

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE LIGHT

A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS



From the Pastor's Desk

Stewardship Devotion: The Parable of the Talents

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)

Over the last couple of months I've been writing in the newsletter about stewardship... I decided to end this series with a devotion—as we look forward to the challenges of expansion in the months ahead—based on Jesus' Parable of the Talents and tied to our tagline: **Connect. Grow. Multiply.** (Take a look—slowly, but surely, we're doing all three!)

Jesus tells a striking parable in Matthew 25 about a master who entrusts his servants with his wealth—five talents to one, two to another, and one to a third—each according to their ability. The first two servants invest what they've been given and double it. The third, fearing loss, buries his in the ground. When the master returns, he commends the faithful servants but condemns the one who refused to act.

This parable isn't just about money. It's about *stewardship*—the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us: time, gifts, relationships, knowledge, opportunities, influence, and yes, finances. In the Kingdom of God, stewardship is not passive. It's active, expectant, and fruitful. God's economy is one of *multiplication*, not just maintenance...

CONNECT.

The master *entrusted* his servants with his riches. So too, God first connects us to Himself in grace. Everything we have flows from our relationship with Him. Our lives, our vocations, our congregations, our opportunities—they begin with the connection made by Jesus Christ, who laid down everything to redeem us. We are not owners of our blessings, but stewards. As Epiphany's mission begins with "Connect," so stewardship begins with the Gospel: being connected to the Giver.

GROW.

The servants who multiplied their talents took risks. They didn't stand still. In the same way, God calls us not to fear but to *grow* in faith and faithfulness. Growth doesn't always mean flashy results—it means exercising trust, obedience, and courage. At Epiphany,

Our Pastor



REV. E.B. HOLSCHUH
pastor@epiphanybastrop.org
Voicemail/Text: 512-798-3682

Services

@Bastrop SDA Church
3300 East State Highway 21

Sunday School 10:00 am
Fellowship 11:00 am
Divine Service 11:30 am

Church Council

Jeremy Clifton, President
512-309-5133
augustana@gmail.com

Dave Layland, Head Elder
512-332-2144
david@thelaylands.net

Tom Rosser, Treasurer
512-567-1306
rosser.tom@gmail.com

Esther Monroe, Secretary
847-848-5126
monroe.esther@gmail.com

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Pastor's Note Continued

"Grow" is more than spiritual formation; it's also about growing in how we steward what God has given us—developing skills, deepening generosity, stretching our capacity for service, and allowing God to shape our priorities.

Martin Luther once said, *"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace."* The faithful stewards in the parable lived that confidence. They acted because they trusted the character of their master. So too, we grow by acting in faith—not just preserving what God has given, but investing it in His Kingdom.

MULTIPLY.

When we connect to Christ and grow in His grace, multiplication happens. God's Word multiplies in people's hearts. Acts of kindness multiply into communities of compassion. Resources given in faith multiply into ministry. The first two servants were not praised for how much they earned but for *faithfulness with what they were given*. The multiplication was God's gift through their faithfulness.

Epiphany's tagline ends with "Multiply" because the Gospel is never meant to end with us. Just as Jesus sent His disciples to make more disciples, He sends us to multiply grace, hope, and love in our neighborhoods and beyond. Our time, talents, and treasures are Kingdom seeds—planted in faith and multiplied by God.

A Final Word

In the end, the greatest reward for faithful stewardship is not more stuff—but the Master's joy: *"Enter into the joy of your master."* Stewardship is not a chore; it's a calling into joy. As we connect to Christ, grow in faith, and multiply what He has entrusted to us, we experience the deep satisfaction of living lives that matter...eternally.

Peace be with you,

Pastor E.B.

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Epiphany 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.



Epiphany has a podcast! It is available on popular podcast apps, or at peacebewithyou.podbean.com



OUR CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR IS ON OUR WEBSITE ([EPIPHANYBASTROP.ORG](https://epiphanybastrop.org)); TO ADD AN EVENT, EMAIL SECRETARY@EPIPHANYBASTROP.ORG



Mailing Address:
489 Agnes St. - Ste. 112-117
Bastrop, TX 78602
Secretary: 512-907-0717

GIVE ONLINE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE OR VISITING OUR WEBSITE



epiphanybastrop.org



church@epiphanybastrop.org



Epiphany Lutheran Church



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

Yay God!

