

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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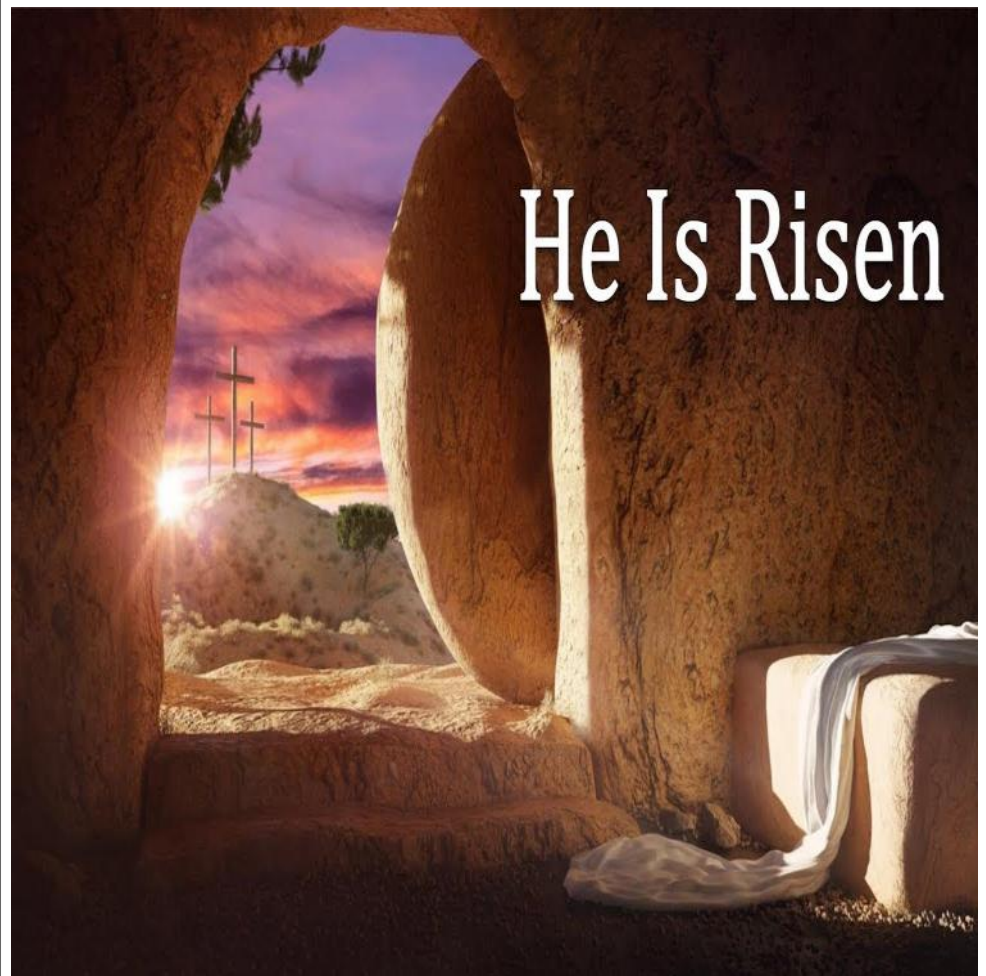
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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
conyerselc.org
staff@conyerselc.org

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor*

April 2026



***“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 @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

*Worship Service and special services
are also streamed
live via Facebook and the Epiphany
YouTube pages*

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

DEADLINE!

Sunday, April 26 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

Nine years ago I attended the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta. Besides a time to see old friends and meet new ones, we got to be inspired by a number of speakers. The words I remember the most came from Rachel Held Evans. In the midst of so many of our churches that worry about dying, she said something profound:

“If the church in America is dying, let it die. And let it be resurrected. Death is something empires worry about. It is not something resurrection people worry about. We don’t win this with a death grip on the way it used to be, we win it with surrender and the rising up of something new.”

We become obsessed about the dying of the church. What Evans challenged us with is that we have the wrong focus. We are a resurrection people. Death happens. But in its wake and in God’s perspective, new life comes out of that death.

That is the message of the Easter season: Resurrection happens! New life happens! Christ is risen!

