

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Epiphany's Epistle



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The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of the Memorial Day holiday.

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE  
Conyers, GA 30013  
(770) 483-6222  
[conyerselc.org](http://conyerselc.org)  
[staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org)

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,*  
*Pastor*

## May 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](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, May 25 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](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).

## 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](http://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*

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This month I want to share some words on the resurrection of a pastor friend of mine Garrett Andrew, who perhaps summons the meaning of this season best:



### Something Happened

None of the stories agree.  
Not really.

Except for this: the stone was rolled away, and he was no longer there.

The women saw angels—or they didn't.

And were there two women, three women, even more women, or just Mary Magdalene? They all agree on her at least.

There was one angel, or two. Or a young man in dazzling clothes. Or maybe it was someone who looked like he belonged there—someone with dirt under his nails, someone who might know where they moved the body.

Jesus was mistaken for a stranger, mistaken for a ghost, mistaken for a gardener—  
because who expects resurrection to wear the face of the ordinary?

He appeared in locked rooms.

He walked through walls.

He made breakfast on the beach.

He vanished mid-blessing.

He offered peace like bread, breath like Spirit, wounds like windows.

Sometimes they touched him.

Sometimes they couldn't.

Sometimes he called their name.

Sometimes he just walked beside them and listened.

No one wrote it down the same.

And maybe that's the most beautiful part.

Because something happened.

Something broke the silence.

Something tore the veil, split the stone, startled the soldiers, and scattered the fearful.

Something happened that made them run, and weep, and wonder.

And none of them were the same again.

"I have seen the Lord!"—cried the woman who stayed behind, who mistook him for the gardener until he said her name.

"Were not our hearts burning within us...?"—whispered the travelers who didn't recognize him until the bread was broken.

"Yes Lord, you know that I love you."—answered the man who denied him, who dove into the sea at the sheer possibility of grace.

"My Lord and my God."—said the doubter, the realist, the brave one who dared to touch the wound.

They didn't all believe in the same way.

But they all were changed.

*(continued on next page)*

## *From Pastor David*

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That's the miracle.  
Not agreement.  
Not certainty.  
Not perfect doctrine, polished and airtight.  
But the absurdity of joy after despair.  
The presence of love in a locked room.  
The echo of your name spoken by the one you thought was gone.

Maybe that's why we still gather.  
Not because we've figured it out.  
But because something happened—something too real to ignore, too beautiful to explain.  
And we are still learning how to live like it's true,  
still wondering what it might mean,  
still listening for our own names in the hush between questions.

Resurrection doesn't demand we get the story straight.  
It invites us into the garden.  
Into the upper room.  
Onto the road.  
To the shoreline of the ordinary—  
where fish sizzle and grace still flickers on the fire.

Something happened.  
And maybe it still is—  
still humming in the hush,  
still waking us like sunlight on closed eyes,  
still breaking into locked places with a peace we didn't ask for,  
still rising in the ordinary edges of our days  
like dew that wasn't there the night before.

And we—  
we still wonder if the gardener might be Christ,  
or if Christ might be the gardener,  
tending what we thought was lost  
until we hear our name—  
like Mary heard hers—  
and the soil stirs with resurrection.

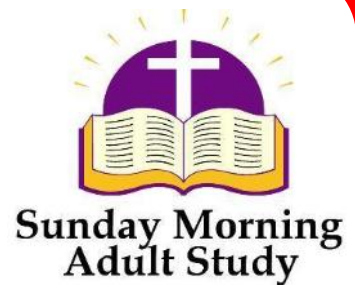
***Grief support group forming in May:*** Bereavement group, led by Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner, meets at Epiphany Lutheran, Room 1, Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. through July. We are using the book, *Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart* (and workbook) by Alan Wolfelt. It is not too late to join the group, Please contact Vicar James (email [vicar.james@epiphanyelc.org](mailto:vicar.james@epiphanyelc.org)).



