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

November 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 at 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 holidays and 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, November 22 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the December 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

Did you know that we have a set of core values as a church? If you go to our web page (conyerselc.org), you can see the full list of those values. And one that we hold highly is our value of ***Enthusiastic Generosity.***

Enthusiastic generosity is our recognition that everyone at Epiphany has the responsibility and joy of living a grateful life that shares abundantly from personal blessings. Paul puts it this way: "Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

As we enter into this month of Thanksgiving and as we enter into our annual stewardship appeal, I invite you to dwell on this value of ***Enthusiastic Generosity.*** We call our generosity enthusiastic, because of the joy that overflows into our lives as we give of ourselves. What does enthusiastic generosity mean to you? How can you grow into generous lifestyle?

As you reflect on this value and pray about its challenge on your life, consider for a moment all that this church provides. The activity in our church building itself witnesses to our generosity:

- **Worship:** Our worship attendance keeps growing, so that we often see over 70 people in church, praising God. With our streaming services, we reach another 30-50 more households each week.
- **Faith Formation:** 12-15 adults gather each week in our Sunday adult class. Children come for Children's Church. 6-8 men study Scripture each Thursday. 10-15 women do the same twice a month.
- **Praise and Music:** Our choir leads us in praise each Sunday. Our bell choir rings out on a regular basis.
- **InfoLife:** If you wander down the hall after our worship, you will hear the worship of InfoLife Church led by Pastor Trujuan Humphries. 25 people praise God each Sunday, with another 250 (!) reached online.
- **Kosrae Church:** And if you come on most Sunday evenings, you will find our parking lot full of worshipers who come from the Pacific island nation of Micronesia.
- **Boy Scouts:** On Monday and Thursday evenings Troop 447 meets here with an average of over 40 youth attending between their Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop.
- **Quilters:** Two different quilting groups bring their crafting skills inside our building with over 30 women here each month. These groups have been with us for the past fifteen years!
- **Special Needs:** We continue to host a Special Needs Vacation Bible School with over 20 special needs children and adults.

I am so grateful for how all of you give as a church. Whether it is the Baby Bottle Campaign for the Refuge Center or gas cards for Project Renewal or Christmas presents for the children at Strive, you more than give from all that God has bestowed upon you. At our Silent Auction on Reformation Sunday, you raised more than $800 for our ministries at the church.

In a month in which we give thanks, we have so much to be thankful for in this community. We have been blessed by an overwhelming abundance that comes from God. So we ask each of you to offer up your abundance for the continued growth in our ministry here.

We invite you during the week of Thanksgiving – both on November 22 and 29 – to offer up your intent cards to the church. To use the words of Paul, as you excel in everything, so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking, in this enthusiastic generosity.

In Christ ~ Pastor David

Song of Solomon as an Experience Of God

Join us at 9 a.m. in rooms 7-9 as we continue discovering how the book Song of Solomon may speak to us in our faith journeys today.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

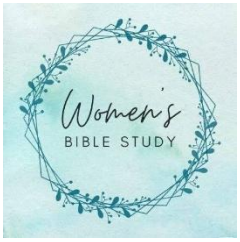


Thursday mornings
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

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 continuing the study of the many stories of unnamed characters throughout scripture. Come join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Library as we hear these stories and how they challenge us today.





Donald E. Holcomb – 11/15/25
Charlotte Hall – 11/30/25
Arline Hayes Chapman – 3/12/26
Eardley George Ramsay – 4/23/26
Vizma Lazdans – 5/14/26
Robert E. Hickly – 5/15/26
Albert Lancelot Fraser – 5/23/26
Horace A. Sullivan – 6/10/26

After the Reformation, Lutherans adopted the celebration of All Saints Sunday as a time to remember those members who passed away in the past year.

As part of our celebration, decorated luminaries have also been created and set out in honor of deceased congregation members and loved ones. The luminaries will be displayed daily through Saturday, November 7th.



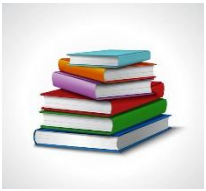
We had a wonderful time at the Oktoberfest potluck. There are a few dishes and pans that were left behind in the kitchen after the event. Check the counter by the sink to see if any of these items belong to you.

