

Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

The Third Sunday in Lent



Shining the light of Christ  
in the heart of the pines

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## 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.

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## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God’s salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it’s a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

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## AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

### ***The Crucified and Risen Body of Jesus Is the True Temple of the Lord***

The Lord rescues His people, Israel, “*out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery*” (Ex. 20:2) and makes His gracious covenant with them, defined by the Ten Commandments. Since He has become their God by His grace, they shall be His people, having “*no other gods*” before Him (Ex. 20:3). He is “*jealous*” for them as a husband for his wife and as a father for his children. He has named them with His name and called them to rest in Him (Ex. 20:5–9). The incarnate Son, Christ Jesus, is likewise jealous for His Father’s house, because it is to be a place of divine grace and Sabbath rest for His people, and not “*a house of trade*” (John 2:16–17). His zeal consumes Him as He gives up “*the temple of his body*” to the destruction of the cross, but in three days He raises it up again to be the true temple forever (John 2:17–21). By His crucifixion He cleanses the entire household, and in His resurrection He becomes “*wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Cor. 1:30).

**DIVINE SERVICE  
SETTING ONE  
WITH COMMUNION**

**Prelude**

Selected Music

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn**

*“The Law of God Is Good and Wise”*

LSB 579

**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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **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.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 69:14-16; antiphon: v. 9*

**For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**

**Deliver me from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**

**Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.**

**Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

***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.***

**For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**

Kyrie

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

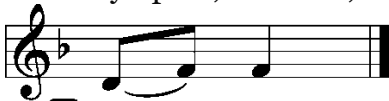
*2 Timothy 4:22*



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.

### Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the

children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

Read Together

*Psalm 19; antiphon: v. 8*

**<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;**

**<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

**<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

**3There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.**

**4Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,**

**5which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

**6Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

**7The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;**

**8the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;**

**9the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the just decrees of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.**

**10More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

**11Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.**

**12Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

**<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.**

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

***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>8</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes.**

## **Epistle Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our

righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Verse

*Joel 2:13*




**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### Holy Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the

temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Hymn of the Day**

*“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”*

LSB 823

**Sermon**

*“The 10 Commandments?  
They’re so Old Testament!”  
Exodus 20:1-17*

Rev.E.B.Holschuh

**Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

### Passing of the Peace

*When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy  
**C** hear our prayer.

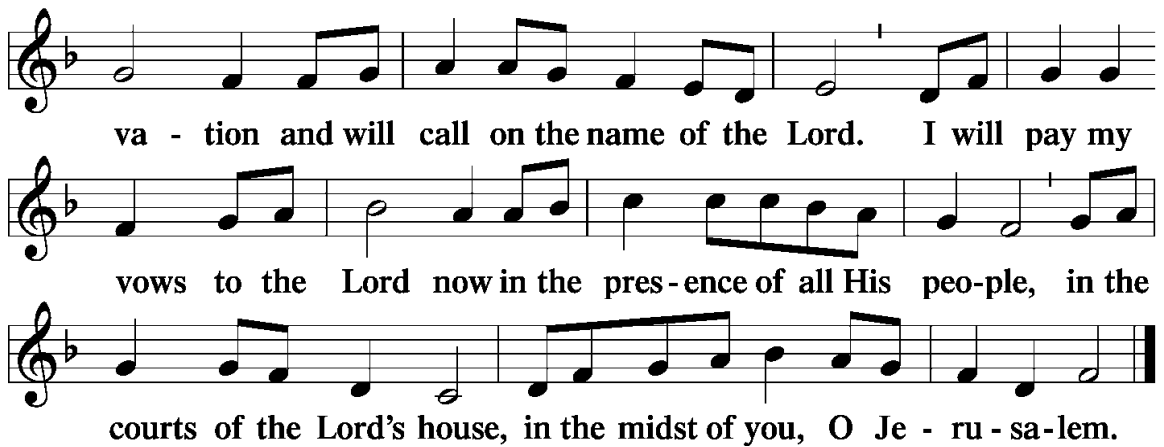
### Offering

Usher

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

### Offertory

**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*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 al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*(Colossians 3:1)*



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

*Psalm 136*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our

sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

### **The Words of Our Lord**

**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."

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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei. It consists of five staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The piece ends with a double bar line.

