

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

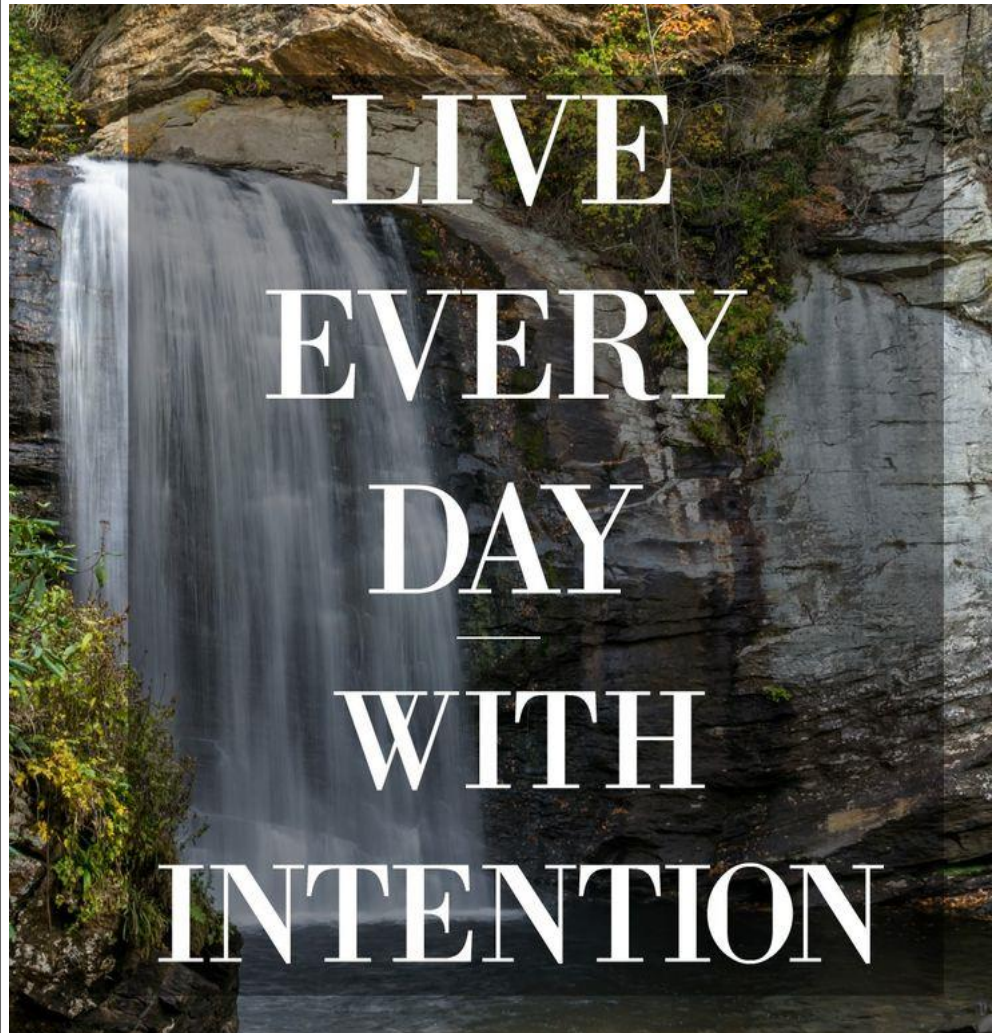
Epiphany's Epistle



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

General Information	2
From Pastor David	3
Congregation News & Activities	4-7
Community News & Activities	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9

January 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, January 26 is the deadline for information to be submitted for the February 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

As we enter the new year, many of us spend the time making resolutions about what we want to do. Perhaps you will resolve to lose weight. Perhaps you will resolve to budget money better. Perhaps you will resolve to go to church more or pray more or read the Bible more.

The problem with resolutions is that they are forgotten a few weeks later.

I wonder if the problem is in the word itself. When we make a resolution, we put a firmness, a certainty to what we want, often with unrealistic expectations. Then when we falter, we give up because the goal is too far away. Resolutions produce guilt, and guilt hardly ever makes a good motivation.

So how can we approach this year in a more grace-filled, positive outlook?

