

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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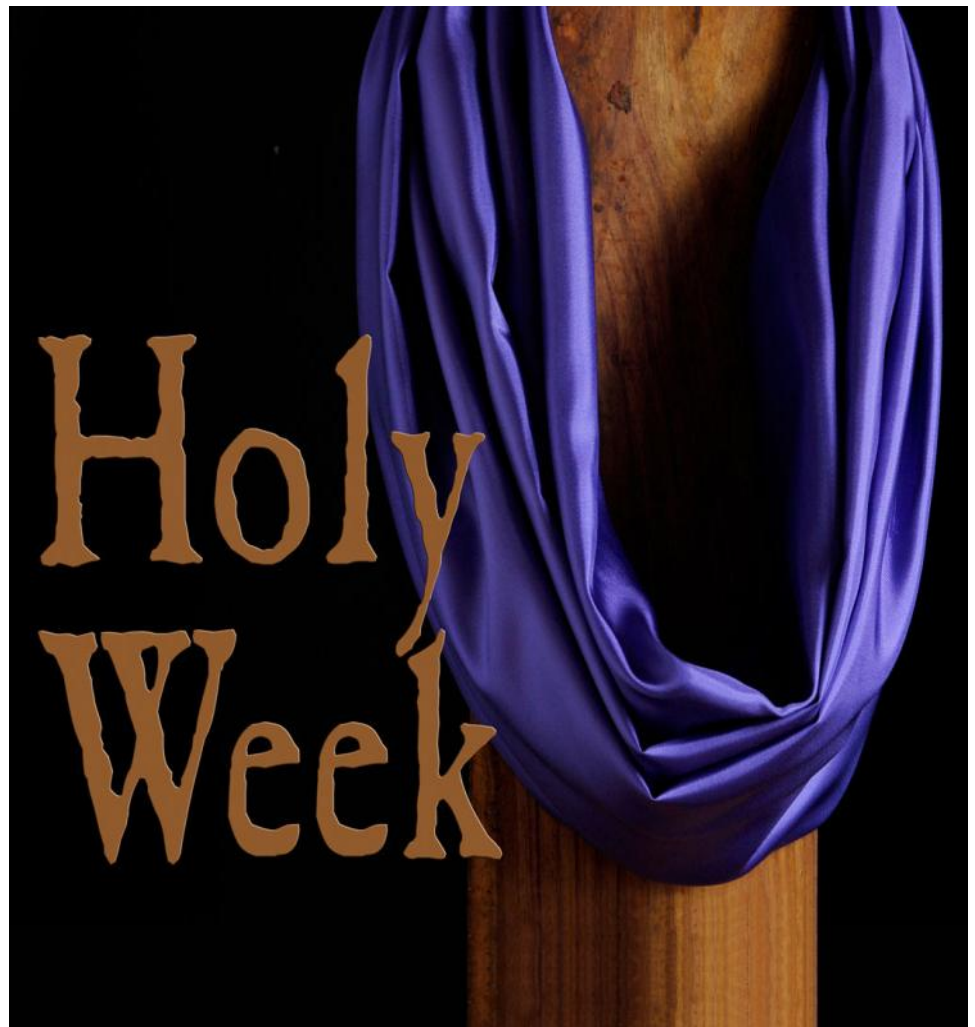
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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
conyerselc.org
staff@conyerselc.org

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor*

April 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.

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 27 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.
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

As we approach Holy Week once again, as we reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, it is time to ask again, “What does the death of Jesus mean?”

It sounds like such a simple question. Yet, when we turn to Scripture we are offered several different answers.

In Hebrews 5, we are told that Jesus acts as both our great high priest and as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. In other words, God needs a sacrifice to forgive sins, and Jesus is that sacrifice. That made sense for the Jews of 2000 years ago who operated under a temple system, but does it work now? Some would claim that this is the only way to understand the death of Jesus, calling it “substitutionary atonement.”

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice for sin?

In John 12:24, Jesus describes his death as a grain of wheat dying so that it might produce much fruit.

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice or a seed dying in the earth?

Later, in that same chapter, Jesus describes his death as being “lifted up from the earth” (John 12:32), alluding here – as he did in John 3:14-15 – to the story of the bronze snake lifted up in Numbers 21, saying that those who look at this sign might be drawn into the life of God.

