

# APRIL 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

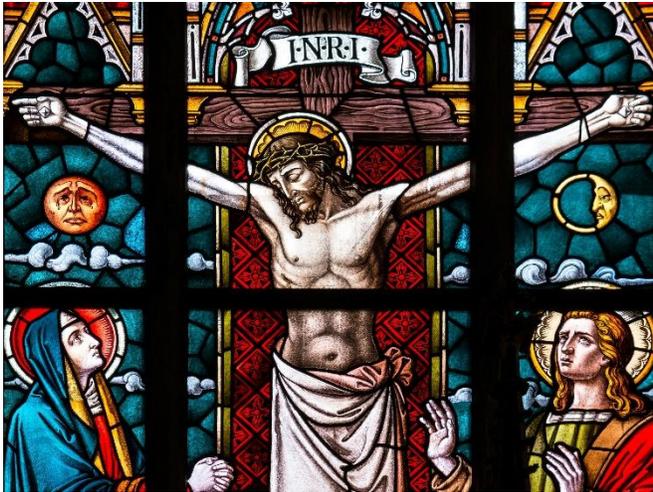
*Worship Services*  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
(Nursery Available for children Preschool age and under)  
Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday

*Hospitality to follow*

*Email:* [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)



## PASTOR'S CORNER



*April 2023*  
*Epiphany Pensacola*  
*"The Lamb of God"*

**John 1:25-29** They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,<sup>1</sup> nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"<sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,<sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."<sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,

**"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We don't have to reflect very deeply into our lives to realize we've broken the commandments of God more than we'd ever want to admit. Whether or not we have actually constructed idols, our hearts are inclined toward loyalties that are undeserved. Most people, if honest, can see where their heart was given to something other than God. Some can look at their lives and see where they've spent more time in serving organizations than they've spent in the service of the Lord. Recognition from the social organizations can cloud our judgement on who we serve and why. Have any other commandments tripped you up over the years? Have you coveted? Have you taken without pay? Have you ignored the Holy? Have you lusted for what is not yours?

If we really got a glimpse of God in all his majesty, with our own souls exposed by his light, we would cry out like Isaiah appalled at how unclean we are and how unclean we live. **Isaiah 6:5** "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."<sup>1</sup> We've been fully exposed to the earthly Kingdom and our only hope is "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world".

We learn through God's Word that the source of forgiveness was born into the world of humanity and became the perfect remedy for our sins. On the cross Jesus bore the sins of all the earth and it is through his death that our individual rebellion is paid. Now as we move toward the "Day of the Resurrection", we are encouraged to always walk in the light of Christ. That doesn't mean that you will never sin again. The meaning of the empty tomb can be best expressed by the way we trust in the Word of God. How we trust and accept forgiveness of sin as we receive Holy Communion remembering the Word, "Given for you and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin". I encourage you to settle for nothing less than what our Lord intended for you. Be transformed in his light and life, as you live your life in the light of an empty tomb.

Alleluia He Has Risen!  
*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:*

<sup>1</sup> The Promise of Lent Devotional by Chris Tiegreen



*From the Desk of Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore*

*“We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3*

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians lifted up the church and all those who continued their journey in “faith”. They shared the love of Christ with new believers and continued to accept the teachings of Jesus as they grew together in faith and love.

On Sunday March 26, 2023 we held a congregation meeting to adapt the newly written Endowment Fund Articles of Agreement as well as the updated Congregation Constitution. During the meeting we presented our transitional building plans and discussed how the building could be used for both short-term and long-term plans.

The message on that particular Sunday was about our unshakable God and the faith we have in his plans for us individually and corporately. Through faith in our Lord Jesus, we’ve accomplished more than most new start congregations could have done. I believe in the work we are doing together and I believe that we can reach the goal needed to build the transitional building.

Yes, we have to raise \$300,000.00 for the transitional worship space. When we break it down it can be pretty simple. For example: we need 300 people to give \$1,000.00 so that we can begin worship at the new property on Ashland. *Some will not be able to give that much and others will be able to give more.* That being said, I believe with God’s help, we can meet this need.

