

# JULY 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](mailto:nalcofpensacola@gmail.com)  
*Follow on Facebook:* Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL  
*Church Connect page:* [epiphanypns.churchtrac.com](http://epiphanypns.churchtrac.com)  
*Website:* [epiphanypensacola.org](http://epiphanypensacola.org)



## PASTOR'S CORNER



### *July 2023* *Epiphany Pensacola*

*For this reason, I kneel before the Father,<sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.*

*<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be*

*filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. **Ephesians 3:14-21***

Our three youngest grandchildren look out the window of our small cottage anticipating the day and the travel. They spent a lot of time together and that morning, two were leaving to go back home. They sat at the table together each eating a banana and talking about who knows what. They look out the window excited for the possibilities ahead. The boys know they are leaving, and our granddaughter knows they are leaving too. But they were happy to be together and they were comforted by their entire family. Their families provide them with love and security just as God provides for his family here on earth.

God has shown his love for his family at Epiphany as we continue to celebrate our lives together in Christ. Our church family is warm and welcoming which is visible by the number of visitors we receive each week. God provides for His family in so many ways. I wish that the vision that God provided for our congregation was as clear as the glass that the kids are looking through but it's not. We continue to pray, and we continue to diligently give to the church for mission and ministry.

Our church family, "God's church family", is building for generations to come. We are called to serve today and be kingdom builders with Christ as our centerpiece. In verses 16-20 Paul reminds us that the deepest love that we can grasp is the love of Christ. I love looking at the picture on this page and I know that I cannot express the love Wanda and I feel for all our grandchildren. But we can say without a doubt, that our love of God in Christ Jesus, makes the love for them that much better.

When I saw this picture on my phone with so many others, I thought about how their trust and hope for the future relied on our faith and love in God. They cannot care for themselves, but they have the family of God and their immediate family to help care for them. I envision many, many children placing their trust in their church family and their immediate families at Epiphany Pensacola.

Imagine that image at the church doors and classrooms.

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

## Capital Campaign/Building Fund update: July 2023

We have raised \$58,130.00 for the transition building. I encourage those who have not given yet, to add whatever you can afford. We are beginning to receive donations from other NALC churches and our brothers and sisters have heard our call for help. We have approximately \$3,200.00 waiting to be transferred from Donor-box and we hope to have that transferred within the next week. With that additional transfer our building fund account will have about 63K.

I would like to thank our brothers and sisters of the NALC for their financial donation in response to the idea for helping one another as we build God's churches together.

- *Shepherd of the Woods (Jacksonville)*
- *Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church (Maryland)*
- *Christ Lutheran Church (Pennsylvania)*
- *St. Peter's Lutheran Church (South Carolina)*

We learned shortly after the letter went out that the new start grant application will provide us with \$12,000.00 toward the building fund. Outside of that amount, there is no resource for new start congregations that can provide what we need to raise. Therefore, each NALC church donation to Epiphany is a blessing.

We know that others will respond to the call to be Kingdom Builders. When they do, we'll be sure to thank each congregation and each person outside of the congregation.

To the members of Epiphany, *thank you* for maintaining your general giving while contributing to the building fund. Special thanks to those outside of Epiphany who have contributed to the building fund and the mission of God's church in Pensacola.

In His Service,

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

# July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality-picnic with Brit Ahm 11:00 a.m. Social Ministry meeting	3	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of July-Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class at Ashland 4:30 p.m. Praise group Practice 5:30 p.m. One on One choir rehearsals 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>6</b> 9:00 – Noon Office hours	<b>7</b> Office closed	8
<b>9 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Mission Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class	<b>10</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 Class via Zoom	<b>11</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours 11:00 a.m. Faith/Eve Circle at Ashland	<b>12</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Ashland 4:30 a.m. Praise group practice 5:30 p.m. One on One choir rehearsals 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>13</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours	<b>14</b> Office Closed	15
<b>16 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Global Learning collection (School supplies)</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class	<b>17</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours	<b>18</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours No council meeting	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Ashland 4:30 p.m. Praise group practice 5:30 p.m. One on One choir rehearsals 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	<b>20</b> 9:00-Noon Office hours	<b>21</b> Office closed	22
<b>23 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality	24	<b>25</b> 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via Zoom	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Ashland 4:30 p.m. Praise group practice 5:30 p.m. One on One choir rehearsals 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	27	<b>28</b> Office closed	29
<b>30 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class	31					

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



## HOSPITALITY

*“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
***Philippians 1:2***

Hospitality Team is the best! I want to thank my team for stepping up and keeping everything going during my absence. From serving lunch at Ashland in May and June to making sure everything went well during hospitality time at Brit Ahm. I am so thankful for each of you! Thank you to all others who helped with the serving and clean up. June was a very busy month. July brings us to celebrating America and our freedom. It also brings vacations, family reunions, company visiting. Sadly, we will be missing some smiling faces due to some or all the above. Having said that, we will be asking members of our congregation to help us out. We have every Sunday covered for refreshments. However, we will need assistance to set up, serve, and clean up. Please, if you can assist, let Brenda or Ms. Faye know. It is greatly appreciated.

