

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Epiphany's Epistle

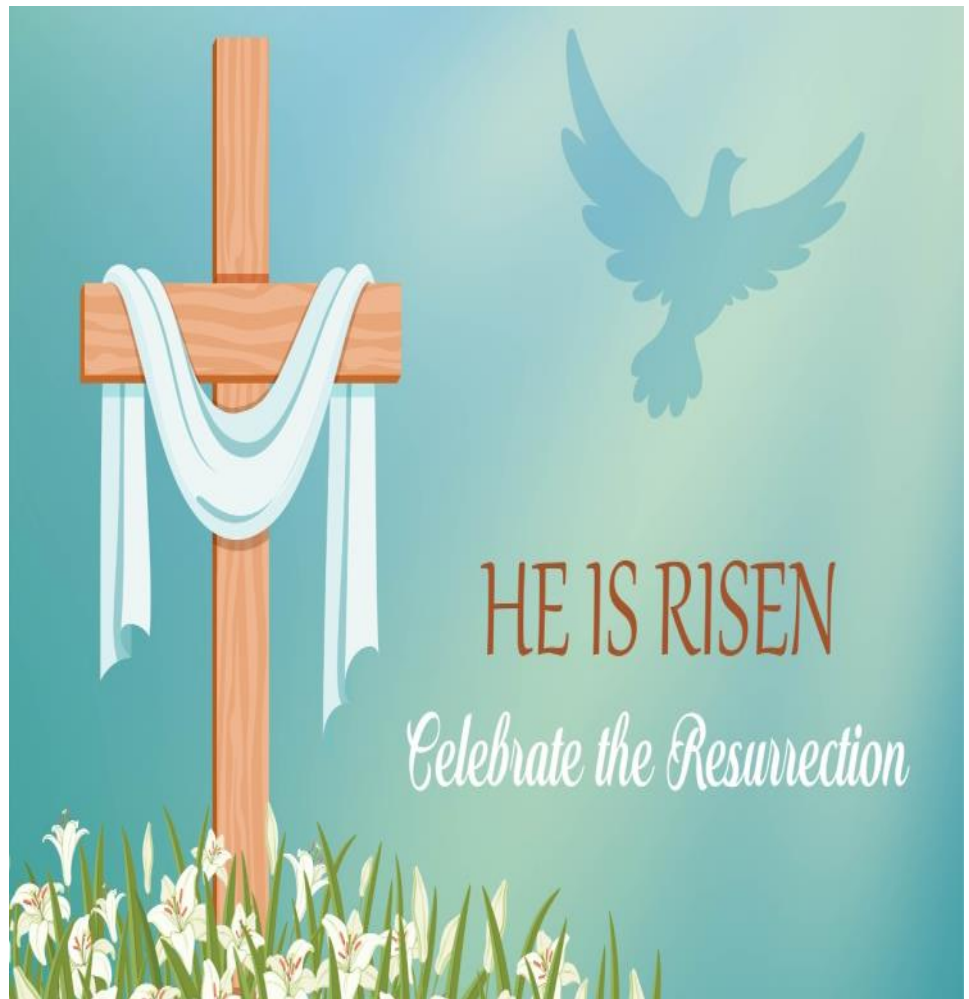


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## April 2024



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

Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,  
Pastor

***“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](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org) or visit our website [www.conyerselc.org](http://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, April 21 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the May newsletter. You can email your news to the church office at [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto: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](http://www.conyerselc.org)
- ✓ Consider automatic giving. Contact the church office to find out how to set this up.

## *From Pastor David*

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Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

This Sunday we begin the celebration of Easter, of God raising Jesus from the dead. We “unbury” our Alleluias and let our praise for God’s wonderful work sound forth.

And as we do so, let us remember that what we proclaim in the resurrection is about something more than the resuscitation of a body. What we proclaim in Easter is not about some sort of “evidence that demands a verdict.” Rather the proclamation of Easter is a matter of faith. The promise of Easter is about an inner reality that calls us to believe and trust in the God who raised Jesus.

When we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!”, we proclaim that sin does not have the last word. When we are overwhelmed by the addictive behaviors that afflict us, we remind ourselves of this victory. In the cross of Jesus our old self – bound by sin and habit – has been put to death, so that we are raised with Jesus into a new life of love and service. As Paul writes to the Galatians, “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 by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:19-20)

Sin does not have the last word. God’s grace and forgiveness does!

