

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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February 2026



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 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

A graphic with the word "Newsletter" in large, white, bold letters. The letters are surrounded by colorful paint splatters in shades of red, yellow, blue, and green. Below the word, the word "DEADLINE!" is written in bold, black, uppercase letters.

DEADLINE!

Sunday, February 22 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the March 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

When we were doing a class on gentleness as a fruit of the Spirit, I stumbled upon a homily by Gregory of Nyssa – an early Church father – on the beatitude, “Blessed are the meek.” In that sermon, he describes the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 as a ladder:

The Beatitudes are arranged in order like so many steps, so as to facilitate the ascent from one to the other. For if one’s mind has ascended to the first Beatitude, he will accept what follows as a necessary result of thought, even though the next clause seems to say something new beyond what had been said in the first.

That thought has begun to re-shape how I read the Beatitudes. They now challenge me as steps to take in this journey of faith, to become the people of God that we are called to be. And I invite you to join me on Sunday mornings at 9 am as we will explore the Beatitudes as those rungs to climb up to God’s intentions for us.

And I write this now because it provides a way to see this season of Lent that we begin with Ash Wednesday on February 18.

From the beginning of church history, Lent was meant to be something much more than a reflection on suffering. For centuries in the church, Lent was the final intensive learning experience for those who would affirm and declare their faith in Jesus. The word Lent itself comes the Latin word *lente*, which means the season Spring.

In other words, Lent is intended as a time of intentional growth. When we give up things for Lent, we are called to not see that simply as a sacrifice for a short period. Rather, we do so to encourage our growth in life and faith. We might give up sugar and chocolate, but we do so to encourage more healthy eating. We might give up time on television or the computer or our cell phones, but we do so to encourage us to spend more quality time with our loved ones. These practices can be seen as placing our feet on that first rung of the ladder, an initial step in our further growth in faith.

Similarly, we can use this time of Lent – this time of Spring – as a time of planting seeds, starting new practices, to encourage growth in our lives. Maybe we will read a chapter of the Bible to encourage time to hear God in Scripture. Maybe you will take some intentional time to quiet yourself in prayer each day. Maybe you will want to take this time to thank a person each day or each week that have meant something in your life. Maybe you will want to read a devotion or a book that will encourage your faith.

Maybe you can use the Beatitudes as steps in faith that you will make over these next two months.

What does it mean for you to be “poor in Spirit” or “meek”? What are you called to give up or let go of so that you might experience God’s grace more fully?

What does it mean for you to “hunger and thirst for righteousness”? What issues of justice do you strive for? What response are you called to take? Is it a protest? Is it letters to your senators or representatives?

What does it mean for you to be a “peacemaker”? Are you called to bring peace to your family? Are you called to build a bridge to a group you do not know? Are you called to forgive someone from your past or present?

And as we also listen to stories this month as part of African American History Month, let those stories inspire your own in this journey of faith. For as I have said before, we speak of African American History because it is all of our history. Our present polarized climate continues to promote an “us-them” mentality, when the “them” represents anyone who differs from us in any way. African-American History Month challenges us to understand that there is only us. African-American history is our history. Latino history is our history. Native American History is our history. We are all one.

From Pastor David

Listening to those stories also affects our understanding of one another. We see the immigrant or refugee coming to this country as a part of us, created in the image of God. We see the transgendered as a part of us, created in the image of God. And this means that we will stand up and fight for the equity and inclusion of all people.

Maybe the step you take during Lent is to listen to the stories of resistance and ask how you may participate.

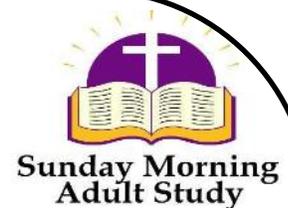
Whatever you choose or do, may this Lent bring forth a springtime in your faith, encouraging your spiritual life to grow and flower.

Let us enter joyfully and intentionally into this season of Lent.

In Christ,
Pastor David

WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE? The Ladder of the Beatitudes

Starting next week, February 8, at 9 am, please join us for our new class for the Lenten season, as we look at the Beatitudes as rungs of a ladder, leading us to be the people that God calls us to be.



- Sunday, February 8** **Introduction and Rung 1 – Poor in Spirit**
³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
(1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2:5)
- Sunday, February 15** **Rung 2 - Mourning**
⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)
- Sunday, February 22** **Rung 3 - Meekness**
⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
(Philippians 2:1-11)
- Sunday, March 1** **Rung 4 – Pursuit of Justice**
⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
(Amos 5:18-24)
- Sunday, March 8** **Rung 5 - Mercy**
⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. (Micah 6:6-8)
- Sunday, March 15** **Rung 6 – “Pure” in heart**
⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (John 15:1-11)
- Sunday, March 22** **Rung 7 – Making Peace**
⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
(Ephesians 2:11-22)
- Sunday, March 29** **Rungs 8-9 – Stony the Road we Trod**
¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Luke 23:26-31)

Congregation News & Activities



Sunday Coffee Hour

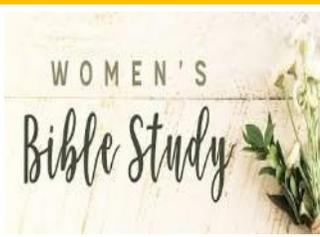
We encourage you to drop in for a coffee and fellowship hour anytime from 9-9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

Breakfast is Served Monthly!

