

# THE LIGHT

A Newsletter from Epiphany Lutheran Church: January 6, 2023



## from the pastor's desk

*"Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children." Psalm 90:16*

We had a lock in at Holy Cross earlier this month and one thing I can tell you is that I had forgotten how much I dislike the prospect of staying up all night. The youth all had fun; we played lots of games, they ate junk food, most of them stayed up ALL night...but the highlight for me was our Bible study. We read through Psalm 90, verse by verse, and talked about what Moses, its author, teaches us in it. The first 11 verses describe a contrast between the eternal nature that belongs to God and our fleeting existence in this life. (It was a pretty deep conversation for a bunch of teenagers to have at around midnight!) We talked about the fact that this Psalm is really building toward a prayer that begins in verse 12.

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Help us to know, O Lord, that we are temporary—like grass whose flower fades in the evening. And knowing that this life is transitory; that we ourselves will not last...well, that is the perfect invitation for us to consider those things that DO last...God's Word being chief among them. The rest of the Psalm unfolds as a beautiful series of petitions that flow from that initial prayer for a "heart of wisdom."

"Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"

There are two things that catch my attention as these words unfold before our eyes: First, Moses' faith is an honest faith. He doesn't try to "protect" God from responsibility for the toil and sorrow of this life. Moses confesses that all of the turmoil of this life and ultimately death itself (our "returning to dust") is delivered by God on account of our sin. Second, in these petitions, Moses' prayer is bold... He doesn't hesitate to ask God's blessing, even in the face of Moses' own sin. Asking that God would bring us joy and gladness for as many days and years as we have experienced pain and hardship is a bold request. After this, Moses prays that God's work would be shown to us and the working of our hands would be established so that our children might look upon God's great glory...

These are bold requests because they're things that neither Moses nor we deserve. We have earned only God's wrath and judgment, and yet for the sake of God's faithfulness in Christ, we are free to pray to Him—with boldness. Show us, O Lord, Your powerful working among us, and give us the eyes of faith to see that You have created us to be Your stewards in creation, and You have re-created us through the waters of Holy Baptism to be Your dearly loved children. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



# EPIPHANY

LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

Bible Study  
+ Sunday School

10:00am

Fellowship  
+ Coffee

11:00am

Divine  
Service

11:30am

## Happy Epiphany

FROM EPIPHANY LUTHERAN!  
We thank God for revealing Himself to us!

### NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERS

We have new leaders for our Sunday Morning classes - Jeremy Clifton will be leading the Adult Bible Class, continuing through *A Longer Look at the Lessons*, which takes a deep dive into the service scripture each week. Terri Rosser will be leading the children's' Sunday School class using the Enduring Faith Curriculum.

### THANK YOU + FAREWELL

Thank you to Paul and Barbara Hofmann for their vision and dedication to starting the mission of Epiphany and their tireless work since in various leadership roles and service for the church. We will all miss you and pray for blessings in your time of transition.

### Birthdays

Pastor Roth: December 26  
Abby Roth: December 28  
Richard Sager: December 31

Deebo Kunze: January 4  
Alex Monroe: January 9  
Silas Roth: January 17



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Epiphany Lutheran Church



[@epiphanybastrop](https://www.instagram.com/epiphanybastrop)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



***We had a merry time decorating and riding our first float for the annual Bastrop Christmas Parade!  
Thanks to all who helped make it happen!***



***And a special THANK YOU to Tom and Terri Rosser for hosting our church Christmas social on December 17. It was fun!***

# COMMUNITY NEWS

The next Texas Confessional Lutherans meeting will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. This is the group that recently gifted Epiphany with \$7000 from their Lutheran Mission Alliance fund.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

### **Shadow Days**

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck ([kueckn@flhstx.org](mailto:kueckn@flhstx.org)) if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### **Help Spread the Gospel and Make a Lasting Impact**

You can make a lasting impact by helping the Lutheran Seminary in Siberia, prepare pastors to carry the Gospel to people long-starved of God's Word. The seminary not only provides pastors for the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, but it also acts as a learning center for music, leadership, and laity training for the SELC and other churches in surrounding countries. Your gift matters – today and eternally. **Give at [savetheseminary.org](http://savetheseminary.org), or use the QR Code.**



Bingo for Seniors meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Everything is provided at no cost, including bingo supplies, prizes, and food. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact the Immanuel church office (979) 542-2918. For all other information you may contact Mrs. Brittany Behrens 979-540-0181.



