



Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504

850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

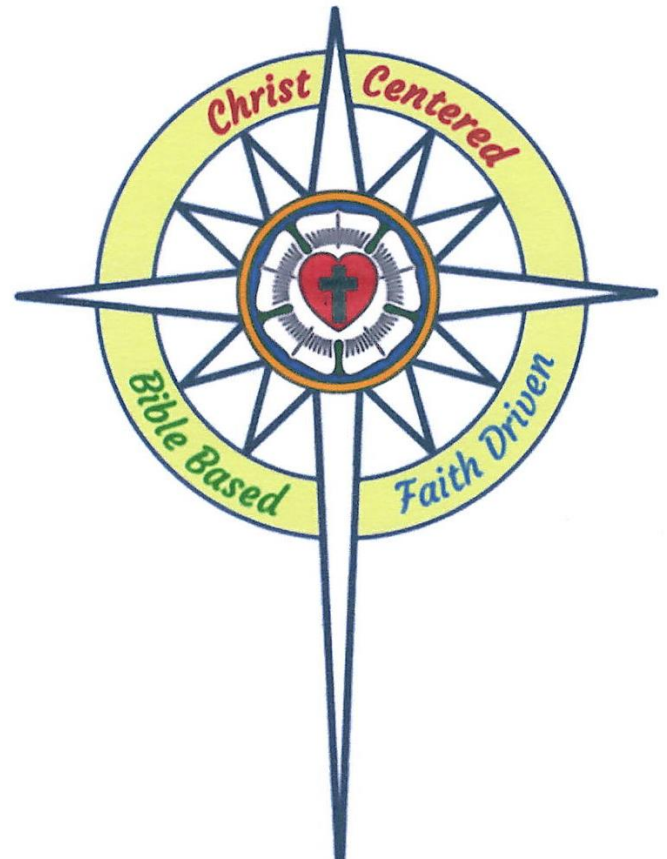
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.

P.O. Box 999, Gonzalez, Fl 32560

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-
Pensacola, Fl

Church connect page:
epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



Make sure you check out the special interview with Pete and Suzanne Morgan about their farm on page 14, and a special article at the end of the NL on why Americans refrigerate eggs.

EPIPHANY PENSACOLA

November 2024 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



November 2024
Epiphany Pensacola

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November 2024

Epiphany Lutheran Church

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven".

Matthew 5:14-16



(From Blog Post – ILLI Team)

The Spiritual Journey

The spiritual journey is always moving toward the light. The journey is first to go within in order to go outward. The more we move toward the light of Christ, the more we experience the light of Christ in our lives.

1. We begin to understand how doing good and being good need to be part of our DNA. Spiritual power is in being in the light. Doing can become addictive once you've experienced the joy of sharing the light of Christ with others. We are not on this earth to change others. Only Christ can change a person who is living in darkness. We can encourage and we share the light with them. But, it's Jesus that helps them change.
2. We can only control what we are able and willing to let go of. The only thing that impedes our spiritual journey is what we refuse to let go of. One of my friends in ministry said, "The opposite of letting go is fear which when we try to control, it finally owns us". The spiritual journey will fail because of fear. We can be consumed by it. The only way past fear is trust. Trust is different from faith. Trusting is acting on what you believe. What do you believe about God on your spiritual journey? God has said this, **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
3. Know the difference between right and wrong, light and darkness. As we walk on our journey, what we do is because of who we are, not just trying to follow a set of rules. Not walking in the light because we will be caught but because the light of Christ is within us. Our choice of right is because we are caught up in the light. That is who you are!
4. Awareness of connectedness during our journey makes us discover we are people together. The light that is in me is somehow connected to the light that is within you. The light in all of us somehow comes together and is connected to the great light of Christ. If the little things in life are important to you, then they are important to others as well. There are thousands of invitations to the light of Christ around us. A smile, a kind word, encouragement for people struggling, a simple gesture of kindness, praying for others, and a phone call to someone you've missed. Offer the connection to others. Anything you can share to share the light of Christ and show the connectedness of our faith community.