Every second Sunday

8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

A freewill offering will be collected.



Women's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. Come join us as we continue our study on the parables of Jesus.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

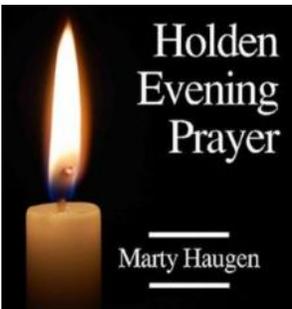


Pastor David leads a discussion on the upcoming Sunday's lessons.



Please join us for the Season of Preparation.

We will have a service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18



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 during the Lenten season:

February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25 prior to the Lenten Service.



Soup & Sandwich Supper

Congregation News & Activities



Annual Congregational Meeting Part II Sunday, February 15

The annual congregational meeting, part II, has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 15, immediately following worship service. All members are encouraged to mark your calendars and plan to attend.



The annual Epiphany Chili Cook Off is scheduled for Sunday, February 15. We need chili cooks, judges, and people willing to bring side dishes. For dessert, we are also planning a chocolate chip cookie exhibition. Bakers are encouraged to bring two dozen cookies made from their favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe.

Also, our first Lenten Soup & Sandwich supper will be on Wednesday, February 25th @ 6 p.m. with a devotional service starting at 7 p.m. The Music Ministry will be the chefs for the evening. Come, join us.

- The Fellowship Committee



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th

The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer from a single youth group "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." More than \$220 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Super Bowl of Caring. We are collecting donations (soup, chili, money) through February 8th. All proceeds will go directly to Rockdale Emergency Relief. If you would like to read more about this event visit www.tacklehunger.org

Thank you for your continued support!

Social Ministry

In addition to our Souper Bowl event for Rockdale Emergency Relief we will also be collecting other food items for the month of February. Canned vegetables, cereal, peanut butter and jelly are the items most needed. Collection bins will be in the Narthex.

Congregation News & Activities



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. in the Library. 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 selections that have been chosen for 2026 are listed below.

February: "The House Maid" by Frieda McFadden

March: "Seven Holy Women" by Georgia Briggs etc.

April: "Mona's Eyes" by Thomas Schlessler

May: "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick

June: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

July: "The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau: A novel" by Kristin Hannah

August: "Dark Wild Shore" by Charlotte McConaghy

September: "Maybe We Should Talk to Somebody" by Lori Gottlieb

October: "Road Trip" by Mary Kay Andrews

November: "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah

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!

SAVE THE DATE

Grateful Hearts, Thankful Lives

Magi Conference 4 Women's Spring Gathering

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:30am-11:30am

Trinity Lutheran Church

1826 Killian Hill Rd

Lilburn, GA 30047

We invite you to join the ladies of Conference 4 for our Spring Gathering. We will be sharing ideas to encourage women to gather together for Bible study, service projects, lunches, and other opportunities. This event offers an opportunity for fellowship and growth as a community of women.

We will begin with breakfast provided by the ladies of Trinity. This is a wonderful time to connect with one another and share a meal to start the day. Our Synod Liaison will share important updates.

Program: Practicing Prayers of Gratitude

Pastor Beverly Shaw will lead our program, focusing on developing the intentional practice of prayers of gratitude. She will explore how recognizing and appreciating the good in ordinary things can bring meaningful benefits to our daily lives.

Shirley Connelly will lead a workshop about creating a journal to support the intentional practice of prayers of thankfulness and gratitude. This will provide participants with a practical tool to continue their journey beyond the gathering.

We will conclude our meeting by coming together in prayers of thanks and gratitude, reinforcing the themes of the day and celebrating the blessings in our lives.



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

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



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 3 Lawrence Barhorst | 17 Tim Lohr |
| 4 Denise Baker | 19 Carol Carter |
| 5 Michael DeLamar | 23 Don Buckner |
| Gilly Mumford | Cory Erks |
| 6 Cathy Harbin | 27 David DeLamar |
| 8 Caroline Kuhn | 28 Dan Bass |
| 12 Stephanie Schlueter | |
| 14 Colleen Simmons | |
| 16 Mark Hurley | |



	DATE	YEARS
Leighton & Paula Pyatt	11	42
Lawrence Barhorst & Sue Currie	22	4

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.