

NOVEMBER 2025

THE LIGHT

A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS



From the Pastor's Desk

Let's watch, wait, and wonder...

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, the church enters one of its most quietly powerful seasons—Advent. Long before tinsel and carols filled December, early Christians set aside a time to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent stands at the threshold of the Christian year, a season of anticipation that looks both backward to Bethlehem and forward to the promised return of the Lord.

Its roots reach deep into the early centuries of the faith. In the East, believers kept a six-week Nativity Fast beginning in mid-November, patterned after other times of preparation like Lent. In the West, the observance gradually settled into the four Sundays before Christmas, beginning near St. Andrew's Day (November 30). By the 12th century, this rhythm was nearly universal. While the Eastern church retained fasting rules, Western Christians emphasized repentance, prayer, and spiritual readiness for the Lord's coming.

Over the centuries, Advent became a season with a "double vision." It invites us to remember Christ's first coming in humility and to anticipate his second coming in glory. The old Latin prayers of the church hold both ideas together: "*Come, Lord Jesus—come to us in mercy, and come again in majesty.*" Each Sunday of Advent, shaped by Scripture, moves us from the promise of Christ's return, to John the Baptist's call to repentance, to Mary's faith and the nearness of the Nativity.

Color and custom also tell the story. Purple, the ancient sign of repentance and royalty, long marked the season, though many churches now use blue to symbolize hope. The *Gloria in Excelsis* ("Glory to God in the highest") is often omitted from worship until Christmas Eve, as the church waits to sing with the angels again. Many congregations display the Advent wreath—a circle of evergreen with four candles (and sometimes a central white one for Christ). Each candle carries a name: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. With each week's lighting, the growing brightness marks our journey toward the Light of the world. The third candle, rose-colored for *Gaudete* Sunday, reminds us to rejoice even as we wait.

Advent traditions reach beyond the sanctuary. Some families place a nativity scene in their home but leave the manger empty until Christmas Eve. Others practice daily Scripture readings or acts of charity as a way of "making straight the way of the Lord." All of these customs trace back to a single purpose: preparing hearts for Christ's presence among us.

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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

Pastor's Note Continued

The history of Advent reminds us that waiting is not wasted time. It is sacred time. It is the discipline of people who live between the "already" and the "not yet," between the angel's song over Bethlehem and the trumpet of Christ's return. For our Epiphany family, Advent is an invitation to live our mission: *Connect. Grow. Multiply.* We connect through worship and fellowship as we light candles and sing the hymns of waiting. We grow through prayer and Scripture, letting God shape our hearts in patience and hope. And we multiply as we share this season's message with neighbors, inviting others to discover the light that shines in the darkness.

So this Advent, let's slow down. Let's watch, wait, and wonder. Let's prepare not just for a holiday but for a holy day—for Christ who comes to us still.

Peace be with you,

Pastor E.B.

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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.

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OUR CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR IS ON OUR WEBSITE (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

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Yay God!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, November 9

10:00AM, 124 Three Oaks Lane

Please join us for the inaugural worship service on our new property. There will be no Sunday school that day, but plan to stay after the service for fellowship.

Join us this Advent for Sunday worship!

11:30AM, SDA Facility



As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we gather to hear the promises of Scripture, light another candle on the wreath, and rejoice in the growing light of Emmanuel—God with us. Advent begins on November 30. Bring a friend, a neighbor, or a family member who could use a reminder of hope. Together, we'll watch and wait for the One who still comes to make all things new!



Advent Fellowship Gatherings
Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17
6:30PM, 124 Three Oaks Lane



Join us each week as we gather for prayer, devotion, and fellowship at our new property.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jeremy Clifton

November 6

Pastor E.B.

November 25

Clayton Wolf

November 12

E.B. & Carole Holschuh

November 18

Ray & Yvonne Loynes

November 19

COMMUNITY NEWS

Upcoming Voter's Meetings

Immediately following Service

Please plan to attend these two very important meetings!

November 16 - Called Meeting

To amend our Constitution and Bylaws to add the position of Vice President and to enhance and clarify the portion governing ad-hoc committees; and to update the congregation on the next steps for construction at our 124 Three Oaks property.

December 14 - Regular Semi-Annual Voter's Meeting

We will be electing officers and approving the 2026 Budget.

Adult Sunday School - Join us!

