

APRIL 2026

THE LIGHT



A NEWSLETTER OF EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BASTROP, TEXAS

From the Pastor's Desk

The Antidote to Fear

The Bible tells us that humans, like the world, are a creation of God. But what kind of god would create a world in which most humans are afraid most of the time? American humans, especially, live in fear of disease, natural disasters, war, the government, a stock market plunge, crime, police, other ethnicities and cultures, death, public speaking, alien abduction, snakes, spiders, and getting caught. We're not only afraid most of the time, we're apathetic and untrusting, too. Unless something spooks the herd, we have trouble with commitment—relationships, jobs, church, whatever.

Humans, the Bible tells us, are made in the likeness of the image of God. Yet, in a world like ours today rife with apathy, distrust, and fear, it's certainly difficult to find any reflection of the God that made us. Fear of death, cancers of guilt and desire for vengeance, lack of civility, and the uncertainty of tomorrow fester into a life of despondence and no hope, which is really no life at all. The greatest problem afflicting the human condition has to be spiritual self-reliance which blooms and grows in the absence of truth—not the truth as society sees it, but the certainty of God's truth visible in the world around us.

Many truths are self-evident, such as mathematics ($2+2$ always equals 4), water freezes when it gets cold enough (and ice melts as it warms), gravity causes us to fall down (not up), nothing in existence is static (stays the same), everything is born to die (nothing lasts forever), and, most importantly, there's a lot in life we just can't change.

Within the fabric of Creation there are some universal constants. Everything we see (and all that we can't) is made up of atoms. All created living things are made up of trillions of cells; within the nucleus of each is a genetic roadmap—the chromosomes which identify unchangeable traits such as bloodline, blood type, and gender. We humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes written into our DNA, one pair of which identifies every one of us as having been created in the likeness of the image of God, intrinsically and intentionally, either male (XY pair) or female (XX pair).

We are male and female to fulfill different roles, to complement one another. We are equal in God's eyes. But we're not interchangeable. We're either biologically male or female (sexual attraction is not the same thing)—God loves us all, straight or otherwise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Our Pastor



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

Services

@124 Three Oak Lane

Sunday School 9:00 am
Fellowship 10:00 am
Divine Service 10:30 am

Church Council

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

Clayton Wolf, Vice President
979-966-9610
clayton_wolf@yahoo.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

(and one's sexual orientation doesn't point them to heaven). Like the sanctity of life, these are inalienable truths, though a disordered, dysfunctional, and dystopian world would have us believe otherwise. And so we rely on the truth as we see it in a you-do-you, do-onto-others culture. Where there's no truth there's only confusion. And confusion breeds the apathy, distrust, and fear visible in every corner of society.


But anything we do that is in direct or indirect opposition to God's design for Creation is a sin. No matter how we rationalize it. In fact, it's sin that distorts the truth. We humans hadn't been around very long before a distortion of the truth in Eden led to fear (and then the blame game):

When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from God. God called to the Man: "Where are you?" He said, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?" The Man said, "The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it." (Genesis 3:8-12)

Faith, the antidote to fear, appropriates the absolute truth of God's Word. Spiritual self-reliance (lack of trust in God) fosters doubt and confusion about Creation and our place in it; like Adam and Eve, we become victims, naked and afraid, and so we hide.


Fear was never meant to be a part of Creation. And through faith, it doesn't have to be.

Pastor E.B.




KFUO Radio
Christ for you.
Anytime. Anywhere.

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 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




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

Yay God!



NEW WORSHIP TIME AND LOCATION

Beginning Sunday, April 12th
9 AM Sunday School
10 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

Join us at 3 Oaks!
Our new property - 124 Three Oaks Ln

Our last gathering at the SDA facility on Easter included brunch, an egg hunt, and Divine Service.

He is Risen



Thankful for our trustees and the addition of a new ramp access to our Gathering Place at 3 Oaks!



Birthday

David Sager

April 11

COMMUNITY NEWS



Adult Sunday School
9:00AM

Beginning April 12

Follow host Dave Stotts as he travels the globe to tell the 2,000-year story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the Ends of the Earth.

**Volunteers
needed**

CONTACT TERRI R. OR
LINDA H. TO HELP WITH
OUR DEDICATION 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](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home)



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

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

Twice monthly devotion and prayer gathering

MEETS 1ST/3RD TUESDAYS | 3PM

JOIN US FOR

**MAKE EVERY
DAY COUNT**

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

Join us May 3 for CEF Sunday

A representative from the Church Extension Fund will tell us about the mission and vision of CEF, how CEF has helped our congregation and other opportunities available to individuals.



