

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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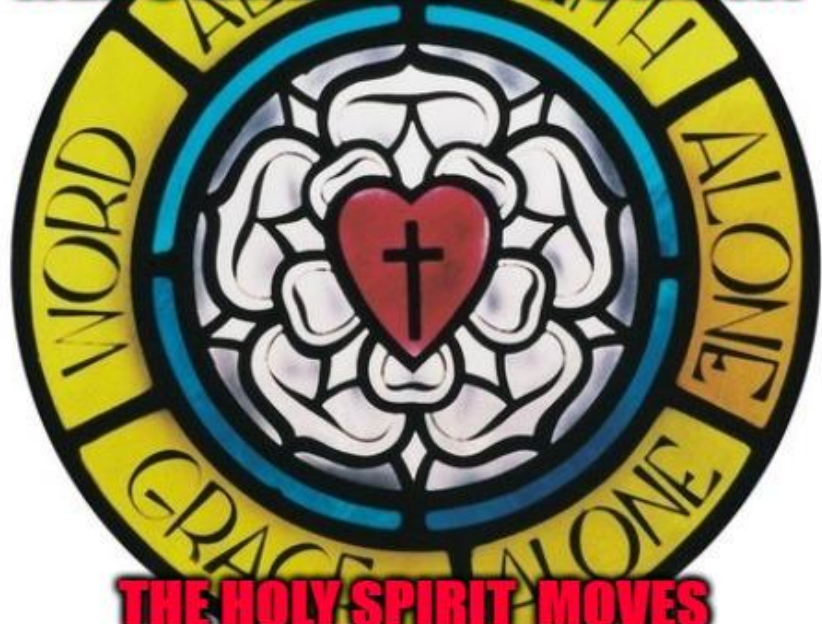


EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
conyerselc.org
staff@conyerselc.org

*Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor*

October 2026

**WEAR RED ON
REFORMATION SUNDAY**



**THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES
THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE FAITHFUL**

***“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, October 25 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the November newsletter. You can email your news to the church office at staff@conyerselc.org.
Thank You!



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.

From Pastor David

This month we celebrate again Reformation Sunday. We do so with a Fall Festival, with Trunk or Treat, with a silent auction, with a potluck. We will wear red. We will sing “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” But what do we celebrate on this day?

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenburg Chapel, seeking to start a discussion on the practice of indulgences in the church, a practice that Luther saw as going against the grace of God. In so doing, Luther started a process that led to the Reformation, in which protesting churches separated from the Church of that day. Indeed, any church that considers itself Protestant finds their roots and origins in Luther’s protest over 500 years ago.

Luther had more than an understanding of God’s grace and unconditional love. He experienced it deeply in his life. Then in response he understood that God’s grace and love were for all people. It was not dependent on works or money or anything other than God’s incredible mercy. Luther protested the practice of indulgences, because paying for salvation went against God’s grace.

So what does that mean for our worship gatherings? Simply this:

Our gathering as church is a training ground, a practice field, for being the Kingdom of God.

Though I am drawn to this image as a male who loves sports, it captures an essence of what it means to be the church.

Yes, we worship God when we gather. But we do so, because we seek to train ourselves to worship God every day. Yes, we seek to find God – or more importantly, to let God find us – in our gatherings, but we do so in order that we might see God in every moment. Yes, we learn about God, but we do so in order that we might learn about God each day.

If we allow this image to capture our imaginations, it can change how we act together as a church in a number of ways.

1. If our gathering is a training ground, then ***we are called to be active participants***. Simply sitting in the pews is not enough. We do not train for a race by watching other people race. We train for a race by going out and running. In the same way, we involve ourselves in worship, in learning, in prayer, in seeking God, both in our gatherings and in our daily lives.
2. If our gathering is a training ground, then ***we give ourselves the grace to grow***. A training ground is not a place where we have it all figured out and where we do everything right. A training ground is where we practice being better, where we allow ourselves to make mistakes, and where we encourage one another to keep pursuing the life of faith.
3. If our gathering is a training ground, then ***the goal is outside ourselves***. We do not stay in the gym. Rather, we are in the gym to get ready for the sporting event. Similarly, we do not stay in this building. Rather, we are here to get ready for the life of faith outside this place.

When Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive the one who wronged him, he asks whether he can stop at seven times. Jesus responds by saying, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:22) Another way to translate this would be seventy times seven – or 490 times! Our gathering as a training ground helps us understand this saying of Jesus. If we think of someone doing “reps” with weights in a gym, Jesus is saying that forgiveness is our “reps.” Keep doing it, Jesus urges. You can do a few more, Jesus encourages. Make it a part of you, Jesus says.

