

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

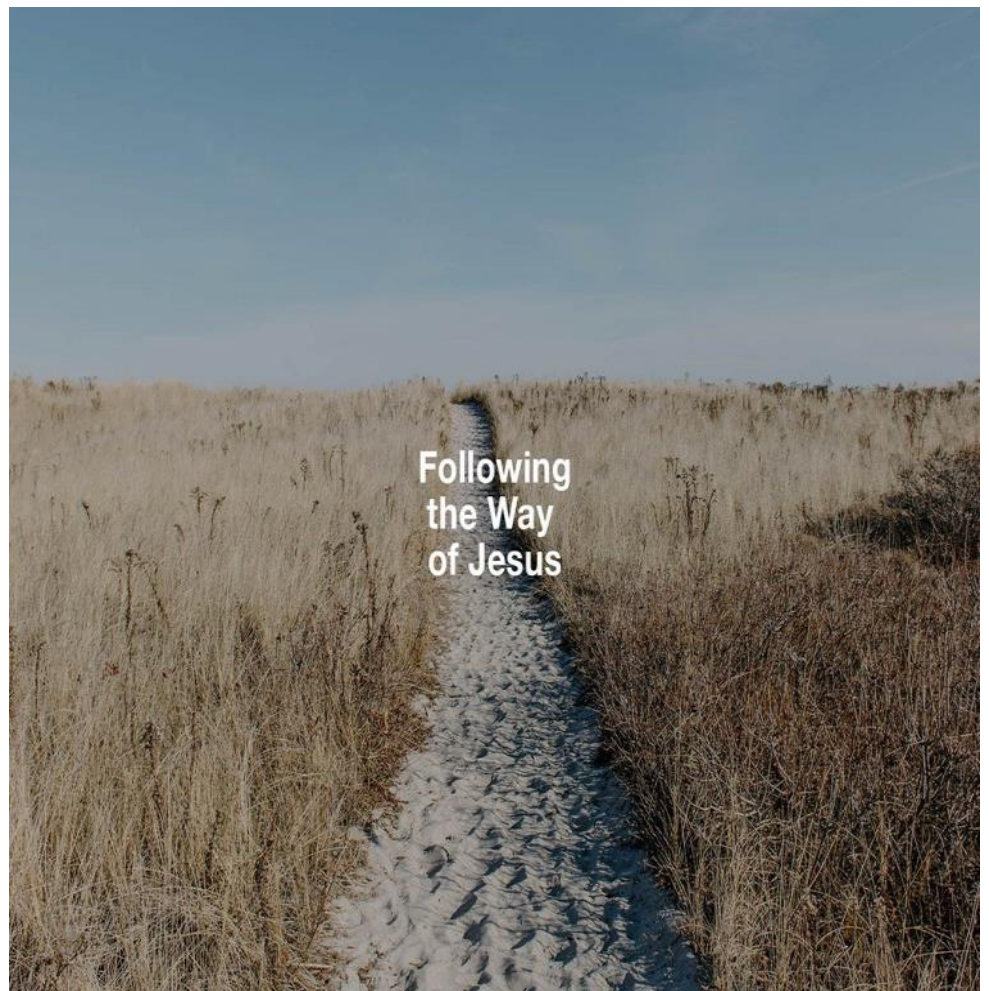
Epiphany's Epistle



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May 2023



***“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, May 28, is the deadline for information to be submitted for the June 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.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day



From Pastor David

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

As we began this new year, I spoke of how we are centered this year on the theme:

Following the Way of Jesus

In this Easter season, we emphasize the theme of “Living the Way” as we explore what a new life in Christ means for us. We explore what the resurrection means for us as individuals and as a church. We remember that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so we have been raised to new life.

We often think of the resurrection only in terms of the future. We know that as Jesus was raised from the dead, so we all will be raised at the end of time. We know that in Jesus we have the promise that death is conquered. The promise that Jesus said to the thief on the cross is a promise to us: “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

And these promises all are true. But we limit the power of the resurrection if we think about it for a life hereafter. The power of the resurrection comes with its promise of a life that begins here and continues after.

Paul connects the resurrection with the promises made in our baptism: “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

Resurrection as newness of life means that we are not bound by our past any longer. We are not bound by sin any longer. We are not bound by those habitual patterns that held us back. We are not bound by the despair that we feel. All that is put to death through our baptism in the death of Jesus.

Resurrection as newness of life means that we are opened to God’s future. We are opened to a life lived in grace and forgiveness. We are opened to new paths that lead to growth and wholeness. We are opened to hope, to justice, to peace, to love. As God raised Jesus, so God raises us to live in the Reign of God which God wishes to take hold of this earth.