When we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!”, we proclaim that injustice does not have the last word. When we despair at the gun violence that claims more innocent lives, when we see the poison of racism and homophobia that still seek to clutch at power through educational or immigration policies, we remind ourselves that in Christ we have a promise that we can live by. The powers of the world inflicted upon Jesus the most cruel and inhumane death known for a political criminal, so that when God raised Jesus from the dead, God confirms Jesus as the one “anointed to bring good news to the poor ... sent ... to proclaim release to the captives ... to let the oppressed go free.” (Luke 4:18)

Injustice does not have the last word. God’s justice and peace does!

When we proclaim, “Christ is Risen!”, we proclaim that death does not have the last word. When we grieve at the death or illness of a loved one, we remember that hope and life is found in the Easter promise. The tomb could not contain Jesus. The powers of death have been broken. As Paul declares to the Corinthians: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? ... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55, 57)

Death does not have the last word. God’s life in a “love that comes from eternity and leads toward eternity” (Bonhoeffer) does!

So, let us lift up our Alleluias! Let us raise our voice in praise to our God! And then let us live in and by the grace and justice and life that this Easter declares!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Pastor David

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Join us next Sunday morning at 9 a.m. as we return to our alternating study of the book of James, as well as the *Strange Stories My Sunday School Teacher Never Told Me* series with James 4:11-16 (Judging and Boasting).

### 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.*



We invite you to join us for the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m. as we continue exploring the richness and the beauty of the Psalms. For April, we will discuss Seeing Jesus in the Psalms - Psalm 2, 8, 95 & 110.



The Fellowship Committee has a couple of announcements to share with the congregation. After more than 30 years leading the committee, Bill Schroeder has decided to pass the responsibility onto someone else. We are indebted to Bill for his dedication to this vital church ministry, and we will continue to rely on his expertise and advice going forward. Thanks, Bill!

Also, we have decided to start using our china, cups, and glasses for church activities rather than relying on disposable products. This decision requires some additional effort with washing and drying, but on the plus side, we will be saving money and natural resources.

We always welcome folks who can help out in the kitchen - for a one-time event or for regular assistance.

Fellowship Co-Chairs,  
Margaret Hill and Julie Peterson

## *Vision Endowment Fund Update*

Does everyone remember Epiphany has an Endowment Fund? The fund was established in 2016 after a bequest from the estate of Ona Lester. Since then, there have been additional donations following the deaths of Bob Lange and Frank Zahm. Every year, distributions are made from the fund to support non-budgeted ministries outside and within Epiphany, and to provide for other needs.

Before reporting the distributions for 2024, we would like to thank Bill Schroeder for his many years of service to the Endowment team. Bill has served two full 3-year terms on the committee and an additional year completing the term of a previous member. Bill was the chair of the committee for the past 4 years. He will be missed, but has earned a well-deserved retirement from that role.

The distributions for 2024 have been determined. As described in the By-laws to the church constitution by which the fund is administered, 5% of the balance of the fund as of December 31 is distributed the following year. On December 31, 2023 the balance of the fund was \$275,168, so \$13,758 will be distributed in 2024. The By-laws also define categories where funds should be used; 20% of the distribution goes to the community, 20% to ELCA Churchwide ministries, 20% to special programs/capital improvements or other congregation ministries, and the final 40% to any of the above.

The Endowment Committee recommendation for 2024 distributions was approved by the Church Council and is as follows (rounded to the nearest dollar):

- \$2,752 to community organizations. This year, we will be donating to Inspiritus (formerly called Lutheran Services of Georgia), Grace House (a ministry to students at Georgia Tech in Atlanta), Rockdale Emergency Relief, Phoenix Pass (a shelter for women and children), and the Help Line (a fund at Epiphany to help those in need)
- \$2,752 to the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA
- \$8,255 to help pay for a new sound system, pay for security and fire safety improvements, pay for Epiphany's share of cost (\$2,000) to provide for an intern who will join us later in the year, and if any funds are left, to pay for conversion of more lights to LEDs.

We are able to support these ministries and projects because of past generous donations to Epiphany from individuals' estates and memorials. Please prayerfully consider how you may further help this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor David or Bryan Peterson.