Life is all about the journey we're on together. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Franklin Gore

- 2 *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***

From the Congregation Council: October 2024 meeting

- Received a letter from Faith Circle requesting Epiphany to send \$1000.00 from the “Faith Circle Fund” to one of the North Carolina churches affected by the hurricane. This was approved. The 2024 budget has funds set aside for outreach to NALC congregation and that money will also be sent with the money appointed by Faith Circle.
- The treasurer presented the 2025 congregation budget. After much discussion the budget was approved to come before the congregation at the meeting scheduled for December 1, 2024.
- An update for the permits, construction, and loan were discussed. The property committee has all the documents in for county approval. Now we await their feedback from each of the divisions. The contractors are ready to start, and they are working with the county to make changes to begin the building of our worship center. We have spoken to our bank, and they have asked for a few items before giving Epiphany the construction loan. Those items are being worked out and we will meet for congregation approval prior to signing any loan documents.
- The property purchase approved by the congregation in September 2024, is scheduled to close on October 25, 2024. This small .08 acres will allow the garage to meet county setback requirements. This also allows us to convert the building from storage into classrooms and a sacristy for the church.
- The council discussed in length the \$100,000.00 dollars owed to Epiphany from St. Paul. At this point, the judge has not received the orders for her to sign. She will not receive the draft order to sign until both attorneys can agree on the substance within the order. Our draft was sent to the minority attorney already. We await the draft order from St. Paul, that reflects the judge’s ruling. We cannot give you a time when this will take place.

God Bless you all and thank you for your support and prayers.

The Executive Board of Epiphany Lutheran Church

ADVENT AT ASHLAND

Please join us on our Advent journey every Wednesday at the Ashland property, beginning December 4th.

This year we will have a short worship service starting at 12:00 (noon), followed by fellowship and a “soup” lunch.

The series is based on the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book, “God Is In The Manger”. The topics will be as follows:

December 4 – “Waiting” Revelations 21:5 AND Isaiah 11:1-4

December 11 “Mystery” 1 Corinthians 2:8-10

December 18 – “Redemption”, Luke 21:28 and John 3:16-21

We will need three (3) pots of soup each week for the Advent services. Please contact Brenda Ekstrom (church office) if you wish to volunteer to provide a crock pot of soup. We look forward to sharing a meal and worship with you during these services.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>November 2024</i>						
27	28	29	30	31	1 Office closed 3:30p Praise team practice @Ashland	2 Time change- set clocks back 1 hour
3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:30a Worship-New Member Sunday 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:00a Social Ministry mtg 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	4	5	6 4:30p Choir practice @ Ashland 5:30p Confirmation class	7	8 Office closed 3:30p Praise team practice@ Ashland	9
10 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Mission Sunday 8:30a Manna drop off 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's Choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:00a Fall Fest recap mtg 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	11	12 11:00a Faith Circle @Ashland	13 4:30p Choir practice@ Ashland 5:30p Confirmation class NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE!	14 11:00a Council reports due	15 Office closed 3:30p Praise team practice@ Ashland	16
17 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	18	19	20 4:30p Choir practice@ Ashland	21	22 Office closed 3:30p Praise team practice @ Ashland	23
24 CHRIST THE KING 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 10:40a Children's choir 11:00a Children's Ch. Ed. 11:15a Adult Ch. Ed.	25	26	27 4:30p Choir practice@ Ashland	28 	29 Office closed	30
Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon unless otherwise noted.						

DATES TO REMEMBER

Time Change – set clocks back

Saturday, November 2

All Saints/New member Sunday

Sunday, November 3

Social Ministry meeting

Sunday, November 3 @ 11:00a

Mission Sunday

Sunday, November 10

Fall Fest Recap meeting

Sunday, November 10 @ 11:00a

Faith Circle

Tuesday, November 12 @ 11:00p

Newsletter articles due

Wednesday, November 13

Council reports due

Thursday, November 14 @ 11:00a

Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 28

Annual Budget and Elections Meeting

Sunday, December 1 following worship service



A copy of an article from Lutheran Core's October Newsletter:

BEWARE OF THE LATEST FROM THE ELCA'S COMMISSION FOR A RENEWED LUTHERAN CHURCH

As promised, we continue to monitor the work of the ELCA's Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC). That Commission was formed in response to action taken by the ELCA's 2022 Churchwide Assembly, which directed the Church Council to establish a Commission that shall "reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto." The Commission was instructed to be "particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism" and to "present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention."