(continued on next page)

Congregation News & Activities

The goal of a life of faith awaits us each and every day. Let us let this place, this gathering known as Epiphany Lutheran Church be a place where we practice being community, where we practice being forgiving and loving, where we practice seeing God in all things, where we practice being open and welcoming to all people. May we be a church that is always reforming. And in so doing, may we see how God's Kingdom is working within us and around us in all our days.

Peace,
Pastor David

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. Join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. 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. Come join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Library as we hear these stories and how they challenge us today.



One of the Fellowship Committee's biggest events of the year is coming next month. Join us Sunday, October 25th at 11:45 a.m., for our annual potluck to celebrate the harvest season and the Reformation. The Fellowship Committee will provide brats and hotdogs (a freewill donation will be accepted to cover the cost). Other activities, including the annual Trunk or Treat and a Silent Auction (sponsored by the Church Council) will also be held that day. Online sign up will be available soon; we will need side dishes, salads, and desserts.

~ The Fellowship Committee



Every Step Walking Fellowship

The walking fellowship group continues to walk on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Recently, we walked to a very familiar story of Jesus feeding the five thousand in the Gospel of Luke 9:10-17. We zeroed in on verse 11 to focus on healing. *“When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the Kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.”*

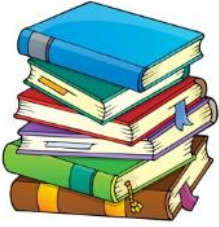
What surprised us is that no matter how many times we read a passage something new surfaces. We discussed how Jesus had withdrawn with his apostles to spend time with them. The crowd interrupted him, but He welcomed and healed them. Our question to each other was, how do we react when we are interrupted? Do we respond with the same grace and love for the persons who are diverting our attention and plans? We shared stories when we did and when we did not, learning together how we can be more like Jesus.

Our health discussion focused on panic and grief attacks that combine intense physical fear and deep emotional pain. These experiences often occur suddenly without warning. Symptoms can include a rapid, racing heart, shortness of breath, dizziness, sweating and shaking, feeling disconnected, and fear of dying. Grief attacks also include an intense yearning, despair, and sudden, deep sobbing and crying. Important strategies include controlled breathing, which involves slowly inhaling through your nose for 4 counts, holding for 4 counts, and exhaling completely through the mouth for 6 counts. Grounding methods referred to as the 5-4-3-2-1 approach can help and includes looking around naming 5 things you can see, 4 you can touch, 3 you can hear, 2 you can smell, and 1 you can taste. Extreme anxiety is very debilitating, requiring professional assistance and the support of family and friends. Often people suffer alone when they need our love and understanding.



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.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 20 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:

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

November: "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah



*Thanks again to all who contributed to
The Refuge Center's annual Baby Bottle
Campaign. Our
contributions for this year's campaign
totaled \$1,554.64!*

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



Bennett and his sister



Thanks to all who were a part of the official welcoming potluck for our new music director, Bennett Craft on last Sunday.



Bennett and Pastor David

Congregation News & Activities



Corporate office
2394 Morrison Rd SW
Conyers, GA 30094
(770) 483-3535

Valdosta
3312-A N. Oak Street Ext.
Valdosta, GA 31605
(229) 244-3020

Providing
Comprehensive
Remote Services in
Dalton, Savannah and
Surrounding Areas

August 19, 2026

Epiphany Luther Church
C/O Evelyn Brown
2375 Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013

Dear Members,

We have recently received your generous donation of School Supplies and wanted to personally thank you. You truly make the difference in the lives of Georgia's foster children who are placed with us.

Elks Aidmore has been working hard since 1938 to make a difference in the lives of children and youth throughout the state of Georgia. We appreciate each and every one of our donors and we wouldn't be where we are without your support. Your dedication to Elks Aidmore provides youth in crisis with the necessary resources to overcome the experience of living in an unstable environment by placing them in stable and nurturing surroundings.

If you want further information on how to continue your support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are available by phone at (770) 483-3535.

Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vickey Hale", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Dr. Vickey Hale
Chief Executive Officer

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Elks Aidmore, Inc. is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue.



A Service Project of Elks Lodges of Georgia
A Fraternal Organization



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Trunks, Treats & Treasures

A Silent Auction, Potluck & Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, October 25 • Right After the Service

POTLUCK

Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share!

SILENT AUCTION

Hallway & Breezeway

Weather permitting

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Parking Lot

Decorate your car!

Why We're Raising Funds

Every dollar raised goes into our new **Ministry Support Fund** — a shared pool of money that any ministry can apply to when a need comes up. This helps groups like:

Social Ministry

Nursery

Walking Ministry

WINGS

Youth Group

Choir

& more!

How You Can Help

- **Donate an Auction Item** — solo or as a ministry group (a themed basket, craft, service, or gift card).
- **Bring a Potluck Dish** — extra food is always welcome as an auction item too!
- **Donate Candy** — help us stock up for trunk-or-treat trick-or-treaters.
- **Decorate & Trunk** — deck out your car and hand out treats in the lot.



