacon Glenn



ASHLAND CAMPUS BATHROOM UPDATE

Exciting times and if you missed the update on Sunday the 20th, here's a recap. The pool house bathroom renovation design is complete. This bathroom space will serve as the general restroom facility for the multi-purpose transition building. There are ample facilities to meet our needs during worship and other events being held on the property. It's also equipped with four shower stalls which will allow Epiphany to offer our facilities to NALC Disaster Relief Teams, mission teams and others in need of a staging location.



This project is being funded with a grant from the NALC and monies in the Renovation Project Fund. A timeline for completion has been set for the end of September but there are many variables, not the least of which is contractor availability which could shift that date into October. The Project Lead assigned is Harland Bross. Demolition is nearly complete and plumbing, electrical and HVAC contractors are being solicited for their trade estimates. If you've got construction skills and have some time, we'd love to have you! Talk with Harland or Eddie Gibbons to see where your skills can be used and when we can use you. Your "Sweat equity" will help reduce our costs helping ensure there're sufficient funds to complete the renovations. God always provides! That's why he put you here 😊. Have a blessed day!

Submitted by,
Ken

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 Office closed	2
3 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship - Contemporary 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	4 Labor Day-office closed 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice	5	6 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	7	8 Office closed	9
10 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Mission Sunday – Manna drop off 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Kids’ Sunday School	11 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice	12 11:00 a.m. Faith Circle at Ashland Ave 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via Zoom	13 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	14 11:00 a.m. Council reports due	15 Office closed	16
17 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday school Following worship: Hotdog and Ice Cream Social	18 3:30 p.m. Praise group 4:30 p.m. Choir practice	19 6:00 p.m. Council meeting at Ashland	20 Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 a.m. Seniors club @ Oar House 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	21	22 Office closed	23 10:00 a.m. Flower arranging class at Ashland Ave
24 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School	25 3:30 p.m. Praise group 4:30 p.m. Choir practice	26 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via Zoom	27 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	28	29 Office closed	30

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The JOY of the Lord is our strength and we/you as members of Christ's church at Epiphany are overflowing with His joy. We have been obedient to His call to feed the hungry every month of every year. We had the distinct trial that turned into His Joy of needing 2 cars to collect and deliver food to Manna this month. We offered 641 pounds of food. 270 pounds were your generous offering of requested fruit in its natural juice. This is an important dietary need many do not receive because they do not have the funds to purchase. I am told by Manna employees that we are one of a few churches that focus on this important need. Let's overwhelm them with our collection in September with this item. If we can send 400 pounds of this fruit added to our other food items to begin the school year, we will feed so many that do not have this luxury we often take for granted. Thank you, Liz Richbourg, for collecting and delivering to Manna.

September collection will be offered by Rod and Carole Dwyer on September 10th. Our car will be empty when we arrive.... let's fill it to the roof top when we leave church.



Carleen Bragan delivered 11,720 pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House. This simple act of kindness helps them pay their electric bill. There are collection jars at Brit AHM and at Ashland for your convenience. When we work together God multiplies our gifts and many benefit.

August 24th Social Ministry will serve dinner at Ronald McDonald House. You will be blessed if you join us in prepping food on the 23rd at the Dwyers and/or joining us at 1:00 p.m. on the 24th at RMH. You will be given a tour of their facility and learn how they assist families with children admitted to the hospital. Remember they often have other children in their care that need their parents' time so it's not just one child that benefits from this meal.

Social Ministry collects, every month, your offering of children's clothes. Give them to Carole Dwyer and she will find a child or family in need

We are looking for 'A FEW GOOD MEN'. Social Ministry has 11 members and Pastor and Deacon are the only men on our team. Please contact Carole and offer your time and talent to serve others. This would also be a wonderful ministry for couples and families to serve our God. You will be blessed every time you step out and serve.... This is a promise from God to YOU. Our social ministry meeting will be in the Sanctuary on September 3rd at 11 am.

We love our Lord and we love to serve.

Serving HIM with you

Carol

SOCIAL MINISTRY (CONT)

Epiphany Social Ministry team had an eventful day on Sunday Aug.27th as we prepared dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Prayer, laughter and labor of love as we prepared a full potato bar and Regina made Chili with all the fixin's.

Some of us met a few of the families before we left and they shared their stories with us but their focus, of course, is on the child in the hospital and then many of them have other children with them as they travel this painful journey.

We were blessed to be silent servants for them and they were all very appreciative of this act of kindness.

Serving HIM with you
Carole



ALTAR FLOWER CLASS

Altar flowers are an expression of our love for God. Please consider coming to learn or refresh your skills in flower arranging on Saturday, September 23 at 10 am. The class will be held at the Ashland Ave property.