A written summary of the Commission's seventh meeting – held from August 8-10 – can now be found on their website. A link to that website can be found **HERE** - Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org). There are several items in that written summary that I believe should cause great concern.

Fourth bullet point under August 8 – The CRLC received updates from the Church Council and a subcommittee on the progress of the DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) audit.

The ELCA continues full speed ahead with the DEIA audit. Please see my article, "A Warning of What Is Coming," in the March 2024 issue of our newsletter, where I list several of the expectations of congregations from that audit. A link to that article can be found **HERE** - A Warning of What is Coming - Lutheran Coalition for Renewal (CORE) (lutherancore.website). In that article I raised the question of whether and how congregations will be penalized if they are not DEIA compliant. I also asked pastors and church leaders to consider how the ministry and mission priorities of their congregation will be derailed and the energy of their congregation will be consumed by efforts to become DEIA compliant. If you do not believe what I said in the article, just look at the Minimum DEIA Standards for Congregations and the changes in the Model Constitution for Congregations as recommended by the law firm that did the audit. A link to that report can be found **HERE** - [_DEIA_Report_Part_2.pdf](#) (elca.org).

Some people have said that they see DEIA as very compatible with the Gospel. My response is that it is the exact opposite of the Gospel. DEIA is legalism at its worst and pure Marxism. Its demands are insatiable, it can never offer forgiveness, and it cannot provide deliverance. No matter how much you repent of and grovel because of your own oppressive behavior as well as the oppressive behavior of your ancestors and others of your race, it is never enough. You cannot do enough. You will always fall short. You cannot be forgiven, because if you are forgiven, then those who claim that you are oppressing them lose their power over you. And it cannot provide deliverance. If you are white, male, straight, and/or a member of any of the other privileged, oppressive people groups, then you cannot not be an oppressor. Rather the systems that privilege and empower you must be dismantled.

Blessings in Christ,
Dennis D. Nelson
Executive Director of Lutheran CORE

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Did you know you have FREE MONEY for projects at Epiphany? If you have a policy, no matter the size, with Thrivent you are eligible to do two Action Team projects per year. These projects can be used to increase the ministry of our church. Each project can have \$250.00 used toward the proposed project. All you have to do is go online to Thrivent and fill out the application.

If you need help Brenda Ekstrom, in the church office, can set up an appointment for you to come to the office and help you fill out the application or Deacon Glenn will come to your home and assist you in filling out the grant application

Once again it costs you nothing but a few minutes of your time. And with two annual projects, a total of up to \$500.00 could be used to increase the outreach of Epiphany Church.

Please contact the office and find out how you can expand the mission of Epiphany.

In His Service

Deacon Glenn

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

If you have any Choice Dollars to spend, PLEASE DONATE them to the church!

COMMITTEE NEWS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Children's Choir

A special thank you to our youth who sang "Lord Be Glorified" during the October 20th service. Our soloist did an amazing job! The Children's Choir is preparing to sing "It's Good To Give Thanks" on November 17th during the service.



We have drums!!!! We are so thankful for the donation of the drums. We have a drummer who joins us for special occasions but would love to have a drummer for each service. If you know anyone who may want to be a part of ByGrace and plays drums or base guitar, please have them see Donna Busarow.

Traditional Worship

Speaking of talent...I keep hearing it from the pews on Sunday. Maybe you'd like to share that talent in the choir? You know who you are 😊 IYKYK. We'd love to have you join us. We practice on Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm at Ashland. Come on out and share your gift.



If singing isn't your gift but you still love music and want to be a part of worship, all you need are two hands and be able to count to four. We'll teach you the rest. The Bell Choir is starting back but we need some ringers. Many of our ringers from last year are also in our choir and while it's great to have them, when we sing an anthem that has a bell accompaniment part, they have to choose between singing and bells. Most of the bell pieces we'll do this fall and Advent are accompaniment pieces so we need more help. I'm taking names of those interested and then we'll get a consensus on what time works best for practices. You can let me know at church or e-mail me belldirector@epiphanypensacola.org . Why not give it a try!

Christian Education

The first Luther Bucks store of the season was a huge hit! Thank you to everyone who donated to the Luther Bucks store. We appreciate your support for our kiddos.



