

**JUNE  
NEWSLETTER  
2023**

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***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

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"* **Luke 24:32**

*Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.* **James 1:12**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The two scripture readings that I placed in this letter represent our journey in the name of Jesus. We are the disciples on the road with Christ. We feel the power of Christ in our journey and our hearts burn to complete the next phase for Epiphany. Like many followers of Jesus today, we can feel the power burning within us one moment and feel anxiousness the next.

The scripture from Luke is one that expresses the emotions we may be experiencing as we raise the funds for the transition building. We are on fire with the Spirit and we have a lot to celebrate as our congregation continues to see the joy in giving generously. After speaking with the Bishop last month, we are sending letters out to all the NALC churches seeking help for the journey we are on. Please continue to pray while we witness to the community a steadfast faith in God's Word and his Son.

The second reading in this newsletter is from James. This passage is to ask you to stay strong as we walk this road together. I am absolutely certain that Satan will strike out to tempt the followers of Jesus at Epiphany as we walk together with the Lord. There are many ways the deceiver can destroy us from within and from the outside. As your heart burns with the opportunities of mission and ministry, Satan wants this mission and ministry to fail. His world is built upon his ability to place fear and anxiousness into your life. As we share in serving Jesus in Pensacola, I encourage you as James encouraged the readers to "endure the temptations".

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"* **Luke 24:32**

We are encouraged through the passage from Luke to recognize who has our hearts burning. We are not walking alone on the road or journey for the Lord. We have a vision for the church's future and we have a positive position in the community of Pensacola. Please continue to invite and encourage others to join the mission and ministry of Epiphany.

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***

## **A Special Thank You from Pastor**

I would like to thank all the people who have worked so hard at the church offices. It didn't happen by itself and I know that you all have put in a lot of hours making it what it is now.

I would also like to thank everyone who has given time to help prepare and clean up for the two worship services held on the Ashland property. We've also been blessed with great fellowship and food after our worship service.

Thank you all.  
*Pastor*

## **SERMON TITLES FOR JUNE**

June 4	The Final Word – based on the Gospel
June 11	Putting the band together – based on the Gospel
June 18	Becoming Disciples of the Kingdom – based on the Gospel
June 25	TBA

## **WORSHIP AND LUNCH AT ASHLAND PROPERTY**

Sunday, June 11 at 9:30 a.m.  
Bring your lawn chairs  
Light lunch during Hospitality

\*There will not be worship at Brit Ahm on the 11th.

## **NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

Sara SeEVERS will be compiling the newsletter beginning in June. Newsletter articles for July are due June 21<sup>st</sup>. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at [bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org](mailto:bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org) by June 21. 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.

# June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Pastor Vacation 5/28-6/24			1	2 Office closed	3
<b>4 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Social Ministry meeting	5 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	6	7 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Dwyer home 4:30 p.m. Praise group Practice at Brit Ahm 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	8	9 Office closed	10
<b>11 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> Mission Sunday 8:00 a.m. -9:15 a.m. Manna food drop off (trunk to trunk) and Camp Happy Sands Collection 9:30 a.m. Worship at 9176 Ashland Ave. 10:30 a.m. Hospitality with lunch 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class		13 11:00 a.m. Faith/Eve Circle 9176 Ashland Ave. 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101	14 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Dwyer home 4:30 p.m. Praise group Practice at Brit Ahm 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	15	16 Office closed	17
<b>18 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Camp Happy Sands collection 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality	19	20	21 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Dwyer home 4:30 p.m. Praise group Practice At Brit Ahm 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	22 11:00 a.m. Council reports due	23 Office closed	24
<b>25 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Camp Happy Sands collection 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School	26 6:00 p.m. Council meeting at Ashland Ave	27 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101	28 9:30 a.m. Confirmation class at Ashland 4:30 p.m. Praise group Practice at Brit Ahm 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	29 Serve Lunch at Camp Happy Sands TBA	30 Office closed	
Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon unless otherwise noted.						

## HOSPITALITY

*Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 NRSV*

What a blessing it is to have the foundation of God's word and His light to lead our path. What a blessing it is to serve and share the word with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is what Hospitality is, a time of fellowship, a time to witness, to share concerns and to pray for one another. It is a blessing!

We had a "special" treat on Mother's Day last month. Thanks to the gentlemen that served us coffee and doughnuts. Rumor is they "would like to do this once a month". So, gentlemen, if you are interested in hosting Hospitality, please see me, I will sign you up!

We will be serving a lite lunch after worship at Ashland on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Just as in May, we will need volunteers to help set up and serve. We ask that if you can volunteer, please do so and if you are able to help clean up that also is greatly appreciated.