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymn

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

LSB 425

## Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

## Post-Communion Collect

**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.

## **Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## **Closing Hymn**

*“Built on the Rock”*

LSB 645

## **Postlude**

Selected Music

*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.*

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

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh

Musician – Susan Michael

## 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
- Shane Boyd
- David Goeke
- Nellie Gonzalez
- Tonya Hettler
- Deebo and Norma Kunze
- Karen McDougall
- Elaine Ottinger
- Fritz Pittman
- David Sager
- Dr. Charles Wukasch

### MISSIONARIES:

- **Erin Mackenzie (Latin America, Dominican Republic)** – Pray for Erin as she serves in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Pray that she is effective in building relationships with local members and partners so that Christ might be made known more widely and effectively. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of those who volunteer their time, talents, and treasures in support of LCMS mission efforts in this part of the world, and ask Him to give discernment to those considering this option. Let us give thanks for Erin and her service to God's children.
- **The Logston Family (Latin America, Belize)** – Pray for the Logstons as they serve in Belize. Ask God to give them strength and courage so they can serve the people of Belize with a focus on how God is transforming their hearts to do His work and fulfill the Great Commission. Let us give thanks that Justin and Jordan are serving 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.

## **THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:**

### **Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- 10:00am – Bible Class
- 10:00am – Sunday School
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

### **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00pm – Midweek Lenten Service

### **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00am – Bible Class
- 10:00am – Sunday School
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

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**Services During Lent and Holy Week:** We will have our midweek Lenten services on Thursdays at 7:00pm, with the final midweek service being on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. During Holy Week, make plans to join us for our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm, Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and our Good Friday service at 7:00pm on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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**Who has God put in your life that needs to hear His message?** Join Pastor E.B. Wednesdays at 7pm for a new Bible study on Zoom! ***God Connects*** is a 12-session weekly video series that explains the Christian faith in a way that makes it easy to share key concepts—this study is ideal for those with questions about sin, judgment, redemption, Jesus, the believer’s life, and more. Starts 2/14. No church experience or membership is required! Please register (only once) to attend: [bit.ly/ELC-GodConnects](http://bit.ly/ELC-GodConnects)

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**Lutheran Hour:** Next Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – “All Bets Are Off” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus engages his opponents in a battle of wits and wins – for us. (Mark 12:13-34)  
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.

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**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org:** Search Scripture and hear more LCMS history on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT), study Isaiah and LSB 420 for Lent on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study

Deuteronomy 18-21 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and enjoy a Lenten Organ Recital and Worship Service on 3/6 at 11:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or the KFUEO Radio app!

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**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>.

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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.**

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Remember, you have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

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**Holy Cross Fundraiser:** The Holy Cross Youth Group annual pork steak fundraiser will be held Sunday, March 10th. Drive thru only at the Holy Cross picnic grounds from 10:00-12:30. Plates are \$15 each and include pork steak, green beans, noodles, and corn. This meal is presale only by Thursday, Feb. 29th. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Chevron in LaGrange, First National Bank of Giddings, or from any Holy Cross youth group member. There will also be a bake sale with homemade items for a freewill donation.

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**Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller from St. Paul-Austin Invites You!** Set sail on a spiritual adventure with our four-day Lutheran Singles Cruise, departing from Galveston on August 1st. This journey is designed for connection and fellowship, offering daily devotions, Bible studies, and opportunities to meet like-minded singles. Embrace this chance to deepen your faith, make new friends, and enjoy the beauty of the sea. Don't miss out on this unique blend of spiritual growth and social fun – book your spot today! Learn more at [www.wolfmueller.co/cruise](http://www.wolfmueller.co/cruise).

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# FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

*Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.*

## HOME OF THE FALCONS!

### Spring Raffle

FLHS raffle tickets are NOW AVAILABLE!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 4-8, during National Lutheran Schools Week. Items include:

- \$1700 Travel Voucher with World Travel
- Custom AR Rifle made by Jigsaw Weaponry (up to \$750)
- Kalahari Resort - 1 night stay in 2bed/2bath suite with 5 waterpark passes
- Valentine's Do Over Package (\$450+)
- Relax and Chill Package (\$700+)
- Staycation Package (\$400+)
- Handcrafted Cedar Lineman Truck, 2024 Silver Coin and Set of Wooden Porch Rocking Chairs
- Handcrafted Cedar Train, 2023 Silver Coin, and Lone Star Back Roads Framed Photo
- Casserole of the Month for a year
- Dessert of the Month for a year

To see details about each package, please view our Facebook page. Limited amount of tickets available - get yours today! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!! You don't want to miss out!!

