

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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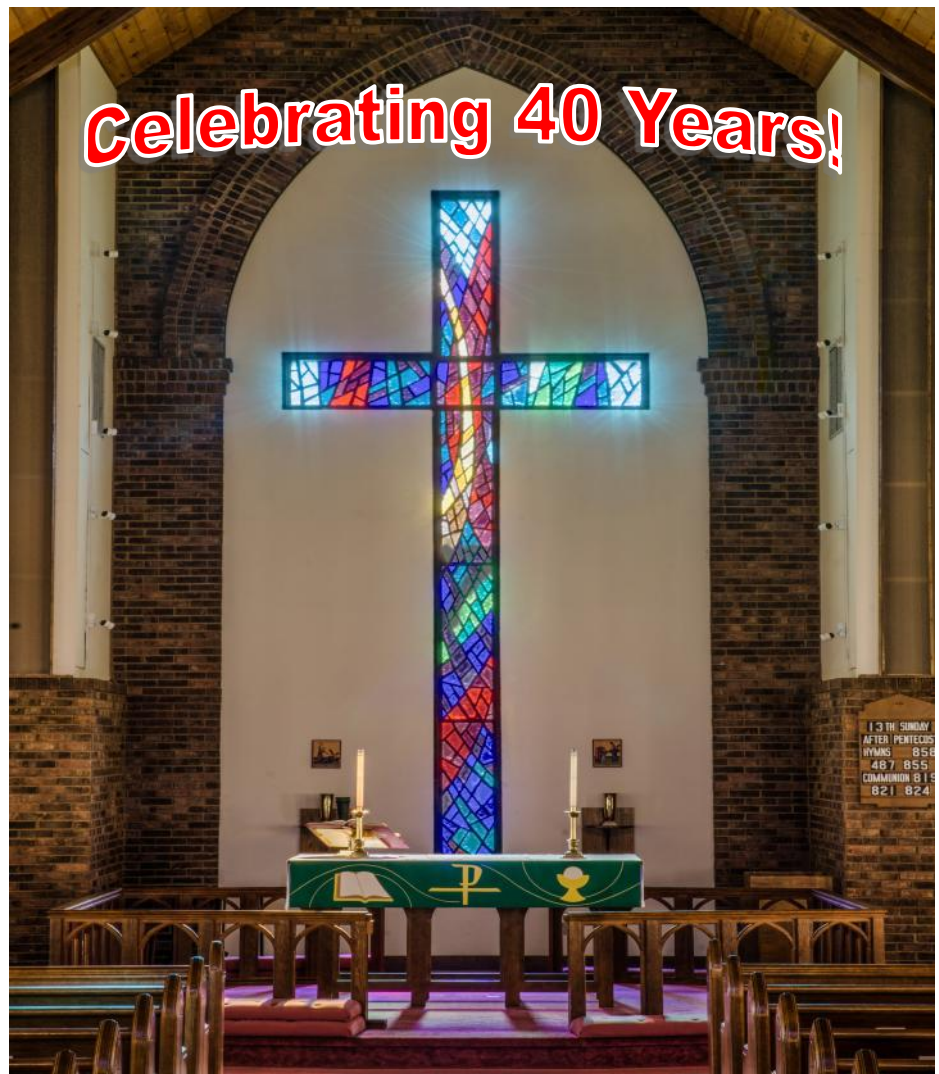
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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
conyerselc.org
staff@conyerselc.org

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor*

November 2025



***“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.

Coffee Hour - 9:00 a.m.

(Breakfast 2nd Sundays monthly)

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, November 25 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the December 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).

5 Ways to Give ...

- ✓ Bring your contribution 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. Contact the church office to find out how to set this up.
- ✓ Click on the QR code to give electronically.



From Pastor David

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate together our 40th anniversary as Epiphany Lutheran Church. On November 16 at 10 am, we will have a worship service filled with hymns and songs, both old and new. We will hear a choral piece, written and commissioned 10 years ago for our 30th anniversary. We will gather for food and memories. We will see old friends and new.

