

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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January 2023



God the Creator
who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior
who is born for you,
and the lifegiving Spirit
who shines on you,
bless you and keep you
in hope and peace.

Sundays and Seasons



***“Follow Christ, Live Faithfully,
Serve All”***

General Information



We are an active church with friendly people who are journeying with God through Jesus Christ. Come join us!

For more information, please call us at 770-483-6222, email us at staff@conyerselc.org or visit our website www.conyerselc.org.

Sunday Morning Activities

Sunday Adult Forum - 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service is also streamed live via Facebook and the Epiphany YouTube pages

Weekly Online Devotion

Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.

via Facebook Live on the Epiphany Facebook page



DEADLINE!

Sunday, January 22, is the deadline for information to be submitted for the February newsletter. You can email your news to the church office at staff@conyerselc.org.
Thank You!

OFFICE HOURS: Please note that the church office hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, until further notice (except for adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances).

4 Ways to Give ...

- ✓ Bring with you to worship service on Sundays.
- ✓ Mail in your contribution to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 2375 GA Hwy. 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013.
- ✓ Click on the DONATE tab on our web page at www.conyerselc.org
- ✓ Consider automatic giving. You can contact the church office to find out how to set this up.

From Pastor Nyahaley

Dear Epiphany Lutheran Church Family,

Happy New Year! It's a new year and the beginning of new things. But for me it's not only about the beginning of new things, but the end of one great journey. It is coming to the end of my journey here with you and I am full of emotions. It won't be goodbyes, but "Till we meet again."

I started my journey here with you in September of 2018 as an intern and was uncomfortable as I was not sure what that meant for me – I honestly felt like it was a setup for failure. But as I said in my very first sermon, "In order to expand your comfort zone, you must be willing to be uncomfortable." Well, I am not sure I was willing to be uncomfortable, but I know I was pushed into being uncomfortable and that was the only choice I had and dealt with it.

After, a year of internship, I was grateful that you called me as your Associate Pastor and granted me the opportunity to be ordained and serve you in that capacity for 2 years. Even though we struggled with the uncertainties of the COVID 19 pandemic, we were able to pull through and continue to find our way.

Today, as I look back and think of all the opportunities, I have had working alongside you, I am so humbled and thankful. I have been truly blessed by your kindness, your generosity, and your prayers as I have journeyed through ministry thus far. I am undeserving, and at the same time, I am extremely grateful. In many ways you have molded me for what lies ahead of me in my next chapter in ministry. I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed serving in ministry together with you.

Again, I have been pushed into another uncomfortable situation. It caught me by surprise when the opportunity was presented to me, but I knew that it was time to move on and once again expand my comfort zone. All the feelings that I thought had gone when I first came to Epiphany, have come rushing back to me and I am not sure how to emote those feelings. I am not sure what God is preparing me for, but I know God is with me, and all I can say is, "Here I am Lord".

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that seasons come and go: in nature, in our lives and in churches. Each season serves a purpose and leaves well-prepared soil for the next season's work. Whatever God has planted in me by serving you, I am sure has prepared me for my next journey in ministry.

Amongst all else, I am leaving knowing that we have built relationships that are important to me; and I am blessed by your faith and love. We have laughed, wept, mourned, and prayed together. We have shared, Baptisms, Confirmations, Communion, fellowship, and Funerals. You made me feel at home and welcomed me into your homes. You received my strengths and have been patient with my flaws. You have embraced me as a non-singing pastor and my love for dancing and made fun of my dislike of cold weather. You stuck by me this past summer as Pastor David was on sabbatical and for that I am grateful. It is hard to say goodbye, but I can settle with "Till we meet again".

For those of you who do not know what my next call is: I have been called by the Southeastern Synod and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Atlanta as Senior Pastor/Mission Developer. In the past couple of years this congregation has suffered a tremendous decline in membership and spiritual growth as a cause of unstable leadership as well as effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the small group of dedicated members, who are left, believe that with a strong, faithful leadership, they can rebuild. Therefore, I ask for your prayers as I take on this journey.

