

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

First Sunday in Advent



**Mailing Address:**

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

**Physical Address:**

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(on the SDA campus)  
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**Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor  
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[facebook.com/epiphanybastrop](https://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.

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### **OUR COMMUNION POLICY:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod believes the biblical teaching that in communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the biblical teaching of communion, and if you agree with our confession of faith, please feel free to commune with us. If you have any questions, please speak with our pastor.

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

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh  
Musician – Susan Michael  
Lay Reader – Jeremy Clifton  
Assisting Elder – Jeremy Clifton

*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.*

# WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

## AS WE GATHER:

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

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Today we consider how God rescues us from the cunning counsel of the devil and blesses us with the wonderful counsel of His Son, whose Word of truth sets us free from sin and its damning deception. Jesus is given the title Wonderful Counselor because His Word rescues us from the lies of the devil and our own self-deception and leads us into God’s wisdom, which results in our salvation.

## DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

<b>Prelude</b>		Selected Music
<b>Welcome and Greeting</b>		Pastor
<b>Announcements</b>		
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”</i>	LSB 900 sts. 1-3
<i>(stand)</i>		

## 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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

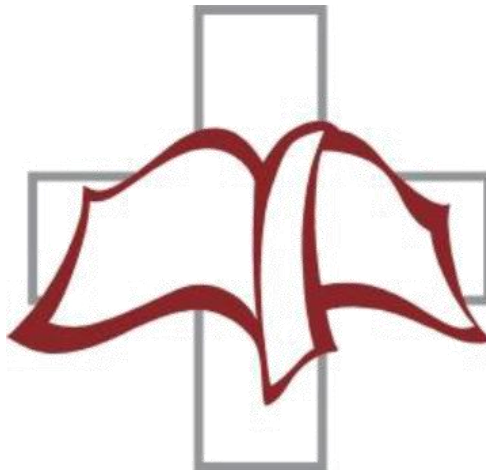
*[Luke 18:13]*

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

**C** Amen.

*[John 20:19-23]*



## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Psalm 119:129-136

- P** Your testimonies are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.
- C** **The unfolding of Your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.**
- P** I open my mouth and pant,  
because I long for Your commandments.
- C** **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is Your way with those who love Your name.**
- P** Keep steady my steps according to Your promise,  
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
- C** **Redeem me from man's oppression,  
that I may keep your precepts.**
- P** Make Your face shine upon Your servant,  
and teach me Your statutes.
- C** **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep Your law.**

*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.*

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



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

# Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*(sit)*

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

32For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all.

33Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

34“For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been His counselor?”

35“Or who has given a gift to Him  
that he might be repaid?”

36For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(stand)*

**Alleluia and Verse**



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



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

*John 20:31*



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



**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

<sup>28</sup>And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup>for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

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

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

*(sit)*

**Hymn of the Day**

*“Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten”*

LSB 914

**Sermon**

*Wonderful Counselor*

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

*(stand)*

**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.*

*(sit)*

### **Prayer of the Church**

**℟** Lord, in Your mercy  
**℣** hear our prayer.

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

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>*



## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*For those unfamiliar with our congregation's practice regarding the Lord's Supper, please refer to "Our Communion Policy" located at the beginning of the bulletin.*

*(stand)*

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

*[Colossians 3:1]*

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

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

*[Psalm 136]*

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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 always.  
**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29



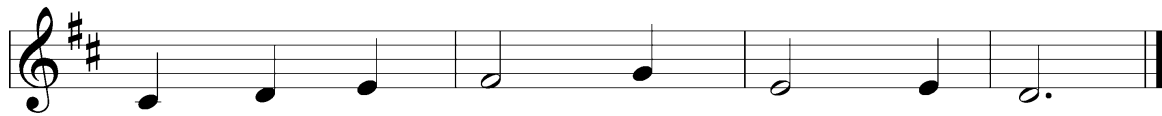
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(sit)*

**Distribution Hymn**    *“The People That in Darkness Sat”*

LSB 412

*(stand)*

# Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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 Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