Christian Education continues to go well with the plan to add more classes next year.

A special thank you to our Confirmands for volunteering time to help at the Fall Festival. One of our youth participated in a volunteer activity in his community as well. We are so proud of their serving spirit.

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will meet November 12th at 11:00am at Ashland. We will continue our exciting study of Old Testament prophecies revealed in the New Testament.

Bring a brown bag lunch and your Bible. If you have not been able to attend, we have materials for you.

Faith Circle voted unanimously today to send a donation to NALC disaster relief.

God's Peace,
Marlene and Wanda

SOLE (SHARING OUR LIVES AT EPIPHANY)

SOLE will not meet in November due to Thanksgiving. The next lunch will be on December 17. There will be details in the December newsletter.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Love in Action has started! The banner has been hung in the building with care in hopes that the congregation will stare at the ornaments that have been placed with hands full of love to show the individuals at Favor House that we totally care! On the ornaments are the written requests that will help the individuals that will suit them best. Please, with love in your hearts, take an ornament and fill up your carts. Return your items to the banner along with the Christmas ball and help us say Merry Christmas to all!

The packages are to be unwrapped and returned as soon as possible. Dates will be provided as to the last day of collection. Favor House is an organization that provides help to those in need of protection from abuse. This includes women (mostly), children of the families and yes, men (who are also abused).

We only chose one organization this year due to our new perspective of "Quality versus Quantity."

Thank you so much for your participation.
Respectfully submitted by Chairperson
Dianne Ledkins

HOSPITALITY

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

Psalm 34:4-5



Thankful! I am sure we all can think of many ways to be “Thankful”. To start, I personally am thankful for my “Epiphany” family. I am thankful for the Hospitality Team that is so faithful and willing to serve every Sunday. I could go on and on but the most important thing I am thankful for is my salvation and knowing God lives within my heart and soul!

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect, share endless moments with family and build memories. Let us continue to build on God’s love, his gifts and love for one another.

There is a lot going on for Hospitality this month, beginning with welcoming New Members, November 3rd, Honoring our Veterans, November 10th, Pie Fest, November 17th. We trust everyone will join us to celebrate these events.

Our team wishes each and every one a blessed, Happy Thanksgiving!

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

God’s Peace,
Brenda

~FALL FESTIVAL~



An Interview with First Fruits Farm Owners' Pete and Suzanne Morgan

Interviewer: When did you acquire First Fruits Farm? Why?

Suzanne: We bought the farm in 2022. We were interested in starting our own hydroponics farm in order to be more self-sufficient. The man I was buying my blueberries and tomatoes from owned a hydroponics farm. When I went one day to buy my blueberries, he mentioned to me that he was selling his farm. So I told him we would buy it. He helped us start it. He stayed on and taught us. He mentored us through it all and he's still a phone call away if we have questions or need help. He left everything for us. He left everything in place.

Interviewer: How did you choose the name, First Fruits Farm?

Suzanne: We give our first fruits to God, and we wanted this place to help us and to serve others. We want to share our fruits with others and share this farm.

Interviewer: Did the Chickens come with the farm? What made you decide to buy chickens?

Suzanne: No. It was originally just the berry farm. We just decided to get chickens and raise our own eggs. We're trying to be more self-sustaining.

Interviewer: Did you plan to sell the eggs at the church when you bought the chickens?

Suzanne: No. not at first. Later, we thought it was a great way to raise money for the church. We're going to sell the eggs so we might as well sell them to the congregation and raise money for the building fund.

Interviewer: How many chickens do you have?

Suzanne: Twenty-seven. Two roosters and the rest are hens.

Interviewer: What is involved in caring for the chickens?

Pete: Well, everyday it takes about half an hour to collect eggs and feed them. We also have to clean out the chicken coup every so often, sometimes we have to mix feed, go get the feed, change their water. Every couple weeks I clean out the water buckets. They get fresh water every day when they get feed.

Interviewer: What do you feed the chickens?

Suzanne: We feed them top grade, non-gmo chicken feed. It has no additives. It's all natural. Then we do give them treats like bread, pumpkins. They love pumpkins. They love fruit. They love watermelon. We also give them a dish of crushed oyster shells. It help keeps the eggshells sturdy.