## **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS**

Join us for our adult Sunday class at 9 a.m. in rooms 7-9. Over the next few weeks, we will be concluding our sessions on Contradictions in the Bible and The Not-So-Minor Prophets. Please join us for the following sessions:

May 11 - Contradictions: The Coming of the Spirit  
May 18 - The Not-So-Minor Prophets: Malachi



## **WOMEN'S Bible Study**



*The Women's Bible Study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



The Refuge Center's annual Baby Bottle Campaign will begin on Sunday, May 11 (Mothers' Day) and end on Sunday, June 15 (Fathers' Day). If you would like to participate, pick up a bottle in the narthex beginning May 11 and return the bottle on June 15. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Refuge Center, which is 100% community supported, has served over 64,000 clients since they opened their doors in 1984 and continue to provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material needs assistance, parenting classes and so much more...all free of charge.

Social  
Ministry



Fill a Bottle  
WITH CHANGE, CASH, OR A CHECK  
AND Change <sup>THE</sup> Life  
OF A FAMILY  
IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY!

REFUGECONYERS.ORG/BABYBOTTLE



The egg hunt at Elks Aidemore was a great success. We had 13 girls join in the fun. We prepared baskets with small gifts, candy and a \$5 Walmart gift card. There were around 750 eggs hidden with candy in them and 63 eggs with slips to return for gift cards, plus the golden egg with a \$40 gift card. Total money raised for event \$709.25 from Epiphany and \$280 from Salem United Methodist Church. This paid for all the baskets with gifts, gift cards and candy. Thank you so much for making this a fun event for the girls.



# Congregation News & Activities



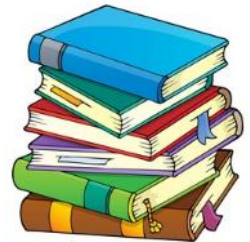
Springtime continues to be a busy time for the Fellowship Committee. There was a great response to our Lenten Soup and Sandwich suppers; last year we served between 20 and 25 guests. This year, however, that number increased to between 30 and 35. Looking ahead to May, we have begun the planning for our annual Patriotic Potluck, celebrating our veterans and first responders. Check the bulletin for updates.

The Fellowship Committee

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 20 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 for the remainder of this year:

- 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



# Congregation News & Activities

**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.



**A walk is a proven way to treat a host of ailments.**



## High Blood Pressure

- It can lower blood pressure.
- It can also reduce your risk for coronary artery disease

## Arthritis

- It strengthens the muscles that support joints
- Helps you shed pounds and reduces joint stiffness

## Insomnia

- Morning walks expose your body to essential early daylight.

## Depression

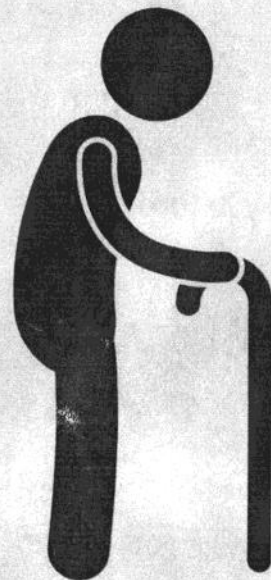
- It increases the production of serotonin, dopamine and other brain chemical that lift your mood

## Osteoporosis

- Walking helps preserve bone

## Type 2 Diabetes

- Provides better blood sugar control
- Walking after eating sweets can prevent a blood sugar spike