Questions or want to donate ahead of time?
Contact **Peggy Lawrence** or **Pastor David**.

All are welcome!



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



5 Douglas Roston	20 Lynn Magnuson
Rose Stanley	23 Cheri Isenhour
6 Randall Reese	Pat Viohl
9 Caroline Olok	Doris Webb
10 Dave Baker	24 Jim Shead
11 Thomas Duffy	27 Katherine Carey
12 Mary Armstrong-Reiner	30 Greg Brickell
15 Kalley Sturhann	31 Robert Brown
19 Thomas Cook, Jr.	
Morgan Hurley	



	Date	Years
Ed & Julia Mumford	24	11
Randy & Debbie Reese	27	47

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 - August

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

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:57 a.m. by Peggy Lawrence.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion made to accept as presented by Tim Lohr. Second by Anita Smith. Motion carried.

Agenda:

Julia Mumford asked to address the Council in a closed session before we moved to new business. Council agreed. The agenda for today's meeting was presented and reviewed. Motion was made to accept the agenda as presented by Anita Smith. Second by Michael Thompson. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. FINANCIAL SECRETARY
2. TREASURER

Sharon Skinner
Tracy Parker

Total Operating income for July was \$32,674.77 with \$5,510.01 in designated funds. Total expenses were \$29,618.36.

Anita has created a new report that we will look at next month. Hopefully this will be easier to decipher.

Motion made to accept the financial reports as presented by Riki DeLamar. Second by Michael Thompson. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

See written report.

A vision for Epiphany. What do I wish for Epiphany? The answer is simple. That we may all grow in faith.

Pastor David will exchange pulpits with Pastor Mary on Sunday, 11/15/26.

He is attempting to reprise the Community Thanksgiving Service. Tentatively, the service will be held 11/15/26 at 5 p.m.

July 20, 2026 – Aug 16, 2026

Worship: 4 Sunday Worship

Hospital Visits: 1

Member Visits: 6

Counseling:

Life Passages:

Pastors Meeting: 3

Committee Meetings:

Education: 4 Men's Bible Studies, 4 Adult Ed Classes,

Other Meetings/Events: Shield our Schools Prayer Blessing for Sims Elementary (8/2),

Community Resource Network (8/3)

Community Visits:

Council Meeting Minutes - August

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Protection Policy Training –Mandated Reporter Training will occur next Sunday immediately after the Service for all those working with children and youth. We are already aware there are some that have conflict, so there will be an alternate date offered later.

NEW BUSINESS:

Closed meeting discussion about Don's Reception

Planning Process for 2026-2027

Our priorities need to focus on being intentional and growing in faith. Discussion about roles and responsibilities of being on the Council. Discussion about the need for increased participation in our ministries.

Plan is to hold a Ministry Fair after the January Congregation Meeting (Proposed date is 1/31/2027). The Reformation celebration that will be held the last Sunday in October will possibly be combined with a silent auction.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT – No written report

VICE PRESIDENT – No written report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Discipleship (Abby Harper) – No written report.
2. Outreach (Tim Lohr, Deidre London, Anita Smith) – See 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. The Strive school supply drive netted at least \$600 in supplies. Meals on Wheels had 4 stops in June, with a break in July. Deidre indicated that they are doing inventory of the supplies for the Youth room, and they are nearly ready to paint.
3. Nurture (Riki DeLamar)– See written report
4. Administration (Peggy Lawrence, Greg Holcomb, and Julia Mumford) – No written report.
5. Worship (Lane Carlisle) – No written report.

Nelson asked why he hadn't been assigned to a ministry committee. Pastor advised these assignments were made earlier in the year when Nelson was unable to participate. I told him I would be glad to have him join me on Nurture. The group had a discussion about visitors, and how to make them feel welcome. Deidre advised when she and Barb are attending, they try to say hello, make them feel welcome, and assist them through the service if wanted. It was suggested that the Ushers be asked to tell the visitors to please fill out the Pew Logs so that someone can follow up (because Pastor has so much going on that he sometimes forgets to announce it), and to possibly give them a visitor packet. Peggy advised she could pass that along. Pastor advised that Valerie looks at the Pew Books and lets him know if we have new names show up on them. He then follows that up with a note. Julia suggested that all of the Council members make an effort to try to go welcome visitors when we do the passing of the peace. It was mentioned that the Children's activity bags and Visitor packets need to be refreshed. I asked Deidre if that was something the youth could take on as a service project? She agreed that was a good idea.

The September Council Meeting will be held on 9/16/26 at 5 p.m. (Wednesday, before Choir practice). Please mark your calendars and watch for a Zoom Sign-Up sheet for the meal.
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.

