

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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March 2023

Lent.
A SEASON OF RENEWAL



***“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, March 26, is the deadline for information to be submitted for the April 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 David

Last summer among the many amazing things we saw and experienced, we got to see the Reiner Family Farm, which has been in the family since 1780. Clark Reiner, a fourth cousin that I had met briefly eighteen years before, took Sam and me for a grand tour. He even showed us a picture on the wall of his house that can be found online for Upper Mahantongo Township (Pennsylvania):



That view is the farm, and that combine has Clark Reiner as its driver.

I think about that farm in Pennsylvania and also about my in-laws' farm in Illinois, because it helps to understand this season of Lent, the forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter.

Lent comes from the Latin word *lente*, which means the season of Spring. For farmers, Spring is the time to prepare the fields and plant the seeds, to ready the farm for the harvest in the fall. In the history of the church, this "springtime," this Lent, was the final preparation for those who were getting ready to be baptized into the church at the Easter Vigil.

When we remember that Lent signifies a "springtime," a preparation, then the practices we take on or the sacrifices we make take on a greater significance. For those who give up chocolate, we do not do so just to show that we can do it. We might be called to give up chocolate to plant the seeds for healthier eating. For those who give up computer time or social media for Lent, we do not do so as a drudgery. We do so to make time for others or to make time for God. For those who commit to reading a chapter of the Bible each day, we do so to plant the seeds to ground ourselves deeper into God's Word.

So, I invite you in this season of Lent to let this be a time to plant seeds of faith. Plant seeds that will root yourself in Scripture and prayer. Plant seeds that will bloom into lives of love and justice. Plant seeds that will deepen your journey of faith. And as you plant the seeds, remember that it is God that gives the growth into a harvest that we cannot even imagine.

In Christ,
Pastor David

Congregation News & Activities

Discovery Class – March 19

A Discovery Class is being offered Sunday, March 19, from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. The class is not required to join the church but is highly recommended. Being a disciple of Christ is different than being a member of a group. Discipleship means joining with others to become together the body of Christ. We do not stand alone as our faith asserts. We stand and we journey together.

We will cover the following topics:

- **What is a Lutheran?**
- **What is Epiphany Lutheran Church?**

The class is designed for people who want to join our church or are simply interested in learning more about what we believe. If you wish to join the church, we will receive new members on Sunday, March 26 at worship. Please call the office (770.483.6222) to register or to ask any questions.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH RETURNS

Yes, finally the time has come to reopen Children's Church. We are blessed to have Rene Kuhn, Claire Lawrence, Abby Harper and Michael Thompson teaching and assisting with Children's Church. We are also blessed to have Terri Lange as our Nursery supervisor. Our Children's Church currently has six wonderful students. Ava and Janie Malphurs, Adelaide and Weston Harper, Josh McCurry, and Gilly Mumford.

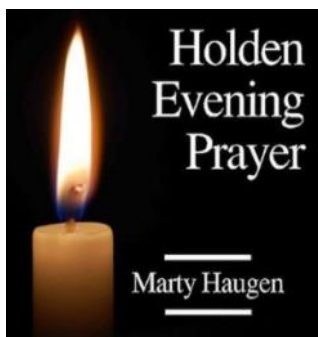
Our first series of lessons is about the fruits of the Spirit. Each lesson centers on one of the fruits of the spirit. Love, Joy, Peace and Patience are the fruits currently being studied in February. In March, the students will be learning about Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness and Gentleness. In addition to the daily lesson, the children have music, snacks and a game or craft in each lesson.

Go tell it on the mountain that Epiphany Lutheran welcomes our children and families back to in person worship. Please continue to pray that our Children's ministry grows and flourishes.

~ Michael Thompson



God Is On the Cross: We invite you to join us for our adult class at 9 a.m. with the devotional *God Is On the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. These forty-seven stirring devotions will guide and inspire us as we move through the weeks of Lent, encountering themes of prayerful reflection, self-denial, temptation, suffering, and the meaning of the cross. Each day, passages from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's letters and sermons are given with a Scripture passage as we reflect together on the meaning of the gift of Christ on the cross. Books are \$12.50 each. Please join us.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Starting on Wednesday, March 1st, we invite you to join us for our Wednesday Evening Lenten Services at 7 p.m. in which we will use Holden Evening Prayer. We also encourage you to join us for our soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. Following is the schedule for those providing the soup and sandwiches this year:

- March 1 - Fellowship, Altar Guild, Wings
- March 8 - Worship, WELCA, Social Ministry
- March 15 - Chili cook off (Brunswick stew accepted) - *See below for additional details*
- March 22 - Choir, Men's Bible Study
- March 29 - Council

The Chili Cookoff is open to anyone interested in preparing their favorite chili recipe at home and bringing it ready to serve. Cornbread can be a substitute for sandwiches. The chili and Brunswick stew will be judged by a five person panel prior to the 7 p.m. Lenten service.