Bryan Peterson  
Chair, Vision Endowment Committee

*Annual Epiphany Easter Egg Hunt!*



## Social Ministry

A big thank to all who contributed to the Elks Aidemore Easter Egg Hunt. We had 14 girls participating. We hid over 800 eggs. We had 27 eggs with slips for gift cards totally \$270. Plus the golden egg for a \$50 gift card. We also made baskets for each girl with a chocolate bunny, stuffed bunny, \$5 gift card, pencils, stationary and other small chocolates. We think we have been doing this for over 8 years and the girls look forward to this every year. We also gave 6 staff members \$10 gift cards.

Our next project will be involving Project Renewal in May.



## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday April 16 at 7 p.m. to discuss "Hang the Moon" by Jeannette Walls. All women of Epiphany are welcome to attend. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or email her [evbrown56@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown56@gmail.com).



~ Evelyn Brown

# Congregation News & Activities



## **Congratulations Chili Cooks!**

We thank all who participated in our annual chili cook-off on Wednesday, March 20, whether as cooks, judges, or eaters! Our winners this year are ...

3<sup>rd</sup> prize - Andy Hill  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Julie Peterson  
Grand Prize - Lindsey Viohl

## **CALLING ALL ARTISTS!**

Epiphany will have an art exhibition in the Fellowship Hall, starting on Sunday, April 28. We invite all artists to display their works with us to show the incredible creative talents of our congregation. Please let us know that you will be submitting some of your work by April 21.

## **WELCOME WEIGHT WATCHERS!**

Weight Watchers has begun to have their weekly meetings here at Epiphany in the Fellowship Hall. They meet on Mondays at 12 noon and on Saturdays at 9 a.m. Pastor David has been a lifetime member of Weight Watchers for the last seven years and can attest to the success of the program. When you are ready to take this step, we invite you to join others on this journey.



## **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](mailto:tim-lohr@icloud.com). Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

\*Tim Lohr



# Congregation News & Activities



Congratulations and thank you to all who walked or donated to this year's Hunger Walk Run event. Over \$800,000 was raised from the event and thousands of walkers/runners participated. Our team consisted of Pastor David, Sam & Christopher, Margaret & Andy Hill, Sharon Skinner and Merri Kuykendall. A special congratulations goes out to Andy, who once again earned a spot in the "Champions Club." Way to go Andy!



# Congregation News & Activities





**It's Official!!  
Our Support Groups  
are no longer combined!**

**NAMI Family Support Group**

is held on the 1st Monday of each month  
from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

**NAMI Connection Support Group**

is held on the 3rd Monday of each month  
from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

**Two Ways to Participate**

**In-person at the Grit & Grace Addiction  
Recovery Support Center located at  
1400 Parker Rd. SE, Conyers GA, 30094**

**OR**

**By Phone or Video using Zoom.  
Participation requires a one-time  
registration for the group(s)  
you want to attend.**

**You'll be added to our mailing list  
to receive the meeting reminders.**

***The NAMI Georgia Helpline connects  
you to local mental health resources.***

***Open Monday-Friday 9 - 5 pm***

***770-408-0625***

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**



**Relay for Life of Newton County**

All Newton County residents and surrounding counties come and join the fun!

**April 26, 2024**

**6 PM-10 PM**

Join us for Food . Games . Prizes . Entertainment .

[www.relayforlife.org/newtonga](http://www.relayforlife.org/newtonga)

For more information,  
contact **Rena Pendley** at [rena.pendley@cancer.org](mailto:rena.pendley@cancer.org)  
or at 770-988-5544



Celebrate. Remember. **Fight Back.**<sup>®</sup>

RelayForLife.org | 1.800.227.2345

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Greg Chapman    | 16 Mary Lou Gomes  |
| 2 Tracy Parker    | 17 Jaynie Malphurs |
| Alicia Simmons    | 18 Elizabeth Shead |
| Fidensio Malphurs | 20 Sabrina Jones   |
| 3 Grethel Moore   | Jarrold Younkin    |
| John Garst        | 22 Jim Thrower     |
| Drew Payseur      | 25 Michael Lanier  |
| 7 Verna Bass      | 27 Mary Leach      |
| 8 Phil Bentley    | 28 Ed Hill         |
| 12 Donald Jenkins | 29 Lori Weber      |
| Chelsea Skinner   |                    |
| 14 Rachel Flow    |                    |
| 15 Jessica Ard    |                    |