Texas District Church Extension Fund
Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

WARDA BUNCH SHOW FUND BBQ PORK TO GO

Saturday, April 18th
BBQ Pork Sold by the Piece
2.5 to 4lbs each @ \$12.00/lb.
16oz. Cups of Sauce \$3.00 ea.
Pick Up at the Holy Cross
Picnic Grounds in Warda
from 4PM - 6PM

Pre-Orders Only by April 10th by texting
Larry Teinert - 979.542.8372
Larry Woelfel - 979.540.8730
Or calling the church office at 979.242.3333
Baked Goods available for a Free-Will Donation
All Proceeds go toward support of exhibitors at the
Lee County Junior Livestock Show



**FALCONS
FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 29th
Frisch Auf Country Club — La Grange, TX

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:00 AM — Shotgun Start
12:00 PM — Lunch
**Additional afternoon flight may be added if needed*

TEAM REGISTRATION

\$400 4-Person Team

- 1st Place Team
- 2nd Place Team
- Longest Drive
- Closest to Pin
- Longest Putt

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Platinum** - \$500
Banner, hole sponsor, food/drink recognition
- Gold** - \$250
Event or contest sponsor (longest drive, closest to pin, etc.)
- Silver** - \$100
Hole sponsor sign

REGISTER NOW

Jonathan Kueck
(979) 242-2889
kueckj@flhstx.org

Layne Schramm
(979) 966-3527
layneschramm@hotmail.com

REGISTER NOW
Make Checks Payable to FLHS
P.O: Box 138, Warda, TX 78960

GOLF FORE EDUCATION!

Coffee Cake Baking Class

Sat. April 18 • 10am-12pm
**at the Texas Wendish Heritage
Museum in Serbin**

Reservations Required • \$20 per person

Contact us at 979-366-2441 or
twhsdirector@gmail.com to pre-pay
for your spot

ChristianBook Giveback Program

Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit 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



April 2026 Newsletter



Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser

Don't miss our annual FLHS Boosters chicken spaghetti casserole fundraiser! Orders are due Wednesday, 4/8 with pickup Monday, 4/13. Pre Orders ONLY: \$20 8x8 and \$35 9x13 979-242-2889 or Kueck.J@FLHStx.org

Spring Raffle Success

Faith enjoyed another prosperous Spring Raffle, all because of your continued generosity and support. We were able to raise over \$30,000, all while celebrating the spirit and fun of Lutheran Schools Week! We are very grateful for each donated item and purchased ticket.

Congratulations again to the winners!

Free Wednesday mornings?

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

Contact us:

flhstx.org (979) 242-2889

New Student Registration

Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year. Please call (979) 242-2889 or visit flhstx.org to find out more and request registration materials.

Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to experience a day in the life at Faith. They can get to know what we're all about, and we have the privilege of becoming acquainted with your children.

8th Grade parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to get scheduled.

Spring Sports Season

Both track and field and golf are underway at FLHS. Visit our website (flhstx.org) to see how our wonderful spring athletes are competing, as well as a list of their scheduled activities.

Follow Us On Facebook!

Stay in the loop with all things Faith by following our Facebook page and liking our daily posts. There is no easier way to share your love of our school with others. Thank You!



FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL | 2025-26

BELONG

COMMUNITY NEWS



Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

RESTORING THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN RUSSIA

Христос Воскрес, Аллилуйя!

Brothers and Sisters,

As I think about the martyrs who have been tortured and killed for confessing Jesus, we enter Lent and Holy Week looking forward to the Feast of the Resurrection. This is what the martyrs of yesterday saw as they endured persecution for Jesus' sake. Stephen, who took on the face of an angel, saw the resurrection. Jesus, while dying on the cross, looked at those who put him there and said, *"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!"*

As we send financial and prayer support to our brothers and sisters in Siberia, we remember their faithful ancestors martyred for the faith—people who built churches and received the Word into their ears, the water of washing and renewal upon their heads, and the life-giving body and blood of Jesus on their tongues and over their lips. These pioneers seeking a better life, moving from their European homeland to a new and virgin land in the Siberian wilderness (and many who were war prisoners from the Russian-Swedish wars) faithfully gathered in the churches they had built to pray the liturgies passed down to them from their forefathers.

The first Lutheran church in Russia was founded in Moscow shortly after the Augsburg Confession was delivered, St.

Michael's Lutheran Church, in 1576 (an earlier congregation existed in 1559; however, St. Michael's was the first Lutheran congregation recognized by the Tsar). The Lutheran Church continued to grow as the Tsar invited more Lutherans to settle in Russian territory.

By 1900, more Lutherans lived under the authority and protection of the Russian Tsar than in North America. At the turn of the 20th century, the Lutheran Church in Russia was the second largest Christian body in the Russian Empire, after the Russian Orthodox Church, and the third largest Lutheran Church body in the world (after the German and Scandinavian Lutheran Churches). Lutherans lived in peace and religious autonomy under a friendly Tsar.

