

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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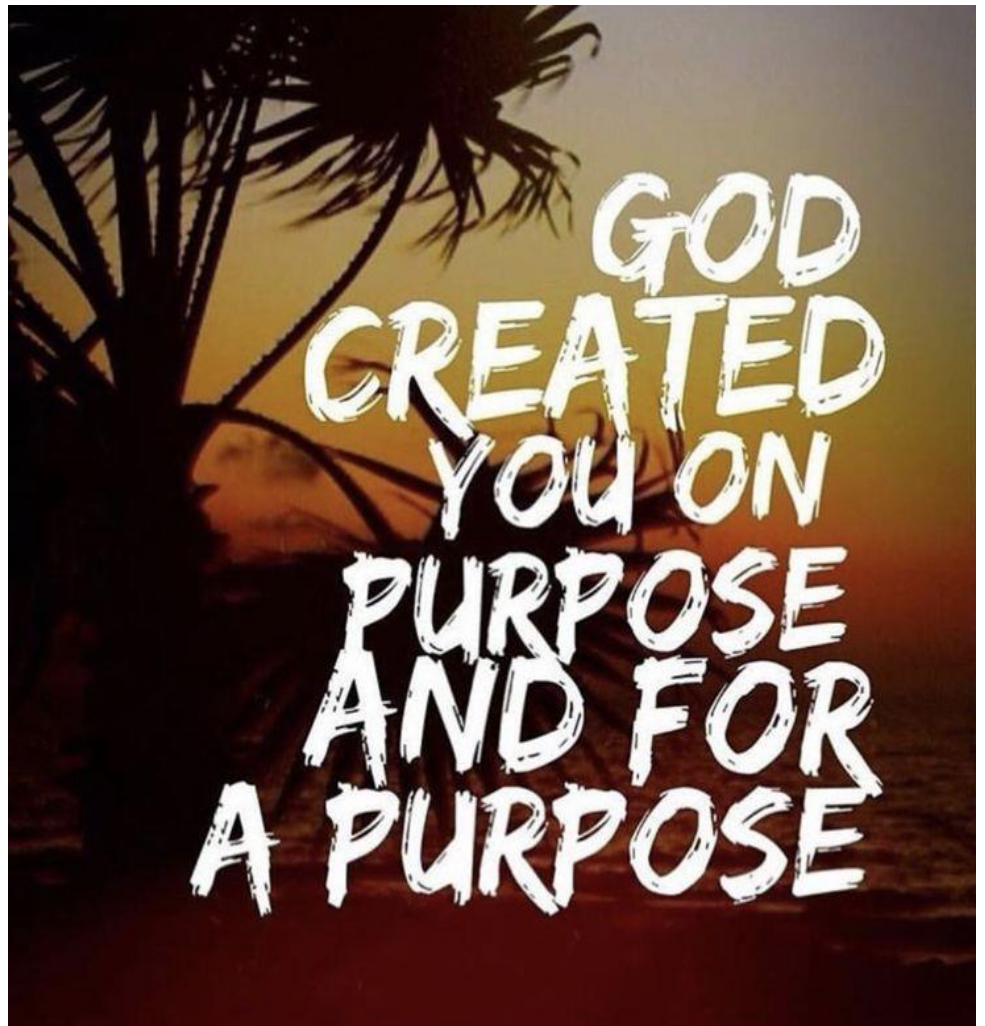
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EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30013
(770) 483-6222
conyerselc.org
staff@conyerselc.org

Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor

July 2024



*“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.

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



DEADLINE!

Sunday, July 28 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the August 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

Several years ago I found a simple quote from Bill Hybels, the founding pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois:

“God made you on purpose, for a purpose.”

That quote summarizes so much of what we find in Scripture. Jeremiah puts it this way: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Consider what would happen if we took this truth seriously and lived from it. We would begin asking ourselves, “What is my purpose? What does God intend for me? What unique gifts and talents has God entrusted to me? What are God’s plans for me?”

As we discover our individual purpose, we would then seek to live that out in our church, in our family, in our community, in our world.

And this truth that God made us on purpose, for a purpose, is not only true for us as individuals but also for us as a church. This part of the Body of Christ known as Epiphany Lutheran Church is here on purpose, for a purpose.

And, by the way, that purpose is not to provide a worship space for transplanted Northerners!

We have a message to proclaim – and a message that needs to be heard! We declare as a church that God comes to us in love and grace and forgiveness and calls us to live in love and grace and forgiveness. We declare as a church that God welcomes all people as children of God, regardless of race, gender, orientation, class, social status, or nationality.