We made a commitment to each other to not go into deep debt. Therefore, taking out a loan is not appropriate. We’ve purchased the property on Ashland, we have the office complex, restroom facilities, and storage building. That has all been done within the budget of the building program established to purchase the property. **This transition building should be the last special money drive we have as a congregation for a long while.** When we are ready to build the larger church facility, we will have already saved for the cost. Our mortgage will be manageable because we built wisely on the foundation of our Lord Jesus.

**We will kick-off the Capital Campaign Drive on Easter Morning. April 9, 2023**

*Our goal for the transitional worship space is \$300,000.00*

I encourage you to reach out through Facebook and family to invite them to support Epiphany with a one-time donation. Donations can be done online or by mail:

*Payment should be made to: **Epiphany Lutheran Church (Note: Capital Campaign)***

With God’s Love,  
*Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore*

The Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore, Pastor  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Pensacola, Fl. 32504

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)*



(Image from Lester Buildings)

**Example Only**

This building is shorter than what we are building. The design is similar along with the roof pitch.

Our building is:  
40' X 70'  
Inside wall height is 16'

It will have all the inspections and will meet Escambia County Codes

**Phase 1 Building Estimate**

**Craig Morgan Enterprises**

40' x 70' x 14' Wall, 5:12 roof pitch (roof peak 22.5')

Building	40	70	2800
Lean to	12	70	840

Complete Interim Worship Center/Multi-Use Facility	<b>\$277,600.00</b>
Interior Finish and Mechanicals	<b>\$111,000.00</b>
Basic Building without interior finish or mechanicals	<b>\$166,600.00</b>

	Unit Price	Qty	Ext Price
Basic Pole Barn 40' x 70' installed with engineered drawing package	\$43.50	2800	<b>\$121,800.00</b>
Add 12' Drop Down Lean To	\$11.66	840	<b>\$9,800.00</b>
Add 3" Fiberglass Insulation	<b>\$1.50</b>	6500	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
Window Estimate with Installation (2x5 qty 8, 4x3 qty 2)	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	10	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
Walk Door Estimate with Installation (3-0x6-8 qty 6)	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	6	<b>\$9,000.00</b>
Roll Up Door Estimate with Installation (7x10 qty 2)	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	2	<b>\$6,000.00</b>

<b>Interior Finish and Mechanicals</b>	<b>\$111,000.00</b>
Framing	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
Electrical	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
Sprayfoam	<b>\$19,500.00</b>
Drywall	<b>\$13,500.00</b>
Flooring	<b>\$0.00</b>
HVAC	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
Equipment Rental	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

Items in **RED** are estimated  
Certified Stamped Engineered Drawings (48 days)

**Capital Campaign Drive begins: Easter Sunday (April 9, 2023)**  
**Donations can be made:**   **At the church each Sunday morning**  
   **Online – [epiphany.pns.churchtrac.com](http://epiphany.pns.churchtrac.com)**  
   **Mail check to the church mailing address**

## ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Online Giving within this tool (Churctrac) is fully functional! You can use your bank account, a credit/debit card, or text message for your weekly/monthly offerings.

### Some important items to know:

- You will need to create an account at : [Epiphany Lutheran Church \(churchtrac.com\)](https://epiphanylutheranchurch.com) (<https://epiphanylutheranchurch.com>). Creating an account is for your protection and helps prevent fraud should you choose to give online.
- If you use the email that we have on file for you, most of your information will be automatically added to your account. You can also take this opportunity to update any personal information for you and/or your immediate family members.
- Click on the large green box on the home page to set up online giving.
  - There are 3 headers across the top of the page – Credit/Debit, ACH/Checking and SMS/Text
  - You can schedule a one-time offering or set up a recurring offering. Be aware that automatic offerings begin on the date you enter the information and then at the frequency you set. So, if it is the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month and you set up a monthly offering, they will all be on the 12<sup>th</sup>. To change this, you'll need to delete and re-schedule your automatic giving.
  - If you use your bank account, you'll need to verify two small deposits that will appear in your account in about 2 days. As of Sept. 7, the small deposits will be identifiable by the descriptor "ACCTVERIFY" instead of "AMTS1:2." Once you have those deposits, log back in and go to online giving to enter the number of pennies that you received. After confirming the amounts you'll be able to set up your giving amount and frequency.
  - You have the option to add a memo to your gift – for instance if you are giving to the general fund but it is for your flower sponsorship you can add "Flower Sponsor" as a memo.
  - If you wish to also give to a restricted fund, you have the option to add another fund and then choose from the drop-down list for these funds: Building, Memorial, Pastor's Discretionary, or WNALC. **For the Capital Campaign, please choose the Building Fund in the drop-down box and put "Capital Campaign" in the memo line.**
  -

You have the option to cover the processing fee for your credit/debit card giving. If you choose yes, the software will automatically increase your offering to cover the cost.

