

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

Second Sunday after the Epiphany



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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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### OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation by baptized believers in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

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### SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh  
Musician – Gina Sanders  
Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera  
Assisting Elder – Dave Layland  
Usher – Calvin Monroe  
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

## AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

### *God Reveals His Glory in Christ and His Cross*

*“The Lord, the Redeemer of Israel,”* calls forth *“his Holy One”* (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, *“from the womb”* of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also *“as a light for the nations,”* whose salvation reaches *“to the end of the earth”* (Is. 49:6). John came *“baptizing with water”* (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as *“the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29), and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended *“from heaven like a dove”* and *“remained on him”* (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and *“called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we *“are not lacking in any gift,”* but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, *“guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor. 1:7–8).

### DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

<b>Prelude</b>		Selected Music
<b>Welcome and Greeting</b>		Pastor
<b>Announcements</b>		
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>“The Only Son from Heaven”</i>	LSB 402
<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.

*Psalm 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 19:1-4a, b

**P** The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**C** **Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

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

**C** **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

**P** In them he has set a tent for the sun.

**C** ***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 - shipped 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(sit)*

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from afar.  
The LORD called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.

<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

<sup>4</sup>But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the LORD,  
and my recompense with my God.”

<sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to him—  
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup>he says:

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;

I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,  
the servant of rulers:  
“Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.

## Holy Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42a

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

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

<sup>29</sup>The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw

them following and said to them, “**What are you seeking?**” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “**Come and you will see.**” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus.

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

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

*(sit)*

**Hymn of the Day**

*“The Lamb”*

LSB 547

**Sermon**

*“To the church of God that is in Corinth...”*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

*(stand)*

**Apostles’ Creed**

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

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

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## Passing of the Peace

*(sit)*

## Prayer of the Church

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

## Offering

Usher

*(stand)*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### 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 meet, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



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



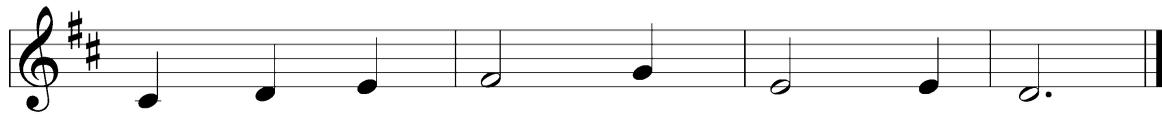
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

*“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

LSB 633

*(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**

*“Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”*

LSB 534

**P** Go in Peace!

**C** Serve the Lord!

**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.*



**CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Luther's Small Catechism***

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Prayer Before Eating:**

The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season; You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**SERMON NOTES: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

***“To the church of God that is in Corinth...”***

1. 1 Corinthians has much to offer our own modern-day \_\_\_\_\_ and addresses the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ among Christians.
2. Paul begins 1 Corinthians by asserting that \_\_\_\_\_ is busy transforming members of the Corinthian church into \_\_\_\_\_ who increasingly resemble the Lord Jesus Christ on whose \_\_\_\_\_ they call.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ fellowships that made up the \_\_\_\_\_ at Corinth were among the most \_\_\_\_\_ congregations that Paul established.
4. Like those problematic 1<sup>st</sup>-century Corinthians, \_\_\_\_\_ Christians today are \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_ sanctified.
5. The first 9 \_\_\_\_\_ of 1 Corinthians lay a solid theological \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.
6. It's not difficult to see that self-indulgence continues to \_\_\_\_\_ the church today—there are too many \_\_\_\_\_ in the church, and a great deal of \_\_\_\_\_ in things other than our Savior.

## 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 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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**Offering:** Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



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**10am Adult Sunday School:** Next Sunday we'll begin a new four-session video study, *Lost Books?* Since God never sent us a specific list of what to include, who exactly decided the Bible should contain the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but not the Gospels of Judas, Thomas, and Mary? Join us as we look for the answer!

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**Sisters of the Light:** Meeting date change to Wednesday, January 21. We are wrapping up our discussion of "A Mary Heart in a Martha World." Whether you have read or not please join us! Bring a salad or snack to share. We will meet at the new property at 6pm.

