

THE LIGHT

A Newsletter from Epiphany Lutheran Church: August 5, 2022



from the pastor's desk

Our hymn of the month in July was *Lutheran Service Book* #598, "Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters." I mentioned the first time we sang it together that the hymn had previously been much longer. Coincidentally, the hymn number in *The Lutheran Hymnal* is the same, but there, the hymn has eleven stanzas and a different title: "Who Knows When Death May Overtake Me." I certainly don't envy the task of hymnal committees; they are forced to make tough decisions on what to include and what to cut. For this reason, I don't mention this as a criticism; rather, I simply find it worthwhile to look back at the stanzas that weren't included in *LSB* so that we might benefit from this prayer sung by our forerunners in the faith. I encourage you to look up the entire hymn on your own (if you don't have a copy of *TLH*, let me know and I'll gladly give you one); I'll include a few stanzas below for our mutual benefit.

Stanza 1 from *TLH* #598 says: "Who knows when death may overtake me! Time passes on, my end draws near. How swiftly can my breath forsake me! How soon can life's last hour appear!" Perhaps our world is afraid of such talk: "Don't mention death; it's such a downer." Yet Christians acknowledge the reality of death forthrightly. We pray with Moses in Psalm 90, "The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away." Christians acknowledge that death is the enemy that attacks us all (Isaiah 25:7). Christians recognize that we do not know when death may come (Luke 12:20). Christians confess that death is what we earn because of our sin (Romans 6:23). That's why Christians turn in repentance to the true God as the only Savior from death (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Stanza 3 of *TLH* #598 sings of such repentant faith: "My end to ponder teach me ever and ere the hour of death appears, to cast my soul on Christ, my Savior, nor spare repentant sighs and tears." Some have rightly said that the Church's job isn't simply to teach Christians how to live well; the Church's job is to teach people how to die well. Again, we pray with Moses in Psalm 90: "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism that we pray for such a blessed end in the 7th Petition of the Lord's Prayer. A blessed death is nothing but what this hymn declares—a death with faith in Christ the Savior.

Stanza 6 of *TLH* #598 provides beautiful imagery of what faith in Christ is: "My many sins blot out forever since Jesus has my pardon won; in mercy robed, I then shall never fear death but trust in Thee alone." If God kept a record of our sins, we could never stand (Psalm 130). Thanks be to God that He is the One who forgives our sins for the sake of the perfect life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! God not only takes away our sins and puts them on Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21); He also clothes us with the robe of Christ's righteousness (Galatians 3:27).

This is our confidence in death. This is why we look upon the grave with as little fear as a bed, for we know that Christ will call our name on the Last Day to raise us to resurrection life with Him. This is why we can sing our bold "Amen" to the refrain at the end of each refrain, "My God, for Jesus' sake I pray Your peace may bless my dying day!"

Rev. Timothy Appel



EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Bible Study
+ Sunday School
10:00am

Fellowship
+ Coffee
11:00am

Divine
Service
11:30am



Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 11: Norma Kunze

August 15: Pastor Nate and Candice Hill



epiphanybastrop.org



church@epiphanybastrop.org

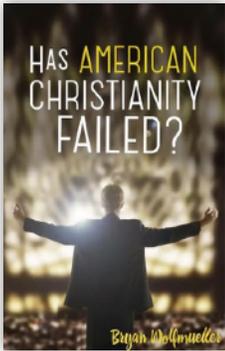


Epiphany Lutheran Church



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OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



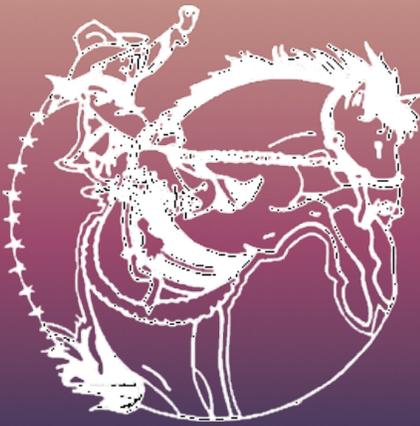
JOIN OUR BOOK STUDY!

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!



From Psalm 91: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Rosie Cabrera made this beautiful plaque for Camp Lone Star's silent auction at their fundraiser over the weekend. We're blessed to be a blessing to others in ministry!



The Rossers will be entering their classic car as an Epiphany Lutheran Church float in the **BASTROP HOMECOMING PARADE** on August 6! The Parade starts at 9:30am.

This is an excellent opportunity to get visibility for our church in our community, and you can help! Walkers are needed to hand out our church fans and slap bracelets. Walkers don't have to walk the entire parade route but can join the Epiphany float(s) as it enters at Main and Cedar Street.

For more info, visit bastrophomecomingrodeo.org/parade/ or contact Tom Rosser at rosser.tom@gmail.com.

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY



Ladies, how would you like to meet up with girls your own age who share your passion for Christ?

All girls 5th - 12th grade are invited to an ice cream social and fellowship time on Saturday, August 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Cross Warda. Moms are invited as well. We are starting up a teen LWML group in our zone, and this ice cream social is your chance to see what LWML is all about, meet other teens from area churches, and even make a craft to take home. If you have any questions, please call Dorothy Schautschick at (979) 716-0094. If you know of any teen girls, please share or if you would like to support this group, please contact Dorothy.

YOU ARE INVITED TO the Service of Ordination into the Holy Ministry and Installation as Pastor for Joshua Hahn on Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church 300 N. Grimes Giddings, TX 78942

Reception with meal to follow at the church fellowship hall. Please RSVP for the reception no later than July 24, 2022 at www.ilgtx.com or call the Immanuel Church office at (979) 542-2918.



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.

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
- Rev. Eric Borchers
- Johnnie Chromcak - Sandy Giro's brother is in surgery at Ascension Seton in Kyle for blood clots in his lungs. Prayers needed.
- 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 - Praise God for Stacy's successful recovery last week from a kidney infection and possible kidney stone. Continued prayers for healthy pregnancy of twins and may she have relief from constant nausea.
- Tim Hofmann - prayers for discernment as he figures out his next step.
- David Sager - Praise God for successful surgeries to combat infection and continued prayers for recovery and 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

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.

*“Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against You, You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that You may be justified in Your words
and blameless in Your judgment.*

*...Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God.”
Psalm 51:1-4, 14*



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.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9*

OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Please keep our faculty and students in your prayers as classes begin Wednesday, August 17th. Final preparations are underway in preparation for the big day!

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. The service will be led by our association Pastors. Offering will be collected to support the FLHS Scholarship Fund. A potluck dessert and punch reception will follow.

THANK YOU!

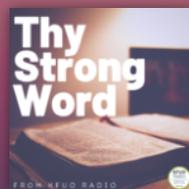
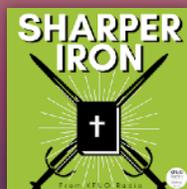
Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. As we prepare to begin another year, we are thankful for each of you who faithfully pray and support the ministry God has created at FLHS. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support!

COMMUTING FROM BASTROP?

FLHS has some students in the Bastrop and surrounding community who would benefit from carpooling to Faith during the school year. Are you already coming this direction? Please call Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

SAVE THE DATE!

FLHS'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!



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