November 2nd | We will be completing our Stewardship Series with a Spiritual Gifts Assessment

November 9th | No Sunday School in lieu of outdoor service at 10AM

November 16th | We will start a four-week adult Sunday school video study, *God Speaks*

Twice monthly devotion and prayer gathering

MEETS 1ST/3RD TUESDAYS | 3PM

Argent Court Assisted Living

JOIN US FOR

**MAKE EVERY
DAY COUNT**

Bastrop Emergency Food Pantry Drive



Given that many families in our community rely on the SNAP program for food and this program will be suspended on November 1st, We will be conducting a food drive for the first three Sundays of November - the 2nd, 9th, and 16th.



SAVE THE DATE
A PROPERTY DEDICATION SERVICE
IS BEING PLANNED FOR EPIPHANY
ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sisters of the Light

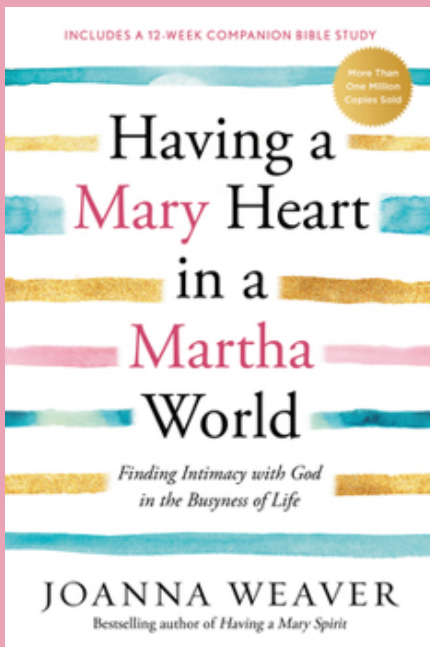
Last Tuesday of the Month

6:00PM

SDA Facility

Our book discussion group is currently going through *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver.

Ladies, whether you have read or not, you're invited to join us in the discussion and fellowship. A light dinner will be served.



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!

A Note from FLHS

Faith Lutheran High School continues to provide Christ-centered education that equips students out into the world to serve God and others. As we enter our ninth year, we give thanks for our association congregations and the faithful support that you have offered to make this ministry possible.

This year we have faced significant financial challenges due to a decrease in enrollment. We are asking each congregation to prayerfully consider how you can partner with us to help meet the immediate needs and secure Faith's future.

How You Can Help:

Pray — for God's continued provision and for our students, families, and staff.

Give — with a one-time or sustaining gift from your family or congregation to support Faith's mission.

Serve — by utilizing your gifts and talents to help with fundraising, marketing, recruiting and congregational connections.

Together, through faith and partnership, we can ensure that Faith Lutheran High School continues to shine as a beacon of Lutheran education for generations to come.

Pie Sale

Pick Up
Sunday, November 24th
10:30 am-12:00 pm
at
Holy Cross Picnic Grounds

Place your order by calling
FLHS at (979)-242-2889.
**Deadline to order is
Monday, November 18th**

Pecan: \$30
Pumpkin: \$25
*10-in deep-dish

PreOrder ONLY

COMMUNITY NEWS



FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS



November 2025 Newsletter

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL | 2025-26

BELONG



Enrichment Opportunities

Our students are blessed with guest speakers who come share their knowledge and expertise with our students as students consider future vocations, careers, and volunteer opportunities.

This month, local Wildlife Biologist, Laura Sherrod, shared information about her career as well as the importance of science education to everyone. She even brought some friends along to make it memorable.

Cross Country Meet

Faith Lutheran High School is hosting the 7th Annual Private Schools of Central Texas Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 7th for students in K to 8th Grade with the first race at 1:30 pm. We are excited to host this fun event on our campus!

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Thursday, November 20th, beginning at 11:00 am for our 9th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Nate Hill will be leading us in worship. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

Contact us:

www.flhstx.org (979) 242-2889

Pie Sale

FLHS will have a Pie Sale, along with the Holy Cross Couple's Club fried chicken dinner, with pickup on Sunday, November 23rd. All pies are a generous 9-inch size and deep-dish. Pre-Orders only. Pecan pies are \$30 each and Pumpkin pies are \$25 each. Place your order by calling FLHS, Ann Bamsch or the Holy Cross church office. Deadline to order is Tuesday, November 18th.