The word I want to use for myself is “intention.” What are my intentions for this coming year? If I intend to make progress, I give myself grace each day to work toward that intention. When I fall short, I know that I can start anew and fresh tomorrow or even in this next moment.

I am reminded of a saying attributed to Martin Luther, who spoke of how when he washed himself each day, he reminded himself of his baptism. Paul expresses this beautifully when he says, “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.” (Romans 6:4-6)

Or you may want to take a verse that can guide you in your intentions. One that I have used comes from Acts 3:19-20: “Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” By this, I remember that I can always turn to God, change my direction, and feel God’s love and flow in my life.

Another I have used is Micah 6:8: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” What am I doing this day to do justice? What am I doing this day to show kindness, whether to my wife, my sons, my neighbor – or even the car that cut me off in traffic? What am I doing this day to be humble and to seek God’s help and guidance?

So as we enter this year, set your intentions. Give yourself a verse to guide you. And know that the love of God, the grace of God, and the forgiveness of God surrounds you and renews you in all you do.

In Christ,
Pastor David

Congregation News & Activities

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

Join us as we continue our 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?

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

*Epiphany of Our Lord Service
with Holy Communion
Monday, January 6th - 7 p.m.*

*The Fellowship Committee is providing a light supper
before the service at 6 p.m.*

** Burning of the greens will follow the service **



WOMEN'S
Bible Study



*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.*



Annual Congregational Meeting Part II Sunday, January 26

The annual congregational meeting, part II, will convene on Sunday, January 26, immediately following worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Congregation News & Activities



Although there were only three Wednesdays in Advent this year, we made the most of them with some delicious soups and sandwiches. The food was plentiful and the conversation was warm, even as the temperature outside was dropping. Thanks to all the groups who provided food for everyone to enjoy.

We will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6, 2025. The Fellowship Committee will provide a light meal served at 6:00 PM with the service starting at 7:00. Please join us.

Margaret Hill & 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, January 21, 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:

- January** ~ The Precious Present by Spencer Johnson
- February** ~ There are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak
- 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

OTHER SUGGESTED BOOKS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU:

The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher
The Friendship List by Susan Mallery
The Mountain Between Us by Charles Martin
Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
A Christmas Memory by Richard Paul Evans
The Night the River Wept by Lo Patrick
Sisters of Fortune by Anna Lee Huber