You can have multiple offering frequencies and store more than one credit/debit card. You might want to give weekly to the General Fund and once a month to the Building Fund.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Greetings to one of the most generous and loving churches I've ever been affiliated with. It's usually a struggle to communicate the financial needs of a congregation without people feeling anxious, guilty, pressured or a combination of the three. But here, at Epiphany, you have very clearly embraced God's Word in 2 Corinthians 9:7,

*"<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful giver**."*

It's that last part that's so evident here, God loves a "Cheerful giver". The cheerful generosity of each of you here at Epiphany is exciting! Especially knowing all that God has in store for His church here in Pensacola and specifically on Ashland Avenue. A lot has changed over the last few months and it will continue to change for the foreseeable future. To help everyone understand our financial position, I'm putting together a few reports that will help to show where we are as it relates to our operating budget and more importantly our bank accounts on a monthly basis. We're doing well considering the size of the budget increase we adopted for 2023. Starting next month I'll provide a transparent and honest picture of where we are and a forecast through the end of the year. Be looking for that in next month's newsletter.

In the meantime, there are a couple of changes that are coming soon that you need to be aware of. As Pastor and council have communicated, the Phase 1 Building Capital Campaign is kicking off on April 9<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday). On that day, the balance in the current Building Fund will be moved and held in reserve to complete the agreed to changes and renovations to the office complex, to include the pool house bathroom upgrades. All designated donations to the Building Fund from April 9<sup>th</sup> forward, will be captured, held, tracked and eventually used for the construction of the new Phase 1 Multi-purpose Worship Center. As a gentle reminder, as we get excited about building and moving permanently to our Ashland Campus, we still have our day to day operating expenses and while I encourage your continued cheerful generosity to the building fund, we all have household budgets and our dollars are being stretched thin these days. If you have to make a choice between the general fund or building fund, please choose the general fund to help ensure we are able to meet our day to day operating expense obligations. Included in our churches operating budget is the transfer of funds from our General Fund to our Building Fund each and every month so your contributions to the General Fund are also being used to support the Building Fund.

As a aside and to answer the next question before it is asked, yes, at the completion of the office complex renovations, the balance in that fund will be transferred to the Building Fund to ensure your designated gifts are used for the intended purpose they were given. If you have other questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

God's peace to all of you Cheerful Givers!

Ken Busarow – Treasurer

Vanessa Pascoe – Co-treasurer

[treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org](mailto:treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org)

# NOTE FROM A MEMBER

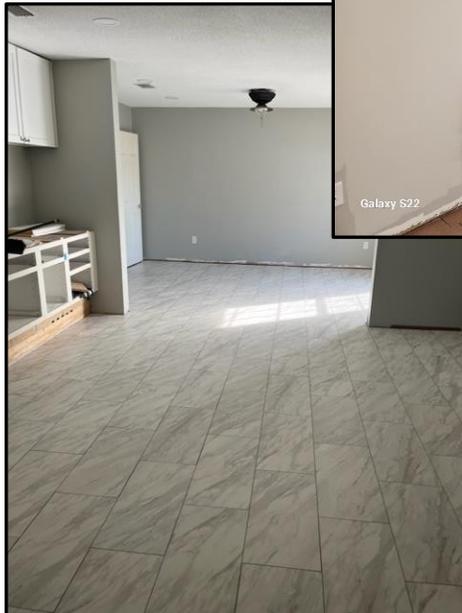
To Pastor Frank and Pete Morgan,

As one member of Epiphany I want to thank you for the open discussion that we had concerning the upcoming Capital Fund / Building Program. I feel blessed to be part of a congregation that any member can raise questions and make comments on any upcoming programs. To be clear, my comments and questions were to generate discussion and seek clarifications based on previous building presentations.