So, from a resurrection perspective, we look forward to death, because we know that new life will happen. Paul expresses it this way:

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.” (Romans 6:5-8)

Crucifixion and resurrection mean that we are no longer defined by our past. Indeed, we die to our past, in order that we might see what new life God is causing to spring among us.

What a powerful message as we move forward. We proclaim that we are dying to old ways and raised to new ways. We are dying to the past and raised to God’s future. Do we know what this new life looks like? Not yet, for now it is just a seed, and we do not yet know what that seed will produce:

“And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.” (1 Corinthians 15:37-38)

Rachel Held Evans – who would die suddenly in 2019 - gave me that hope:

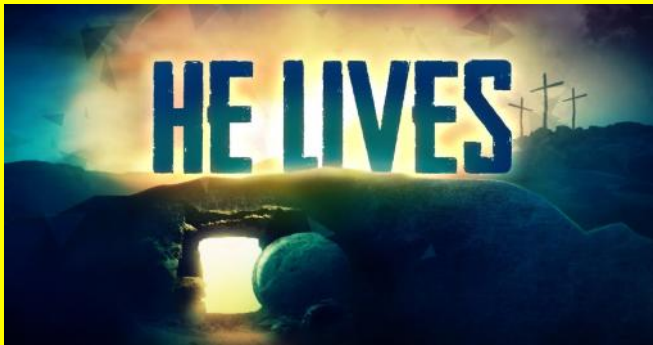
“Let the old church die to its old ways. We don’t win this by holding on with a death grip. We win by trusting the God who raised Jesus from the dead and who will do the same for us.... You have the sacraments. You have the call. You have the Holy Spirit. You have one another. You have a God who knows the way out of the grave. You have everything you need. You just need to show up and be faithful.”

So, let us together trust the God of new life. Let us together pursue the God of Resurrection. Let us listen to God, listen to one another, and listen to our community, being open to what God longs to do in, through, and among us.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor David

Congregation News & Activities



Easter Sunday The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 5th

6:30 a.m. ~ Outdoor Sunrise Service

**** Breakfast Served at 8:30 a.m. ****

10:00 a.m.

Festive Holy Communion Worship Service

Easter Egg Hunt following Worship Service!

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.



CALLING ON ALL CRAFT PEOPLE. THE ALTAR GUILD WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE BANNERS TO PUT UP. WE HAVE THREE LOCATIONS TO HANG THEM UP. IN THE SANCTUARY, NARTHEX AND IN THE HALLWAY TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. THE BANNER NEEDS TO BE 44 INCHES WIDE AND CAN BE 60 TO 80 INCHES LONG. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE GROUPS MAKE THEM OR ANY INDIVIDUAL. THERE IS NO TIME FRAME FOR THIS AND WHEN YOU COMPLETE ONE JUST LET MARGARET HILL OR EVELYN BROWN

KNOW AND WE WILL PUT THEM UP. YOU MAKE THEM FOR ANY SPECIAL SEASON OR TO BE DISPLAYED DURING THE YEAR. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU COME UP WITH.



Happy Easter everyone! Our Lenten Soup & Sandwich suppers were well attended again this year. Also, we continue to serve breakfast (thanks Peggy Lawrence and Riki DeLamar) on the second Sunday of each month. Past menus have included pancakes, coffee cake, scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh fruit, and juice. A freewill offering is collected at each breakfast.

Social Ministry

Thanks to everyone for contributing to the Elks Aidemore Easter Egg Hunt. We had \$610 for 48 gift cards for the egg hunt; \$240 for \$10 gift cards, one for each Easter Basket; \$39 for chocolate bunnies and \$267 of donated candy and small gifts for the baskets. Total amount contributed was \$1,156 which we used to make 24 pails for 21 girls who attended the hunt.



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!

Congregation News & Activities



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 21 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 remaining book selections for 2026 are:

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



EveryStep Walking Fellowship Group

We meet every Thursday in the fellowship hall at 9:30 AM and we welcome all who can come. The group is focused on more than walking but promotes connections with each other and an understanding that health is not only physical, mental, emotional, and environmental but also spiritual. There is a strong relationship between what is good for the body and what is good for the soul. We also know that what is bad for the soul is also bad for the body. Health is an integrated, inseparable triad of the mind- body-spirit where neglecting one component disrupts the balance of the whole. True wellness focuses on daily choices that foster mental clarity, emotional and physical health, and spiritual purpose.