I want to thank our “Hospitality Host” who helps us out each Sunday. We truly appreciate you! If you are interested in serving as a host, please see Brenda. It is very rewarding to serve and glorify God.

On July 31<sup>st</sup> we will be honoring the Seiler Family with a luncheon as we celebrate the life of Dave Seiler, our friend and brother in Christ. This will be held at Brit Ahm at 11:45 a.m. If you would like to join us in setting up, serving, and cleaning up please let me know.

Let us keep each other in prayer, for safe travels, health, grief of losing a loved one and all needs known to God. As always, it is a JOY and HONOR to serve and be part of God’s Family at Epiphany!

God’s Peace,  
Brenda

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

Social Ministry was on the move in June; July has many days filled with serving others for Christ.

Manna was collected by Gerry Selland and Rod Dwyer. 585 pounds of food was delivered by the Dwyer’s and the servants at Manna are always so grateful with your donations. In addition to our usual offering, they have requested a need of fruit in its own juice. They continue to fill bags for those in need, so they always need our offerings, but they are low on this kind of fruit. Let’s help them out when we collect on July 9th and fill Regina Gibbons’ trunk.



If you will be out of town on July 9th Carole Dwyer will accept your donation anytime and give it to Regina on the 9th. Hunger doesn't take time off so let's continue being obedient to Christ's call to feed the hungry.

Household items and adult clothing continue to be offered as a free pickup or you can bring them to the church, and we will take them to families in need or Teen Challenge. We are focusing on children's clothing for the next few months. We have families in need not just for summer clothes but for school clothes. These do not need to be new but in good condition. If your children have own grown last year's clothes, we have a new home for them. Boys, and girls' clothing of all sizes are needed.

Global Learning is our focus for school supplies and will be collected on Sunday, July 16th by Carleen Bragan. Their wish list will be provided for you but as supplies go on sale, please add these to your carts. This is a school that has many low-income families, and our teachers often reach into their personal accounts to help these students .....let's help them in a mighty way this school year!

We are serving those whom Christ calls us to serve...please join us!

Serving HIM with you,  
Carole

## ASHLAND AVENUE NEWS

Starting this month, news and updates will be provided on the renovations of the Ashland Ave property. Big or small, these renovations are part of the journey that we all share. A journey to our new church home!

In June, we welcomed handrails for the front steps of the office; A big thank you to Ed Bohlman for making and installing these. Also, renovations will begin in July to turn the pool house into additional restrooms.





## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"What you do with your resources in this life is your autobiography." *Randy Alcorn*

## FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES

The women's Bible study will meet on Tuesday, July 11th at 11am, convening at the Ashland Avenue property. We'll continue in the Meaning of Service study, looking this month at Session 5: Giving Your Gifts Away. This has been a great study for the group, prompting much discussion. All women of Epiphany Lutheran are welcome. If you need transportation to/from the study, we have many who can help, please contact Dawn Zeigler.

This group is a combination of Eve Circle and Faith Circle bible study groups. We are gathering ideas for a new name and welcome any input! We're hopeful that we can decide at the July meeting and come away with a fresh new name to reflect our love and faith in Christ and one another.

Come study God's Word and enjoy Christian fellowship!

## ALTAR FLOWER GUILD

*Isaiah 40:8 the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.*

The Altar flower guild needs men and/or women young or old willing to learn how to arrange altar flowers. At present we only have five flower arrangers, which means we must do Altar flowers every five weeks. Many of the present members also help with hospitality and Altar guild. Prayerfully, consider joining Altar flower guild.

Watch the September newsletter for information on the Alter flower guild class taught by Harland Bross. Harland has years of experience to help create Altar flower arrangements and will happily share his knowledge!