As we have prepared for this celebration, I am reminded of some of our founding stories, along with new ones I have learned from you. These are stories that speak to who we are as they build a foundation for who we are to become.

Two churches – Our Saviour Lutheran and King of Glory Lutheran - despite their differences joined to better serve God and our community. So we remind ourselves that we can continue to overcome our differences to bring God's reign to bear upon this community.

And then, less than 10 years later, another church – Gloria Dei Lutheran in Lithonia – made the painful decision to close their doors. And as many of their members joined us at Epiphany, they reminded us that death is never the end. Death can represent a seed planted that can give new life.

I treasure the comment that Ron Ewerth made when the Education Wing was dedicated: "Now that we have built it, let's wear it out." That declaration reminds us that this place is meant to be used, to be worn out, for the sake of the love of God through Jesus Christ.

I recall the story of Will Coleman, the Candy Man, who came to church each Sunday with a bag of candy to hand out to children, who may or may not have gotten permission from their parents. That story reminds us how we are empowered or called to use our gifts to extravagantly welcome all people.

Recently, Cathy Harbin told me that her shoes are underneath the floor beneath the cross, as they started pouring concrete before she had a chance to get out. And as a part of her is now literally a part of the church, so each one of us makes up a vital part of this church.

I am proud that we are known as the church that got Family Promise started in this community. I am proud of the outreach that is a part of us. We know on some level that we are defined by how we give of ourselves.

These are some of our founding stories. Yet, we continue to create those stories today. What founding stories are we writing today? As we put things in a time capsule to be opened at our 50th, what will we look back upon then that will form us for what we will be? What do we want to be known for? What does God want us to be known for? What does God want us to become?

We look to our past. We celebrate our past. But we are not limited by our past. These past 40 years form the foundation for what God has in store for us. The future for Epiphany Lutheran Church will not be the same as what has gone on before. But God will be with us, and we continue to look to the Spirit as our guide.

As a church, we claim ourselves as a part of the Body of Christ, and so we strive to be the hands and feet and voice of Jesus in our world, speaking and sharing the love of God through Jesus to all whom we encounter. We have been blessed to serve and be a part of Rockdale County for the last 40 years. Our community has gone through many changes during that time. We pray that we will continue to be open to how God is moving within Rockdale County and how we will participate in that movement of God's Spirit.

(continued on next page)

Congregation News & Activities

Epiphany Lutheran Church has shown from its beginning that differences do not have to divide us. Rather, our differences and even our disagreements can strengthen us by witnessing to a unity that can best serve God and our community. I am further blessed to be in a community that has strived to work together to respond to the needs of our community. My prayer is that Epiphany can continue to think *missionally*, asking itself what it means to be church within this time and place. We are not the church "just like we remember it." Rather, we are the church that God calls us to be. I am excited to participate in what the continued history of Epiphany Lutheran Church will look like, discerning together God's future for us.

In Christ,
Pastor David

Sunday Adult Class ***The Seven Churches of Revelation - 9 a.m. - Rooms 7-9***

September 28: Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7
October 12: Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11
October 19: Pergamum - Revelation 2:12-17
October 26: Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-29
November 2: Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6
November 9: Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13
November 16: Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22



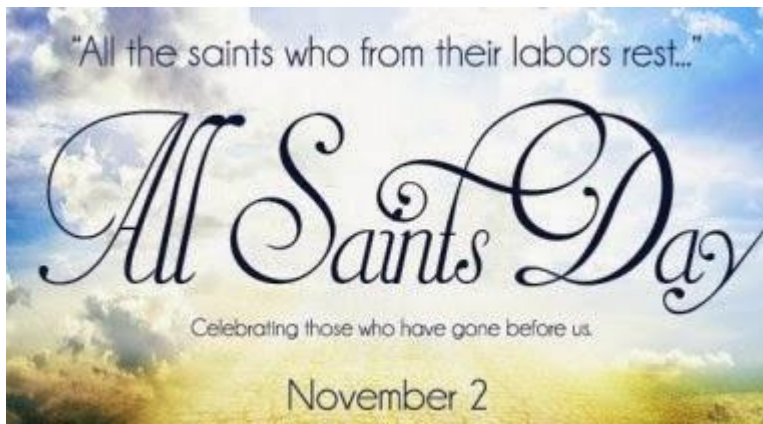
Sunday Coffee Hour

We encourage you to drop in for a coffee and fellowship hour anytime from 9-9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

Breakfast is Served!