~ The Fellowship Committee

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will again collect Christmas gifts for the kids at STRIVE. The list will be in the Narthex by November 15. There are at least 32 children this year. If you know others that do not attend Epiphany but would like to help, please feel free to ask them if they would like a name. If you would like to donate money, the Social Ministry Team will be glad to shop for you. You may give your donation to Evelyn Brown, put it in an envelope in the offering plate, or give online via our website -- just note "FOR STRIVE GIFTS".



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November17 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 email evbrown56@gmail.com. The final book selection for 2026 is: *"Comfort and Joy"* by Kristin Hannah.



Every Step Walking Fellowship

There is always a need for giving and we, as a congregation, are always eager to support our community however we can. As the "Season of Giving" approaches, the amount of monetary and food donations that food banks receive will increase. Considering that those who are reliant on food donations may very well also lack sufficient healthcare, it is a good idea to supply them with foods that will work for them. A recent topic of discussion in our weekly walking group dealt with artificial food dyes (foods listed with colors and numbers) and the importance of reading food labels to help you understand what is going into your body.

Research suggests that the behavior of some children is altered when they consume certain artificial food dyes. They may experience an increase in hyperactivity or attention-related behaviors. Allergic and sensitivity reactions are also problematic. Based on research in animals, cancer is also an area of concern. The findings from the collective research are enough for certain countries to restrict or completely remove some artificial dyes from their food supply. Here in the US, the process of phasing out petroleum-based artificial food dyes has begun.

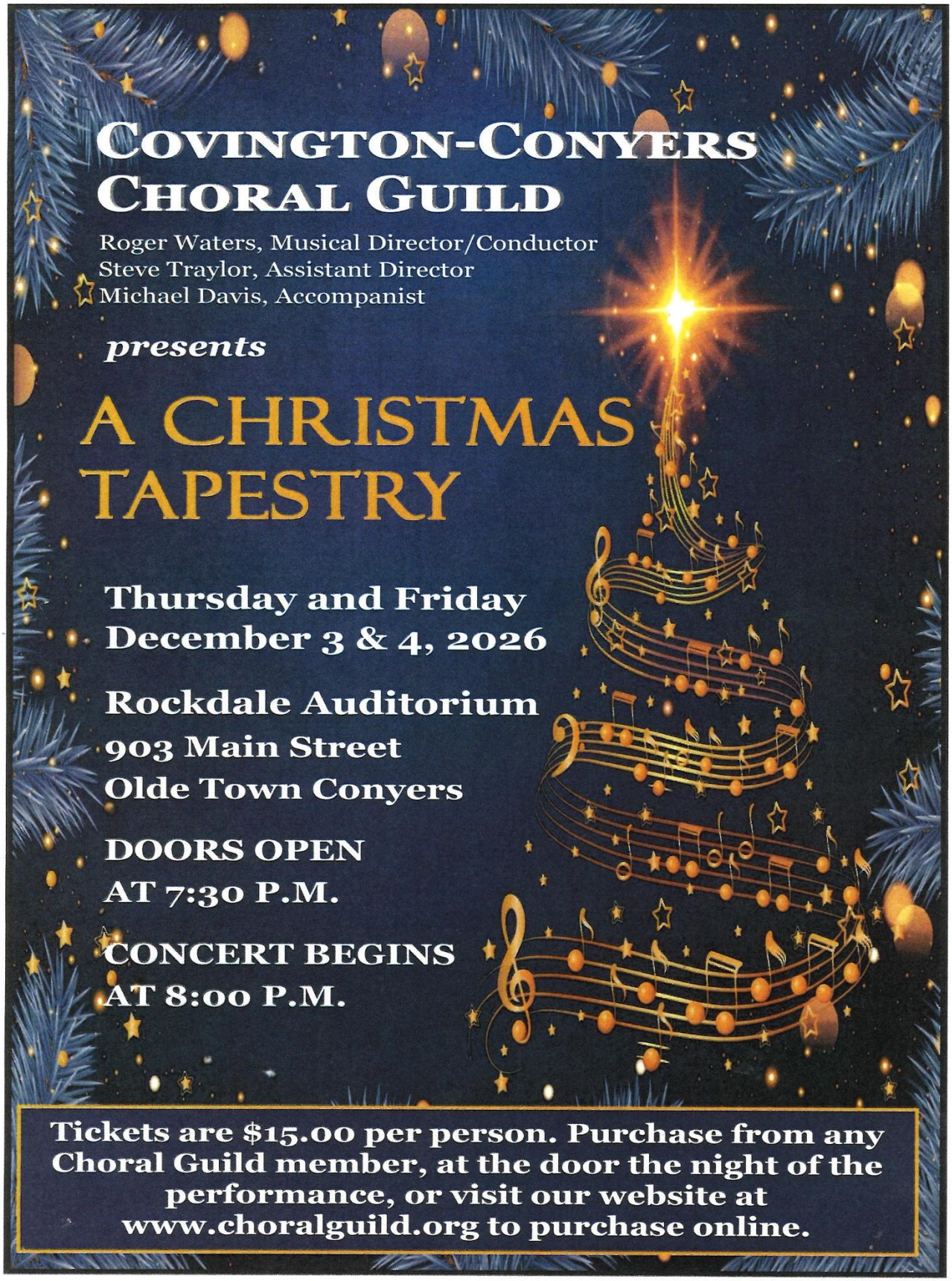
In general, there is no nutritional benefit in consuming artificial food dyes. Furthermore, the dyes are often found in highly processed foods such as colorful cereals, snack foods, candy, and sweetened beverages. When choosing foods to donate, reading ingredient and nutrition labels can really make a difference in the choices that are made.