This message stand in contrast to much of the church environment that surrounds us. Many in our culture have been hurt by the church by the judgment they received in the name of God. We are here to say that this is not the God who showed the divine Self in Jesus.

When others say that God judges them for who they are, we declare that God loves them for who they are.

When others say that the world is destined for destruction, we declare that God destines this world for a new creation.

When others focus on sin, we declare that God focuses on grace.

As we move forward, continuing to grow – especially as we witness the neighborhoods growing up around us – let us together discover our individual purpose and our community purpose in God and discover God’s plans for a future and a hope.

In Christ,
Pastor David

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Join us this summer as we begin an alternating series of classes at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall:

Contradictions in the Bible - What do we do when passages do not line up?
July 14 - How many animals did Noah bring on the ark? (Genesis 7-9)

The Not-So-Minor Prophets - An overview of the last twelve books of the Old Testament

July 7 - Daniel, part 1 (Daniel 1-6) - The stories
July 21 - Daniel, part 2 (Daniel 7-12) - The visions

This series will continue into the coming school year.



We now have a program in place to visit shut-ins and anyone else who would like communion and are unable to attend church. We are visiting 2-3

times a month on a rotating basis. If you have not been visited yet, or would like a visit, or know of someone who would like a visit, please let Evelyn Brown know. You can reach her at 404-825-4615 or e-mail her at evbrown56@gmail.com.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for Special Needs is taking place Sunday, July 14 through Thursday, July 18. Dinner begins at 5 pm and the groups of kids going to stations begins at 6 pm. Volunteers are needed in the following areas: kitchen team, craft helpers, group leaders & buddies for the kids/adults in the groups (you don't have to do anything but help the group out as they go from station to station during the evening), special events, helpers, and Bible drama helpers. There is room for everyone to come and help if you are so willing. Please fill out a volunteer sheet so Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner can get in touch with you. We are also in need of a few people who are willing to cook one night of the five nights (2 nights especially), and we are always in need of set up and clean up help too. A meeting will be held for all helpers on Tuesday, July 9 at the church at 7 pm, but please let Pastor Mary know if you can't attend the meeting. If you would like to know more, feel free to call or text Pastor Mary at: (309) 212-0888.





Fellowship Committee Update (July 2024)

We're halfway through 2024, and this year has already been marked with both happy celebrations and solemn remembrances. As a community of faith, we are strongest when we rely on and support each other. A special thanks to all those people who say "yes" when they get a call requesting a food donation for a funeral reception. We couldn't do it without you! Here is a quick reminder- if you bring a dish in your own container, be sure to reclaim it. We have a collection of orphan casserole dishes and serving plates in the kitchen that we would like to return to their owners. Another tip: If you put your name on a piece of tape on the bottom of your pan or utensil, we can set it aside for you after the event is finished. Looking ahead, there will be an announcement soon for an Ethnic Potluck coming at the end of the summer. We can't wait!

Julie Peterson & Margaret Hill
Co-Chairpersons

Social Ministry

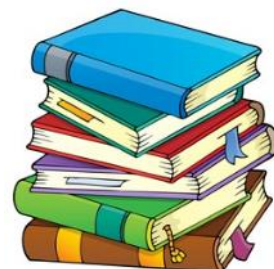
Our July project is collecting school supplies for the children at Project Renewal. The list of items needed are composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, plain folders, High-lighters, Post it notes, dividers, calculators, red, blue or black ink pens and pencil pouches. A box will be in the Narthex for the items and we need them by Sunday, July 28th. Thanks so much!



*Thanks to all who contributed to
The Refuge Center's annual
Baby Bottle Campaign.
They are busy counting donations
and will notify us of our total
contribution in the next few weeks!*

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, July 23 (note change of date) in the church library. We will discuss "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V. E. Schwab. All women of Epiphany are invited. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or e-mail her at evbrown56@gmail.com.



Meals On Wheels Needs Your Help!



A short 1.5 to 2 hour commitment is all it takes on a Saturday morning to ensure that people in need in our community receive a meal. Has not knowing what's required held you back from volunteering? If so, you are welcome to either ride along to see how it all works, or I can give you a complete written explanation. Just contact Tim Lohr at 404-807-2192, or by email at tim-lohr@icloud.com. Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Tim Lohr



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.

There are two ways to participate in our FREE Monthly Support Groups.

