

MARCH 2026

# THE LIGHT



A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the truths we learn quickly in the Christian life is that it is a life of *transition*. God rarely leaves His people standing still for long. Throughout Scripture, the Lord leads His people from one season to the next—Abraham leaving his homeland, Israel journeying through the wilderness, the disciples leaving their nets to follow Jesus. Each step required trust, even when the full picture of what God was doing could not yet be seen.

In many ways, our Epiphany family has been living in such a season of transition from the very beginning. Just three years ago, the founding members of this congregation stepped forward in faith, trusting that the Lord had something special in mind for this church in Bastrop. Since then, we have watched Him faithfully guide us step by step.

God has blessed our congregation in ways we could hardly have imagined. Through worship, Bible study, fellowship, and outreach, we have seen people connect with Christ and with one another. Our little congregation has continued to grow, and with that growth has come a clear realization: the Lord is preparing us for the next stage of our mission.

That is why last August was such a significant milestone for Epiphany Lutheran Church. By God's grace, we were able to purchase our own property on Three Oaks Lane here in Bastrop. This land represents far more than real estate. It represents opportunity—space for ministry, room for growth, and a visible witness to the Gospel in our community.

For the past several years we have been deeply grateful to worship at the Bastrop Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their generosity has allowed our congregation to take root and grow; however, the moment is approaching when it will be time for us to take the next step.

Beginning the Sunday after Easter, we will transition from the Seventh-day Adventist facility to our own property on Three Oaks Lane. Because this move will also bring some practical changes, we are exploring the possibility of moving to an earlier Sunday morning worship time. We will be gathering at "The Gathering Place" (the repurposed

## 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

mobile home), which, for the time being, will be *our* space—a place where we can continue shaping the future of Epiphany together, as well as the stepping-off point into the next phase: a building for worship.

We are also looking forward to a very special celebration in May. On Saturday, May 2, we plan to hold an official dedication of our land, entrusting this property and all future ministry that will take place there to the Lord. At the same time, we will celebrate Epiphany's third anniversary as a chartered congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. It promises to be a joyful day of thanksgiving for everything God has already done—and anticipation for what He will do next!

Through all of these transitions, one thing remains constant: our mission. At Epiphany we strive to *Connect. Grow. Multiply.*—connecting people to Christ and one another, growing in faith through Word and Sacrament, and multiplying disciples who carry the Gospel into our community.

Carole and I want you to know how deeply grateful we are to the Lord for guiding us to Epiphany and for allowing us to walk this journey of faith alongside all of you. Watching God shape this congregation has been a tremendous blessing in our lives. We truly believe the best chapters of Epiphany's story are still ahead. Thank you for being part of this church family and for the many ways you help us live out our mission together!

Peace be with you,

Pastor E.B.



A media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, KFUO Radio shares worship services, Bible studies, podcasts, and sacred music for anyone, anytime, anywhere. Find these programs and more on-demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) or wherever you get your podcasts. Follow @kfuoradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



### 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 has a podcast!** It is available on popular podcast apps, or at [peacebewithyou.podbean.com](http://peacebewithyou.podbean.com)



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



**EPIPHANY**  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

**GIVE ONLINE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE OR VISITING OUR WEBSITE**



 [epiphanybastrop.org](http://epiphanybastrop.org)
 [church@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:church@epiphanybastrop.org)  
 Epiphany Lutheran Church
  [@epiphanybastrop](https://www.instagram.com/epiphanybastrop)

# Yay God!



  
*Ash*  
Wednesday



**THAT'S A LOT OF JUNK!  
BUT WE HAD GOOD HELP  
CLEARING IT.  
JOIN US FOR OUR  
NEXT WORKDAY  
@ THREE OAKS.**

## *Birthdays*

Tabitha Monroe	March 12
Stacey Schmidt	March 17
David Layland	March 31

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Lenten Midweek Gatherings

Light Supper  
Fellowship  
Video Bible Study

Wednesdays 6:30pm

@Three Oaks

(our new property - 124 Three Oaks Ln.)



