

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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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*

September 2026

1 Corinthians 9:23



***“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.

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).

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*



DEADLINE!

Sunday, September 20 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the October newsletter. You can email your news to the church office at staff@conyerselc.org.



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.

Recently I was asked what do I wish to see for Epiphany. My answer then and now is rather simple: that we may all grow in our faith. Too often we get caught in a numbers trap, thinking that the goal is to have “more butts in the pews and more bucks in the plate.” But a focus on attendance and income misses the point about why we gather: we gather to refresh our focus on God in Jesus and to encourage each other in lives of faith. Or as our mission statement says, we gather to “follow Christ, live faithfully, and serve all.”

As individuals, this goal will look different to different people. Some grow in faith by a commitment to study Scripture and how it speaks to them. And so we offer different growth opportunities. Some grow in faith by a deeper commitment to service and advocacy. And so we offer opportunities to serve and to give. Each of us considers what this life of faith looks like. And we gather to challenge, encourage, and practice what faith means.

As a church, this goal calls us to see what our wider community looks like. How can we enter into what God is already doing? How can we work together to proclaim and live out God’s grace for all people?

In a recent sermon I shared a quote from Augustine that summarizes for me what my role is all about: “Why do I preach? Why do I sit up here? What do I live for? For this one thing alone: that together we may live with Christ! This is my passion, this is my honor, this is my fame, this is my joy, this is my one possession! ... But I do not want to be saved without you!”

My prayer for all of us is that we may be driven by that same passion and that same desire that we may live with Christ and that we may grow together in Christ. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 9:23, “I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might share in its blessings.”

In Christ,
Pastor David

Congregation News & Activities

Song of Solomon as an Experience of God

Not many have read the Song of Solomon. Maybe you did not know that this small book existed in the Bible. And the few verses you may have heard from the book were used at weddings, celebrating the love between a couple. On the surface the book is a love poem between a man and a woman. Yet, the early church read within its words a description of our intimate relationship with God that we grow into within our lives. Starting on Sunday, September 6, come join us on Sundays at 9 am in rooms 7-9 as we discover how this book may speak to us in our faith journeys today.

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.



Unnamed but Not Forgotten: Reading the Stories of the Unnamed in Scripture

The Women's Bible Study is studying the many stories of unnamed characters throughout Scripture. From the Woman at the Well to the Queen of Sheba, from the Ethiopian Eunuch to the Penitent Thief. Come join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. as we hear these stories and how they challenge us today.



This is the time of the year when the Fellowship Committee starts planning for our fall events. In September, there will be a welcome reception for Bennett Craft, our new Director of Music. Check the weekly bulletin for details on all our activities.

~ The Fellowship Committee

Social Ministry

Our September project is gas cards for Project Renewal. You may give donations for them in the offering, electronically or purchase them and give to Evelyn Brown or Sharon Skinner. Thank you for supporting this project.



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 and 20 minutes of devotion, sharing & prayer. Open to all regardless of physical limitations.

*Weekly walks meet at the Fellowship Hall
on Thursday mornings @ 9:30AM*



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. YOU CAN MAKE THEM FOR ANY SPECIAL SEASON OR TO BE DISPLAYED DURING THE YEAR. 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. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU COME UP WITH.

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**.

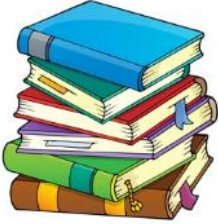
2. Link your Card to an organization.

- 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!



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 15 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:

September: "Road Trip" by Mary Kay Andrews

October: "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone" by Lori Gottlieb

November: "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah

WINGS

(Women In God's Service)



To the wonderful orchestrators of WINGS.

I wanted to send a very, belated thank you to all of the members of WINGS who have supported and uplifted my college experience as I begin my senior year at the University of Georgia.

Although there were a few changes along the way, I am now studying Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) and hope to get my Disabilities Study Certificate soon; Upon graduating in three semesters, I am interested in becoming either Certified Childlife Specialist, a therapist, or similar jobs related to children and their families.