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice or a seed dying or a sign of healing lifted up?

Paul in Romans 6 says that the death and resurrection of Jesus like our baptism signifies a dying to an old way of life and being raised into a new way of life.

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice or a seed dying or a sign of healing or a dying to an old way of life?

Then, in 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Paul says that the death and resurrection of Jesus signifies that the final enemy – Death – has been defeated, because Jesus conquered death.

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice or a seed dying or a sign of healing or a dying to an old way of life or a victory over death?

And perhaps quoting an early Christian hymn, Paul also says in Philippians 2 that the death of Jesus shows the ultimate humility and obedience of Jesus, “he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

So, is Jesus’ death a sacrifice or a seed dying or a sign of healing or a dying to an old way of life or a victory over death or a sign of ultimate humility and obedience?

What does the death of Jesus mean? The answer is not so simple. These are all Scriptural answers that do not necessarily mesh with each other. Yet, the reality of Jesus’ death and resurrection is central to us who follow in the way of Jesus. And this reality cannot be nailed down to simple doctrinal statements.

Rather, the death and resurrection of Jesus are a mystery that we embrace. They are a sign that Jesus has gone through all that we have gone through. They are a sign that we no longer have to live in our destructive ways. They are a sign that we can live a new way of life in the God who empowers and enlivens us.

So, as Holy Week approaches, let us walk with Jesus in the way of the cross, in the way of his death, and through that death may we find the love and life that God has promised for us all.

In Christ,
Pastor David

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

The Cloud of Witnesses - We invite you this Lent in our adult class on Sunday at 9 a.m. to reflect at the lives and words of the saints from our recent past and distant past. A devotional has been provided both for participants and for any who wish to use it as a daily reflection during Lent. With each life that you read, we invite you to consider how they call you to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” How do these saints show you what this journey of faith is all about? These lives are not meant to be relics of the past. They encourage this present moment and guide our future.



The Women's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month and will be studying Luther's Small Catechism. Come join us as we learn about our Lutheran faith.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

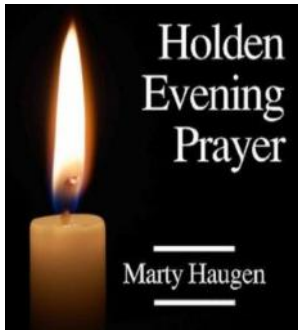
Pastor David leads a discussion on the upcoming Sunday's lessons.



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. Refreshments are served.

Congregation News & Activities



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

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 the remaining weeks for those providing the soup and sandwiches this year:

April 2 - Church Council, Women's Book Club
April 9 - Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO LUKE

Sunday, April 13th
10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion Service



Maundy Thursday Service

April 17th - 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion,
Foot Washing &
Stripping of the Altar