However, in 1917 everything changed for Russian Lutherans. The Soviet Revolution sought to create a utopian state where the government was to be worshipped as the supreme authority. Christianity and its recognition of Christ as the Messiah was deemed as an enemy of the state and incompatible with the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism. The Russian Orthodox Church capitulated under a desire to preserve its existence. Lutherans refused to capitulate.

AN EASTER
MESSAGE FROM
REV. DANIEL JOHNSON,
PRESIDENT OF
THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN
MISSION SOCIETY



COMMUNITY NEWS

FATHER PAVEL KHRAMOV,
A PROFESSOR AT THE
NOVOSIBIRSK SEMINARY,
CELEBRATES THE DIVINE
SERVICE AT THE PARISH
OF THE HOLY TRINITY IN
CHITA, SIBERIA.

Lutherans believed the liturgical confession of the Sanctus, "*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory...*" They trusted God to be "*Sabaoth!*" They trusted his armies to be undefeatable! They knew, despite torture, persecutions, gulags, and executions, their God would endure and preserve them into eternal life. They stood faithful!

Nearly every church building in Siberia was closed and torn down by the satanic regime. Those church buildings in European Russia which were not destroyed were confiscated and turned into factories, gymnasiums, warehouses, libraries, and other uses, "for the good of the collective." The faithful, who refused to capitulate were executed or sent into gulags.

By 1952, the last Lutheran pastor died in a gulag, forbidden to teach, preach, or carry out his divine call. He, along with millions of the faithful, was a prisoner of the State! Martyred for the faith!



Today, the Lutheran Church has grown out of the smoldering wick of what the Soviets thought was a "dead superstition."

GOD IS "SABAOth!" HIS ARMIES ARE UNDEFEATABLE!

The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church survives. Its seminary again trains men for service at their altars and pastoral care of the congregations. The Church survives in freedom within Russia to proclaim that God is Sabaoth. He is a God of mercy and forgiveness! He is also a God who has redeemed His people, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

Why? So, we might live with Him and serve Him in His Kingdom, in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

Easter is His Time! It is His Time to remind us that He has risen, and as He has risen from the dead, so too will His baptized and all the faithful (including the martyrs of yesterday).

He has risen! He has risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Daniel S. Johnson

Rev. Daniel S. Johnson

President, Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

COMMUNITY NEWS

Will You Continue to Help Support the Lutheran Church in Siberia?

You may not be able to serve as a missionary, but you can help the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society support the pastoral outreach of the Lutheran Church in Siberia and the pastoral training programs of the Siberian Church's seminary in Novosibirsk.

Now more than ever, your gifts are needed. They can make a real, lasting difference in the lives of people in Russia and other nearby countries who were denied God's Word and Sacrament for so many years. Your monthly or annual pledge, a one-time gift, or remembering the Siberian Church and seminary in your estate will help provide everlasting value—eternal value—for those looking for the Good News of salvation.

Contributions to the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society are safe and will remain so. All gifts to the Society are banked in the United States, and endowment funds are professionally managed by the Lutheran Legacy Foundation and the LCMS Foundation.

The mission of the Siberian Mission Society incorporates two goals:

1. Support Siberian Lutheran pastors as they carry God's Word and sacrament to the many people in Siberia, other parts of Russia, and surrounding countries who need God's saving grace.
2. Underwrite the cost of operating the Novosibirsk Seminary and ensure its long-term survival.

For additional information

about the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, or the work of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, please contact:

Rev. Daniel S. Johnson
SLMS President
641 328-4605; danielsjohnson356@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill
Director, SLMS Fundraising
260 580-0812, timothycquill@gmail.com

When you write a check to support the work of the Novosibirsk Seminary, please write Save the Seminary on your check.

THANK YOU!

"IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE MORE THAN 3,400 SUPPORTERS OF THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS. THEY MATTER — TODAY AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.



THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY
8811 ST. JOE ROAD
FORT WAYNE, IN 46835

WEBSITE
SIBERIANLUTHERANMISSIONS.ORG

EMAIL
QUESTIONS@SIBERIANLUTHERAN MISSIONS.ORG

THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD.

COPYRIGHT © 2026 THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

A Donor's Challenge!

One of our donors is challenging other donors to match his additional donation of **\$20,000** in celebration of the Easter Season.

Will you help meet this challenge?

\$20,000

Use this QR Code to make your donation online. If you write a check, please mark your check notation:

Easter Match Challenge





The Little Light

Children's Sunday School



Elementary (pre-K to 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.



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. The final unit will continue exploring the New Testament and Jesus sending the church.