My college experience has had the typical challenges such as difficult roommates and arduous classes but getting the letters and boxes in my mailbox has always made any of those problems diminish. The amount of care and love put into these packages is incredibly endearing, and I

I wish I had sent a letter sooner, but regardless, I am *incredibly* thankful for what WINGS has provided me, be that candy or a gift card or hope that things will work out.

Both my older sisters and I are incredibly privileged to come from such a selfless organization of people, despite living lives much farther away than Conyers, GA, and to still be considered a part of that family is an incredible feeling.

Once again, thank you for everything, and may good things come to each and every one of you.

God bless,

Ava Schlueter.

Congregation News & Activities



This month we **welcome Bennett Craft** as music director at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Bennett Craft's life in music began in childhood at his family's church in Red Bank, New Jersey, where he studied piano with the church organist. That early experience became the foundation for a remarkable musical career spanning performance, education, conducting, accompaniment, and church music.

During his high school years, Bennett studied trumpet, baritone, and tuba. He distinguished himself as first-chair trumpet in his school band.

Bennett's formal musical education expanded through a piano scholarship at the Monmouth Conservatory of Music. He pursued advanced piano studies as well as music theory, orchestra score reading, and the fundamentals of conducting.

Bennett later received a piano scholarship to Princeton's Westminster Choir College. His studies also included organ and choral conducting

His pursuit of excellence continued at The Juilliard School and at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he studied piano.

Bennett began his teaching career as a grade-school music teacher. He went on to serve as music and band director at high schools in Newark, New Jersey. At the Monmouth Conservatory of Music, he served as director of all brass instruments, conservatory choir accompanist, and piano instructor.

Throughout his career, Bennett has been deeply committed to church music, serving as pianist, organist, and choral director in Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Catholic churches. His ministry through music has taken many forms, reflecting his versatility as both a performer and educator.

Bennett Craft's musical journey is defined by dedication, scholarship, performance, teaching, and service. From his earliest days at the piano in a Red Bank church to studies with distinguished musicians and institutions, and through decades of educating and inspiring others, he has built a life devoted to the power and beauty of music. We welcome him as our music director at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Community News & Activities



Boots & Bangles Gala

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Phoenix Pass Boots & Bangles Gala, where every ticket helps create hope, healing, and new beginnings for women and children experiencing homelessness.

Thursday, September 24, 2026
6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Soaring Heights Community Center
601 Agape Circle
Conyers, GA 30012

Your Evening Includes:

Cocktail Hour
Delicious Dinner
Music from a DJ
Dancing
A Professional Photo

Tickets are Limited!
\$140 – Individual Ticket
\$1,000 – Table of 8

Purchase your tickets today by scanning the QR code on this post or visit:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/boots-and-bangles-gala>

Every ticket purchased helps Phoenix Pass provide safe housing, hope, stability, and opportunities for women and children working to overcome homelessness.
Together, we can make a lasting difference, one family at a time.



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 Bob Ard	22 Evelyn Brown
2 Brent Moore	24 Nathaniel Oates
3 Ross Harper	26 Mason Moore
8 Mariah Taplin	Valerie Slade
11 Grant Lubick	27 George Tatarchuk
Jean Ann Rogers	28 Bruce Hefner
12 Darrin Jones	Sarah Schlueter
15 Mike Jones	30 Paula Pyatt
Deidre London	
19 Michael Thompson	
21 Lin Gailey	
Julia Mumford	
Bailee Stanley	



	Date	Years
Stephen & Colleen Simmons	1	53
Don & Debbie Buckner	10	49
Art & Stephanie Schlueter	18	33

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 - July

Group convened in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunday Service at 11:20am. In attendance: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, President Peggy Lawrence, Vice-President Anita Smith (and guest Dave Smith), Secretary Riki DeLamar, Lane Carlisle, Deidre London, Tim Lohr, Nelson Kelly, Greg Holcomb, Michael Thompson (and Music Director Don Harris). The Group enjoyed lunch and had sharing time.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm by Peggy Lawrence.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion made to accept as presented by Anita Smith. Second by Lane Carlisle. Motion carried.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- 1. FINANCIAL SECRETARY**
- 2. TREASURER**

Sharon Skinner
Tracy Parker

Total Operating income for June was \$26,727.76 with \$8,235.00 in designated funds Total expenses were \$25,323.77. It is important to note that even though June appeared to be to the positive; Year to date indicates we are -\$26,181.44.