So as we continue through these final weeks of Easter, let us together seek how God wishes to live among us. Let us declare with Paul: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 1:19-20) Let us make our prayer and desire in this Easter season:

“Christ, Our Life, Raise Us.”

And then as we move forward in this life, let us be open to the ways of the Spirit, the Spirit who came to the disciples at Pentecost and who wishes to sweep through us now as well.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor David

**Have you ever wondered about the stories
behind our hymns?
Come join us Sundays
at 9 a.m.
to learn more!**

FELLOWSHIP

The seasons of soup and sandwich suppers followed by worship services are now behind us for the rest of the church year. They will likely be resumed when Advent season comes around again. During the Lenten season, we had five such gatherings with an average participation of 27 persons fed with some fantastic food offerings and 30 gathering for worship. The weather was a bit less than ideal on two of the Wednesday evenings or the numbers may have been just a bit higher.



Since Fellowship's last Epistle entry we have had two more funeral receptions; one for a non-member, Hoyt Dunn who was married to a member, Jan. That reception served a total of 57 and the majority of them were persons who worshiped on a golf course rather than at a church. The last reception served nearly 100 who gathered to remember and celebrate Mike Lanier. At both of those gatherings there was an ample amount of food and that which was not consumed was taken away, either by the donor or in to-go boxes which someone had donated months ago.

Current plans are to begin game nights in May – keep watch for announcements – which will provide more fellowship than food, but there will be drinks and snacks of some kind. At our next meeting, May 9th at 9:00 am in the library, the committee will be discussing what might transpire in the summer months. Come join us and share your thoughts.

Bill Schroeder
Doris Webb

GAME NIGHT

**All ages are welcome to join us for Game Night!
Wednesday, May 3, 6-8 p.m.
Please bring your favorite snack to share.**

Congregation News & Activities

Women's Bible Study ***Our Liturgy and Forgotten New Testament Books***

We invite all women to join us for final Women's Bible Study of this series on Tuesday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m. in rooms 4-6. The topic for this session will be:

COMMUNION

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:6-11; John 1:29-36



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

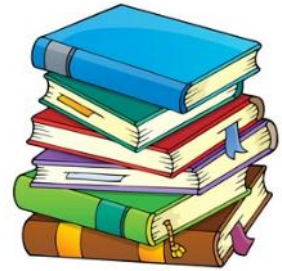
Thursday Mornings
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

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

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet at the church on Tuesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Giver of Stars" by JoJo Moyes. Our hostess and discussion leader will be Joy White. All women of Epiphany are welcome to join us. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or email her at evbrown56@gmail.com.

~ Evelyn Brown



Social Ministry

We had 60 seed packets sent off to Kentucky for the spring planting season. Thanks to all who donated to this effort.



All the gift bags for our donations to Project Renewal are ready to be delivered for Mother's Day.

The egg hunt at Elks Aidemore was a great success. We had 17 girls join in the fun. See the thank you letter on the next page and the thank you notes from some of the girls on the board in the Narthex.

A big thank you from the Social Ministry team for all your donations. We are so grateful for your generous support of this outreach ministry.

~ Evelyn Brown

Congregation News & Activities



AIDMORE, INC.

Corporate Office
2394 Morrison Road
Conyers, GA 30094
770 483 3535

105 N. Pentz Street
Dalton, GA 30720
706 529 9830

132 Stephenson Ave.
Suite 102
Savannah, GA 31405
912 200 3685

3312-A N. Oak Street Ext.
Valdosta, GA 31605
229 244 3020

April 3, 2023

Epiphany Lutheran Church
c/o Evelyn Brown
2375 Highway 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013

Dear Members,

On behalf of our youth and staff, please accept our appreciation for spending time with our young ladies and doing an egg hunt for them. These expressions of confidence in the program are always a source of encouragement to us.

Generous contributions, like this one, makes it possible for us to strengthen and develop programs that help young people, and their families heal their hearts, restore their hopes, and rebuild their lives.

Thanks again for your continued support of Elks Aidmore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickey Hale".

Vickey Hale, Ph.D., MSW
Chief Executive Officer

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Elks Aidmore, Inc. is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue.



A Service Project of the Elks Lodge of Georgia
A Fraternal Organization





REFUGECONYERS.ORG/BABYBOTTLE



Fill a Bottle WITH CHANGE, CASH, OR A CHECK AND Change ^{THE} Life ^{OF A FAMILY IN YOUR COMMUNITY!}

The Refuge Center's annual Baby Bottle Campaign will begin on Sunday, May 14 (Mothers' Day) and end on Sunday, June 18 (Fathers' Day). If you would like to participate, pick up a bottle in the narthex beginning May 14 and return the bottle on June 18. All donations are greatly appreciated.



