

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Service at 9:30 am

Worshiping at:

6700 Spanish Trail, Pensacola, FL 32504 850-287-5667

Mailing Address:

1450 Old Chemstrand Rd.P.O. Box 999, Gonzalex, Fl 32560

Email: nalcofpensacola@gmail.com

Facebook: Epiphany Lutheran Church-

Pensacola, Fl

Church connect page:

epiphanypns.churchtrac.com





EPIPHANY PENSACOLA

March 2024 Newsletter

A congregation of the NALC



March 2024 Epiphany Lutheran Church



"Celebrating the Cross and Resurrection"

"The central event of the Christian faith is the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That unitive event of the cross and resurrection is the **core** of the apostolic preaching; it is also the **central** celebration of the church's liturgy. It is set forth in the Eucharist and in the daily prayer of morning and evening. It is the focus of the church year: Lent prepares for

it, and the great Fifty Days are a celebration of the mystery of redemption; Wednesday services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the fifty days are the proclamation and celebration of it. It is one event seen from two sides: Cross and Resurrection, each incomplete without the other."

Manual on the Liturgy, Lutheran Book of Worship

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that during Lent this year, you will take some time with God as we talked about on Ash Wednesday. We provided daily devotions for the congregation which we passed out before Lent. We've asked you to make a coin offering for mission outreach and Christian education. We've planned special sermon series for the Sunday and Wednesday services. We have provide the opportunity for everyone to rend their heart for Christ. *Joel 2:13* Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Perhaps you don't need to change anything that you are doing to spend time with God. On the other hand, perhaps you need to do things in your household that gives you time to reflect on your relationship with God. Can you do more? Can you make changes that are meaningful and lasting for the sake of Christ?

If you've never made the journey of Lent at church, I encourage you to come and experience the worship services. Not just the Sunday services. Yes, I am asking you to consider all the services provided by the church during Lent. Just because you've never done it before doesn't mean that you cannot do it now.

One of my confirmation students some years ago said it best for me, "I'm too busy with everything else and it is hard to have the time to do this." "This" being church. As I've said many times over, your choices dictate your time. I encourage you to participate in God's love through worship and render your hearts in a relationship with him. To repent is to turn away... I encourage the followers of Christ to turn away from the temporal and hold onto the eternal.

In His Service, 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2024		27	28	29	1 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	2
	4 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	5	6 2:00p Lent worship @ Ashland 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	7	8 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	9 Time change; set clocks ahead 1 hour
10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Mission Sunday 8:30a Manna food drive 9:30 Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Adult Sunday school 11:00a Kids' Sunday School	11 3:30p Praise group 4:30p Choir practice	Ashland-potluck	13 2:00p Lent worship @ Ashland 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr.	14 11:00a Council reports due	15 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	16 9:00a – 1:00p OUTDOOR MARKET!
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Kids' Sunday School 11:15a Adult Sunday school	18 3:30p Praise group 4:30p Choir practice	19 6:30p Executive Committee meeting via ZOOM		21	22 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland Office closed	23 9:00a – 1:00p OUTDOOR MARKET
9:30a Worship 10:30a Hospitality 11:00a Kids' Sunday School 11:15a Adult Sunday school	25 3:30p Praise group practice 4:30p Choir practice	26 11:00p SOLE @ McGuire's Irish Pub (RSVP by March 20)	27 6:30p Adult Bible Study in the clubhouse in the auditorium at Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Dr	6:00p Worship @ Brit-	29 11:30a Bell practice @ Ashland GOOD FRIDAY 2:00p/6:00p Worship @ Brit-Ahm Office closed	30 9:00a – 1:00p OUTDOOR MARKET!
31 EASTER 7:00a Worship @ Ashland 9:30a Worship @ Brit-Ahm 10:30a Hospitality		Admin. hours: Monda	y -Wednesday, 9 a.m3	3:30 p.m., Thursday,	9a.mNoon unless	otherwise noted.