EPIPHANY PURCHASES LAND FOR FIRST BUILDING



God has richly blessed Epiphany with 5.5 acres for our future home to accommodate our growing congregation (below).

Join us on Monday, September 1st (Labor Day) 8:30am at the property (124 3 Oaks Lane) for prayer & coffee.

This is an informal get-together, a chance to give God all glory and to check out the future home of Epiphany Lutheran Church... We will plan a gathering to formally bless the property at some point in the near future.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

E.J. Clontz-Kuntze

September 8

Deana Guetersloh-Hanson

September 16

James Clifton

September 17

Carita Botha

September 22

Deebo and Norma Kunze

September 4

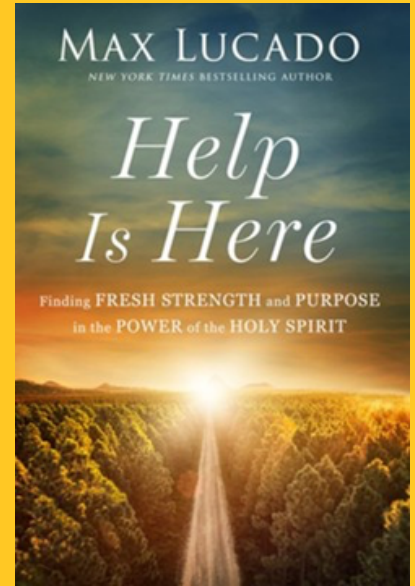
COMMUNITY NEWS

Zoom Bible Study

Thursdays @ 6pm
Began August 14
Help Is Here

In this 5-session Max Lucado study we'll learn more about the helper" we know as the Holy Spirit. Join us!

Register: bit.ly/ELC-Help



MONDAY FLASH STUDY



ONE-TIME VIDEO STUDY
ON ZOOM

Monday, September 15 | 6PM
Foundations

What we believe about the past—even the distant past—has an impact on how we live our lives today, including our choices, values, and moral foundation, and yes, even our destiny. Join us for a 21-minute, very moving video walk through a young man's life in three different scenarios: Atheistic, Compromised Christianity, and a Biblical Worldview. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-Foundations

Twice monthly devotion and prayer gathering

MEETS 1ST/3RD TUESDAYS | 3PM

Argent Court Assisted Living

JOIN US FOR

MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT



Led by Pastor E.B. Holschuh

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Wendish Fest
Sunday Sept. 28, 2025 • 10am-5pm
1011 County Road 212, Giddings, TX 78942

Wendish Fest Schedule

- 9:30 Drive-Thru Meal Line Opens
- 10:00-2:00 Silent Auction
- 10:00-3:00 Exhibits & Demonstrations
- 10:00-3:00 Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Open
- 10:30 Coffee Cake Bake-Off Entry Deadline, Meal Announcements & Prayer, Meal Line & Refreshments Open
- 11:30 Ptaci Kwas: Bird Wedding presented by St. Paul Students
- 12:15 Announcement of Texas Wendish Heritage Society's Scholarship Recipients
- 12:30 Coffee Cake Bake-Off Winners, St. Paul Lutheran Church Tour
- 13:45 Live Coffee Cake Auction
- 1:00-4:00 Live music from Jodie Mikula Orchestra
- 1:00 Children's Stick Horse Races, Wendish Noodle Making Demo
- 1:30 Children's Coloring Contest, Kletternpfosten (Greased Pole Climbing), St. Paul Lutheran Church Tour
- 2:00 Coloring Contest Winners Announced, SLCVFD Kids Train Rides, Snack Booth Opens, Sausage Stuffing Demo
- 3:00 Washer Pitching (Sign Up at 2:30), Wine Making Demo
- 4:45 Cross-Cut Sawing Demonstration

Vendors and Demonstrations

Wendish Easter Egg Decorating, Wendish Noodle Making, Sausage Stuffing, Wine Making, Stone-Ground Cornmeal - 1918 Gristmill, Balcones Forge Blacksmith Demonstrations, Vintage Farming Equipment, Handmade Soap, Civil War Living History Presentation by Jon Moerbe, Hand-Quilting, German Wooden Christmas Crafts by Wiederhold Works, Jams and Pickles, Fedor Mercantile, Vintage Fire Equipment, and more!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
 308 Byrne St. Smithville, TX
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
 Church Service: 8:00 AM
 Church Picnic: 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Barbecue chicken & sausage plates served with German-style noodles, potato salad, pinto beans, and a cake.