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Answers to Sermon Notes:

1. 1 Corinthians has much to offer our own modern-day *congregations* and addresses the *problem of disunity* among Christians.
2. Paul begins 1 Corinthians by asserting that *God* is busy transforming members of the Corinthian church into increasingly resemble the Lord Jesus Christ on whose *name* they call.
3. The *house* fellowships that made up the *church* at Corinth were among the most *troubled* congregations that Paul established.
4. Like those problematic 1<sup>st</sup>-century Corinthians, *many* Christians today are *positionally* but not *practically* sanctified.
5. The first 9 *verses* of 1 Corinthians lay a solid theological *foundation* for the *rest* of the book.
6. It's not difficult to see that self-indulgence continues to *infect* the church today—there are too many *divisions* in the church, and a great deal of *boasting* in things other than our Savior.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help with the dedication service on Saturday, May 2. Contact Linda Hanson or Terri Rosser.

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**Thursday 6pm Zoom video study:** Join us for *Eyewitness Bible Series: James*. This study is composed of narrative accounts by Bible personalities of different topics discussed in James, such as Barnabas speaking of wisdom or King Solomon discussing foolishness, to provide an in-depth view of the main subjects in this short New Testament book. There are still 4 sessions left. Register: [bit.ly/ELC-James](http://bit.ly/ELC-James)

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**Join us for Gather and Toss on February 9 at 6:30pm at Film Alley in Bastrop!** This is a free monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) cornhole tournament open to every age and skill level. Whether you've played for years or never tossed a bag before, this is a relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering focused on meeting people, making friends, and building relationships in our community!

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**Lutheran Radio:** 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. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

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**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 [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfu.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfu.org), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfu.org).

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**RightNow Media:** Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit [app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb](http://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb) or scan the QR code.



**ChristianBook Giveback Program:** Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit [christianbook.com/apps/giveback](http://christianbook.com/apps/giveback) and enter the Giveback ID for Epiphany Lutheran Church: JQWHTN. After this one-time signup, we'll be eligible to receive 4% cashback on your purchases.

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Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is 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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## **THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:**

### **Sunday, January 18<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

### **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

### **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

- 6:00pm – Sisters of the Light Book Discussion

### **Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 6:00pm – Zoom Study – Eyewitness Bible Series: James

### **Sunday, January 25<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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## **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...

- Rev. Sergio Fritzer and his wife, Lilian Rosin Hilscher and their two sons, Enzo and Martín - missionaries in the Dominican Republic
- Clayton Wolf
- Shane Boyd at the death of his mother
- Pastor Greg Lorenz
- Jo Heller
- Carl Sneck



## Long Lives and a Longer Hope

If you've ever paused over the genealogies in Genesis, you've probably noticed the astonishing lifespans: Adam lived 930 years, Methuselah 969, Noah 950. For modern readers—accustomed to lifespans measured in decades rather than centuries—these numbers can feel strange, even troubling. How are we to understand them?

Genesis does not give us these ages to impress us or confuse us. It gives them to teach us something about life as God intended it to be, and life as it became after sin entered the world.

In the beginning, humanity was created for life—*real* life, unbroken by decay or death. Adam and Eve were not created to age, weaken, and die. Death was not a “natural” part of creation; it was the consequence of rebellion. When sin entered the world, death entered with it. Yet the effects of that fall were not instantaneous. Creation did not collapse all at once. Instead, the unraveling was gradual.

The long lifespans of early Genesis bear witness to this slow deterioration. Each generation lives a little less long than the one before it. By the time of Moses, human life has shortened dramatically: “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty” (Psalm 90:10). What Genesis records is not myth, but a trajectory—from fullness of life toward the frailty we know all too well.

But the genealogies of Genesis are not simply biological records. They are deeply theological. Each name connects one generation to the next, preserving the promise that God made after the Fall—that a Seed would come who would crush the serpent's head. The long lives emphasize how close early humanity still was to Eden. Adam lived long enough to overlap with the ancestors of Noah. The story of creation, fall, and promise was not ancient legend to them; it was living memory.

And yet, even these long-lived patriarchs died. Over and over again, Genesis repeats the solemn refrain: “*and he died.*” Longevity did not defeat death. Time did not heal what sin had broken.

That is why Genesis ultimately directs our attention beyond itself. The problem is not that humans no longer live 900 years. The problem is that we die at all. And that problem is not solved by better conditions, stronger bodies, or longer lives—but by resurrection.

In Jesus Christ, the trajectory of Genesis is reversed. What was lost in Adam is restored in Christ—not as a return to long earthly life, but as the gift of eternal life. Christ does not promise us more years under the curse. He promises a new creation where death itself is undone.

The long lifespans of Genesis awaken a holy longing—a reminder that we were made for more than seventy or eighty years. And in Christ, that longing is not disappointed. What humanity once tasted briefly, we will receive fully: life without end, in the presence of God.

“*I am the resurrection and the life,*” says Jesus. And in Him, the story of life is no longer counted in years, but in eternity.