

THE LIGHT

A Newsletter from Epiphany Lutheran Church: August 19, 2022



from the pastor's desk

It's been said that *"travel broadens the mind."* Most of us have benefitted from being able to travel at some point in our lives. Perhaps this summer you have gone on a long-planned family vacation, or journeyed across the country for a wedding, or have had the opportunity to travel for work. As we find ourselves at the end of the summer vacation season, I think we would benefit from pondering a prophet who personally knew about travel, the prophet Jonah.

We learn all about Jonah in the book that bears his name. The Book of Jonah is quite different from the other prophetic books. Where the books of the other prophets mostly contain their proclamations, oracles, and sermons, with just a little bit of narrative about their lives and actions included, the Book of Jonah is almost all action. Jonah only prophesies one message from the Lord and it is only 8 words long!

I would encourage each of you to re-read the Book of Jonah (the average person can read the entire book in just 8 minutes) and you will find that this was one well-traveled prophet! The Lord called Jonah to travel to the land of Nineveh to the east of Israel to call out against the city's wickedness. But Jonah rebelled and booked passage on the first boat he could find traveling in the opposite direction, to the west! He ran from God's calling and then found himself in the belly of a great fish. He called out to God and God saved him, depositing him on the dry land. From there he made a beeline to Nineveh and finally delivered the Lord's message. His travel on the boat had broadened his mind that the Lord meant business and he had better obey!

But then the strangest thing happened. Although Jonah prophesied a message of certain destruction for Nineveh, the king of Nineveh and all of its residents repented, throwing themselves upon the mercy of God.

Jonah traveled once more, away from the city to the east where he would have a vantage point to watch the Lord's fiery destruction of the city. But the destruction never came. The Lord relented and showed mercy to the repentant Ninevites, much to Jonah's dismay.

As Jonah sat there, disappointed that the Lord didn't destroy Nineveh, the Lord pleaded with Jonah to see that it is His right to have mercy upon whomever He pleases. And then, the book ends abruptly, never telling us of Jonah's final reaction to the Lord's mercy.

I pray that Jonah's travel to the place east of the city and his conversation with the Lord broadened his mind in the end to understand that though the Lord means business and demands obedience, his will is inclined toward mercy for us fallen and sinful creatures.

We need only travel to one place to see this clearly. That place is Calvary, where the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ, took the wrath of God in our place, securing the forgiveness of sins for all mankind. We need not run from God like Jonah, but we can run daily toward God in repentance like the sinful Ninevites to receive His ever-present mercy!



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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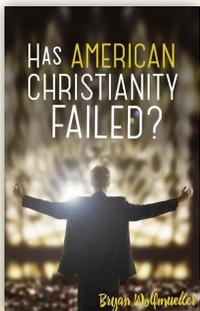
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bible Study
+ Sunday School
10:00am

Fellowship
+ Coffee
11:00am

Divine
Service
11:30am



JOIN OUR BOOK STUDY!

We're reading *Has American Christianity Failed*, by Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller (Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin). Paul Hofmann is leading the study. The books are available at church and we encourage everyone to come and participate! Please invite your friends too!



GRIEF SHARE is a nondenominational program featuring Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The participants can share as much or as little as they want. This group meets for a 14-week series beginning Thursday, August 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Immanuel, Giddings 300 N. Grimes St. Please contact Kathy Bartels at (512) 461-5442 or visit www.griefshare.org for additional information, or monniebartels@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

Birthdays

August 29: Nellie Gonzalez

August 31: Paul Hofmann



epiphanybastrop.org



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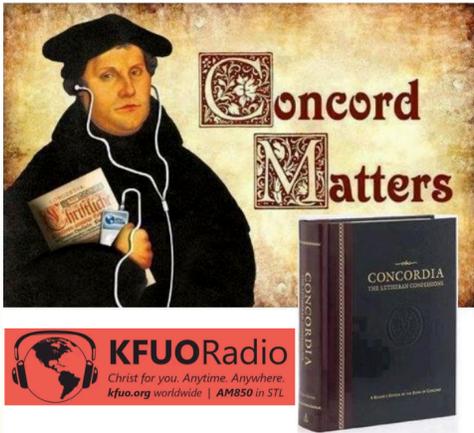


Epiphany Lutheran Church



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Listen to *Concord Matters* Saturday, August 20 at 10:00am!