Monthly
Every second Sunday
9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
A freewill offering will be collected.

Congregation News & Activities



After the Reformation, Lutherans adopted the celebration of All Saints Sunday as a time to remember those members who passed away in the past year.

John Michael Thompson - 11/20/24

Jiare' Emmanuel Schneider - 11/26/24

Ward Gailey III - 1/13/25

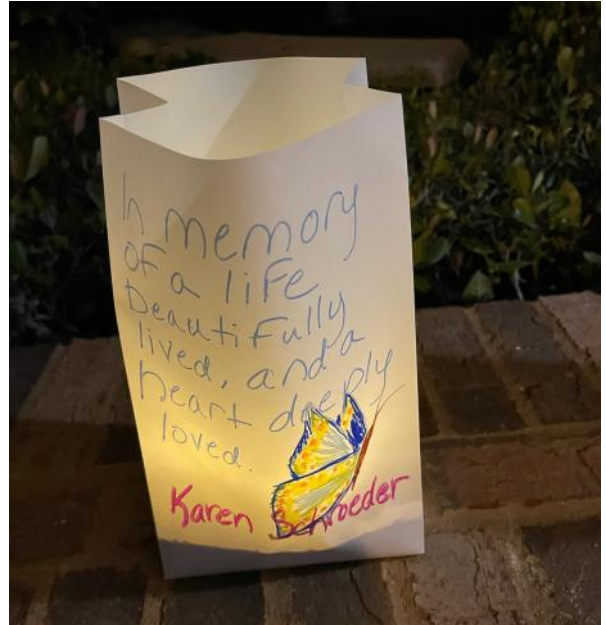
Karen Lennox - 1/17/25

Vinton Isoline Ramsay - 1/21/25

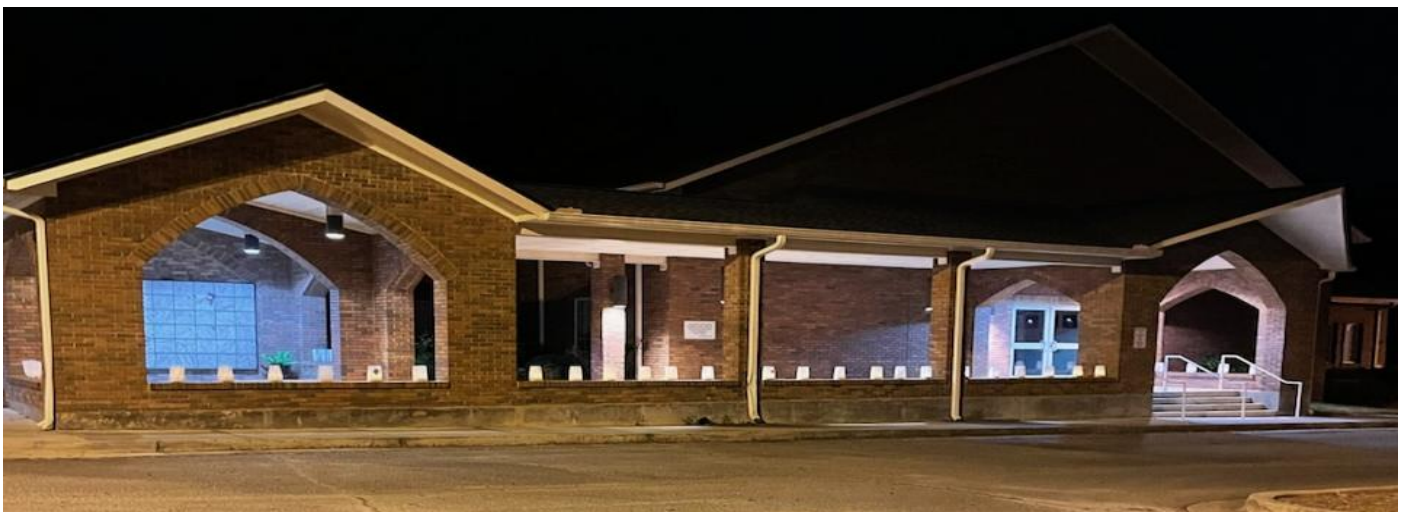
Edward Logan Hill - 2/19/25

Robert Stephen Astalos - 4/6/25

Stephen Kuhn - 10/11/25



As part of our celebration, decorated luminaries have also been created and set out in honor of deceased congregation members and loved ones. The luminaries will be displayed daily through November 9th.



Looking Back, Living Forward: Called to Give

“I love the peacefulness that Epiphany gives me. This church has always made me feel at home.”

“I love how Epiphany accepts every nationality, race, and gender.”

“My wish is for Epiphany to keep growing in Jesus Christ.”

These are a few responses we have already received from you as you reflect about Epiphany. As we get ready to look back and celebrate 40 years of ministry as Epiphany Lutheran Church, we ask you to consider how you will contribute to the future of this congregation. In these coming weeks, we will hear from members new and old about what Epiphany Lutheran means to them. As they respond to the following questions, we invite you to write down your responses and share them with us:

What brought you to Epiphany?

What keeps you at Epiphany?

What do you love about Epiphany?

What is your wish for Epiphany?

Then as you reflect on those questions, we invite you to consider how you will pledge in the coming year to our budget, showing the future commitments of the church. In our Celebration Worship on November 16, we then invite you to bring up your commitment during the offering. We celebrate where God has brought us. We live forward into the future that God has prepared for us. Thanks be to God!



You are invited to our

40th

***Church Anniversary
Celebration***

Sunday, November 16, 2025