It is time to clean out our former preschool rooms and on Sunday, March 5th after church, the preschool rooms will be open so that anyone in the congregation can see if there are items they can use. We have a lot of books, toys and arts & craft items. After that, we will set up times to pack up the remaining items and donate them. We want the items to be used. If you know of places to donate the items, please let Sheila Sipe or Evelyn Brown know.

Congregation News & Activities

Women's Bible Study **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, 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



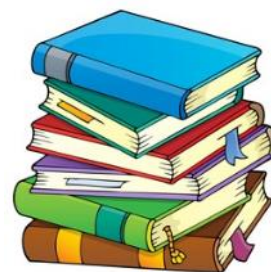
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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 on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Awakening of HK Derryberry" by Jim Bradford. We will meet at the church and Joy White will be our discussion leader and hostess. All women of Epiphany are invited to join us. For more information call Evelyn Brown or email her at evbrown56@gmail.com.



~ Evelyn Brown

SOCIAL MINISTRY

It is time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Elks Aidemore. Our hunt will take place on Wednesday, March 29. We need donations of candy and gift cards from fast food restaurants, Target & Walmart in the amounts of \$5, \$10 & \$15. We would like the candy and gift cards back by Sunday, March 19 so we can fill the eggs. A tub for the candy will be in the Narthex and gift cards can be dropped off at office or given to Evelyn Brown.



Easter Egg Hunt Is Approaching



Wow, is it that time of year? Yes, time is flying toward Easter and Epiphany needs to get ready! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 1, 2023. No foolin! April 1st is our hunt day!! We will have five hunting fields. Age 0-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and special needs. Registration for the hunt will open at 9 am. The first hunting field, 0-2, will start at 9:30a.m. Every 20 minutes a new hunting field will open, concluding with special needs at 11:00 a.m. We are planning for 300-500 eggs on each field. That is a total of 1500-2000 eggs. Start bringing in candy to fill our eggs. Please be mindful that our 0-2 year old children cannot eat small hard candies. Soft chew and marshmallow candies are best for our youngest. Also, we will need some of the large plastic eggs to fill. We will have our large plastic tubs in the glass vestibule for egg and candy collection.

Mark Saturday, March 25th from 9a.m. to noon as the morning to "stuff" our eggs and prepare for the hunting. There is room at the table for all to get involved in our Easter Egg Hunt!

~ Michael Thompson



Thanks to all who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring. As a result of your generosity, 123 cans and \$116.85 were collected.



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 tim-lohr@icloud.com. Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Tim Lohr



HUNGER **WALKRUN**

**In-Person and Virtual
Event: Sunday,
March 12, 2023**

This year marks the 39th anniversary of Hunger Walk Run - taking steps together with our community in the fight against local hunger!

12:00 pm: Event Opens, Onsite Registration & Entertainment Begins

2:00 pm: 5K Fun Walk & Run Begins

4:00 pm: Event Ends

Location: Home Depot Backyard, Atlanta

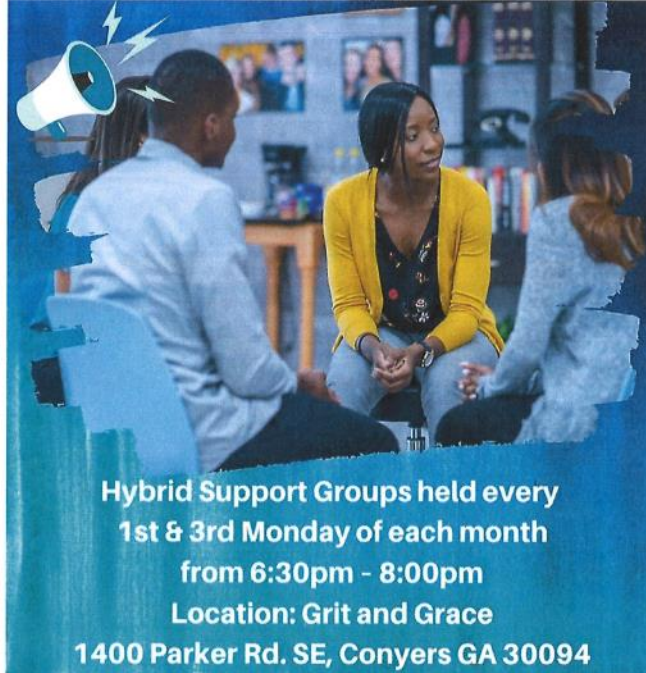
The Hunger Walk Run -- an annual 5K walk and “fun run” began in 1984 -- is an event of the Atlanta Community Food Bank that unites our community to raise awareness and critical funds for local hunger relief. Proceeds from the event benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank and other local nonprofit organizations that support food pantries, community kitchens, shelters and other programs for people in need of food assistance. These benefiting partner organizations help recruit participants and receive a percentage of the funds raised to support their direct hunger relief programs.