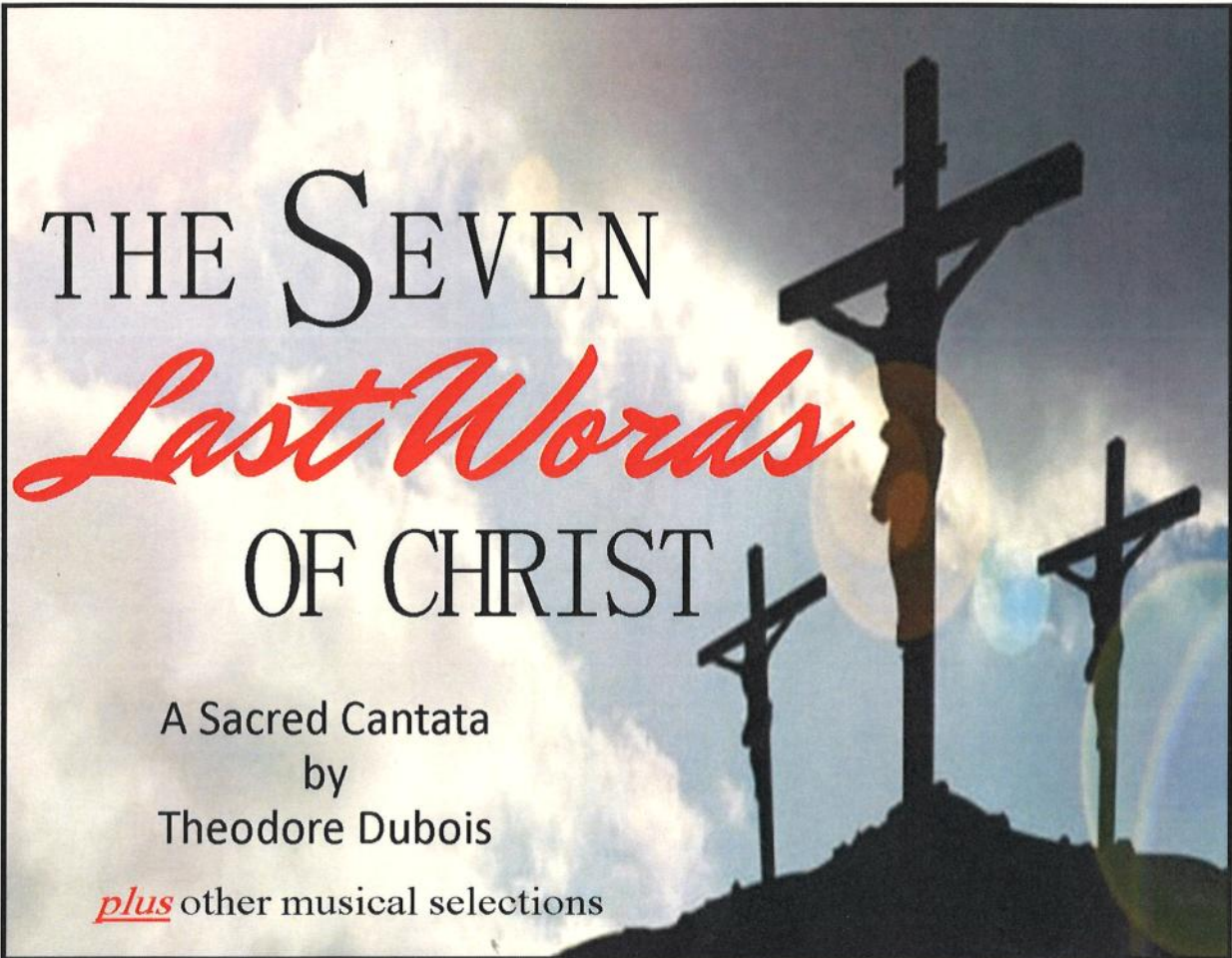


2025 SPRING CONCERT SERIES

# Covington-Conyers Choral Guild & Orchestra

Roger Waters, Musical Director & Conductor  
Steve Traylor, Assistant Director | Michael Davis, Accompanist

*presents*



**THURSDAY, MAY 8 & FRIDAY, MAY 9**

**HERITAGE HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**

2987 HIGHWAY 212 SW, CONYERS, GA 30094

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. | Concerts begin at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased from any choral guild member, at the door the night of the performance, or online at [www.choralguild.org](http://www.choralguild.org).





**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 Donna Lanford	21 Trena Shead
2 Joshua Baker	Nicole DeLamar
3 Tyler Sturhann	23 Jeremy Ard
4 Erin Carey	25 Samantha Granville
13 Jason Lange	Stephanie Hurley
14 Vizma Lazdans	26 Jeff Hefner
Arthur Schlueter III	31 Timothy Carter
16 Kathy Norton	Noah Carter
Samuel Armstrong-Reiner	



	Date	Years
Don & Kathy Norton	30	56

***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.



