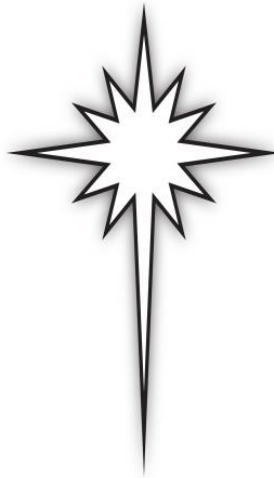


**MAY/JUNE
NEWSLETTER
2022**

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



May and June 2022
Epiphany Lutheran Church

*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶ **He is not here; he has risen!** **Luke 24:1-6***



Alleluia! He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The summer months are coming quickly, and we are preparing for vacations and family arrivals. We celebrate a new life and we reflect on the journey we experienced during lent. To finally, celebrate Resurrection Day. The church doesn't celebrate with bunnies and eggs. We celebrate Resurrection Day with the Risen Lord. We have faith in the resurrection, and we believe the witnesses in God's Word. How many Easters have you celebrated in your life? There is only one day in the life of the church that celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord; and that day promises you and I eternal life.

If you were at the Good Friday service, you may have heard me speak about the cross as our symbol of Christianity. We see crosses all around communities and from the highways. Some of the crosses stand out and some of them stand alone, like the cross on Pensacola Beach. While the image is breathtaking for me, how often do you notice the cross when you go to the beach? I spoke about the cross on I-65 heading north in my sermon. I wonder how many people will see that towering image of God's love and sacrifice as they travel toward the south? The symbol of our Christian faith will tower over God's church Epiphany as we begin searching for the new location.

Easter has always been a time of renewal for us and this year it is particularly joyous. For Epiphany Lutheran Church has been established. The church is growing and God is sending gifted disciples to the congregation weekly. We can find hope in God's plan just as we found life in the empty tomb. Our congregation life is filled with the Holy Spirit and we have grown to celebrate with the same Spirit that Jesus breathed into his disciples.

While I write this newsletter, we are finalizing the ending of our legal battle with St. Paul and the FB Synod of the ELCA. We have reached a settlement together and we are no longer tied to legal proceedings. So, we celebrate many things this spring and we look toward the vision God has set before us as well as the challenges we face in serving "all" of God's people.

Alleluia! He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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 ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Members of Epiphany,

4-8-2022

Below you will see that the ELCA is taking action on the resolution passed during the 2019 National Assembly. The resolution on Faith, Sexism, and Justice which changes the liturgy, bible, and the meaning of the Trinity will be reviewed and enforced. These changes within the Word of God are why you voted to leave the ELCA.

If you recall from our vote to leave the ELCA, the representative of the ELCA/FB Synod stated that they would not be enforcing the resolution. We knew that they would make this change because line 1747 in the document calls for “accountability” in 2021. Covid-19 slowed their process but they are going to implement the accountability upon all the congregations in the ELCA.

Faithfully Serving,

Rev. Franklin J. Gore

ELCA Church Council Considers Debt, Discipline and a Declaration to the Muslim Community

Candice Buchbinder <Candice.Buchbinder@elca.org

Wed, Apr 6,
2022. 12:18
PM

ELCA Church Council Considers Debt, Discipline and a Declaration to the Muslim Community

ITASCA, Ill. (April 6, 2022) —The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met March 31–April 2. The council, which serves as the ELCA’s board of directors, took action on a variety of matters before this church.

The council took the following key actions:

- Adopted “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Muslim Community” as a statement on Lutheran-Muslim relations.
- ***Authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee as identified in the implementing resolutions for the social statement Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action, adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and assigned the committee with guiding a process for public repentance, including a churchwide day of confession and repentance for the sins of patriarchy and sexism.***

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	2 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry Meeting via zoom	3	4 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	5	6 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	7
8 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 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	9 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	10 11:00 a.m. Faith Circle 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	11 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	12 11 a.m. Council reports due	13 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	14 10 a.m. Eve Circle At Barb's home
15 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	16 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	17 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	19	20 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	21
22 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	23 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	24	25 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	26	27 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	28
29 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	30 Memorial Day Office closed	31				
Admin. hours: Monday -Wednesday, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m., Thursday, 9a.m. -Noon. These hours are subject to change May 13-26.						

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	2	3 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	4
5 PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	6 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry meeting Zoom	7	8 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	9	10 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	11 1:00 p.m. Clothes swap at Brit Ahm
12 THE HOLY TRINITY 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	13 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	14 11:00 a.m. Faith Circle 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola TBA Social Ministry serve lunch at Camp Happy Sands	15 Newsletter articles due 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	16 11 a.m. Council reports due	17 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	18
19 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	20 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	21 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	22 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	23	24 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	25
26 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	27 4:00 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	28	29 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6700 Spanish Trail Pensacola	30		

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

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



HOSPITALITY

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35

All are WELCOME in this place! There are many ways to praise and glorify Jesus, when we serve and open our hearts and doors to serve others, I believe God is pleased.

I trust everyone who joined us for Easter Brunch felt the Hospitality of Epiphany Lutheran Church as Jesus was talking about. It was a wonderful celebration of our Risen Lord!
Thanks to all who help set up, serve, and take down for this event. Your kindness and willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

We did it again! On Sunday, April 24 we came together and brought our best as we welcomed Pastor Wendel and enjoyed a picnic as we continued to celebrate Easter. We shared the joy of Epiphany! Thank you to all who assisted.