In its 39 years, Hunger Walk Run has raised over \$11.7 million for hunger relief - enough to help provide over 46 million meals!

Hunger Walk Run 2023 is once again a hybrid event! Whether you choose to walk or run, in person or virtually, you’ll join thousands of participants coming together to support our neighbors in need and celebrate achievements already made in the fight against hunger.

Each dollar raised will benefit Inspiritus, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and hunger prevention efforts in our own community. Register online today at weinspirit.org and click on “Hunger Walk 2023:Register” to participate. Or if you would like to just donate to a particular team or walker (weinspirit.org then Hunger Walk 2023:Register then Donate), you can put in the team or the person’s name for your donation. In addition to the registration fee, consider making an additional donation. You can also challenge your friends, family and coworkers to match your personal contribution or even better, to surpass it; then find a great outdoor trail near you to get your steps in or plan on participating in the in-person event on Sunday, March 12.

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 Jan Hudson | 25 Joanie David |
| 3 Gary David | Ed Riley |
| Debbie Reese | 29 Karin Tackett |
| 5 James Carter | 30 Heath Brickell |
| 7 Justin Kenney | Marshall Taplin, II |
| Peyton Taplin | 31 Kim Johnson |
| 8 Connor Lubick | |
| 9 Sally Adams | |
| Debbie Buckner | |
| Pantel Taplin | |
| 11 Lois Stegherr | |
| 15 Jewell Ewerth | |
| 18 Jordan Atkins | |
| 21 Mary Anderson | |
| Edward Stegherr | |
| 24 Ava Schlueter | |
| Walter Sipe | |



	Date	Years
Ross & Abigail Harper	6	8
George & Vinton Ramsay	10	50
David & Anita Smith	11	58
Joshua & Teresa McCurry	27	8

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.



Approved Council Minutes - January 15th

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by Rene Kuhn, President. Pastor David blessed the food and prayed for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us throughout the meeting.

COUNCIL members shared information about their month and how GOD is watching over them each day. Council members present: Pastor David, Pastor Nyahaley, Rene Kuhn, Bill Schroeder, Tracy Parker, Doris Webb, Anita Smith, Pat Viohl, Michael Thompson and Peggy Lawrence.

A special thanks goes to Pat Viohl for providing the pizzas.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING were unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA was unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS were unanimously approved: Renee Kuhn President, Peggy Lawrence Vice President, Secretary Doris Webb, and Assistant Secretary Anita Smith.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Tracy Parker, treasurer gave a summary report of the financial statue of the church:

Total contributions for 2022	-	\$297,621.58
Total expenses for 2022	-	\$316,446.70
Leaving a deficit for 2022	-	\$18,825.12
Endowment Contribution	-	\$40,000.00 (October 2022)
Designated Funds	-	\$13,957.55
Ending Balance	-	\$7,217.33

Bill Schroeder presented a counter summary sheet that included years 2021 and 2022:

The summary sheet gives a brief record of the deposits made by the counters into the church operating account in the calendar years 2021 and 2022. It includes only offerings made at church or sent to the church in the mail and does not include automatic direct deposits, deposits by way of Vanco or any other source. (year 2021 Deposited offerings \$248530.40, deposited endowment \$25365.00)
(year 2022 Deposited offerings \$\$224917.64, deposited endowment \$25959.08, deposited "fire" assistance \$1228.00)

PASTORS' REPORTS: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

Pastor David emphasized the luncheon for Pastor Nyahaley following the worship service on January 22. He encouraged us to bring a dish that represents our culture as Pastor Nyahaley's culture enriched ours.

Pastor Nyahaley Labor: Pastor Nyahaley was so overwhelmed about her experience at Epiphany Lutheran Church for the past four years and Pastor David giving her the opportunity to practice her gift, anointing and calling. Her words were thank you, thank you, thank you.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Congregational Meeting Agenda for January 29
Tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Change in Pastoral Salary
Pastor David presented a summary sheet of his salary from 2015 to 2023. In summary he concluded: If corrected as a 3% raise from 2019, it should look like this:
Pastor-salary \$49,201.20
Pastor-housing \$25,000.00
Pastor-FICA \$ 5,676.40
Total \$79,877.60

Approved Council Minutes - January 15th

2. Council assignments
Tabled
3. Council Retreat – Date and plan
March 3rd and 4th, 2023
More planning at next meeting.

REPORTS:

President: Rene Kuhn

Vice President: Bill Schroeder

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: Kathy Roston & Pat Viohl, Liaisons

Discipleship: Peggy Lawrence, Michael Thompson, Liaisons

Nurture: Bill Schroeder & Doris Webb, Liaisons

Outreach: Samantha Granville & Anita Smith, Liaisons

Worship: Tracy Parker & Sheila Sipe, Liaisons
Tabled

NEXT MONTH MEETING DATE: February 19, 2023

Doris Webb will provide pizzas. Need someone to provide drinks and desserts.

Submitted by: Doris Webb secretary 2023 of the Epiphany Church Council