Interviewer: Do the chickens lay eggs every day?

Pete: Yes, they do. But not all chickens lay every day.

Interviewer: Do you wash the eggs after you collect them?

Pete: We do not. And the reason we don't is because it has a coating on it when the chickens lay them. Actually, I gave you that article. (referenced article can be found after this interview). The coating prevents bacteria from getting into the eggs. If you wash it off, eggs tend to be porous, and water can get into the eggs. As long as you keep them unwashed, you can keep them for several weeks outside and not using them. In that article, it goes back to before refrigeration and people never refrigerated their eggs. In fact, the United States is probably one of the only countries that washes eggs and puts them in the refrigerator in the processing. The factory eggs are like that. These home-grown eggs are fresh eggs and as long as people don't wash the coating off it's fine.

Interviewer: When people get the eggs from you, should they wash them or just leave them out?

Pete: It's up to them. If they're going to wash them then they should put them in the refrigerator. They'll keep for a long time just left out. They'll keep for a month to a couple of months easy.

Interviewer: So they can wash them but they'll have to put them in the fridge?

Pete: Yes. And make sure it's clean water. Wash them under the sink. You don't want to wash them all in a bowl of water. Use running water.

Interviewer: What makes farm raised eggs better than store bought eggs?

Suzanne: They're fresh every day!

Pete: They're fresh. Chickens tend to be happier....you have a happy chicken you get more eggs and the chickens are healthier. We let them out in the chicken run and let them run around. The other thing is what we feed them. It's non-gmo feed and we give them extra calcium. It's a high protein feed. It gives the eggs a much richer yoke. If you look at our eggs versus a store-bought egg, their egg is not the deep yellow that ours are. Ours are a richer egg.

Interviewer: What else do you have at the farm?

Suzanne: Well, we have grapevines, Muscadines, Scuppernongs . We have blackberries, blueberries. We have peach trees, pear trees, figs, and we grow in the greenhouse, the tomatoes, peppers. That's grown inside by hydroponics. Outside we plant cabbage, okra. And we're beginning to venture out and wanting to plant more stuff.

Interviewer: What does hydroponics mean?

Pete: It's growing vegetables, primarily in this case, not using soil; just using nutrient water. There's several methods to do it. We use the bucket method when I use the nutrient mix that I make, and we use five-gallon food grade buckets.

Interviewer: What is your long-term goal for the farm?