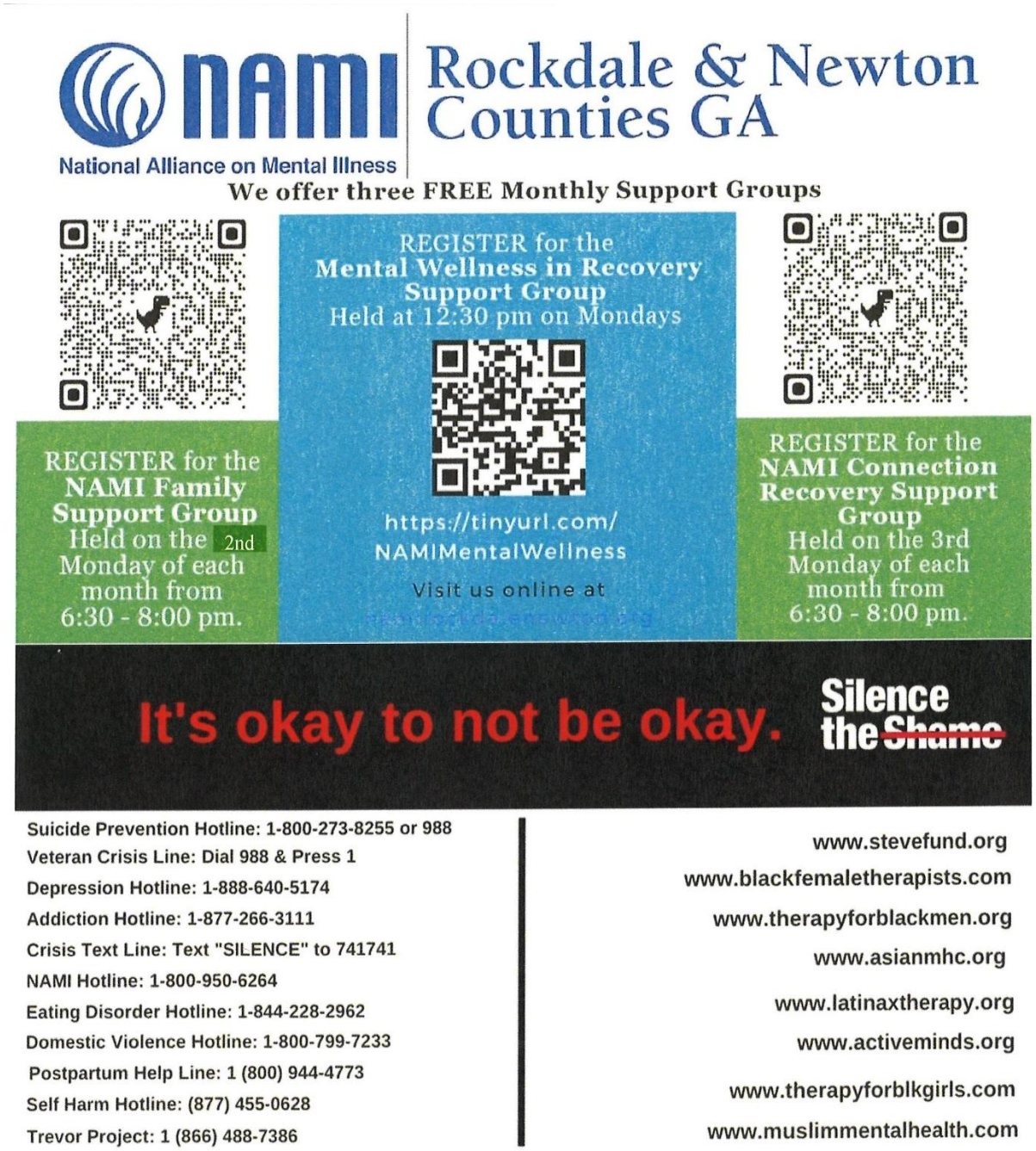
Sugar and salt are also found in excessive amounts in many shelf-stable foods. When reading nutrition panels, consider that the max amount of sodium an adult should consume daily is less than 2,300 mg, about one teaspoon of salt, and about half that amount for those with hypertension. According to guidelines on added sugar consumption, men should not have more than 9 teaspoons per day and women and children ages 2+, no more than 6 teaspoons daily. Children under two should not be consuming added sugars. As you read the labels, note that some added sugars can be listed as: syrups, fruit juice concentrates, molasses, and ingredients with -ose endings, among others.