Sunday 9:30 Services at Brit Ahm

Mar. 3rd Sermon Title: "Feeling alone" "My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

Mar. 10th Sermon Title: "I Thirst" "After this, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled saith, I thirst." (John 19:28)

Mar. 17th Sermon Title: "It is Finished" "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

Mar. 24th Sermon Title: "Trusting in God" "Father, into thy hands I commend

my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Mar. 31st Easter Morning 7:00 am at Ashland (depending on construction)

9:30 am at Brit Ahm

DATES TO REMEMBER

FLOWER ORDERS – LILIES AND HYDRANGEAS

Sunday, March 3 – Sunday, March 24

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING

Sunday, March 3 @ 11:30a

LENT WORSHIP SERVICE @ ASHLAND

Wednesday, March 6 @ 2:00p Wednesday, March 13 @ 2:00p Wednesday, March 20 @ 2:00p

MISSION SUNDAY – MANNA

Sunday, March 10 @ 8:30a

FAITH CIRCLE - POTLUCK

Tuesday, March 12 @ 11:00am

COUNCIL REPORTS DUE

Thursday, March 14

THE OUTDOOR MARKET at EPIPHANY

Saturday, March 16, 8:00a – 1:00p

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 19 @ 6:30p via ZOOM

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Wednesday, March 20

SOLE

Tuesday, March 26 @ 11:00a @ McGuire's Irish Pub; RSVP by March 20

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 28 @ 6:00p (Brit-Ahm)

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, March 29 @ 2:00p and 6:00p (Brit-Ahm)

EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, March 31: 7:00a Worship @ Ashland 9:30a Worship @ Brit-Ahm



E-MAIL UPDATE**

As part of our Social Media upgrades coming in 2024, we're upgrading our e-mail services for the staff and Church Council at Epiphany. Here are the new e-mail addresses effective January 1, 2024.



STAFF

Pastor Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore pastor@epiphanypensacola.org officemgr@epiphanypensacola.org Office Manager Kim McCormick deacong@epiphanypensacola.org Parish Deacon Deacon Glenn traditionalworship@epiphnaypensacola.org **Traditional Worship** Kelly Koontz contemporaryworship@epiphanypensacola.org **Contemporary Worship Donna Busarow** Office Asst. Brenda Ekstrom officeasst@epiphanypensacola.org Off. Asst./Bookkeeper bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org Sara-Margaret Seevers

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President president@epiphanypenscola.org Pete Morgan vicepresident@epiphanypensacola.org Vice President Paul Herrick Secretary Regina Gibbons secretary@epiphanypensacola.org treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org Treasurer Ken Busarow finsec@epiphanypensacola.org Fin. Secretary Judie Cox co-finsec@epiphanypensacola.org Co-Fin. Secretary Valerie Creedon

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Worship & Music Kathie Shoff-Norem worship@epipheanypensacola.org
Social Ministry Rod Dwyer socialministry@epiphanypensacola.org
Hospitality Suzanne Morgan hospitality@epiphanypensacola.org
Mutual Ministry Harland Bross mutualministry@epiphanypensacola.org

Prayer Requests
Tech Support

Facebook Support

prayerrequest@epiphanypensacola.org
support@epiphanypensacola.org
facebook@epiphanypensacola.org

The Outdoor Market at Epiphany

Epiphany Lutheran Church 9176 Ashland Ave, Pensacola, FL 32534



The "Outdoor Market at Epiphany" begins March 16, 2024, 9a - 1p

"The Outdoor Market @ Epiphany" is a family friendly event where locals come together to buy and sell from local farmers/vendors. All items will be locally made, locally grown and locally crafted by locals. Local means within 50 miles. Items such as fresh eggs, milk, meat, produce, trees, honey, farm animals/puppies (UPON APPROVAL), homemade goodies, art, jewelry, bakery



goods, crafts, soaps, crocheted items, fresh cut flowers, gourmet keto coffee, etc... Produce vendors are allowed to source their produce from other farmers within 50 miles.