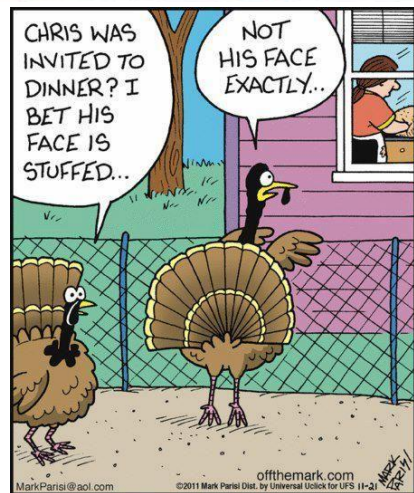
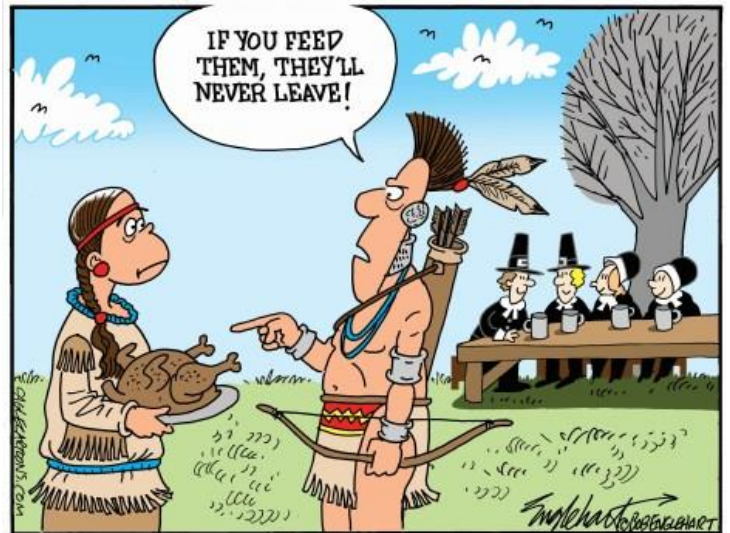
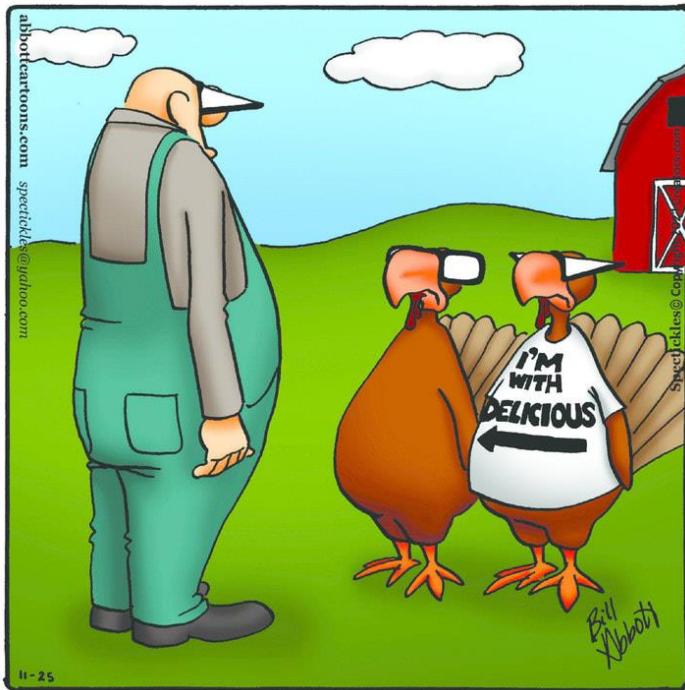
Pete: Mass production. *laughs.* To enhance production. To tend to it on an everyday basis. We don't have as much time to tend to it right now. And by doing that we can maybe do different varieties. This year I want to start earlier coming up in 2025. I want to start the seeds here (in the cottage) in January in the seed pods and get them started and transfer them to the greenhouses in February. The hope is to have really good tomatoes in the March and April time frame when it isn't too hot. We'll also start the cucumbers and cabbage. Cabbage likes chillier weather. We're learning and we probably have been starting the cabbage a little too late so that by the time it's ready to come on the bugs are getting it. We need to start growing cabbage maybe in November and have a winter cabbage. Ultimately, I want to, if I can back out of the businesses, I want to make a larger garden area and grow some beans, more potatoes. I like potatoes. I want to grow okra, watermelon, and some pumpkins. So yes, the goal is to produce more and share more. The more I can produce the more I can share.

Thank you for your interest in this article. If you would like to read the news article that Pete referenced, you can find it at the end of this newsletter.

First Fruits Farm



~CARTOON CORNER~



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	NOV 3	NOV 10	NOV 17	NOV 24
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Carole Dwyer	Betty Bross	Stella McAllister	Art Kimmel
LECTOR(S)	Steve Meyer	Jeremy Gorday Leighton Marchant	Jim Cooper Grace Busarow	Randy St. Louis
USHERS	John Ekstrom Harland Bross	Eddie Gibbons Eric Johnson	Chuck Glassmire Steve Meyer	Paul Herrick Randy St. Louis
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Heidi Long Karen McCabe	Art and Camille Kimmel	Kim McCormick Shelly Johnson	Jim and Marlene Cooper
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Ron Davis	Randy St. Louis Marla Meyer	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWERS	Harland Bross	Carleen Bragan	Etta McDonald	Marlene Cooper
REFRESHMENTS	Welcome New Members	Veteran's Day lunch	"Pie Fest"	Bonnie Baggett
CUP BEARERS	Everlynn Harvey John Reitmire	Leighton Marchant Ethan Oomens	Brooklyn Gorday Eli Baggett	Everlynn Harvey John Reitmire

Worship Assistant Scheduling

Brenda Ekstrom is scheduling assistance for Worship each Sunday as she works on the bulletins. The Assisting Ministers will continue to be scheduled by Pastor. Brenda will be in contact with members for availability to serve. If you are willing to serve and/or have scheduling conflicts, please contact Brenda. Also, as Sunday approaches and you discover you cannot serve and cannot switch with someone, please contact Brenda or the office. Thank you!