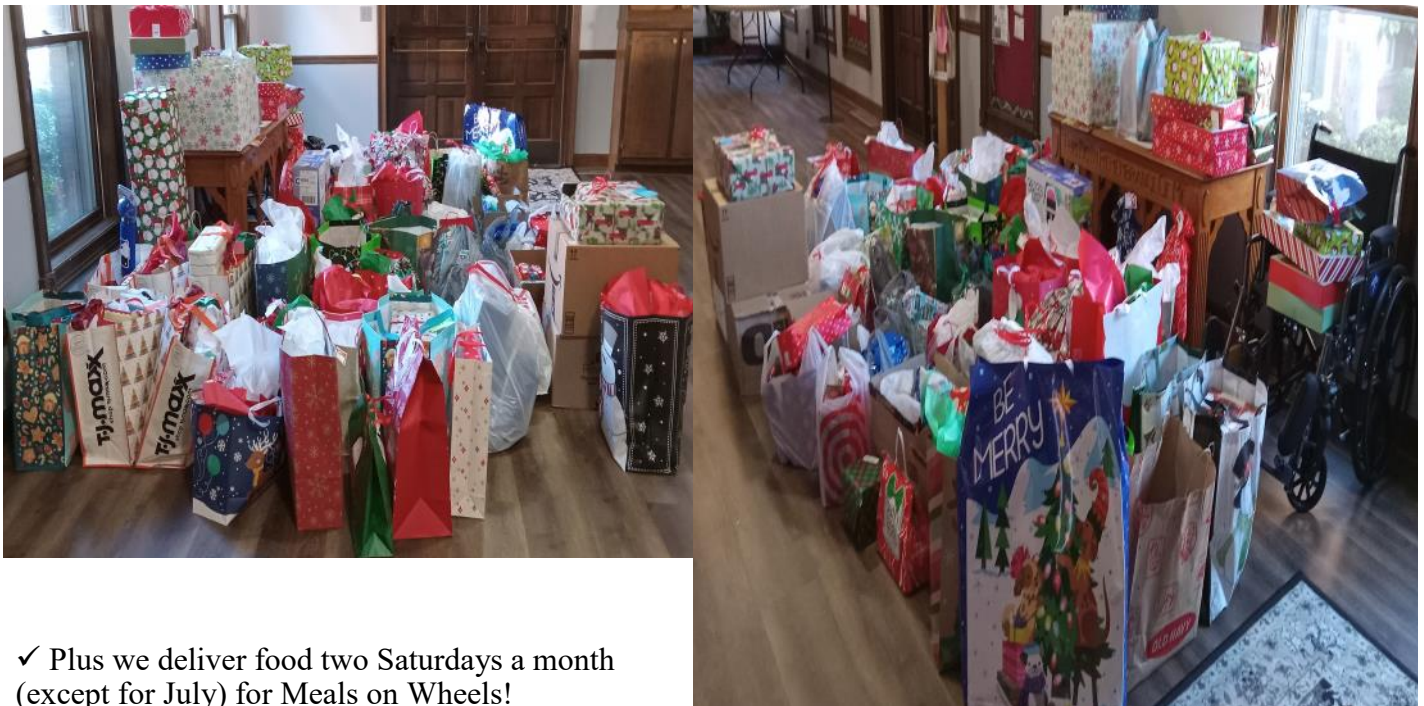
Congregation News & Activities

Social Ministry



Epiphany Lutheran Church has always contributed greatly to our community and this year we wanted you to see one year's snapshot to get a full picture of your wonderful generosity.

- ✓ February: \$108.05 and 175 cans of soup to Rockdale Emergency Relief as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring;
- ✓ March: \$2,131 for the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Hunger Walk, from which \$511.68 went to Rockdale Emergency Relief and we had an Easter Egg Hunt at Elks Aidemore where we gave 28 gift cards totaling \$328, baskets for 16 girls filled with candy and small gifts, and hid over 1,000 eggs;
- ✓ May: \$300 in gas gift cards for Project Renewal;
- ✓ June: 18 bags of food for Rockdale Emergency Relief and \$1,423.75 for the Baby Bottle Campaign for the Refuge Center;
- ✓ July: \$60 plus 11 bags of school supplies for Project Renewal and \$125 to Elks Aidemore for school supplies;
- ✓ September: 10 boxes of diapers, 8 boxes of Kleenex, 5 bags of baby clothes, 3 bags of baby bottles, 16 packs of baby wipes and one bag of wash clothes, lotion and shampoo to the Refuge Center;
- ✓ November: 100 bags of flour, 100 bags of sugar & 100 cans of pumpkin to Rockdale Emergency Relief;
- ✓ December: 55 children of STRIVE given gifts and a \$10 gift card. (We want to thank you for getting others outside of our congregation to participate.) We are so proud of the generosity and that the gifts were back on time. The staff of STRIVE were overwhelmed and so grateful.



- ✓ Plus we deliver food two Saturdays a month (except for July) for Meals on Wheels!

Thank you so much for your generous support as we continue to extend God's love and blessings to our community.

~ Evelyn Brown

Congregation News & Activities



*Congratulations to our
2024 Ugly Christmas Sweater
Winner
Samuel Armstrong-Reiner!*

*Thanks to all who participated
in the fun!*





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



- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Anna Beaucher | 26 Kristen Shead |
| Nelson Kelly | Anita Smith |
| 8 Donald Holcomb | 27 Linda Machansky |
| Don Norton | Aaron Pyatt |
| 9 Joy White | Kaitlyn Weber |
| 13 Sharon Ard | 28 Margaret Hill |
| Ward Gailey | 29 Reed Lawrence |
| Westin Harper | 30 Sharon Skinner |
| Robert Hooson | |
| 15 Roberta Crippin | |
| Stephen White | |
| 17 Arline Chapman | |
| Todd Hefner | |
| 20 Jean Sullivan | |
| 24 Randall Pate | |



	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Heather Moore	4	22
Stephen & Joy White	18	28

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

No Meeting Minutes



**The church office will be closed
on Monday, January 20 in
observance of the Martin Luther
King Jr. holiday**