We walk approximately 20-30 minutes to a Bible verse selected for meditation. We alternate verses about walking, grief/joy, healing, and God's promises. After walking, we discuss the verse, exploring what the meaning is and how to apply the verse in our relationship with God, each other, and our families and community.

We also learn about ways to improve our health. The health topics covered so far include the benefits of specific vegetables and fruits, important vitamins and minerals, eye health, pain management, use of Ceylon cinnamon to control blood pressure and blood sugar, benefits of honey, chair yoga, intermittent fasting, healing spaces outdoors, depression, and using weights in exercise to name a few. When asked, people who come indicate that the most important aspect is being together and sharing what we know and understand. Come and learn with us.

Snowball Mountain Challenge: VBS for All July 12 - 16

Get ready to hit the slopes at this year's inclusive Vacation Bible School, **Snowball Mountain Challenge**, running **July 12-16 (Sunday - Thursday), 5:30-8:00 p.m.** at Epiphany Lutheran Church. This is our **ninth year** of offering a VBS designed especially for children, youth, and adults with special needs, along with their families and caregivers.



Each evening will include:

- **Dinner together**
- **Music and Bible story time**
- **Crafts and games** (including some “snowy” surprises!)
- Visits from **therapy dogs, first responders, and other special guests**
- Quiet spaces and flexible support for those who need a break

Our theme this year invites us to “climb” together in faith, courage, and community, knowing that God is with us on every part of the journey.

How you can help:

- **Volunteer:** We need helpers for crafts, games, food service, water night, and one-on-one support.
- **Donate:** We're seeking:
 - Restaurant meal sponsorships
 - **Gift cards** (Kroger, Michael's, Publix)
 - **Craft supplies and simple games** for all ages
 - **Water night items** (balloons, slip and slides, etc.)

If you'd like to register, volunteer, or donate, please email Valerie Vinson at staff@conyerselc.org.

Mark your calendars and pray with us as we prepare for another joyful year of VBS for all!



NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Rockdale & Newton Counties GA

We offer three **FREE** Monthly Support Groups



REGISTER for the
**NAMI Family
Support Group**
Held on the **2nd**
Monday of each
month from
6:30 - 8:00 pm.

REGISTER for the
**Mental Wellness in Recovery
Support Group**
Held at 12:30 pm on Mondays



[https://tinyurl.com/
NAMIMentalWellness](https://tinyurl.com/NAMIMentalWellness)

Visit us online at
namirockdalenewton.org



REGISTER for the
**NAMI Connection
Recovery Support
Group**
Held on the 3rd
Monday of each
month from
6:30 - 8:00 pm.

It's okay to not be okay.

Silence the Shame

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 or 988

Veteran Crisis Line: Dial 988 & Press 1

Depression Hotline: 1-888-640-5174

Addiction Hotline: 1-877-266-3111

Crisis Text Line: Text "SILENCE" to 741741

NAMI Hotline: 1-800-950-6264

Eating Disorder Hotline: 1-844-228-2962

Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Postpartum Help Line: 1 (800) 944-4773

Self Harm Hotline: (877) 455-0628

Trevor Project: 1 (866) 488-7386

www.stevelfund.org

www.blackfemaletherapists.com

www.therapyforblackmen.org

www.asianmhc.org

www.latinaxtherapy.org

www.activeminds.org

www.therapyforblkgirls.com

www.muslimmentalhealth.com

We need your support to improve mental health outcomes for all members of our community!

Your support can help to improve and save lives! You can support NAMI Rockdale Newton

1. Share info about our FREE monthly support groups held on the 1st & 3rd Monday
2. Become a NAMI Rockdale Newton member
3. Join the NAMI Rockdale Newton leadership team
4. Become a volunteer to support us in our community outreach
5. Become a NAMI GA group facilitator to support others in knowing they are not alone
6. Become a NAMI GA instructor to train community members about mental health

Join our [NAMI Walks Team: Steppin' Over Stigma!](#) to plan for next year's event.