Ways to Give

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

One more reminder on the Capital Campaign. We don't have to do it all ourselves. We sent letters to sister congregations asking for their help and we can and should be asking family and friends to help too. It'll take more than just us, and you never know who might be looking for an opportunity to be a part of something greater...until you ask.

We've set up several very simple ways for anyone to give.

<https://epiphanydns.churchtrac.com/> - click on the Building Fund Donate button

<https://donorbox.org/building-fund-capital-campaign>

Scan the QR code below.



Share the link on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyLutheranPensacola/> or by mail:

Payment should be made to:

Epiphany Lutheran Church (Note: Capital Campaign)

PO Box 999

1450 Old Chemstrand Rd

Gonzalez, FL 32560

Ken Busarow – Treasurer

treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org

PRAYER REQUEST PROCEDURES

All listed on the prayer request will be lifted up in prayer for a period of three weeks at which time the request will be removed unless indicated otherwise. If you wish your request to remain on the prayer list for a longer period of time, please notify the office with that information.

OFFERING TOTAL (YTD)



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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

E-MAIL UPDATE**



As part of our Social Media upgrades coming in 2024, we're upgrading our e-mail services for the staff and Church Council at Epiphany. Here are the new e-mail addresses effective January 1, 2024.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore	pastor@epiphanypensacola.org
Office Manager	Kim McCormick	officemgr@epiphanypensacola.org
Parish Deacon	Deacon Glenn	deaconglenn@epiphanypensacola.org
Traditional Worship	Ken Busarow	choirdirector@epiphanypensacola.org
Bell Choir	Ken Busarow	belldirector@epiphanypensacola.org
Contemporary Worship	Donna Busarow	contemporaryworship@epiphanypensacola.org
Office Asst.	Brenda Ekstrom	officeasst@epiphanypensacola.org
Off. Asst./Bookkeeper	Sara-Margaret Seevers	bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Pete Morgan	president@epiphanypensacola.org
Vice President	Paul Herrick	vicepresident@epiphanypensacola.org
Secretary	Regina Gibbons	secretary@epiphanypensacola.org
Treasurer	Ken Busarow	treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org
Fin. Secretary	Judie Cox	finsec@epiphanypensacola.org
Co-Fin. Secretary	Valerie Creedon	co-finsec@epiphanypensacola.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship & Music	Kathie Shoff-Norem	worship@epiphanypensacola.org
Social Ministry	Rod Dwyer	socialministry@epiphanypensacola.org
Hospitality	Suzanne Morgan	hospitality@epiphanypensacola.org
Mutual Ministry	Harland Bross	mutualministry@epiphanypensacola.org
Prayer Requests		prayerrequest@epiphanypensacola.org
Tech Support		support@epiphanypensacola.org
Facebook Support		facebook@epiphanypensacola.org

Why Americans Refrigerate Eggs

By Jeffrey A. Tucker

7/8/2024 Updated: 7/17/2024

Commentary

Being raised in the United States, I was startled during my first trip out of the country. I noticed that the eggs at the store were not refrigerated. How is this possible? I assumed it had something to do with being uncivilized and poor, because, of course, people often assume that the ways of one's own country are the only right ways.

As my travels increased, I noticed it again and again. I gradually came to realize that the United States is the outlier, apparently the only country in the world where eggs go from the chicken to the refrigerator, both at the store and at home. People assume that they would otherwise spoil.

How, then, is it possible that people aren't getting sick and dying from rotten eggs all over Europe, Latin America, and the Far East? People all over the world have eaten eggs without refrigeration. For that matter, refrigerators only became commonplace in U.S. homes in the middle of the 20th century. How is this possible?

I once visited a recreated general store from the 1920s, and it had a jar of pickled eggs. My assumption then was that this is how people managed to keep eggs past the laying. They soaked them in vinegar and that kept them fresh.

Well, all of this is bullocks. The United States seems to be the only country in the world that requires the washing of eggs before they are sold. As a result, the outside membrane—called the cuticle—is washed away, leaving them vulnerable to outside bacteria and other sources of spoilage. That's why they must be refrigerated.

