

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany's Epistle



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March 2025



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

Reverend David Armstrong-Reiner,
Pastor

*“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, March 23 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the April 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

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

As we prepare once again for the season of Lent, for our journey to the passion and death of Jesus, I cannot help but think of the saints among us who have died recently. As we prepare to celebrate Ed Hill’s life on March 15, I cannot help but think of how we have already celebrated the lives of Karen Lennox, Ward Gailey, and Vinton Ramsay in the last two months. And it has only been in this last year that we also said good-bye to Bruce Ahlstrand, Brigitte McMillan, and Sheila Sipe.

When I hear the words of Hebrews speak about “so great a cloud of witnesses,” these names along with so many others reverberate and shine within that cloud. And as much as we mourn their passing and miss their presence among us, we also know that each one of these people have helped shape us into the people of God that we are. Each one of these people have encouraged our lives of faith by their lives of faith.

So I invite you over this coming Lenten season to reflect on that cloud of witnesses. I invite you to our adult class on Sunday at 9 am in which we will look at the lives and words of the saints both from our recent past and distant past. If you cannot attend the class, then I invite you to pick up the devotional we will be using as a daily reflection during Lent.

And with each name that you read and with those saints both within your own life and within your church, I invite you to consider how they call you to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” How have these saints showed you Jesus? How have these saints showed you what this journey of faith is all about?

As I think about these lives within our church and as I think about the lives of the saints we will be exploring during Lent, I am reminded of the words of Grace Lee Boggs, a civil rights activist who lived to the age of 100. At the end of her life, she would remind those who visited her, “We are the leaders we’ve been waiting for.”

These lives are not meant to be relics of the past. They are meant to be our encouragement for this present moment and a guide for our future.

Keeping our eyes upon Jesus, may these lives surround us and encourage us through this season of Lent and beyond.

In Christ,
Pastor David

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

The Cloud of Witnesses - We invite you this Lent in our adult class on Sunday at 9 a.m. to reflect at the lives and words of the saints from our recent past and distant past. A devotional will be provided both for participants and for any who wish to use it as a daily reflection during Lent. With each life that you read, we invite you to consider how they call you to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us.” How do these saints show you what this journey of faith is all about? These lives are not meant to be relics of the past. They encourage this present moment and guide our future.



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. Refreshments are served.



The Women's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month and will be studying Luther's Small Catechism. Come join us as we learn about our Lutheran faith.

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.



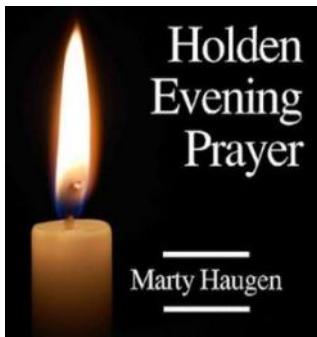
Congregation News & Activities



Please join us for the Season of Preparation.

*We will have a service of Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes at
12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, March 5*

Wednesday Evening Lenten Services



We invite you to join us for our Wednesday Evening Lenten Services at 7 p.m. in which we will use Holden Evening Prayer. We also encourage you to join us for our soup and sandwich suppers at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. Following is the schedule for those providing the soup and sandwiches this year:

- March 12 - Choir, Worship Committee
- March 19 - Social Ministry, Altar Guild
- March 26 - Fellowship Committee
- April 2 - Church Council,
Women's Book Club
- April 9 - Men's Bible Study,
Women's Bible Study



**Soup &
Sandwich Supper**

Altar Flowers



We now have seasonal flower arrangements that will remain until the season changes. However, you still have an opportunity to honor, or memorialize, a special person or occasion with a "fresh" flower arrangement. The altar flower calendar will continue to be posted in its' usual place in the narthex and a separate table has been designated, in the sanctuary, for these "special" arrangements when requested. Remember to include \$30 in an envelope and mark it special flowers and the Sunday designated.

Thanks to all who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring. As a result of your generosity, 118 cans and \$196 was collected.



Vision Update on Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was established in 2016 after a bequest from the estate of Ona Lester. Since then, there have been additional donations following the deaths of Bob Lange and Frank Zahm. Earlier this year, we also received a donation from the estate of Brigitte McMillan. Every year, distributions are made from the fund to support non-budgeted ministries outside of and within Epiphany, and to provide for other needs.