I am writing to assure you that I have complete confidence in the leadership of the congregation and others involved in the planning process, and faith that we will use the resources God provides wisely. I personally plan to support the upcoming programs in every way that I can.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,  
John Carroll

## The office is coming along!



# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship-First Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Social Ministry meeting	3	4	5 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	6 6:00 p.m. Worship Maundy Thursday	7 6:00 p.m. Worship Good Friday  PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	8
<b>9 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service of the Word at Ashland property <b>Mission Sunday</b> 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 at Brit Ahm <b>Easter Brunch to follow Worship</b>	10 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	11 11:00 a.m. Faith/Eve Circle 9176 Ashland Ave.  7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	12 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	13 11:00 a.m. Council reports due	14 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	15
<b>16 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:00 a.m. -9:15 a.m. Personal care items 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	17 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	18 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	19 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	20	21 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	22
<b>23 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship at 9176 Ashland Ave. 10:45 a.m. Picnic	24 3:30 p.m. Praise group practice 4:30 p.m. Choir practice 6700 Spanish Trail	25 7:00 p.m. Lutheran 101 class via zoom	26 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	27	28 PASTOR'S DAY OFF Office closed	29
<b>30 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Hospitality 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School						

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



## **NEWSLETTER PROCEDURE CHANGE**

Due to costs to print and mail, this will be the last month a physical copy will be sent. Beginning with the May newsletter, it will be emailed each month in the same manner as the weekly web blast. A handful of printed copies will be available at Worship on Sundays and you can always find it posted on the church website at [epiphanypns.churchtrac.com](http://epiphanypns.churchtrac.com)

## **FAITH/ EVE CIRCLES**

Faith & Eve Circle Women's Bible Study will gather on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am. The group will be meeting at the new property site located at 9176 Ashland Avenue in Pensacola. Plan on bringing a brown bag lunch for afterward and take a look around! All ladies of Epiphany Lutheran are welcome to attend, and guests are always welcome.

Continuing with "Meaning of Service, Living in Love" our focus for April is Session 3: Noticing and Reaching Out. We'll examine the parable of the good Samaritan and the message Christ prepared for us within. The "Circle" study group discussion always seems to lead to a unique perspective on the scriptures we seek to understand, bringing something I had not yet considered. I love that. Take a look at Luke 10:25-37, let it sit on your heart and see where the Holy Spirit leads you. See you on April 11<sup>th</sup>!

If you'd like a copy of this session in advance, I can send you.  
See you on April 11<sup>th</sup>!

Dawn Zeigler

## **WORSHIP AND PICNIC AT NEW PROPERTY**

On Sunday, April 23 we will hold our worship service and picnic at the new property located at 9176 Ashland Avenue. Please bring your lawn chairs. There will be lawn games set up for your enjoyment. The Hospitality committee will provide lunch which will include hotdogs and hamburgers on the grill, chips, potato salad and pickles. We ask that the Congregation provide the desserts. A sign up sheet will be available beginning Sunday, April 2 if you would like to bring a dessert to share.

Parking: Once you turn onto Ashland from Nine Mile Rd., please pass the first driveway and turn left onto the second driveway. It will be one-way in and one-way out to keep parking orderly. Please park at an angle on the grass along the driveway and keep parking closest to the office building open for those with disabilities or unable to walk long distances.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

Epiphany Social Ministry was blessed during the month of March to serve God with you.

We were challenged by Pastor Gore to collect 500 lbs of food for Manna Food Bank and we collected and delivered 862. lbs. When God calls us to something.....HE provides! Thanks to all who shared in this wonderful blessing. LETS DO IT AGAIN in April.

Harland and Betty Bross will have their trunk open and ready on Sunday, April 9th. YES this is Easter but we can worship and serve on the same day.



Another amazing blessing was our collection of Books for the Prison Ministry.

Randy St. Louis's truck and the Dwyer's car was fully loaded with your offerings of Bibles, devotional books and many other books that will be offered to those in local jails and prisons. Again, thank you for cleaning off your bookshelves and thinking of our brothers and sisters who will benefit from your kindness.



Moving on to April. Manna collection on April 9th trunk to trunk. And April 16th we will receive your offerings of personal care items for a variety of ministries that serve men and women who need soap, shampoo, feminine products, razors etc. if you use these items.....they also can use them. Travel size as well as regular size products are needed. Marsha Suarez and Chris Davis will be available trunk to trunk as well as the collection boxes in the fellowship hall and then they will deliver to Waterfront Mission and Favor house.