The congregation sponsors flowers and pay \$25. They may take the flowers home. If the sponsor doesn't want the flowers, they will be taken to a shut-in. Harland Bross will demonstrate how to make an altar flower arrangement. Please consider joining us for about 1 1/2 hours that Saturday.

Submitted by, Carleen Bragen

SAVE THE DATE
CHRISMON MAKING CLASS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
10 to 12 am

EPIPHANY SENIORS CLUB (NAME TBD)

Several of us have expressed how we miss our monthly social time we had at our previous location, so let's restart the Old Timer's group. No agendas, no speakers or preparation, just eating, drinking (sweet tea that is) and catching up with each other.

Where: Oar House

When: Wednesday, Sept 20 at 11:00 am.

We need a new name for the group so be thinking of what we could call ourselves and bring your suggestions. Picking a new name will be fun so put on your thinking caps or search Google. Sample idea: Sages (Seniors Ages), Seasoned Saints.

Let me, Alice Fludgate, know if you would like to come so I can reserve tables.

Email a.fludgate@icloud.com or text 850-860-0368

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10TH!

Sunday school for children from 1st grade through 5th grade will begin September 10th at 11:00 a.m. in the trailer. We invite all elementary school children. Parents are also welcome.

"Friends of God Discover How to Pray" is our theme. Together we will learn what God's word, the Bible, teaches us about prayer and how various people in the Bible became friends with God through their faithful prayers. God loves you very much and wants you to be His friend too. Join us as we discover how prayer enables you to be friends with God.



For more information, see Marlene Cooper or Donna Busarow.

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle women's bible study will meet Tuesday, September 12th at 11am at the Ashland property. This month we begin viewing *The Chosen*. Each month we'll view one episode, then follow up with discussion. There is much anticipation for this series, we hope there will be many who will join in to watch. Afterward, we can venture out for lunch to a place we all agree on.

Hope to see you on September 12th at 11am! For more information, please give me a call.
God's Peace,

Dawn Zeigler

The August study was a wonderful time with visitors from St. Paul NALC in Niceville. Four ladies from their congregation travelled over to share in our study. Lunch and fellowship followed; it was a great day!



QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Some people say, "Give until it hurts". But God recommends we give until it feels good. -Anonymous

God looks at the heart, not the hand...the giver, not the gift. -Anonymous

CHOIR

Dear congregation,

First, thank you for allowing me to be the music director of your church. This congregation has fed me and enriched my spiritual life. I am grateful to you. The choir has grown from 5 people to a strong 17 members, and I am so blessed to be the director of this beautiful choir which has not only grown in membership but has grown together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This month, and every month for the next year, I will be choosing a choir member and featuring them in this newsletter. You will hear from them how they began in this ministry and what this music ministry means to them and how music and singing in our church has made a difference in their life. I hope you will be inspired by their faith journey and maybe their experience will inspire you to want to join our ministry and see how praise and worship through song can make a difference in your spiritual life! I know music has made me love our Lord more and more every hour, every minute of my life! “Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord”! Psalm 89

In Him,
Kelly Koontz
Music Director of Traditional Music

Choir Member Highlight: Dianne Williams



How long have you been a member of this congregation?

Off and on since 1974. There were a few times I moved out of the area helping one of my children, or attending school but always returned to what is now Epiphany Lutheran.

You are retired now, what was your professional life?

I was an LPN working at a nuclear pharmacy. Always wanted to be a teacher, so I became a Pre-School teacher and fulfilled that dream. There were several other jobs held as well, I had six children to raise so I took jobs that worked well with their schedules.

What drew you to Choir?

I love to sing! I have been singing all my life, and first joined a church choir at 12 years old.

How does choir help with your worship experience?

Music **IS** worship! Music **IS** church! Music is emotional for me; I am able to worship daily with song. I will often be singing a hymn while doing something during the day, and I remember my mother doing the same.

What would you say to encourage others to join Choir?

laughs Choirs have the best parties!

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Sara SeEVERS will be compiling the newsletter beginning in June. Newsletter articles for October are due September 20TH. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org by September 20th. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

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.