The distributions for 2025 have been determined. As described in the By-laws to the church constitution by which the fund is administered, 5% of the balance of the fund as of December 31 is distributed the following year. On December 31, 2024 the balance of the fund was \$234,651, so \$11,733 will be distributed in 2025. The By-laws also define categories where funds should be used; 20% of the distribution goes to the community, 20% to ELCA Church-wide ministries, 20% to special programs/capital improvements or other congregation ministries, and the final 40% to any of the above.

The Endowment Committee recommendation for 2025 distributions was approved by the Church Council and is as follows (rounded to the nearest dollar):

- \$2,347 to community organizations. This year, we will be donating to Inspiritus (formerly called Lutheran Services of Georgia), Grace House (a ministry to students at Georgia Tech in Atlanta), Rockdale Cares, Rockdale Emergency Relief, Phoenix Pass (a shelter for women and children), Family Promise (working to help the homeless in Newton and Rockdale County), and the Help Line (a fund at Epiphany to help those in need).
- \$2,347 to the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA and to support our intern, Vicar James.
- \$7,040 (the 20% for special programs/capital improvements or other congregation ministries plus the remaining 40% to be distributed in any category) will be used for building maintenance and improvements not otherwise covered in the church budget.

We are able to support these ministries and projects because of past generous donations to Epiphany from individuals' estates and memorials. Please prayerfully consider how you may further help this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor David or Bryan Peterson.

Bryan Peterson
Chair, Vision Endowment Committee

Congregation News & Activities



The first two months of 2025 have been a challenge to say the least. One week, we had temperatures in the single digits, and the next week, we were heading to the basement because of a tornado warning. Fortunately, spring is right around the corner, and that means the Lenten season will soon be upon us.

We will be gathering for Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers starting on Wednesday, March 12th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Lenten service follows at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a simple but hearty meal and warm, friendly fellowship. The groups providing the meal are as follows:

March 12: Choir, Worship Committee

April 2: Church Council, Women's Book Club

March 19: Social Ministry Committee, Altar Guild

April 9: Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study

March 26: Fellowship Committee

We hope to see you there!
Margaret Hill and Julie Peterson

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, 20 minutes of devotion, sharing & prayer, and an optional 20-minute "extra mile" of moderate outdoor walking. Open to all regardless of physical limitations.



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

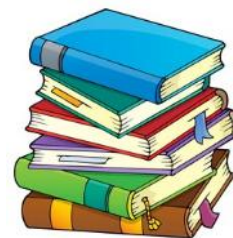
Contact Vicar James,

vicar.james@epiphanyelc.org

or 404-304-4763.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. 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. Here are the books we are reading this year:



March ~ The Women by Kristin Hannah

April ~ The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

May ~ The Secret Book of Flora Lea by Patti Callahan Henry

June ~ Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand

July ~ Sandwich by Catherine Newman

August ~ Walk Like You Have Somewhere to Go by Lucille O'Neal

September ~ The Life Impossible by Matt Haig

October ~ West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

November ~ The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado



HUNGER
WALK *RUN*

**In-Person and Virtual
Event: Sunday,
March 9, 2025**

12:00 pm: Event Opens, Onsite Registration & Entertainment Begins

2:00 pm: 5K Fun Walk & Run Begins

4:00 pm: Event Ends

Location: Home Depot Backyard, Atlanta

This year marks the 41st anniversary of Hunger Walk Run - taking steps together with our community in the fight against local hunger!

Hunger Walk Run -- an annual 5K walk and “fun run” started in 1984 -- is an event of the Atlanta Community Food Bank that unites our community to raise awareness and critical funds for local hunger relief. Proceeds from the event benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank and other local nonprofit organizations that support food pantries, community kitchens, shelters and other programs for neighbors in need of food assistance. These benefiting partners help recruit participants and receive a percentage of the funds raised to support their direct hunger relief programs.

In its 40 years, Hunger Walk Run has raised more than \$14.5 million for hunger relief - enough to help provide over 43 million meals!

This year Hunger Walk Run 2025 will again be a hybrid event! Whether you choose to walk or run, in person or virtually, you’ll join thousands of participants coming together to support our neighbors in need and celebrate achievements already made in the fight against hunger.

Register online today to participate at hungerwalkrun.org - click on “REGISTER” then “Inspiritus” at the drop down, click the “Join a Team” button and be sure you choose the “Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers” team. In addition to the registration fee, consider making an additional donation. You can also challenge your friends, family and coworkers to match your personal contribution or even better, to surpass it; then find a great outdoor trail near you to get your steps in or plan on participating in the in-person event on Sunday, March 9.