April 12 (Lesson 1) Today, students will study "A Revealing Restoration." Peter, James, John, Thomas, and a few of the other disciples fish all night on the Sea of Tiberias without catching anything. At dawn, Jesus appears on the beach and tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. Immediately, the nets fill to overflowing, and John realizes Jesus is there. Peter swims ashore to see Jesus, who prepares breakfast. Addressing Peter directly, Jesus asks three times, "Do you love Me?" With each question, Peter becomes more distressed. But through these questions, the Lord restores and reinstates Peter to lead His Church.

April 19 (Lesson 2) This week's lesson is "A Walking Wonder." A man who had never been able to walk lies by the Beautiful Gate and begs Peter and John for alms. Having no gold or silver to give him, they offer him something better—complete healing. Leaping for joy, the man praises God for His miraculous healing, and Peter uses the opportunity to teach about the true Savior. The Jewish Council asks Peter and John by whose power they performed this miracle, so they witness concerning the power of the risen Christ. Being warned against speaking further concerning Jesus, Peter and John assert that they must continue to speak the Gospel.

April 26 (Lesson 3) "A Centurion Converts" is the title for this week's lesson. A faithful and generous centurion named Cornelius has a vision of God's angel telling him to bring Peter to Caesarea. In Joppa, Peter sees a vision of a sheet descending from the sky, filled with all kinds of animals. The instruction to "kill and eat" confuses Peter, since many of the animals on the sheet are considered unclean. The Spirit tells Peter to go to Caesarea. At Cornelius's home, the Holy Spirit descends on the Gentiles as Peter preaches the Gospel to them. Peter commands the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

May 3 (Lesson 4) This week, students will study "Called Christian." Following his conversion, Saul (also called Paul) is introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. The Church had spread to Antioch, so the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas there. He exhorts the people to remain faithful, and he brings Saul from Tarsus to help him minister among the people in Antioch for a whole year. The name Christian is first used for the believers in Antioch. The Church in Antioch sends relief to the believers in Judea.

Middle School (6th to 8th 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.

Please continue to pray for

- Charles - cancer
- Clayton - cancer
- Fritz
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Lauren - MS treatments
- Ebony and her Husband
- Carl and Sandy Sneck
- Fred Sager
- Carl and Peggy
- Jimmy
- Tom and Marianne
- Richard Sager
- Charity
- Mica Farr
- Our Argent Court friends - Fay, Jim, Elaine, Gert

Sunday School Matters (More Than We Think)

Most Christians would agree that the Bible is important. But how often do we actually spend time learning it?

Research across Christian churches reveals a surprising pattern. Even among people who attend worship regularly, only a small percentage participate in Bible study. In many Lutheran congregations, roughly 35–40% of members attend weekly worship, but only about 8% attend adult Sunday school. Even when midweek Bible studies are included, the number rises only to around 12–14% of adults.

In other words, in many congregations only about one out of every eight adults is regularly studying God’s Word together.

Another major study of more than 40,000 Christians discovered something equally striking. People who engage the Bible four or more times per week—in worship, personal reading, or Bible study—show dramatically stronger spiritual growth. They are far more likely to share their faith, disciple others, and experience healthier relationships and spiritual resilience. The researchers called it a “tipping point” of Bible engagement.

Perhaps this shouldn’t surprise us. Scripture itself tells us that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). The Word of God is not just information—it is how the Holy Spirit creates, strengthens, and sustains faith.

The early church understood this well. Acts 2:42 tells us that believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship.” Notice the word devoted. Learning God’s Word was not an occasional activity—it was part of the normal rhythm of Christian life.

And yet in our busy world it is easy to become spiritually complacent. We may assume that hearing a sermon once a week is enough. But imagine trying to stay physically healthy by eating only one meal a week. Faith needs nourishment just as the body does. Sunday school and Bible study give us more opportunities to hear the Word, ask questions, and grow together in Christ.

At Epiphany we often speak about our mission: *Connect. Grow. Multiply.* Worship is where we connect with Christ and receive His gifts. Bible study is one of the primary ways we grow in the knowledge of God’s Word. And as we grow in faith and understanding, God uses us to multiply the Gospel in the lives of others.

So here is a gentle but important question for each of us: If God speaks to us through His Word, how often are we making time to listen?

Sunday school and Bible studies are not just extra church programs. They are one of the ways the Holy Spirit strengthens His people through the Scriptures.

If you are not currently participating in Sunday school or a Bible study, consider joining us. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and your desire to grow in Christ.

After all, disciples of Jesus are, by definition, lifelong learners of His Word.

[Statistics referenced from LCMS congregational reporting summarized in Reporter (LCMS), research by the Center for Bible Engagement and Back to the Bible (“Power of 4 Effect”), and national Bible engagement surveys conducted by Barna Group and the American Bible Society.]