\$15 PER PLATE (DINE-IN & TO-GO)
 To-go line at Grace Lutheran Learning Center

Live auction at 1:00 PM
 (3% fee on credit card purchases)

Cornhole tournament
 Starts at 12:00 PM
 \$20 entry fee per person

Cake wheel


Petting zoo


Bounce house


A portion of the picnic proceeds are dedicated to Lutheran Education

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 SMITHVILLE, TX

***** FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL *****

★★ **OKTOBERFEST** ★★

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

GERMAN PLATED MEAL - SERVING 11 AM - 1 PM
 SCHNITZEL, POTATOES, KRAUT, GREEN BEANS, NOODLES, BREAD AND COFFEE CAKE
\$15/PLATE (PRE-ORDER AT 979-242-2889 BY 10/14)

Special Live Performance
PIVO & POLKA BAND
WITH KELSEY J. LIEN
PLAYING NOON TO 4 PM

OPEN AT NOON CONCESSIONS & BEER STAND

HOME BREW COMPETITION
 SUBMISSIONS 1 PM
 JUDGING 2-30 PM
 PEOPLE'S CHOICE TASTE TESTING 4 PM

42 AND CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
 REGISTRATION 1 PM \$5/PERSON

42 BEGINS AT 1:30 PM
CORNHOLE BEGINS AT 2 PM

FREE KIDS GAMES & HAYRIDE 2PM - 5PM

WEAR YOUR LEDERHOSEN & DIRNDLS
 BEST DRESSED CONTEST AT 5 PM
 AND MORE FUN GAMES

SILENT AUCTION - CLOSSES AT 5 PM
LIVE AUCTION - 5:30 PM

HOLY CROSS WARDA PICNIC GROUNDS
 VISIT WWW.FLHSTX.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Financial Peace University
Mt Calvary, LaGrange

Do you find yourself struggling with too little month at the end of the money? You're not alone. But, there is hope. It's time to make a change! Join Pastor & Mandy Kaspar's FPU class at **6 pm starting on Sept 18th** and learn to pay off debt, save money, and build lasting wealth. The cost of the 9-week class is \$99 per individual or married couple. Space will be limited! Please contact Lorri Sanchez to sign up, via secretary@mtcalvary-lcms.org!

Epiphany At-A-Glance

Know someone who wants to know more about our church or Lutheranism? Share this QR Code to the "What We Believe" section of our website.



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN BASTROP
AT-A-GLANCE

COMMUNITY NEWS



FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS



September 2025 Newsletter



Great Start to the School Year

We have had a great start to the school year! We love having our students back on campus and pray that their education and faith may grow abundantly this year! Registration remains on-going. Call us today - (979) 242-2889!

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 11:05 am.

Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS - through donations of wish list items, monetary donations and so much more. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support.



Contact us:

www.flhstx.org (979) 242-2889

Volleyball Season Underway

The Falcons girls volleyball team's season is underway.

We are excited for another season to glorify God through our play and have some fun. The full volleyball schedule is available on our website. There are TWO home games this year (September 9 and September 26, both at 6pm, at Immanuel Lutheran's gym).

Amazon Wish List

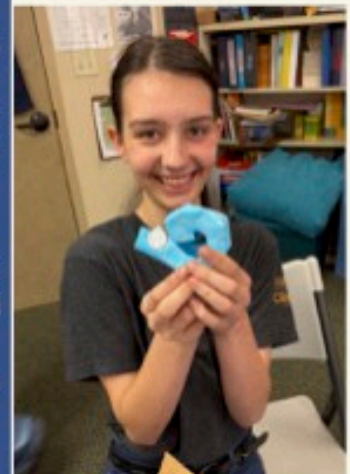
FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for this school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS website or Facebook page. Thank you for your generous support!

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, Thrivent Action Grant or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.

Follow Us On Facebook!

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here 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. If you're not on social media, head to our website (flhstx.org) which is updated regularly as well.



The Little Light

What's happening in children's Sunday School?

Children's Sunday School is for those in preschool through 5th grade. We typically start together to learn our lesson of day, then split into two groups (pre-K to 2nd and 3rd to 5th) to finish the rest of our activities.

*Youth in 6th grade and above are encouraged to attend the Adult Sunday School class in the Sanctuary.



The Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum, by CPH features a Christ-centered, three-year chronological survey of Bible history with a goal of helping our children grow deeper in their understanding of God's Word. Unit 7 starts exploring the New Testament. This exploration continues into Unit 8.

August 30 (Lesson 12) "A Confident Confession" is the title of today's lesson. Jesus asks His disciples two very direct questions: "Who do people say I am?" and "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:13, 15). Peter's bold confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16), prompts Jesus to commend his words and proclaim this truth as the rock upon which the Church will be built. When Jesus foretells His death and resurrection, Peter objects and becomes a hindrance to Jesus' mission. Jesus rebukes Peter and keeps His focus on the cross.

September 7 (Lesson 13) Today, we will study "A Mountaintop Wonder." Jesus takes His inner circle—Peter, James, and John—up on a mountain. There, they see Jesus in His heavenly glory as Moses and Elijah appear alongside Him, discussing His upcoming departure. In his excitement, Peter offers to build three tents so they can remain on the mountaintop. Suddenly, a cloud—a sign of God's presence—appears and a voice speaks out from it: "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:35).

September 14 (Lesson 14) In today's lesson, "Mission Wonders," Jesus gathers seventy-two followers and sends them out to the surrounding towns and villages. Taking nothing with them, these disciples depend on the willing welcome of local residents. There they remain, healing and spreading God's Word. Returning from their mission, the seventy-two rejoice in the many miracles they witnessed. Jesus reminds them to rejoice in their salvation.

September 21 (Unit 8, Lesson 1) "A Welcome Truth" Mary and Martha - Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord's feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

September 28 (Unit 8, Lesson 2) "Lost-And-Found Wonders" Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father's concern for the lost.

Prayers of the People

Have a Prayer Request? Please share any prayer requests on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter for worship 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.

Please continue to pray for

- Kathy - treatments for illness
- David - poor surgery outcome
- Nellie - breathing issues
- Tonya - tumor
- Deebo and Norma
- Charles - cancer
- Clayton - cancer
- Fritz
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Lauren - MS treatments
- Carl - cancer

***A Survey of Christian Doctrine, Part 2:
Natural and Revealed Knowledge of God***

How does a person come to know God? If there is a God, can humans know him or know what he is like? What does God expect from me? Does he have a plan for my life? Questions like these have been asked by peoples of every culture, in every language throughout human history. But can they be answered? Can a person ever be sure that his or her answer is the right one? These are significant questions that need to be taken seriously, but the answers do not lie within those who ask them. True answers to these questions are found in the true God who reveals himself to us and calls us to believe. God reveals himself to humanity on his own terms. He questions us, judges us, forgives us, encourages us, and reveals himself to us with words and actions that we can understand.

When something is revealed it becomes known, uncovered, or brought to light. When people speak of a revelation of God, they often feel that they have “uncovered something” about God. To many, it is as if God is hiding and they have to find him. The biblical idea of revelation is exactly the opposite. It does not focus on humanity’s search but on God’s desire to communicate—to be known personally and certainly by his world. He searches for us (Luke 15:8-10). He takes the initiative. The pertinent question, then, is “How does God make himself known to the world he created?” Scripture answers that God reveals himself in two ways: natural knowledge (or general revelation) and revealed knowledge from God himself (also known as special revelation or supernatural revelation).

What can be known of God if he has not spoken directly to us? When people speak about “knowing God,” they often base their claims on some personal experience or overpowering feeling. They “know God” through the beauty of a sunset, the majesty of the mountain peaks or the incredible order of the universe. They “know God” through the moral order of society or the uniqueness of human reason and love. In Christian theology, this is called the natural knowledge of God. It is information that is revealed through God’s “fingerprints” in creation.

Because human beings are constantly looking in the wrong places and listening to the wrong voices, God must speak clearly if sinners are to hear him, know him and believe. The good news is that God does speak clearly. Revealed knowledge is God’s direct communication of himself in history and ultimately in the Scriptures. The Bible is not just a book about God. It tells of his mighty acts and saving words by which he redeems and restores a fallen humanity and creation. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible describes the God who reveals himself in words and actions that people can understand. In the Scriptures one not only finds the reality of God, his righteous, holy character, but also his saving work and eternal purposes for sinful and lost humanity.

[From *Called to Believe: A Brief Introduction to Doctrinal Theology* by Steven P. Mueller, Wipf & Stock, 2006]