***Epiphany Lutheran Church
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013***

***David Armstrong-Reiner, Pastor
(770) 483-6222***



**9:00 a.m. ~ Coffee & Fellowship Hour
10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service
11:30 a.m. ~ Program & Luncheon**

A time capsule will be buried to be opened for our 50th celebration. If you'd like to donate a small item such as photographs, newspaper articles or something meaningful related to your time at the church, please bring with you on the 16th.

Congregation News & Activities

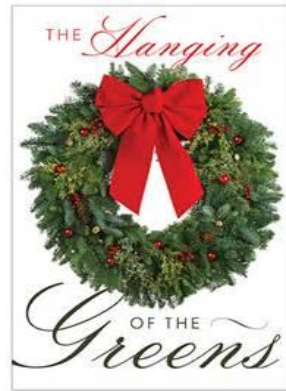


Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, November 4 & 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library, continuing our study on the parables of Jesus.

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.



***Volunteers are needed
to come out on
Saturday, November 29
at 10:00 a.m.
to decorate the Sanctuary for
Christmas.
Please come out and lend a hand!***



Meals On Wheels Needs Your Help!

A short 1.5-2 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 you can get 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.

Congregation News & Activities

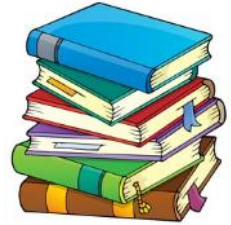


As part of Epiphany's 40th anniversary events, the Fellowship Committee will host a celebration potluck following the worship service. We are excited to honor the work that has brought our church to this point, and we look forward to the future. Come join us for this festive occasion.

~ The Fellowship Committee

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. Any woman in the church is invited to join us. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or e-mail evbrown56@gmail.com. The book selection for the month of November is: The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado.



Every Step Walking Fellowship combines physical walking with faith & fellowship to encourage a healthy living. Good for body, mind, heart and spirit. Weekly walks will include 20 minutes of safe & gentle indoor walking, 20 minutes of devotion, sharing & prayer, and an optional 20-minute "extra mile" of moderate outdoor walking. Open to all regardless of physical limitations.