*[Psalm 103:1]*

**C Thanks be to God.**

**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.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**C Amen.**

*(sit)*

**Closing Hymn**

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

LSB 338

**P** Go in Peace!

**C Serve the Lord!**

**Postlude**

Selected Music



## SERMON NOTES: Isaiah 9:1–2, 6-7

### *Wonderful Counselor*

1. The name \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ name that means “\_\_\_\_\_ saves”.
2. Through \_\_\_\_\_ God promised that a virgin would give birth to a son who would be called “\_\_\_\_\_”—a Hebrew word that means “\_\_\_\_\_ with us.”
3. Even before people understood that \_\_\_\_\_ was God’s \_\_\_\_\_, he was amazing them with his wonderful \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Because we are \_\_\_\_\_ we are tempted to listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom of the \_\_\_\_\_ and ignore the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor.
5. We are all \_\_\_\_\_ of turning away from God’s wonderful counsel when we \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ church services and Bible studies.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ uses God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to cleanse our minds from the foolish \_\_\_\_\_ of this world and replace it with the wonderful counsel of the Lord Jesus.

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### PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany’s prayer chain, to [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

Please continue to pray for...

- Mindy Thews – Lutheran Education Coordinator for the Asia region, based in Taiwan
- Russel Layland – thanksgiving for successful surgery
- Those traveling this week

## 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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Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is still very much a work in progress that we hope will help us reach those in our community and beyond with the Gospel message of hope and salvation in Christ. In the coming days it should be available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at [peacebewithyou.podbean.com](http://peacebewithyou.podbean.com) (or just scan the QR code).



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**Help us bless a family this Christmas!** The pro-life organization, ***The Human Coalition*** ([humancoalition.org/who-we-are](http://humancoalition.org/who-we-are)) is a comprehensive care network that reaches women facing unexpected pregnancies, rescues innocent preborn children from abortion, and restores families to stability. For Christmas they are reaching out to churches for "sponsorship" in order to bless a family with Christmas gifts. Ideally, the family would be local to afford other connection opportunities to the church. While at this time, there is not a need local to our church in Bastrop, there is a need in Dallas.

We were connected with Akello, a single, soon-to-be first mom to Olivia. This baby girl is due to arrive on January 13. Akello's job in mortgage underwriting was impacted by downsizing, and she is currently unemployed. She has supplied an Amazon wish list of items for Christmas, primarily for a newborn baby. It would be wonderful to bless this family with these items along with our prayers.

If you are moved to do so, we invite you to contribute toward the purchase of these gifts (totaling less than \$200) through a freewill donation placed in the offering plate near the door. (Please make check payable to Epiphany Lutheran Church and write Akello on the memo line.)

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## **THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:**

### **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

### **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

### **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:30pm – Family Advent Gathering

### **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:00pm – Zoom Study *“Because of Bethlehem”*

### **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
  - 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
  - 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
  - 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
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**Epiphany Events Calendar:** Our congregation calendar is on our website ([epiphanybastrop.org](http://epiphanybastrop.org)); to add an event, please email [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

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***Make Every Day Count*** devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop will meet 12/3 and 12/17 (Tuesdays) at 3pm.

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**10am Adult Sunday School through 12/22: His Name Shall Be Called.** Join us for this Advent study, as we explore the titles given to the prophesied Messiah in Isaiah 9:6!

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**Our Advent video study on Zoom continues this week!** Join us for Max Lucado's *Because Of Bethlehem*, Thursday at 6pm. Register: [bit.ly/ELC-Bethlehem](https://bit.ly/ELC-Bethlehem)

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**Advent Midweek Family Gatherings:** In lieu of the traditional Wednesday midweek services, we're going to try a different kind of Advent midweek gathering on these Wednesdays at 6:30pm: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18. We invite you (but you don't have to come alone) to join us for three Epiphany Family Advent Gatherings: 12/4 and 12/11 at the Monroes' house; 12/18 at the Rossers' house. We will have a three-week Advent video series with some discussion, prayers, and supper...the 3 F's that bind us Lutherans together: Faith, Fellowship, and Food!

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**You are invited!** Linda Hanson and Ruby Lehrmann are planning an Open House for our Epiphany family on Thursday, 12/12, 3pm at their house.