Since our Market meets on church grounds, we ask that all products sold are respectful of the church's religious preferences. Vendors will be asked to put away any products that do not comply with these standards. To maintain the family friendly environment that we promote, we also hold the right to ask any vendor to remove a

product from their table that is not family friendly.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Did you know you have FREE MONEY for projects at Epiphany? If you have a policy, no matter the size, with Thrivent you are eligible to do two Action Team projects per year. These projects can be used to increase the ministry of our church. Each project can have \$250.00 used toward the proposed project. All you have to do is go online to Thrivent and fill out the application.

If you need help Brenda Ekstrom, in the church office, can set up an appointment for you to come to the office and help you fill out the application or Deacon Glenn will come to your home and assist you in filling out the grant application.

Once again it costs you nothing but a few minutes of your time. And with two annual projects, a total of up to \$500.00 could be used to increase the outreach of Epiphany Church.

Please contact the office and find out how you can expand the mission of Epiphany.

Thanks

In His Service
Deacon Glenn

COMMITTEE NEWS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENTURE!

Children's Sunday School in February was a special month of "love." Our Bible stories about Jonah, Stephen, Thomas and Peter taught us that we can trust God because He loves us and will never forsake us. We completed our study of biblical characters in our "Discover How to Pray" book. It was an exciting adventure into the lives of over 20 biblical characters who had faith in God and never stopped paying. A few of our favorite adventures were with



Balaam and his talking donkey, Daniel in the Lion's den and Jonah in the belly of a whale.

In March, we look forward to discovering many more biblical adventures using our new book "Adventure Bible Storybook." It will be our guide through our "NIV Adventure Bible". The Pre-K children will be using the "Sparkle Storybook" designed for their developmental level. Our program is working well with separating the ages (Pre-k through K) and (1st through 5) for Bible study from 11:00 to 11:30 and coming back together from 11:30 to 12:00 for related bible story crafts, songs, games, scripture memorization, worksheets to take home and receiving their Luther Bucks It has been a lot of fun play bible story bingo and winning prizes.

The children are looking forward to March 24th when our next Epiphany Treasure Chest will be opened in the hospitality area. They will spend their "Luther Bucks" they earned by participating in various Sunday School activities. There are many exciting things to choose. We are also looking forward to having a youth lead worship service on May 12, 2024. The children will also continue to participate in the worship service one time per month to recite a memory verse or song and a member of the Christian Education team will do the children's sermon with them.

It is a blessing for us to provide an exciting Sunday School Adventure for the children. We are looking forward to more children participating in Sunday School. Parents are welcome to come with their Pre-K children. We appreciate the parents that are coming now. Thank you!

If you would like more information or have questions, please see: Donna Busarow, Karen McCabe or Marlene Cooper

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith will meet March 12th at 11:00 a.m. at Ashland property. We will continue to watch and discuss The Chosen. Bring your bibles.

We will be having a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite salad or dish of your choice to share. Plates, utensils etc. will be provided.

As always it is my pleasure to study and fellowship with this wonderful group of women.

Peace, Wanda

FLOWER GUILD

"For as the soil makes the sprout to come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." Isaiah61:11

In six weeks the Lenten Journey will end with an empty tomb. Easter Sunday is a most joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection! Let us once again surround the altar with beautiful Easter lilies and hydrangeas. The price for lilies will be \$20 and hydrangeas will be \$30. Orders will begin on Sunday, March 3 and will be due by Sunday, March 24.

God's blessings, Carleen Bragan

SOLE

Lunch for March will be at McGuire's Irish Pub, 600 E Gregory St on Tuesday, March 26 at 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Alice (call or text 850-860-0368) by March 20 so the headcount can be confirmed with the restaurant. **All seniors are welcome**

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Ronald McDonald ministry collected and delivered 7pounds and 3 ounces of pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald house. This amounts to approximately 8,869 tabs. But the greatest news of all so far is that Epiphany surpassed the goal of at least 700 pounds of food donated to Manna Food Pantry during their "souper bowl" drive! Epiphany Lutheran Church donated 935 pounds of food which will provide 1,083 healthy meals.







As another ministry project, we have decided to provide coin folders for those who want to participate during Lent. Every day in Lent gets a quarter put it in its slot in the folder. At the end of Lent, the money will be donated to Camp Happy Sands, as well as our own Christian education department here at Epiphany.

