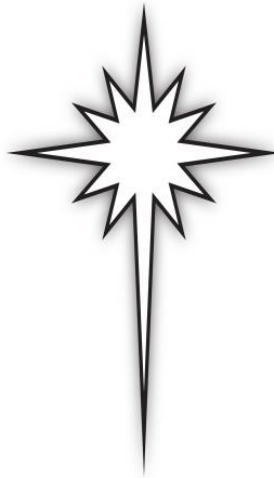


**APRIL
NEWSLETTER
2022**

Epiphany Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church

Worshiping at:
6700 Spanish Trail
Pensacola, FL 32504
Ph. 850-287-5667



Mailing Address
1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.
PO Box 999
Gonzalez, FL 32560

Worship Services
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for children Preschool age and under)
Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday

Hospitality to follow

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com

Follow on Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL
Church Connect page: epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



PASTOR'S CORNER



April 2022
Epiphany Lutheran Church

What is Lent? "Lent is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means springtime."

Lent is a 40 day period of repentance and renewal that precedes Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the day we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Holy Week commemorates Christ's last week of life on the earth. It's the final and the most important part of Lent.

Over the past few weeks, you've heard me speak about repentance, reconciliation, self-examination and having a heart filled with Christ. We've listened and learned that setting aside time for self-examination provides spiritual health and growth as we reflect on what is important in our lives. Spiritual renewal is possible only if you're willing to repent for sins known and unknown. I encouraged each member of Epiphany to take home and put into practice the section in the bulletin titled "Confession and Forgiveness". Christian maturity begins when you acknowledge dependence on God. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves daily to the struggle against sin but we know that God has provided an escape route for us. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. Those who believe in him will have eternal life.

When you have the certainty of faith that God loves you and forgives your sins because of Christ's death on the cross, you are justified. The enormous debt of sin; even the sin that is waging war in you now, is paid in full by Jesus. By faith, God counts that payment as being made by you. "*Hebrews 11:1* Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

I'd like to encourage all of you to commit yourselves to growing in Christ, growing in faith, growing in the renewal of the Spirit by attending the services of Holy Week. Attend your church services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and arrive renewed on Resurrection Sunday. Experience the gift of Holy Week and "feel" not just "attend" how Jesus' love for you transforms the celebration of the resurrection.

For Epiphany Lutheran Church our Holy Week services will be held as follows:

Palm Sunday: April 10th at 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday: April 14th at 7:00 PM
Good Friday: April 15th at 7:00 PM
Resurrection Sunday: April 17th at 9:30 AM

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

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	2
3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School First Holy Communion class makes bread at McAllister's home after Worship Easter Flower order forms DUE	4 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	5	6 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting 6700 Spanish Trail 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	7	8 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	9 10:00 a.m. Eve Circle at the home of MaryPat Forgie
10 PALM SUNDAY First Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. -9:15 a.m. Manna food drop off (trunk to trunk) 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	11 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	12 There will not be Faith Circle in April	13 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	14 11 a.m. Council reports due 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	15 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship	16 3:00 p.m. Set up Sanctuary for Easter
17 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Easter Hospitality	18 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	19 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	20 Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	21	22 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	23
24 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER Assist. to the Bishop Pastor David Wendel visits 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	25 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	26	27 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	28	29 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	30
Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon unless otherwise noted						

PASTOR WENDEL'S VISIT

On Sunday, April 24, Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor David Wendel from the NALC will be visiting Epiphany during Worship. Once we have his itinerary, we will be scheduling a meet and greet either Saturday night at the church or Sunday after service.



The Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism serves as the Bishop's representative by responding to invitations, addressing concerns, representing the NALC and finding opportunities to foster and further the NALC's ecumenical and inter-Lutheran commitments.

Jacksonville, Florida, United States

FAITH CIRCLE

Hello ladies. An update on a meeting place.

We will be keeping our Study on Tuesday. We will now be meeting at the synagogue at 11:00 on the second Tuesday. We will not meet in April. We will meet May 10th. We will meet in the fellowship area.

Again, we will not meet in April due to schedule conflicts.