Deidre indicated that the reports were confusing; and asked that we have a block of time dedicated at the next retreat to teaching us how to read the reports. Peggy indicated she would start compiling a list of questions for Tracy. We need a line listing for each designated fund that indicates amounts designated and what has been used/paid from these 'accounts'

PASTOR'S REPORT:

See written report.

VBS for All: We had 20-25 participants and 25-30 volunteers this year. Bishop Strickland joined us Wednesday evening and announced that the Synod will be gifting us \$1000 toward next year's program. We also raised over \$500 throughout the week for Xtra Mile Ministry (previously One Heart).

Shield Our Schools: See attachment. We have been asked to send members to Sims Elementary School on Sunday 8/2 at 5pm to lead a prayer over the school for the beginning of the school year. Afterwards, all participants are encouraged to meet at the Methodist Church for an Ice Cream Social.

June 15, 2026 – July 19, 2026

Worship: 3 Sunday Worship

Hospital Visits: 0

Member Visits: 4

Counseling: Pre-funeral planning

Life Passages: Horace Sullivan Memorial Service

Pastors Meeting: 1

Committee Meetings: VBS planning

Education: 3 Men's Bible Studies,

3 Adult Ed Classes, 1 Women's Bible Study

Other Meetings/Events: VBS (7/12 – 16)

Community Visits:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Welcoming Bennett Craft as new Music Director – Bennett Craft will start the 2nd Sunday of September. We plan on holding a recognition event on 8/30/26 for Don Harris honoring his service to Epiphany. Labor day Sunday, the choir will be presenting a song written by members of the congregation. Don Holcomb wrote the words and Leighton Pyatt set it to music.
2. HVAC – We were able to cover the cost of the last HVAC unit, and work has been done. We had a scare during VBS. We identified that another unit was not cooling. Ross Harper identified it was a failed breaker switch and was able to repair it.

(continued on next page)

Council Meeting Minutes - July

3. Giving Options – Sharon Skinner was able to get an ELCA discount through Vanco. They still charge a per transaction fee –to the congregant, but not to Epiphany. If you are using Zeffe, please be sure you mark that you do not want to pay the extra fee that is optional. Zelle is a second free option.
4. Building (Usage) Agreement Revision – The group reviewed the revised Building Agreement. A motion was made that we add a item indicating that No weapons or explosive devices (including fireworks) are allowed on premises. Motion was made to accept the proposed revision as presented by Greg Holcomb. Second by Deidre London. Motion carried.
5. Revising of the Youth Protection Policy – This item is still under construction, so was tabled until a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Evacuation Shelter – We have been approached by Pastor Lynne O'Shea (you may remember her as Vicar Lynne) who is the presiding minister at Redeemer in Savannah, GA. She has asked if in the event that Savannah has mandatory evacuations, if we would be willing to allow members of her congregation to come to our facility to stage. The specifics of this require some investigation, and it was specified that we do not currently have the provisions to set up to provide temporary housing. Another concern is pets - pets would not be allowed on the carpet. A motion was made that we are willing to discuss and investigate this as a possibility. Motion was made to accept the proposal by Peggy Lawrence, Second by Lane Carlisle. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT – No written report

VICE PRESIDENT – No written report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Discipleship (Abby Harper) – No written report.
2. Outreach (Tim Lohr, Diedre London, Anita Smith) – No written report. Tim advised that he is still waiting for a report on the results from the Baby Bottle Campaign that ended on Father's Day. Deidre indicated that they have acquired the paint for the youth room. There is still some prep work that needs to be completed, but once that happens, they are ready to paint.
3. Nurture (Riki DeLamar)– See written report. I mentioned that I am in the process of trying to get a team together to be the launch board for a new ministry project. The council seemed motivated and excited. More on this to come.
4. Administration (Peggy Lawrence, Greg Holcomb, and Julia Mumford) – No written report.
5. Worship (Lane Carlisle) – No written report.

The August Council Meeting will be held after the Sunday Service on 8/16/26. Please mark your calendars, and watch for a zoom Sign-Up sheet for helping to provide Lunch.

Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rikita S DeLamar

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.