If you would like to just donate to the team or to a particular walker, click the “Donate” button and search for Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers, or an individual walker.



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



- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Debbie Reese | 25 Ed Riley |
| 7 Justin Kenney | 27 Lauren Harper |
| Peyton Taplin | 29 Karin Tackett |
| 8 Connor Lubick | 30 Heath Brickell |
| 9 Sally Adams | Marshall Taplin, II |
| Debbie Buckner | 31 Kim Johnson |
| Pantel Taplin | |
| 11 Lois Stegherr | |
| 15 Jewell Ewerth | |
| 16 Ava Malphurs | |
| 18 Jordan Atkins | |
| 21 Mary Anderson | |
| Edward Stegherr | |
| 24 Ava Schlueter | |
| Walter Sipe | |



	Date	Years
Ross & Abigail Harper	6	10
David & Anita Smith	11	60
Norby & Donna Lanford	23	19
Joshua & Teresa McCurry	27	10

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!



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 timlohr@icloud.com. Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Tim Lohr

Council Meeting Minutes - February

Group met at Milano's at 6:30 p.m. for dinner, after which we re-convened at the Church. Attending were: Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, Vicar James Hilden-Minton, President Peggy Lawrence, Secretary Riki DeLamar, Nancy Stover, Lane Carlisle, Deidre London, Tim Lohr, Greg Holcomb.

Call to Order: Friday 2/21/25

The meeting was called to order @ 7:32 p.m.

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner indicated that this was intended to be a spiritual grounding. We would also be discussing what it means to be on the Church Council.

We all did a personality color test, and then discussed the results, and identified core strengths of each color, and who fit those patterns, and what it might mean to the positions they hold based on their strengths..

Pastor read a passage from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12:1-13. He led a discussion by the group.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Saturday 2/22/25

9:00 a.m. the group reconvened at the church for breakfast (Pot luck).

All listed above were present with the exception of Greg Holcomb.

Participated in a Bible Study Activity.

Dwelling in the Word: Passage 1: Revelation 21:1-7 22:8

We each identified an adult (or more than one) that made a significant impact on our lives, and why.

Vice President Anita Smith joined the group.

Dwelling in the Word Passage 2: Revelation 21:9-27

Philippians 4:8-9 Focus on the good. God is always moving.

Working Lunch:

Reviewed the minutes from the Endowment Committee's meeting on 2/11/25 along with their recommendations.

Fund balance on 2/10 was 245,193.67.

In 2024, there was \$60,000 in special distributions as well as \$12,333.36 of the \$13,758.44 approved that was distributed.

2025 Distributions: Discussed as in section 3. Motion from the Endowment Committee accepted, seconded by Lane Carlisle. Motion Carried.

New business: Prospective gifts. We are in receipt of a gift from Brigette McMillan's estate. 10% of this will be distributed per the gift policy. This will be used to purchase altar paraments in memory of Brigette. This motion was accepted, seconded by Deidre London. Motion carried.

Air Condition Replacement:

Quotes and a motion had been put forth to the group the prior week. Best quote was for \$38,148.

Update: The financing that was discussed is only available for residential, so does not apply. They will allow an amended payment plan that allows us to spread the payments over 4 months. We will use our 2025 Endowment disbursement towards this. We have already started receiving gifts specified to go towards this project. Deidre will create a way to track/publicize our progress, and we will start a fundraising drive for this.

(continued on next page)

Council Meeting Minutes - February

Responsibilities of being a church council liaison were reviewed, The group was asked if they were returning to council, were they comfortable with keeping their prior assignments. All returning that were present indicated that they were.

Discipleship – Abby Harper and Kathy Roston (absent)

Outreach - Anita Smith, Tim Lohr and Deidre London

Nurture - Riki DeLamar and Nancy Stover

Administration (includes Property) - Peggy Lawrence and Tracy Parker (absent)

Worship (includes Audio/Visual, Handbells) - Lane Carlisle

Pastor will speak to Greg and see if he has any strong feelings about which committee he serves on.

Synod Assembly 5/29-31

We need to send a male and female congregational delegate. Pastor will make reservations now to save money (Early Bird Special). We can add/change names later.

Dwelling in the Word Passage 3: Revelation 22:1-6

Motion made to adjourn by Anita Smith. Seconded by Deirdre London. Motion carried.

2:30 p.m. Session closed with The Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner.

Next meeting will be March 16, 2025. Nancy Stover will provide lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Rikita S DeLamar