Peace of the Lord  
Carleen Bragan

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Sara SeEVERS began compiling the newsletter in June. Newsletter articles for August are due July 19. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at [bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org](mailto:bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org) by July 19. 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, 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://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

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

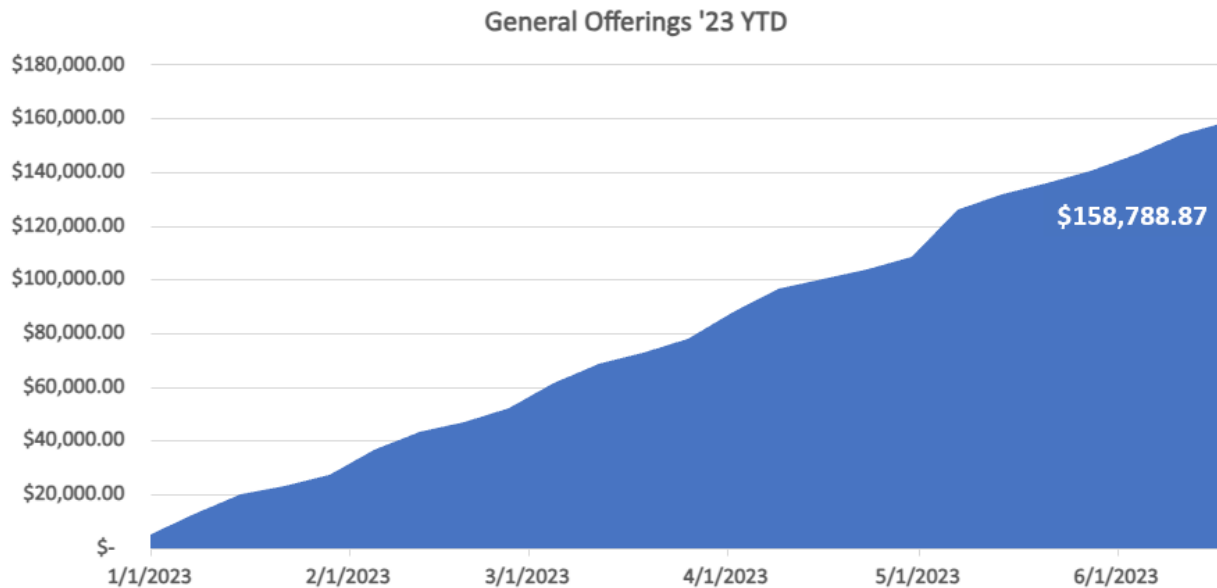
Ken Busarow – Treasurer

Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

[treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org](mailto: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.

## Giving Shares of Stock or Mutual Funds to Epiphany

Did you know that Epiphany has an investment account so that we can receive shares of stocks and/or mutual funds?

Why transfer shares?

Transferring shares is a great way to give and save on your taxes when you give shares that have appreciated from your purchase cost. When you transfer shares, your basis (purchase cost) transfers to the recipient and you don't recognize any gain on those shares. Instead, the recipient will recognize the gain when the shares are sold. As a church, we don't pay income taxes, so that gain is not taxed. Additionally, you have transferred the fair market value of the shares to the church.

For example: You bought 10 shares of ABC when they were trading at \$25 per share. Today they are trading at ~\$135. If you sold the 10 shares, you'd have a taxable gain of \$1,100. But if you give the shares to church you receive a charitable deduction of \$1,350 and the church has ~\$1,350 in assets (which will be sold and converted to cash).

The shares need to be in a taxable account (not in an IRA or 401(k) or any other retirement account) for this to work. Additionally, you should never transfer shares that have a loss – sell them and take the loss, then give the cash.

Of course, you should consider whether you need the income or future value of those shares for living expenses before transferring. Please also consult with your own investment advisor and/or tax preparer.

If you'd like to transfer shares, please contact the office for our account information to provide to your investment advisor.

## JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Carole Dwyer	Regina Gibbons	Art Kimmel	Paul Marchant	John Ekstrom
LECTOR(S)	Stephen Clements	Karen McCabe	J.R. Lee	Brenda Ekstrom	Pete Morgan
USHERS	Eddie Gibbons Harland Bross	John Ekstrom Steve Meyer	Art Kimmel John Ekstrom	Eric Johnson Eddie Gibbons	Harland Bross Randy St. Louis
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Judith Lewing Kim McCormick	Dawn Zeigler TBA	Betty Bross Heidi Long	Alice Fludgate Shelly Johnson	Karen McCabe Suzanne Morgan
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis The Davis'	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Marliese Herrick
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Audrey Tinsley Picnic with Brit Ahm *Ginger Given	Hospitality	Youth Sunday Grace, Everlynn, Brooklyn *Val Creedon	Marliese Herrick *Liz Richbourg	Suzanne Morgan *Alice Fludgate
CUP BEARERS	Brooklyn & Grace	Grace & Ethan	Brooklyn & Everlynn	Grace & Ethan	Everlynn & Brooklyn

### 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!**

**Hospitality - Picnic at Brit Ahm**

Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 a.m. following worship

**Manna Food Collection**

Sunday, July 9

**School Supply Collection**

Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Newsletter Articles Due**

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

**Council and staff retreat**

Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Schedule will be out soon.