Other dates currently scheduled to Worship at Ashland are July 9<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to give special thanks to all who helped serve, set up and pick up (food) while I was away in May. You all are a blessing!

*Until next time...God's Peace!*

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST

Blessed and busy is the theme for Epiphany's Social Ministry Committee.

We collected 621 pounds of food and a \$20 donation. Thank you Gerry Selland for delivering your car full of food to Manna Food Bank

Eyeglasses for the Lions Club and needed items for Curry House were collected on May 21st at Ashland before worship and then Marsh Suarez delivered to Lions Club and Barb Lenn and Carole Dwyer delivered to Curry House.

June Manna will be collected June 11th and Kathie Shoff will have her trunk available for drop off at 8:00 a.m. If you will be out of town on this date Carole will accept your donation anytime and give them to Kathie on the 11th. Hunger doesn't take a vacation! Let's remember those who need our help.

June 29th we will serve lunch and help with Camp Happy Sands. Deacon Glenn is leading this ministry. We will be collecting items on the 11th, 18th and 25th. Flip flops, beach towels (new and gently used) outdoor games and crafts and water toys.

Every camper is sent home with a backpack, beach towel and other goodies. Carole will have their 'wish list' printed and available on June 11th.

We received a THRIVENT grant for the food needed on the 29th and Deacon and Carole will shop prior to our service date. This is also a Service Project for Confirmation.

If you can help with this project please contact Carole Dwyer 850-982-4085. Fun day and meaningful to these young people seeing that strangers care and love them.

Reminder that household items, clothes and appliances are still available for free pickup and delivery to Teen Challenge. This continues to be a blessing to our congregation at no charge. Yard debris pickup will resume in the Fall when cooler weather returns.

If you are willing to make a meal and freeze it for the family we are helping (grandparents are raising 3 grandchildren) please contact Carole Dwyer. This family appreciates everything we are offering to help them. We continue to accept toys, books and arts and crafts for the children. We are here to Serve.....join us please.

Serving HIM with you  
Carole

## **FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES**

Epiphany Women's Bible Study Group will gather on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the fellowship area of the new property on Ashland Avenue. We'll continue in the Meaning of Service: Living in Love book with Session 4: Forgiving Others. If you need a copy, please contact Dawn Zeigler.

There will also be a discussion of – and hopefully a decision on – a new name for the group. Both Faith Circle and Eve Circle are merging into one women's study group, and the proposal of a new name for a new group was raised. Come armed with ideas and let's choose something that reflects our love for the Lord, our church and our sisters in Christ. *-Dawn Zeigler*

## **WATER AEROBICS**

Invitation to all women of Epiphany who would like to swim, splash around in the water, or do water aerobics this summer. Meet with other women who want to do the same. Sound like fun?

Join me at my pool on Tues. June 6, at 1:00 to talk about it. There are no charges involved. I hope to form 2 groups, each one to meet twice a week, Tues. and Thurs: water aerobics from 1:00-2:00 and swim/splash from 2:00-3:00.

But I need your suggestions also.

Come with swimsuit, towel, water shoes, sunscreen and ideas. Tues. June 6, 1:00.

Phone me, 850-291-2254 -- please, if no answer, leave voicemail.

*Gloria*

## FROM THE TREASURER

Just a 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.



*\$305.34 in coins collected by a Church member for the Capital Campaign*

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!