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://epiphanypns.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

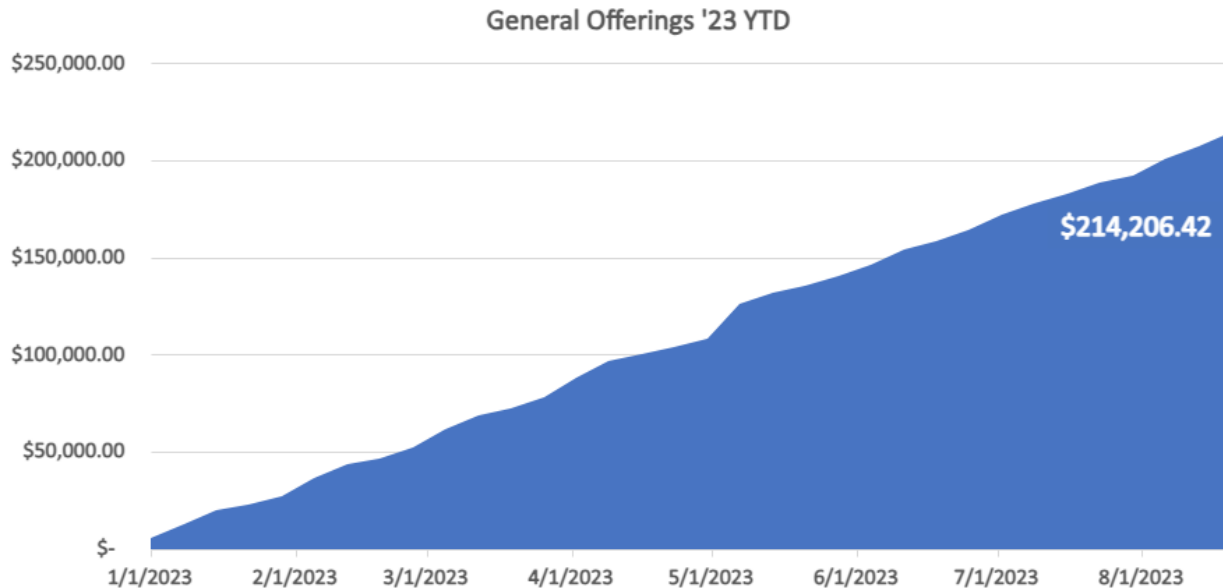
He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Ken Busarow – Treasurer

Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org

OFFERING TOTAL (YTD)



Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA

Have you recently finished filing your income taxes? Were you able to claim Itemized Deductions or did you Claim the Standard Deduction? When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was implemented a few years back, it greatly increased the Standard Deduction, meaning that most people will no longer benefit from itemized deductions. Itemized deductions include medical expenses (over a certain threshold), real estate taxes paid (up to a limit), mortgage interest paid, and charitable contributions. If you are now claiming a Standard Deduction, you are no longer benefiting (for income tax purposes only) from your charitable contributions... but what if there was a way that you could?

Do you have an IRA that you are taking “Required Minimum Distributions” from? If yes, you could receive a tax benefit for making “Qualified Charitable Distributions”, or QCDs. A QCD is where you tell the custodian of your IRA to send a portion of your RMD to a qualified public charity. The custodian sends this amount directly to the charity and you can exclude that amount from your taxable IRA distributions on your tax return for the year. This only works for IRA distributions – not pensions, not 401(k) plans. Your IRA custodian should have paperwork for you to complete should you choose to make QCDs. If you have general questions, Vanessa is happy to talk to you (after tax filing season is over).

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24
ASSISTING MINISTERS	N/A	Dawn Zeigler	Stephen Clements	Ken Busarow
LECTOR(S)	Pastor	Rod Dwyer	Karen McCabe	Stephen Clements
USHERS	Chuck Glassmire Harland Bross	John Ekstrom Art Kimmel	Steve Meyer Eric Johnson	Eddie Gibbons Paul Herrick
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Marlene & Jim Cooper	Heidi Long Betty Bross	Shelly Johnson Kim McCormick	Judy Taylor Dianne Ledkins
PORTICO GREETERS	Dick & Karen Kaminska	Faye Robinson	Marla Meyer	Ron & Chris Davis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carol Dwyer	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Karen McCabe *Dianne Williams	Brad Fludgate Brooklynn Gorday *Jane Krauss	Youth Sunday *Dawn Zeigler	Audrey Tinsley *Choir: Brad, Donna, Kelly
CUP BEARERS	Leighton Marchant Everylynn Harvey	Grace Busarow Brooklynn Gorday	Ethan Oomens John Reitmire	Leighton Marchant Everylynn Harvey

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

Mission Sunday-Bring food for Manna

September 10, 2023

Newsletter Articles Due

September 20, 2023

Alter Flower Class

Learn to arrange flowers: Saturday, September 23, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at Ashland Ave

Epiphany Seniors Club

September 20, 2023, 11:00 a.m. at Oar House

Hotdog and Ice Cream Social

Annual hotdog and ice cream social to be held September 17, 2023, at Brit Ahm. Free of charge. All are welcome!

Ashland Ave clean up

There will be a clean-up day at the Ashland property in October. Date TBD

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or treat will be held at the Ashland property in October. Date TBD