We continue to collect eye glasses for Lions Club (May focus) and pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Containers for these are in the fellowship hall.

**SPRING CLEANING.** The offer from one of our members to come to your house for landfill items (he does not do the yard clean up, his offer is for removal) will end at the end of April. Collection of items to go to Teen Challenge will be an ongoing blessing. Please call Carole Dwyer 850 982-4085 to coordinate pick up times. No charge to you for this service unless the landfill charges and Carole will let you know the amount.

Our next Social Ministry meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on April 2nd. All are welcome to share your time and gifts in this ministry.

Serving HIM with you,  
Carole

## THRIVENT MEMBERS

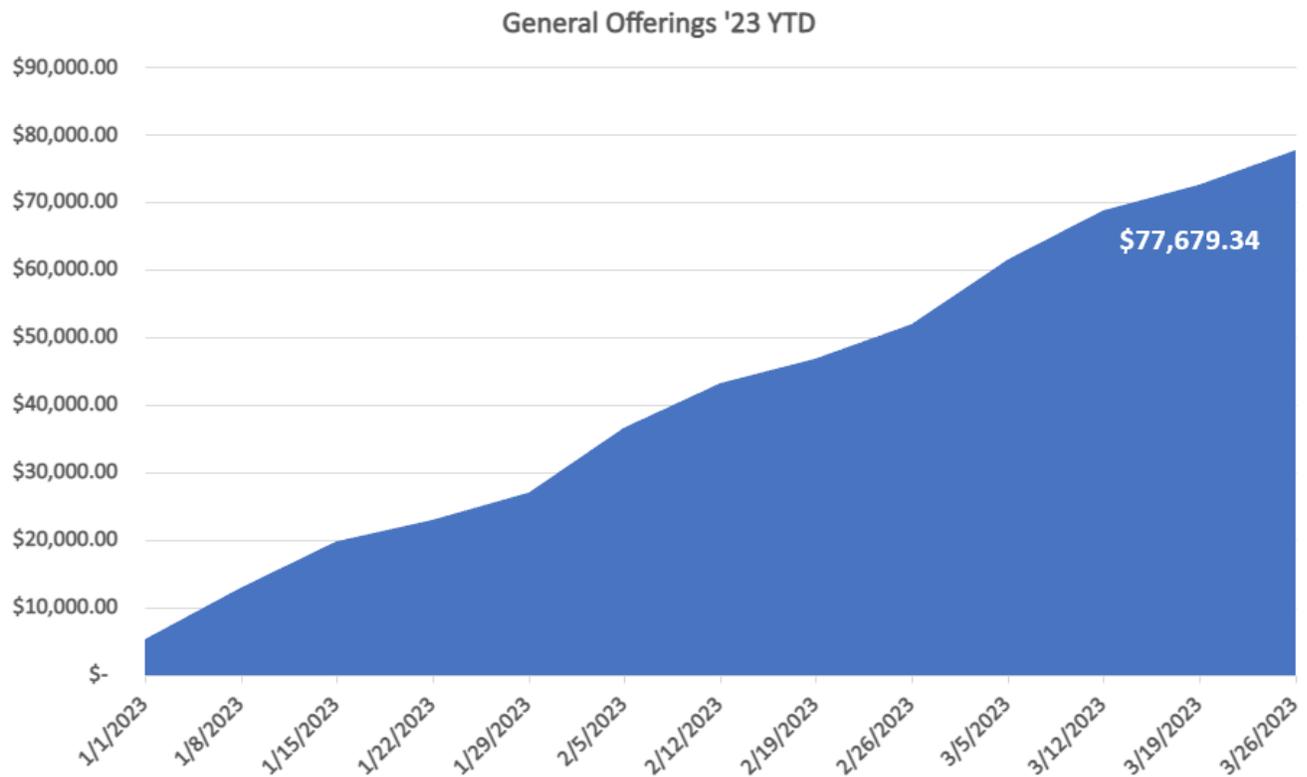
Calling all Thrivent members: Do you have an idea for a fundraiser? Are there concerns in our community you would like to obtain help for? Most important is that you have 2 opportunities during the year to help a project with \$250 in “seed money” (Thrivent’s money, not yours). Plant a seed and see how it grows! Social Ministry is always looking for new ideas in regard to fundraisers, educational events or a service activity. But we need the help of all our members to be successful.