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**Bastrop Lighted Christmas Parade:** The Bastrop "Lost Pines Christmas Lighted Christmas Parade" begins at 6pm on Saturday, 12/14. If you would be interested in being part of float decoration and/or taking part in the parade, please let Tom Rosser know.

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**Voters Assembly December 15<sup>th</sup>:** On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service, we will have a Voters Assembly to pass the budget for 2025, and elect (or re-elect) folks to fill these council seats: president, treasurer, secretary. If you'd be interested in serving on the council or would like to nominate someone (must be a full communicant member) to serve, please contact our president, Jeremy Clifton.

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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** We will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Tuesday, 12/24, at 6pm here at the SDA campus. (No service on Christmas Day.)

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**Lutheran Hour:** Next Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – "Completely Ordinary Human" – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one though which Jesus is working to make the world new again. (Malachi 3:7)

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](https://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBK (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7:00am on Sunday.

**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](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week on AM850 & KFUE.org:** Sharper Iron airs a new series called “The Fifth Evangelist” (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), going through the book of Isaiah. On Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT) we enter into Holy Week, taking a look at chapters 12-14 in John’s Gospel. Join us live on Sunday and Wednesday (1:00 and 7:00 p.m. CT) as we bring back a special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of JOY!, a one-hour program of sacred music for the Advent season. Find the full program schedule at [kfuo.org/joy](http://kfuo.org/joy).

**RightNow Media:** We’re excited to share that Epiphany Lutheran Church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world’s largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** that can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in the family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There’s even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. For FREE access to RightNow Media, visit [app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb](http://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb) or scan the QR code.



Answers to Sermon Notes:  
1. The name *Jesus* is a Hebrew name that means “God saves”.  
2. Through *Isaiah* God promised that a virgin would give birth to a son who would be called “Immanuel”—a Hebrew word that means “God with us.”  
3. Even before people understood that *Jesus* was God’s *Son*, he was amazing them with his wonderful *teaching*.  
4. Because we are *sinners* we are tempted to listen to the *foolish* wisdom of the *world* and ignore the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor.  
5. We are all *guilty* of turning away from God’s wonderful counsel when we *fail* to *attend* church services and Bible studies.  
6. The *Spirit* uses God’s *Word* to cleanse our minds from the foolish *counsel* of this world and replace it with the wonderful counsel of the Lord Jesus.



# 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!

Self-LESS - Philippians 2:3

December 2024

### "Faith at Christmas" Program

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, "Faith at Christmas," on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Please join us!!!

\*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

### Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am. During Advent, services will be led by Pastor Dustin Beck.

### 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 if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### Athletic Programs Underway

Our FLHS archery and basketball seasons are underway. Both programs have more competitions in the coming weeks. Please watch the bulletins for updates and visit our website to see the full schedule. Join us and come cheer on our Falcons to victory!!

### 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. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, memorial contribution, or a Thrivent Action Grant, please contact us. Matching funds are currently available!

### Gift for FLHS for Christmas?

Would you like to bless FLHS with a Christmas gift? FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon for needed materials for this 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 generous support!

### Shadow Days

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

### Scholarship Program

Have you ever had this thought? "Faith Lutheran High School sounds great, but my family can't afford it." We firmly believe that EVERY family desiring a Christ-centered education for their children should have the opportunity to attend FLHS. We have a Tuition Scholarship Program with funds available, and EVERY family who applies (through TADS) will receive some assistance. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS.

### Thank you!

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!



3-minute



Seminary

## Lutheran Advent Traditions

At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up Christmas lawn decorations and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the liturgical season of Advent. From the Latin word for “coming”, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments. In the Lutheran church there have been many traditions observed during Advent that help Christians to both prepare for and anticipate His coming at this time. Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. During this time the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to blue (the color of anticipation and hope) or violet (the color of the royalty of the coming King).

Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three blue or purple candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as *Gaudete* Sunday, meaning “rejoice” in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice for the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.

[From *Lutheran Advent Traditions* by Dcs. Betsy Karkan, posted to 1517.org on 12/2/16.]

# WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

*Isaiah 9:6*