MAUNDY
Thursday

~~~~~  
**Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Services  
April 18<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.



## Easter Sunday The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 20<sup>th</sup>

6:30 a.m.  
Outdoor Sunrise Service  
10:00 a.m.  
Festive Holy Communion



# Congregation News & Activities



I read an article recently that identified 7 luxuries in life: time, health, a calm mind, slow mornings, the ability to travel, a home you love, and a meal shared with friends. Sharing a meal with friends is what fellowship is all about at Epiphany. Join us as we continue our Lenten journey with Soup and Sandwich suppers, which take place on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 6:00pm. After dinner, at 7:00, we gather in the sanctuary for a brief Lenten service. This is a great way to nourish our bodies as well as our souls.

~ Julie Peterson

**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.**

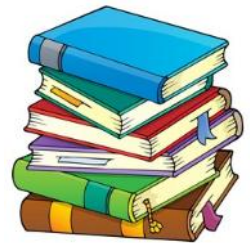
Contact Vicar James

[vicar.james@epiphanyelc.org](mailto:vicar.james@epiphanyelc.org)

or 404-304-4763.

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 15 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](mailto:evbrown56@gmail.com). Here are the books we are reading this year:



**April** ~ The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

**May** ~ The Secret Book of Flora Lea by Patti Callahan Henry

**June** ~ Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand

**July** ~ Sandwich by Catherine Newman

**August** ~ Walk Like You Have Somewhere to Go by Lucille O'Neal

**September** ~ The Life Impossible by Matt Haig

**October** ~ West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

**November** ~ The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado



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

\*Tim Lohr



Dear Friends,

**We are deeply grateful for your partnership and participation in the 2025 Hunger Walk/Run!** Your commitment to this impactful event was more than just a step forward—it was a powerful act of faith and service, directly impacting the lives of the refugees we accompany at [Inspiritus](https://www.weinspirit.org).

Thanks to your efforts, a portion of the funds raised will go directly to Inspiritus, helping provide food, resources, and critical support to newly resettled refugees in our community. While we sincerely appreciate this contribution, we also recognize and deeply appreciate the funds raised to support hunger relief efforts within your own community. **Your generosity is making a difference not only for the families we accompany, but also for those in need right in your very own backyard.**

You have truly put faith into action, walking alongside those in need and demonstrating the power of community and compassion. Thank you for being a part of this mission with us. **We are honored to serve alongside you and look forward to continuing this partnership in the fight against hunger!**

**Note:** If your team has any remaining donations to submit, there is still time! [The Atlanta Community Food Bank](https://www.theatlantafoodbank.org) will count all funds received by **March 31**, so please send in any final contributions before then.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Mary Armstrong-Reiner  
Hunger Walk Coordinator  
Inspiritus

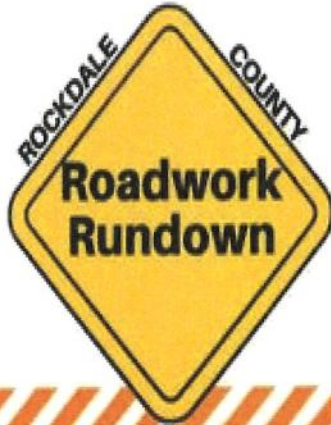


## Community News & Activities



**HUNGER**  
**WALK** *RUN*





Georgia Department of Transportation

**Projects are Rolling Toward Rockdale!**

**GDOT Roadwork Update:**  
**State Route 162 / Salem Road**  
**Widening Project**



Salem Road will be expanded from two to four lanes (two in each direction) and from four to six lanes near the I-20 interchange.

***\*Expect lane closures and detours\****

**Projected  
Completion:  
Summer  
2028**



**FAMILY PROMISE OF  
NEWROCK BENEFIT BBQ**

**MAY 3 2025**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Covington**

**11am-2pm**

**Food, Fun, Fellowship**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



**Donate \$50 to RSVP**

**[www.familypromiseofnewrock.org/donate](http://www.familypromiseofnewrock.org/donate)**





**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.**

**There are two ways to participate in our FREE Monthly Support Groups.**

***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***



**<https://tinyurl.com/NAMIrnfamilysupportgroup>**

Visit us online at **[namirockdalenewton.org](http://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 Greg Chapman
- 2 Tracy Parker  
Alicia Simmons  
Fidensio Malphurs
- 3 Grethel Moore  
Drew Payseur
- 7 Verna Bass
- 12 Donald Jenkins  
Chelsea Skinner
- 15 Jessica Ard
- 17 Jaynie Malphurs
- 18 Elizabeth Shead
- 20 Sabrina Jones
- 25 Michael Lanier
- 27 Mary Leach
- 29 Lori Weber



|                        | Date | Years |
|------------------------|------|-------|
| George & Inam Withers  | 5    | 28    |
| Horace & Jean Sullivan | 29   | 64    |

***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**

We now have seasonal flower arrangements that will remain until the season changes. However, you still have an opportunity to honor, or memorialize, a special person or occasion with a “fresh” flower arrangement. The altar flower calendar will continue to be posted in its’ usual place in the narthex and a separate table has been designated, in the sanctuary, for these “special” arrangements when requested. Remember to include \$30 in an envelope and mark it special flowers and the Sunday designated.

