

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



Shining the light of Christ  
in the heart of the pines

**Mailing Address:**  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
489 Agnes  
Suite 112, Box 117  
Bastrop, TX 78602

**Physical Address:**  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
(on the SDA campus)  
3300 TX-21  
Bastrop, TX 78602

(512) 907-0717  
[church@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:church@epiphanybastrop.org)  
[epiphanybastrop.org/](http://epiphanybastrop.org/)  
[facebook.com/epiphanybastrop](https://www.facebook.com/epiphanybastrop)

## **WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

---

## **AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:**

### ***The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh***

When King David “*lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,*” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “*Son of the Most High,*” receives “*the throne of his father David*” and begins to reign “*over the house of Jacob forever*” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “*the mystery that was kept secret for long ages*” but is now “*made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God*” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

---

## **SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:**

Pastor – Rev. Dustin Beck  
Musician – Leann McClain

*Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.*

**DIVINE SERVICE  
SETTING THREE  
WITH COMMUNION**

**Prelude**

Selected Music

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Opening Hymn**

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

LSB 334

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*(Hebrews 10:22)*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalm 32:5*

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*(John 20:19-23)*

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Introit**

Read Together

*Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

**Show**er, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down  
righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.  
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his  
handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of  
them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;*

*as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**Show**er, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down  
righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

**Kyrie**

*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

**Old Testament Reading**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I

speaking a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"<sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

Read Together

*Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29; antiphon: v. 8*

**<sup>8</sup>O LORD God of hosts,  
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,  
with your faithfulness all around you?**

**<sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all  
generations.**

**<sup>2</sup>For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

**<sup>3</sup>You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:**

**<sup>4</sup>I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations."**

**<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

**<sup>19</sup>Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:  
“I have granted help to one who is mighty;  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

**<sup>20</sup>I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him,**

**<sup>21</sup>so that my hand shall be established with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.**

**<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him;  
the wicked shall not humble him.**

**<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.**

**<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,  
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

**<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.**

**<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

**<sup>27</sup>And I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.**

**<sup>28</sup>My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

**<sup>29</sup>I will establish his offspring forever  
and his throne as the days of the heavens.**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

**<sup>80</sup>O LORD God of hosts,  
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,  
with your faithfulness all around you?**

## Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

*“A Great and Mighty Wonder”*

LSB 383

Sermon

Rev. Dustin Beck

# Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## Offering

Usher

*(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.)*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** ...let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

## Important Information about Holy Communion Today

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which our Lord Jesus Christ gives His true body and blood under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. This Sacrament is also a confession of the unity in faith, doctrine, and practice of those who receive it together.

If you are a confirmed member in good standing of Epiphany Lutheran Church or another congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we welcome you to commune with us today. However, if this is not the case, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak to the pastor. He would be happy to meet with you to talk about the blessings of church membership and arrange for you to be a part of our instruction leading toward reception of Holy Communion at Epiphany.

