# FEBRUARY 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:* <u>nalcofpensacola@gmail.com</u> *Follow on Facebook:* Epiphany Lutheran Church-Pensacola, FL *Church Connect page:* epiphanypns.churchtrac.com



#### **PASTOR'S CORNER**

#### February 2023 Epiphany Lutheran Church

"LOVE"

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' Matthew 22:37

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." John 15:9

February's designation could be said as "The Month of Love". More or less, it is because of Valentine's Day for most our society. I would recommend we think about this term "Love" and imagine what it would be like if the world could give and receive love as our Lord gave his love and the believers received it.

Love is emotional, it is physical, it is mental, and it is soul filling when you've encounter a sacrificial love. Imagine how a good parent or guardian makes sacrifices for their children. Imagine a spouse giving an organ for their spouse to live a full life. Imagine sitting across the table from the person you've loved for forty, fifty, or sixty years. Love can bring you to tears with a song or a good movie. As emotions go, love is powerful and sometimes un-expressible.

I'd like to ask you to consider how much love God shares with his creation. God's love for you is greater than any love we can feel or imagine on this earth. I cannot express it. I cannot fathom the depth of God's love for you and me. But I know it is real and it is given to us freely without merit. We gather to celebrate a life in Christ Jesus because of love. February begins the season of Lent and reminder of God's love. John's gospel gives us a full expression of Jesus' love. John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

I pray that your love for the Lord will give you the strength and encouragement to give your time in worship. Come and celebrate the love we have as brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus asked Peter if he loved him above other things. Of course, Peter says, yes Lord you know I do. *John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"* Do we Love the Lord with all our hearts, minds, and souls above our earthly timelines?

Love, 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

#### **LENT SERIES 2023**

Based on the book: "The Promise of Lent" By Chris Tiegreen

<u>Date/ Day</u> 2/22-Ash Wednesday	<u>Sermon Title</u> "People of Dust"
2/26-1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	"A Choice of Realms"
3/1-Wednesday	"Death is"
3/5-2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	"A Grateful Response"
3/8-Wednesday	"Faith Waits"
3/12-3rd Sunday of Lent	"Life and Restoration"
3/15-Wednesday	"Clash of Kingdoms"
3/19-4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	"Free at Last"
3/22-Wednesday	"A Revolution of Glory"
3/26-5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	"Unshakable"
3/29-Wednesday	"Hope Behind the Clouds"

All Wednesday Lent services will be at 6 p.m.

### SOUTHERN GOSPEL SERVICE

On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany will celebrate the music of Gospel and Bluegrass throughout the service. Mark your calendars now. A service not to be missed!

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregation meeting of Epiphany where the Congregation reviews the Annual Report for 2022. The report will be available for members to pick up the Sunday prior, February 5<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a property update during the meeting.

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> is a Special Congregation meeting where the Congregation will approve the Endowment Fund and vote on Constitutional changes that need to be updated.

Both meetings will take place after Worship has ended.

February Sunday	/ 2023	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>6:30 p.m</b> . Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	2	<b>3</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	4
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY :30 a.m. Choir practice :30 a.m. Worship 0:30 a.m. Hospitality 1:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 1:00 a.m. Social Ministry meeting	<ul> <li>6</li> <li>3:30 p.m. Praise group practice</li> <li>4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail</li> </ul>		8 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	9	10 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	11
2 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY dission Sunday :00 a.m9:15 a.m. Manna food drop ff (trunk to trunk) :30 a.m. Choir practice :30 a.m. Worship 0:30 a.m. Annual Congregation mtg. 1:30 a.m. Hospitality Valentine Luncheon	<ul> <li>13</li> <li>3:30 p.m. Praise group practice</li> <li>4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail</li> <li>7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>15</li> <li>Newsletter Articles Due</li> <li>6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.</li> </ul>	16 11:00 a.m. Council reports due		18
9 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD :30 a.m. Choir practice	20 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail		22 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service	23	<b>24</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	25
6 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT :30 a.m. Choir practice :30 a.m. Worship 0:30 a.m. Hospitality 1:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 1:00 a.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> grade – High School unday School in Sanctuary 1:00 a.m. K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School ducation trailer	27 9:00 a.m Noon office Hours (Sherry cover) 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	28 9:00 a.m Noon office Hours (Sherry cover) 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom				
			Wednesday, 9 a.m3:3			



## HOSPITALITY

#### HUMBLE AND KIND...

#### Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. James 4:10

#### Happy Valentine's Day!

Love is in the air! Do you feel it?

At Epiphany Lutheran Church you will always feel the love. The Love of Christ, the Love of our neighbor, and one another. It is not about "Valentine's Day, it is about what Jesus has called us to do.

In Hospitality we strive to always heed that call. Not for ourselves but for the Glory of God! Can you feel it? Our team trust that everyone that comes into Hospitality feels the love and sees the light that so shines within us!

Although we don't need an advertised day to show our love of Christ and you, we do like to treat you to something special occasionally. Therefore, we will be having a light luncheon on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. All are WELCOME! There will not be a charge, however, we will accept donations.

Our host, baking volunteers have made a big hit and is much appreciated by our team and the congregation. Thank you to all who have volunteered. It is with joy that we thank the youth for serving with us. We trust it has made a difference in how you look at Hospitality and you are blessed when you serve others.

We want to welcome Ms. Faye back from her knee surgery. She is doing well, and we have deeply missed her.

In closing, I wish to thank Liz Richbourg for her assistance in keeping the "bake" list full. It is much appreciated.