Weekly walks meet at the Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings @ 9:30AM.

Contact Furman Rogers
if you have any questions:
furmanrogers7@gmail.com.

Did you know Kroger has a Community Rewards Program?

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Shopper's Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Card. Here's how it works:



1. Create a digital account. A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to our account code so that credit for all your transactions will apply toward Epiphany Lutheran Church.

2. Link your Card to an organization.

- Sign in to your digital account at: www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/
- Enter Epiphany's Organization Number: LR632 under "Find an Organization".
- Click the "Enroll" button under Epiphany Lutheran Church

3. Your organization earns.

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

Thanks for your participation!



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Rockdale & Newton
Counties GA**

Supporting Rockdale, Newton, Jasper, Walton, Butts, & Morgan Counties.



1st MONDAYS
6:30 to 8:00 PM

NAMI Family Support Groups are peer-led for adults who are supporting loved ones with mental health challenges. We meet monthly to share our experiences and offer each other hope and empathy in a non-judgemental space.

To participate in our FREE Monthly Support Groups

by Phone or Video using Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/NAMIrnfamilysupportgroup>



Visit us online at **namirockdalenewton.org**

Call the NAMI HelpLine (M - F, 10 a.m.–10 p.m., ET.) at
1-800-950-NAMI (6264) for support and connection to resources.

***During a Mental health or substance use crisis **Call 988**
or the Georgia Crisis and Access Line at 1-800-715-4225.
If you dial 911 ask for a mental health trained police officer.***

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Austin Ruffin	20 Isaac Allen
2 Abby Harper	22 Frank Harbin
3 Phoenix Kenney	Mary Schlueter
6 Bob Hickly	23 Joshua McCurry, Jr.
7 Jo Hickly	26 Jennifer Kenney
10 Peggy Lawrence	30 Kathleen Roston
17 Achol Bol	
Neal Lange	
Bill Schroeder	
Phillip Viohl	
18 Don Harris	
Kaylee Wilson	



	Date	Years
John & Megan Beaucher	8	17
Phillip & Carrie Viohl	14	27
George & Mary Leach	18	60
John & Ruth Winner	21	10
Donald & Susan Jenkins	25	34

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

If you would like to honor, or memorialize, a special person or occasion with “fresh” altar flowers, the cost is \$30 per arrangement (\$60 total - and sign on both posted calendars). On weeks when no altar flowers have been requested, we will use seasonal arrangements. If you only want one arrangement (\$30), a separate table has been designated in the sanctuary for those special arrangements.



The flower calendar is posted in its' usual place in the narthex. Remember to include the cost in an envelope and mark it - Flowers. Call the church office on 770-483-6222 if you have any questions.

Council Meeting Minutes - October 19

Group convened in the Fellowship Hall following the service at 11:30 am. In attendance were: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, President Peggy Lawrence, Vice-President Anita Smith, Secretary Riki DeLamar, Treasurer Tracy Parker, Abby Harper, Lane Carlisle, Greg Holcomb, Deidre London, and Tim Lohr

The Group enjoyed a meal and had sharing time.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order @ 12:02 PM by Peggy Lawrence.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes from the previous meeting (9/28/25) were reviewed. No corrections or changes. Motion made to accept as presented by Lane Carlisle. Seconded by Tracy Parker. Motion carried.

Agenda: The agenda for today's meeting was presented and reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda as presented by Tracy Parker. Motion was seconded by Anita Smith and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**
2. **TREASURER**

Sharon Skinner
Tracy Parker

Operating income for September was \$15,900.78 with \$491.66 in designated funds. Total expenses were \$24,244.68.

The previous Trash Service terminated service without notification. We found a local service that is more cost effective. The only drawback is that they are currently out of stock of cans, and are waiting for a delivery. We signed up for service and are on the delivery wait list. Tracy will call this week to see if they have an estimated date for can arrival.

The water bill was over \$400 again this month. Anita is working with the water department to identify if there is a pattern with usage. We have had some issues with toilets stuck running over the past few months. These have been fixed, so hopefully this will help correct the problem.