---

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

*(Psalm 136)*



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

**P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

John 20:19



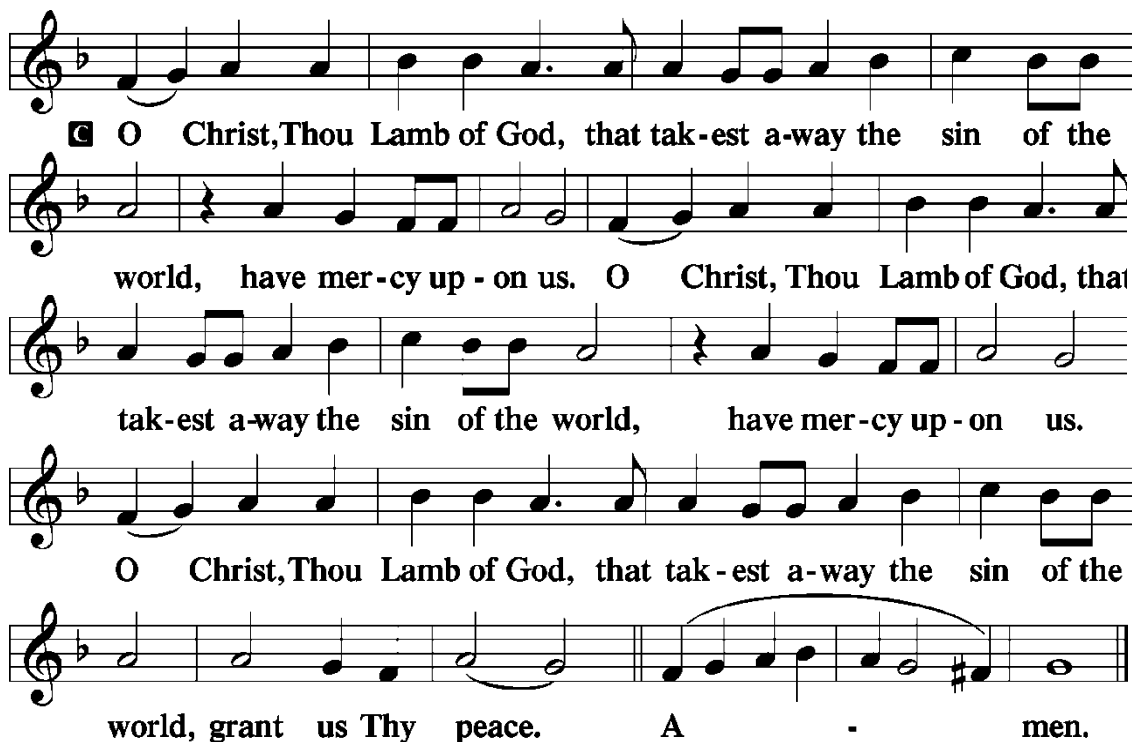
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29



**■** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.


## Distribution Hymn

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

LSB 357

## Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



**■** Lord, now letteth Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## **P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

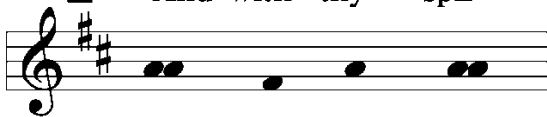


**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**A** Bless we the Lord.

*(Psalm 103:1)*



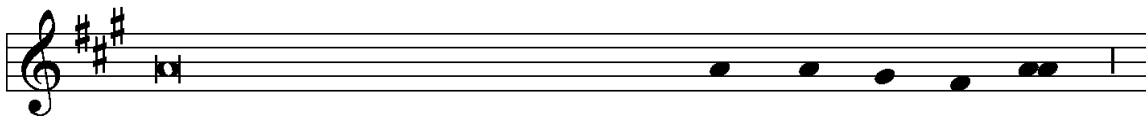
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

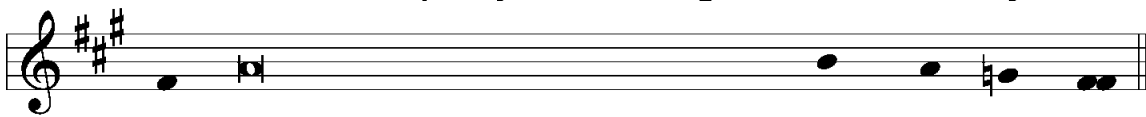
*Number 6:24-26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn

*“Joy to the World”*

LSB 387

## Announcements

## Postlude

Selected Music

## PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:** Please share any prayer requests that need to be 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 to know about, please send an email to [pastor@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:pastor@epiphanybastrop.org).

- Kathy Achterberg
- Richard Giro
- David Goeke
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Tonya Hettler
- Deebo and Norma Kunze
- Karen McDougall
- Dr. Charles Wukasch

### MISSIONARIES:

- **The Payne Family (Africa, Tanzania)** – Pray for Rev. Bryan Payne, Deaconess Keah Payne, and their two children as they serve in Tanzania. Pray that God would bless their efforts to learn Swahili and to adjust to their new home. Pray also for the new seminary in Shinyanga, that it would equip students to serve the church and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully and boldly. Let us give thanks to God that the Paynes are serving His people in this part of the world.
- **The Paul Family (Asia, Taiwan)** – Pray for Michael and Jen-Yi “Irene” as they serve in Taiwan. Ask God to give them wisdom to use their time wisely with the many opportunities to teach God’s Word and share His love with the people in Taiwan. Let’s give God thanks that the Pauls serve His children in this part of the world.
- **The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church** – Pray for Bishop Lytkin and the pastors who serve in what is one of the poorest regions of Russia as they raise monetary support for its congregations and pastors, as well as its seminary, which is one of only two remaining Lutheran seminaries (out of eleven founded after the fall of the Soviet Union) in all of Russia.

## THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT EPIPHANY:

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 10:00am – Fellowship Potluck
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

### Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

- 9:00am at Grace in Elgin with Pastor Roth

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – NO CHURCH SERVICE

### Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

- **1:00pm** – Pastor Holschuh’s Installation Service at the Refectory

### Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00am – Bible Class
- 10:00am – Sunday School
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion (Our first Sunday service with Pastor Holschuh!)

---

**Lutheran Hour:** Next Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – “The Exit from Regret” – Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start. (Luke 2:27-28)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

---

**KFUO Radio**, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfuo), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfuo), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuo).

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUE Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born! Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) or the KFUE Radio app!

**Sanctity of Life:** We are created, preserved, and protected by our Father. Christ Jesus died and rose to redeem every life and the Holy Spirit strengthens us to love every life as someone for whom Christ died. Viewing life as valuable shapes our worldview and guides Christians to uphold the lives of the vulnerable. Christians are faced with issues of abortion, euthanasia, and physician assisted suicide. We come to these and other issues with a theology of life – life for all. As the Body of Christ, we seek to preserve every life created by God and value every life, whether the world sees them as valuable or not. The value given to life comes not from the world, but from the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of the world, our Holy and gracious God. Resources have been created to aid in education of congregations and institutions, advocacy for those vulnerable to loss of life, and service to all God’s created people: <https://makingdisciples-resources.lcms.org/sanctity-of-life-issues/#resources>.

---



These days, conducting class at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is sometimes difficult as professors turn to online means to provide pastoral instruction to students, especially those close to the conflict in Ukraine and those who are seeking instruction in countries surrounding Russia. Please continue to pray for the seminary and the *Save the Seminary Campaign* efforts. Your prayers mean so much, and your financial support is a genuine encouragement for the campaign team as we continue to build an endowment for the seminary. Learn more on our website, [savetheseminary.org](http://savetheseminary.org).

**Please make your contribution at: [savetheseminary.org](http://savetheseminary.org), or use this QR Code.**

---

**Christmas Season Services at Mt. Calvary:** Let's celebrate **Christmas in its season**. Pastor Kaspar will be serving a simple Divine Service at Mt. Calvary, La Grange with the Lord's Supper each night at 6pm from Dec 26 - Dec 30. Please join us once or twice to hear, receive, and sing some carols together.

---

**Christmas Open Haus:** Pastor & Mandy Kaspar are hosting you at the parsonage on Jan 1st from 2pm-4pm; snacks and punch/tea provided. Feel free to bring other beverages. 840 N. Franklin St., La Grange, TX 78945

---

**Installation of Pastor Holschuh:** We are excited to welcome Pastor Holschuh to serve us here at Epiphany! His installation will take place at 1:00pm at the Refectory in Bastrop on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. A light reception will follow.

---

**We will not have Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, or New Year's Day services here at Epiphany. Below are those service times at the congregations served by Pastors Roth, Hill, Beck, and Kaspar:**

**Grace, Elgin**

- Christmas Eve – 6:00pm
- Christmas Day with Communion – 9:00am
- New Year's Day with Communion – 9:00am

**St. Michael's, Winchester**

- Christmas Eve Children's Service – 6:00pm
- Christmas Day – 9:00am
- New Year's Eve with Communion – 7:00pm

**Holy Cross, Warda**

- Christmas Eve Children's Service – 6:00pm
- Christmas Day with Communion – 9:00am
- New Year's Eve with Communion – 6:30pm

**Mount Calvary, La Grange – 6:00pm**

- Christmas Eve – 6:00pm
- Christmas Day – 9:00am
- New Year's Eve – 6:00pm