**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, January 19, 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](http://www.griefshare.org) for additional information, or [monniebartels@gmail.com](mailto:monniebartels@gmail.com) with questions or concerns.

# THE LITTLE LIGHT

*Here you'll find news and updates relating to the children's ministry of Epiphany Lutheran. We hope parents will find this newsletter section helpful!*

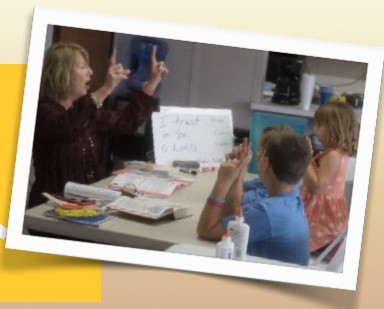


The Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum, by CPH, features a Christ-centered, three-year chronological survey of Bible history with a goal of helping our children grow deeper in their understanding of God's Word.

- Year 1 is an overview of the Bible and its major themes, tracing God's plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation. There are fourteen lessons per unit with overlapping levels for churches with small numbers of students.
- Our first unit is God Creates a World and a Kingdom, beginning with creation and ending during the reign of King David.



**ENDURING  
FAITH™**



## **LESSON 8: "The Egypt Exit" (January 8)**

Today's lesson tells of ten terrible plagues and how Pharaoh relents and releases the Israelites to worship in the wilderness. Realizing the Israelites have no intention of returning, Pharaoh's army pursues the runaways. Caught between Pharaoh's charioteers and the waters of the Red Sea, the people cry out to God. Moses stretches his hand over the sea as God parts the waters, enabling the people to pass through the sea on dry ground. As Egypt's army attempts to follow, the sea closes in over them, so not one survives. As a family, talk about the ways God protects us from our enemies today.

## **LESSON 9: "A Loving Law" (January 15)**

Months into their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites arrive in the wilderness of Sinai. God comes to the mountain in clouds and thunder—fire and smoke—as He establishes His covenant with His people through Moses, His chosen intermediary. There on the mountain, God gives Moses His Ten Commandments. Discuss why the Ten Commandments are still important in our lives today.

# 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.
- Richard Giro - he received a pacemaker in an emergency procedure earlier this month. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and continued healing as not all assessments have returned to the normal range.
- David Goeke - he had back surgery that did not go well and he has lost the use of his legs. We pray for understanding and peace.
- Nellie Gonzalez - prayers as she deals with breathing issues associated with COPD.
- Daniel and Katie Hofmann - continued prayers of comfort and peace. They lost their child at 18 weeks in mid-December.
- Rev. Michael and Stacy Hofmann - prayers for guidance as they consider a new call to another church in Kansas.
- Deebo and Norma Kunze
- Rev. Daniel Schuetz - friend of Hofmanns and Kaspars.
- Dr. Charles Wukasch - we ask God to cover him with peace and grace as he deals with stage 4 prostate cancer.
- Pray for wisdom for the Board and all Epiphany members as we consider calling a pastor this year and make final edits to our constitution
- Pray for those experiencing and recovering from illness - Rosie Cabrera and Sandy and Richard Giro.

Please share any prayer requests which you would like added to this list by sending an email to [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

If you have confidential prayer requests for the pastors eyes only, please send an email to [pastor@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanybastrop.org).

# What is Worship?

## *Elements of the Divine Service: Old Testament Reading, Gradual, + Epistle*

The first reading is typically from the Old Testament. Through the history of Israel and the words of the prophets, the **Old Testament Reading** teaches us about God's work in the time before Christ. There we hear the prophecies of the Messiah who would come to men that all people might once again be brought back to God. This reading prepares us to hear the Holy Gospel, which is the fulfillment of the prophecies and promises made in the Old Testament.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

*Congregation: Thanks be to God.*



Hearing the Word of God, the people respond with words of praise. The **Gradual** is a portion of a psalm or other scripture passage that provides a response after the Old Testament reading. The Epistle gives us God's counsel on how His gracious Word is applied to the hearer and the Church. Often in the reading we hear how God's Word accomplishes what it says- creating faith, bestowing forgiveness, strengthening God's people in their struggles against sin, and enlivening in them the hope of eternal life.