Please bring your Bible, study book and a brown bag lunch.

Peace,

Wanda

EVE CIRCLE

Eve Circle will be meeting at the home of MaryPat Forgie on the 2nd Saturday of April at 10 AM. From now on we will meet on Saturdays at different locations.

HOSPITALITY

So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26:19

As we began our Lenten journey in March for the year 2022, we also are preparing for the Passover. With our personal reflection and confession, seeking out what God would have us to prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord.

We are grateful for our new members received in February. We welcome Ken, Donna and Grace and Jacob. We celebrated with a beautiful cake, coffee, and fellowship. They all bring gifts to our congregation.

This month the Hospitality Team will host an Easter Brunch after worship. ALL ARE WELCOME! Come, celebrate the Risen Lord! All food and drinks will be provided by Hospitality, donations will be accepted. If you would like to help in serving, please see Faye Robinson or Brenda Ekstrom.

Beginning in May we will have a sign-up sheet for opportunities to serve. If you would like to bring and or serve refreshments on a Sunday, please sign-up. By doing so, you allow others the opportunity to fellowship.

Member Care Team still needs volunteers to prepare meals for our home bound, sick or just coming home from the Hospital. This is a great service to our congregation and to the Lord. Please volunteer if you can.

In closing, as we reflect and search ourselves, please ask the Lord what you can do to be a faithful servant for him and his church at Epiphany Lutheran, Pensacola.

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

God's Peace,
Brenda



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Current News!



Manna Food Bank – Mission Sunday was March 13, 2022. Carole Dwyer delivered 289 lbs of food donations. We passed around the volunteer delivery sign-up sheet on Sunday, March 6, 2022. **The congregation really stepped up!** We have every month covered except November and December. **This is the first time we have ever had such an overwhelming response!** Thank you, Epiphany Lutheran Church members! Gerry will be calling the volunteers to remind them to have their cars parked by the entrance on the right side of the Synagogue, by 8:00am, on their volunteered day.

Pull Tab Collections – Barb delivered 4100 pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House on Sunday, March 6, 2022. The Ronald McDonald House uses the money from the tabs to pay their utilities.

New Member Sunday – Epiphany Lutheran Church donated \$50 to the NALC Great Commission for our new members that joined on February 27, 2022.

Donation of the Lenten coin offerings – Regina spoke with Joyce at Camp Happy Sands. They are excited to be back open this year, but only for 4 weeks in June. The Social Ministry Committee chose **June 14, 2022 as Epiphany Lutheran Church's volunteer day. We will be delivering lunch to the camp on that day as well as beach towels, school supplies and back packs.** More to come on accepting donations. We will also be applying for a Thrivent grant to purchase the food, so we can **also donate half the Lenten offerings to a local center for kids with Autism and mental illness. More to come on the exact center.**

Social Ministry Committee meetings – It has been decided that we will meet as follows: The first Monday of every month via zoom at 6pm. Quarterly, on Wednesdays, at the Synagogue at 6pm. The dates we will meet at the Synagogue are...April 6, 2022, July 6, 2022, and October 5, 2022. Remaining dates TBD.

Upcoming Events

Brit Ahm Synagogue Clothing Drive – This will be a joint effort. Both congregations will donate. **The Synagogue members will be delivering the donations to the homeless. We are also invited to join them if we want to. Anyone interested in helping to deliver can contact Jerri.** Clothing items need to be clean with no stains. They are to be folded and placed on the back pews for collection. **The donation delivery schedule is as follows: February 26, June 11, September 17, and December 10, 2022. These are Saturdays, which is when the Synagogue has their service. Members of Epiphany Lutheran Church can bring their clothing donations the Sundays prior to the Saturdays listed. Those dates will be as follows: June 5, 2022, September 11, 2022 and December 4, 2022. Please place the garments on the last pew.**

Brit Ahm feeding the homeless – Jerri M. with the Synagogue prepares soup for volunteers that show up on Mondays to help create sack lunches. She says she can accommodate up to seven people and lives in a gated community. Jerri also welcomes volunteers to deliver the sack lunches to the homeless on Tuesdays at 11am.