Until next time...

God's Peace! Brenda

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

# FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES

Faith & Eve Circle Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am. We will begin a new study series: Meaning of Service, Living in Love. The first session, entitled "Serving Others" dives right into scripture and helps put Christ's teachings into our modern life. Copies of this series are available, contact Dawn Zeigler. All Epiphany ladies are welcome, as well as any guests.

Barb Lenn will host the group in her home for a Friendship Meal in February. Everyone is asked to bring a sandwich and piece of fruit. All sandwiches will be cut and combined on a platter to share. The fruit will be made into a large salad for all to enjoy. A beautiful way to share fellowship!



Faith & Eve Circle study group gathered at the home of Fe Kellas in January, where Fe cooked some delicious dishes from the Philippines, surrounded by delightful side dishes and desserts brought by the ladies. Everyone had a great time studying God's Word and enjoying fellowship.

#### SOCIAL MINISTRY

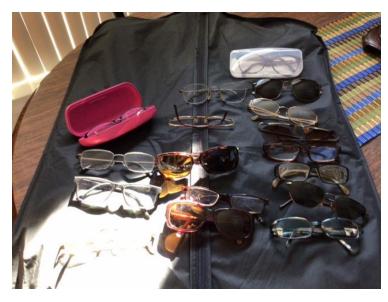
#### WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

Many kind Thank You notes were received from those ministries we assisted with our LOVE IN ACTION in December. Gulf Coast Kids House, Favor House, Waterfront Mission, and Ronald McDonald House. Epiphany is dedicated year round to assist these ministries. If you have clothing or supplies you wish to donate at anytime see Carole Dwyer for collection.

Manna Food will be collected 2nd Sunday, February 12, TRUNK TO TRUNK, from 8:00-9:15. Ron and Christine Davis have volunteered to collect and deliver our donations. January began with 339 lbs delivered by Paul and Marliese Herrick.



Christ told us to feed the poor....we do a good job but I challenge us to do better. Think of those who are in need when you're grocery shopping..... show our LOVE.



On going monthly missions continue such as collecting eye glasses for Lions Club. Carole delivered 16 pairs of glasses.Gerry Selland delivered 2,854 PopTabs to Ronald McDonald House and travel size toiletries continue to be collected for Waterfront Mission. If you don't know where to put your donations please see Carole or anyone on Social Ministry. Many hands make for light work and the possibilities for more opportunities to serve where Christ calls us.

Are you still in need or want of disposing items you no longer need? We have a member offering to come to your home, free of charge, and he will take them to Teen Challenge. If you have appliances, he will remove these for you. And if you have items to go to the landfill, he will take them for a nominal fee charged by the landfill. We will continue to take requests into February. This is a personal ministry offered by a member of our church family.....what a blessing. Please contact Carole Dwyer for further information.

We welcome Randy St. Louis, Carleen Bragan and Chris Davis to our team. If this is where Jesus is calling you to serve please see Carole Dwyer....we have a place for you in this ministry.

# **FLOWER GUILD**

#### ALTAR GUILD FLOWERS

There are only three Sundays in February that Altar flowers are needed, please think about someone you would like to remember or honor with flowers. You will be able to take the arrangement to that person or just enjoy remembering them in your home. You may have them taken to a member that is shut in or homebound.

During Lent, a peace plant will grace the altar at each service. Easter is April 9, please watch the Sunday bulletins in March for ordering lilies or hydrangeas.

If you enjoy flowers and are interested in joining the flower guild please consider contacting Carleen Bragan or Harland Bross. Harland holds a class twice a year in the Spring and again in the fall on arranging altar flowers.

Flower guild gives you an opportunity to learn and enjoy flowers.

Submitted by Carleen Bragan

### YTD GENERAL OFFERINGS (Running total through 1/22)



### FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	February 5	February 12	February 19	Ash Wednesday February 22	February 26
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Regina Gibbons	Ken Busarow	Carole Dwyer	Dawn Zeigler	Paul Marchant
LECTOR(S)	Molly Harvey	Steve Meyer	Heidi Long	Art Kimmel	Pete Morgan
USHERS	Steve Meyer Chuck Glassmire	Eddie Gibbons Art Kimmel	Harland Bross Dan Zeigler	Harland Bross Randy St. Louis	John Ekstrom Eric Johnson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Heidi Long Kim McCormick	Sidney Glassmire Judith Lewing	Ekstrom's	Wanda Gore Betty Bross	Karen McCabe Dawn Zeigler
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Marla Meyer	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Marliese Herrick	Randy St. Louis Betty Bross	Randy St. Louis Regina Gibbons
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	Marliese Herrick	Heidi Long Hospitality Luncheon	Youth Sunday	NA	Audrey Tinsley

#### 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 <u>have scheduling conflicts</u>, please contact Brenda. Also, as Sunday approaches and you discover you cannot serve and can not switch with someone, please contact Brenda or the office. Thank you!

# DATES TO REMEMBER

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregation Meeting of Epiphany Lutheran

February 12, 2023 after Worship

**Mission Sunday-Bring food for Manna** 

February 12, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. drop

# **Hospitality Valentine Light Luncheon**

February 12, 2023 11:30 a.m.

#### **Southern Gospel Service**

February 19, 2023 during Worship

#### **Newsletter Articles Due**

February 15, 2023

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 22, 2023 6 p.m.

#### **Special Congregation Meeting Approve Endowment and Update Constitution**

March 26, 2023 after Worship



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