Unhealthy food options tend to be the most affordable but giving can still happen in abundance without being costly. When looking at canned and jarred goods, look for reduced sodium and low sugar options without artificial coloring. If you're purchasing canned fruit, go for those that are stored in water or fruit juice, as opposed to syrup. Whole foods such as dried legumes, rice, and whole rolled or steel cut oats are always good as they contain one ingredient and a good amount of fiber. Cereals and pastas can also contain whole grains that are beneficial for the body. Instant foods are stripped of their natural fiber, vitamins, and minerals, making them less than healthy choices that exacerbate diabetes and hypertension. Reading labels can help us the make informed decisions on how we nourish ourselves and others.

2 Corinthians 9:10 - He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.


The Rockdale Community
Thanksgiving
Service
Presented by Rockdale County Churches United
Sunday November 15, 5 PM
Hosted by Conyers First Methodist Church
921 N Main St NW
Join with other believers in the spirit of Christian unity and fellowship for an evening of praise and testimony.
A love offering will be received for Family Promise of NewRock to support homeless families and children.


COVINGTON-CONYERS
CHORAL GUILD
Roger Waters, Musical Director/Conductor
Steve Traylor, Assistant Director
Michael Davis, Accompanist
presents
A CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY
Thursday and Friday
December 3 & 4, 2026
Rockdale Auditorium
903 Main Street
Olde Town Conyers
DOORS OPEN
AT 7:30 P.M.
CONCERT BEGINS
AT 8:00 P.M.
Tickets are $15.00 per person. Purchase from any Choral Guild member, at the door the night of the performance, or visit our website at www.choralguild.org to purchase online.



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 NAMIWalks Team: Steppin' Over Stigma! to plan for next year's event.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1	Austin Ruffin
2	Abby Harper
3	Phoenix Kenney
7	Jo Hickly
10	Peggy Lawrence
14	Leila Romans
17	Achol Bol
	Neal Lange
	Bill Schroeder
	Phillip Viohl
18	Donald Harris
	Kaylee Wilson
20	Isaac Allen
22	Frank Harbin
	Mary Schlueter
23	Joshua McCurry, Jr.
26	Jennifer Kenney
30	Kathleen Roston

Anniversaries

	Date	Years
John & Megan Beaucher	8	18
Phillip & Carrie Viohl	14	28
George & Mary Leach	18	61
John & Ruth Winner	21	11
Donald & Susan Jenkins	25	35

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. On weeks when no altar flowers have been requested, we will use seasonal arrangements.