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 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.

Council Meeting Minutes - March

Group convened for Retreat at 8:30am. In attendance: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, President Peggy Lawrence, Abby Harper, Lane Carlisle, Deidre London, Tim Lohr, Greg Holcomb, Michael Thompson, Julia Mumford. Absent: Vice-President Anita Smith, Secretary Riki DeLamar, Treasurer Tracy Parker, Nelson Kelly

The Group enjoyed breakfast, and completed Retreat exercises- About the Dwelling in the World Bible Study Process: Reading from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition and Laughing Bird; Reflection on Epiphany (What brought you to Epiphany?, What keeps you at Epiphany?, What do you love about Epiphany?, What is your wish for Epiphany? How long have you been a member at Epiphany?)

A. Endowment Committee Report (Met in Feb 2026)

The Endowment Committee presented its annual disbursement recommendations based on a fund balance of \$243,257.14 as of December 31, 2025. The 5% distribution totals \$12,162.86.

Proposed Allocation:

- 20% of ELCA churchwide ministries (synod support)
- 20% to local outreach organizations
- 20% to extraordinary programs/capital improvements
- Remaining 40% to be distributed among the above categories, with emphasis on building maintenance and improvements

Motion: To approve the endowment disbursement as presented by the Endowment Committee.

Second: Received by Lane Carlisle

Vote: Motion carried.

B. Financial Report

The Treasurer's report and financial statements were presented.

Key Points:

- The church is currently operating at a deficit for January and February.
- Contributing factors include:
 - Cancellation of services for two Sundays
 - Timing of benefit payments resulting in double expense posting
- Discrepancies and clarifications are needed regarding:
 - Utility expenses
 - Budget vs. actual reporting
 - Staff compensation entries
 - Rental income variances

Action: Financial report reviews deferred pending clarification. No vote taken.

C. Property / Facilities (HVAC)

Three estimates were presented for replacement of a non-functioning HVAC unit (approximately \$9,154-\$11,088).

Discussion included:

- Urgency due to upcoming summer conditions
- Impact on building use and maintenance
- Possibility of securing donated equipment or services

Action: Decision tabled to allow time for outreach regarding potential donations. Future votes may occur electronically if needed.

D. Ministry Reports

1. Social Ministry

- Ongoing programming continues.
- Minor concern noted regarding food-related expenses.

Council Meeting Minutes - March

2. Youth Ministry

- Participation in Hunger Walk completed (3 Present).
- Planning underway for a summer color run event.
- Cooking classes approved:
 - Youth-focused sessions
 - Potential sessions for older adults (meal preparation for smaller households)
- Youth room updates discussed.

E. Old Business

Signage Contract (Apartment Complex)

- Update provided regarding delinquent payments.
 - Contact has been reestablished.
 - Payment is expected, and a renewal contract has been proposed.
- Action: Await receipt of payment prior to renewal.

F. New Business

1. Giving and Contributions

- Council discussed financial shortfall due to missed services.
- Plan to:
 - Encourage members to make up missed contributions.
 - Provide education on electronic giving options.
 - Develop and distribute a one-page instructional handout.
 - Offer in-person assistance for set-up.

2. Fellowship Events

- Easter breakfast confirmed; no adult education scheduled that day.
- Discussion held regarding Mother's Day breakfast:
 - Possibility of volunteer coordination (including men of the congregation)
 - No formal motion; to be announced for volunteer interest.

3. Music Position

- Ongoing vacancy discussed.
- Options include restructuring the role (director vs. pianist or split roles).
- Expanded recruitment efforts to be pursued.

G. Action Items

- Following up on HVAC donation opportunities
- Obtain clarification on financial report discrepancies.
- Develop giving instruction materials.
- Monitor signage payment and contract renewal.
- Recruit volunteers for upcoming fellowship events.
- Continue recruitment for music staff position.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @11:42am

Closing: The meeting concluded with prayer.

Submitted by:

Deidre London, Council Member

Next Meeting Date: April 19th 11:30 a.m.