## Easter Sunday

10:00AM

Brunch

11:30AM

Divine Service

Please Join Us for a

## LAND DEDICATION SERVICE

AT OUR NEW PROPERTY  
124 THREE OAKS LANE  
BASTROP, TEXAS  
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026  
10:30 AM

The Service will be followed by Lunch provided by the Holy Smokers from Bethany Lutheran, Austin

### Please RSVP

With QR code or  
to Terri Rosser  
512-567-1817  
terri.rosser@gmail.com



Can't join us? We covet your prayers and support as we take the next steps to build a permanent building on our property.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>

MAUNDY  
Thursday



Services at 7:00PM, Thursday, April 2,  
and Friday, April 3 at The Gathering  
Place (124 Three Oaks Lane)



## rightnow MEDIA



FOR FREE ACCESS TO RIGHTNOW MEDIA, VISIT [APP.RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/JOIN/ELCB](https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb)

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.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## SYMBOLS OF OUR *Savior*

**Adult Sunday School**  
**10:00AM**

Join us during Lent for a 5-week video study that will explore how God uses simple, even surprising symbols to reveal the depth of Christ's saving work.

Twice monthly devotion and prayer gathering

MEETS 1ST/3RD TUESDAYS | 3PM

JOIN US FOR

**MAKE EVERY  
DAY COUNT**



**Zoom Study Coming**  
**Thursdays, 6pm**  
**April 9 - 30**  
A video study on the  
story of Esther

Register: [bit.ly/ELC-  
ThisMoment](https://bit.ly/ELC-ThisMoment)



**THANK YOU!**

THE SPRING RAFFLE WAS A HUGE  
SUCCESS THIS YEAR AND  
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!  
THROUGH SUPPORT FROM THE  
COMMUNITY, FLHS RAFFLE TICKET SALES  
TOTALLED OVER **\$30,000!** THE LORD  
CONTINUES TO BLESS US RICHLY!

## Texas Wendish Heritage Society's Annual **Fish Fry Fundraiser**

← → **Sunday, March 15, 2026** → ←



Plates Include: Fried Fish, Homemade  
Potato Salad, Pinto Beans, Coleslaw &  
Hush Puppies

Reserve your tickets by March 11 via  
scanning the QR code

Meal tickets can also be reserved by  
contacting 979-366-2441 or  
[museum@texaswendish.org](mailto:museum@texaswendish.org)



Drive-Thru Pick Up Only  
Time: 10AM-12:00PM  
Location: St. Paul Church  
Picnic Grounds in Serbin

Stop by our Country Store  
to purchase Desserts,  
Dry Wendish Noodles & more



## ChristianBook Giveback Program

Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit [christianbook.com/apps/giveback](https://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.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



FAITH LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS



March 2026 Newsletter

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL | 2025-26

**BELONG**



## National Lutheran Schools Week

Students are preparing for National Lutheran Schools Week - celebrated March 2nd to 6th - and will include dress up days, games and activities. Watch our social media for photos of all the fun!

## Share the Gift of Love

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

## Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday. Chapel will be led by Pr. Dustin Beck as a Lenten Worship Service, beginning at 11:05 am.

Contact us:

[www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org) (979) 242-2889

## New Student Registration

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to Friday, March 6, 2026 will only pay \$100 in registration fees. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

## Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. 8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

## Spring Sports

Track and Field and Golf seasons are underway at FLHS. We have many wonderful athletes competing this spring. Visit our website to see a list of activities scheduled for this season.

## Follow Us On Facebook!

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





# The Little Light

## Children's Sunday School



### Elementary (pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

We typically start together to learn our lesson of day, then split into two groups (pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) to finish the rest of our activities.



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 8 continues exploring the New Testament.

**March 8 (Lesson 11)** Today, students will study "Betrayed and Arrested." Knowing His final hours are drawing close, Jesus goes with His disciples to Gethsemane. Taking Peter, James, and John deeper into the garden, Jesus goes off alone three times to pray. His prayer reflects His willingness to fulfill the Father's plan despite the suffering that lies ahead. The armed mob arrives to arrest Jesus, whom Judas betrays with a kiss. Peter brashly tries to defend Jesus with a sword but only manages to injure the high priest's servant. Jesus allows Himself to be taken by the armed mob to fulfill the Scripture.

**March 15 (Lesson 12)** The Bible lesson for this week is "Standing Trial." Jesus faces a farce of a trial before the high priest and the Council. Despite a parade of accusers, no two witnesses can manage to make their testimonies agree. Frustrated, the high priest asks, "Are you the Christ?" (Mark 14:61). Jesus' response, "I am" (v. 62), enrages the high priest, who tears his clothing. Meanwhile, Peter faces his challengers in the courtyard. When bystanders accuse Peter of being a follower of the Nazarene, he denies Jesus three times, just as was foretold.