Once refrigerated, they can't sit on the counter. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) explains: "After eggs are refrigerated, they need to stay that way. A cold egg left out at room temperature can sweat, facilitating the movement of bacteria into the egg and increasing the growth of bacteria. Refrigerated eggs should not be left out more than 2 hours."

However, if you don't wash away the cuticle, they can sit happily on the counter for a very long time and be ready to eat anytime.

The USDA is perfectly correct on this point too: "It's not necessary or recommended for consumers to wash eggs and may actually increase the risk of contamination

because the wash water can be ‘sucked’ into the egg through the pores in the shell. When the chicken lays the egg, a protective coating is put on the outside by the hen.”

I wondered if the Americans did this because of our love of new technology, which is a feature of our culture dating back to the earliest days of the Republic. We have infinite confidence in progress, based on our experiences with every growing standard of living. We like to use our gizmos and adapt our lives around them. We do this with digital things now, imposing scans and apps even when they are wholly unnecessary. Maybe the same thing happened with eggs?

That turns out not to be true in this case. The rule that you can’t sell eggs without first washing them, even on a farm, comes directly from the USDA. The USDA is perfectly clear: “Government regulations require that USDA-graded eggs be carefully washed and sanitized using only compounds meeting FDA [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] regulations for processing foods.”

Again, apparently the only country in the world where this is true!

Maybe this practice traces to the American obsession with cleanliness. We shower more than anyone else. We wash our hair incessantly. When it was announced that we all have to stay away from each other to get away from the bad new virus, most Americans readily complied. This comes down to the (faulty) view that all bad pathogens are external and the key to health is keeping them as far away as possible.

As it turns out, that isn’t the reason either, though many people never question the rule for this precise reason.

The actual reason was explained to me by a lady at one of the surviving local farms that raises its own vegetables and tends to livestock for meat. She also sells fresh eggs, but only from the refrigerator. Why are they refrigerated, I asked?

She explained with some anger that she’s required by the USDA to wash them. This makes no sense, she said, because her eggs aren’t dirty. The chickens roam freely, they are happy and spaced out in their coops, and the eggs they lay are beautiful, clean, and ready to eat. She doesn’t like washing off the cuticle, but she has to in any case.

As for her own personal chickens and eggs, she never washes them and leaves them on the counter. However, she is not allowed to sell those. She can give them away to friends and family but not sell them to the general public.

I kept probing. What is the reason for this?

She put it plainly. It's because of Big Agriculture and industrial methods of egg harvesting. They pack chickens in huge warehouses inches apart and in tight layers. The whole place is a gigantic mess because machines can't stop the natural function of the digestive system. In essence, the place is filthy. As a result, washing the eggs is absolutely necessary to remove all the pathogenic muck.

The industry, then, lobbied the government over decades to make this a general rule, providing them with a level competitive playing field with small farmers who run much cleaner operations. This way everyone has to wash their eggs and all eggs for sale have to be put into the refrigerator immediately, because without the cuticle, they are vulnerable to infection.

Having explained all this, she ended with a final cry of fury: "My chickens are not dirty and neither are their eggs!"

What about the bird flu? She said she has never seen any evidence of this bird flu in her flock. She can easily imagine, however, that industrialized methods would make chickens vulnerable to every manner of infection. But why should small farmers be forced to take precautions against a danger that mainly affects heavily subsidized industrial farms? She quickly added that her farm gets no subsidies at all, and is barely surviving.

In effect, the USDA and the FDA have adopted rules on behalf of the biggest players in the industry while forgetting about the small farmers. I'm far from being an expert on this topic, but everywhere I look, I find agency-generated rules rather than legislation from Congress.

And so one wonders what happens now that the Supreme Court has clearly said that agencies can't simply pass their own rules without a legislative mandate on the particulars. This momentous decision is called [Loper Bright](#) [Loper Bright Enterprises et al. v. Raimondo] and it repudiates the previous rule of Chevron deference. One wonders if, finally, small farmers have a fighting chance now.

Maybe in the future, Americans will have the right to raise and sell eggs without washing off the protective layer from the shells. Maybe in the future, we will stop being seemingly the one outlying country in the entire world that routinely refrigerates our chicken eggs? We shall see.

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