(continued on next page)

Congregation News & Activities

In closing, let me remind you that, Jesus loves you. God treasures your hearts. God has a mission for each of our lives, and an adventure to which He invites us. Open your hearts and receive the glory of God and be prepared to say, “Yes Lord, here I am”. Jesus is inviting you into a dynamic adventure and journey with Him. Let’s all begin 2023 by turning our hearts to Him and listening to what He says. Invite your life into His, take that walk with Him and let Him be your priority.

Thank you so much for allowing me the honor to serve you. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year and spend my final couple of weeks sharing more laughs and building more memories with you. – Till we meet again.

In Christ,
Pastor Nyahaley Labor
Associate Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Celebrating Pastor Nyahaley

As many of you already know, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Atlanta voted to call Pastor Nyahaley as their pastor, beginning on Sunday, January 29. Her last Sunday with us will be Sunday, January 22.

Though we celebrate her new call, we all will miss her presence and her ministry here. She has truly blessed Epiphany for the past three years, and we know that Emmanuel will be blessed with the gifts that she brings, the personality she shines, and the faith that she shares.

To celebrate her, we will be having a luncheon for her, following the worship service on January 22. We invite you to bring a dish that represents your culture. As Pastor Nyahaley’s culture has enriched ours, let us share how all of our cultures enrich us all.

~ Pastor David

*Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.*

Matt. 6:21

My Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Offering envelopes for 2023 are now available in the narthex. Please don’t forget to pick yours up when you come to the church.

Congregation News & Activities

What is the Apocrypha? Or Why do the Catholics Have Extra Books in Their Bible? Adult Class for January/February 2022

Did you know that Martin Luther had seven extra books in his Old Testament than we do (and that the Roman Catholics still do)? Did you know that the books of Esther and Daniel are longer in the Catholic Bible than ours?

Some of us have heard about what we call “The Apocrypha.” Some of us may even have study Bibles that include these books and additions in a separate section. But what is in these books? What do they say? Why are they no longer in our Bibles? And do they have something to say to us today? Come join us at 9 am on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall as we explore these different books.

January 8, 2023	<i>Introduction to the Apocrypha: Additions to Esther</i>
January 15, 2023	<i>Tobit</i>
January 22, 2023	<i>Judith</i>
January 29, 2023	<i>1 & 2 Maccabees</i>
February 5, 2023	<i>Wisdom and Sirach</i>
February 12, 2023	<i>Baruch</i>
February 19, 2023	<i>Additions to Daniel</i>

Women’s Bible Study for 2022-2023 Our Liturgy and Forgotten New Testament Books

We invite all women to join us for the women’s Bible study. This year we will alternate themes for each month. First, we will look at the different parts of our worship service and the scriptural foundations for them. Second, we will look at the short books of the New Testament that are often overlooked. Bible study will occur on the following dates at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 4-6:

Tuesday, January 10, 2023	THE LECTONARY Texts: John 6:66-69; Joel 2:12-14
Tuesday, February 7, 2023	2/3 JOHN
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	THE CREED(S) Text: Romans 10:8-13
Tuesday, April 4, 2023	JUDE/2 PETER
Tuesday, May 2, 2023	COMMUNION Texts: Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:6-11; John 1:29-36

Congregation News & Activities



Friday, January 6th - 7:00 p.m.
Epiphany of Our Lord Service
with Holy Communion

** Burning of the greens will follow the service **



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

*Pastor David leads a discussion
on the upcoming Sunday's lessons.*



Annual Congregational Meeting Part II

Sunday, January 29

The annual congregational meeting, part II, will convene on Sunday, January 29, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



Feeding and fellowship functions are heading back toward normal. Soup and Sandwich (with desserts, of course) suppers were held on Wednesday evenings during the four weeks of Advent. The attendance was fairly constant, averaging 25. Of some surprise and certainly pleasant to see, this year the number of attendees at the worship services after the meals was higher than it was for the meals. That has not always been the case, but we were glad to see it.