Anyone that would like to join them for soup, packing sack lunches and/or delivering the lunches to the homeless can email Jerri.

Please Continue to Collect These Items to donate!

Remember to save **tab tops** for Ronald McDonald House. Save **eyeglasses** for the Lion's Club.

Collection containers for these items are located in the fellowship hall by the windows in the back of the room. They are labeled with Epiphany Lutheran Church.

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will take place on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 6 pm at the Synagogue in the Bible Study room.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Gibbons
Chair of Social Ministry Committee

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS UPDATE

A total of **\$791.00 has been donated** to the church by 13 of our members who were eligible for "Thrivent Choice Dollars". Thank you for designating Epiphany to receive this gift! "Choice Dollars" are one way that Thrivent distributes its charitable outreach funds through its' members.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

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).

LENT COIN OFFERINGS

Please continue to fill your coin folders and collection boxes during Lent as all monies will be contributed to Mission. Once Lent is over, please write your name on the coin folder or collection box and turn them in at Worship.

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

The following prayer is offered for your use, individually, as families and in your congregations:

Gracious God, we come to You as people who know we have fallen short of Your call, who are in daily need of Your forgiveness and grace, and who have no lasting hope apart from the promises we have in Jesus. And yet we come with thankful and expectant hearts, knowing that You have promised to hear and to answer prayer.

We pray for You to be working in the hearts and the lives of the people in Russia and the Ukraine who are caught in this senseless war and whose lives are being torn apart because of the conflict. We pray for the families who have been separated from their loved ones, for those who have been physically hurt as a result of the fighting, and for those lives that have been lost. We pray, Lord, that You would open doors for peace talks and negotiations to happen that would bring an end to the war and that would save the lives of many for whom our Lord Jesus died.

Work through the nations of our world, through their governments, the United Nations, and through those leaders who have authority and opportunity to influence and impact what is happening in Christ-honoring ways. Be with our missionaries and mission agencies — that their work would be a witness to the love You have for all people, and to the desire You have for Your world that we would live in peace.

Help us to never lose sight of the promises we have in Jesus and to never lose hope in the One who, through His cross and resurrection from the dead, has overcome the world. In His most holy and precious name we pray. Amen.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

—John 16:33 NIV

In Christ Jesus,

Bishop Dan Selbo

North American Lutheran Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 10: Palm Sunday, service at 9:30 a.m.

First Holy Communion celebrated

April 14: Maundy Thursday, service at 7:00 p.m.

April 15: Good Friday, service at 7:00 p.m.

April 17: Easter Sunday, service at 9:30 a.m. (*Easter Brunch to follow worship-provided by Hospitality*)

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 3	April 10 Palm Sunday	April 14 Maundy Thursday	April 15 Good Friday	April 17 Easter	April 24
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Deacon Glenn	Deacon Glenn	Deacon Glenn	Deacon Glenn	Deacon Glenn	TBA
LECTOR(S)	Marlene Cooper (1) Pete Morgan(2)	Karen McCabe(1) Steve Meyer (2)	Rod Dwyer	TBA	Brenda Ekstrom(1) Art Kimmel(2)	Regina Gibbons(1) Will Slotter(2)
USHERS	Eddie Gibbons Eric Johnson	Will Slotter Steve Meyer	Volunteers needed	Harland Bross Eddie Gibbons	John Ekstrom Harland Bross	Art Kimmel Chuck Glassmire
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Kim McCormick Heidi Long	Jim and Marlene Cooper	Sidney Glassmire Judy Taylor	NA	Audrey Tinsley Betty Bross	Regina Gibbons Karen McCabe
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St.Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis Betty Bross	Randy St. Louis Alice Fludgate
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Bagett	Ali Bagett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild

Worship Assistant Scheduling

Brenda Ekstrom is now scheduling assistance for Worship each Sunday as she works on the bulletins. She will be in contact with members for availability. If you are willing to serve and/or have scheduling conflicts, please contact Brenda.