In-person at the **Grit & Grace Addiction Recovery Support Center** located at **1400 Parker Rd. SE, Conyers GA, 30094**

OR

by Phone or Video using Zoom



<https://tinyurl.com/NAMIRnFamilySupportGroup>

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



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Riki DeLamar | 22 Olivia Duffy |
| George Lumsden | 26 Haley Brickell |
| 3 Tim Carey | Kaitlyn Lanier |
| 7 Adelaide Harper | Daniel Withers |
| Heather Moore | 28 Vinton Ramsay |
| 10 Connie Brickell | Frances Riley |
| Marshall Taplin IV | |
| 13 Terri Lange | |
| Julie Peterson | |
| 21 Jeanette Hinckson-Fraser | |
| Joshua McCurry Sr | |




	Date	Years
Neal & Terri Lange	5	49
Thomas & DeAnna Duffy	6	28
David & Mary Armstrong-Reiner	10	31
Gregory & Connie Brickell	15	35
Ed & Frances Riley	19	56
Edward & Lois Stegherr	26	71
Albert Fraser & Jeanette Hinckson-Fraser	27	21

Pastor David will be on vacation from Monday, July 22 through Saturday, August 3.

Did we miss announcing your birthday, anniversary or special event? If so, please email the church office at staff@conyverselc.org so that we may update our records. Thank you!

Altar Flowers 2024

Calendars will be posted in the Narthex soon so that you may sign up for a date that you would like to honor a family member, friend, or to give glory to God. You will be able to purchase one flower arrangement for \$25.00. We will only have altar flowers present if they are purchased by a congregation member. Call the church office at 770-483-6222 if you have any questions.



Council Meeting Minutes - June 23rd

Sharing time and the meal occurred before Call to Order.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order @ 11:53AM. In attendance were Pastor David, Peggy Lawrence, Michael Thompson, Riki DeLamar (by phone), Abby Harper, Tim Lohr, Tracy Parker, Kathy Roston, Sheila Sipe, Anita Smith, Nancy Stover, Pat Viohl and guests Don Harris and Furman Rogers. Diedre was excused due to a work conflict. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 11:53 AM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed: Motion was made by Sheila Sipe and seconded by Tracy Parker to accept the Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AGENDA:

The agenda for today's meeting was presented and reviewed. Request was made by Don Harris to add another item under New Business about the Organ. Motion was made to accept the agenda as presented with this addition by Anita Smith. Motion was seconded by Michael Thompson and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. FINANCIAL SECRETARY Sharon Skinner
2. TREASURER Tracy Parker

Operating income for May was \$18,108.39 with \$765.00. in designated funds. Total expenses were \$31,976.85. Current bank balance is \$14,830.28. Tracy expressed a concern that if we continue with this decreased income, by the end of the summer we will not be able to meet payroll. Pastor will ask Sharon to send out quarterly statements. Reed Lawrence has been assisting people in the congregation seated near him with using the QR code for giving. Lennar homes paid in June for the sign rental for the entire year. Memorials from Bruce Ahlstrand's funeral also helped with this amount. It was mentioned that the water bill has decreased some (\$450 from \$800), but is still higher than expected. We have found (and repaired) several leaks, and Tracy re-laid that once everything is fixed, and the bills return to baseline; the water department has indicated that they will return some of the funds from the larger bills. At Bruce's reception, Pastor and Peggy had a conversation with Michael Hutcheson with CRN to help us market renting space at the church to help increase revenue. Sow-n-Grow has not reimbursed as promised, and they have been slow in moving out the remainder of their property. Pastor indicated he has spoken with Justin Kenney about this, and that he would be an option if we need to take legal action. We also need to get references in the future on people/organizations wanting to rent the space. Anita has been training with Tracy so that she can keep up with things when Tracy is on vacation. Motion made to accept this report as submitted by Anita Smith and seconded by Sheila Sipe. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

1. Confirmation will begin again in the Fall. It will be a split class. Braden will be on a regular track, with Evan and Noah Carter on a modified fast track due to their ages. Pastor and Vicar James will be alternating these classes.
2. Bridgette McMillan has been moved to Traditions in Lithonia. She would appreciate visitors. She has 3 nephews that all live out of state, but no local family. It is possible she will be admitted to hospice – but unsure yet if that will happen at the nursing home. There will be a meeting tomorrow (6/24) to discuss options. Please keep her in your prayers.
3. Pastor is now on the Phoenix Pass Board.
4. The pulpit swap with Pastor Mary was a good experience.
5. The southeastern synod convention was a wonderful experience. Speaker Bryan Stevenson from the Innocence Project, Just Mercy, and the Equal Justice Initiative was amazing.
4. Pastor will be out of town from 6/26 to 7/1 to attend a friend's wedding in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This will be followed by his family vacation. 7/21 to 8/3.