### National Lutheran Schools Week

Students are preparing for National Lutheran Schools Week - celebrated March 4th to 8th - and will include dress up days, games and activities.

### Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday. Chapel will be led by Pr. Dustin Beck as a Lenten Worship Service, beginning at 10:30 am.

### Follow Us On Facebook!

Stay up to date with all the exciting things happening at FLHS on a daily basis! By "liking" our Facebook page and "sharing" our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and sharing Faith with your friends as well.

### New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to Friday, March 8, 2024 will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

### 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.

### Scholarship Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for an academic-based scholarship from the Amanda (Zoch) Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will pay for the full tuition for an incoming 9th grade student of Faith Lutheran beginning in the Fall of 2024. Applications are available from Mrs. Kueck or from Cyndy Zoch ([cyndy.zoch@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.zoch@gmail.com)) and are due May 1, 2024.

### Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. Faith is looking for individuals or families who share in our commitment to Lutheran Education and asking that you would support our ministry through a one-time gift, establish a monthly giving plan, or set up an enduring gift. To learn more about these options, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.





**LWML POST OAK ZONE  
SPRING RALLY  
HOSTED BY  
HOLY TRINITY - FEDOR**

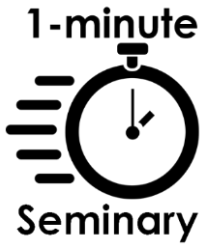
**REGISTRATION 1:30 PM  
RALLY KICKS OFF AT 2 PM**

**REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

**INGATHERING - FUNDS TO SEND  
OUR GEMS TO CONVENTION  
THIS SUMMER.**



Don't forget to bring your travel fund check. \$7 per member for each group.



# 1-minute **A Biblical Perspective: Neanderthals vs. Humans**

*[Our new pastor definitely has some Neanderthal in him—check out his “From the Pastor’s Desk” article in this month’s edition of our newsletter, The Light...]*

Genetics has clearly established that Neanderthals were fully human. Any physical differences should be viewed as nothing more than variations that can occur within the human race descended from Adam and Eve. For a time, these descendants all lived together at the Tower of Babel. Following the post-Babel migration and late into the Ice Age, differing human populations such as Neanderthals began to appear in the fossil record.

The next questions for creationists are how and why these differences appeared. How is much easier to answer than why! One possibility is that environmental pressures, such as the Ice Age, “selected” for or against traits within the range of human genetic diversity. (In other words, those that had a particular combination of characteristics survived in that environment, and others did not.) This may have led to the specific set of features found in Neanderthal people. Many animals following the Flood and during the Ice Age experienced an explosion of variations that allowed them to live and function well in new environments. This could also have been true for humans.

Other possibilities include genetic effects seen mainly in small populations. Small populations would have been typical for a period of time following the breakup of the human population at Babel, as people were separated based on language. The groups that left Babel would have begun with only a few reproducing individuals and not interbred initially with other groups.

A phenomenon known as genetic drift can cause certain genetic variations to become “fixed.” If the population is small, everyone with certain variations can die, without passing them down, and the survivors pass down just one variation to future generations. If no people are moving in or out of the population, characteristics like the pronounced brow ridge or the robust body form in Neanderthals can become dominant.

Another possible impact of the Babel breakup is the founder effect. The founders of each group leaving Babel might simply have differed from one another. Certain traits in one group might have been unknown among the founders of any other group. Those traits would then be unique to each group. Rather than being fixed by genetic drift, the Neanderthal’s pronounced brow ridge or robust body form may have been found among the founders of only one group after they left Babel. Those people may have migrated intentionally to places where they were most comfortable (similar to human behavior today).

As time passed, the different groups would have migrated, as humans have always done. People who had the traits of modern humans possibly interbred, at times, with the other groups, such as Neanderthals. Yet there seems to have been a sudden loss, or a dilution, of the characteristics possessed by those other groups. The genetic makeup of modern humans became dominant.

Inbreeding can have disastrous effects on small populations by amplifying defective genes. Maybe this is why Neanderthals eventually became extinct. We don’t know. Why this happened is still a mystery.

What is not a mystery is that so-called cavemen, including Neanderthals, were fully human. They were among the descendants of the people scattered at the Tower of Babel—made in God’s image to bring Him glory.

[Excerpt from *Neanderthals vs. Humans: Are They Different? - Finding a Home for Cavemen* by Dr. Georgia Purdom, researcher for Answers in Genesis, published in Answers Magazine in 2012.]