	Date	Years
George & Inam Withers	5	26
Ed & Margaret Hill	24	52
Horace & Jean Sullivan	29	62

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

## Altar Flowers 2024

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 Minutes - March 17<sup>th</sup>

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## Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order @ 11:30 AM. In attendance were Pastor David, Peggy Lawrence, Michael Thompson, Anita Smith, Tim Lohr, Kathy Roston, new council members: Riki DeLamar, Abby Harper, Deidre London, Nancy Stover, Pat Viohl, Sheila Sipe and guests Furman Rogers and Bruce Hefner.

## Agenda:

The agenda for today's meeting was presented and reviewed with the addition of a presentation from Bruce Hefner about the property (listed under New Business), and the addition of an Update on the Lennar Homes Sign under Old Business, and an update on the churchwide assembly. Motion to accept the agenda as presented with the additions. Motion was seconded and carried.

After a blessing offered by President Peggy Lawrence, the group enjoyed a meal while listening to Bruce Hefner.

We have multiple water issues with the property. With the rook, with the vents in the sanctuary, with the french drain, with the gutters and drains coming from the roof. Our insurance company Bitner Henry Brotherhood Mutual will be coming out this week to do an inspection, and hopefully we will be able to make a claim. There are also several maintenance issues throughout the building that have been identified, and several lights that need replacing.

The group had sharing time.

## Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes from the previous meeting (Council Retreat Meeting Minutes) were reviewed: Motion was made by Anita Smith and seconded by Michael Thompson to accept the Council Retreat Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS:

### 1. FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sharon Skinner

### 2. TREASURER

Tracy Parker

Operating income for February was \$19,552.52 with \$823. in designated funds. Total expenses were \$21,226.82. Anita Smith advised that she and Tracy Parker have been doing 'account maintenance', there are still designated funds assigned in areas of the plan that are more related to them. We are also moving towards getting this process more automated, and less likely to be affected by human error. Motion made to accept this report as submitted by Michael Thompson and seconded by Pat Viohl. Motion carried.

## PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Discussed his Pastoral concerns over our multiple parishioners with pastoral needs. Those recently deceased, as well as significant health issues.
2. A Weight Watchers group will be meeting at the church on Mondays at 12 PM, and Saturdays at 9 AM, starting March 25, 2024. They will be paying \$400 per month toward building usage.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Internship Update – Internship is moving forward. Pastor will be doing Internship Training with James Hilden-Minton. He will possibly start in August.

Sound System Update – Equipment has been ordered and should be here next week.

*(continued on next page)*

# *Council Meeting Minutes - March 17<sup>th</sup>*

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Council Liaison Assignments:

Discipleship – Abby Harper, Kathy Roston

Outreach – Anita Smith, Tim Lohr, and Deidre London

Nurture – Riki DeLamar, Nancy Stover

Administration – Peggy Lawrence, Pat Viohl, and Tracy Parker

Worship – Sheila Sipe, Michael Thompson

Update on Lennar Homes Sign – They are requesting that the sign be in place up to 12 months. They will be required to obtain all of the necessary permits. It is not to hide our sign in any way. They will pay us \$200 per month for the duration of the time the sign is in place. A motion was made to move forward with Lennar Homes placing a sign on our property. The motion was made by Sheila Sipe and seconded by Tracy Parker. This is to be contingent with their being able to comply with all the items previously listed.

Update on Synod Assembly – This will be held in Columbus, GA on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Riki DeLamar will be the female delegate, Nelson Kelly has been asked to be the male delegate.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Roofing Issues: This was covered earlier in the meeting to get Bruce out to his afternoon.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1. Discipleship**
- 2. Outreach**
- 3. Nurture**
- 4. Administration**
- 5. Worship**

No committee reports at this time as assignments were just made today.

**President's Report:** No written report.

**Vice President's Report:** No written report.

**Columbarium's Report:** None.

The March Council Meeting will be held 4/21/24 after the service. Pat Viohl and Abby Harper both advised that they would be out of town and unable to attend. Michael Thompson and Nancy Stover will provide lunch. There was a Motion to adjourn and was carried. Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rikita S DeLamar