On a personal note, Jeremy and I are excited to be working with the Social Ministry committee. We hope to be able to lead the committee, with God's help, into an exciting adventure serving the community around us.

Submitted by Dianne Ledkins, Chairperson Social Ministry Committee

HOSPITALITY

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

March is historically known as a "windy" month, along with the pollen. It also is a time to prepare for Spring, and this year, Easter. Just as the winds are blowing, this year is breezing by at a fast pace. But as we heard in the Ash Wednesday Service, we need to slow down a bit, reflect on our spiritual health and how we are serving God and glorifying his Son, Jesus, who gave it all for us.

In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day, the month of Love, but isn't every month a celebration of Love? As the scripture above notes, "the greatest of these is Love". Let us focus and pray on just that for the Lent season and Easter. Remembering Christ gave it ALL for us!

Our Team hopes everyone enjoyed the "Valentine's Day" treat of brownies and strawberries, provided by our team members, Faye Robinson, Marsha Suarez, Bill and Bonnie Baggett, and John Ekstrom. Thanks to all! In addition, we welcomed Linda Bartlett as our Host for the day. This was her first time serving and I must say I believe she enjoyed it and received a blessing in serving others. Thank you Linda!



We give thanks and praise for the opportunity to celebrate Ms. Millie's 103 birthday on February 25th. Thanks to everyone who participated and made this a fun event.

Easter Sunday we will be serving Brunch after worship at the Synagogue. Donations are appreciated, however there is no charge to join us. Please see Brenda if you would like to assist in helping. There are many ways to assist; providing refreshments, serving, setting up or cleaning up. We look forward to serving our congregation on this special day!

As always, it is still a JOY and HONOR to serve in God's House at Epiphany!

God's Peace, *Brenda*

MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Executive Secretary: Regina Gibbons



Regina was born and raised in Macon, Georgia. She has an older brother, Ron, and a younger sister, Rene,' who still reside there. Regina was a waitress and a bartender most of her life, and lived in Atlanta, Georgia for seven years prior to moving to Pensacola, FL in 1987. Regina put herself back in school at Pensacola Junior College in 1988. On July 4, 1989, Regina married Eddie Gibbons at St. Paul Lutheran Church. In 1990 Regina graduated with honors from Pensacola Junior College and achieved an Associate of Science degree in Management. Regina attended the University of West Florida beginning in August 1990. On September 14, 1991, Crystal Gibbons was born at West Florida Hospital. in 1995, Regina graduated with honors from the University of West Florida and achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing.

Regina worked at the Pensacola News Journal from 1995 to 2002 in advertising sales and was the top sales executive for three years.

On December 11, 1997, Regina and Eddie gave birth to twin boys Eddie and Donnie. Regina started her career in call center work in 2003 at The West Corporation. After three years she moved her career to American Water as a Quality Service Specialist. After seven years, Regina moved her career to Navy Federal Credit Union as an Account Service Specialist. She quickly moved up to Credit Card Servicing, to Team Coach, to currently a Resolution and phone Supervisor. Regina plans to retire from Navy Federal Credit Union when she reaches the age of seventy, lord willing.

Regina has volunteered at Church for various positions over the years and enjoys serving the Lord with our congregation. Regina was a Sunday school teacher for kindergarten through fifth grade for approximately five years. She really enjoyed working with the children and watching them grow in their faith in the Lord.

Regina was Director of the Social Ministry Committee from 2015 to 2023. She collaborated with the congregation on various projects for many organizations. One example is "God's Work, Our Hands," an organized quarterly clean up at cemeteries and parks in our area. She organized donations of toiletries to the Waterfront Rescue Mission, Eyeglasses to the Lion's Club, books to the "Books for Prisoners," pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald house, beach items for Camp Happy Sands, and the "Tree of Warmth" in December, with donations to homeless shelters and help organizations throughout the community. In 2023 Regina turned over the Social Ministry Director position to Carole Dwyer.