# *Council Meeting Minutes - March*

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Group convened in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Pastor David opened the session with a prayer. In attendance were: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, Vicar James Hilden-Minton, President Peggy Lawrence, Secretary Riki DeLamar, Nancy Stover, Lane Carlisle, Tim Lohr, Greg Holcomb, Vice President Anita Smith. The Group enjoyed a meal and had sharing time.

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order @ 11:57AM.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The Minutes from the previous meetings (1/16/25, and the February Council Retreat) were reviewed: Motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Lane Carlisle and seconded by Anita Smith to accept the Minutes. Motion carried.

## **Agenda:**

The agenda for today's meeting was presented and reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda as presented by Anita Smith. Motion was seconded by Lane Carlisle and carried.

## **Financial Reports:**

1. **Financial Secretary**
2. **Treasurer**

**Sharon Skinner**  
**Tracy Parker**

Operating income for February was \$27,545.25 with \$1082.38 in designated funds. Total expenses were \$22,396.16. Motion made to accept this report as submitted by Tim Lohr and seconded by Nancy Stover. Motion carried.

Discussion about the need to revisit the usage of Vanco for donations due to the hidden fees. Zelle is free to use from your bank. A second option would be to have the members increase the amount to cover those costs. We paid approximately \$1500 in 2024 to cover the use of Vanco. We will explore how to convey this information to the congregation.

## **Pastor's Report:**

We will hold a new member class on Sunday 3/23/25 at 11:30am. We currently have 4 persons signed up. We will receive new members on 4/6/25.

Pastor and Vicar will be attending an internship retreat on the 24<sup>th</sup> in North Carolina.

Pastor's Birthday trip is planned for September 10-19 and will include a tour of the 7 cities of Revelation with Tarsus and Antioch added.

Statistics: (January 17-March 16)

Worship: 9 Sundays, 1 Lent, 2 Ash Wednesday services

Hospital Visits: 4

Member Visits: 9

Internship: 5 Supervisory sessions

Counseling: 4 pre-funeral

Life Passages: Memorial services for Karen Lennox, Ward Gailey, Vinton Ramsey, Ed Hill

Pastors Meeting: 3 Pastor Preaching

Committee Meetings: 1 Worship Planning, 1 Endowment Committee, Council Retreat, Gift Policy Meeting

Education: 8 Men's Bible Study, 4 Women's Bible Studies, 9 Adult Ed Classes, 2 Confirmation

Other Meetings/Events: 2 Community Resource Network, Phoenix Pass board Meeting, Epiphany Annual Meeting, Hunger Walk 2025, Rockdale Pastors' Table

Community Visits:

This report covers 2 months.

# Council Meeting Minutes - March

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## Vicar's Report:

See written report.

Walking Fellowship Group meets weekly. Attendance varies. This has evolved into a modified grief Support Group as well as a Discernment Sub-Group that meets monthly. The Discernment Group met last on Thursday. With the need for Grief Support, Pastor Mary is planning on joining the group on 3/27.

Vicar did 2 member visits.

## Old Business:

Building needs, improvements, and updates – Air Conditioner Update: Installation is in progress.

Wiring issues were identified. Also has problem with a condenser tube.

Synod Assembly Delegates – We have until mid-April to identify a male and female delegate for the Synod Assembly.

Music Director – The Committee will meet for the first time on 3/18/25 at 7PM via zoom. This will be to start the process of revising the contracts and hopefully to identify a candidate later in the year.

Committee members are: Pastor, Vicar, Lane Carlisle, Riki DeLamar, Rene Kuhn, and Bob Ard.

## New Business:

Gift Policy Update – The Gift Policy is due for review. The Endowment Committee presented an amended Gift Policy with tracked changes as a motion to update the current gift policy. Lane Carlisle seconded. Motion carried.

## Reports:

President – No written report.

Vice President – No written report.

## Stewardship Committee Reports:

Greg was not present when we last met and made the Council committee assignments. After discussion, because of his involvement with the yard group and facilities management; he will be added to the Administration Team with Peggy and Tracy.

- |                                      |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Discipleship – No written report. | 4. Administration – No written report.                                                            |
| 2. Outreach – See written report.    | 5. Worship – No written report. Please prayerfully consider signing up to assist with the Ushers. |
| 3. Nurture – See written report.     |                                                                                                   |

The April Council meeting will be held 4/27/25 after the Sunday service. Tim Lohr will provide lunch. Peggy and Anita indicated they could assist if needed. There was a motion to adjourn and was carried. Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rikita S DeLamar

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***Dear Epiphany Family,***

***Andy and I would like to thank everyone during the loss of our father and husband. Your cards, food, kind words, flowers and the beautiful hand made cards from the children's church children, but most importantly, your hugs. Those hugs were the arms of God surrounding us with His love giving us comfort and strength.***

***Thank you, and you all are very precious to us.***

***Andy and Margaret***