**March 22 (Lesson 13)** "The Living Wonder" is the title of this week's Bible lesson. After mocking and beating Jesus, the Roman guards take Him to be crucified. As Jesus hangs on the cross, the crowds continue to hurl insults. As Jesus gives up His life, the curtain of the temple splits from top to bottom. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses see Joseph of Arimathea lay Jesus' body in the tomb. When the two Marys and Salome come to the tomb on Sunday morning, they find it empty except for a young man in white, who tells them Jesus has risen from the dead.

**March 29 (Lesson 14)** This week, we will study "The Proof Room." With the words "Peace be with you" (John 20:19), the risen Lord appears among His disciples gathered in hiding from the Jews. Thomas, who is not among the disciples that evening, doubts their report of Jesus' resurrection. Eight days later, while Thomas and the disciples gather in the locked room, Jesus appears among them once again. Thomas witnesses the physical truth of the resurrection as he touches Christ's wounds. Jesus concludes by telling Thomas and us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (v. 29).

### Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)



Christ-centered Mental Health Curriculum from Concordia Publishing House helps you equip your students with the resiliency and strategies they need for the ups and downs of life.

# 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](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

Please continue to pray for

- Nellie - breathing issues
- Tonya - tumor
- Deebo and Norma
- Charles - cancer
- Clayton - cancer
- Fritz
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Lauren - MS treatments
- Ebony and her Husband
- Carl Sneck
- Fred Sager
- Carl and Peggy
- Jimmy
- Elaine
- Tom and Marianne

## ***Where Did Lent Come From?***

Each year, sometime in late winter, the Christian church enters a season known as Lent. Worship services become more reflective, the word “Alleluia” disappears from the liturgy, and many Christians mark their foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday. The readings during this season turn our attention toward repentance and the suffering of Christ as the church prepares for the celebration of Easter. For many Christians the question naturally arises: Where did this season come from?

The word *Lent* comes from an old English word meaning “spring,” but the practice itself reaches back to the earliest centuries of the Christian church. While Lent is not commanded directly in Scripture, it grew out of biblical patterns and early Christian practices centered on repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter.

In the New Testament we see that fasting and repentance were normal parts of the spiritual life. Jesus Himself assumed that His followers would fast. In the Sermon on the Mount He said, “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites” (Matthew 6:16). Notice that He did not say *if* you fast, but *when* you fast. The early Christians took these words seriously and incorporated fasting and prayer into their communal life.

Even more significant is the example of Jesus Himself. Before beginning His public ministry, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness while being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1–2). That period of forty days became an important model for the church. The number forty appears frequently in Scripture during times of testing and preparation: the forty days of rain during the flood, the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness, and Moses’ forty days on Mount Sinai. Early Christians saw in Jesus’ forty-day fast a fitting pattern for a season of preparation leading up to the remembrance of His suffering and death.

By the second and third centuries, Christians had begun setting aside time before Easter for fasting and prayer. At first this preparation period was quite short—sometimes only a day or two before Easter. Over time, however, the church expanded the observance into a longer season of reflection. By the fourth century many churches had settled on a forty-day period of preparation, mirroring Christ’s forty days in the wilderness. This eventually became the season of Lent as we know it today.

Another important reason Lent developed was connected to baptism. In the early church, new believers—called catechumens—often spent months learning the faith before being baptized. Easter became the most common time for these baptisms because it celebrates Christ’s resurrection. The weeks leading up to Easter therefore became a time of intense spiritual preparation. Catechumens fasted, prayed, and studied the Scriptures as they prepared to be baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection. The rest of the congregation joined them in repentance and renewal, making the season a time of reflection for the whole church.

Eventually certain customs became associated with the season. The beginning of Lent came to be marked by Ash Wednesday, a reminder of humanity’s mortality: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Sundays were not counted among the forty days because every Sunday remains a celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

For Lutherans, Lent is not a command of God but a helpful church practice. It falls into what the Reformers called *adiaphora*—things neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture. Christians are free to observe it because it helps focus our hearts on repentance and on Christ’s saving work.

Ultimately, the purpose of Lent is not merely fasting or self-denial. Its purpose is to direct our attention to the cross. Week by week the church walks with Jesus toward Jerusalem, remembering His suffering and sacrifice, so that when Easter morning arrives, we celebrate the victory of the resurrection with deeper gratitude and joy.