Hospitality Team needs your help. If you are looking to get involved and get to know members and guest, join our team. Please sign up to serve on a Sunday and or an event such as the picnic. Not only will you get to meet and greet everyone, you will be giving some of the ladies who are faithful to serve every Sunday a break. Please see me or give me a call if you would like to discuss opportunities to serve.

We want to wish all Mothers, past and present a “Happy Mother’s Day”!

In June, there is a possibility that we may get to bring our “Patriotic Bake Sale” back! Details will follow in our weekly bulletin(s). If you are interested in participating, please see me or Ms. Faye.

As always, it is a JOY and HONOR to serve in GOD’S House!
God’s Peace,
Brenda



Easter 2022

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Current News!



Manna Food Bank – Mission Sunday was April 10 2022. Gerry delivered 146 lbs of food donations. 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.

Books for Prisoners - Gerry delivered 25 books to the “Open Book” book store on Guillemard St. Epiphany Lutheran Church will now take donations of paperback books.

Pull Tab Collections – This is a joint venture between the Synagogue and Epiphany Lutheran. We are responsible for delivering the tabs when the box is full. The Ronald McDonald House uses the money from the tabs to pay their utilities. The latest count was almost 1 pound (14.2 oz.) which is about 1001 tabs.

Donation of the Lenten coin offerings – A portion of our Lenten offerings will be donated to **Proud Moments, ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis), a local center for kids with Autism and mental illness.** They have 3 locations in the area: one on Creighton, Hwy 98, and Davis Hwy. They do not accept cash donations, but are very excited that we will be donating needed items that will be purchased with the offerings. Regina went by and provided some business cards and put her contact # and email on the back.

Another portion of our **Lenten coin offerings, along with Thrivent grants,** will be going to **Camp Happy Sands** – Joyce at Camp Happy Sands, says 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.** Deacon Glenn will be applying for a Thrivent grant for the food, so we can donate half the coin offerings to the school supply and wish list. We will be delivering lunch to the camp on that day as well as the supplies.

We will be taking donations for Camp Happy Sands towards the end of May. There will be a sign.

Upcoming Events

Ride alongs with Rev. Dr. Frank Gore: Pastor wants to ride along and be introduced to the communities in which we serve. He would like to go with someone to deliver Manna, meet the folks at Open Books, Lions Club, Ronald McDonald House, Waterfront Rescue Mission, The Washburn Center, Kids House, Favor House, Women of clear vision, Epp Center, Keep Pensacola Beautiful, Camp Happy Sands and Proud Moments, just to name a few. Looks like we’re going to keep him busy!

Brit Ahm Synagogue Clothes Swap – 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 from the Synagogue. Clothing items need to be clean with no stains. They are to be folded and placed on the back pews for collection. You may look through the items and take what you would like. Anything remaining will be donated. **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 with the Synagogue prepares soup for volunteers that show up on Monday evenings, at 6:30, to help create sack lunches. She says she can accommodate up to seven people. Anyone wanting to help can contact 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
Monday, May 2, 2022, 6 pm via zoom.**

Respectfully submitted by Regina Gibbons
Chair of Social Ministry Committee

THANK YOU

Pastor and Kim would like to thank everyone that gave their time over Lent and Holy Week to help prepare, set-up, participate in, and take down for all the services! WE ARE A TEAM at Epiphany and we couldn't do it without all of you.



Thank you!

EVE CIRCLE

Ladies of Epiphany please join Eve Circle. We have changed our day and time hoping it will be more convenient for you. Due to technical difficulties (Mine) we were unable to watch episode 2 of season 2 of "The Chosen" in April. We will be watching it at the home of Barb on Saturday May 14th @ 10:00 AM. "Come and See" as Phillip & Nathanael join the other disciples. For more information please see Helen or Barb.

FAITH CIRCLE

Bible study continues the second Tuesday of each month, May 10 and June 14 at 11 a.m.. All meetings now take place at the Synagogue. Please bring a bag lunch.

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).

BRIT AHM VTS (Vacation Torah School)

July 11th – 15th, 2022

Ages 5 to 12

\$15 per child (up to 3 children)

Discount for 4+ children

There will be crafts, outdoor games, worship and Torah learning in a fun, immersive environment. Open registration begins May 13th. If you would like to sign up your child, please contact the office at Brit Ahm at 850-484-0900 for further instruction. Families at Brit Ahm and Epiphany have first priority prior to the open registration for the public.

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Dawn Zeigler	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
LECTOR(S)	Jim Cooper	Brenda Ekstrom	Brad Dye	Marlene Cooper	Steve Meyer
USHERS	John Ekstrom Will Slotter	Eric and Shelly Johnson	Eddie and Regina Gibbons	John Ekstrom Steve Meyer	Chuck and Sidney Glassmire
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Wanda Gore Alice Fludgate	Judy Taylor Betty Bross	Pete and Suzanne Morgan	Heidi Long Karen McCabe	Sidney Glassmire Audrey Tinsley
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St.Louis Ron and Chris Davis	Randy St. Louis Dan Zeigler	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Karen McCabe	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Bagett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild

Worship Assistant Scheduling

*June Worship Assistant schedule will be sent out separately mid-May.

Brenda 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.