Regina was asked to take over as Director of the Oktoberfest Committee in 2015. Our congregation had a 3-day fund raising event, every year, which was a nightmare to manage. Regina used the current raffle ticket idea, her previous restaurant experience, and the help of the congregation, to reorganize the 3-day event into a 4-hour event. The congregation has enjoyed the event over the past years, and it has been easier to maintain. Epiphany Lutheran Church has changed the name of the event to "Fall Fest." We had our first annual Fall Fest in November 2023. The Fall Fest committee looks forward to collaborating with the congregation to continue this tradition and welcomes all suggestions on ongoing improvements.

Regina currently works in the nursery at Epiphany Lutheran Church and fills in for Ally when she is out.

Regina also serves as Executive Secretary for the Church Council. She is responsible for recording the minutes of all the council, congregational, and executive committee meetings.

In her spare time Regina loves spending time with her four grandchildren, playing at the beach or in the pool, listening to live music and chasing zip lines for fun. She has experienced zip lines in the Smokey Mountains, in Tennessee., Bear Mountain, in Virginia., The Highlands Mountains, in North Carolina., The Hummingbird, in Alabama., & Adventures Unlimited in Florida. Her favorite so far is the Smokey Mountains. Regina loves going to bands on the beach with her friends from Epiphany and looks forward to the summer 2024.

Highlights from the 2024 Clergy Retreat

Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando | Lake Buena Vista, Florida





MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Maundy Thurs and Good Friday on next page

	MAR 3	MAR 10	MAR 17	MAR 24	MAR 31 9:30 A.M.
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Carole Dwyer	Art Kimmel	Carlo Canapa	John Ekstrom	N/A
LECTOR(S)	John Walker	Steve Meyer	Ron Davis	Art Kimmel	Pete Morgan
USHERS	Eddie Gibbons Randy St. Louis	Steve Meyer Rob Krauss	John Ekstrom Harland Bross	Eric Johnson Art Kimmel	John Ekstrom Harland Bross Chuck Glassmire
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Alice Fludgate Audrey Tinsley	Kim McCormick Judith Lewing	Karen McCabe Heidi Long	Camille Kimmel Shelly Johnson	Casey McAllister Wanda Gore
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis Audrey Tinsley	Randy St. Louis Kaminska's	Randy St. Louis Faye Robinson	Randy St. Louis The Davis'	Randy St. Louis Casey McAllister
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	Shelly Johnson *Linda Bartlett	Judy Rothdeutsch *Melanie & Brooklyn Gorday	Youth Sunday *Bonnie Baggett	Bonnie & Bill Baggett *Jane Krauss	Hospitality Easter Brunch
CUP BEARERS	Leighton Marchant Brooklyn Gorday	John Reitmire Ethan Oomens	Grace Busarow Everlynn Harvey	Leighton Marchant Brooklyn Gorday	John Reitmire Ethan Oomens

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!

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS Continued

	MAR 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY (6P)	MAR 29 GOOD FRIDAY (2P)	MAR 29 GOOD FRIDAY (6P)
ASSISTING MINISTERS	N/A	N/A	N/A
LECTOR(S)	Jim Cooper	Brenda Ekstrom	Casey McAllister Stephen Clements Sharon Livingston Rob Krauss Karen McCabe Rod Dwyer Art Kimmel
USHERS	Chuck Glassmire Harland Bross	Randy St. Louis Paul Herrick	Chuck Glassmire Harland Bross
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Kim McCormick Karen McCabe	No Communion	No Communion
PORTICO GREETERS	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis	Randy St. Louis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett	Ali Baggett
FLOWER GUILD	Flower Guild	Flower Guild	Flower Guild
HOSPITALITY HOST	N/A	N/A	N/A
CUP BEARERS	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ways to Give

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

One more 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. https://epiphanypns.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

Ken Busarow – Treasurer <u>treasurer@epiphanypensacola.org</u>

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.

OFFERING TOTAL (YTD)



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Sara Seevers will be compiling the newsletter. Newsletter articles for April are due March 20. Please send all articles for the next newsletter to Sara at **bookkeeper@epiphanypensacola.org** by March 20. If you have any questions, please contact the office.