The Refuge Center, which is 100% community supported, has served over 65,000 clients since they opened their doors in 1984 and have provided, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material needs assistance, parenting classes and so much more...all free of charge.

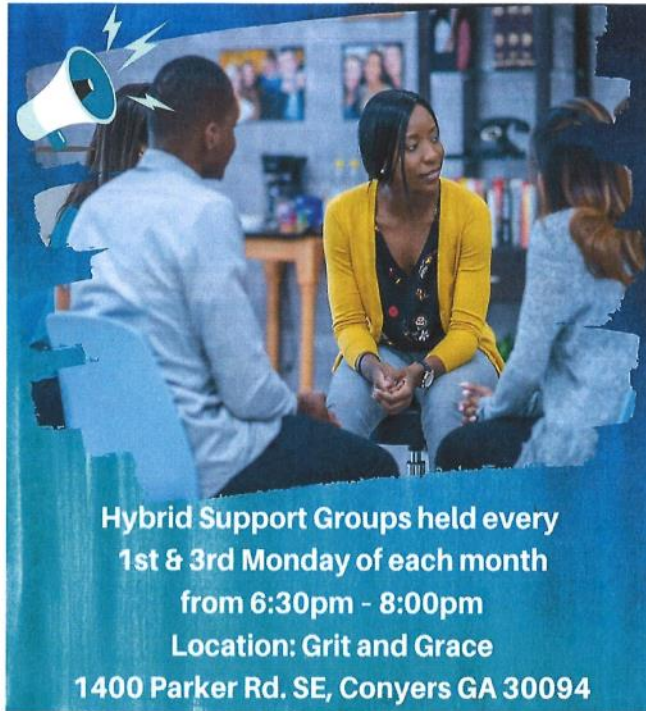


Meals On Wheels Needs Your Help!

A short 1.5 to 2 hour commitment is all it takes on a Saturday morning to ensure that people in need in our community receive a meal. Has not knowing what's required held you back from volunteering? If so, you are welcome to either ride along to see how it all works, or I can give you a complete written explanation. Just contact Tim Lohr at 404-807-2192, or by email at timlohr@icloud.com. Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Tim Lohr

NAMI - National Alliance on Mental Illness In Rockdale Newton



We are excited to announce that we are enhancing our Family and Connections Support Groups to Hybrid so that we can serve people in person as well as online.

Our groups will continue to be held every 1st and 3rd Monday from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

**In Person Location: Grit and Grace 1400 Parker Rd. SE, Conyers GA, 30094
(Inside of Restoration Storehouse)
Zoom Meeting ID: 854 6298 5378**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85462985378>

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



2 Joshua Baker	21 Trena Shead
3 Tyler Sturhann	Nicole DeLamar
4 Erin Carey	23 Jeremy Ard
DeAnna Duffy	Nathaniel Beaucher
Christopher Henry	25 Samantha Granville
6 Emily Ramos	Stephanie Hurley
11 Jet Presume	26 Jeff Hefner
13 Jason Lange	28 Christopher Gomes
14 Marcelle Henry	31 Lee Harbin
Vizma Lazdans	
Arthur Schlueter III	
16 Kathy Norton	
Samuel Armstrong-Reiner	
17 Shirley Ingram	
18 Renee Houser	



	Date	Years
Ken & Sheila Sipe	22	24
Don & Kathy Norton	30	54

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.



Council Meeting Retreat Highlights

Attendees:

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, Rene Kuhn, Peggy Lawrence, Doris Webb, Tracy Parker
Anita Smith, Bill Schroeder, Kathy Roston, Pat Viohl, Sheila Sipe, Michael Thompson, Tim Lohr,
Samantha Elizabeth Granville

Place:

*March 3 - Cafe Milano For dinner (6:30 pm)

*March 4 - Epiphany Lutheran Church Conyers (9:00am-3PM)

Activities: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner (Presiding)

March 3, 2023

*Team building questions and Icebreakers.

*Dinner

*Closing Prayer

March 4, 2023

*Being / Becoming Missional

*One-to-One Reflections (What I learned about my partner - Talents, Backgrounds and/or
Gifts - What are my partner's areas of passion and vocation?)

*What color is your personality (Personality Test)

Notes:

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner emphasized the importance of the church council to be
continually grounded spiritually with a listening ear to the concerns of the congregation.

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner also emphasized the importance of the church council members
to get to know each other better and to know each other's gifts and talents.

Action Items:

To re-examine and make alterations to the Building Agreement contract: Non-Church Groups
(Anita Smith, Chairman)

To organize special interest groups for the church family. Suggested groups: Fishing, Cooking,
Painting, Wreath making, Music, Crafts, Pickle ball and Wine tasting. (The Council Members)

The Retreat ended with Holy Communion and a reference song, "Take me to the water to be
Baptized".