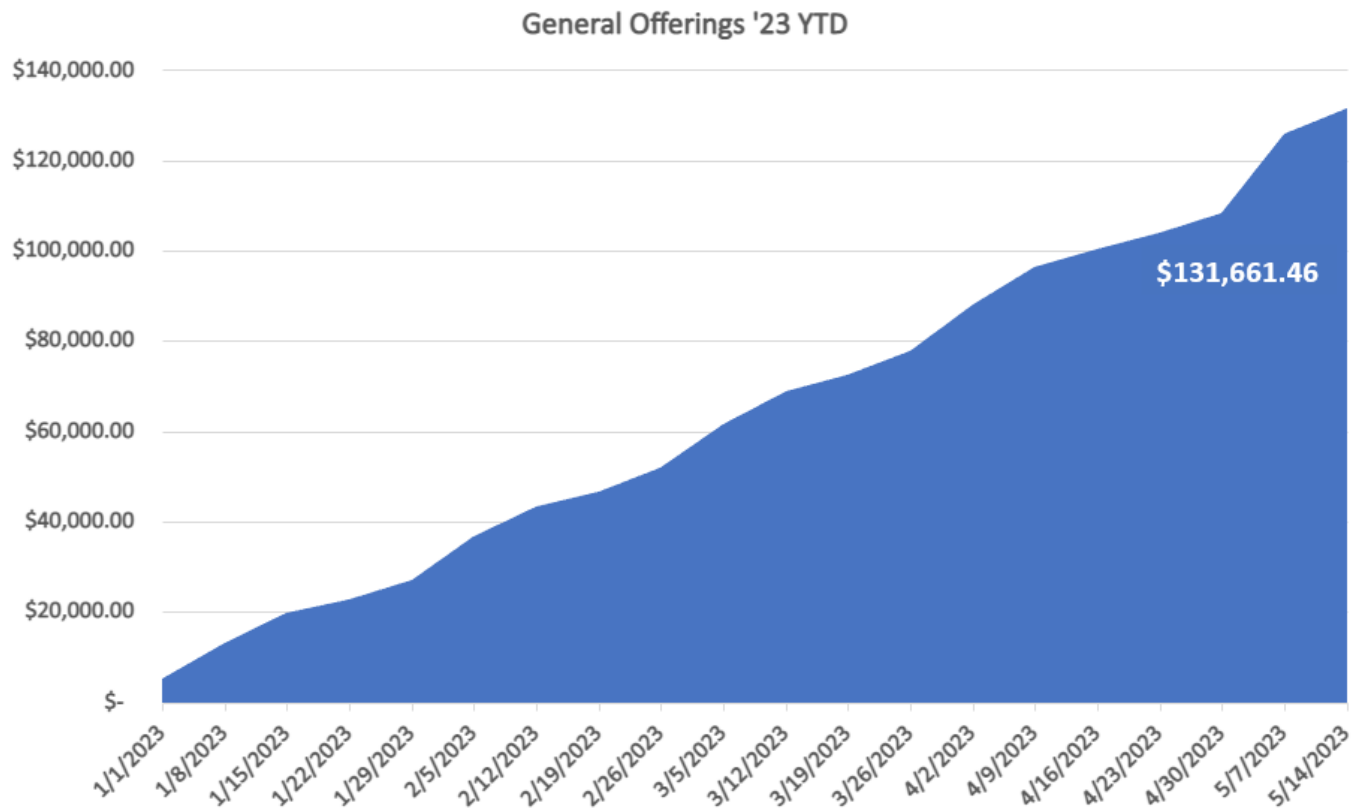
Ken Busarow – Treasurer

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

## QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

*Gratitude is the heart's memory. (French proverb)*

*Get down on your knees and thank God you're still on your feet. (Irish proverb)*

*The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. (Wm Arthur Ward)*

God gave us things to use and people to love, not things to love and people to use. Our ultimate happiness and satisfaction do not come from our billfold or checkbook. It comes through our relationship with God. One of the basic differences between God and humans is God gives, gives, and forgives; while the human gets, gets, and forgets. Anonymous

Stewardship is the giving of ourselves to the world so that we will know the joy of being used by our God. When a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area. Anonymous

## JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	June 4	June 11 Ashland property	June 18	June 25
<b>ASSISTING MINISTERS</b>	John Ekstrom	Dawn Zeigler	Brenda Ekstrom	Carol Dwyer
<b>LECTOR(S)</b>	Brenda Ekstrom	Brad Fludgate	Regina Gibbons	Art Kimmel
<b>USHERS</b>	Eric & Shelly Johnson	Eddie Gibbons Steve Meyer	John Ekstrom Randy St. Louis	Harland Bross Eddie Gibbons
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	Audrey Tinsley Betty Bross	Marlene & Jim Cooper	Kim McCormick Heidi Long	Alice Fludgate Karen McCabe
<b>PORTICO GREETERS</b>	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis Marliese Herrick	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley
<b>FLOWER GUILD</b>	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
<b>NURSERY ATTENDANT</b>	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
<b>HOSPITALITY HOST</b>	Marliese Herrick **Pat Brune	Hospitality	Grace Everlynn Brooklyn *Gloria Seiler	Suzanne Morgan *Dianne Williams
<b>CUP BEARERS</b>	Brooklynn & Ethan	Grace & Everlynn	Brooklynn & Ethan	Grace & Everlynn

### 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**

June 11, 2023 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. drop off

### **Worship at 9176 Ashland Ave.**

June 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.  
(Bring your lawn chairs)  
Light lunch during Hospitality

### **Camp Happy Sands collection**

June 11, 18, and 25, 2023  
(A box will be provided on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Ashland)

### **Newsletter Articles Due**

June 21, 2023

### **Council Meeting**

Monday, June 26 at 6 p.m. at the Ashland property

### **Serve Lunch at Camp Happy Sands**

June 29<sup>th</sup> Time to be announced