The flower calendar is posted in its' usual place in the narthex. Remember to include the cost in an envelope and mark it – *Altar Flowers*. Call the church office on 770-483-6222 if you have any questions.

Council Meeting Minutes - September

Group convened in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00pm. In attendance: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, President Peggy Lawrence, Vice-President Anita Smith (and guest Dave Smith), Secretary Riki DeLamar, Tim Lohr, Nelson Kelly, Greg Holcomb, Michael Thompson Abby Harper, Lane Carlisle

The Group enjoyed dinner and answered the question "Where have you seen God in the past month?". Thank you to Peggy and Anita for dinner!

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 5:48pm 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 Michael Thompson. 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 Michael Thompson. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** — **Sharon Skinner**
2. **TREASURER** — **Tracy Parker**

Total Operating income for August was $26,796.75 with $2,360.44 in designated funds Total expenses were $27,842.57.

The format for the Financial Report will be changing. It will show a comparison of the budget to expenses. We will still receive the Financial Secretary report.

Anita made contact with Lennar Company personnel about the sign. She was told that payment was being processed.

Motion made to accept the financial reports as presented by Lane Carlisle. Second by Riki DeLamar. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:
Written report distributed by email.
A vision for Epiphany. What does it mean to follow Christ? Live faithfully? To serve all? How do you demonstrate your faith?

Pastor David will exchange pulpits with Pastor Mary on Sunday, 11/15/26.
The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held 11/15/26 at 5 pm. The location has not been finalized, but will be announced soon

Pastor David will be out of town from 11/18 to 11/27/26. Pastor Patti Axel will be filling in. He will be presenting a paper on four of his Revelation paintings to the Society of Biblical Literature in Colorado during this time. Starting January 17th, he will be teaching a course via zoom to the Southeastern Synod Leadership Academy: An Introduction to the New Testament.

Council Meeting Minutes – September

August 17, 2026 – September 16, 2026

-Worship: 4 Sunday Worship
-Member Visits: 1
-Counseling:
-Pastors Meeting: 3
-Hospital Visits: 2
-Visitor Visit: 1
-Life Passages:
-Committee Meetings:
-Education: 4 Men's Bible Studies, 4 Adult Ed Classes, 3 Women's Bible Study, 1 Men's group
-Other Meetings/Events: Community Resource Network (9/14), Mandated Reporter Training
-Community Visits: 3

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Youth Protection Policy Training –The Safe Gatherings Organization offers a background check, and 2 hour class that will cost $47.00 per person. The certification period is three years. We will review the prior YPT policy through the eyes of this program and make necessary updates. The church would cover the cost for the training for the individuals, though we would encourage people to donate the money if they can. Please mark your donations for YPT or Safe Gathering Certification.

2. Planning Process for 2026-2027- The budget process will start soon. In addition to our usual budget format, we will use a narrative budget format.

3. Silent Auction and Ministry Fair – We were gifted a quilt from one of the quilter groups that meet in our fellowship hall, and have also been donated other items. If you know of any business owners that would be willing to donate something towards this, please contact them. The proceeds will be used to fund projects within our ministries. This will be held the same day as the Trunk or Treat and the Reformation Potluck Dinner (10/25/26). We plan to hold a Ministry Fair after the January Congregation Meeting (1/31/2027). There will also be a potluck meal this day. We ask each of the ministries/groups to set up a publicity table letting the congregation members know what they do/how they serve and recruit new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Phone System **-** The church needs new phones. We have been having a large problem with spam calls. The council agreed unanimously that Valerie could order the new phones.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT – No written report

VICE PRESIDENT – No written report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Discipleship (Abby Harper) – See written report.
2. Outreach (Tim Lohr, Diedre London, Anita Smith) – See written report.
3. Nurture (Riki DeLamar, Nelson Kelly)– See written report
4. Administration (Peggy Lawrence, Greg Holcomb, and Julia Mumford) – No written report.
5. Worship (Lane Carlisle, Michael Thompson) – No written report.

Pastor asked that we promote the Silent Auction and the Ministry Fair when approaching our ministries for reports next month.

The October Council Meeting will be held on 10/18/26 after the service. Anita will order pizza. Please plan on contributing towards that. I will bring dessert and a salad. Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted ~ Rikita S DeLamar