Please let Carole Dwyer or Barbara Lenn know if you are a Thrivent member or have questions.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts. (Einstein).

## 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 (after tax filing season is over).

## 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.

## EASTER COOKIE RECIPE

### A Recipe for very special Easter cookies

These cookies are fun to try and also learn about Easter. Make these the night before Easter.

FIRST: Set eggs out to reach room temperature and PREHEAT oven to 300 degrees before you start mixing. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! You will need:

1c pecans	1 tsp. vinegar
3 egg whites	pinch of salt
1c sugar	1 Ziploc bag.
wooden spoon	Scotch tape
Bible	Electric mixer
Baking sheet	wax paper

PLACE pecans in a Ziploc bag and let the kids beat them with the wooden spoon until they are in small pieces. *Explain that after Jesus was arrested He was beaten by Roman soldiers (John 19:13).*

LET each child smell the vinegar. Put one teaspoon vinegar in the mixing bowl. *Explain that when Jesus was on the cross and He was thirsty, the soldiers gave Him vinegar to drink (John 19:28-30).*

ADD egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. *Explain that Jesus gave His life for us (John 10:10-11).*

SPRINKLE a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste the salt and brush the rest into the bowl. *Explain that this represents the salty tears that Jesus' followers shed and the bitterness of our own sin (Luke 23:27).*

SO far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add one cup of sugar. *Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died for us because He loves us. He wants us to know Him and belong to Him (Psalms 34:8 & John 3:16).*

BEAT ingredients on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks form. *Explain that the color white represents purity in God's eyes (Isaiah 1:18 & John 1:1-3).*

FOLD in broken nuts. Drop by rounded

teaspoons on to the wax paper which covers the baking sheet. *Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus was buried (Matthew 27:57-60).*

PUT cookies in the preheated oven and TURN OFF the oven. Give each child a piece of tape to seal the oven door shut. *Explain that the tomb of Jesus was sealed (Matthew 27:65-66).*

GO TO BED! *Explain that they may be sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed (John 16:20).*

ON EASTER MORNING open the oven door and give everyone a cookie. (Notice: the cookies have a cracked surface) Take a bite. The Easter cookies are hollow! *On the first day of Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Jesus is risen! (Matthew 28:1-9).*

Submitted by Heidi Lapmardo

## APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23 Ashland property	April 30
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Carole Dwyer	NA	Betty Bross	Wanda Gore	Brian Pascoe
LECTOR(S)	Pete Morgan	Stephen Clements	Suzanne Morgan	J.R. Lee	Regina Gibbons
USHERS	Eric Johnson Art Kimmel	John Ekstrom Harland Bross	Eddie Gibbons Randy St. Louis	Art Kimmel Chuck Glassmire	John Ekstrom Steve Meyer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Karen McCabe Marlene Cooper	Sidney Glassmire Audrey Tinsley	John & Brenda Ekstrom	Heidi Long Judith Lewing	Pete & Suzanne Morgan
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Fludgates	Randy St. Louis Betty Bross	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis Marliese Herrick	Randy St. Louis Regina Gibbons
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Regina Gibbons	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	Heid Long	Hospitality	Youth Sunday Marliese Herrick	Audrey Tinsley Karen Kaminska	Karen McCabe Marlene Cooper
CUP BEARERS	Grace Brooklyn	Grace John	Connor Lilly	Ethan Everlynn	John Grace

### 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**

### **Holy Week Schedule**

Palm Sunday            9:30 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday    6:00 p.m.  
Good Friday            6:00 p.m.

### **Easter Sunday**

**Sunrise Service of the Word    7:00 a.m.**  
(9176 Ashland Ave. property-bring your chairs)

**Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.**  
(Brit Ahm-Spanish Trail)  
*Easter Brunch to follow*

### **Mission Sunday-Bring food for Manna**

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

### **Personal Care (travel size) item collection**

April 16, 2023 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m. drop off

### **Newsletter Articles Due**

April 19, 2023

### **Worship and Picnic at New Property**

April 23, 2023 9:30 a.m. Worship-picnic to follow