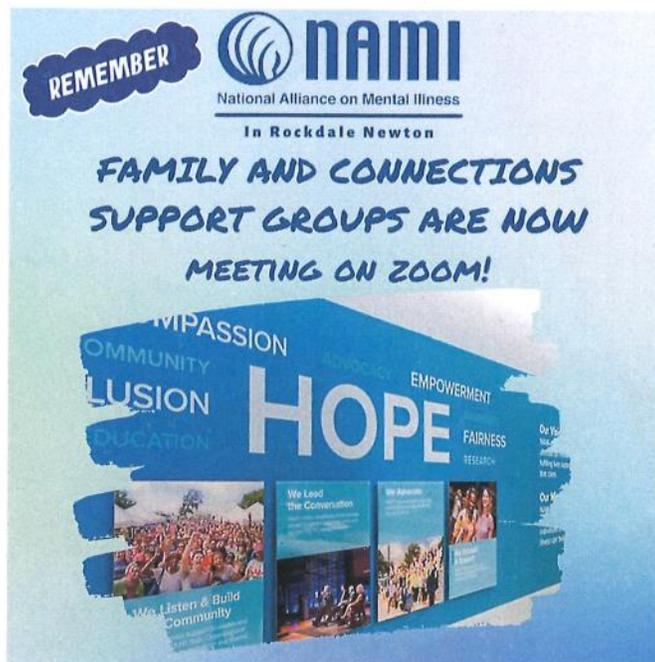
Plans are being laid for at least one pot luck dinner during the month of January. Unfortunately for us, in case you have not heard, but of great good fortune for her, Pastor Nyahaley has accepted a call to serve another church in Atlanta and will be leaving us near the end of January. In honor of that situation, we are planning another pot luck of ethnic foods. Please dust off your cookbooks and scratch your heads to come up with a typical ethnic food for your family to share with us all. When we did the same in August, it was a tremendous success with a fantastic selection of foods from around the world.

Also in January we will be holding the second half of our annual meeting. Depending a bit on the weather, we will possibly have another food and fellowship function. More on the specific dates for these two gatherings will be announced in the near future. Keep eyes & ears open.

We will meet again as the Fellowship Committee on January 10th at 11:00 am in the Library. Come and join us as we lay out plans for 2023.

Bill Schroeder, Chair

Congregation News & Activities



NAMI Rockdale Newton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NAMI Family and Connections Support Group Meeting
Time: Reoccurring Every 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85462985378>
Meeting ID: 854 6298 5378

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)	+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)	+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)	+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)	

[Join Us On Zoom](#)

NAMI Georgia offers a non-crisis HelpLine that can provide information about resources for persons with mental illnesses and their family members in Georgia. We can provide information on NAMI programs, community services, education, support groups, and peer support. Our operators are not trained to provide counseling, nor emergency services for those in crisis. We are not a suicide hotline. If you are in a crisis situation, please call 911 to receive emergency support. Request that a CIT officer be sent if one is available.

HelpLine Number: 770-408-0625

HelpLine is available Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm. Please leave a message if a resource specialist is not available and you will receive a callback as soon as possible. You may also reach the HelpLine by email at helpline@namiga.org. Please leave a phone number if you would like to be contacted by telephone.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6 Anna Beaucher | 26 Gordon Hall, Jr. |
| Nelson Kelly | Kristen Shead |
| 8 Donald Holcomb | Anita Smith |
| Don Norton | 27 Linda Machansky |
| 9 Joy White | Aaron Pyatt |
| 13 Sharon Ard | Kaitlyn Weber |
| Christopher Harper | 28 Margaret Hill |
| Robert Hooson | Sirrah Muckle |
| 15 Stephen White | 29 Reed Lawrence |
| 17 Arline Chapman | Marshall Taplin, III |
| Todd Hefner | 30 Sharon Skinner |
| Mary Owen | |
| 20 Jean Sullivan | |
| 22 Phillipe Dawson | |
| 24 Randall Pate | |



	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Heather Moore	4	20
Stephen & Joy White	18	26

Did we miss announcing your birthday, anniversary or special event? If so, please email the church office at staff@conyerselc.org so that we may update our records. Thank you!

Altar Flowers 2023

Calendars will be posted in the Narthex soon so that you may sign up for a date that you would like to honor a family member, friend, or to give glory to God. You will be able to purchase one flower arrangement for \$25.00. We will only have altar flowers present if they are purchased by a congregation member. Call the church office at 770-483-6222 if you have any questions.