Statistics: (May 20-June 23)

-Worship: 5 Sundays
-Hospital Visits: 10 (McMillan 7, K Norton 2, DeLamar)
-Member Visits: 4 (S Jones, Gailey 2, Ahlstrand)
-Counseling: 2 Funeral planning, pre-marital
-Life Passages: Memorial service for Bruce Ahlstrand
-Pastors Meeting: 1 Pastor Preaching
-Committee Meetings: Worship Planning
-Education: 4 Men's Bible Study, 4 Adult Sunday Class
-Community Visits:

-Other Meetings/Events: Southeastern Synod Assembly (5/30-5/31), Pulpit exchange with St Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church of Morrow (6/9), 2 Phoenix Pass Board Meetings, Juneteenth Festival

Council Meeting Minutes - June 23rd

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Internship Update – Vicar James will start on 8/4/24. An Internship committee has been formed. Evelyn Brown will be the Chair, with members Bertie Thomas, Julie Peterson, Tommy Lane, and Nathaniel Oates. There will be some sort of a welcome get together after the service on 8/4/24. Details to follow.
2. CRCK – Conyers First Methodist (where Teresa is the Choir Director) gave them dedicated space, so they will no longer need to rent our facility.
3. Building Issues update – Air Conditioners. We need to consider possibly using the remaining endowment funds to replace A/C units in the fall. Freon will be changing next year, so we need to do this before that happens. When CRCK was using the Fellowship Hall for a presentation recently, at least one of the units was malfunctioning, however it seems to be working well this am.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance Rates – Bitner Henry/Brotherhood Mutual will be raising our annual rate due to the hard insurance market and our claim. Our annual rate will be raised from \$12,100 to \$15,039 (an increase of roughly \$3,000) Our current deductible is \$2,500. Our roofer (Terrell) recommended that we raise our deductible to \$7,500 seeing as we have fixed all the roofing issues with the building. This would decrease our premium by almost \$1,200. Increasing the deductible to \$5,000 only decreases it by \$500 and going a step further to \$10,000 only saves \$1,500. Motion was made to change the deductible to \$7,500 by Anita Smith and seconded by Kathy Roston. Motion Carried.

By Faith Alone – We have been approached by Victor Belton who runs a bible study (currently out of his home) about renting the same rooms being used by InfoLife Church to have his bible studies - but later in the afternoons and paying the same amount as InfoLife Church. Pastor has been attempting to check references without success. He attempted to contact Peace Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) (where they had been operating prior to moving to his residence) but has not received any response as of yet.

Organ Repair – Art Schleuter (Organ Specialist, and member of the congregation) was contacted to look at the organ because Don has determined it is having some problems. Art has quoted \$375-425 to come out and run diagnostics. This amount has been sponsored by a member of the congregation.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT – No written report.

Continuing Property discussion. Bruce Stuart came out and sprayed all the islands in the parking lot. He has also made arrangements with one of his contacts with the school system to come out and replace the mulch on the playground, and in the parking lot islands. He is also looking into removing the broken planters and restriping the parking lot, possibly in the fall.

Doris Webb asked that we consider doing more to honor/memorialize education achievements. This will fall under the discipleship umbrella, but things like recognizing graduates in May, bringing back the blessing of the backpacks. A gift of a Quilt was mentioned for the graduates, but some think those were given out at confirmation, not at graduation? The discipleship team will follow up with this. Possibly do a supply drive for back to school supplies for children in need (will check with Evelyn Brown about Elks Aidmore).

VICE PRESIDENT – No written report.

Service on 8/11/24 will be Youth Sunday. Pastor will also do the blessing of the backpacks at this service.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Discipleship – No written report
2. Outreach – No written report. Screen on the Green needs to be promoted soon, as the scheduled date is 7/20/24. VBS-SN will be 7/14-7/18/24 still need volunteers and participants.
3. Nurture – Nancy read the report, as it did not make it into the distributed copies.
4. Administration – No written report
5. Worship – No written report. 3 new Acolytes will soon be doing training and then going into a 3 week rotation.

Columbarium Report: None.

Due to multiple vacation schedule conflicts, we will skip a July in person meeting. If needed, we will do updates by email. The August Council Meeting will be held 8/11/24 after the Youth Sunday service. Lunch assignments will be decided later. There was a Motion to adjourn and was carried. Session closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rikita S DeLamar