Epiphany's pastors along with pastors from Charles City, IA will join the podcast to talk about Mission Congregations and Church Planting. The show will stream worldwide at kfuor.org, and can be found later on the website or wherever you listen to your podcasts.

HOLY CROSS WARDA CHURCH PICNIC

It's time to make plans to attend our annual Warda Church Picnic on Sunday, September 4th! This year, our morning will start with worship at 9am; we're bringing back our full meal (pork by the pound, whole chickens, potato salad, beans, cole-slaw, noodles) starting at 9:30am; Ladies' Aid country store and bake sale opens at 9am; live music 10am-2pm (Mark Gruetzner) and 2pm-5pm (Rabbs Creek Band); children's activities start at 11am; burgers, fries, and nachos at 4pm; live auction at 5; silent auction til 6; fun for the whole family! Call Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 979-242-3333 for more information!



The 34th Annual Wendish Fest will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society on Sunday, September 25, in Serbin, TX.

The traditional Wendish noon meal will be available at 10:30 for adults \$12 and children \$6. To-Go and drive-thru will also be available at 9:30 - all take-out meals are \$12.

Epiphany will be hosting a booth at the festival! If you'd like to be a part of that, contact Jeremy Clifton at augustana@gmail.com.

For more information on the festival, contact 979-366-2441 or museum@texaswendish.org or www.texaswendish.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS



FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

OPENING SERVICE

Please join us on Sunday, August 21st at 3 pm as we will officially open our sixth academic school year. "Build Up" based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11 is the theme for 2022-2023. A worship service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warda. Offering will be collected to support the FLHS Scholarship Fund. A potluck dessert and punch reception will follow.

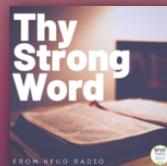
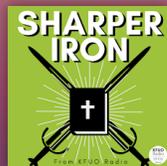
HELP US CLEAR OUR LIST!

FLHS has created a wishlist on Amazon, for needed materials for the upcoming school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your support!

REMEMBER THE STAFF IN PRAYER THIS ACADEMIC YEAR:

- Mrs. Chelsea Beck - Part-time History, English, Spanish, Art
- Pastor Dustin Beck - Part-time Religion
- Ms. Kristin Becker - Science, Math, Technology
- Mr. Jonathan Kueck - Religion, English, Health
- Mrs. Nikki Kueck - Administrator, History, Math, Electives
- Mrs. Jane Obersat - Part-time German, Art, Library
- Mr. Dan Schaefer - Part-time History, Music

PROST! Faith Lutheran High School's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 22. New this year will be The Battle of the Brew, a home-brew competition. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, corn-hole tournament, music, kids' games, and lots of fun!



KFUO RADIO, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares worship services, Bible studies, podcasts, and sacred music for anyone, anytime, anywhere. Find these programs and more on-demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts. Follow @kfuo radio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

prayers of the people

- Kathy Achterberg - Diagnosed in 2011, her Multiple Myeloma has returned, so she will be talking with her doctor about a treatment plan.
- Sharon Birkelbach - Recovering from hip surgery
- Faith Lutheran High School - Prayers for safety, thanks, and perseverance over the start of a new school year. We also pray for the school's retreat at Camp Lone Star over September 1-2.
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Rev. Michael and Stacy Hofmann - continued prayers of health for mom and babies.
- Tim Hofmann - praise God for a new job starting Monday!
- David Sager - we praise God he has returned home and continue our prayers for rehab.

*“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.”*

Colossians 4:2

Please share any prayer requests which you would like added to this list by sending an email to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

If you have confidential prayer requests for the pastors eyes only, please send an email to pastor@epiphanybastrop.org.



What is Worship?

Elements of the Divine Service: Confession of Sins

Confession is the act by which one admits or confesses sin and the guilt of sin.

As children of the heavenly Father, we are called into His presence in the Divine Service so He can bless us. As we make our appearance before God, Psalm 51 reminds us that we are only beggars, seeking to receive.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

In the Confession, we are saying “amen,” or “yes, yes, this is true,” to God’s righteous judgment against our sin. But the Lord is present with us and ready to forgive. After all, this is the reason the Lord gathers His people together in the Divine Service, to give them His mercy and grace.

“I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

Psalm 32:5