7th and 8th Grade Visit Day

Our annual Visit Day events are coming up soon! This annual visit event is a great opportunity for future students to see what FLHS is all about and what high school might look like. If you have a 7th or 8th grader, and would like to bring them for visit day, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

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, support at Oktoberfest, monetary donations and so much more. Thank you, on behalf of the students who are instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support. THANK YOU!!

Free Wednesday mornings?

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

Did YOU Know?

"Faith on Fire" is the new BBQ program and team offered at Faith this year. Our students are learning about different types of meats, seasonings, and cooking methods to help them prepare for upcoming competitions.



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.

November 2 (Lesson 4) Jesus performs an amazing miracle in "A Resurrection Sign." Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, falls seriously ill. When word of his illness comes to Jesus, He delays two days, assuring His disciples the disease would not lead to death but to God's glory. Despite death threats, Jesus reassures the disciples when deciding to return to Judea. They set out for Bethany, arriving four days after Lazarus is placed in the tomb. Jesus tells Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, as she boldly confesses, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God" (John 11:27). Deeply moved by their grief, Jesus calls Lazarus back to life.

November 9 (No Sunday School)

November 16 (Lesson 5) This week, we study "The Thankful One." Encountering ten lepers on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus has mercy on them and sends them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, the lepers are healed; but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus.

November 23 (Lesson 6) "The Kingdom of Children" is this week's lesson. The disciples try to prevent the people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus rebukes the disciples and draws the children near to Himself, using a child as an example of how believers receive the kingdom of God.

November 30 - Special Advent Lesson

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

- 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
- Rosie - surgery recovery

A Survey of Christian Doctrine, Part 5: Definition of Sin

Scripture is rich in its vocabulary of sin. In the Hebrew of the Old Testament, we find variously nuanced synonyms such as “transgression” or “rebellion,” “iniquity,” and “missing the mark.” The Greek word most commonly used in the New Testament is simply translated with the familiar “sin.” But what exactly does it mean? The apostle John provides a concise and readily grasped definition: “sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). Not only is this definition concise and understandable; it has a refreshing objectivity. For according to this biblical definition sins are not, as is so often assumed in popular debate, merely “deeds which harm other people” (a definition which not only dismisses the possibility of sinful *thoughts*, but which also raises the impossibly subjective question of what constitutes “harm”). Understanding the definition of sin to be inextricably linked to an objective code of law (see also Romans 7:7), Scripture speaks consistently of sins as “lawless deeds” (2 Peter 2:8) and sinners as “workers of lawlessness” (Matthew 7:23).

The law to which the biblical writers refer is, of course, the divine law of God, which is most clearly revealed in Scripture. But the Bible is not the only place in which the law makes its existence and authority known. The apostle Paul asserts quite clearly that even those unfamiliar with the Bible have some understanding of the divine law and therefore also of sin. This is so, he explains, because “the work of the law is written on their hearts” (Romans 2:15). Paul’s turn of phrase highlights a striking parallel between the law written on human hearts and that of the Decalog, written on tablets of stone (see Exodus 31:18). And this is precisely the point: human consciences, even those of unbelievers, have been marked with the same law that God has openly revealed to his people. The experience of a guilty conscience is the effect of the law at work; it serves to make sin known and to call sinners to repentance.

Though there may be good reason to distinguish between various sins, such distinctions and classifications should not lead us to believe that sins differ fundamentally one from another. All sins are transgressions of the law of God; all, therefore, are sins against the Lord himself. To be sure, other people are affected by our sin, but we remain guilty primarily before God. Theft, assault, and murder are quite obviously crimes committed against individual persons. But they are defined as crimes because they break the objective laws of the state, not the personal rules or regulations of the victim.

A very similar principle is evident in the biblical data regarding sin. Particularly telling in this regard is the well-known account of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). David’s adulterous affair with Bathsheba was certainly a sin against Uriah, her lawful husband. (Significantly, according to 1 Corinthians 6:18, David was also sinning against himself.) Quite obviously, Uriah was also the victim of David’s sin when he subsequently met his death by David’s order. And yet, when David was confronted with his awful treachery, his confession makes no mention of Uriah at all. Instead, he says, “I have sinned against the LORD” (2 Samuel 12:13). This is not to deny that he had in fact sinned also against Uriah. Rather, it indicates David’s important recognition that he was guilty first and foremost before the God whose law he had so shamefully disregarded.

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