Electric work is being completed, and comcast situation has been resolved. The Comcast bill has been reduced by half!

The housekeeping team lead asked if we could advance a month (pay both October and November) in October so that she could issue bonuses to her assistants. In return, she is discounting December's services by \$500.00. This was approved

Please help us control the utilities - contact someone if you note that something is wrong – like a toilet running. Fix it if you can, or report it. If you adjust a thermostat, please go back and put it back on the appropriate setting before you leave. If you see lights on, and the room is empty, please turn the lights off.

Motion made by Lane Carlisle to accept the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Deidre London. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: See written report.

September 29 – October 19

Worship: 3 Sunday Worship

Member Visits: 1

Life Passages: Pre-Funeral

Committee Meetings: Worship planning, Stewardship

Education: 3 Men's Bible Studies, 3 Adult Ed classes, 1 Women's Bible Study

Other Meetings/Events:

Community Visits:

Hospital Visits: 3

Counseling:

Pastors Meeting:

(continued on next page)

Council Meeting Minutes - October 19

Stewardship campaign is centered around the 40th Anniversary Celebration – Looking back and Living Forward. Each Sunday, Pastor will interview different members to find out why they are at Epiphany. Abby Harper helped him lead off this conversation today.

Pastor will be gone from 11/19 to 11/28 to celebrate Thanksgiving with family in California.

OLD BUSINESS:

Music Director – We have not had any responses to our job posting. Pastor will reach back out to the area Schools now that they are back in session.

40th Anniversary Celebration – Date for this event is 11/16/25. Pastor is trying to identify the young adults in the pictures of the confirmation classes. He indicated we are also missing photos of several years of classes. We are asking for contributions of items to add to a Time Capsule to be opened on the 50th Anniversary. The Endowment Program is providing a list of all the organizations that have benefitted from funds from the annual disbursements. Peggy has been in discussion with a company that does floors to see about refinishing the fellowship hall before the celebration. We have had a member volunteer to cover that expense. Do you have any old pictures of people from Epiphany? Please bring them in..... write on the back who they should go back to; and indicate who is in the photos and the date/event, if possible.

Kosrae Church – Contract has been renewed. \$1000.00 monthly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget – Intent Sunday is scheduled to coincide with the 40th Anniversary Celebration. Finance Committee is meeting to prepare the 2026 budget.

2026 Council Members – Discussion on whose terms were expiring and if they were willing to renew or if they had served their maximum.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT – No written report. Second Sunday Breakfast was held on Oct 12. Next will be 11/9/25. Peggy will be out of town, so Riki and Bill will be hosting that one.

VICE PRESIDENT – No written report. Anita asked about the Lennar sign. Pastor stated last month that Lennar had renewed their contract for the sign on the property. Tracy advised that we still have not received the funds for this yet. The contract was signed, but on follow-up to inquire why we haven't been paid; we identified that person no longer is employed; we are having trouble locating a point person.

Anita also identified that the microphone that is being used for the readings isn't coming across on the live streams. We are not sure if it is a user issue, or a microphone issue. Pastor asked her to go back and listen to see if sometimes it works, but sometimes not. She advised she and Bryan Peterson met recently with our new Edwards Jones Rep (oversight on the Endowment Fund), and that meeting went very well.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Discipleship – No written report.
2. Outreach – See written report. Social Ministry is collecting gas cards for Project Renewal. Meals on Wheels still has just 3 stops. In September we delivered 10 meals.
3. Nurture – See written report. Lots of good stuff going on.... Please read the report! The Women's Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:30 am at the church. The 40th Anniversary Planning Committee will meet 11/2 immediately after the service.
4. Administration – No written report.
5. Worship – No written report.

(continued on next page)

Council Meeting Minutes - October 19

The next Council Meeting will be held 11/12/25 at 5:30 pm. Peggy Lawrence will provide dinner. There was a Motion to adjourn at 1:25 pm, and was carried. Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rikita S DeLamar

Fun at Trunk or Treat!

